



FINAL REPORT

ERRIN

Sustainable Reintegration in Afghanistan

Information campaign – raising awareness
on the return process



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Executive Summary

Lapis was awarded the information campaign contract by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as part of the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) – Sustainable Reintegration in Afghanistan (SRA) project in July 2020. **The project, a pilot, sought to raise understanding of the return process in order to shape positive attitudes and beliefs in the receiving country and lessen the social stigma associated with the return.** The project was initially designed for a period of six months (a pilot period). However, with the unpredicted spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and two months of lockdown in Afghanistan, the project was extended for two further months through February 2021. Lapis was able to complete all project deliverables by mid-January 2021.

Lapis implemented the project across three phases: learning sessions, message development, and town halls. Upon commencement of the project, Lapis initiated the learning phase by identifying and interviewing 30 individuals that fell within the target audiences: returnees, family members of and community members known to returnees, and subject matter experts. These interviews explored the social stigma of return and what factors influenced the lives of returnees upon their return from European countries. The learning sessions' findings informed the message development phase and the design of the town halls. Key messages were developed in close collaboration with the ERRIN-SRA team, and the design of the town halls was collaboratively agreed.

Phases of project implementation



PHASE 1:
Learning
Sessions



PHASE 2:
Message
Development



PHASE 3:
Town halls

Lapis conducted 12 town halls, involving more than 500 people across Kabul PD 13 and the Jaghori district of Ghazni, seeking to raise awareness of the reintegration challenges of returnees in Afghanistan and foster positive attitudes in the host communities.

Overall, **project efforts to raise awareness among host communities of returnees were well-received** by target audiences¹. They shared the positive impact town hall discussions have had on their attitudes towards family members who have been deported as well as their daily lives.

"I never thought what he has dealt with and gone through until I heard from the panel." (Kabul)

"I should have been more supportive to my son; he wasn't feeling well and never told us." (Kabul)

"These town halls have also involved returnees' families to support them with this journey of reintegration and become a reason for a change in the lives of those living around them." (Jaghori)

This desirable impact is evidenced through **pre/post town hall surveying, which shows statistically significant increases in desirable attitudes** related to acceptance/support of returns, willingness to help returnees, and likelihood to deter migration. Participants across both target locations additionally expressed appreciation of project efforts; **town hall discussions helped them understand how to support their family/community members to reconnect with their families and communities and resume a normal life.**

¹Target audiences: (1) Returnees, (2) Families of returnees, (3) Community and religious leaders

The combination of panelists with different backgrounds and expertise helped participants understand what returnees experience, what support they need upon their return, and how each and every member of the community can play a role in helping a returnee to reconnect. Lapis evaluated each town hall through both open and closed questioning at the beginning and end of each town hall in an effort to assess activity impact. The assessment indicates that town halls were effective at improving acceptance of and willingness to help returnees, indicating that project expansion would be beneficial.

Given project successes, it is clear that there would **be a benefit in project extension and expansion**. Lapis recommends expanding the project's current scope to more districts and with more activities such as recorded/live radio shows, as radio listenership in the rural communities is higher and available at a reasonable cost. Combining on-the-ground activities with radio programming will improve the reach, long-term impact, and sustainability of the program.

Activities

1. Learning Sessions

As part of an understanding phase, Lapis began the project with **'learning sessions' – telephone interviews conducted among the target audiences**, including returnees, families of returnees, community leaders, religious leaders/Mullahs, civil society organizations, and NGOs active in the target locations of both Kabul PD 13 and the Jaghori district of Ghazni province. These telephone interviews were based on a questionnaire developed by Lapis and approved by the ERRIN team. Initially, these learning sessions were designed to be in-person interviews in order to delve deeper into the social stigma of return in these districts; however, due to the spread of Covid-19, Lapis, in consultation with the ERRIN project team, pivoted to a telephone methodology. The learning sessions were designed to understand on-the-ground realities and to inform the project's message development stage. During the course of the interviews, it became apparent to the Lapis team that the process would benefit from the **involvement of psychologists**; various issues raised were related to the state of mind of the returnees.

Learning Sessions Interviewees

- Ten Returnees from the 13th district of Kabul and Jaghori district of Ghazni province, all of whom were male returnees;
- Eight family members of returnees (two female and six male) from the 13th district of Kabul and Jaghori district of Ghazni province;
- Six community and religious leaders (two religious leaders and four community leaders/elders) from the 13th district of Kabul and Jaghori of Ghazni;
- Two civil society activists in Kabul;
- Discussions were held with four psychologists in Kabul during this process.

Phases of project implementation



PHASE 1:
Learning
Sessions



PHASE 2:
Message
Development



PHASE 3:
Town halls

Lapis identified several prominent psychologists in Kabul and arranged meetings to explore the issue from their perspective. The meetings with psychologists improved the Lapis team's understanding of the returnee experience, informed message development, and ultimately led to the inclusion of a psychologist in the panel of experts at the town hall sessions. Alongside, the ERRIN team held informative sessions with their experts to inform the Lapis team about the migration and return process, which further strengthened the message development process by providing a deeper technical understanding.

Finally, Lapis and ERRIN arranged a meeting with respective experts to explain the migration policies and why/how a migrant is returned. One further meeting was held with the Swedish Police on the situation of migrants when they are returned by force.

Summary of Key Findings from the learning sessions:

- ▼ Those who migrate to Europe are generally unaware of migration policies or the hardship of the return process.
 - ▼ There is a perception of widespread sexual exploitation or assault by human traffickers on the way to Europe. The gruesomeness of the journey includes, for others, fear of drowning and/or death.
 - ▼ Despite this, the act of migration is competitive among families and youth in Afghanistan. Europe is seen as a destination of opportunities for young people and teenagers, in contrast to the conflict, violence, and economic insecurity they face in Afghanistan.
 - ▼ Returnees are stigmatized by their families and communities, who often think that they must have done something wrong to have been sent home.
 - ▼ Core challenges returnees face after their return to Afghanistan are unemployment and financial insecurity, fear of the future, lack of self-confidence and self-esteem, little/no familial or emotional support, blame, and harassment by family and community members.
- Experts interviewed believe these challenges may contribute to pessimism, hopelessness, and feelings of guilt. At their worst, such feelings may lead to suicidal ideation, drug abuse, or criminal activity.

2. Messages Development

As the second phase of project implementation, Lapis evaluated the information gathered from the learning sessions and meetings with psychologists to develop a set of key messages, as well as to design the town hall events. Lapis' program and creative team, in consultation with the ERRIN team, developed the following **messages for each target audience groups:**



PHASE 1:
Learning
Sessions



PHASE 2:
Message
Development



PHASE 3:
Town halls

Returnees

1. You are not alone. Many people choose or have to go back home from Europe.
2. Migration should be an informed choice.
3. Look positively into the future. Move on.
4. Demonstrate initiative back home.
5. It is OK to look for help.

