Regional Refugee Response Plan
for Afghanistan Situation
2022

Regional Refugee Response Plan For Afghanistan Situation

Final Report 2022

Cover photographs:

Picture 1	:	Iran (Islamic Republic of). RRP partner NRC distributing emergency cash cards among vulnerable Afghans in Kerman province, supported by the EU. © Society for Recovery Support (SRS).
Picture 2	:	Pakistan. Afghan refugee, Dr. Saleema Rehman, visits the refugee school in Pakistan that she attended as a child. She is the 2021 Regional Winner for Asia of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. © UNHCR/Amsal Naeem
Picture 3	:	Pakistan. Afghan refugee prepares yarn to be dyed and used in carpet weaving, one of the most lucrative businesses. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad
Picture 4	:	Pakistan. Afghan children play in the streets of Sector I-12 settlement in Islamabad, Pakistan. © UNHCR/Roger Arnold
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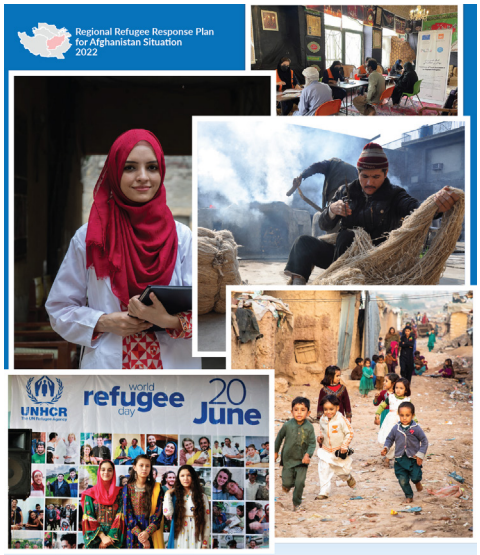

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At a Glance

Regional Response Overview

January-December 2022

6.2M individuals reached

1.6M new arrivals since 2021

6.4k Afghan returnees in 2022

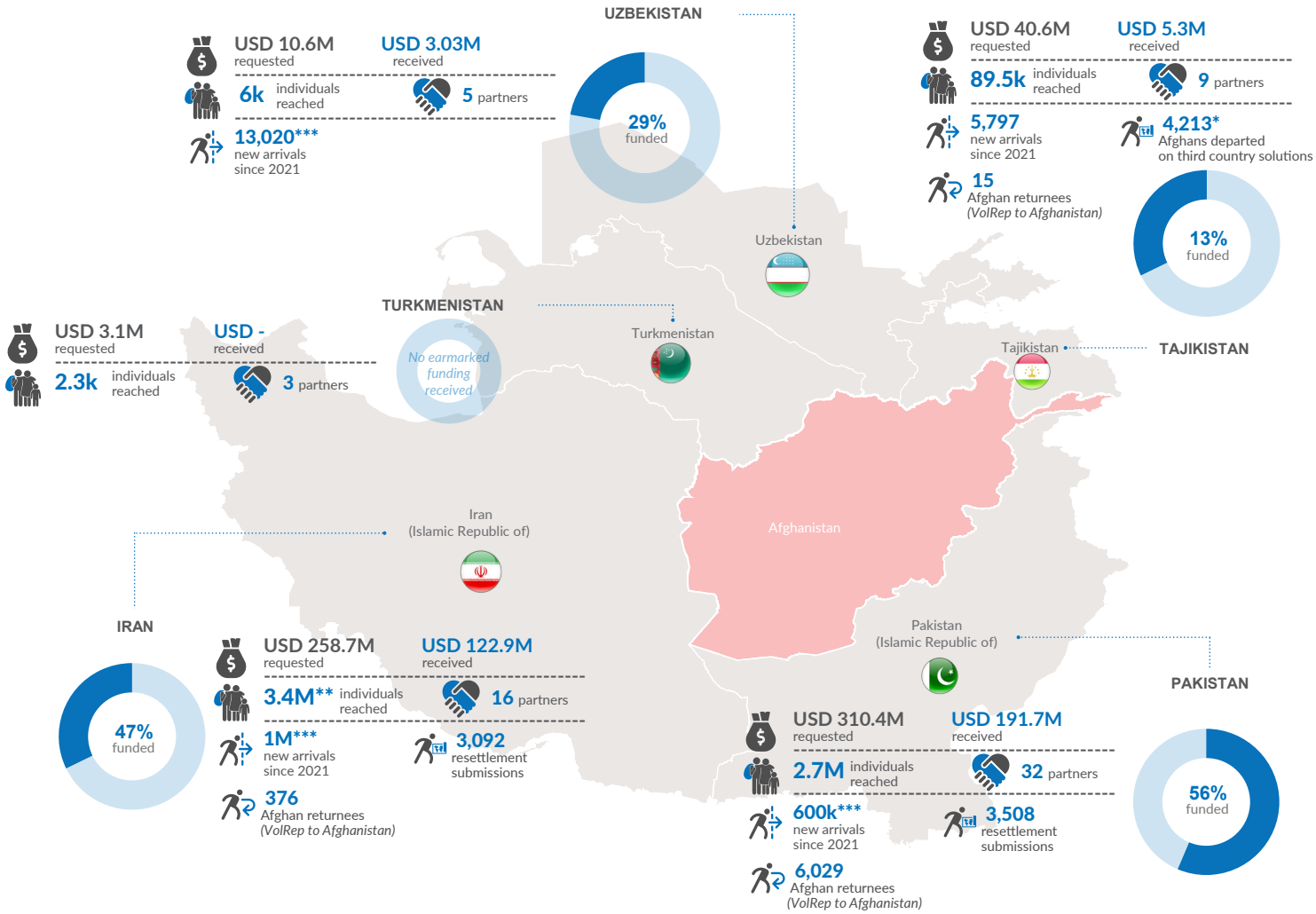
52% Funded across the region

USD 623.4M Funds required

USD 324.9M Funds received

including **USD2M of regionally earmarked funds*

40 partners



Disclaimer :
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Note :
* *4,199 to Canada through the Canadian sponsorship programme, and 14 to the USA through Government-assisted Resettlement*
** *Overall 1.4M beneficiaries were directly assisted through a combination of in-kind and cash-based assistance as well as tailored services.*
A further estimated 2M individuals were indirectly assisted through support RRP partners provided to public services and infrastructure in support of GIRI inclusive policies.
*** *In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure according to various government estimates and continues to follow-up with authorities to receive updated and disaggregated data as well as an estimate of how many presently remain in Iran. Of the average 1 million new arrivals, approximately 57,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, approximately 266,000 have approached UNHCR. 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.*

RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub regional level has contributed to the response. The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of Donors.

Private Donors

Regional Situation Overview

In 2022, Afghanistan was marked by continued instability. Although there has been a reduction in conflict and a decrease in the number of civilian casualties since August 2021, the situation has been compounded by a systematic curtailment of human rights, particularly for women and girls as well as human rights defenders, media workers, and ethnic minorities. Since August 2021, the ability of women and girls to participate in public life has been gradually eroded with a drastic overall impact – restrictions have been placed on freedom of movement, access to secondary education for girls above the age of 12, access to tertiary education, and the ability to work for non-governmental organizations, and, most recently, UN agencies. Aside from the devastating impact on women inside Afghanistan, this has acted as a barrier to voluntary repatriation for Afghans hosted in neighbouring countries, who are faced with the possibility of returning to a country where female members of households are seriously discriminated against. Economically, the country has also suffered greatly; Afghanistan's economy contracted by 30-35 per cent between 2021 and 2022 according to the World Bank and two thirds of households report difficulties in covering their basic household needs – according to the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC), as of March 2023 some 19.9 million Afghans (46 per cent of the population) suffer from acute or emergency levels of food insecurity.

