



# UNHCR

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## UNHCR IRAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Access to inclusive and equitable quality education in national systems creates conditions in which children and youth can learn, thrive and develop their potential, build individual and collective resilience, experience and negotiate peaceful coexistence, and contribute to their societies, including as part of possible return to Afghanistan once conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified return are conducive. In Iran, since the Supreme Leader's decree in 2015, refugee, including undocumented, and other foreign children study side by side with children from the host community, while following the same national curriculum (\*refugee-specific school fees for enrollment in public schools were removed in 2016). UNHCR partners with the Government of Iran, especially with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) and the Ministry of Education (MoE), to facilitate all children's access to education opportunities.



### UP TO 700,000

AFGHAN AND IRAQI STUDENTS STUDYING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



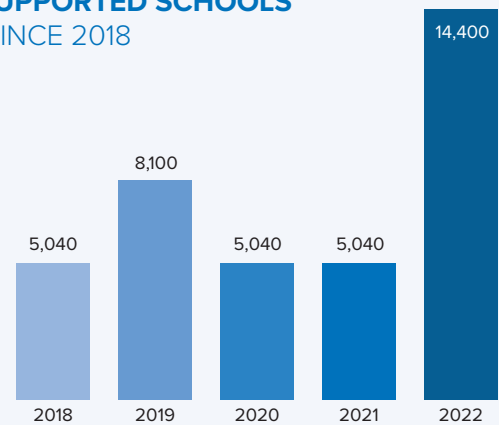
### 37,000

CHILDREN GOT A PLACE IN UNHCR-SUPPORTED SCHOOL SINCE 2018

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

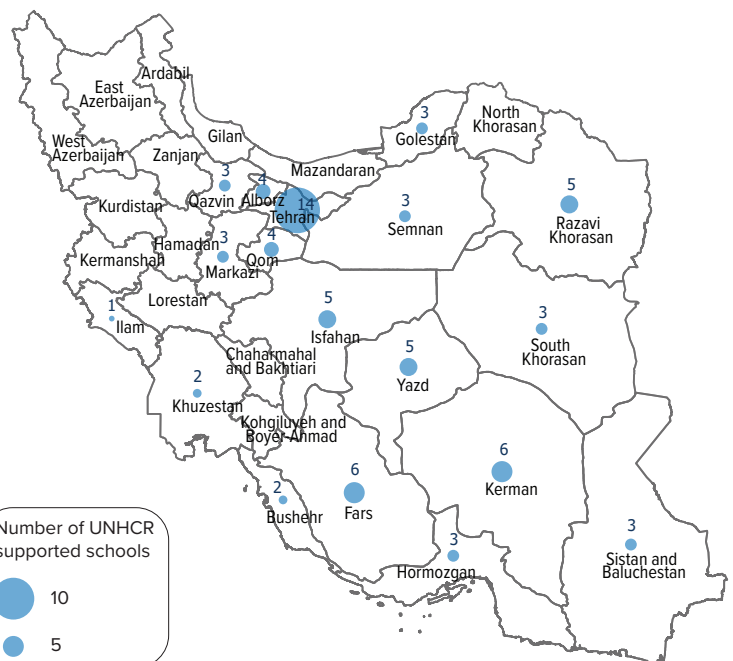
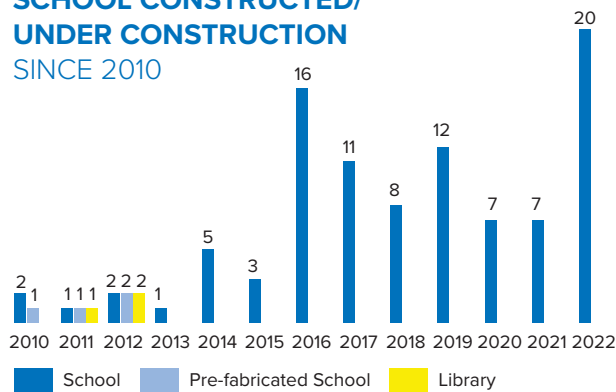
UNHCR has supported the construction of schools in densely refugee-populated areas and in refugee settlements, contributing between 40% and 90% of school construction costs. UNHCR has supported 95 schools from 2010 to 2023 in 18 provinces, which facilitated access to education for around 39,000 foreign national and Iranian students. Constructions of schools by UNHCR and MoE normally include a 12-classroom school with an estimated capacity to accommodate 720 students in double-shifts, considering an estimated 360 students are served per shift. According to the Government of Iran, **at least 200,000 new Afghan students moved to Iran in the past year, leading to needs for 150 extra schools and between 14,000 and 21,000 new teachers to meet the new demands.**