Families of Returnees

6. Europe has strict rules about who and why can migrate and for what reasons.
7. Returnees have tried their very best.
8. Your sons and daughters have been through a lot.
9. Return comes with many challenges. Your sons and daughters need your support.
10. Understand what your sons and daughters are going through.

Community and Religious Leaders

11. Create a friendly, welcoming environment for people who return to Afghanistan.
12. Encourage returnees to seek support.
13. Seek community solutions to support returnee reintegration.
14. Provide comfort through religious discourse to returnees and their families.
15. Become an advocate for youth and their issues.

3. Town Halls

Upon completion of the message development phase, Lapis began planning a series of town hall events, consisting of a panel of four subject matter experts with approximately 25 to 30 participants. **Each panel included a psychologist, a sociologist, a migration expert, and a community elder/Mullah.**



PHASE 1:
Learning
Sessions



PHASE 2:
Message
Development



PHASE 3:
Town halls



Lapis then sought to identify subject matter experts in both Kabul PD13 and Jaghori. The Lapis team did not face any difficulties finding appropriate candidates for the Kabul panel, but it took some time to find suitable candidates in Jaghori. Jaghori is an isolated district, with ongoing violence in the surrounding communities, making movement difficult. Because of the security situation, it was difficult for Lapis to deploy experts from Kabul. As a result, Lapis began looking at available resources in the district itself. Fortunately, local coordinators were able to source appropriate participants for the panel and began preparing to conduct the first town hall.

The Lapis team conducted briefings among the Kabul panelists (who were briefed in person) as well as the Jaghori panelists (who were briefed online). Briefings covered key messages and means of delivering those messages, guidelines for the town hall events, and advice on shaping dialogue with town hall participants.

Each town hall began with an introduction of the panel by the moderator and an icebreaker Q&A session with the participants. **The moderator then asked questions to the panel, and they would reply with real-life examples designed to deliver the key messages and initiate a dialogue with the participants.** To facilitate a two-way conversation, the moderator intermittently asked participants if they had any questions for the experts or anything to share with them. The Lapis team ensured that all participants had enough time to ask their questions and share their stories (the floor was given to the new participants every 10-15 minutes to ask their questions and share their experiences). Each town hall went on for three hours with one added hour for the lunch break. Including lunch in the town hall's agenda was a means of facilitating casual conversations between the panelists and participants, an opportunity for indirect messaging.

Initially, the town halls were designed in a cinema-style format; the panel would sit on the stage with the moderator on the corner and the participants in front of them. However, and in discussion with the ERRIN team, **the format was changed to round tables** to better encourage participant comfort and conversation. Each of the four panelists was at a table with roughly 10 participants, with the panelists rotating tables throughout the three-hour event so that each panelist spent time with each table. Participants also had the chance to work in smaller groups and discuss in more detail. The last 8-10 minutes were allocated to Q&A.

Twelve town halls were conducted - 6 in Kabul and 6 in Jaghori.

Town Hall events	Region	Date	Number of Participants
Town Hall 1	Kabul	September 29th, 2020	46
Town Hall 2	Jaghori	October 4th, 2020	50
Town Hall 3	Kabul	October 8th, 2020	42
Town Hall 4	Jaghori	October 13th, 2020	46
Town Hall 5	Jaghori	October 29th, 2020	40
Town Hall 6	Kabul	November 3rd, 2020	41
Town Hall 7	Jaghori	November 3rd, 2020	36
Town Hall 8	Jaghori	November 12th, 2020	54
Town Hall 9	Jaghori	November 29th, 2020	54
Town Hall 10	Kabul	December 23rd, 2020	30
Town Hall 11	Kabul	December 30th, 2020	35
Town Hall 12	Kabul	January 7th, 2021	43

Challenges

The project faced a range of macro-level environmental challenges, as well as practical challenges to project implementation. These included:

Women's participation

During the early stage of implementing the project, Lapis had anticipated that women's participation would be low in the events. To mitigate this, Lapis convinced the district authorities to allow the Lapis team to directly explain the project to local residents and ask them to attend. This strategy was successful, and the result in both districts was higher participation amongst women than anticipated. If the project is extended, Lapis will seek to reach larger numbers of women through the production of a series of radio dramas targeting mothers, sisters, and wives – who are also known as the most influential people to their male family members.

Fragile security environment

Lapis conducted town halls in both Kabul and Jaghori under fragile security conditions. There has been a security threat on large gatherings in Kabul, especially in District 13th, from the project's beginning. Jaghori's remote areas are under Taliban threat and made it hard to reach and hard to solicit participants. The Lapis team worked in close coordination with Moby Group's security team (Lapis parent company) and local security authorities. Through taking measures such as changing locations, not revealing the specific time of the event to a broader range of people than necessary, screening the participants one-two days in advance, making a list of all participants with their phone numbers and IDs, and cross-checking the participant lists with the security teams, Lapis successfully conducted all events without incident.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The spread of the COVID-19 virus across the country has become another challenge for the Lapis team to address. Two months of lockdown and restrictions on gatherings presented major obstacles to conduct town hall events. During the lockdown, the Lapis team completed the learning sessions and developed the messages. Once restrictions on gatherings were lifted by the government, the first town hall was held. Lapis practiced a range of preventive measures while conducting the town halls, including social distancing, using hand sanitizers, and ensuring all participants wore masks.

Event logistics

With changing locations for town halls in both districts (as a security measure), transportation for participants had become a challenge. Lapis, in consultation and cooperation with the district authorities, provided transportation to those participants who otherwise could not make it to the venue on their own.

Evaluation

Town Hall Assessment

The town hall events were **assessed using both closed (quantitative) and open (qualitative) questioning**. All participants at each town hall were asked three survey questions at both the start and end of the town hall to assess the extent to which the event affected attitudes in line with strategic intent. Survey questions assessed acceptance, support, and willingness to help returnees reconnect with their families and communities.

▼ Acceptance/support of returnees

QA. Are the returned people accepted and supported by you? Do you support them to connect back with their family and community?

▼ Willingness to help returnees

QB. Are you willing to help those who have returned from Europe?

▼ Likelihood to deter migration

QC. Will you try to stop people, especially youth who tend to immigrate to Europe illegally?

