**THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

**RAPID RESPONSE –INTERVENTION application form**

**Applying organisation**: Danish Muslim Aid

**Title of the intervention**: Emergency Food Distribution to IDPs and in six provinces in Afghanistan

## The humanitarian intervention (describe within max. 4 pages)

**1.1 The context:** Due to the recent takeover of the Taliban thousands of families have fled to Kabul and other comparatively safe locations in different provinces and have become Internally Displaced People (IDP’s). With the escalation of conflicts among government forces and the military opposition, people from many provinces including Nimroz, Farah, Herat, Ghor and Bamiyan provinces moved from the districts to capitals of the provinces since at that time, there were no conflicts at the capitals, which were safe compared to districts and villages in these provinces. As IDP’s, they live in informal camps and some lives in the houses of their relatives and some live and schools and markets. The local community has helped them by providing extra residential facilities to live till they they hey can return to their homes. The host community also helped them with cooked food, extra clothes, plastic mates and extra bedding material. Though they have good relations with local communities, the local people are also very poor, therefore they cannot support them enough and for a longer time. Assalam Welfare Foundation (Assalaam) has trained a network of volunteers to visit the IDPs in the targeted areas and discussed with them the issues and their urgent needs. As per the discussions with IDP families during the making of a need assessment conducted at the end of July 2021, it was found that the families have only taken with them limited non-food protective items and that were assisted with some shelter and utensils by the host communities. Due to the recent takeover of Taliban and uncertainty in the country, most of these families have still not yet returned to their homes and villages and are therefore in need of lifesaving food items until they can return to their homes and villages. As most of these IDPs are farmers and daily wage workers, they have no savings to purchase basic food items for their families and are in dire need of food items. With the provision of the suggested food package, the families will have necessary food items to fulfil their and their families’ nutritional needs.

**1.2 Content of the intervention:** As per the discussion with IDPs during the conducted need assessment, it was found that food is the most urgent need of the internally displaced people. They have moved to safe areas with very few basic necessities such as clothes and they want to return to their villages as soon as the situation allows it. There are no work opportunities to support the families. This intervention has very good effect as they will be provided with food items for one month until they can return to their homes. As per the announcement of Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations, the government is working with humanitarian organization, to facilitate the return of IDPs to their villages with no further security threats. Therefore, a relatively small package is proposed to fulfill the urgent need of food of comparatively large number of the IDPs for a short period of time till their return to homes is facilitated. This urgent provision of food will prevent the devastating consequences of inadequate food consumption, like prevention of diseases and malnutrition amongst young children

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| **Project matrix** | | | | | |
| **Goal/ Outcome/ Output** | **Description** | **Activities** | **Indicators & Targets** | **Means of Verifications/Tools** | **Assumptions** |
| Project Goal | To contribute SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving food security and access to sufficient nutritious forIDP andvulnerable groups in Kabul, Nimroz, Farah, Herat, Ghor and Bamiyan provinces of Afghanistan and alleviate the negative socio-economic impact due the recent violent conflict and drought. | | | | |
| Outcome 1 | To improve the access to basic food item to IDPs and vulnerable groups in Kabul, Nimroz, Farah, Herat, Ghor and Bamiyan provinces of Afghanistan | | % of households reporting that these received assistance matched their basic needs    Target: 90 % of interviewed households | Regular contacts with beneficiaries.  Media reports (Videos & pictures).  Beneficiary list. | Assalam received access to the beneficiaries based on the approval and acceptance of the community leaders and authorities. |
| Output 1.1 | 1600 households have received food packages to cover their basic needs for 1 month | Preparing the purchase of the requested food item and evaluation process of the bidders offer via CBA (competitive bid analytics) based on technical marks and criteria.Contacting winner supplier and plan the delivery of food items.  Coordination meetings with relevant authorities for taking necessary approvals and advocating the relevant authorities, civil society activists, scholars and community elders and beneficiaries regarding the emergency food distribution to IDPs and other vulnerable groups.  Identify most suitable/vulnerable target beneficiaries. Secure community committee’s and other stakeholder’s input on beneficiary selection, registration procedure and selections of schedule for distribution.  Register and distributefood packages.  MEAL activities: distribution observation checklist and post distribution monitoring.  Providing regular updates to the donors and submitting completion reports to the donors and relevant government departments as required. | # of households received the food packages    Target: 1600 households    % of targeted beneficiaries are satisfied with the food packages    Target: 90% of interviewed households  # of particular vulnerable groups identified and selected beneficiaries  Target: 30% | Media reports (Videos & pictures)    Distribution reports    Post distribution monitoring | Assalam received access to the beneficiaries based on the approval and acceptance of the community leaders and authorities.  The food items are available in the market  The inflation will not affect the market prices severely  Violent conflict and civil unrest will not affect the distribution of food items |