"Afghanistan – or any other country – cannot advance if half of its population is not allowed to pursue an education and participate in public life.... The country risks a lost generation as educated women are essential for its development" UNESCO, January 2023

In 2022, borders with neighbouring countries were tightly regulated. Nonetheless, movements continued. In total some 1.6 million Afghans have arrived in neighbouring countries since 2021. New arrivals do not consistently have access to predictable asylum procedures while those moving through irregular channels are at increased risk of deportation, in contravention of the principle of non-refoulement, as well as increased vulnerabilities and protection risks, and potential exploitation and abuse. Deportations were also witnessed on a large scale. Based on data collected by UNHCR border monitoring partners, an estimated 485,000 Afghans were deported from Iran in 2022, while some 1,500 undocumented Afghans were reportedly deported from Pakistan in 2022. This occurred despite a non-return advisory being in place for the past 18 months – first issued in August 2021, UNHCR's Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan was updated in early 2022 and again at the beginning of 2023. The Guidance continues to caution against the forcible return of Afghans and advises that many Afghans – particularly women and girls - will have international protection needs.

As the security, humanitarian, human rights, and economic situation in Afghanistan has continued to deteriorate, combined with the difficult situation in host countries, outlined below, onward movement trends to Europe have also seen a significant increase. According to the EU Agency for Asylum, Afghans are the second largest group of asylum applicants in the group of 27 European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland. In 2022, the number of asylum applicants rose by 29 per cent from 2021 to about 129,000, the highest number since 2016. Ninety-two per cent of these were first time applicants. Worryingly, 15 per cent of these applications were lodged by reported unaccompanied minors (almost 20,000 individuals) and, while Afghan applications accounted for 13 per cent of overall applications in these countries, they accounted for nearly half of all reported unaccompanied minor applications, highlighting the increasing vulnerability of the population as well as the potential for exploitation of these minors as they make their journey.

While the Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RPRP) for 2021 focused on emergency preparedness, RRP 2022 increased its focus on existing populations in the neighbouring countries of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, including registered Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers, Afghans of varying statuses (including undocumented persons), host communities, and recent new arrivals.

Consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees and the **Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)**, the 2022 RRP adopted an area-based approach. This shift was conducted in recognition of a need for coordinated area-based investments in health, education, clean and renewable energy, vocational and entrepreneurship skills development, and social protection to support national systems and the progressive policies of the host governments, which benefit both refugees and their host communities. This approach also aimed to build the human capacity and resilience of Afghans and advance progress towards more durable solutions.

In host countries, the situation for Afghans hosted in the region remains difficult, as outlined below. Durable solutions remain limited but were pursued wherever possible in 2022 (outlined in detail under the Progress towards Regional Strategic Objective 2, below).

The humanitarian and protection outlook for Afghans in the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and their Iranian host communities are largely shaped by socio-economic dynamics, the situation in Afghanistan and displacement trends, as well as political conditions including those related to issuance of documentation and inclusion in national services. Limited international funding as well as constrained access to populations are factors which continue to impact the situation of Afghans and ability of partners to respond.

During 2022 the prevailing socio-economic situation in Iran had a disproportionate impact on the scale and scope of vulnerabilities of Afghans and Iranian host communities alike. In 2021/2022, Iran marked its third consecutive year where annual inflation exceeded 35 per cent, with the headline inflation rate reaching 54 per cent, its highest level for a decade. While policies of the GIRI enable Afghans with appropriate documentation to acquire Temporary Work Permits, the restrictions on types of work (limited to 3 manual labour-oriented job-categories) constrain income generation in an already unconducive labour market. According to a recent socio-economic survey of Afghans in Iran, 80 per cent of respondents reported that their incomes had decreased in the past year, while 95 per cent of respondents reported adopting harmful coping strategies over the last year, including borrowing money, deferring rent payments and non-enrolment of children in school. The proportion of households reporting acceptable food consumption levels has decreased from 73 per cent in 2021 to 59 per cent in 2022. Female headed households (FHH) suffered a higher deterioration in their food consumption scores than male headed households. The percentage of FHH with poor food consumption scores increased from 5 per cent in 2021 to 25 per cent in 2022. With the value of the Iranian Rial plunging against the USD, cost of living challenges are likely to continue to drive needs in 2023 and, without external support, recourse to harmful coping strategies can be expected to increase.

In 2022, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (GIRI) conducted a headcount exercise which was open to all undocumented populations in Iran, including new arrivals. Some 2.6 million Afghans enrolled in this exercise which provides them with a headcount slip and temporary protection from deportation. While a positive development, suggesting commitment to maintaining inclusive policies and identifying opportunities to provide documentation (and therefore facilitate predictable access to social services), there remains a lack of clarity around the ability of head-counted Afghans to regularize their stay in Iran past short-term validity which is currently extended in three-month increments without a longer-term plan being communicated, as well as around the rights and obligations attached to the headcount slip. GIRI estimates that there are an additional 500,000 undocumented Afghans in Iran who did not participate in the headcount, including new arrivals. This population remains at significant risk of deportation, with undocumented Afghans/ Afghans not carrying documentation targeted through 'round-up' operations by law enforcement authorities. This persists despite the continuation of UNHCR's non-return advisory. RRP partners will continue to monitor the protection situation and advocate for extension of temporary protection from deportation, increased access to rights and services, and regularization through documentation such as longer-term residency permits.

Pakistan is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. However, Pakistan has been generously hosting millions of Afghans for over 40 years with significant movements of Afghans over time in both directions. Currently, Pakistan hosts over 3 million Afghans and provides open access to both public health

and education services. Most refugees have exercised their freedom of movement and 68.4 per cent of refugees live in urban areas while 31.5 per cent live in refugee villages. Since most Afghan refugees and other Afghan nationals in Pakistan live in urban or semi-urban areas their daily lives intersect with members of the host community many of whom are also from the most vulnerable sections of society.

The situation for Afghans and vulnerable host communities in Pakistan has been exacerbated in the past year. Inflation in Pakistan reached 31.5 per cent in March 2023, its highest level since 1975. Most of the population work in the agricultural sector and prior to the floods and economic crisis were already suffering from high unemployment and vulnerability. According to the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, more than half of the refugees are in the category of extremely poor/ultra-poor. Compounding these difficulties, as witnessed in 2022, Pakistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. In July, torrential rains and flash-flooding began and the country received more than three times its usual rainfall during August. By the end of August, this had severely damaged housing, schools, and other communal buildings across much of the country. A total of 94 districts in Balochistan, Sindh, KP, and Punjab provinces were declared "calamity hit," with 46 of these districts hosting an estimated 800,000 Afghan refugees. Some 33 million people were affected by the monsoon floods and half a million displaced.