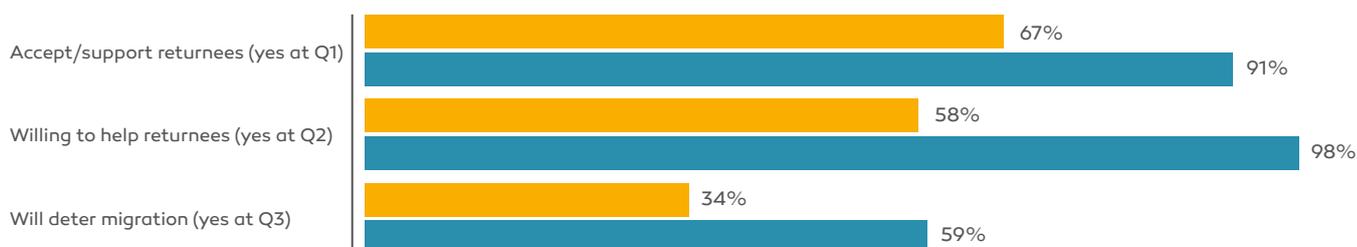
Additionally, a set of mini-depth interviews were conducted among six participants at each town hall to gain a deeper understanding of their attitudes towards returnees and willingness to support them. These conversations focused on the following questions:

- ▼ Do you support your family members and friends who have migrated? Or have you ever supported them in any possible way?
- ▼ What is your perspective about the returnees? Are they acceptable for you?
- ▼ If a returnee from your family will need your support. Are you willing to help him?

Overall, **the assessments provide strong evidence that the town hall events succeeded in affecting attitudes in a desirable way**, with significant movement of desirable response for all three questions. The greatest increase in desirable attitudes was seen with a willingness to help returnees, which increase from 58% before the events to 98% after the events.

OVERALL RESULTS

(total n=517)





There are some **notable differences in baseline (pre-event) attitudes across the two locations.**

Respondents in Kabul demonstrated greater empathy and understanding towards returnees. They claim greater acceptance and support of, and willingness to help returnees than do respondents in Jaghori (76% versus 59% at Q1-pre, and 65% versus 53% at Q2-pre). Additionally, respondents in Kabul claim a greater pre-existing willingness to deter migration, as compared to those in Jahgori (51% versus 19% at Q3-pre)².

However, **while baseline attitudes differ, similar desirable gains were made across both locations.**

Kabul (n=237) Jaghori (n=280)

	PRE	Kabul (n=237)	Jaghori (n=280)
Accept/support returnees (yes at Q1)	PRE	76%	59%
	POST	96%	88%
Willing to help returnees (yes at Q2)	PRE	65%	53%
	POST	96%	100%
Will deter migration (yes at Q3)	PRE	51%	19%
	POST	81%	41%

Resistance to supporting returnees often rooted in perceived fault

This unwillingness to support returnees is often informed by perceived fault.

“They have chosen this, so it is their responsibility to deal with the consequences.”

“The strict policies of Europe on the migrants might have led the returnees to get involved with drugs and the different criminal cases, and therefore they are deported. In that case, I am not willing to support the returnee, neither will I allow or encourage any of my family members and friends to help them financially and mentally”.

“If he has committed a crime, we are not willing to help him as part of the family back again.”

Town halls helped participants to understand the returnee experience and accept returnees

At the beginning of town halls, biases against returnees were apparent. In Town Hall 3, two community members suggested that their level of support for returnees depends on the circumstances leading to their return; perhaps he had committed a crime, and that led to his deportation. There was minimal mention of asylum policies/constraints on migration.

²These differences are statistically significant to 95%.

However, later there was **recognition of migration regulations**, and that deportation does not mean that the individual has done anything wrong.

“The decision of deportation was not their own choice; there is a system working on the asylums.”

“Migrants are deported against their will. They might have gone through a lot during their stay in a second country, and they are obliged to return after a long negotiation. I would accept a returnee with open arms, no matter what the reason will be. Important here is that the migrant has tried his best to complete this mission.”

“Deportation happens in the circumstances out of our control.”

Closely in line with messaging intent, **town halls helped respondents understand and empathize with the returnee experience.**

“They haven’t done anything wrong.”

“Do not behave as they have done something wrong.”

“They are our own; we should accept and welcome them. Kids make decisions that are not good for them and even affect their families, but we, as their parents, should take care of them. Advise them and help them.”

In Town Halls 11 and 12, there was a recognition of the values of returnees, with the experiences that they have gained, can offer to Afghan society.

“Now that I am aware of reintegration, we should not only support the returnees but also see what skills they have obtained and how we can utilize to benefit our community and other people.”

“Deportation is a common part of an Afghan migrant’s life. Let us stand together and committed to not degrading this. We will surely succeed in remaining united and supporting each other during this period of our community’s life and experience.”

“We now know that the returnees lack access to their fundamental rights socially more than the residents of any other country.”

Responsibility for reintegration support also placed on the government

All interviewed participants in Town Hall 5 acknowledged that the town hall messages relating to the different stages of reintegration had been well-received and understood. However, they strongly **felt that the government should intervene** in this process to address returnees' immediate needs.

“Now I know what to do to help a returnee, but we have a government, and they should also do their part by providing work and education opportunities.”

“The government has a key role and responsibility to support the process of reintegration of the returnees.”

Town halls helped participants to understand how to support returnees

While the majority voiced support for returnees before the events, respondents also expressed uncertainty regarding how to support returnees. Townhall **discussion helped respondents understand how to support their family/community members to reconnect** with their families and communities and resume a normal life.

Respondents' willingness to help returnees was supported by **practical ways to provide help** that they felt they gained an understanding of from the town hall events. In mini-depth interviews after the events, respondents expressed a greater understanding of how to help returnees.

“Talk to them.”

“Help them get jobs, start a business, or an apprenticeship.”

“None of our folks, who have migrated, have been returned. But even if we have a deportee in our family, we will financially support him. As we see, the majority in Afghanistan have lower economic conditions. I am not sure if the problems of the economy would ever get fixed in Afghanistan, but what I will be able to do is to introduce him/her to an association that could help him with his social and mental needs.”

“The returnees might have gone through financial issues, and still they are, but we as a member of community members should make sure to support them.”

“Going through the pain of my son's deportation, I can now feel all those returnees who have experienced trauma at this stage; the most important thing is to give them company and not let them feel alone.”

For some of the community leaders, this led to **practical commitments to support returnees**. In Town Hall 6, one community leader said that he would help the returnees and their families by providing guidance and advice. He would facilitate a positive environment for them to discuss work prospects and emotional and psychological difficulties. The second community leader in the town hall, who happened to be a popular public figure, said that he was familiar with agencies working for the returnees. He said that he would do his best to make the returnees' voices heard by the government and media agencies. A similar commitment was made by a community leader in Town Hall 9:

“Now that I know about the NGOs services to help the returnees regarding business ideas and start-up and some other initiatives, I will approach these agencies; they can provide us with training sessions and help our kids. I will support the people through our community meetings during the town hall to build such a program”.



