KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

3.22M
Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of **31 December 2023**

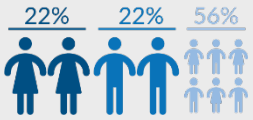
610,100
Total returns from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September 2023[1]

34,827
Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 Dec. 2023

1,170
IDP returnees recorded in 2024

5.82M
Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of **31 December 2023**

12,950
Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2024[2]



1.6M
Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring countries since August 2021[3]

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Pakistan's decision to extend the validity of proof of registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees in April until 30 June 2024 has provided temporary relief to those fearing repatriation, and ensured continued access to essential services. The announcement follows a period of increased press reports regarding the roll-out of Phase II of the "Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP)". While returns have slowed considerably since the height of returns in November/December 2023, anxiety at the community level remains high, particularly regarding access to education and women's rights in Afghanistan. UNHCR has intensified its advocacy with the Government of Pakistan to extend the validity period of PoR cards beyond 30 June and continues to closely monitor movement trends. For more information on trends, please see the latest Afghan Returns External Update.
- More than 610,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15 September 2023 and 31 May 2024. Returns have been steadily increasing since March this year, with May showing a significant increase of approximately 40,000 returns. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to biometrically process and provide cash assistance to PoR card holders and their nuclear family members, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders and Afghans with other protection referrals. Since 15 September 2023, some 93,200 individuals who returned from Pakistan have been provided with cash assistance in Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad Encashment Centres, including over 50,400 PoR card holders. UNHCR has stepped up its advocacy with the Government of Pakistan to advocate for the protection of refugees, leveraging the influence of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) Core Group+ through strategic ambassadorial and technical-level engagements.
- Heavy rainfall on 10–11 May caused fast-flowing water and flash floods in northeastern Afghanistan, followed by further flooding on 17–18 May in the northern and western regions. More floods occurred on 24–26 May in the northeast. Significant destruction to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods has led to displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs, with over 3,200 homes damaged in the northeast and 3,800 in the west, and more than 300 fatalities. As part of the response, UNHCR and partners participated in OCHA-led joint assessment teams and carried out protection assessments and provided emergency shelter, core-relief items (CRIs) and clothing support. In the northeastern region, over 450 emergency tents, some 750 CRI kits, and more than 1,500 sets of clothing were distributed. In Ghor Province, 100 families received emergency tents, close to 350 CRI kits, and 350 clothing sets. A comprehensive protection response has been initiated, offering psychosocial first aid, identifying vulnerable individuals, raising awareness on available services, and conducting referrals through various outreach methods. Response teams on the ground remain focused on linking immediate aid with long-term resilience and recovery initiatives.

AFGHANISTAN:

Assistance provided in 2024

455,500 total persons supported

33 out of **34** provinces reached

199,900 persons assisted with cash assistance

255,600 persons benefitting from in-kind and other assistance, including community-based

245,700 individuals assessed

25,500 persons potentially benefiting from activities in 80 PARRs

Publishing date: 30 June 2024 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP).

[1] *An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that ACC and PoR cardholders are exempted. In November, the validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to 31 December 2023. Advocacy by UNHCR is ongoing.*

[2] *This category includes all refugee returnees as well as PoR card holders who returned without passing through the established Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) set up in Pakistan.*

[3] *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, over 88,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, over 476,000 have approached UNHCR.*