Pakistan. Afghan refugee children play close to the water supply pump at Kheshgi refugee village, Nowshera District, in Pakistan's north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. UNHCR supported refugees and host community members affected by the monsoon flooding with tents, sleeping mats, blankets, plastic sheeting, buckets, and kitchen sets. © UNHCR/Qaiser Khan Afridi

Tajikistan shares a 1,344km border with the north-eastern frontier of Afghanistan, with eight border crossing points. As of end-2022, Tajikistan hosted close to 10,000 refugees or people in a refugee-like situation. Nearly half arrived since the start of 2021 mainly by air, with a limited number arriving through the land border crossings. Most refugees and asylum-seekers reside in peri-urban areas near the capital Dushanbe, including the towns of Vahdat, Rudaki, Hissor as well as Jabbor Rasulov in Sughd province. Tajikistan has ratified several relevant international conventions — including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol — and has its own national refugee legislation. The Tajik Refugee Law is broadly in line with the international refugee law, and contemplates the core refugee definitions and basic rights, including principles of non-refoulement and non-penalisation for irregular entry. However, the situation in recent years has impacted the application of these in practice. The Tajik Government closed its border with Afghanistan in August 2021 and ceased the issuance of Tajik visas for Afghan nationals in Afghanistan. As such, only those individuals with an

existing valid Tajik visa were able to cross the border into Tajikistan. This policy, which views all population movements, including refugee movements, through national security lenses, with limited regard for protection-sensitive border management, has continued in 2022. This has significantly reduced the number of new arrivals, since only those who managed to get Tajik visas in transit countries were able to enter. There were 5,705 new arrivals in 2021 but only 21 in 2022. As such, access to territory has been restricted. Inconsistences between the Refugee Law and the country's Criminal Code provide additional hurdles. Despite the introduction of a non-penalization clause in the 2014 Refugee Law for asylum-seekers entering the country irregularly, the authorities still apply a restrictive approach to accessing Tajik territory. This approach is guided by the Criminal Code, which envisages detention and subsequent deportation for illegal border crossings. Such cases of refoulement often come to the attention of UNHCR post factum due to lack of access to the border by humanitarian partners. Since 2021, UNHCR has recorded multiple incidents of refugee detentions, forced returns and non-admission to territory for individuals in need of international protection, despite the presence of a non-return advisory highlighted above.

Uzbekistan shares a 144 km border with Afghanistan, with likely entry points for refugees being through the town of Hairaton in Afghanistan to Termez in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is not yet a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not yet have a national asylum system – there are no refugees or asylum-seekers registered with the government. Prior to mid-August 2021, Afghan passport holders could enter Uzbekistan on a tourist visa, however access has since been restricted to only those with education, business, or diplomatic visas. In November 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan reported via mass media that 13,020 Afghan citizens were in the country on short-term visas, of whom around 2,000 had valid visas as of July 2022. As of end 2022, it is estimated that 11,700 remain in Uzbekistan. Given the volatile situation in Afghanistan, the humanitarian community considers that they may need international protection. High living costs and limited opportunities for livelihoods have also worsened their socio-economic situation in the past year. In late 2016, Uzbekistan's new leadership started reforms to drive growth by re-engaging internationally and reorienting the public sector to provide quality services to its citizens. To achieve this ambition, Uzbekistan confirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and while significant gains have been made in recent years on labour rights, gender equality and human rights, more needs to be done to ensure inclusive rights-based development for all, especially people forced to flee.

Turkmenistan shares a 744km border with the northwest of Afghanistan. People of Turkmen ethnicity account for 2-3 per cent of the total population in Afghanistan – approximately 800,000 to 1.1 million people. Turkmenistan adopted its Law on Refugees in 1997 (last amended in 2017) and acceded to the Refugee Convention and its Protocol in 1998. Since the country established refugee Status Determination Procedures in 2009, however, no asylum-seeker has been registered with the government. Turkmenistan hosts 10 mandate refugees from Afghanistan (15 mandate refugees in total). UNHCR and partners advocate with the Government of Turkmenistan to find durable solutions for mandate refugees – several of whom have close family ties with the host country – through naturalization or granting of legal residence. In addition, Turkmenistan hosts some 5,000 Afghan nationals who have lived in scattered communities since the 1990s, according to unofficial sources from the Embassy of Afghanistan in Ashgabat and Afghan community leaders. The socio-economic situation of this population remains difficult, with inflation in reaching 17.5 per cent in 2022, its highest level since 1999. In addition, during 2022, reports of informal restrictions on basic freedoms of women increased, linked with the "re-traditionalization" of society. As a COVID-19 preventative measure, movement through Turkmenistan's borders was suspended in August 2020, with international flights gradually resuming in 2022. Border checkpoints are operational, but only those with valid passports and diplomatic, business or education visas can enter the country. Nonetheless, based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019, the Government of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Country Team continue to cooperate and coordinate on emergency preparedness and response measures.

Progress against Regional Strategic Objective 1

"Ensure coordinated efforts and support towards durable solutions, by enhancing conditions and community-based investments in line with the solutions outlined in the SSAR. The response will support the resilience of refugee and host communities, including through investments in key areas of national infrastructure like education and health and by supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities."

RRP 2022's first strategic objective represents one of the most significant evolutions from RRP 2021, with the expansion of coverage to include in-situ Afghan populations and host communities, as well as response for new arrivals and emergency preparedness for additional potential new arrivals, which was the focus of RRP 2021. Combined with the other Strategic Objectives, the addition brought RRP 2022 in line with the SSAR.[1]

In response to the increased number of Afghans seeking safety in neighbouring countries, the additional protection needs and vulnerabilities within the population, and the growing responsibilities on host States in the region, Resettlement capacity was scaled up, particularly in Iran and Pakistan. Key hosting operations in Asia and the pacific submitted over 9,000 Afghans for resettlement consideration in 2022, with 6,600 individuals submitted from Pakistan and Iran alone. This represents a significant increase from previous years and amounts to the highest totals from these countries in decades. However, the deterioration in the situation in Afghanistan which precipitated the increase in new arrivals since 2021, combined with the worsening situation in host countries means that, even with this scale up, the number of available spaces fell far short of UNHCR's estimation of required resettlement spaces for in 2022 (80,000). UNHCR operations in Asia and the pacific will seek to increase the number of resettlement submissions from the region in 2023 and beyond, though this goal remains dependent on continued commitments by resettlement States.

Inside Afghanistan, UNHCR has recorded over 1.3 million internally displaced Afghans who have already voluntarily returned since the end of the conflict (230,000 of these in 2022) but some 3.2 million people remain internally displaced by conflict. Outside Afghanistan, solutions remain more elusive. Despite UNHCR's non return advisory, voluntary returns to Afghanistan occurred on a small scale in 2022 with 6,000 registered Afghan refugees recorded voluntarily returning to Afghanistan from neighbouring countries during the year. These numbers represent an increase from 2021 levels but remain far lower than levels prior to the recent emergency. While solutions remain elusive, efforts to build the resilience of refugee and host communities have been scaled up in 2022 with investments in key areas of national infrastructure like education and health, to build capacity to ensure access for all population groups, encourage social cohesion, and support the continuation of host governments' inclusive policies.

In **Iran**, RRP partners contributed to the construction or rehabilitation of 54 schools (17 of which were newly constructed) and 15 health facilities, while a further 185 health facilities were supported through in-kind and financial assistance. Combined It is estimated that over 2million people may have indirectly benefited from the support partners provided to health and education services in the areas they are living. These interventions were prioritized in areas with a high concentration of refugees, where the needs of refugees and host communities intersect. For instance, over two-thirds of the schools supported through construction or rehabilitation are in the top two refugee-hosting provinces. By strengthening national systems, these interventions look to promote more sustainable solutions that strengthen the resilience of local communities, thereby benefitting Iranian host communities and Afghan refugees. Through the resettlement scale-up, 3,125 resettlement submissions were made for Afghans in Iran in 2022, more than three times the annual average over the past 20 years, but far short of overall needs.

[1] The Objectives of the SSAR are I). Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; II). Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and III). Preserving protection space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.

