

European Conference Diaspora Protection Information for Afghans at Risk

12-13 June 2022
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

ABOUT THE AFGHAN Safe Migration Project

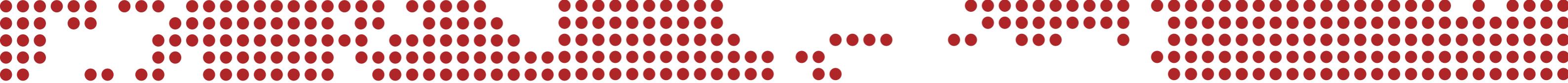
The Afghan Safe Migration project is implemented by the [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#) and the [Mixed Migration Centre Asia \(MMC\)](#) and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs from June 2019 until August 2022. The project aims for Afghans on the move and Afghans considering migrating to have a realistic and credible picture of the journey and understand the protection risks and their rights. The project has been supporting five Afghan diaspora partners in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany to leverage their networks and knowledge to help Afghans make safer decisions around migration.

The required information was determined through research and data collection, including in-depth consultations with Afghan diaspora groups in Europe, migrants en route, prospective migrants, and returnees in Afghanistan. The capacity of Afghan diaspora organizations engaged in providing protection information was increased, and networks were established, to ensure targeted messages and information on protection assistance in English, Farsi/Dari, and Pashto to strengthen safe and protective migration environments for vulnerable people from Afghanistan.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DO	Diaspora Organization
MMC	Mixed Migration Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
SBC	Social Behaviour Change
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Credit for the photos of the Conference published in this report:
Photographer Iris Haidau, Babilony Creative



PREFACE

This report reflects the proceedings of the European Conference “Diaspora Protection Information for Afghans at Risk”, held on 12-13 June 2022, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The purpose of this report is to share the discussion points held between the conference participants on the importance of the protection information on safe migration for Afghans at risk and the role of diaspora organizations (DOs) in providing this information. This conference brought together 87 participants from diaspora organizations, INGO, UN, government donors, and research partners. Afghan diaspora representatives came from different parts of Europe, among others, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands.

On the first day of the conference, which aimed to strengthen networking and promote peer-to-peer learning, 51 diaspora representatives had the opportunity to exchange, share experiences and attend protection information training. Four diaspora partners of the Afghan Safe Migration project presented their information protection materials to other diaspora members and acknowledged the feedback and suggestions provided. This gave diaspora members a chance to learn about the outputs of the project and better understand the process flow behind the production of the materials developed by the

project diaspora partners.

The second day of the conference consisted of interactive presentations, panel discussions, and parallel sessions. The first presentation focused on how the project applied Social Behaviour Change (SBC) methodology. The presentation acknowledged that the individuals' risk perception and decision-making processes operate in a complex milieu of external and internal determinants, and a myriad of push/pull factors. It explored the gaps in existing migration campaigns in terms of consideration of human decision-making aspects from a SBC perspective.

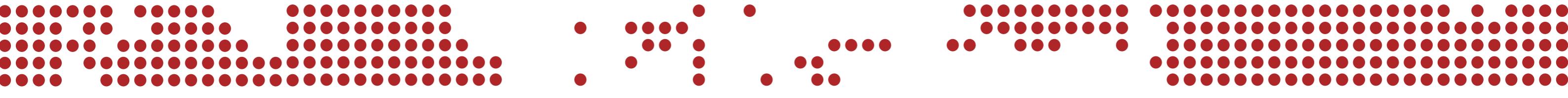
The second presentation focused on data collection by the Mixed Migration Centre Asia and the Pacific (MMC) in Afghanistan and Turkey. MMC conducts data collection through its 4Mi initiative, research, analysis, and policy development on mixed migration in Asia and the Pacific to inform programming and policymaking around the rights and protection of people on the move. The research findings on pre-migration decisions, knowledge of risks, the experience of migration, as well as experience of return and reintegration were presented. The 4Mi survey results are available [online](#).

The last presentation showcased the Afghan Safe Migration Information [Video](#), which captured all the products developed by the partners of the project.

The presentations were followed by two panels and discussions, related to Afghan diaspora organizations' safe migration information and their role as information providers; and how humanitarian actors can enhance access to services via improved information.

The first-panel discussion tied together the experiences of the partner DOs who produced protection information products. They shared their approaches on how the topics and target audiences were selected for their campaigns, how communication materials were developed in the frame of SBC methodology, and lessons learned for future consideration. The second-panel discussion recognized the need for increased awareness of protection information and services for migrants en route. It created a platform to engage with humanitarian actors and service providers in a solution-oriented discussion about the recommendations related to communicating available information and services to migrants, as well as addressing gaps in service provision.

Finally, four parallel sessions focused on topics such as different methodologies applied in migration information campaigns and the current challenges and solutions for applying and implementing such approaches during humanitarian crises and unstable contexts. A second session on the current information needs in Afghanistan, what communication channels are available, and how INGOs can support community-led information. A third session on international protection and legal pathways explored the options on how to support, improve and advocate for information on, and access to safe, and legal pathways. The last session covered collaboration between the DOs and institutional actors, the added value, and limitations leading to recommendations for future collaborations.