Town halls also instilled a **sense of personal responsibility among returnees** to move forward (in line with messaging targeting returnees to demonstrate initiative).

“Even if I do not receive any kind of support from my family, I will help myself in the reintegration process, and I will self-sufficiently build a career in Afghanistan.”

“My family may have supported me, but I have not yet taken serious action on my own to help myself. This town hall has made me aware. I have been gripped within a cave. All these years, my head was grabbed wildly with the thought of meaninglessness, and this thought has been wilder than anything else, and it has destroyed me during these years. To help eradicate this from my life, I am the first person who can help myself. My family might have supported me. The community has also, at some point, stood by my side to help me reintegrate, but I have learned from this town hall that the strongest way reintegration is possible is by the actions taken by returnees on their own.”

However, financial support is a more challenging task

Respondents expressed confidence in helping returnees, but emotional support is easier than practical support, and many claim (at least at the start of the town halls) that returnees need to be independently financially stable. In Town Hall 1, a family member believed that she could help her sister (a returnee) only if she is financially secure. She was open to reconsidering this by the end of the town hall.

Financial support can be difficult due to the financial burden of the attempted migration and/or the burden of another mouth to feed upon return.

“His family treats him as if he is the source of all the financial problems in the house.”

“I sold all my assets, used all the family savings to send my son to Europe. I cannot even imagine him ever being deported.”

“I wish I knew what it takes to reach Europe and the risk of being deported so I would never sell my assets and spend all my savings on my son.”

Greater willingness to provide financial support was expressed at the end of the town halls. In Town Hall 4, a father of a returnee said:

“If my financial situation allows me, I will offer the returnee my financial support. And I will stand beside them and support them emotionally when I am not able to help them financially.”

Perceptions of migration as desirable remain due to lived reality in Afghanistan

In Town Hall 6, three community leaders and one returnee pointed out that migration continues due to the critical situation at home in Afghanistan. Except for a few who migrate for pleasure, most migrate because of their unstable living conditions in the country. Respondents point to highlight the benefit of migration and the importance of respecting the choice to migrate (supportive of intended messaging that migration should be an informed choice).

“The reason people do not stop migration because it is the only way to achieve a decent standard of life, which unfortunately is not possible within Afghanistan. It is the fundamental right of all human beings, and we should fully respect the decisions of those who seek to migrate.”

“With the current condition of insecurity and poverty in Afghanistan, my son should not return to the country, regardless of all migration conditions in the host country. I want my son to keep himself there and not ever to come back to Afghanistan.”

Perception of deporting countries as responsible for reintegration support

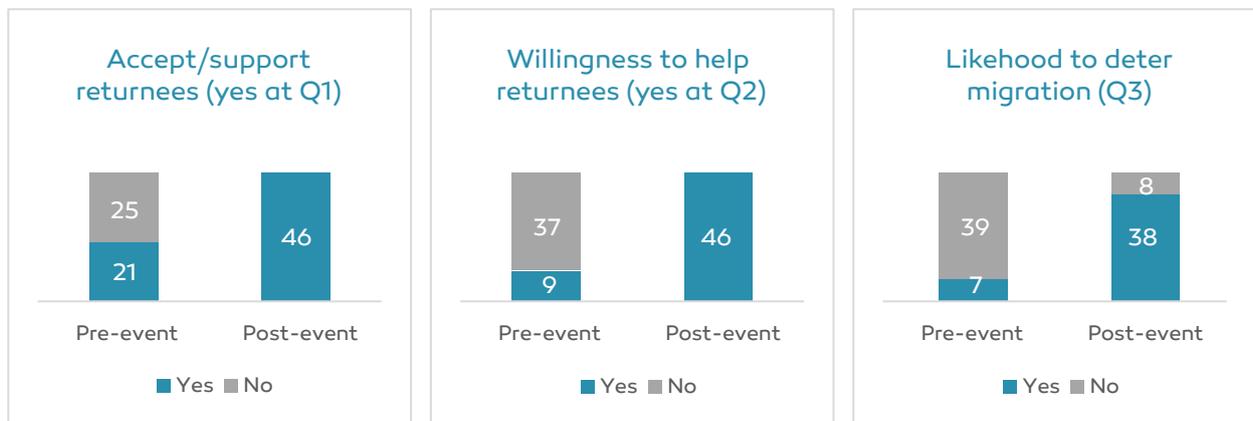
Related to the perception that return is “non-voluntary” is a perception that European countries who are sending people back bear the responsibility for reintegration support.

“I will support them if I can, but the question is, why are they not supported by the country deporting them?”

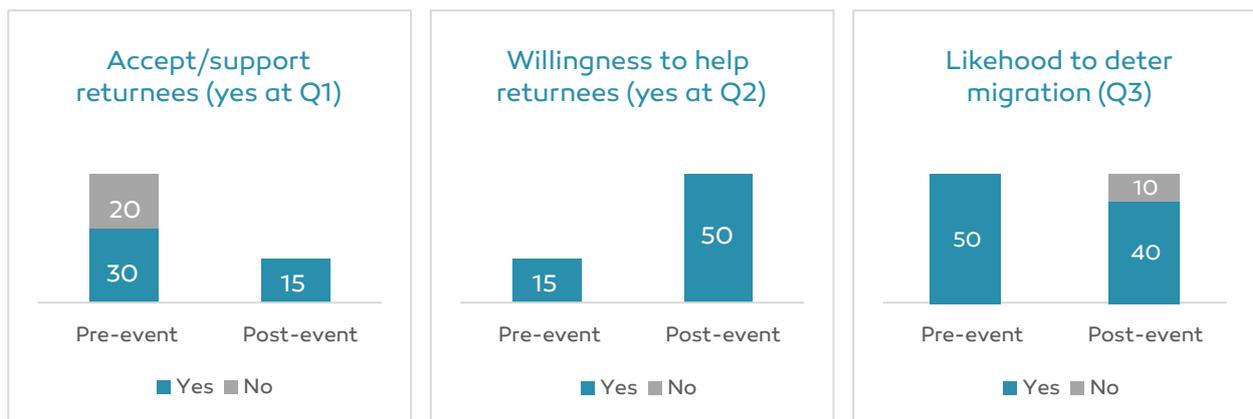
Town Hall – Event survey detail

Charting notes: Event level data is charted as counts rather than percentages due to sampling sizes. Where a 'yes/no' category is zero, the data label is not displayed for chart simplicity. Where pre/post counts are different, that is due to respondents abstaining from answering.