In **Pakistan,** RRP partners worked closely with the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), provincial Commissionerates and provincial Governments to maximize opportunities for solutions and the impact of interventions supporting resilience. Investments focused on key WASH, Health, and Education facilities and infrastructure which are critical to both host and refugee communities. By the end of 2022, RRP partners had supported some 2.2 million women, men, and children, 80 per cent of the people targeted in the 2022 plan, with one or more intervention, over half of those reached were women and girls. Some 3,500 Afghans were submitted for resettlement in 2022, which represents a quarter of total submissions from 2003 – 2022. While the scale-up is a hugely positive development, it demonstrates the extent to which the number of resettlement spaces available has been insufficient in the past and, due to the deteriorating situation and increasing needs, partners aim to increase this number in 2023.

In **Tajikistan**, RRP partners continued advocacy work with the Government on regularization of the legal status of refugees to ensure their basic socio-economic rights. To enhance the capacity of the local infrastructure and improve service delivery, inclusive of refugees, technical support was provided to several schools in Vahdat city, Rudaki district, and J.Rasulov district while four local hospitals and clinics in Vahdat and J.Rasulov were rehabilitated. Partnerships with the private sector were cultivated through joint apprenticeship programmes increasing capacity and providing a variety of entry points for economic inclusion. Partnerships in the textile, IT, and innovation industry sectors were expanded facilitating livelihoods and skills development opportunities including: job placements for 331 persons; engaging 278 refugees in apprenticeship schemes; serving 569 refugees with vocational training; providing 357 refugees with business training; providing start-up grants to 190 refugees; and providing 117 refugees with business start-up tool kits.

In **Uzbekistan**, Afghan citizens who do not have a valid passport and business, education, or diplomatic visa, have no access to social protection, healthcare, or legal employment. To expand opportunities for social integration and economic self-reliance, together with the Government and local organizations, RRP partners facilitated professional, vocational, and technical education and training programmes for 461 Afghan citizens in 2022, in areas such as sewing, hairdressing, manicuring, ICT, tourism, and agribusiness. Technical capacity of the Educational Centre for Training Afghan Citizens was expanded to facilitate this. Following the training, 413 Afghans and 194 Uzbek citizens were engaged in afforestation activities through cash-for-work – an initiative aligned with the National Afforestation programme, Yashil Makon. To strengthen community resilience, renovation works began at nine WASH and healthcare facilities, improving water wells and handwashing facilities, and installing solar heaters and water treatment systems. To build regional and district capacity of government partners on child protection and GBV, partners conducted training, developed Standard Operating Procedures, and provided equipment. For the small number of Afghan mandate refugees hosted by Uzbekistan (all pre-2006) RRP partners continued advocacy efforts with the Government to naturalise them.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Afghan population is mostly from the 1990s. This includes mandate refugees and some 5,000 other Afghan citizens. In 2005, Turkmenistan granted citizenship to 709 Afghans of Turkmen ethnicity. The remaining community members still have humanitarian needs, mostly linked to their legal status as non-citizens. Mandate refugees and Afghan citizens without legal status have no access to social protection, education, healthcare, or legal employment. RRP partners have continued advocacy with the Government to address this while also advocating to find durable solutions for mandate refugees through naturalization or granting residency – two were granted citizenship in 2022. To build national capacity, in 2022 RRP partners provided training for national entities – including police, healthcare, and social service providers – on multi-sectoral response to GBV, and development of guidance and Standard Operating Procedures for police on sensitivities when working with vulnerable women and girls, such as victims of domestic violence, and persons with disabilities.

Progress against Regional Strategic Objective 2

Situation Overview

"Support host governments to ensure access to asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, registration, and documentation."

UNHCR's updated Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan continues to emphasize the criticality of upholding asylum, cautioning against the forcible return of Afghans, and advising that many Afghans – particularly women and girls - will have international protection needs. During 2022 RRP partners across the region continued to advocate for all Afghans to have access to territory and asylum in accordance with international standards. Tight border control was maintained by neighbouring countries in 2022, limiting the ability of those leaving Afghanistan to do so regularly, often forcing them to cross through unofficial border crossings. RRP partners continue to advocate that the right to seek asylum can be upheld as part of required border controls. UNHCR's ability to register new arrivals has been limited in host countries. Upon arrival, people moving through irregular channels are at increased risk of deportation, which may be in contravention of the principle of non-refoulement, as highlighted in the above cited Guidance Note. This issue has been most prevalent in Iran where, as highlighted above, based on UNHCR's border monitoring partner data, an estimated 485,000 undocumented Afghans (average of 1,330 individuals daily) were deported from Iran through Islam Qala and Zaranj crossing points in 2022. No deportation of registered Afghans (PoR cardholders) was recorded in Pakistan in 2022. Some 1,500 undocumented Afghans were arrested and deported from Pakistan in 2022 on charges of infringing the Foreigner Act, 1946.

In **Iran,** an initiative by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (GIRI) to conduct a headcount exercise of undocumented Afghans, including new arrivals, resulted in the issuance of short-term documentation and a short term stay arrangement for at least 2.6 million Afghans. RRP partners continue to advocate for predictable longer-term approaches that enable Afghan populations regardless of documentation status to regularize their stay in Iran and to reduce ongoing deportations. Afghan individuals are being provided with information, counselling, and assistance to facilitate access to documentation and services provided by the Government, with the support of RRP partners. Targeted cash-based interventions and legal support, provided to a combined 11,380 individuals helped to address protection needs, including by enabling access to documentation and helping prevent the adoption of harmful coping strategies such as child labour. To identify protection concerns and barriers in accessing documentation and services, RRP partners continue to prioritize communication with communities. In 2022, at least 36,729 Afghans were individually counselled by RRP partners after approaching in person or via telephone, 75 per cent of whom were new arrivals and previously undocumented headcount participants. Community outreach initiatives provided individuals with information on a range of issues including partner and government services, access to documentation and work permits, hygiene awareness, and parenting skills. Additionally, to maintain dignity, wellbeing, safety, and uphold basic rights of Afghan girls, boys, women, and men, especially those in situations of vulnerability and heightened risk, specialized and targeted interventions such as child protection and gender-based violence focused case management, psychosocial support, and cash-based interventions were implemented by RRP partners.

In Pakistan, partners worked closely with the Government of Pakistan (GOP), to progress this objective within a complex and highly sensitive political environment. Pakistan has a decades-long history of providing refuge and protection to Afghan refugees. In the absence of a national asylum law, its policy and response are predominantly based on administrative measures. UNHCR's supervisory role vis-à-vis refugee protection is acknowledged by a Cooperation Agreement from 1993. There is no national legislation specifically referring to the right to seek asylum or to the principle of non-refoulement. However, registered Afghan refugees have been exempted from the application of provisions of the

Foreigners Act (1946) and the principle of non-refoulement has been upheld by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) vis-à-vis registered refugees. In particular, the commitment of the GOP to ensure data confidentiality of Afghan refugees and to ensure that returns to Afghanistan are conducted in conditions of voluntariness, safety, and dignity has been consistently reflected in Government policies and approaches. Nonetheless, maintaining protection space against the background of a deteriorating economic situation, inflation, and the impact of the floods, remained a challenge.

A major achievement in 2022 was the finalization of the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise conducted by the Government of Pakistan in conjunction with UNHCR, having identified almost 1.3 million refugees with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, verifying and updating refugee data, delivering them new smartcards and documenting 141,000 unregistered members of registered families. Eleven Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) Centers have been opened to support continuous registration. Following the success of the DRIVE exercise, in 2023 the Government, in conjunction with IOM, is exploring the possibility to conduct a verification exercise for the Afghan Citizen Card population, also expected to be open to undocumented Afghans.

