

Making it possible for refugees to access healthcare is a top priority for UNHCR. UNHCR works with the Government of Iran and its Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME), to ensure that all refugees have access to vital and lifesaving services. UNHCR supports the provision of free primary health care to all refugees and asylum-seekers, regardless of documentation, at the same level as nationals, by supporting the procurement of medicines and medical equipment and the construction and rehabilitation of health posts and centres located at refugee hosting provinces and districts. UNHCR also supports refugees' access to the national insurance scheme, enabling refugees to get secondary and tertiary health care at subsidized rates. To address the mental health needs of refugees, UNHCR has contracted one psycho-social counsellor for each of its field offices, to provide individual counselling services to refugees. Priority is given to survivors of gender-based violence and trauma. Since 2016, UNHCR has made available a total of USD 68,580,299 to support the health sector in Iran, benefitting refugees and host communities alike.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC)

UNHCR supports the MoHME to ensure all refugees and asylum-seekers have access to quality and free of charge PHC services, which includes vaccination, family planning, provision of essential medicine and primary treatment, among others.

UNHCR's support to PHC includes:

- support for health personnel,
- procurement (international and national) of essential medicine,
- construction and rehabilitation of health posts and centres in refugee-populated areas,
- procurement of medical items and non-medical items.

In 2021, UNHCR procured key medical equipment and supplies, including ambulances, mobile labs, CT scans and X-ray machines, for health facilities across the country. In 2022, UNHCR has also conducted an international procurement of 46 key medical and laboratory equipment with total value of USD 15.5M set for delivery to Iran during first quarter of 2023.

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL ITEMS



32 key medical equipment and supplies (**647,867** pieces of equipment) worth USD 10M procured by UNHCR internationally in 2021



47 types of essential medical equipment and supplies (**1,447,730** pieces), nationally procured by MoHME through **32** Medical Universities in **20** provinces countrywide in 2021

HEALTH POSTS BUILT OR MAINTAINED

Since 2018, UNHCR supported **134** health posts, benefiting both refugees and host communities alike. Based on data received from the MoHME by end of 2021, on average, **3,400** refugees per month received care in health posts in settlements while **10,300** refugees per month did so in health posts in urban settings. Moreover, in seven locations at refugee settlements, psycho-social counselors are recruited with the support of UNHCR serving at the existing health centers to refugees residing in those settlements.



134 HEALTH POSTS WERE SUPPORTED SINCE 2018 TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO PHC SERVICES

COVID-19 SUPPORT AND VACCINES

To support the Government of Iran's COVID-19 response, UNHCR airlifted over 100 tons of medical aid items to Iran, including gowns, hand sanitizers, gloves, ventilators, non-contact thermometers and personal protective equipment. Additionally, in 2021, 10,991 refugee households received hygiene packages (soap, hand sanitizers, masks, and cleaning materials), to help them cope with the pandemic.

In collaboration with the UN Country Team, UNHCR supported the Government's application for the supply of COVID-19 vaccines for 20% of refugees and asylum-seekers through the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer (HB) channel. 1,611,600 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been donated to the Government through the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer in 2021. As of February 2022 (latest official information received), 80% of the total affected population (refugee, undocumented, and new arrivals) have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



1,611,600 DOSES OF COVID-19 VACCINES HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH COVAX HB CHANNEL IN 2021

UNIVERSAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE (UPHI)

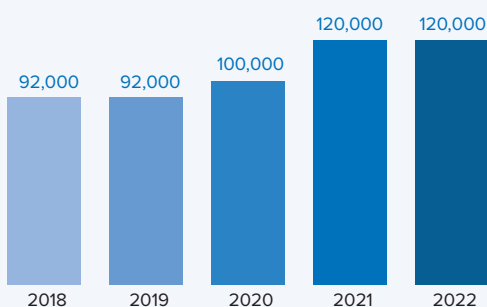
Since 2015, as part of the agreement between UNHCR, the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior, and the Iranian Health Insurance Organisation (IHIO), refugees who have an *Amayesh* or *Hoviat* card can access UPHI, the national insurance scheme, which provides secondary and tertiary health care at a subsidized rate, similar to Iranian nationals, at any public hospital affiliated with the Ministry of Health or other private hospitals contracted with IHIO. For the current 8th cycle of UPHI (25 Feb 2022 to 24 Feb 2023), UNHCR is covering 100% of the insurance premium for **120,000** of the most vulnerable refugees, including their families who suffer from special diseases¹. The remaining refugee population can enrol in the health insurance by paying the premium fee by themselves. UNHCR continued to advocate for measures to make the insurance scheme as affordable as possible for all refugees, as affordability has become an issue for many refugees.

UPHI - which is in line with key principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and inclusive policies of government of Iran - has improved the health status of refugees and increased their resilience, by reducing catastrophic out of pocket expenditures during health emergencies. This commendable policy is also in line with Iran's 6th National Development Plan, which saw the government covering 100% of the premium fee of an additional 47,000 extremely vulnerable refugees, enabling them to acquire UPHI.

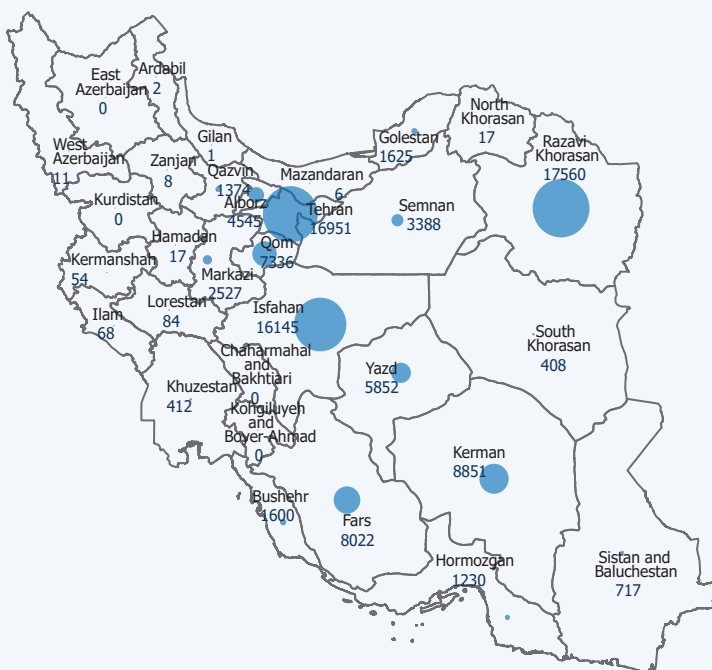
1. Special Diseases include Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Renal Failure, Kidney Transplant, and Multiple Sclerosis as defined by Iranian MoHME.



VULNERABLE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SINCE 2018



NUMBER OF REFUGEES ENROLLED IN 8TH CYCLE OF UPHI BY PROVINCE (BY 15 AUGUST 2022)



Dr. Fezzeh Hosseini, a 38-year-old Afghan refugee, was appointed to head the coronavirus public outreach programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran's central Esfahan province, in 2020. On top of her usual duties as head physician at the Razi health centre in Esfahan, she provided phone consultations to Iranian and Afghan patients suffering from or at risk of contracting the virus, working at one of the health posts UNHCR supports. Fezzah's parents fled conflict in northern Afghanistan's Sar-e Pol province to Iran when she was a one-month-old baby.

"Being an Afghan like my patients, they feel they can open up to me as we share the same culture and experiences. But what makes me most proud, is that people see me as someone who can help them, not just as a refugee."