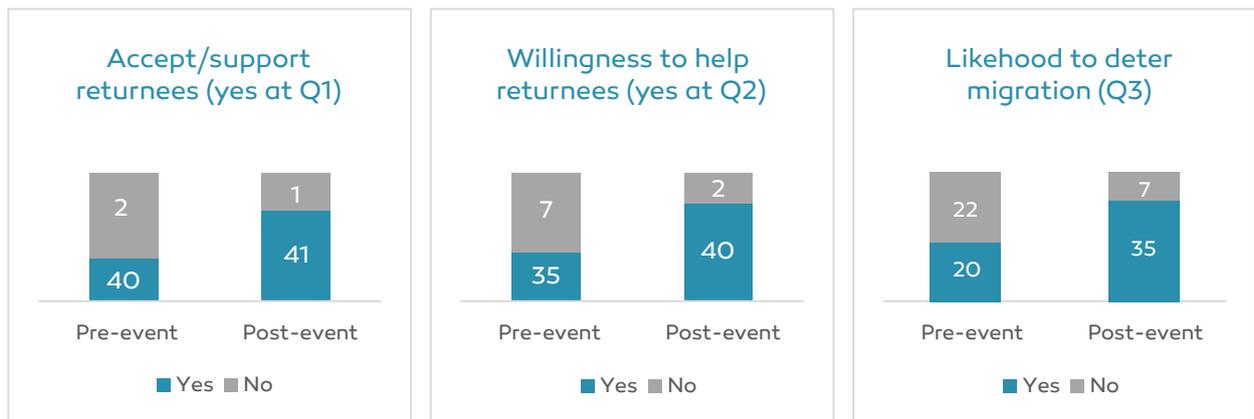
Town Hall 1 (Kabul) – held on September 29th, 2020, in a restaurant in District 13th. There were **46 participants** in this town hall – all from the district, half of whom were returnees. Respondents expressed unanimous acceptance/support of and willingness to help returnees after the event.



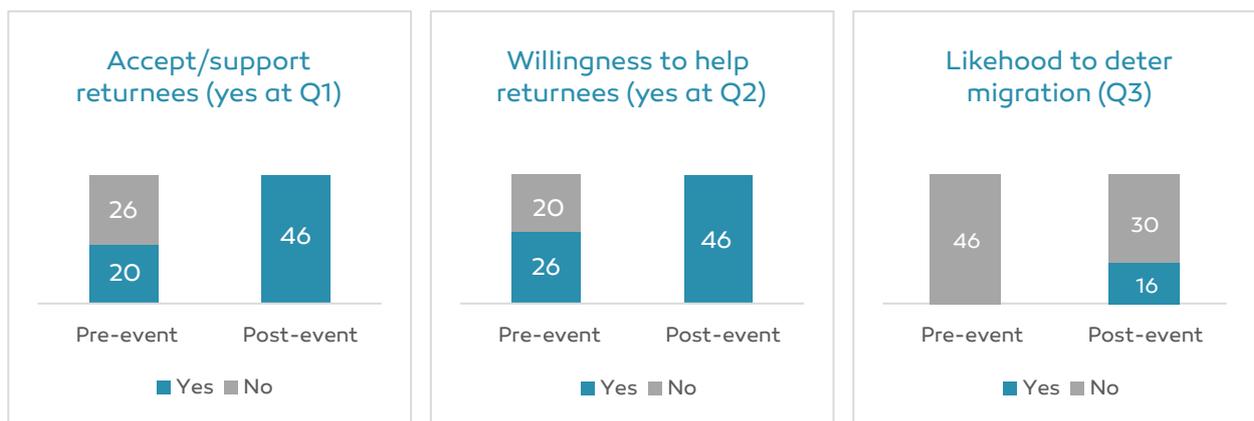
Town Hall 2 (Jaghori) – conducted on October 4th, with **50 participants** from six different areas. The town hall was conducted in the center of the district called - Sangmasha area. Unanimous willingness to help returnees expressed after the event.



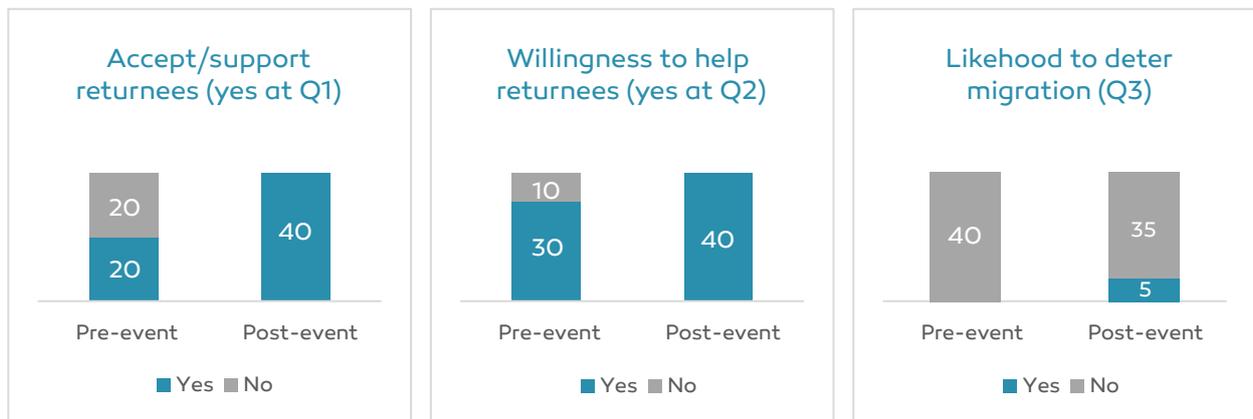
Town Hall 3 (Kabul) – conducted on October 8th in the 13th district with the participation of 42 people from two areas of Dasht-e-Barchi. Significant gains were made across questions, with near-unanimous desirable ('yes') responses for all three questions, after the town hall.