WELCOME ADDRESS

MINGO HEIDUK TETSCHE, Head of Civil Society Engagement Unit and Diaspora Programme, Danish Refugee Council (DRC)



Mingo Heiduk Tetsche opened the European Conference by acknowledging the 10-year anniversary of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Diaspora Programme that is advocating for, engaging, and recognizing the unique role of the diaspora in contributing to humanitarian and development work in their country of origin. Mingo reminded the audience that the goal of the project was to provide the most accurate and reliable protection information to those who need it the most. Emphasizing the power of information sharing and the role of the diaspora in disseminating, Mingo introduced the day by noting the importance of the diaspora's ability to provide relevant and tailored information about the risks of irregular migration, rights one is entitled on the journey, and upon arrival, and services that are accessible to protect the migrants en route. She recognized the innovative approaches that the project applied and the importance of considering the learning from the project's implementation in designing future similar projects. She acknowledged and thanked the partner DOs that developed the products.

THEMBA LEWIS, Regional Manager, Mixed Migration Centre Asia



Themba Lewis introduced the Mixed Migration Center (MMC) to the audience, with the mission to collect and analyze data and provide DRC and partners with reliable evidence on migration. He emphasized the role of the diaspora to respond to the needs of the communities before any other actors can operate on the ground and acknowledged that INGOs and other humanitarian actors are not sufficiently respecting and recognizing the value of the diaspora engagement, but he noted the progress in this regard as 'revolutionary' for the institutional response, noting that this was also demonstrated with organizing this conference. He emphasized the importance of the conference in determining modes of collaboration and utilizing the tools, expertise, data, and knowledge that are available to protect those who are in need.

PRESENTATIONS

Sarah Osman, Independent Behavioural Science Consultant, Osman Advisory Services

Sarah Osman reflected on how she, as a Social Behaviour Change (SBC) expert, supported diaspora organizations in designing campaign materials that would focus on changing target audiences' attitudes, behaviors, and perspectives. She explained the SBC methodology in the context of irregular migration, starting with defining what SBC is, and how it is used to influence human behavior. Sarah went through the socio-ecological model of behavior followed by behavioral drivers and common strategies and interventions which are advocacy, behavior change communication, and social mobilization. She emphasized that for communication, it is essential to target users properly to better understand what they need and to create solutions that help them. She provided an overview of the activities completed with the DOs, starting with supporting MMC data collection by framing the questions, training, and mentoring sessions on SBC, communication strategy and monitoring and evaluation, co-design of the messages, and advising on evidence and impact measurement.

Sarah highlighted the importance of research before designing the interventions, and together with the DOs, she analyzed data to understand what influences behavior at the individual level and in this context, what influences the decision to migrate. The data showed that parents and communities are some of the key sources of information, but there was also some indication that stigma related to irregular migration could act as a barrier, since community members do not talk about irregular migration. Data also showed that there is a critical mismatch between the services requested by migrants and those that civil society is able to provide, and it had to be improved.

In terms of learnings, Sarah noted that DOs have a good understanding of target segmenting that could be applied in the future to other similar projects. However, sufficient SBC technical expertise to design and implement campaigns must be in place. She suggested advocating for the incorporation of a behavioral perspective at all levels of intervention design including en-route service delivery.



Abdullah Mohammadi, Regional 4Mi Coordinator, Mixed Migration Centre Asia (MMC)



Abdullah Mohammadi presented the 4Mi data collection initiative, which is a unique, standardized, and globalized system of collecting primary quantitative data on mixed migration flows. He presented the initiative's data collection in Afghanistan and Turkey to support the project with evidence on aspects related to Afghans on the move. Abdullah presented the timeframe of data collection and briefly described the methodology. The research in Afghanistan covered 4,200 interviewees in seven provinces and four border points. He mentioned that reasons for return are reuniting with family and friends in Afghanistan as well as not being able to make a living in their country of migration. In terms of challenges upon return, most of them reported finding decent work as the major challenge, followed by violence and debt. Among female respondents, violence and acceptance by the community were the main challenges upon return. Respondents lacked access

to assistance and support after return since only 19% reported receiving cash or food provided by NGOs or family/friends in Afghanistan. Those returning from EU countries reported higher levels of assistance.

Data collected in Turkey among 2000 Afghans indicated that Afghans use different land routes and means of transportation to reach Turkey, and border areas are reported as the most dangerous locations en route. Diaspora was mentioned as the main source of information before departure but during the travel, high dependency was on smugglers and other migrants en route. Information gaps were related to rights and where to access services. Considering all, the majority reported that they would have started the journey regardless, considering everything they learned on the way.

The presentations were followed by discussions and the audience had an opportunity to ask questions and engaged with the presenters. The first question was related to the power of influence that presenters have on migration policies. It was addressed by Themba Lewis by explaining that MMC provides data and evidence, which is used for advocacy and informing the policy-related decision-making. Sarah addressed the question related to implementing the SBC approach in other campaigns and she reflected that it was surprising but also disappointing to find out that there is distrust toward NGOs and people do not find information that most campaigns provide useful because it is not relatable to them.

Research-related questions were addressed by Abdullah explaining that there is a difference between female and male experiences in terms of access to information, women mostly rely on their partners or other family members since they do not have direct access to information. In terms of technology's influence on accessing information, most of them have smartphones but they are not as used on the way due to a lack of lack of credit, electricity, and internet access, therefore, the sources of information are usually smugglers.