In Tajikistan, as highlighted above, authorities continue to view population movements, including refugee movements, through national security lenses, with limited regard for protection-sensitive border management. This has significantly reduced access to territory, asylum, and protection, reducing the number of new arrivals from 5,705 in 2021 to 21 in 2022. On a positive note, following sustained advocacy including a visit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to Tajikistan, the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure was resumed. Since 17 March 2022, 1,860 asylum seekers have been granted refugee status in Tajikistan. In addition, as part of a commitment to support drafting a new law on Refugees, a taskforce consisting of Tajik Parliament members and UNHCR was established to develop a joint work plan. A training session has been provided for Parliament on refugees and international protection, as well as consultations with authorities from other countries on best practices in asylum policy to ensure that the draft law follows international standards. The finalized draft law is expected to be completed in early 2023. In addition, the Department on Citizenship and Work with Refugees (DCWR) was assisted in developing a database, to improve data processing on refugees and asylum seekers, with further training and technical assistance also provided. There have also been some positive amendments made to the Law on Refugees in relation to the right to employment for asylum-seekers, principles of non-discrimination, family reunification, confidentiality as well as prioritised protection of vulnerable individuals and exclusion clauses that are in line with the 1951 Convention.

Uzbekistan is not yet a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not yet have a national asylum system. The only existing legal avenue is the 2017 Presidential Decree on Political Asylum, however there is no procedure or mechanism in place for its implementation. As an interim measure, the humanitarian community and partners have offered the Government support to apply the 2017 Presidential Decree to register and document persons seeking international protection as asylum-seekers. This interim arrangement would enable Afghans in the country to legalise their stay and access essential rights and services, and it would provide the government with information on the needs of the population. In 2022, humanitarian partners facilitated a roundtable meeting on interim arrangements and referral mechanisms and commissioned and presented the findings of a legal analysis to support Uzbekistan's considerations to accede the Refugee Convention and Protocol and establish as asylum procedure.

In Turkmenistan, following strict COVID-19 measures, Turkmenistan's borders remained closed for much of 2022. Upon re-opening, border checkpoints operated as before – only those with valid passports and diplomatic, business or education visas able to enter the country. In 1998, Turkmenistan acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. It last amended its national Law on Refugees in 2017. In 2009, the country established Refugee Status Determination procedures, however, no asylum-seeker has been registered with the Government since then. Nonetheless, according to the country's legislation on refugees, potential asylum-seekers would be granted access to registration and national asylum procedures. Ensuring unhindered access to the territory and quality asylum procedures, including adequate referral mechanisms, remain priority advocacy points for RRP partners.

Progress against Regional Strategic Objective 3

"Provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to targeted populations, anchoring the response in government systems wherever possible in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, paying particular attention to the needs of children, youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs."

In **Iran**, partners targeted the most vulnerable populations through a combination of in-kind and cash-based assistance as well as tailored services. Consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), this included targeted assistance to support vulnerable populations in overcoming barriers to accessing inclusive public services. Over 120,000 Afghans, including those with specific vulnerabilities and underlying health conditions, were supported through fully subsidized access to Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI), which covers costs associated with a broad range of health services provided at government health facilities. Such interventions not only support immediate health outcomes by facilitating access to services which may otherwise be beyond the financial means of households, but also reduce the likelihood of recourse to harmful coping strategies. Similarly, over 28,000 primary and secondary school children and their families were supported with cash for educational purposes, helping them cover education-related costs and mitigating the risk of drop out. Support to livelihoods, although limited, was also a key pillar of the response, with over 14,000 individuals - over half of whom were women - supported through income generation, vocational/ skills training, or business mentoring. Although seeking to build resilience and invest in more sustainable solutions wherever possible, targeted cash and in-kind assistance was also provided to the most vulnerable population to address immediate needs. This included NFIs, including CRI, and winterization kits to 16,000 individuals, multi-purpose cash to 32,000 individuals and hygiene kits to 93,000 households. Inside settlements, RRP partners prioritized the upgrade and rehabilitation of infrastructure, ensuring that residents can live in a safe and dignified environment.

Iran. Health Post in Qom - Refugee Doctor attending a refugee child: Baghiyatallah health center is in a refugee hosting area in Qom city where both refugees and the host community benefit from the free-of-charge and inclusive primary health care services. © UNHCR/ Hossein Eidizadeh

In **Pakistan**, RRP response activities were greatly scaled up in 2022, in recognition of the increase in needs. Combined with the deteriorating economic situation that many Afghans and vulnerable members of host communities find themselves in, the floods witnessed in the summer of 2022 had a devastating impact on these populations. Forty-one of the "calamity hit" districts host an estimated 800,000 Afghan refugees, with two thirds of these hosted in just four districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh provinces. In response to the increased needs, RRP partners scaled up their activities and multi-sectoral interventions in Pakistan through the RRP supported some 2.7 million women, men and children, or 80 percent of the people targeted, through at least one intervention. Key response achievements included: over 1.4 million people reached with WASH; 727,000 people were reached with protection services; 270,100 children and pregnant or breastfeeding women provided with nutritional assistance; 129,000 people provided with access to education services; 873,000 persons supported to access health facilities. In addition, the RRP 2022 supported the improvement of the environmental footprint of refugees through the provision of energy efficient cooking stoves to 312,000 persons. Sensitivity to gender disparities across Pakistan, which are exacerbated by social and cultural norms in many of the most economically vulnerable districts, was prioritized in response interventions as well as attention to disabilities. A heightened focus was given to increasing women and girls' access to health and education facilities and community decision-making processes. For example, 80 per cent of primary school-aged students who received CBI for educational purposes were girls and 81 per cent of secondary school-aged students supported to access non formal education (ALP, accelerated education, literacy programs) were girls. Nonetheless, Gender disparities have contributed to lower education access and skill levels among women and girl refugees.

In **Tajikistan**, partners contended with limited funding in 2022, as in other countries in Central Asia. However, within the resources available, some key achievements include: the distribution of 2,200 food packages on a quarterly basis; distribution of 1,025 hygiene kits; rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure and education facilities in refugee hosting communities; rehabilitation of a health point in Balkhi temporary accommodation site; and the distribution of medicines for 170 refugees with disabilities and chronic diseases. Under the Education program, 1,200 school children were assisted with education needs including school uniforms and school supplies while 200 of the most vulnerable individuals were supported with the procurement of textbooks. In addition, UNHCR's National NGO-partners continued to provide legal aid and outreach services across the nation. During 2022, partnerships were developed with key Government actors, including the President's Executive Apparatus, the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Passport Registration Service (PRS), the Justice Ministry, and the President's State Statistics Agency, in the context of statelessness.

In **Uzbekistan**, in June 2022, in accordance with a Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Termez Cargo Centre in Surkhandarya region, bordering Afghanistan, was given the status of an International Multifunctional Transport and Logistics Hub for Humanitarian Assistance. This has allowed the logistic hub to become a crucial part of the Afghan situation response both inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries for several agencies. In 2022, most Afghan citizens approaching RRP partners reported issues related to economic hardship, and lack of access to legal employment, medical services, and other basic rights. In response, partners provided a variety of counselling services to 400 Afghans including legal counselling, psychosocial support, social counselling, and assisted 200 Afghan children to enrol in school. Partners provided training in psychosocial support and legal aid to government authorities, resulting in over 100 cases being referred to relevant agencies for appropriate and necessary response by the end of 2022. Additionally, partners trained over 500 education and psychosocial professionals to identify, respond to, and refer child protection issues, and distributed vouchers and in-kind support to hundreds of families in need during winter. Finally, capacity building activities were conducted with 85 religious leaders and over 3,000 service provider staff through cascade training on sexual and reproductive health and gender issues.