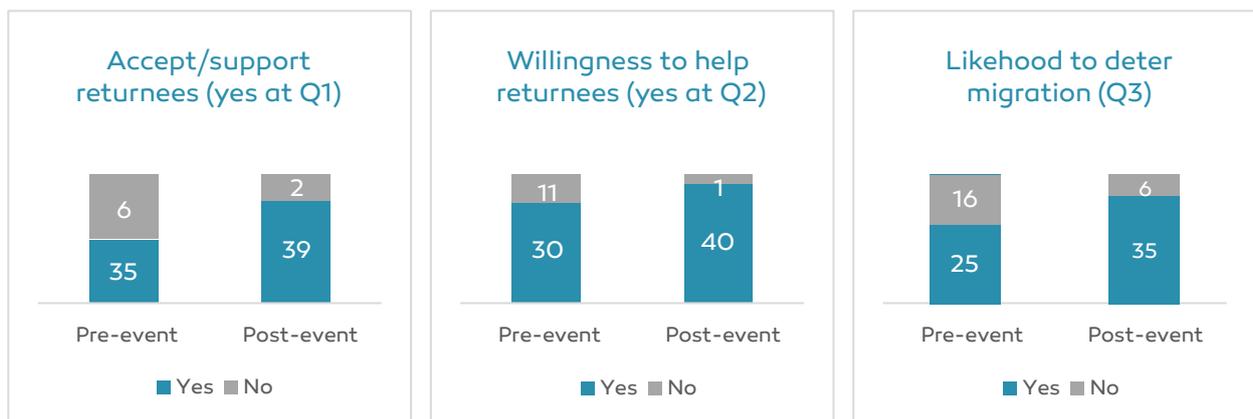
Town Hall 4 (Jaghori) – conducted on October 13th in the Sangmasha area of Jaghori with the participation of 46 attendees. Acceptance/support of returnees and willingness to help returnees roughly doubled from pre to post-event, with unanimous 'yes' responses after the town halls.



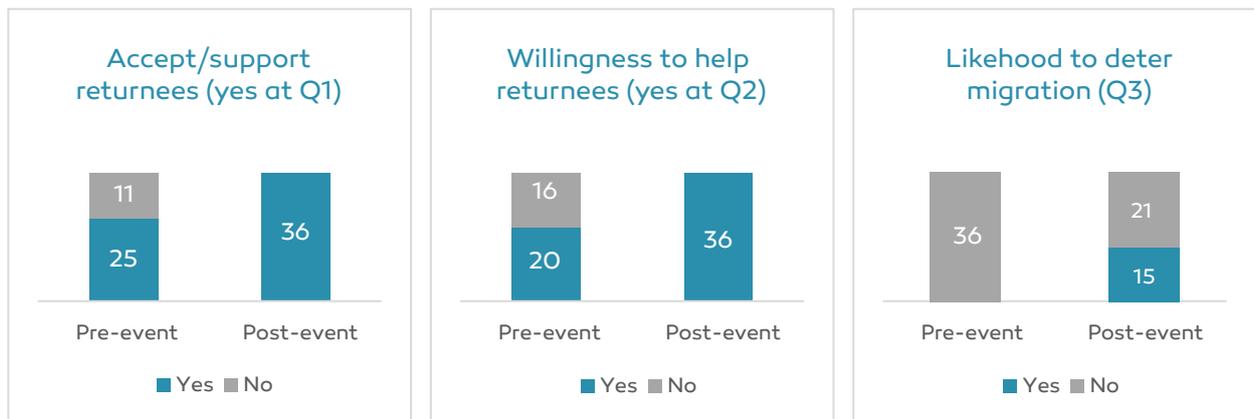
Town Hall 5 (Jaghori) – conducted on October 29th, in the central area of Jaghori called – Sangmasha, with a total of 40 participants attended this town hall. While there was unanimous acceptance/support of returnees and willingness to help returnees by the end of the town hall, dominant unwillingness to deter migration remained.



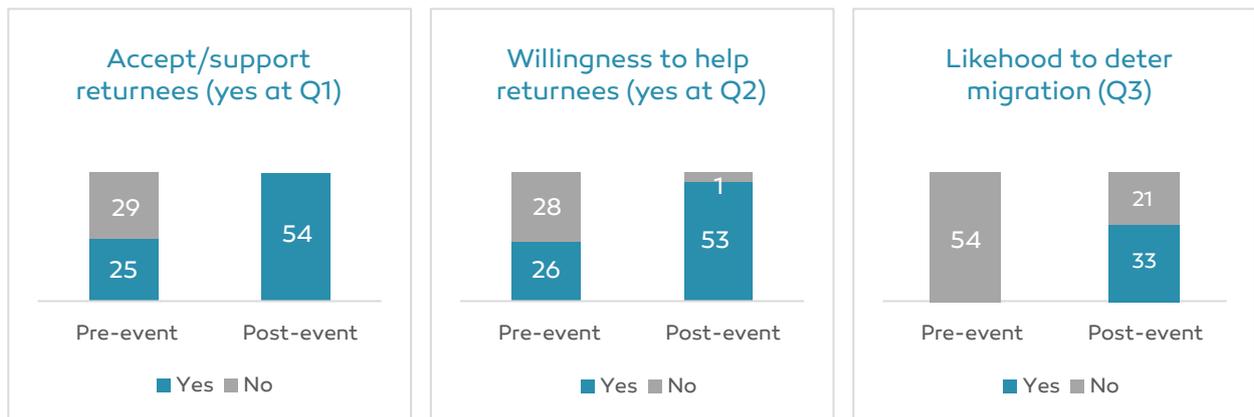
Town Hall 6 (Kabul) – conducted on November 3rd with 41 attendees. Higher desirable baseline attitudes among this group of respondents (notably, much greater willingness both pre/post-event to deter migration than seen in Jaghori’s Town Hall 5), with gains made after the event.



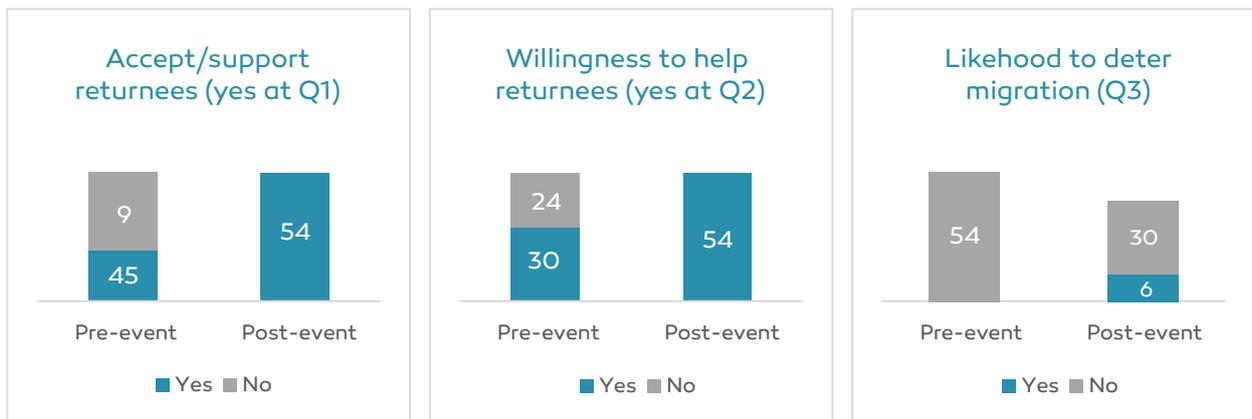
Town Hall 7 (Jaghori) – conducted on November 3rd, 2020, with a total participation of 36 people. Unanimous acceptance/support of and willingness to help returnees after the event.