PANEL & DISCUSSION I:

Afghan diaspora organisations' Safe Migration Information and their role as information providers

Moderator:

Sarah Osman, Independent Behavioural Science Consultant, Osman Advisory Services

Panelists:

- **Zala Pamir**, Chairwoman, KEIHAN Foundation
- **Mozamel Aman**, Chairperson, Mrastah e.V. Hilferuf Für Afghanistan
- **Zohreh Yusna Faizi**, Chairwoman, Afghan Lawyers Association, Denmark
- **Dr. Asef Hossaini**, Director, Abad e.V.

The first panel of the conference engaged discussions with the four diaspora organizations that partnered with the project to produce protection information for Afghans at risk.

Campaign materials of the five Afghan Safe Migration Partners:

Abad e.V.: Explanatory animation videos and video interviews about safe migration and protection risks in addition to short videos about safe migration language learning in Farsi-Dari and Pashto languages. Facebook: @Abad.berlin; Youtube: Abad; Website: www.abad-berlin.de; Email: admin@abad-berlin.de

Afghan Lawyers Association in Denmark: Video on General legal information on asylum procedures in Europe in Farsi-Dari and Pashto languages, and English subtitles Facebook: Immigration Window; Instagram: immigration_window; YouTube: Immigration Window; TikTok: immigrationwindow0; Email: immigrationwindow@gmail.com

Keihan Foundation: Animation videos about Safe Migration Information on contraception and female menstrual hygiene in Farsi- Dari with English subtitles. Facebook: KEIHAN Foundation; LinkedIn: KEIHAN Foundation; YouTube: StichingKEIHAN; Website: www.keihan.org; Email: info@keihan.org

Mrastah e.V. Hilferuf Für Afghanistan: Online interactive chatbot on Safe migration in Farsi-Dari, Pashto and English languages. Chatbot link: startupistan.org; Facebook: Mrastah e.V.; Webpage: www.mrastah.de; Email: mrastah.ev@gmail.com

Female Fellows: Animation video and webinar videos on family reunification and integration in Germany in Farsi-Dari. Facebook: Female Fellows; YouTube: Female Fellows e.V.; Website: www.femalefellows.com; Email: info@femalefellows.com

The discussion began with reflections by each DO around the selection of target audience and topic. They discussed their experience applying the SBC methodology, and what challenges were encountered during the process. All DOs did research before selecting a topic and developing interventions based on needs. The interactive products were discussed by the participants and feedback helped the DOs identify areas for improvement and areas of success.

An audience member engaged with the panel on having different context-specific information disseminated to different target audiences, since countries have different regulations and procedures for migration. The panelists agreed that context-specific information needs to be delivered, however, there is information that is equally useful for everyone, such as preparing documents before departure. Some diaspora

members argued that partnering with INGOs or UN agencies such as UNHCR might be useful considering their expertise on the subject, but partner organizations felt that they are more trusted by the communities in Afghanistan than other agencies and that should be leveraged. Indeed, panelists and audience members alike recognized the key role of diaspora organizations to be able to provide trusted and reliable information to those who need it.

The discussion ended with a question from the audience member on identifying the key motivation of DOs to partner with the project. DO's key motivation to engage with the project was to be able to support their country of origin and fellow Afghans who are striving to have a better life for themselves and their families.



PANEL & DISCUSSION II:

How can humanitarian actors enhance access to services via improved information?

Moderator:

Béatrice Mauconduit, Project Coordinator, Diaspora Programme, DRC

Panelists:

- **Christien van den Brink**, Strategic Communication Advisor, Seefar
- **Selena Kozakijevic**, Regional Project Coordinator, DRC Europe Region, “Protecting Rights at Borders” (PRAB) initiative
- **Syed Hasnain**, Founder and president, Italian National Union of Refugees and Exiles (UNIRE), Project Officer, Children in Migration
- **Paul Clewett**, Director, SP Knowledge LTD

The second-panel discussion began with Seefar introducing [qualitative research findings](#) on the risks and barriers to accessing services. The research shows that there is a mismatch between service demand and provision. An understanding of migrant issues and needs is very low, not only among service providers, but also among migrants themselves. Migrants and refugees would like to have access to emergency services during the crossing. However, there is a trend away from services being available in the border areas, and towards them being available at transit hubs. This is due to the militarization of borders, and policy measures undertaken by host governments. Furthermore, the level of knowledge among respondents about how services work and their rights as refugees or asylum seekers is staggeringly low. Retrospectively, those that had reached Europe or were stranded for a long period, reported that it would have been good to have this information pre-departure. However, at the start of their journey, the majority do not think they will need to access services because their smuggler has promised a quick, safe trip.