In **Turkmenistan**, key response activities included the operation of hotlines to identify and refer cases of GBV for further multisectoral support – such as psychosocial counselling and legal assistance – and engaging men in GBV prevention and promotion of gender equality efforts. RRP partners prepositioned: WASH and Dignity Kits for 300 families, superstructures kit for latrine slabs, double cubicles for communal latrines, as well as Early Childhood Development Kits

to provide young children with access to play and learning – essential to help restore a sense of normalcy in emergencies, including refugee influx. Capacity building sessions were delivered for government counterparts, including an online lecture on emergency preparedness and response in accordance with international protection standards for representatives of authorities which would be involved in the event of an influx of refugees.

Progress against Regional Strategic Objective 4

"Reinforce government efforts to ensure that emergency preparedness and response measures are put in place to respond to potential new arrivals."

In **Iran**, building on the significant emergency preparedness and response interventions supported in 2021, including the prepositioning of basic in-kind assistance for up to 150,000 persons, RRP 2022 partners adopted a hybrid approach to respond to new arrivals. As part of this approach, limited support was provided to settlement construction and expansion, both to assist the most vulnerable, including potentially supporting the registration of residents, and providing contingency capacity in case of a deterioration in the situation (i.e., an increase in cross-border arrivals). This included the construction of 136 transitional shelters and the preparation of 402 emergency shelter plots (110 of which will be upgraded to transitional shelters) in the new Niatak settlement in Sistan and Baluchestan. In addition, 300 shelters in Torbat-e-Jam were rehabilitated to accommodate approximately 300 newly arrived households who were previously accommodated in a site in Fariman, 80 km south of Mashhad. Like the in-situ population, most new arrivals reside outside settlements in/ around urban centres. In response to increasing needs identified in 2022, RRP partners supported 32,000 households (176,000 individuals), mostly new arrivals, through multi-purpose cash assistance. In addition, considering the concentration of Afghans in urban centres and as explained above, partners prioritized support to inclusive services/ national systems as part of a more sustainable approach to covering the needs of vulnerable populations.

Iran. Kerman - CRI distribution to flood affected families, UNHCR and BAFIA distributing core relief items to flood affected refugee and Iranian families in Yazd. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Daryadel

In Pakistan, partners worked closely with federal and provincial counterparts to identify areas of emergency preparedness for climate-related disasters and any potential needs of newly vulnerable populations. RRP partners contributed to contingency planning workshops run by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) across the country. Community capacity building efforts and protection and resilience training complimented these efforts to support government-led preparedness planning. This work was conducted before the onset of the flood emergency and was incorporated into the Flood emergency response, especially in areas where refugees were impacted. Information campaigns, and service mapping activities improved community awareness of services available to vulnerable families regardless of status. Meanwhile, training sessions were provided on referral pathways for responding agencies, in close collaboration with line ministries and with provincial officials.

In **Tajikistan**, in 2022, UNHCR reinforced its collaboration with government agencies and humanitarian partners on emergency preparedness and joint advocacy with the UN Country Team, international and national humanitarian and development actors, international financial institutions and the diplomatic community to provide more effective support to refugees and asylum seekers. In close coordination with the Government and other UN Agencies, UNHCR completed construction works at the Jaloliddin Balkhi area and handed over the temporary accommodation site for 500 refugees to the government. RRP partners have prepositioned food, tents, NFI, medical kits, nutrition, and other essential assistance in preparation for a potential influx in this area. While there has been no influx, partners continue to develop local service capacities in the neighbouring community, in an area-based approach, to be able to absorb increased demand in the event of an influx.

In **Uzbekistan**, in the absence of an influx, RRP partners focused on preparedness and capacity strengthening efforts, supporting the Government to meet the critical needs of Afghan citizens already in the country, as well as vulnerable members of the host community. To strengthen the local healthcare system's capacity to respond to emergencies, modern life-saving and diagnostic medical equipment was procured for the regional children's hospital, as well as six ambulances for districts bordering Afghanistan, each pre-installed with medical equipment. To build capacity of government partners, RRP partners conducted training sessions and provided tablet computers, preinstalled with modules for conducting needs assessments and social support programmes in emergencies. Given the volatile situation inside Afghanistan, RRP partners continue to offer support to Uzbekistan to ensure that civilians fleeing persecution and violence have safe and unhindered access to its territory, are not forcibly returned at the border, and are treated in accordance with the principles of national and international law.

In **Turkmenistan**, in September 2021 the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a matrix of support that the UN system would be able to offer in case of an influx of refugees from Afghanistan. The matrix included details of technical support, in-kind contributions, and support for activities to be implemented with national authorities and the National Red Crescent Society across six sectors.

The Government of Turkmenistan expressed willingness to work with the UN in case of a refugee emergency. No influx from Afghanistan has been witnessed in 2022 but limited preparedness actions continue to be put in place. The assumption remains that in case of refugee movement, only authorities and the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan would have access to the displaced people in the early stages. As such, RRP partners focused on consolidating partnerships with the National Red Crescent Society for emergency preparedness and targeted, multi-sectoral humanitarian response. In the event of an influx, sector working groups could be activated as required.

Turkmenistan. UNICEF and the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan signed a Humanitarian Contingency Programme document to facilitate emergency coordination, preparedness, and response. @UNICEF Turkmenistan

Gaps and challenges

While the RRP response across the region scaled up significantly in 2022, some hurdles continue to be witnessed in terms of policies not conducive to a favourable environment for persons who may be in need of international protection.

In Iran, access challenges continued to impede effective needs identification and response. Direct and unimpeded access to beneficiaries, including to conduct structured needs-assessments and to identify age, gender, and diversity specific concerns, remained restricted which precluded a comprehensive understanding around the distribution and situation of target populations and their vulnerabilities, while also hampering community-based interventions. The socialization of key principles, particularly around accountability to affected populations and community-based protection, are critical in developing a more conducive operating and positive protection environment.

Linked to the above, government interlocutors continued to prioritize some types of interventions as well as population groups defined by documentation status over others. There remained a strong preference for construction/ infrastructure-based activities, over service provision, (community-based) protection and longer-term programming. Similarly, government interlocutors continued to prioritize Amayesh card holders for certain key types of assistance, leaving gaps in other types of assistance and service delivery for undocumented as well as headcount slip holders and those with other stay arrangements, despite significant humanitarian and protection needs for these populations. Additional emphasis on leveraging investments in infrastructure to advance broader sectoral and protection outcomes is needed, including by promoting more integrated interventions (e.g., school construction becomes part of an indivisible package of education and multi-sectoral interventions) and expansion of target groups for multi-sectoral support.

With a few exceptions, most RRP partners lacked office/ field presence outside of Tehran, negatively impacting opportunities to scale-up in border provinces with a high concentration of Afghan populations and/or weakening monitoring and oversight of interventions. At a procedural level, despite some improvements, bureaucratic bottlenecks delayed the signing of partnership agreements with line ministries, local NGOs, and BAFIA thus also delaying implementation.

Inflation remained a persistent challenge that disrupted plans and contributed to further delays in implementation. For instance, rising costs of materials discouraged contractors from engaging in tendering processes (limiting competition) or required a subsequent renegotiation of the terms of a tendering agreement, in turn delaying implementation. Furthermore, the ongoing depreciation of the Iranian Rial, with the value of the currency falling by 110 per cent against the USD in the 11 months until March 2023, contributed to funding shortfalls and a divergence between plans and actual implementation capacity. As in 2021, partners sought to mitigate the impact of high inflation and the devaluation of the IRR by adopting a combination of local and international procurement to find the best value for money.