The achievements of the intervention will be measured by following the identified indicators in the project matrix above. Well-defined selection criteria and beneficiary selection will provide the information needed to assess the results of the project. The selection criteria are based on surveys to list IDPs conducted by UN OCHA prior to the takeover of Kabul and other provincial capitals. Assalam coordinates with relevant provincial departments to provide assistance to those who have not yet received any assistance from other humanitarian aid organizations. Female-headed households will, furthermore, be a priority in the selection, as they are considered being the most vulnerable.

In addition, a sample of the beneficiaries will be interviewed by the of the project to collect their feedback and satisfaction regarding the food items received. The project staff and volunteers will have a weekly meeting to review the project progress and ensure that the project outcome and output are tracked accordingly. The proposed intervention is a 2-month food provision for 1600 IDPs families and other vulnerable groups The food package includes flour, rice, cooking oil, rice, sugar, salt, and matches in Kabul, Nimroz, Farah, Herat, Ghor, and Bamiyan provinces. Provision of food items to IDPs and other vulnerable groups is the mode of intervention. This mode is chosen to ensure the resources are spent for the purpose identified under this intervention. In addition, ensuring that maximum numbers of IDPs and other vulnerable groups are benefited because in Afghanistan, there is a joint family system in which a number of families live together sharing all the resources. In this mode, all are equally benefited while in the case provision of cash, single-member may benefit. This intervention is solely designed to assist the people that have been affected by the recent crisis in Afghanistan, by providing urgent food items to the IDPs that have left their homes due to the conflicts and change in a regime where major international donors have stopped their operations. The intervention will be implemented in the targeted areas where IDPs currently live. The project will be implemented with active participation of the targeted communities and civil society including young volunteers. Committees of volunteers will be mobilized in the targeted provinces and will be trained on the selection of the most vulnerable families based on the identified criteria and procedure of distribution of food packages among the targeted community. The distribution will be carried out in coordination with Local government authorities and line directorates will be called to monitor the distribution process of food packages for transparency and accountability to local government and donors.

Assessment and procurement of all food items will be done directly by Assalam team to ensure good quality food items at reasonable prices, and alignment with the cluster recommendations outlined in the cluster guidelines Food distributions for 2022[[1]](#footnote-2). The quality of the food items is furthermore assed is by volunteers distributing the food packages, by random sample control. The quantity of food in the packages will cover the basic needs of the households.

Banners and other visibility material for distribution will be printed and used in distribution as required. The distribution of food items will directly be done by Assalam’s team. Like all other projects, Assalam will adopt bottom-up approach in this project too, to ensure the inclusion and participation of relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries. The targeted communities will be provided with contacts to provide feedback and share their complaints if any. After successful execution of the intervention, an implementation report will be submitted to donors and the relevant authorities. Assalam has already been engaged with local stakeholders including the local authorities, line directorates and volunteer team. Assalam team on the ground includes effective project management and volunteer teams that are prepared to act on short notice. An activity plan is developed to help the team from the main office and volunteers at the selected areas that have good knowledge of these areas. The project implementation will be led by Assalam staff from the main office by coordination with line ministries, local authorities and mobilization of volunteers and communities for the inception of the project. Under this project intervention, 12.800 persons from 1600 families will be distributed food items in 6 rounds of distribution out of which 200 food packages in Kabul and the remaining 1400 packages in Nimroz, Farah, Herat, Ghor and Bamiyan provinces (280 in each province). The project commencement plan includes but is not limited to;