The panel discussion was followed by sharing information on existing services for migrants en route as well as in the destination countries. It began by presenting Protecting Rights at Borders (PRAB) initiative, which is formed by protection and legal aid organizations focusing on human

rights compliance at the EU's external and internal borders – in Italy, Hungary, BiH, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece, Poland, Lithuania, and Belarus. Throughout the past two years, the PRAB Initiative has been addressing the following issues: 1) Systematic application of pushbacks under the excuse of stopping irregular migration 2) Non-compliance with human rights at EU borders and 3) Lack of accountability of the EU Member States. The PRAB initiative partners are present in the border areas providing immediate assistance (water, food, first aid, information, depending on the operational context, access, and capacity) to people stranded at the borders, and recording pushback incidents. Based on the testimonials, the partners can collect details if the survivor wants to proceed with legal action against the institutions. At the advocacy level, on behalf of the partners of the network, PRAB uses the reports and information collected at the border to inform relevant stakeholders/policy makers at national or EU level (European Commission, EU Parliament, and others) and influence change in policy and practices.

The panel continued with the presentation of the organization “Missing Children Europe”, which connects more than 31 grassroots organizations in 26 countries across Europe. The organization mainly works against child exploitation and trafficking. The organization developed an application available in 10 European countries in

five languages, with the aim to inform children and young people about existing services and where they can get those services. The application was designed in consultation with the children and youth. They also supported the dissemination of the application among their peers and networks. The panel discussed the extent to which it is essential to use evidence to design information campaigns, which is also a type of service targeting migrants en route. SP Knowledge shared experiences on how message testing was applied to inform communication plans and now by the end of the project, evaluating the impact of the messages. Identifying the target of the campaign and narrowing down the focus was the key challenge, and it also relates to the application of the SBC methodology. It was also discussed that international organizations or UN agencies rarely consider those aspects of the campaign which relate to the issue of trust since people do not know

that they can access services, therefore, tailored messages disseminated by trusted actors are important.

Most panelists felt that trust is a major issue and people are not registering to receive the services because they are afraid of being deported, which pauses the barriers to service providers. This is further deepened by the fresh trauma and lack of trust to ask for help. Therefore, the diaspora plays a crucial role in supporting migrants en route since they are trusted sources with lived experiences.

The audience engaged with the panel on the issue of how trust can be built effectively, and what DRC is applying to build trust. The panelists largely agreed that trust is a major determinant for effective information dissemination and that INGOs should work more with community-based organizations that have higher levels of trust among communities.



PARALLEL SESSIONS



Discussion I: Social Behavior Change Methodology and Tools applied in migration information campaigns

Moderator:

Sarah Osman, Independent Behavioural Science Consultant, Osman Advisory Services

Panelists:

- **Alexandra McDowell**, Team Leader, Telling the Real Story, UNHCR
- **Dr. Djamila Schans**, Knowledge Line Coordinator Asylum and Migration, Scientific Research and Documentation Center (WODC)
- **Dr. Sandra Morgenstern**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research
- **Lindsey Higgs**, Awareness Raising & Communications Consultant, COMPASS initiative IOM

This parallel session linked well to previous discussions on SBC methodology application in migration information campaigns – how to design quality information campaigns by addressing information needs and identifying target groups before, during and after the migration journey. The discussion started with introducing each panel member and their areas of work related to the migration information campaign. By bringing together academics, practitioners, researchers, and diaspora organizations, the session introduced thought-provoking conversations. The discussion began by acknowledging that there is a lack of evidence that shows SBC usage in campaigns, neither evaluation is conducted rigorously to study the impact of traditional campaigns. There are some evaluations of the campaigns, however, the results are uncertain. The panel suggested advocating at all levels to apply the SBC approach as well as conducting external evaluations to create credible evidence of impact. One of the methods introduced as the gold standard in the evaluation was Randomized Control Trials (RCT), but randomization is not always feasible therefore, other methodological options could be applied.

Audience engagement brought the panel to discuss the specific challenges related to offering alternatives to migration as part of the information campaign. Panelists agreed that it has been an ongoing challenge. Experience shows that telling people not to migrate is not feasible but providing alternative information that makes the journey safer is useful. Learning from the project shows people find information about services more helpful than alternatives. After the Taliban Takeover, there are fewer services available especially psychosocial support services. The issue of distinguishing migration management and protection was also discussed since the project was solely focused on protection information by breaking down the key behaviors of a specific group of people, while providing an alternative is an issue of migration management.

Furthermore, the panel and audience agreed that campaigns should learn about what the sources of information for the target group are and build their engagement strategies based on that. However, based on existing experience, the basic formula is a combination of methods and platforms. For instance, media engagement can be complemented by a community-level engagement which could be creative and context-specific.

Discussion II:

Alternative Communication Channels and Types of Information Post-Taliban Takeover

Moderator:

Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC World

Panelists:

- **Dr. Asef Hossaini**, Director, Abad e.V.
- **Reshad Jalali**, Policy Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- **Peter Bussian**, Senior International Development Communications Advisor and Content Producer, Cofounder and Moderator, Afghanistan Support Group

The session focused on the current information needs in Afghanistan, what communication channels are available and how INGOs can support community-led information. The panel began by highlighting that after the Taliban takeover, many main actors such as journalists, civil society actors, and human rights defenders left the country, and those remaining in Afghanistan are afraid of sharing information due to security concerns associated with it and those who left, are afraid of how sharing information might impact their families in Afghanistan. The panel agreed that to understand the situation in Afghanistan, it is important to conduct remote monitoring, and lessons learned from other countries can be applied. In order to sustain the information flow, the panel suggested supporting those who are still in the country for

example civil society actors who are still operating on the ground. In terms of communication channels, social media is widely used in Afghanistan. However, some social media platforms are used for political campaigns and propaganda. There are different strategies for using social media and communication channels, for example during migration Afghans use Telegram to get in touch with smugglers and they only use the local language.

