

A.2 Afghanistan - 2002 onwards - Returns

Case study:

Update - Shelter construction

See Shelter Projects 2008 for more

Project type:

Package of shelter construction materials, self build shelters, cash grants, technical support

Disaster:

Afghanistan repatriation 2002-2008

Houses damaged by disaster:

5 million returnees since 2002

Project target population:

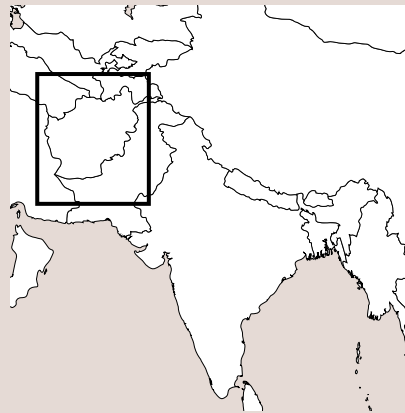
1.2 million beneficiaries to date (average family size of 6). This programme has sheltered an estimated 25% of returning population

Occupancy rate on handover:

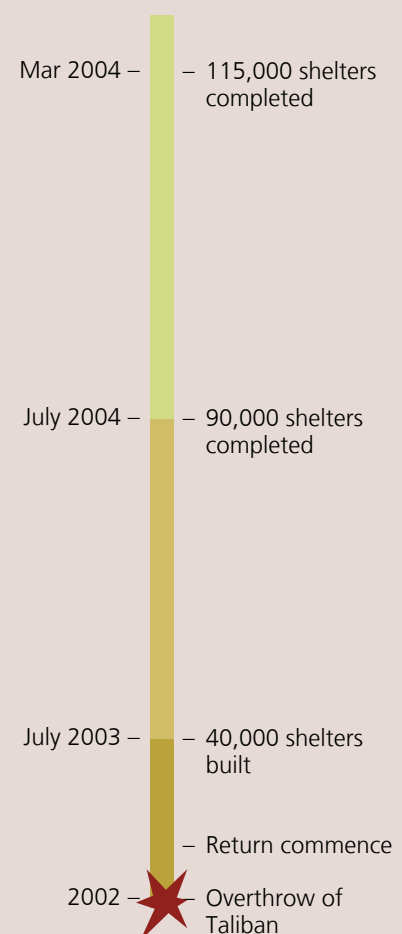
Unknown

Shelter size:

It was strongly recommended to maintain a 21m² minimum net floor area. The shelter consists of two rooms, one corridor, and an external latrine.



Project timeline



Summary

A large scale, self-build. shelter programme implemented through partner organisations. The programme aimed to help meet the needs of the 5 million people returning to Afghanistan since 2002 over 20 years of conflict. Different shelter models were adopted around the country depending on local construction technology. This programme provided materials, basic technical guidance and cash for the most vulnerable people. It was integrated with monitoring and support for return. Escalating steel prices severely affected the programme leaving it 5 million US dollars under budget for 2008.

Update

This programme continued in 2009 and looks set to continue for many years to come. The lead organisation continued to develop detailed guidance for partner organisations. This included detailed paperwork requirements which aimed to encourage consistency between programmes across the country. Some organisations found these too prescriptive and preferred to build shelters from other funding sources.

The shelters continued to be built in existing settlements as well as in new settlements. Across the country, three main designs of shelter were developed. Minor design changes were made such as varying the amount of timber used for various structural elements. In general the use of steel I-beams in the shelters proved popular.

Projects are implemented on a one year cycle with organisations being funded for construction one year at a time. This provides an incentive for rapid and large scale construction, but can make follow on projects to re-establish communities difficult to plan, and means that shelter occupancy is not as high as it could be.