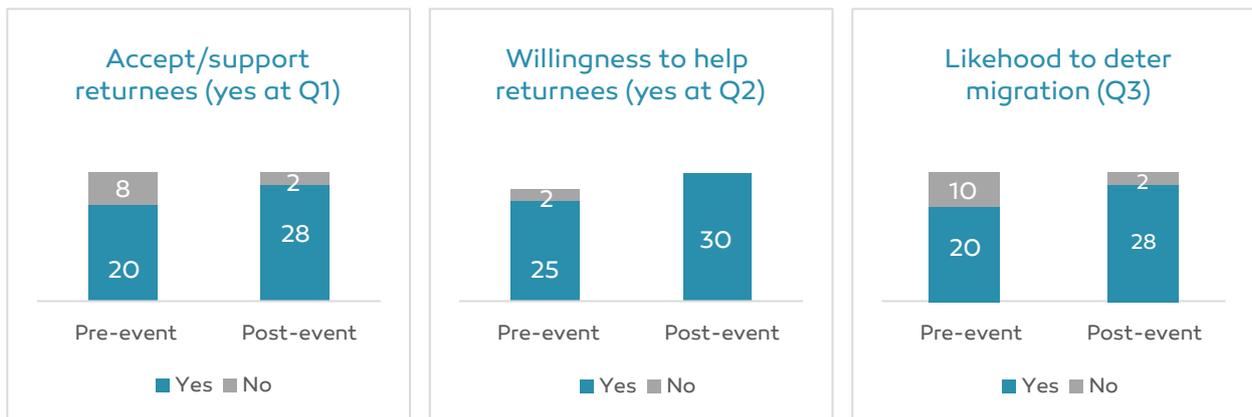
Town Hall 8 (Jaghori) – conducted on November 12th with a total of 54 participants. Unanimous acceptance/support of and willingness to help returnees after the event. Significant gains made in likelihood to deter migration after the event.



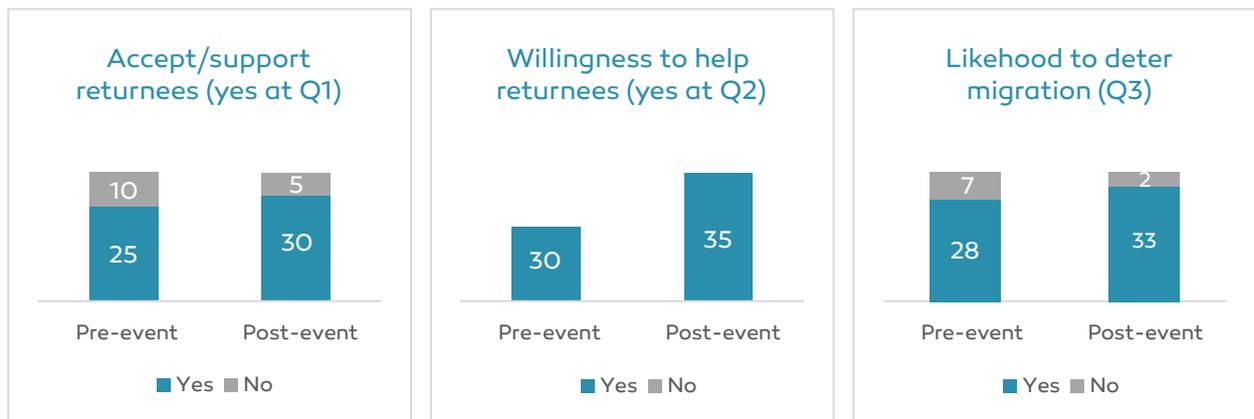
Town Hall 9 (Jaghori) – conducted on November 29th, 2020, with 54 participants. Unanimous acceptance/support of and willingness to help returnees after the event.



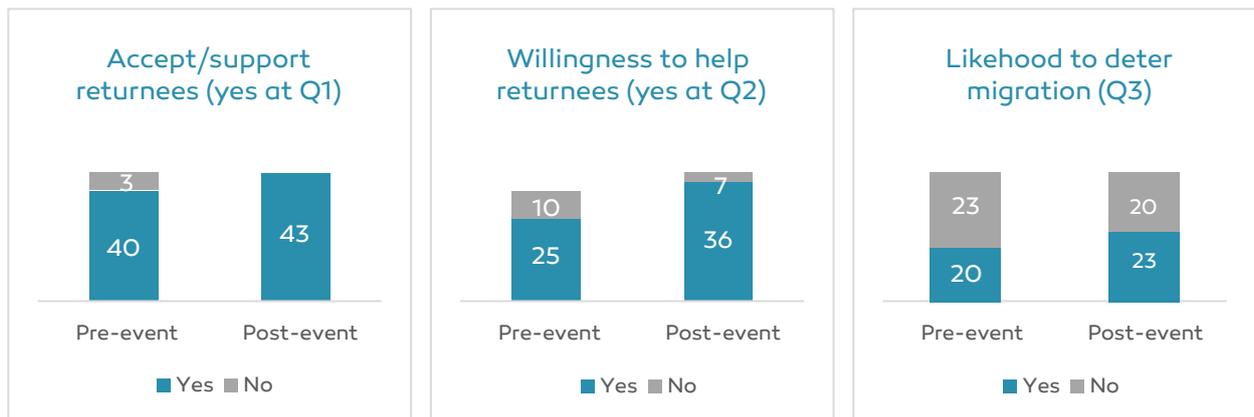
Town Hall 10 (Kabul) – conducted on December 23rd with the participation of 30 people. While baselines attitudes were relatively desirable to start, gains were still made, and the post-event survey showed nearly unanimous desirable results.



Town Hall 11 (Kabul) – conducted on December 30th with 35 attendees in the district’s office. While baselines attitudes were relatively desirable to start, gains were still made, and the post-event survey showed nearly unanimous desirable results.



Town Hall 12 (Kabul) – conducted on January 7th with 43 participants. Greatest gains made with regards to the willingness to help returnees.