The panel concluded that it is essential to use social media in order to share information, but it should be without sharing any personal information to avoid putting people at risk. It is also suggested to inform people on how to use social media safely for different purposes.



Discussion III:

Collaboration between Diaspora Organisations & Institutional Actors

Moderator:

Ali Ahmad Safi, Consultant, Vienna Institute for Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)

Panelists:

- **Zala Pamir**, Chairwoman, KEIHAN Foundation
- **Mozamel Aman**, Chairperson, Mrastah e.V. Hilferuf für Afghanistan
- **Zohreh Yusna Faizi**, Chairwoman, Afghan Lawyers Association, Denmark
- **Mingo Heiduk Tetsche**, Head of Civil Society Engagement Unit and Diaspora Programme, DRC

The discussion started by acknowledging that DOs are volunteer-based organizations and administrative compliance standards, and requirements are barriers for them to partnering with international organizations due to the time and resources required to meet those requirements. However, they recognized that INGOs also bring a lot of value to their development such as providing learning resources and capacity-building opportunities. Challenges faced by DOs are related to capacity in terms of time, and human resources but some also have challenges with logistics such as registration, bank accounts, and administrative tasks. Considering all, DOs are willing and see the value to collaborate with INGOs, but it comes with a burden.

Panelists and audience members alike recognized the need for diaspora organizations to demonstrate the compliance systems they

have in place for partnerships with the INGOs and donors, but while compliance is important, there is also a need to identify where documentation and bureaucracy are unnecessary in achieving the results. The DRC [Diaspora Project Support](#) that is partnering with Somali and Afghan DOs to implement projects in their country of origin was highlighted as a good example.

The panel was challenged with the questions from the audience on what compromises are acceptable for small DOs to access funding. The panel and audience agreed that building the capacity of the DOs consistently by partnering up with them, high acceptance of risks by donors and INGOs, and knowing the DOs through building a trusting relationship are the key factors for collaboration. From the DOs' side, changing the structure of DOs from volunteer-based to employee-led organizations could be another solution.



Discussion IV:

International Protection and Legal Pathways

Moderator:

Themba Lewis, Regional Manager, Mixed Migration Centre Asia

Panelists:

- **Nadene Ghouri**, freelance journalist, BBC, author and screenwriter, Co-founder and Moderator, Afghanistan Support Group
- **Rana Refahi**, Afghanistan consultant, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
- **Samim Ahmadi**, Head of office Afghanistan, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

The fourth parallel session examined how to support, improve, and advocate for information on, and access to, safe and legal migration pathways. The discussion started with an exploration of any existing legal pathways, the associated costs and risks, and the challenges using them. The panelists described cases where information is not available for asylum seekers. There are limited options for legal pathways as well as uncertainties related to government decisions regarding humanitarian visas, and logistical burdens related to documentation and registration.

In terms of the diaspora's role in supporting an enabling environment for Afghans to access legal pathways, information dissemination remains the key priority, alongside advocating in certain countries to change the policies, for example, increase visa quotas or pressure governments to address the issues that migrants are facing. The last suggestion is to support those who are the most vulnerable, such as women who usually do not have an education and face language barriers.



CLOSING REMARKS

Warner ten Kate, Head of the Migration and Displacement Division of the Department for Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Warner ten Kate closed the conference by thanking all attendees and presenters on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DRC. Warner highlighted the importance of diaspora engagement and acknowledged their expertise. He also encouraged Afghan diaspora members to not be influenced by donor agenda and to continue implementing projects that are in the interest of Afghan migrants.



ANNEX: SPEAKERS BIOS

CONFERENCE HOST

Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC World



Sana Safi started her career as a presenter/producer for a children's programme in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad before joining the BBC Afghan's Afghan Woman Hour programme and main current affairs transmissions later. She is currently a presenter for BBC Pashto's TV show which is a 30 minutes show, made of local, regional and international news. Alongside Safi's journalistic work, she is known for her fictional writings. She writes mainly short stories which has been widely published in her native country Afghanistan. Her short stories tell the tale of a young independent Muslim woman who knows all about the secrets of her country of origin and traditions and is also very much integrated into a western society.

OPENING REMARKS

Mingo Heiduk Tetsche, Head of Civil Society Engagement Unit and Diaspora Programme, DRC



Mingo Heiduk has been working in the humanitarian and development sector since 2007, for the past decade with a specific focus on supporting effective diaspora engagement benefitting people affected by conflict and displacement. In her function as Head of Unit of Danish Refugee Council's Civil Society Engagement Unit and its Diaspora Program, Mingo has developed strategies and led programs and initiatives that have contributed substantially to raising awareness on and further develop the field of diaspora engagement.

