 Iran has been one of the world's leading refugee hosts for over forty years. In August 2021, following the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, many Afghans fled to Iran. UNHCR rapidly scaled up its operation in Iran to respond to the large number of new arrivals and their urgent needs for assistance.



Within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR supports the Government of Iran in implementing inclusive refugee policies. The SSAR also facilitates coordinated protection approaches among partners, consensus-building on international protection priorities, and dialogue and partnerships in support of the Afghan refugee situation.

800,000 REFUGEES IN IRAN*

780,000 Afghan & 20,000 Iraqi

3.5M AFGHANS IN IRAN

780,000 refugees, 2.1 M undocumented, 586,000 passport holders

500,000 to 1 Million** Afghans have newly fled to Iran since 2021

(According to evolving estimates by the Government of Iran)

42,526 Newly Arrived Afghans

(Approached UNHCR directly requesting assistance since January 2021)



96% of refugees live in urban areas side by side with the local community



4% of refugees live in 20 refugee settlements in 12 provinces of Iran

FUNDING

Funded
75%
90.3M



Unfunded
32%
29.1 M

HEALTH

UNHCR supports the Ministry of Health to include refugees in the national health system. Free primary health care, including vaccinations, essential medicines and maternal and child health services are available to all, regardless of documentation status. Refugees also have access to health insurance to cover secondary and tertiary health care, on par with nationals. For 2022, UNHCR covers the insurance premium for up to 120,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, while others can enroll by paying the premium themselves.

EDUCATION

All children in Iran have access to primary and secondary education regardless of their documentation status. Refugee, undocumented and other foreign children study side by side with Iranian school children, following the same national curriculum. In 2016, the Government of Iran removed 'refugee-specific' fees, ensuring primary and secondary education is affordable to all. Higher education can also be accessed by Afghans and Iraqis. UNHCR supports the government in constructing schools, providing literacy training to refugees, and scholarships for tertiary education.

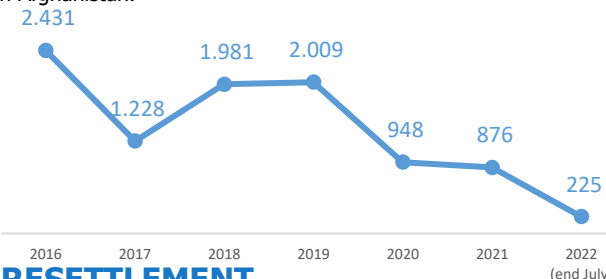
LIVELIHOOD

UNHCR implements various livelihoods interventions for refugees, including certified technical and vocational training and other income generating projects. Supporting refugees to access livelihoods opportunities can prepare them to become more self-sufficient and better able to meet the basic needs of their families. Refugees can thus also increase their economic potential, enabling them to contribute to their host community and one day, their home country, when conditions become conducive for returns.



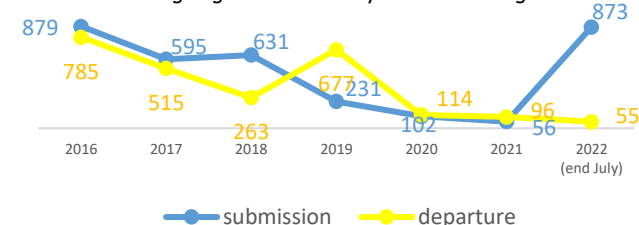
VOLREP

By the end of July, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of **225** returnees to Afghanistan and one returnee to Iraq. This represents a decrease compared to the **761** returns facilitated in the same period in 2021. Voluntary repatriation declined by **70%** compared to the same period in 2021. This decrease is due to the instability and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.



RESETTLEMENT

While in 2021 UNHCR received no quota for resettlement of Afghan refugees, in 2022 it is working with resettlement partners and the Government of Iran to resettle **3,000** refugees, given the increasing protection needs of refugees in Iran and the ongoing volatile security situation in Afghanistan.



UNHCR Iran is grateful for the generous contributions of its main donors in 2022.

* According to the data received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in October 2020.

** According to various government estimates, 500,000-1,000,000 Afghans have newly fled to Iran since the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan in 2021. As the situation in Afghanistan remains volatile, UNHCR foresees that Afghans will continue to flee to Iran in the coming months. Based on UNHCR estimates, 65% of all new arrivals are returned by the government. Smaller percentages include people who will continue moving to Turkey and the EU and those who chose to come to Iran for economic or family reasons before returning to Afghanistan on their own. UNHCR estimates that by the end of 2022, 274,000 new arrivals will remain in Iran and will need protection and assistance.