Implementation Learnings

Messaging

Lapis had developed the messages after a learning session of discussing with the target audience and experts locally and internationally. However, the target audience's expectation of knowing more about the supports a returnee could possibly get was missing. In almost all the town hall events, the participants asked the question of "how a returnee could get financial support and jobs by the country they are deported." The migration expert tried to explain and address their question, but the Lapis team did not have a coordinated resource or an address to refer to the participants. For the future, Lapis would suggest coordination between the organizations such as IOM, ICMPD, and possibly UNHCR, which are involved in this process, to have a representative in events like this and address the people's concerns.

Methods employed in Town Halls

The setup, messaging, and bringing together the target audience from different parts of the target locations were the useful methods used in these town halls. However, sharing brochures, videos, and any other form of informative materials by the organizations working for the returnees was a missing component worth trying the next time. These town hall events could be a beneficial space for the ERRIN -SRA, ICMPD, and any other organizations working for returnees to attend and share what they offer.



Annexes

Event Panels

Event Panels: Kabul

Mr. Shuban Ali Noori, Psychologist:

He is a graduate of Psychology from Kabul University. He has taken certified trainings on different Psychology topics of life skills, diagnostic mental disorder, cognitive behavioral therapy, addiction counseling and treatment. He is also an expert in the treatment of the psychological disorders of children, schema therapy, and Socratic methodology. He has officially worked as a psychology consultant at the beautiful life consultancy from 2014 to 2018, and he has been working with the FMIC as a psychologist since 2018. He joined us in the townhall to contribute as part of the panelists, because he owns a comprehensive academic and professional background in the sphere of psychology, consultancy and mental and social disorder advocacy.

Mr. Enayatullah Azad, Migration Expert:

Enayatullah Azad is a current refugee researcher and media coordinator for the Norwegian Refugee Council. He has been working as a publishing committee member with the refugees of Europe, Iran, and Greece. He has a long experience of working with the displaced populations in Afghanistan. Doing the research and reflection of their stories to the relevant agencies and through the media with the authorities to identify the problems and seek solutions. He is initially a journalist and has for several years worked as a newsperson with the Dari language edition of a Daily Open society newspaper as well as with the Dari editor for Impassion Afghanistan, "Afghanistan's first digital media agency". He has also worked as an editor and contributor to Paishwagh Afghanistan's first citizen journalism platform.

Ms. Habiba Sadiqi, Community Representative:

Habiba Sidiqee is experienced working with people as their community representative. She is now the deputy for 13th district in Dasht Barchi, and she is a very influential female leader in Dasht-e-Barchi. During the past three years of her work as a deputy for district 13th, she has served through many ways around to outreach the community's voice to the government, and to seek solutions for the community's problems, and she is aware of the ups and downs of the district members. She has joined the townhall as she has been recognized best fit for this role and familiar with all the prospects of this corner and she could easily deliver the messages that had social prospects and she is easily able to coordinate and understand the people from the several perspectives. She has yet attended several training sessions on leadership and peace in the world's most prestigious countries, which has enabled her to get to work in Kabul.

Mr. Nazir Farhang, Sociologist:

Farhang is a master graduate of sociology from Kateb University. He is also a part-time sociology lecturer at the Istiqlal University in Kabul. He has yet attended different social programs as part of the panel and chairing committee in different programs to raise the importance of social connections and seek solutions for the reintegration of the returnees in Afghanistan through the concept of Sociology. Throughout his academic career in the sphere of sociology and social studies, he has had a lot to offer to the community through different social activities and he went through some technical advice on the social connection of the returnees with their families and communities and through his connection with the participants during the information campaigns.

Event Panels: Jaghori

Mr. Murtaza Hussaini, Psychologist:

Murtaza Hussaini is a graduate of Kabul University, Department of Psychology. He has been working as a University Professor of Psychology in Jaghori District of Ghazni for the past ten years ever since 2010. Within the entire period he has taught different topics to the students of psychology in the Faiz Muhammad Kateb, Jaghori.

Mr. Mohammad Mahdi Madani, Migration expert:

He is the general manager of the sub-districts of Jaghori in Ghazni. He is a bachelor graduate of social studies in Islamic history and he has yet done dozens of researches on the reintegration topic. Although he has been involved with different migration and reintegration topics, he has also happened to work in Jaghori as a migration advocate and attended different social platforms as part of the speaker.

Ms. Safia Alizada, Community representative/ Influencer:

She was a manager of an educational center for a couple of years – named Target, and director of the womanly voting website in the Sangmasha area of Jaghori. She has also been a member of the community council of the Jaghori district for the past two years.

Mr. Mohammad Safar Khan, Sociologist:

Apart from being a graduate of sociology, Safar Khan has also worked at the Norwegian committee for two years, where he was responsible for the health care services office via the awareness sub country meetings and information campaigns. Besides, he has also worked for five years in high schools as the instructor of the social subjects. He raised awareness on social stigmas of the minority tribes of Afghanistan and worked earlier for the extremism among the communities of different tribes

Questionnaire

SURVEY RECORD - RETURNEES

Interviewer ID				
Supervisor ID				

Questionnaire #					
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Date (MM/DD)			Age	15 to 30	21 to 50	51 and above
Start time (HH:MM) (24h clock)			Gender	Male	Female	

Respondent name:	
Education:	
Address - Province & District:	
Respondent address and contact details:	

READ OUT: Hello, my name is (Interviewer name), and I work for Lapis Communications. I am conducting an assessment of the returnees' situation in Afghanistan to find out more about the problems they may face personally, in their families, and in the societies in which they live. Taking part in this survey is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to end the interview at any point, as well as refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer. Please note that this interview will be kept confidential, and we will only look at all the responses combined, not individually. There is no payment offered for taking part.

This interview will be audio recorded for future references.

Question 1: Can you describe your expectations when you arrived at the country of destination?

Question 2: Did anyone tell you about the risk of not getting a residence permit when you arrived?

Question 3: What was the reason for your return?

Question 4: How much information did you receive about return after the decision was made, and who gave you that information?

Question 5: Do you believe it was some failing on your part that you did not make it?

Question 6: Did you receive any guidance or pathway for return?

Question 7: Were you offered any form of reintegration support back in Afghanistan?

Question 8: Did you receive any information on what to expect and what to do when you returned?

Question 9: What was your mindset when you returned?

Question 10: What are the wrong things you did when you returned?

Question 11: What were the right things you did?

Question 12: Who or what helped you?

Question 13: Who could have helped you, but didn't?

Question 14: Whose support did you require the most? Did you get it?

Question 15: How are you coping? Are you in a better place today? What future lies ahead for you?

Question 16: If you knew what you know today, would you have made something different before you returned?

Question 17: What is the most important piece of advice you'd give to someone who is about to return?