Themba Lewis, Regional Manager, Mixed Migration Centre Asia



Themba Lewis holds graduate degrees in refugee studies from the University of Oxford and the American University in Cairo, as well as legal accreditation with the UK Legal Services Commission and is a Registered Member of the Law Society of England and Wales. He has taught on refugee rights in Bulgaria, Egypt, and Thailand, and has provided legal representation for detained asylum seekers in the United Kingdom. Previously, Themba served as a Field Team Leader at the US Refugee Admissions Program, facilitating resettlement across sub-Saharan Africa before joining the Rights in Exile Programme as co-director, working to build a global movement of pro-bono refugee legal aid supports. He then served as Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network until 2021, when he joined the Danish Refugee Council as Regional MMC Manager for Asia.

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT RESULTS AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE METHODOLOGY

Sarah Osman, Independent Behavioural Science Consultant, Osman Advisory



Sarah is Founder & CEO, Osman Advisory Services. Sarah holds MSc. in Cognitive Psychology with a specialisation in Behaviour Change Communication. Sarah's career in global development spans over 15 years, including working on diaspora contribution to development and holds extensive experience in behavioural science. Osman Advisory is consultancy firm that provides services to non-profit organisations through evidence-based approach in behavioural science.

DATA COLLECTION OF MIXED MIGRATION CENTRE (MMC) IN AFGHANISTAN AND TURKEY

Abdullah Mohammadi, Regional Coordinator, Mixed Migration Centre Asia



Abdullah is Regional 4Mi Coordinator for Mixed Migration Asia. He has worked with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Mixed Migration Center since 2016 and supported the set-up of the 4Mi in the Asia region.

His main roles are to oversee the implementation of 4Mi platform across Asia region and to produce research pieces on Afghan, Rohingya and Bangladeshi mixed movements in the region and manages 4Mi data collection in Afghanistan and Snapshots on Afghanistan.

PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION WITH AFGHAN ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR SAFE MIGRATION CAMPAIGNS AND THEIR ROLE AS INFORMATION PROVIDERS

Zala Pamir, Chairwoman, Keihan Foundation



Zala is Chairwoman of Keihan Foundation and a medical student. Through Keihan she has worked different medical projects in the Netherlands and Afghanistan. She is a member of Afghanistan platform in The Netherlands consisting of Dutch policy makers, human rights organisations and other stakeholders with interests in the situation in Afghanistan. Zala is the Coordinator of Keihan's Safe Migration project focusing on reducing traumatic experiences of Afghan females during migration by providing knowledge and guidance on female specific topics (menstrual health, female urogenital diseases, pregnancy, negative sexual experiences, mental health). Member of the Dutch National Action plan 1325: UN National security council resolution 1325 concerning women, Peace and Security.

Zohreh Yusna Faizi, Chairwoman, Afghan Lawyers Association Denmark



Zohreh has an LLM from Copenhagen University and is currently working as immigration and family law attorney in Denmark. Zohreh chairs the Afghan Lawyers Association in Denmark (ALA). The organization

advocates for human rights including gender equality in Afghanistan and abroad. Zohreh is also board member of Women Refugee Route, a non-governmental organisation working to change the system of decision-making in migration policy by including refugee women in the process.

Dr. Asef Hossaini, Director, Abad e.V.



Dr. Asef Hossaini has studied Philosophy and Sociology at Kabul University before moving to Germany for his master's degree in public policy. Dr. Hossaini has been working in media since 2001 in Afghanistan,

Germany, and the UK. In parallel with his job as a freelance editor, Dr Asef Hossaini conducted his PhD research in International Conflict Management at Willy Brandt School of Public Policy. Dr. Hossaini is currently working as a researcher and the head of Abad e. V. (Abad is a member of Verband Afghanischer Organisationen in Deutschland), an Afghan non-profit based in Germany.

Mozamel Aman, Chairperson, Mrastah e.V. Hilferuf Für Afghanistan



Mozamel is the Co-Founder and CEO StartSteps and the founder of non-profit Mrastah e.V. Mozamel Aman is an entrepreneur at heart and loves the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, and social impact. As a founding member of several startup organizations, Mozamel has gained a unique perspective on looking at problems. He is a firm believer that with privilege comes great responsibility, and it is this driving force that sustainable social ventures are built on.

PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION “HOW HUMANITARIAN ACTORS AND DONORS CAN ENHANCE ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH IMPROVED INFORMATION CHANNELS?”

Beatrice Mauconduit, Project Coordinator, DRC Diaspora Programme



Béatrice Mauconduit has been working as project coordinator for the [Danish Refugee Council Civil Society Engagement Unit](#) since 2014 with a specific focus on supporting effective diaspora engagement in the humanitarian sector. Through the implementation of diaspora programmes and successful pushes for the inclusion of diaspora in the overall view on the humanitarian eco-system, Béatrice and her team have contributed substantially to an increased interest in and recognition of the value and impact of diaspora humanitarianism in the past years.

Christien van den Brink, Strategic Communication Advisor, Seefar



Christien is overseeing Seefar's migration communication campaigns in the Middle East, West Africa and SouthEast Asia. Christien is also involved in the development and implementation of additional services for potential migrants and migrants in transit, such as psychosocial support and lifeskills training. In Afghanistan for example, she assisted Seefar in setting up [Salamat](#); a psychosocial support hotline service for Afghans. Christien has a background in visual storytelling.