In Pakistan, both Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities have been facing multiple stresses and shocks since 2020 such as extreme weather events due to climate change, COVID-19, crop and livestock pests and diseases, an economic downturn, and high inflation. The 2022 flash floods have created additional vulnerabilities for host and refugee communities in respect of food security and livelihoods. Most refugees are engaged in un-skilled labour in the informal sector, mainly as daily wage labourers in the transport, construction, or agriculture sectors. Notably, these sectors are particularly vulnerable to the external shocks mentioned above. Livelihoods and food security activities for refugees were not well-funded in 2022 and progress towards sector objectives was limited. Additional focus in terms of advocacy and fund raising in these areas will be needed in 2023.

Access to services remains different for PoR holders, ACC holders, and undocumented Afghans, the latter of whom have significantly less access to services. ACCs were designed to have time-limited validity and do not confer guaranteed access to public services such as education and healthcare. Further, ACC holders and undocumented persons do not have the right to hold formal employment, open a bank account or purchase a SIM card, factors that complicate the provision of assistance and the updating of their status.

Ensuring that the population has dignified, sustainable shelter that is not at risk during extreme weather events remains a challenge and efforts to address this in 2022 were limited by a lack of funding among other constraints. For example, rental and deed agreements for refugees in Pakistan are often done through informal arrangements which put them at a disadvantage, with the possibility of exploitation and premature eviction, which particularly impacts refugee women and children.

While the RRP was better funded in Pakistan than other countries in 2022, significant challenges were experienced with coordination of refugee related programming against a background of the national emergency as a result of the floods. UNHCR, as the lead agency in the refugee response, continues to work closely with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), who is leading the flood emergency response, and the sector leads on both flood response and contingency planning.

In Tajikistan, access to territory continued to be a challenge, with a closed border policy strictly implemented by the Government. The resumption of deportations of Afghan nationals from mid-August to September 2022, including deportation of those possessing valid refugee cards and asylum seeker certificates, was a negative development. Moreover, UNHCR and its legal partners could not verify the presence of the procedural safeguards/court orders or to conduct due diligence in the process of deportations. Referral mechanisms for asylum seekers require further operationalization by the Border Guards Service of the State Committee on National Security. Greater support is needed in the spheres of education, cash assistance, medical care, and livelihoods to cover the growing needs of the asylum seekers and refugees. In addition, there is a continuous need to capacitate the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES), Border Guards, and other state counterparts with both soft and hardware components to enhance emergency response capability. A Joint Refugee Emergency Response Action Plan has been prepared by humanitarian partners and is pending endorsement from the Government.

In Uzbekistan, the absence of a national asylum system is an ongoing challenge. All refugees who attempted to apply for asylum in 2022 through the 2017 Presidential Decree on Political Asylum reported not being able to lodge applications. Visa issuance remains a significant problem for Afghan citizens, including technicalities of how to access visa renewal, and official and unofficial costs involved – the visa renewal fee is US$120 per person, for three months. Those without valid visas cannot access education or medical services, and some are not issued exit visas to leave Uzbekistan. Afghans who cannot afford visa renewals, run out of pages in their visas, or turn 16 and need a new visa, must leave the country – at risk to their lives and safety. The prices of food, fuel and rented accommodation significantly increased in cities in the past year, worsening the socio-economic situation of Afghans who are already marginalised. In 2022, direct funding to RRP partners in Uzbekistan was very limited but participating agencies implemented response activities within the limited resources available, aided by softly earmarked funding to the Afghan situation as a whole.

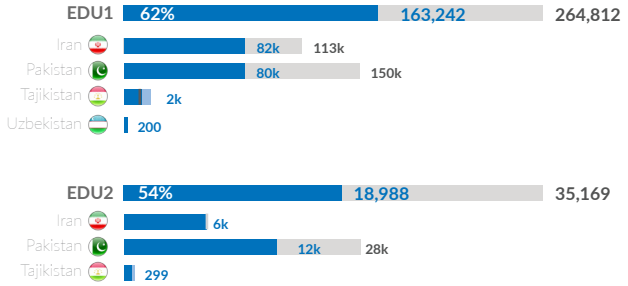
Turkmenistan remains closed to Afghan citizens who do not have a valid passport with a business, education, or diplomatic visa. Afghan nationals in Turkmenistan who do not have legal status experience problems accessing employment, healthcare, education, and other social services. Children born to non-Turkmen citizens cannot obtain passports and face restrictions in accessing higher education. Afghans who have a visa issued by the Migration Service of Turkmenistan and Embassy of Afghanistan in Turkmenistan must pay all taxes and fees in US dollars, which is a particular challenge in Turkmenistan where the unofficial market exchange rate can be more than six times the official rate. Reaching almost 17.5 per cent in 2022 – its highest level since 1999 – inflation is having a serious impact, despite government subsidies, with the escalating prices of basic items including food, requiring constant monitoring of vulnerable Afghan and host community households' conditions. As there has been no refugee influx into Turkmenistan, partners have not received any direct funding through the RRP.

Regional Key Achievements

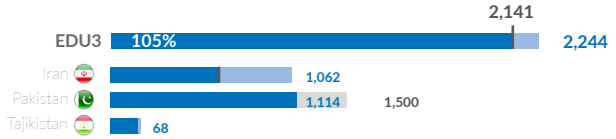
Actual | Annual Target | Above Target

EDUCATION

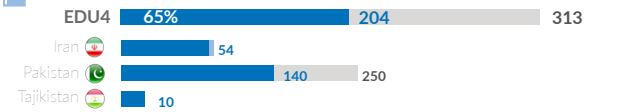
182,230 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access **primary** (163,242 children) & **secondary** (18,988 children) education



2,244 Afghan students supported to access **tertiary** education

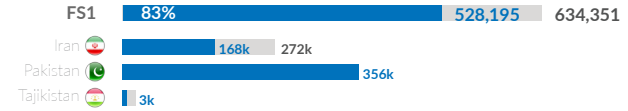


204 educational facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**



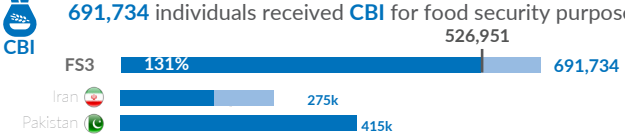
FOOD SECURITY

528,195 individuals received **in-kind food assistance**



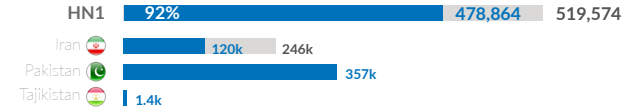
3 Post Distribution Monitoring (**PDM**) conducted in Iran(Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Tajikistan

691,734 individuals received **CBI** for food security purposes

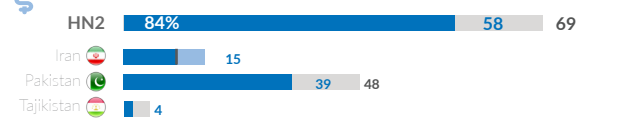


HEALTH AND NUTRITION

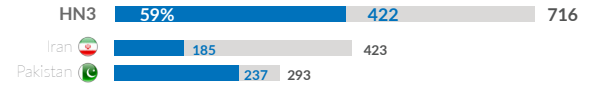
478,864 Afghans supported to access **secondary** and **tertiary** healthcare services



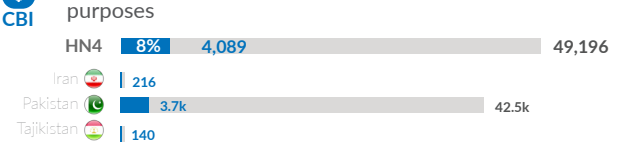
58 health facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**