- UNHCR and partners in Afghanistan reached an estimated 455,500 people with humanitarian assistance in 33 out of 34 provinces countrywide in May 2024. Among those reached, 199,900 people received cash assistance while 255,600 benefitted from in-kind and other individual assistance, including protection support, CRIs, shelter, seasonal support and community-based interventions. Assessments were also carried out for 245,700 people to determine their specific needs.
- In the first five months of 2024, UNHCR assisted 6,673 returnee households (28,941 people), bringing the total supported since January 2023 to 24,774 households (104,883 people). In May 2024 alone, 740 households (2,536 people) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan and received assistance from UNHCR and partners. Most returnees came from Pakistan and included various categories such as Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, certificate holders, and undocumented family members. Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul facilitated returnees' reception and assistance, providing comprehensive support, including health services, counselling, documentation, family reunification, child protection, cash grants, and transportation. Border monitoring is ongoing with protection desks playing a crucial role in identifying individuals with protection concerns and specific needs and ensuring timely referrals for appropriate support at border crossings and final destinations.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR Pakistan organized the 2nd Pakistan Refugee Consultative Forum meeting of the year, co-chaired by Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Affairs, Mr. Abbas Khan and UNHCR Pakistan Deputy Representative, Ms. Fumiko Kashiwa, with the participation of several sector leads and UN/NGO partner agencies. The co-chairs provided a situation update, while the Chief Commissioner spoke about the vision of the States and Frontier Regions Commission for Afghan Refugees and ongoing discussions concerning long-term solutions for Afghans in Pakistan. UNHCR highlighted collective advocacy efforts and donor engagement, particularly with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees Core Group. Sector leads gave detailed updates on operational achievements, gaps and needs, and delivered a presentation on the Afghanistan Situation 2024-25 Refugee Response Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for late August.
- UNHCR Pakistan, along with IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, and GIZ, met with Mr. Wouter Jurgens, Director for Asia and Oceania at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 May during his visit to the country. The meeting provided an opportunity to express appreciation for Ambassador Henny de Vries' advocacy on the IFRP and her leadership of the SSAR Core Group+ at the country-level. During his visit, the Director also toured a UNHCR-supported livelihoods programme in Islamabad, where he had the chance to speak to men and women currently enrolled in vocational training programmes.
- UNHCR Iran responded to the second round of flash floods that affected the province in late April. Since 15 May, 700 CRI kits (tents, tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, and hygiene packs) have been distributed to several affected areas, including Rask, Sarbaz, Lashar, Fanouj, and Dalgan. This was the second UNHCR-funded distribution in the past two months in the area. In Khorasan Razavi Province, UNHCR dispatched CRIs to flood-affected communities in Mashhad and other cities. Items also included blankets, tents, sleeping mats and hygiene kits.
- To enhance protection and security, UNHCR Iran has begun installing 150 solar lights in Dasht-Zahmet Keshan, a suburb in Kerman mainly populated by Afghans who work and reside in various brick kilns. Since 2021, Dasht-Zahmet Keshan has been a primary settlement area for newly arrived Afghans. UNHCR previously built a school and a health facility to address the needs of over 3,500 Afghans living in the area.
- In May, UNHCR Pakistan submitted 37 cases (154 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024, 234 cases (911 refugees) were submitted to nine resettlement countries (Australia: 17; Canada: 503; France: three; Germany: five; Italy: one; the Netherlands: one; New Zealand: 15; the United Kingdom: five; and the United States: 361. In May, 22 refugees departed for resettlement, bringing the total number of refugees who departed to six resettlement countries to 1,766 refugees (Australia: 182; Canada: 443; New Zealand: 124; Norway: six; the United Kingdom: 887 and the United States: 124). Five people departed to five countries on complementary pathways, bringing the total to 131 people (Australia: 17; Canada: 35; the United Kingdom: five, Switzerland: one and theUnited States: 73). Among the departures, 103 were facilitated via humanitarian programmes, 24 via community or private sponsorship and 4 via family reunification. Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 39 cases (156 people) for resettlement in May, bringing the total to 500 cases (1,784 people) from January to May 2024. 41 cases (146 people) departed for New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom in May. Resettlement continues to be an invaluable responsibility-sharing mechanism and a durable solution and protection tool for refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or fundamental human rights are at risk. To date, 2,309 refugees have departed Iran and 2,524 Pakistan since the resumption of the resettlement programme in 2022.

Life-saving relief items arrive in Ghor for flood-affected families. Items include essential tents, plastic tarpaulins, buckets, solar lamps, blankets, jerry cans, and clothing generously donated by UNIQLO. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- Over 1.55 million IDPs returned to their places of origin between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various types of support, including cash assistance, technical and vocational education and training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education. The source of these figures are the 420,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from 10 October 2021 to May 2024.[4]

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR's total requirements for the Afghanistan situation for 2024 are **USD 479.7 million**. By the end of June, the situation was 31% funded. UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors who have contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked funding:

Denmark | China | European Union | France | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Norway | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | Switzerland | United States of America | Australia for UNHCR | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

With the support of donors who contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with unearmarked funds:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Ireland | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Republic of Korea | España con ACNUR | Japan for UNHCR