Selena Kozakijevic, DRC Regional Project Coordinator, Europe



Selena has been working with DRC since 2013, mainly in the Protection Sector. Since 2015, she has been designing and implementing protection programs responding to the needs and protection risks of persons on the move in the context of mixed migration in Europe. Since 2021, she is coordinating the work of [Protecting Rights at Borders \(PRAB\)](#) Initiative. PRAB Initiative is formed by protection and legal aid organisations focusing on human rights compliance at the EU's external and internal borders – in Italy, Hungary, BiH, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece, Poland, Lithuania and Belarus. Throughout the past two years, the PRAB Initiative has been addressing the following issues: 1) Systematic application of pushbacks under the excuse of stopping irregular migration 2) Non-compliance with human rights at EU borders and 3) Lack of accountability of the EU Member States.

Syed Hasnain, Project Officer for Children in Migration and Founder & President of Italian National Union of Refugees and Exiles (UNIRE)



Syed Hasnain is working as project officer and social media manager with [Missing Children Europe](#). Syed is the co-founder and president of UNIRE (Italian National Union of Refugees and Exiles) the first refugee led network actively engaged on meaningful participation of refugees in policy making process, self-representation of displaced people in public events and advocating for narrative change around migration. As president of UNIRE is member of Expert Group on the views of migrants in the field of migration, asylum and integration at EU Commission. He has lived experience of forced displacement as a minor. He is co-founder of ARENE (Afghan Refugees Expert Network in Europe) and European Coalition of migrants and refugees, which aims to advocate for refugee's basic right to get involved in policy area of European institutions.

Paul Clewett, Director, SP Knowledge LTD



Paul is director of SP Knowledge and has seven years of experience managing research projects in fragile contexts, and a further two years conducting high-level migration policy analysis for a major Brussels think tank. In

2022, he delivered primary research and analysis for UNODC in Afghanistan, and the UK's Chatham House/ UK government in five African countries. In 2020-21, he was the research lead on several SBCC projects on themes as broad as peace dialogues (Albany/ USEK), mine awareness (Magenta/ UNMAS), gender-based violence (Magenta/Zinc/ UNDP), and unsafe migration (Seefar/ DRC/ MMC).

DISCUSSION I “SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS APPLIED IN MIGRATION INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS”

Alexandra McDowall, Team leader, UNHCR Division of International Protection - Telling the Real Story



Alexandra McDowall is the Team Leader for Telling the Real Story, a UNHCR run project. She has been working in the social justice sector for over 20 years and with UNHCR in various field, regional and global roles since 2005. She is a lawyer by training. UNHCR started awareness raising activities through [Telling the Real Story](#) in 2015, as part of a multi-country initiative aimed at providing truthful and trustworthy information to refugees and other people UNHCR serves, moving in mixed flows along the Central Mediterranean route through the East and Horn of Africa. The purpose is to communicate with communities - primarily Eritrean and Somalis - about the dangers of irregular onward movement and inform people about other options available to them, thus empowering target audiences to make safe and informed decisions about their future.

Dr. Djamila Schans, Knowledge Line Coordinator Asylum and Migration at Scientific Research and Documentation Center (WODC)



Dr. Djamila Schans works as a Senior Researcher at the Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) of the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. She conducts policy related research on issues related to Asylum and Migration. Dr. Schans received her PhD in sociology from Utrecht University and before coming to the WODC she worked at Maastricht University on several large-scale interdisciplinary research programs on migration between Africa and Europe. She is also a board member of the Dutch Association for Migration Research (DAMR). In 2016 she wrote the report *Raising Awareness, changing behavior? Combatting irregular migration through information campaigns*. This report identifies and critiques five assumptions that underlay many migration information campaigns at the time.

Sandra Morgenstern, Postdoctoral Researcher, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research



Sandra is a postdoctoral researcher at the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES) and at the chair of Migration and Integration at the University of Mannheim. Her research interest concentrates on migration research with a special focus on migration politics, the emigration decision, migration movements, and xenophobia. Methodologically she is primarily dedicated to field experiments, social network approaches, and quantitative research methods in general. She has received her Ph.D. (Dr. rer. soc) from the University of Konstanz, studying 'Political Information & Migration'. In the dissertation project she developed a theoretical model combining information processing theory with migration decision making models and created new causal evidence focusing on the mechanisms underlying the impact of an information campaign implemented in Nigeria.

Lindsey Higgs, Awareness Raising & Communications Consultant, COMPASS initiative IOM



Lindsey is a Communication for Development practitioner currently working with the International Organization for Migration's Awareness Raising Unit as the Awareness Raising & Communications Consultant for the COMPASS initiative. Lindsey was part of the team that first developed [IOM X](#) - the International Organization for Migration's innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop human trafficking and exploitation. Globally, IOM X campaign materials are now available in 18 languages and being used in over 40 countries. As a consultant, Lindsey has worked with IOM missions from Mongolia to Libya providing Communication for Development technical advice and support for the design and implementation of campaigns on informed migration and human trafficking prevention. Originally from Canada, Lindsey is a founding member of Single Thread Theatre and the creative engagement agency Sage + Spark.

