

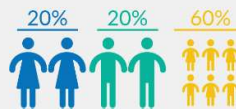
## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.5M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 1 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

 **789,590**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021<sup>2</sup>


 **67,200**


Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 13 March 2022

 **2.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2020

 **175,130**

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021<sup>3</sup>

 **791,000**

IDP returnees recorded in 2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The humanitarian situation continues to remain challenging in Afghanistan.** More than half of the population is currently dependent on life-saving and essential humanitarian assistance. This includes many internally displaced people, who often live in makeshift settlements under difficult conditions.
- In response to the humanitarian situation inside Afghanistan, **UNHCR's assistance and relief programmes in 2022 have so far supported more than 500,000 Afghans**, including more than 136,000 people who received relief items or direct financial assistance. In addition, more than **470,000 individuals have also benefited from health centres, schools, water systems and other infrastructure** that UNHCR has built in areas prioritised for the return of refugees and IDPs.
- For UNHCR's assistance and relief programmes, this assistance in 2022 has included the following:

**Emergency Assistance**  
provided in 2022 (as of 15 April)

 **255,500\***  
persons supported

 **29** out of **34**  
provinces reached


**93,700**  
persons benefited from cash for winterization



**60,200**  
persons benefited from core relief items



**45,400**  
persons benefited from cash for Reintegration (CARE)



**14,000**  
persons benefited from solar panels distribution



**9,200**  
family tents distributed



**9,200**  
blankets distributed

**Legend: ### assistance provided in 2022**

\*The total persons supported may include multiple counting of beneficiaries receiving assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- As part of this work, **UNHCR has continued to prioritise supporting solutions for IDPs.** In 2022, UNHCR has provided cash for reintegration to some 45,000 individuals, which has helped support them to return sustainably to their places of origin.
- **At least 791,000 internally displaced persons have returned to their places of origin in 2021.** Of the overall IDP returnees, 84 per cent are women and children, with children alone comprising of 64 per cent. August and September 2021 were the months in which most returns took place, some 69 per cent of the total 791,000 returned over the two months and 52 per cent (some 414,400) have returned to 44 locations in which UNHCR is supporting communities with projects. The revised data arose from 153,700 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners over 10 October 2021 until 31 March 2022 undertaken across most districts and provinces. This figure may increase as household-level assessments are ongoing. UNHCR has released a [Multi Sectorial Rapid Assessments Analysis report](#) based on 2021 findings.

Publishing date: 26 April 2022 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP).

<sup>1</sup> This figure comprises the 2020 year-end figure of 2.9M (Source: UNHCR), the total estimated conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January (Source: OCHA), excluding the recorded number of IDPs which have returned to their places of origin (Source: UNHCR), with the inclusion of the underestimated number of newly displaced IDPs during 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Source OCHA, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

<sup>3</sup> The number of new arrivals includes those who approached UNHCR and Partners in Tajikistan (5,710), Iran (35,070) and Pakistan (117,550), new arrivals reported by the Government of Uzbekistan (13,020), as well as the Afghans who were kept by the Iranian authorities at border locations (3,780) since 1 January 2021, although only 738 individuals of the latter group remain in the country. The vast majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher. The increase on the overall figure does not necessarily reflect the displacement of that same period, but rather the date of assessment.

- Of note in the reporting period, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies have been **working to assist approximately 26,000 affected civilians, further to security incidents in Khost Province**, in the south-eastern part of Afghanistan. The assistance includes tents, medical services, and non-food items.
- In response to the humanitarian situation, on 31 March, the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan, co-hosted by the UN and the Governments of Germany, Qatar, and the United Kingdom, brought together representatives of Member States, international organisations, UN Agencies, non-governmental organisations, and civil society. This was to raise funds to meet the humanitarian needs of Afghans inside Afghanistan (under the [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) 2022](#)) and in neighbouring countries (under the [Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\) 2022](#)). Some USD 2.4 billion was pledged towards the humanitarian response during the event.
- UNHCR and partners have released the [Final Report of the Afghan Situation Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan \(RRP\) 2021](#). RRP 2021 was developed in August 2021 in response to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. It outlined the humanitarian preparedness and priority interventions by 11 participating partners in the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The report details the situation as it developed from July – December 2021, the key achievements in the interagency response, as well as the gaps and challenges faced in each country. RRP 2021 was 58 per cent funded with USD 174 million received of the total requirements of USD 299 million. A detailed funding breakdown is available on the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#).
- UNHCR's Afghanistan situation response in 2022 (inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring host countries which are hosting Afghan refugees) has requirements of USD 609.5 million and is currently 54 per cent funded with USD 329 million received. UNHCR's response inside Afghanistan in 2022 has requirements of USD 340.3 million and is currently 53 per cent funded with USD 179.6 million received.



UNHCR in Kabul providing rent support and distributing cooking items, gas cylinders and other essential household items to internally displaced people.  
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## REGIONAL

- There are more than **175,000 reported newly arriving Afghans seeking international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021**. Most of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for protection-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher, as not all approach or contact UNHCR.
- **Access to Iran's territory continues to remain inaccessible to asylum-seekers, with entry only being granted to Afghan passport holders with valid visas for Iran.** An increase in security measures at unofficial border crossing points, as well as the resumption of visa issuance at the Iranian embassy in Kabul, has led to a decrease in the proportion of arrivals who reported arriving irregularly and a decrease in the proportion who reported using smugglers to enter. UNHCR continues to advocate for an improved asylum-system to be accessible, so those in need of international protection can access it. Most Afghans newly fleeing to Iran are already in urban settings, while some families who were being held in transit centres by the government have now been moved to the Torbat-e-Jam settlement. UNHCR is still seeking clarity on the number of new Afghan arrivals, with official figures from the authorities varying from 500,000 to 1,000,000.
- **In Pakistan, at Torkham border point, entry is limited to those Afghans with valid passports and visas.** Children under the age of eight can now cross into Pakistan through Torkham without passports or visas, and up to 100 undocumented Afghan medical patients are permitted to enter each day. **At Chamam border – the other main border crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan – entry is restricted to passport holders with valid visas, Tazkira holders from Kandahar province, persons with serious medical conditions and CNIC holders.** Since early April, the exit of Afghans on Tazkira through Torkham border has not been permitted by the authorities. However, Afghans can exit to Afghanistan on ACC, PoR cards and visas. In addition, some exceptions are applied to allow critical health and other humanitarian cases who entered into Pakistan with Tazikras to travel back to Pakistan.
- **Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have their borders open with Afghanistan, though they are restricted to passport and visa holders.** 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. This group is currently unwilling and unable to return and UNHCR considers that they may be in need of international protection.
- **Deportations of Afghans have continued from Iran.** In March, UNHCR observed an increase on the average daily deportation rate of over 2,200 Afghans from Iran (1,000 in January). Since the beginning of November, there have been a significant decrease in the number of deportations, with January showing the lowest figures, though the average deportation rate has again increased in recent months.
- Since the start of the year, **167 Afghan refugees have returned under UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme, including 84 from Iran and 83 from Pakistan.** This figure represents 24 per cent of the 691 that returned by the same period in 2021 and 58 per cent of the 290 that returned during the same period in 2020.