* Need assessment for the intervention done as part of the intervention
* 1st Day: Coordination with government authorities, briefing on the project, taking necessary approvals.
* 2nd Day: Travelling to targeted areas visit to site, meeting with local authorities, volunteers and local communities, formation of teams and committees and taking necessary approvals. Training volunteers and community members on selection of beneficiaries and food package distributions.
* 3rd Day : Conducting the survey for identification of most vulnerable families for distribution.
* 4th day: Beneficiaries selection and registration, printing visibility materials such as banners, stickers, packs with donors and Assalam’s logo and names.
* 5th Day: Visit concluding beneficiary registration and conduct final registration and verification; Community committees and beneficiary briefing on feedback/complaint handling mechanisms.
* 6th Day: Procurement of food items, packing and transportation to the site of distribution and distribution of tokens to the selected beneficiaries.
* 7th Day: Conduct first round of distribution of food packages to the IDPs.

**1.3 The target group:** Due to the recent takeover and uncertainty, many families have fled and left their homes and villages fearing a violent escalation of the conflict. There were armed conflicts between the government and the militants in their areas. Common people and their homes were used by both forces as shields and sometimes were targeted by the opposite fighting force. They, therefore, had to leave their homes and move to safer places. The intervention is targeting the families that have not yet been able to return and have very limited resources. The intervention also pays attention to particularly vulnerable groups who are female-headed families, orphans, pregnant and lactating women, people with special needs (who has diseases, disability,  ..), elderly, and other destitute families that have been displaced due to the current crisis in Afghanistan. Food and shelter are among the urgent needs of the IDPs. They have been helped with clothing and sleeping materials by the local people and businessmen. The needs of the displaced people are: food items including flour, rice, beans, cooking oil, salt, etc. included in the food packages for IDPs.

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| **PLANNED TARGET POPULATION (INDIVIDUALS)** | | | |
| **Age Group** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Number of persons | Number of persons | Number of persons |
| < 4 | 1400 | 1400 | 2800 |
| 005-014 | 1500 | 1500 | 3000 |
| 15-24 | 1000 | 1500 | 2500 |
| 25-49 | 1200 | 1700 | 2900 |
| 50-64 | 400 | 500 | 900 |
| 65-85+ | 300 | 400 | 700 |
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| **Total** | **5800** | **7000** | **12800** |

Note: Average size of HH in Afghanistan is 8 persons (1600\*8=12.800) and breakdown of the family is done based on data from National Statistic and Information Authority (NSIA).

Orphans and widows headed IDP household, households with pregnant and lactating women, households headed by disabled and elderly people are among particular vulnerable groups. Volunteers and target community members and representative of the main office of Assalam will conduct survey prior to distribution to the targeted IDPs. 60% of the benefiting families will be comprised of the families headed by women (families of widows and orphans) and 40% will be comprised of the IDPs families, 20% of the beneficiaries (male and female) will be people disabilities including blinds and those who have lost their legs/arms. A site for distribution will be selected that has faculties for the movement of people with disabilities. Besides this, cultural sensitivities in visiting the residents’ sites of IDPs, talking to IDPs, taking pictures and recording videos for reporting purposes, will be taken into consideration.

## The implementing partner (describe within max. 1, 5 pages)

**2.1 Capacity, experience and expertise:** Assalam works in Afghanistan as a registered non-government, non-profit, relief- and development aid organization with its main office in Kabul. It supports deprived communities in all parts of Afghanistan. With generous support from their donors, Assalam has supported some of the most deprived communities under different programs of the organization in Kabul, Kuna, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Kapisa, Parwan, Herat, Jawzjan, Balkh, and Badghis. The organization is committed to serving those in need in all parts of Afghanistan without any discrimination. The organization has a country-wide network of volunteers and tries its best to reach the neediest of communities.

