

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.25M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 30 June 2023

 **32,410**

new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022 (ongoing verification)¹


 **52,160**

Refugees in Afghanistan as of 30 June 2023

 **18,900**

IDP returnees recorded in 2023

 **16,100**³

Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2023

 **5.5M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 30 June 2023

 **1.6M**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring Countries since August 2021²

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNHCR and partners have been scaling up their cross-border response following the 3 October [announcement](#) by the Government of Pakistan to return undocumented people residing inside the country by 1 November.⁴ There was an [increase in daily border crossings](#) by Afghans from Pakistan to Afghanistan after this announcement was made. Population trends during the reporting period indicated that most returns were voluntary although deportations through Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points were also recorded. In early November, UNHCR declared an internal Level 2 emergency for Pakistan and Afghanistan for six months to scale up the humanitarian response in light of the rapidly evolving situation. UNHCR maintains a [non-return advisory](#) for Afghanistan, which has been in place since August 2021, and continues to call for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals to a country still impacted by recurrent conflict, instability and climate-induced catastrophes. UNHCR continues to appeal to the Government of Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghan nationals in need of safety and that any returns must be voluntary, safe and dignified with full respect for rights and protection of those in need. For more information on the response, please see the latest [CORE Update](#) and [External Update](#).
- To ensure a harmonized and coordinated cross-border response to this new emergency, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, DRC and NRC launched an inter-agency [Border Consortium Appeal](#) on 8 November. The plan targets approximately 720,000 undocumented individuals and 50,000 assisted repatriations who are expected to require support at border points from now through July 2024. The Appeal intends to bolster protection, assistance and services at the border points and areas of return to new arrivals and impacted host communities.
- On 7 October, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck 40km west of Herat City in Herat Province, western Afghanistan. Several aftershocks and two subsequent earthquakes followed, with the initial quake felt in neighboring Badghis and Farah provinces. UNHCR launched an [urgent appeal](#) for US\$14.4 million on 13 October to scale up assistance for those affected by the tragic earthquakes. In the appeal, immediate needs included emergency shelters, heaters, kitchen sets, clean water, food, and warm clothing ahead of the fast-approaching cold winter months. UNHCR has been responding to the earthquake alongside other humanitarian agencies in a response led and coordinated by the UN Deputy Special Representative/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. To date, UNHCR has distributed 19,436 blankets, 10,423 metallic buckets, 5,568 gas cookers, 11,136 jerrycans, 5,396 kitchen sets, 11,123 plastic tarpaulins, 10,482 sanitary napkins, 27,966 pieces of laundry soap, 14,766 pieces of toilet soap, 15,723 pieces of underwear, 1,921 family tents, and 48 refugee housing units since the onset of the crisis.

AFGHANISTAN

- UNHCR has been able to provide the following assistance in Afghanistan in 2023:

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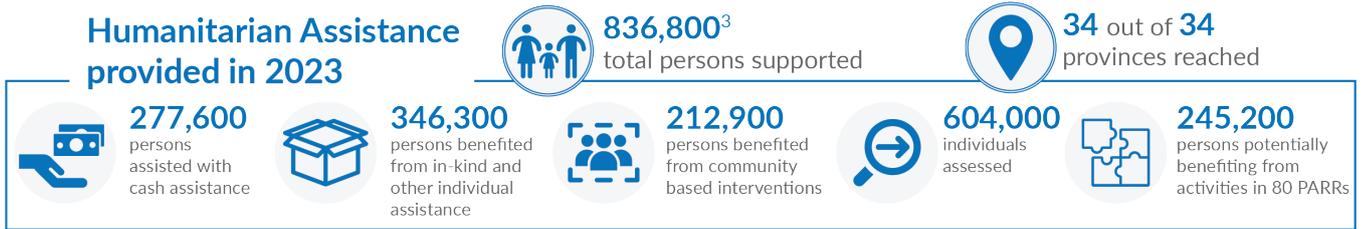
¹ Source: OCHA - <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

² In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure according to various government estimates and continues to follow-up with authorities to receive updated and disaggregated data as well as an estimate of how many presently remain in Iran. Of the average 1 million new arrivals since August 2021, some 70,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, some 303,000 have approached UNHCR. According to Government of Uzbekistan sources, some 13,020 Afghan citizens arrived in the country since January 2021. The majority arrived before August 15 with valid visas issued by the Uzbek consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.

³ As of 31 October 2023.

⁴ An umbrella term that includes all returns including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as PoR cardholders, ACC holders, and the undocumented. The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that Afghan Citizen Cardholders (ACC) and Proof of Registration (POR) cardholders are exempted.

Humanitarian Assistance provided in 2023



- UNHCR and partners reached an estimated 836,800 individuals with emergency assistance in 34 out of 34 provinces countrywide as of end-October. Of the total reached, 277,600 were supported with cash assistance while 346,300 were reached with in-kind and other individual assistance. 604,000 individuals were also assessed while 245,200 potentially benefited from activities in the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs). Other assistance ranged from protection, core relief items as well as shelter and seasonal support.
- On 29 and 30 October, UNHCR and ECHO visited UNHCR Sub Office Jalalabad to learn more about the response at Torkham Border Crossing Point. The team visited the Reception Center where they met UNHCR partners, Directorate of Refugees and Repatriations officials and local authorities. The team also spoke to affected communities on the ground and visited the IOM Transit Center for undocumented arrivals and the UNHCR Encashment Centre for assisted voluntary repatriation. During the visit, UNHCR and ECHO discussed further support for the response to returns from Pakistan.

REGIONAL

- During the reporting period, UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta organized four one-day capacity-building workshops on International Refugee Protection. These workshops were attended by 25 public prosecutors, 21 federal investigating authority officers, 29 women paralegals/outreach volunteers and 26 police officers.
- On 31 October, UNHCR and the Minister of Education in Iran inaugurated a school in Pakdasht, Tehran province. The Minister highlighted the growing educational needs and appealed for more support to bolster education for affected communities.
- In preparation for the winter season, UNHCR finalized the distribution of UNIQLO winter clothes to refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Tajikistan. More than 2,000 households were included in the distributions, which helped ensure their basic needs were met.
- From 26-27 October, UNHCR held a workshop for enumerators in Tajikistan on data collection in preparation for the Results Monitoring Survey (RMS). Phone interviews with some 300 households chosen at random will be carried out by enumerators. RMS are carried out to enable UNHCR to monitor refugee/asylum situation and tailor the response to the identified needs on the ground.

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- To date, some 18,900 IDPs have returned to their places of origin. In 2021 and 2022, over 1.4 million IDPs returned to their places of origin: approximately 1.15 million IDPs returned in 2021 and 275,700 in 2022. The source of these figures are the 384,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners since 10 October 2021 until 31 October 2023. These figures are expected to increase retroactively due to ongoing assessments and considered indicative rather than overall statistical data of IDP returnees in Afghanistan. Figures may be underestimated due to recent downscaling of assessments undertaken in 2023.



*UNHCR Representative, Philippa Candler, interacting with Afghan refugee women at the UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Center in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
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DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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