DISCUSSION II “ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND INFORMATION NEEDS POST-TALIBAN TAKE-OVER”

**Sana Safi, Journalist, BBC World
(see bio above)**

**Dr. Asef Hossaini, Director, Abad e.V.
(see bio above)**

Reshad Jalali, Policy Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

Reshad Jalali works as a Policy Officer at the [European Council on Refugees and Exiles \(ECRE\)](#). In September 2020, he was appointed as a member of the Expert Group on the Views of Migrants at the European Commission. Prior to this position, he was involved with advocacy activities for refugees and asylum seekers by working in the refugee rights sector. He is holding a master's degree in International Relations with a specialization in the role of the EU in the protection and promotion of human rights from Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool UK.

Peter Bussian, Senior International

Development Communications Advisor and Content Producer, Afghanistan Support Group

Peter Bussian has co-founded [Afghanistan Support Group \(ASG\)](#) in August 2021. He has had a multi-faceted career at the nexus of visual media and international development as an award-winning humanitarian photographer, filmmaker and consultant for more than 30 years. His photographs have been published in The New York Times, Paris Match, The Independent and other publications and he is the author and photographer of two books: “Passage to Afghanistan” (Skyhorse, 2016) and “Trans New York” (Apollo, 2020). Peter has also worked as a communications and media consultant for the past 20 years on projects funded by the UN, USAID, DFID and several international NGOs in post-conflict and fragile countries



DISCUSSION III “COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS”

Ali Ahmad Safi, Consultant, Vienna Institute for Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)

Ahmad works as a consultant for the [VIDC](#) since 2015. Ali Ahmad is a PhD candidate at the Department for Migration and Globalization at the Danube University Krems.



**Zala Pamir, Chairwoman, Keihan Foundation
(see bio above)**

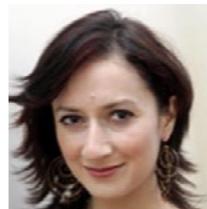
Zohreh Yusna Faizi, Chairwoman, Afghan Lawyers Association Denmark (see bio above)

Mingo Heiduk Tetsche, Head of Unit, DRC Diaspora Programme (see bio above)

“The conference has provided a platform for us to share our experiences and challenges in the diaspora space, and to explore ways to strengthen our collaboration with institutional actors. It has also highlighted the importance of maintaining open communication channels and providing accurate information to the Afghan diaspora.”

DISCUSSION IV “INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND LEGAL PATHWAYS”

Themba Lewis, Regional Manager, Mixed Migration Centre Asia (see bio Above)



Nadene Ghouri is a freelance journalist and author of mixed British and Afghan heritage. She lived in Afghanistan from 2001-2008. In August 2021 she co-founded the [Afghanistan Support Group \(ASG\)](#) and has worked non-stop to assist fleeing Afghans who are at most at risk from the Taliban. Through the ASG Nadene manages a team of logistical volunteers who both evacuate and search pathways.

Rana Refahi, Afghanistan consultant, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network



Rana is a British-Iranian UK-trained lawyer. She has worked with asylum seekers and refugees for almost 20 years in Europe and Asia and has represented Afghan refugees in their applications for asylum and resettlement throughout that time. Rana leads the [Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's \(APRRN\)](#) Afghanistan project. APRRN is a network of more than 200 civil society organisations across the Asia Pacific engaging in information sharing, mutual capacity building and joint advocacy. The Afghanistan project provides opportunities for regional advocacy and exchange of local and national actors in Afghanistan and neighboring countries in particular. APRRN also seeks to increase support and information to Afghans in transit through information sharing such as [APRRN Information on Afghanistan](#) Facebook on legal pathways, psychosocial support, education and employment opportunities as they arise. Rana is also an active member of ATLAS Women Afghanistan, a network of female-identifying lawyers and jurists providing critical pro bono legal advice to vulnerable communities in Afghanistan.

Samim Ahmadi, Head of office Afghanistan, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)



Samim Ahmadi is the Head of Office and Country Coordinator-Afghanistan, for the [International Centre for Migration Policy Development \(ICMPD\)](#). He is in charge of ICMPD operation in the country, covering all thematic areas of migration. In his previous capacity, he managed the establishment of Security Document Printing Press in Kabul, which was a joint venture between the Federal Foreign Office of the government of German and Ministry of Finance of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, through the project implementing partner, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Samim Ahmadi has been working in the areas of migration management, border management and social development since 2010.

CLOSING REMARKS

**Warner ten Kate,
Head of Migration and Displacement, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**



Prior to this position Warner ten Kate was Coordinator for the African Great Lakes Section at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He previously served as UN adviser to the Juba peace process in Northern Uganda, head of MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, civil adviser for the UN Mission in Mali and senior policy adviser for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Mixed Migration Centre

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) is a global network consisting of six regional hubs and a central unit in Geneva engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration. The MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. The MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. The MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move. The MMC is part of and governed by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). For more information, please visit MMC's website: www.mixedmigration.org



Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme

Since 2010, DRC has been working with diaspora groups as transnational civil society actors. Engagement with diaspora is based on a recognition of the significant role they play for people and communities in countries of origin (or heritage), for refugees and migrants in transit, and for newly arrived refugees and migrants in countries of residence, and, consequently, their potential for improving the situation for many of those affected by conflict and displacement. For more information, please visit DRC's website: www.drc.ngo/diaspora

Supported by
This conference is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands