

Emergency Update

09 JUNE 2026

Middle East Situation



SITUATION OVERVIEW

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Since late February, escalating hostilities in Iran and Lebanon have triggered humanitarian consequences with impact across the region, including refugee returns in adverse circumstances to Afghanistan and Syria. Events are unfolding against an already fragile humanitarian baseline, with over 31 million forcibly displaced people and recent returnees across the wider region prior to the current escalation (including Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate), alongside host communities under significant economic and social strain.

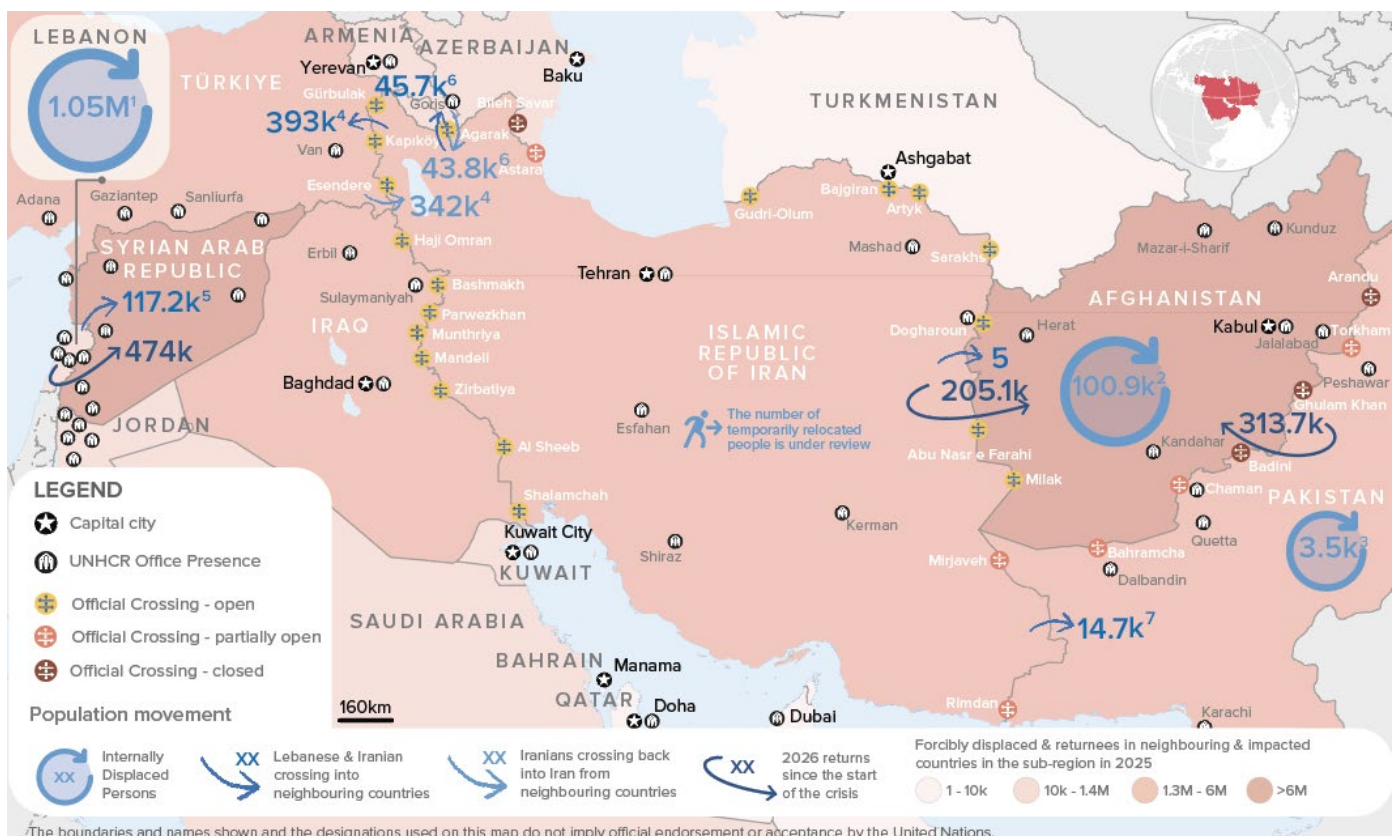
Inter agency emergency response is underway to address urgent needs. In Iran, the Flash Refugee Response Plan targets refugees and others in need of international protection alongside affected host communities. In Lebanon, a Flash Appeal complements the broader response under the Lebanon Response Plan to deliver life saving assistance and protection, including to Syrian refugees. In Afghanistan, the funding requirement for the returns response is outlined under the Humanitarian Needs & Response Plan.

UNHCR and partners have been working across countries neighbouring Iran to strengthen preparedness for possible large-scale refugee flows, in support of national authorities. Preparedness measures are in place, including border monitoring, reception and protection readiness, but these arrangements remain highly dependent on flexible and predictable funding in an increasingly constrained resource environment.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION NEEDS

UNHCR considers that Iranian and Lebanese nationals outside their countries of origin may have international protection needs on account of the armed hostilities in Iran and Lebanon. Armed hostilities and return pressures may compel Afghans to return or move onward; UNHCR maintains that a substantial number of Afghans will have international protection needs regardless of documentation status. Armed hostilities in Lebanon have compelled significant numbers of Syrians to return to Syria in adverse circumstances; among them there may be Syrians with continued international protection needs.

REGIONAL SITUATION MAP



As-of dates: crossings to/from Türkiye, crossings to Syria (Syrian returnees and Lebanese refugees) 7 June; crossings to/from Armenia and Afghan returnees (from Iran and Pakistan) 6 June; crossings into Pakistan 4 June; Afghan IDPs 27 April; Lebanon IDPs 1 April; Pakistan IDPs mid-March.

Sources: ¹ Govt of Lebanon. ² OCHA Afghanistan. ³ Govt of Pakistan. IDPs who were temporarily relocated to safer places have since returned to places of their habitual residence, following the stabilization of the security situation ⁴ UNHCR – some Iranian nationals may be entering Türkiye under the visa-free short-term stay regime (up to 90 days); such movements may reflect precautionary or temporary travel while individuals assess the situation in Iran. ⁵ UNHCR and Govt of Syria. ⁶ Source: UNHCR estimates based on triangulation of information. Official statistics shared by the Government of Armenia indicate 18,300 entries to Armenia and 17,500 from Türkiye to Iran, between 28 Feb and 15 April. ⁷ IOM-UNHCR Joint Border Monitoring.



IRAN

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Temporarily internally relocated people in Iran

Since increasing numbers of people are likely returning to their places of residence, the numbers are under review.

1.65M

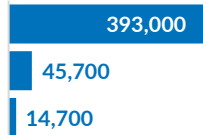
Refugees & others in need of international protection



453,400

Iranian nationals crossed into neighbouring countries

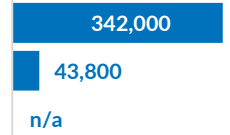
Türkiye
Armenia
Pakistan



385,800

Iranian nationals crossed into Iran from neighbouring countries

Türkiye
Armenia
Pakistan



ANALYSIS & TRENDS

As of 6 June, the number of people temporarily displaced internally in Iran is under review, as some individuals have likely returned to their places of habitual residence. Iran continues to host the largest refugee population in the sub-region, the vast majority of whom are Afghan.

Since the onset of the crisis, approximately 205,100 people have returned from Iran to Afghanistan, bringing total returns in 2026 to more than 311,200 as of 6 June. During the reporting period (31 May–6 June), returns from Iran decreased by 34 per cent to around 13,100, averaging approximately 1,900 people per day, compared with the week before Eid (17–23 May). Returns had decreased significantly in the week of 24–30 May due to the Eid holiday. Returns remained largely involuntary.

PROTECTION MONITORING

From 1 March to 6 June, the UNHCR Helpline in Iran received more than 100,300 calls. During the reporting period (31 May–6 June), the helpline received around 3,900 calls, of which more than 600 required follow-up by helpline operators. During the same period, around 1,300 people approached UNHCR offices across the country seeking assistance or information.

During UNHCR protection and border monitoring, returnees and deportees arriving from Iran to Afghanistan reported arrests during border crossings, travel, or work, as well as incidents of family separation, restricted movement, extortion, abuse, and poor detention conditions.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

On 1 June, a refugee coordination inter-sector meeting brought together partners to review ongoing and planned emergency response activities across WASH and shelter/NFI sectors. This included distribution of hygiene and relief items, rehabilitation of water and education infrastructure, and provision of cash assistance, alongside updates on the resumption of previously suspended operations.

UNHCR is also working with inter-agency partners to update the RRP for the period June–December 2026, as the initial flash RRP covered March–May 2026.

Since the onset of the crisis, UNHCR Iran has assisted nearly 157,200 Afghan refugees through helplines, in-person counselling, registration, legal aid, multipurpose cash assistance, and psychosocial support.

HUMAN IMPACT

Hadiseh, a 23-year-old Afghan refugee living in Mashhad, became the primary caregiver for her younger brother and her uncle, who has a disability, after losing her job due to the conflict. The resulting financial hardship significantly affected her well-being. UNHCR identified her household as highly vulnerable and provided tailored support, including counselling, financial assistance, and referrals to essential services. This support helped meet immediate needs, reduce financial stress, and strengthen Hadiseh's capacity to care for her family with greater stability and resilience.



LEBANON

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | COUNTRY ANALYSIS

+1M

Total people self-registered through GoL relief platform as displaced (1 April)

+3,270

Refugee families known to UNHCR remain internally displaced

ANALYSIS & TRENDS

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon has deteriorated amid a sharp escalation of violence over the past week. According to the Ministry of Public Health, at least 3,613 people have been killed and 11,072 injured since 2 March 2026. Recent Israeli strikes, including in Beirut's southern suburbs, together with intensified airstrikes and evacuation orders in southern areas such as Tyre, have triggered new displacement and further strained already overstretched services and shelter capacity amid expanded ground operations. US-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli talks concluded on 3 June, with plans to resume discussions in the week of 22 June.

PROTECTION MONITORING

The majority of internally displaced persons remain outside formal shelters, exposing them to heightened protection risks, limited access to services, and rising rental costs, with many forced into overcrowded and substandard housing. Refugees face similar pressures. Among identified displaced refugees, 10 per cent lack safe accommodation, 40 per cent rent housing, and a further 40 per cent are hosted by friends or family, with limited access to services and growing legal insecurity linked to loss of documentation. Children are among the most affected, facing high levels of psychological distress due to displacement, family separation, child labour, and prolonged disruption to their education.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Under the leadership of the Government of Lebanon and the Ministry of Social Affairs, and within the Lebanon Response Plan framework, the humanitarian community has extended the Flash Appeal for an additional three months (June–August 2026). The revised appeal seeks an additional US\$331.5 million to sustain multi-sectoral support to 1.4 million vulnerable people, bringing total requirements to US\$639.9 million. In line with this, UNHCR is urgently seeking US\$94.2 million in flexible funding to ensure continuity of assistance, targeting 733,000 affected individuals.

The Protection Sector has reached more than 242,500 individuals with emergency case management, psychosocial support, community mobilisation, child protection, and GBV prevention and response, as well as the provision of information. UNHCR continues to deliver Emergency Protection Cash Assistance, with 13,550 displaced refugees supported to date.

UNHCR and its partners have completed repair and maintenance work in 46 shelters, with activities ongoing in 11 others, targeting 76 collective shelters hosting more than 15,300 displaced individuals. More than 87,000 individuals in collective shelters have received more than 223,700 core relief items, while an additional 14,000 people in host communities have been assisted with more than 48,700 items.

As of May 2026, UNHCR and WFP have reached more than 137,000 vulnerable refugees with Emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance. UNHCR is also advancing its Cash for Shelter programme for vulnerable refugee families outside collective shelters, with around 180 of the 600 targeted households already supported.

Since the launch of the facilitated returns programme under force majeure conditions on 1 April 2026, 19,000 individuals have received counselling on return options, of whom 12,000 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria with UNHCR support, each receiving a cash grant of US\$100.

SYRIA

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | COUNTRY ANALYSIS

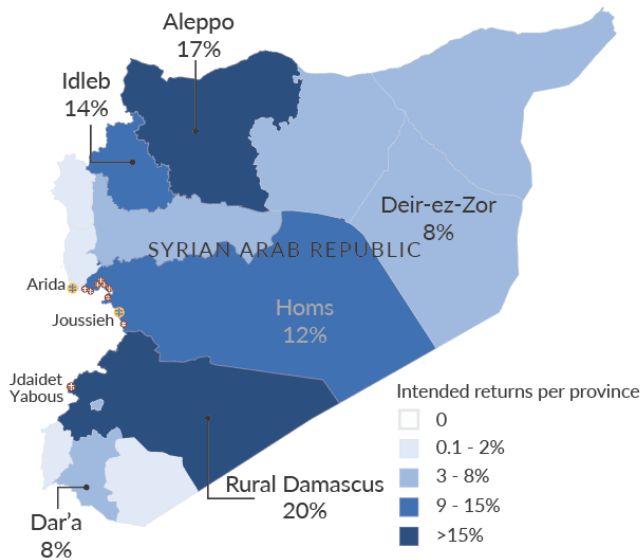
474,000
Syrian returnees from Lebanon

117,200
Lebanese refugees crossing into Syria

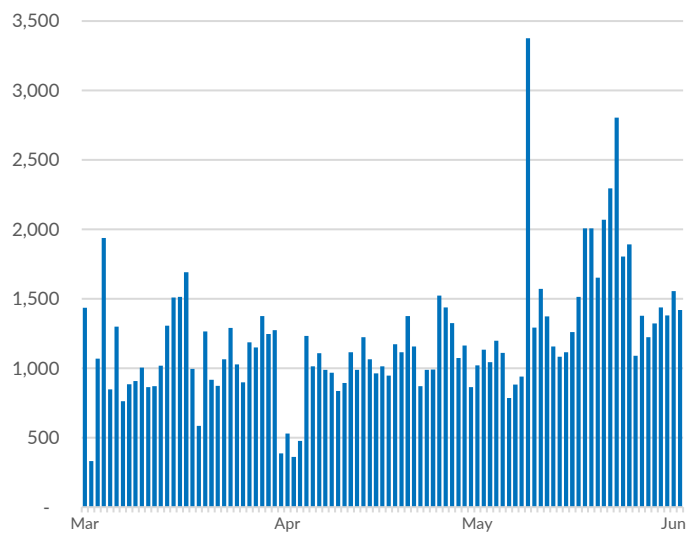
ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Population movements from Lebanon into Syria through the four official border crossing points – Jdaidet Yabous (Rural Damascus), Joussieh, Jisr Qamar (Homs), and Arida (Tartous) – remain stable and within the operational capacity of border authorities. Movements from Syria to Lebanon continue at normal levels, driven by routine travel patterns, including post-Eid al-Adha returns, work and commercial activities, and access to education, medical services, and consular appointments. Since 2 March, 591,204 individuals have crossed from Lebanon into Syria, including 474,036 Syrians and 117,168 Lebanese nationals. Among the Syrians, 115,894 indicated an intention to remain in Syria, while many others continue to adopt a wait-and-see approach, monitoring conditions in areas of return as well as developments in Lebanon.

Top intended provinces



Lebanese refugees crossing into Syria - Daily trends (1 March to 7 June 2026)



Top 3 needs of returnees in Syria

- 83%** Housing/accommodation
- 80%** Food
- 47%** Employment/Income generation opportunities

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to coordinate with border authorities to monitor movements, verify arrivals, and support the operational response at all four crossing points. At Jisr Qamar, UNHCR is supporting the procurement of solar energy systems, furniture, and ICT equipment, following requests from border authorities, to facilitate safe and dignified returns. At Arida, given the low number of returnees and continued access constraints, UNHCR has reduced partner presence while maintaining monitoring. At Joussieh and Jdaidet Yabous, support services continue unchanged.

AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | COUNTRY ANALYSIS

518,700
Total Afghan returnees since start of crisis

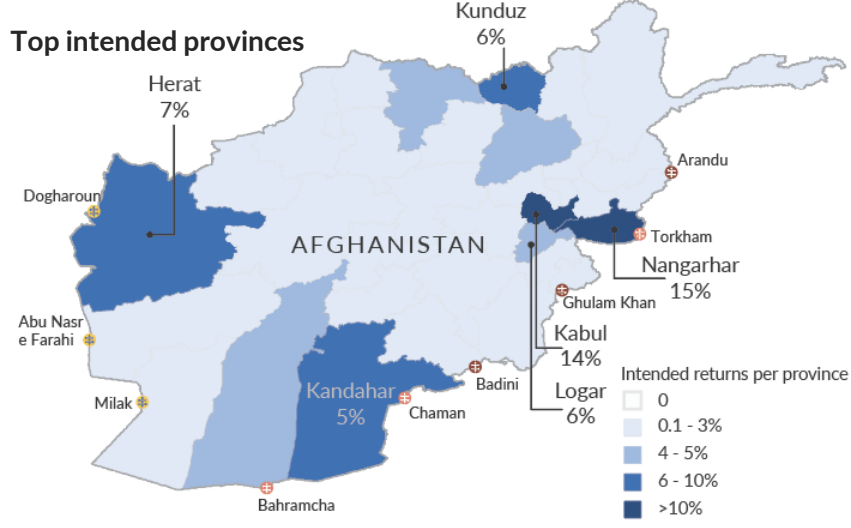
205,100
Returns from Iran

313,700
Returns from Pakistan

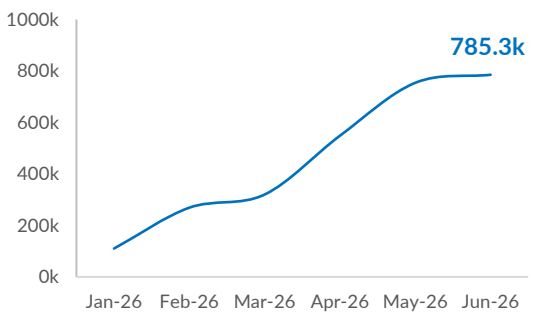
ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Since the onset of the crisis, approximately 518,700 people have returned from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan, bringing total returns in 2026 to some 785,300 as of 6 June. During the reporting period (31 May–6 June), returns averaged 4,900 per day, representing a 41 per cent decrease compared with the week before Eid (17–23 May). Returnees from Pakistan accounted for around 62 per cent of arrivals during the reporting period, with deportations accounting for around 5 per cent of returns from Pakistan. Following the Eid-related slowdown in late May, cross-border arrivals of returnees/deportees from Pakistan are increasing again across key entry points, with Torkham remaining the primary crossing. These shifting patterns continue to require flexible operational capacity, including staffing, transport, hot meal provision, protection screening, and referral services across border locations. In Pakistan, Torkham remained the main crossing point in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while authorities increased pressure on Afghans to repatriate through measures such as eviction notices, threats of arrest, and stricter enforcement. In Balochistan, deportations and returns increased following Eid, alongside continued internal and cross-border movements, partly driven by housing and rental pressures. In Sindh, deportations from Karachi continued, including of vulnerable individuals such as asylum-seekers, with UNHCR actively engaging authorities to advocate for appropriate protection considerations for those detained.

Returns to Afghanistan



Cumulative monthly trends (2026)



Top 3 needs of returnees

- 79%** Financial support
- 62%** Housing/accommodation
- 50%** Food

PROTECTION MONITORING

Border monitoring in Afghanistan indicates that returns from Pakistan remain predominantly pressure-driven. Both undocumented and documented Afghans reported risks including arrest, forced departure, document confiscation, family separation, asset loss, abuse, and poor detention conditions. At Spin Boldak, returns were further marked by prolonged holding times, reported payments to recover personal belongings, and the deportation of long-term residents whose documentation was reportedly not recognised. Protection concerns remain acute, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children among deportees requiring family tracing and reunification support. Arrests of Afghan nationals continued across Pakistan, with particularly high levels in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad Capital Territory, and Punjab, alongside a notable rise in detentions in urban and border areas. UNHCR and partners continued to monitor detention and deportation risks and provide legal and protection support. Concerns increased over irregular movements and exposure to smuggling and trafficking risks in Balochistan, as some Afghans pursue alternative routes for livelihoods, medical care, or family reunification.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Between 31 May and 6 June, UNHCR and partners delivered reception support across key Afghan border locations – including protection screening, referrals, hot meals (17,500+ distributed, mainly at Torkham/Omari), transport assistance, and targeted referrals for PSS, family tracing, and UASC. At Spin Boldak, returnees received transport and referrals for cash, protection case management, legal aid, health, and livelihoods. Assistance gaps persist: cash assistance for food at Torkham was suspended from 1 June due to funding constraints, tightening eligibility criteria and increasing pressure on remaining services. Legal aid at one Afghan–Pakistan border reception centre has also been suspended since 5 June due to administrative issues.

In Afghanistan, coordination focused on managing partner service transitions to maintain continuity and address emerging gaps. In Pakistan, inter-agency partners in Balochistan worked to strengthen health and protection access for Afghan returnees, in coordination with government counterparts.

TÜRKIYE

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | COUNTRY ANALYSIS

393,000
Iranian nationals → Türkiye

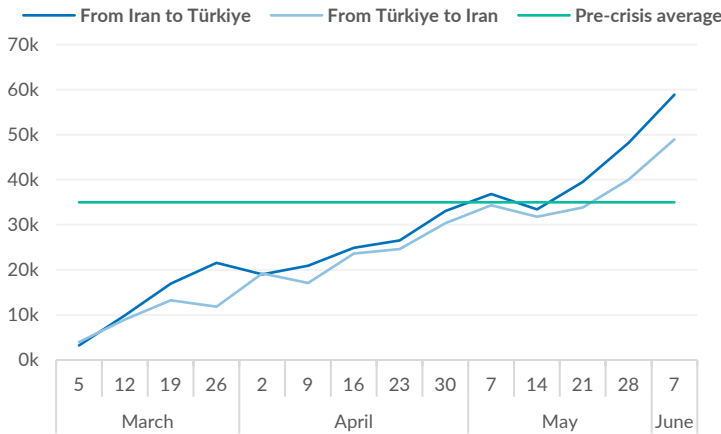
342,000
Türkiye → Iran

ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Cross-border movements have returned to pre-conflict levels, including daily crossings by traders for commercial purposes. The Kapıköy (Van), Gürbulak (Ağrı), and Esendere (Hakkari) border crossings remain generally operational. Current movements largely reflect routine mobility, family travel, and precautionary movement, with some individuals citing recent developments in Iran as their reason for leaving; some of those crossing may have international protection needs.

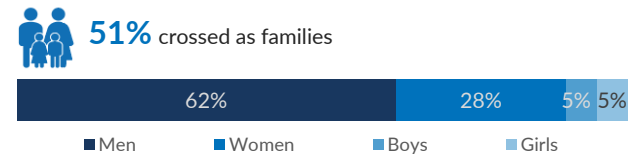
Since late February to 7 June, close to 393,000 Iranian nationals entered Türkiye via the three border crossings while approximately 342,000 departed to Iran, with entries continuing predominantly under the visa exemption regime and no mass irregular movement observed. Observations at the border indicate that movements continue predominantly as families or as part of a wider group, with individuals travelling alone representing a smaller share. The largest single category of stated arrival purpose is routine travel, followed by business, visiting relatives, and transit. While routine travel remains the most frequently cited arrival purpose, a substantial proportion of individuals within this category indicated that their decision to cross was taken following recent developments in Iran.

Iranian nationals crossing Iran ↔ Türkiye (since 28 February)

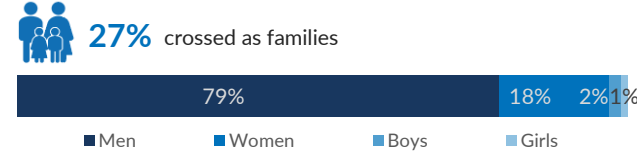


Iranians crossing to Türkiye, by age and gender

Based on 3,400+ UNHCR interviews · 4 March – 30 April 2026



Based on 1,200+ UNHCR interviews · 1 May – 7 June 2026



PROTECTION MONITORING

Current cross-border movements largely reflect routine mobility, family travel, and precautionary movement, with some individuals citing recent developments in Iran as their reason for leaving. Some of those crossing may have international protection needs. In the earlier period (4 March–30 April, 3,400+ interviews), 51 per cent crossed as families and the profile was roughly 62 per cent men, 28 per cent women, with boys and girls at 5 per cent each; in the more recent period (1 May–7 June, 1,200+ interviews), the family share dropped sharply to 27 per cent while the male proportion rose to 79 per cent, with women at 18 per cent and children minimal. The shift suggests the more recent movement is increasingly individual and male-dominated compared to the earlier, more family-oriented flows. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation along the border in close coordination with authorities and partners.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

National preparedness plans are being coordinated by the Ministry of Interior's Presidency of Migration Management. UNHCR is reinforcing coordination with UN agencies and partners in both Ankara and the border regions to enhance preparedness and strengthen information management. Response capacities are being mapped and data coordination consolidated in preparation for potential contingency plan activation should authorities request support in the event of large-scale movements. UNHCR is also holding regular inter-agency coordination meetings with civil society actors active in Van and has maintained regular communications with local authorities.



ARMENIA

45,700

Iranian nationals crossed into Armenia

43,800

Iranian nationals crossed back through Agarak

ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Cross-border movements through the Agarak border crossing remained active during 31 May–6 June, with 4,082 Iranian nationals who crossed into Armenia and 3,314 crossing back. While entries exceeded exits, movements remained predominantly commercial and routine: truck-related activity accounted for approximately 61 per cent of observed crossings, pedestrian crossings for 16 per cent, and private vehicles for 19 per cent. No significant change in demographic profile was observed, with no notable increase in family groups or profiles associated with displacement.

Cumulatively since 28 February, approximately 89,500 crossings have been recorded at Agarak, comprising approximately 45,700 entries and 43,800 exits. The broadly balanced two-way mobility reinforces the assessment that movement patterns remain largely commercial, precautionary, and short-term rather than displacement-driven. Five movement patterns continue to be observed: pendular or circular movement, which remains dominant; economic and commercial movement, with truck and freight traffic accounting for the majority of border activity; short-term family-related travel; precautionary movement by individuals temporarily relocating or assessing options in response to regional uncertainty; and a limited but consistent number of protection-related approaches to UNHCR and national authorities. There is no evidence of large-scale conflict-related displacement or sustained one-way movement into Armenia. These categorisations remain indicative rather than definitive, based on triangulated analysis and partial observation coverage.

The country team anticipates that cross-border movements at the Armenia–Iran border will remain active but broadly stable over the next one to two weeks, with no immediate indications of large-scale displacement and no immediate triggers anticipated that would require activation of a large-scale humanitarian response.

PROTECTION MONITORING

During the reporting period, 15 individuals approached UNHCR and partners, predominantly adult and individual-based (67 per cent newly arrived), with needs primarily information and protection-oriented, relating to asylum procedures, legal counselling, documentation, and accommodation. Since 28 February, 419 individuals have approached UNHCR and partners – 72 per cent newly arrived – with requests comprising legal counselling (144), accommodation (136), and asylum procedure information (111). Reported intentions are split between considering asylum (211; 50 per cent) and temporary stay (112; 27 per cent).

While these figures are modest, the cumulative data underscores the importance of continued monitoring to assess whether information-seeking behaviour translates into increased asylum applications and additional pressure on reception, registration, and case-processing capacities.

Border monitoring relies on periodic observation windows rather than continuous presence, with observation data serving as a qualitative sample to assess trends, profiles, and modalities rather than quantify total flows. Protection monitoring remains demand-driven, meaning people who transit rapidly, rely on private networks, or do not seek assistance are likely underrepresented. Individual intentions are dynamic and not systematically tracked following initial contact. Analysis therefore remains indicative and relies on triangulation between administrative data, border monitoring observations, and partner inputs.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Current trends remain broadly consistent with existing preparedness assumptions, with no adjustment to contingency planning or activation thresholds warranted. Border operations continue to function normally under Government leadership, with movements manageable and predominantly commercial. The humanitarian caseload remains low relative to overall flows, with requests continuing to be information and protection-oriented rather than emergency-driven.

Preparedness efforts remain focused on maintaining scalable response arrangements, strengthening asylum and reception capacity, enhancing coordination, and sustaining monitoring capacity should regional dynamics change. No significant changes in the overall inter-agency response posture were recorded during the week from 31 May–6 June; partners continued routine protection monitoring, information provision, referrals, and preparedness activities proportionate to current needs and observed mobility trends, with no new response interventions, assistance scale-up, or activation of contingency arrangements required. No significant inter-agency coordination developments were recorded during the reporting period; partners continued information-sharing and preparedness coordination through existing mechanisms while maintaining readiness to support national authorities should mobility dynamics change.



IRAQ

ANALYSIS & TRENDS

Regional tensions have had a direct impact on Iraq over the past week. On 7 June, authorities announced a temporary 72-hour closure of Iraqi airspace following renewed missile exchanges between Iran and Israel, before reopening on 8 June. International airlines continue to cancel and postpone flights. The economic impact of the escalation is also increasingly evident, with rising inflation linked in part to reduced oil exports amid disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Authorities have warned of potential challenges in meeting public sector salary payments in the coming weeks.

PROTECTION MONITORING

Small numbers of Iranian asylum-seekers have continued to arrive in Iraq, citing the hostilities as the primary reason for flight. These movements remain in line with previous trends, and UNHCR continues to process registrations through existing procedures.

PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

UNHCR maintains an inter-agency contingency plan, ready to be activated in the event of a scale-up in arrivals of refugees and asylum-seekers from Iran.

Financial & Partner Information

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION | FUNDING, PARTNERS & CONTACTS

Funding Status & Presence

UNHCR BY OPERATION · AS OF END - APRIL 2026

Operation	Req.	Funded	%
Afghanistan	USD 216M	<div style="width: 25%;"></div>	25%
Pakistan	USD 94M	<div style="width: 27%;"></div>	27%
Iran	USD 140M	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>	15%
Lebanon	USD 472M	<div style="width: 19%;"></div>	19%
Iraq	USD 61M	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>	40%
Türkiye	USD 210M	<div style="width: 45%;"></div>	45%
Armenia	USD 9M	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>	58%
Turkmenistan	Upon Request		

Turkmenistan falls under the UNHCR Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Kazakhstan, which also covers the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The 2026 financial requirements for the operations in Kazakhstan MCO amount to USD 7.9 million, of which 31% is currently funded.

CRITICAL FUNDING GAP

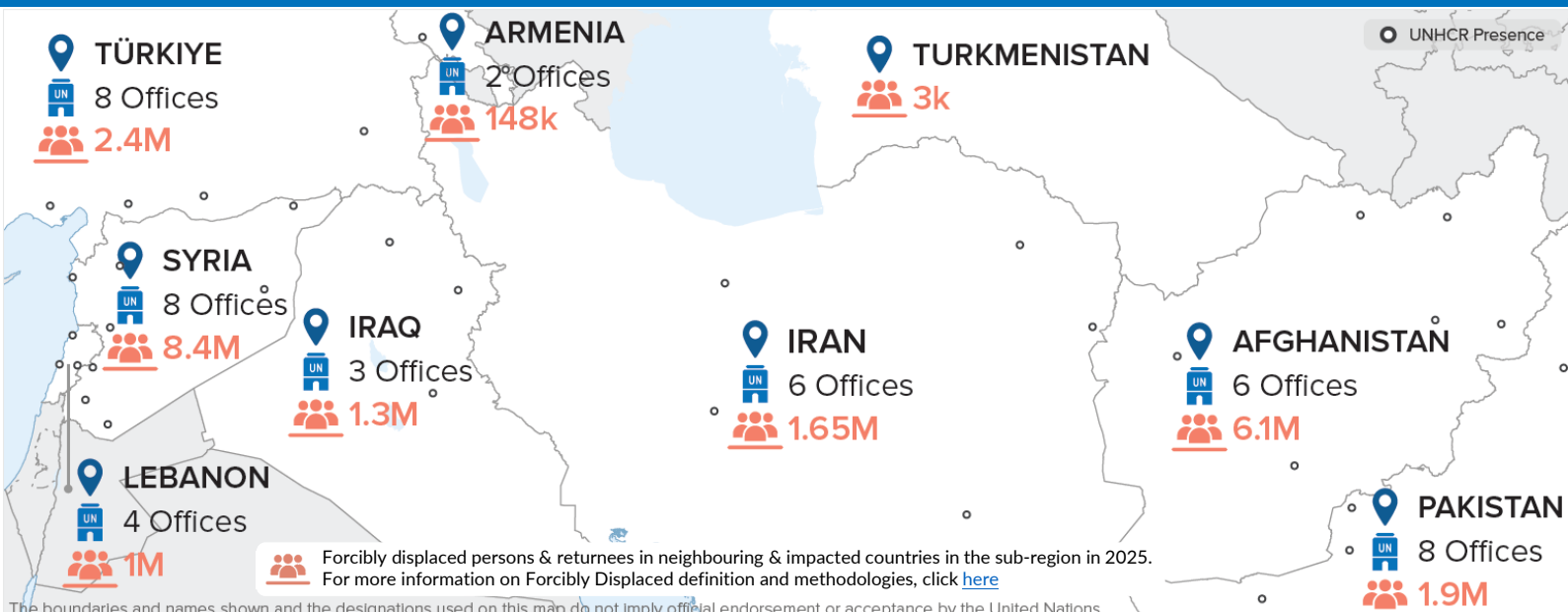
Severe funding shortfalls risk creating a 'crisis within a crisis' at a time when humanitarian needs and operational risks are rapidly increasing. Without additional resources, UNHCR's ability to scale up preparedness, protection and response will be critically constrained.

INTER-AGENCY PARTNERS · IRAN FLASH RRP

UNHCR	IOM	UNDP	WFP
WHO	UNICEF	UNFPA	INTEROS
NRC			

INTER-AGENCY PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

Partners directly involved in preparedness efforts include AASW, ACH, ARCS, ASAM, FAO, Harikar, InterSOS, IOM, IRC, JCCC, KRISO, MH, Mission Armenia NGO, NRC, PC-MOI, PiN, RSPN, SCI, SOROUH, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO; coordinated with UN OCHA and DCO.



CONTACT

Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
rbapext@unhcr.org

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
menareporting@unhcr.org

For more information, visit the [Middle-east Situation Operational Data Portal \(data.unhcr.org\)](https://data.unhcr.org) and unhcr.org.