

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

April 2026

According to the Government of Iran, as of 30 March, around 3.2 million people had temporarily relocated in the country. With public order relatively stable since then, many are likely returning to their places of residence. Since the start of the crisis on 28 Feb 2026, over 119,800 Afghans have returned from Iran, with total returns since the start of the year surpassing 226,000 (as of 2 May).

Iran hosts 1.65 million refugees and others in need of international protection, the majority Afghans, many of whom, alongside host communities, face significant protection risks and humanitarian needs amid the ongoing crisis. Cross-border movements from Iran remain limited, but the risk of escalation and larger-scale refugee outflows continues.

In line with the [Flash Refugee Response Plan for Iran](#) (RRP March to May 2026), UNHCR plans to assist up to 500,000 individuals for an initial period of three months, prioritizing life-saving protection activities and facilitating access to health, education and livelihoods.

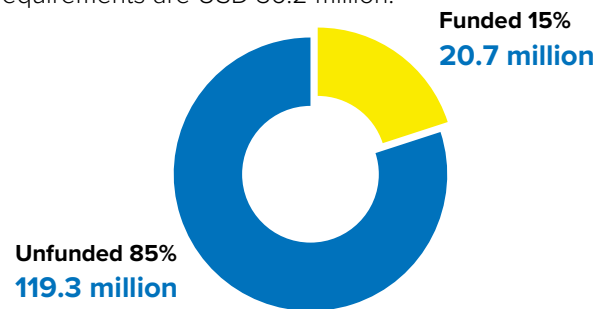
RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS (1 MAR - 30 APR)

- 102,200 individuals assisted through UNHCR Helpline, counselling, registration, legal aid, multipurpose cash assistance, and psychosocial support.
- More than 1,160,150 clothing items and 3,000 eyeglasses donated to UNHCR and being coordinated for delivery to Iran.
- Medicines and medical equipment donated by the private sector with a total value of USD 700,000 is being coordinated for delivery to Iran.
- 1,500 conflict affected households, both refugees and members of host communities, received essential Core Relief Items.

FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2026)

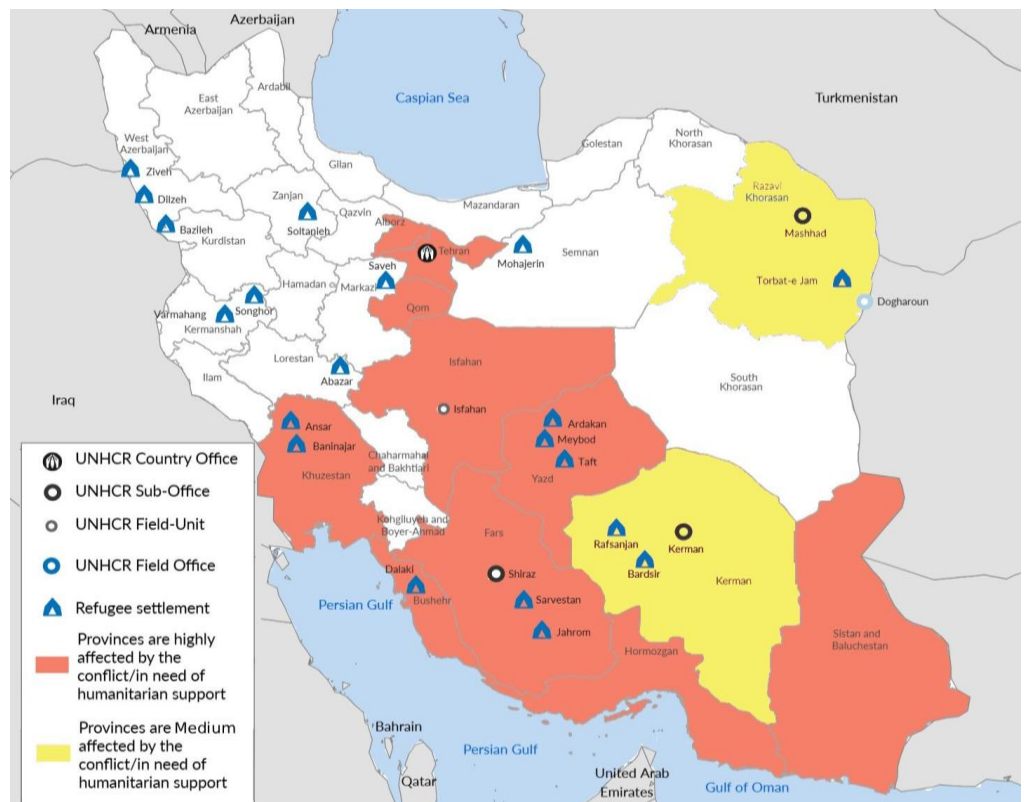
USD 140 million

requested for UNHCR Iran in 2026. The Flash Iran RRP appeals for USD 80 million of which UNHCR's requirements are USD 36.2 million.



UNHCR PRESENCE

- UNHCR Iran maintains a strong operational presence across five locations—Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, Kerman, and Shiraz, as well as presence at Dogharoun border—and remains the only United Nations agency with field coverage across all affected areas.



Partnership and Coordination

- A [Flash Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) is currently being implemented. The plan brings together nine UN and NGO partners (INTERMOS, IOM, NRC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO) with the objective of assisting 2.8 million people across eight sectors, with a total ask of USD 80M.
- The inter-agency response is coordinated through the Refugee Coordination Forum and Refugee Response Plan (RRP), comprising 13 member agencies working in close collaboration with the Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA), line ministries, and local NGOs. Under shared objectives, agencies complement the Government of Iran's efforts to provide protection and ensure inclusive access to essential services for refugees and others in need of international protection.
- UNHCR coordinates and delivers assistance in its co-led sectors—Protection, WASH, Health, and Livelihoods—while retaining overall responsibility for the refugee response in line with its mandate.

Priority Needs & Response

- UNHCR teams, including legal and psychosocial support staff, engage regularly with Afghan refugees across 17 provinces to assess needs and intentions. Two recent analytical reports - [Protection Concerns among Afghans in Iran](#) and [Protection Overview of Afghans in Iran](#). Key findings include:
 - [Economic hardship](#) as a primary driver of protection risks, with loss of livelihoods and rising costs of food, rent, and healthcare significantly undermining households' ability to meet basic needs.
 - [Rising psychosocial distress](#) across all population groups, linked to prolonged uncertainty, financial strain, and disruption to daily life.
 - [Growing legal and administrative uncertainty](#), due to partial closures of documentation and administrative institutions, contributing to fear and less people accessing services.
 - [Constrained community engagement and access to reliable information](#), with security concerns and movement limitations shifting communication to more fragmented, informal channels.
- In response, UNHCR and partners are delivering lifesaving protection services, supporting access to essential services, as well as providing cash assistance to cover basic needs like shelter, food and healthcare, while mitigating protection risks.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Iran operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

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LINKS: [OPERATIONAL DATA PORTAL](#)