Assalam has good experience in implementing similar project with international donors including Danish Muslim Aid. Assalam has helped flood affected families in Jawzjan and last year in Parwan and Kapisa provinces, landslide affected families in Badakhshan and earthquake affected households in Kunar. The organization has also assisted newly returned refugees in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces. Similarly, more than 1100 vulnerable families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were provided with similar food packages in Kabul, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Balkh and Kunar provinces. In April 2021, 1.120 families were provided with similar food packages in Kabul Laghman and Nangarhar Provinces. Assalam has recently implemented similar emergency food to IDPs affected by the recent crisis in nine provinces of Afghanistan.

Assalam has been on the ground since 2009 implementing various humanitarian and development aid projects. The organization has presence in Afghanistan supporting vulnerable communities, has a country-wide network of volunteer having good local knowledge, with ties to the community structure and access to the affected areas. The organization team has experience in implementing the projects in various areas and can identify the present threats such as security threats. For example, threats in the targeted areas and during travelling to different sites, threats related to accessing funds and threats of misconduct during distribution. Assalam team can well manage access to such areas, mobilize communities and can carry out the intervention with good risk assessments and mitigation strategies.

**2.2 The partnership:** DM-Aid has established a strategic partnership with Assalam since 2011 and has signed partnership contract with the organization, which is updated every two years. The partnership agreement stipulates criteria, rules and regulations for the receipt and use of funding, implementation, M&E as well as adhering to the principle of anti-corruption and anti-fraud and under which DM-Aid programs, they can apply for funding for. Assalam has shown good performance in implementing various development and humanitarian interventions in particular difficult contexts and circumstances, e.g., a school for girls and boys in Kunar. The organization has also good experience in implementing several emergency response projects funded by DM-Aid e.g., flood affected families in Jawzjan in 2014 and in Prwan and Kapisa provinces in 2020, as well as emergency response to landslide in Badakhshan province affecting thousands of families. DM-Aid has also supported the unemployed families affected by COVID-19, where at the same time Assalam conducted awareness session about COVID-19 protection of health funded by EU through the Geneva Call. Similar projects such as food packages to poor communities in Ramadan, provision of school kits and sleeping materials to school students and an orphan sponsor program have also been implemented by the organization with support from DM-Aid. Finally, the organization has implemented a large number of water and sanitation projects over the years benefiting thousands of families in Afghanistan. Assalaam has received funding from other funding NGO’s and agencies such as Sadaqa Welfare Fund, Al-Khidmat Europe and MRA Malaysia.

**Contributions, roles and areas of responsibilities of all partners:**

* Danish Muslim Aid (DM-Aid) will run the overall project management unit (PMU) providing technical assistance/advice, provisioning of funds, M&E oversight, enactment of new complaint handling system/documentation tools and other operational support.
* Assalam local teams will be responsible for local project planning, monitoring and evaluation reporting to line departments, donors and main office in Kabul. The organization ensure COVID-19 and other safety measure in implementation of the project
* Assalam is responsible for coordination with local authorities and getting necessary approvals and development complaint handling and feedback mechanism for the project.
* Assalam will also have to ensure local participation by through proper coordination with community, tribal elders and scholars at the targeted areas.
* Assalam has to ensure M&E activities are planned, shared and executed in a coordinated manner and inclusion of relevant stakeholders.
* Assalam will ensure to share update on the progress in implementation of the project on regular basis.
* The project management team prepares an activity implementation plan to be followed by project/site team and volunteers, who have good local knowledge, with ties to the community structure and access to the affected areas.
* Assalam staff and volunteers team ensures awareness of the relevant stakeholders about the funding organizations and their support that have been providing to Afghanistan since long.
* Assalam will have to submitted required completion reports do donors and line departments

## Local strengthening (describe within max. 1 page)

The intervention ensures adequate food intake to the at-risk target groups, their chances of returning and rebuilding their lives are enhanced by providing urgently required food items. As part of the intervention, local teams of volunteers and other civil society members are involved trained and contribute to the coordination of the intervention. In all stages of the project, including needs assessment, beneficiaries’ selection and procurement, packing and distribution of food packages, youth, tribal elders, women, religious leader sand relevant government authorities and our volunteers are involved. Young volunteers, tribal elders and religious leaders will help the staff member from the main office of Assalam to visit the targeted areas, have discussion with the IDPs and carry out need assessment to identify the needs of the targeted groups, select the most vulnerable families that have not yet gotten assistance and coordinate with the implementation of the project with all relevant stakeholders. Assalam will use a participatory approach and all stakeholders will be given equal opportunity to contribute and express their view regarding the selection criteria. They will also help in selection of safe place for distribution of the food packages. In this way, civil society has actively participated in the implementation of the intervention. This builds their professional capacity to support humanitarian interventions and make them eligible for working with humanitarian organization in future.