### CHILDREN WHO GOT A PLACE IN UNHCR-SUPPORTED SCHOOLS SINCE 2018



### 95 SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED FROM 2010 TO 2023

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTED/ UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE 2010



## THE DAFI (ALBERT EINSTEIN GERMAN ACADEMIC REFUGEE INITIATIVE) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Refugees in Iran can access higher education, by exchanging their Amayesh cards and obtaining a national passport and Iranian student visa. They can also receive support to cover their tuition fees and living costs while undertaking their undergraduate studies, thanks to the DAFI scholarship programme – funded globally by Germany, Denmark, the Czech Republic, private donors and UNHCR. By the end of 2022, over **8,300** young refugees from **53** countries were enrolled in 55 countries and nearly half of the DAFI students were studying in Ethiopia, Türkiye, Pakistan, Kenya and Iran, countries that host some of the largest refugee populations worldwide. In 2023, some **469** refugee students in Iran will benefit from the DAFI scholarship.



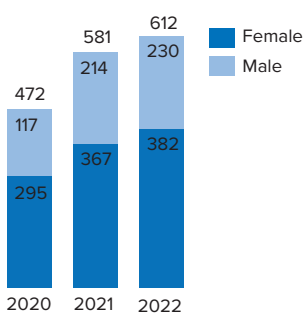
**1,665**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME SINCE 2020

### DAFI SCHOLARSHIP SINCE 2020

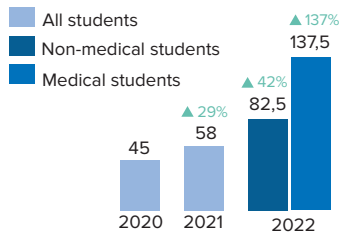


### DAFI STUDENTS BY GENDER

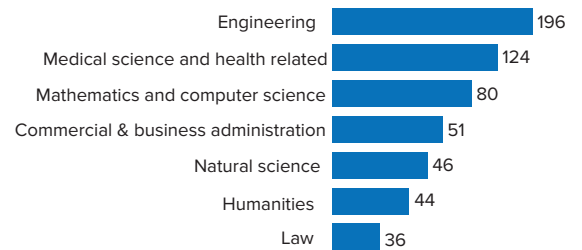


### DAFI SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT PER SEMESTER (millions IRR)

In 2022, university students experienced a staggering **137%** surge in the overall expenses associated with their studies.

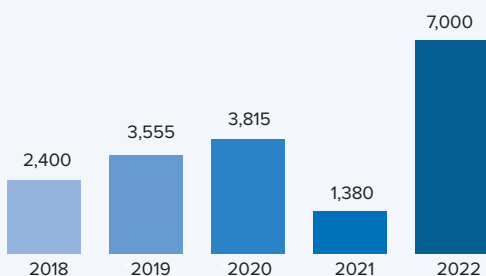


### DAFI STUDENTS BY FIELD OF STUDY (2022)



**17,770** BENEFICIARIES OF LITERACY MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION SINCE 2018

### LMO BENEFICIARIES SINCE 2018



### LITERACY MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION (LMO)

While education is accessible in Iran, many refugees have not been able to continue their studies. In Iran, if an individual fails to pass the school grade at the proper age or within two years, the person will be categorized as overaged and is obliged to attend literacy courses or formal evening classes for over-aged, which are necessary to re-join formal education. UNHCR collaborates with the Literacy Movement Organisation (LMO), linked to MoE, to provide non-formal education to refugees. In 2022, **7,000** out-of-school children and over-aged students residing in five provinces were supported with access to literacy and numeracy courses, to give them the opportunity to re-join formal education, or benefit from non-formal lifelong learning opportunities. According to the Government, the literacy rate among Afghan refugees has increased from 6% (when they just arrived) to **66%** (data of the past few years).

### TABLET DISTRIBUTION

UNHCR, in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and BAFIA arranged for the distribution of **21,600** tablets targeting the most vulnerable Afghan and Iranian students studying at public schools in **16** provinces of Iran in order to ensure access to remote learning whenever need be.



**21,600** CHILDREN FROM MOST VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED TABLETS IN 2023