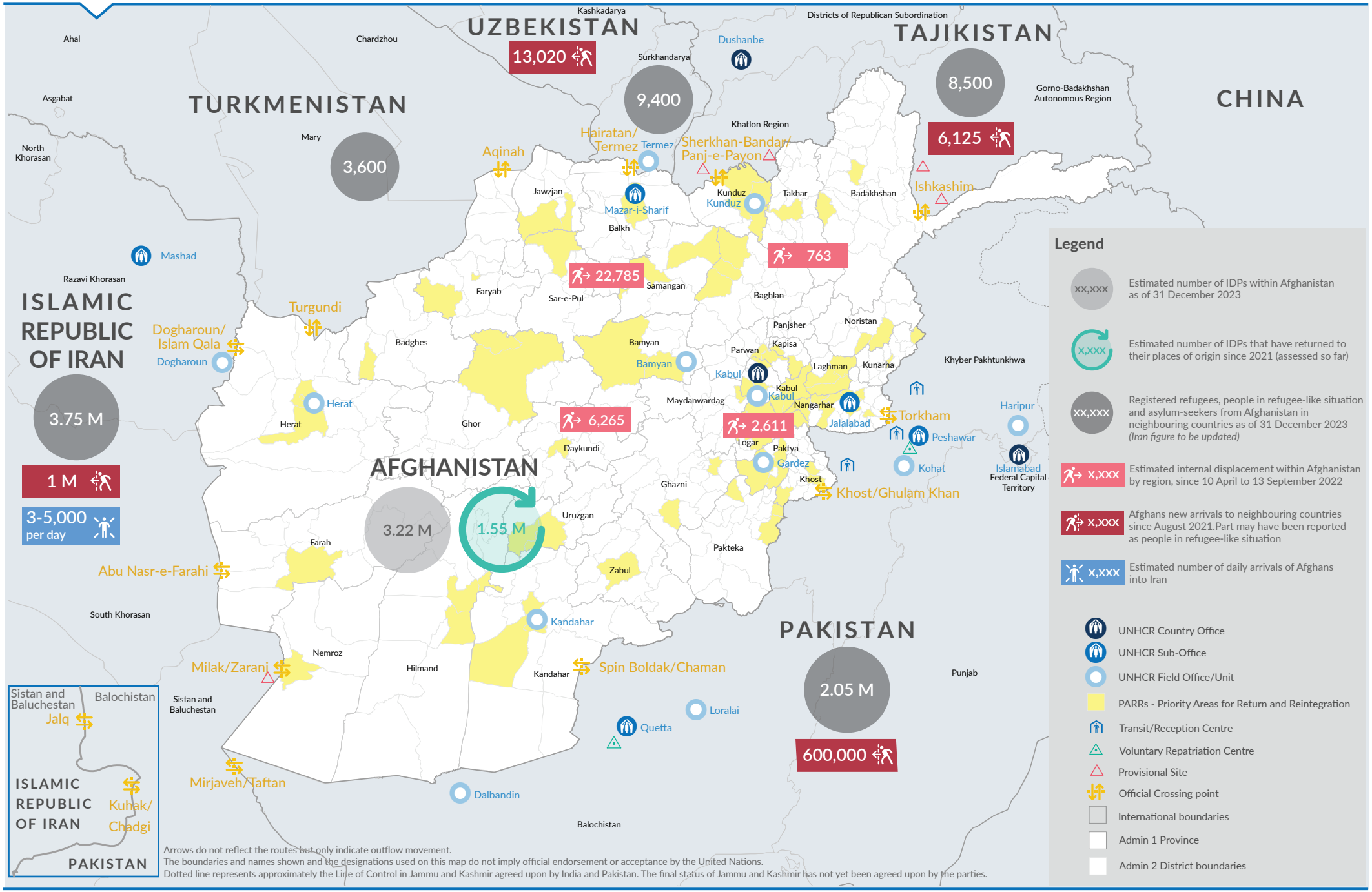
For the latest funding update, please see here. For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the 2023 Global Report and Operational Data Portal.

4 These figures are subject to retroactive adjustments due to ongoing assessments. As such, they are considered indicative rather than the overall statistical data of IDP returnees in Afghanistan. Figures may also be underestimated due to the recent reduction in assessments carried out in 2023.

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 1 June 2024



Arrows do not reflect the routes but only indicate outflow movement.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Data sources: UNHCR operations, OCHA | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
For feedback and clarifications, please write to UNHCR RBAP at < rbapdima@unhcr.org >