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| MARK |  | DESCRIPTION |  | EXPLANATION |
| ☐ | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components without incorporating mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful without being able to apply substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |
| ☑ | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates some mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and applies some substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |
| ☐ | → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates significant mitigation and environmental enhancement measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and includes significant substantiated remedial action as well as environmental enhancement components (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery). |

The intervention is considered to have environmental impact of its collective activities such as transportation and waste. During the implementation of the project, materials, papers, plastics etc. are thrown away and therefore waste is having harmful consequences. The beneficiaries are advised and educated to keep the site clean. In case there is still any wastes, the volunteer team will collect all the wastes and put into the specified place to keep the surroundings clean.

## 4. Risk Management &MEAL (describe within max. 1 page)

**4.1 Risk assessment matrix**

| **Major risks** | **Risk management measures** |
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| Access to the aid by irrelevant people Risk of nepotism during the distribution of food packages. | * Teams are developed from the locals as well as targeted IDPs Make a thorough assessment and selection of volunteers assisting the project staff during the implementation |
| Limited participation of women due to cultural barriers | * Advocate for inclusion through volunteers’ teams and community elders and religious leaders * Require the representation of youth and female members in the decision-making processes in the communities. |
| Security threats (threat of conflicts in the area and threat of thefts | * Coordination with volunteers and through them with local authorities to secure the safety of the teams and beneficiaries. * Hire security guards * Envolve the community leader and religious leader is maintaining the safety and security during the distribution |
| Limited withdrawal of funds from banks (Only 5% of total fund per week) | * As per the central bank, the measure is temporary and hope banks will be allowed to provide organizations with needed fund. * vendors will be convinced to accept account to account transfer or provide the food items on installment basis |

Assalam team will advocate the beneficiaries and Other relevant stakeholders on ways to share their complaints and feedback as part of the project implementation plan. This can be done through:

* The main office team and volunteers will distribute the post-distribution survey. Beneficiaries complete the survey and is added to the complaint box placed at the distribution site for feedback and complaints.
* Sharing contacts details including active telephone, WhatsApp and other social media links will be share with the beneficiaries. Contact details of some will be taken to enquire about the quality of the items.
* Taking contact numbers of some of the beneficiaries to ask about the quantity and quality of the food items provided to the targeted groups.

The feedback and complaints share by the beneficiaries and community members will be documented and shared with staff and volunteers and will be discussed to bring about improvements in future interventions by keeping the identity of the person with complaints and feedback confidential.

## 5. Coordination (describe within max. 0, 5 page)

The intervention is carried out in close coordination with the relevant authorities and organization. Meetings are held with provincial justice Department as local CSOs managing body, NGOs department, department Refugees and Repatriation and humanitarian organization in humanitarian cluster in the targeted areas to ensure the aid is provided to those who have not received assistance from other organization and prevent the overlap of activities. Assalam's team conducts regular meetings with provincial and district government authorities and the humanitarian cluster to coordinate the humanitarian response. The project team and volunteers will participant in monthly meetings carried out to coordinate the humanitarian activities. Assalam coordinates with community Development Councils (CDCs) and utilizes its experience in mobilizing the communities, engage with the IDPs committees and focal points in the targeted area, and will set up IDPs committees for effective coordination, implementation and monitoring of the intervention. These structures will be part of the various steps in the intervention, with such a close coordination and participation, Assalam local NGO and other departments will ensure that there is no duplication of the humanitarian response and maximum number of affected families are helped.

1. https://fscluster.org/afghanistan/document/guideline-fsac-response-packages-2022 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)