422 health facilities supported with **equipment, medicines and medical supplies, salaries**

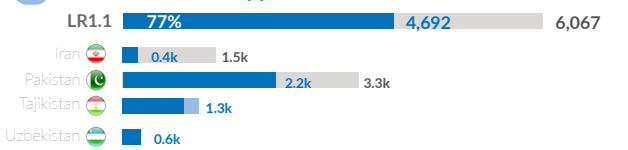


4,089 individuals received **CBI** for health and nutrition purposes

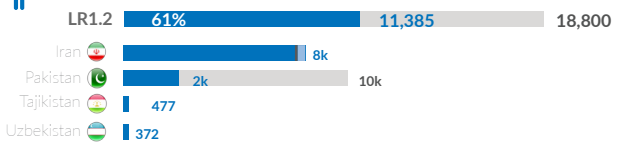


LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

4,692 individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses**



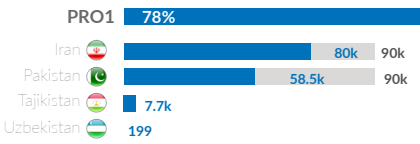
11,385 individuals benefited from **vocational training**



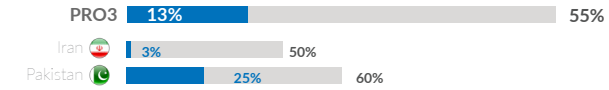
Actual | Annual Target | Above Target

PROTECTION

146,803 persons accessed **feedback and response mechanisms** (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)



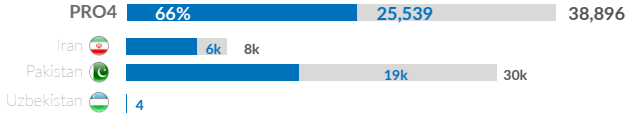
13% of newly identified children at heightened risk supported by a Best Interests Procedure (**BIP**)



All sectors included **GBV risk mitigation** actions in their response plans

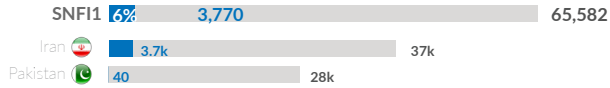
Note: Assessment conducted only in Pakistan

25,539 individuals received **CBI** for protection related purposes

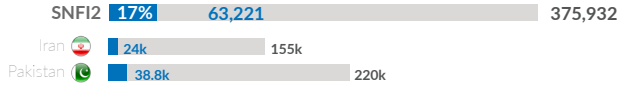


SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

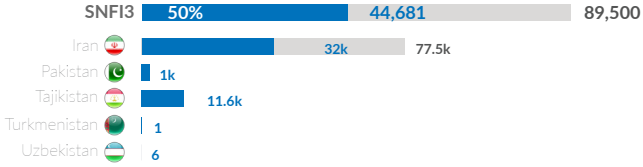
3,770 individuals received **CBI** for shelter/NFI purposes



63,221 individuals provided with **core relief items**, including winterization assistance

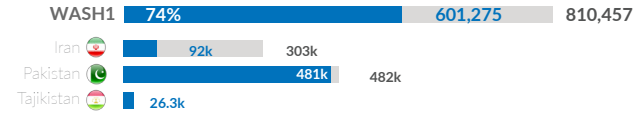


44,681 individuals received **Multi Purpose Cash Assistance** (unconditional)

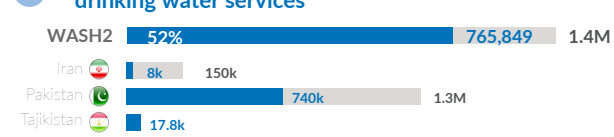


WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

601,275 persons received **hygienic supplies**



765,849 people reached with **improved access to basic drinking water services**



Iran (Islamic Republic of) Key Achievements

Actual *Annual Target* *Above Target*

EDUCATION

86,693 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access primary (80,243 children) & secondary (6,450 children) education

EDU1 71% 80,243 113,512

EDU2 99.5% 6,450 6,481

Afghan students supported to access tertiary education

EDU3 177% 600 1,062

# of educational facilities constructed or rehabilitated

EDU4 106% 51 54

FOOD SECURITY

CBI

# of individuals who received CBI for food security purposes

FS3 248% 111,500 276,283

# of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted

FS2 1

# of individuals who received in-kind food assistance

FS1 62% 168,258 272,000

Note: WFP reported to have provided food assistance to 168,258 individuals monthly. The total number of unique beneficiaries reached by WFP is estimated to 32,082.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

of Afghans supported to access secondary and tertiary healthcare services

HN1 49% 120,000 246,476

# of health facilities constructed or rehabilitated

HN2 100% 14 15

# of health facilities supported with equipment, medicines and medical supplies, salaries

HN3 44% 185 423

CBI

# of individuals who received CBI for health and nutrition purposes

HN4 72% 216 300

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

of individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind support to establish their own businesses

LR1.1 30% 433 1,500

# of individuals benefiting from vocational training

LR1.2 104% 8,000 8,280

PROTECTION

% of newly identified children at heightened risk supported by a Best Interests Procedure (BIP)

PRO1 3% (133 children) 50%

# of GBV survivor receiving specialized services in and outside of womens community centres and womens and girls safe / friendly spaces

PRO10 741

CBI

# of individuals who received CBI for protection related purposes

PRO3 78% 6,349 8,096

persons accessed feedback and response mechanisms (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)

PRO4 89% 80,389 90,350

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

CBI

# of individuals who received CBI for shelter/NFI purposes

SNFI1 10% 3,730 37,300

# of individuals provided with core relief items, including winterization assistance

SNFI2 16% 24,371 155,892

32,069 individuals received Multi Purpose Cash Assistance (unconditional)

SNFI3 41% 32,069 77,500

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

of individuals who received hygienic supplies

WASH1 31% 92,903 504,488

# of people reached with improved access to basic drinking water services

WASH2 5% 8,144 150,000

Pakistan Key Achievements

Actual *Annual Target* *Above Target*

EDUCATION

92,848 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access **primary** (80,609 children) & **secondary** (12,239 children) education

EDU1	54%	80,609	150,000
EDU2	43%	12,239	28,438

Afghan students supported to access **tertiary** education

EDU3	74%	1,114	1,500

# of educational facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

EDU4	56%	140	250

FOOD SECURITY

of individuals who received **in-kind food assistance**

FS1	100%		356,351

# of Post Distribution Monitoring (**PDM**) conducted

FS2			1

CBI

# of individuals who received **CBI** for food security purposes

FS3	100%		415,451

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

of Afghans supported to access **secondary** and **tertiary** healthcare services

HN1	131%	272,311	357,380

# of health facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

HN2	81%	39	48

# of health facilities supported with equipment, medicines and medical supplies, salaries

HN3	76%	224	293

CBI

# of individuals who received **CBI** for health and nutrition purposes

HN4	9%	3,733	42,576

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

of individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses**

LR1.1	66%	2,234	3,387

# of individuals benefiting from **vocational training**

LR1.2	22%	2,256	10,350

PROTECTION

% of newly identified children at heightened risk supported by a Best Interests Procedure (**BIP**)

PRO1	25%		60%

% of sectors that included **GBV risk mitigation** actions in their response plans

PRO2			100%

CBI

# of individuals who received **CBI** for protection related purposes

PRO3	59%	19,186	30,800

persons accessed **feedback and response mechanisms** (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)

PRO4	65%	58,514	90,703

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

of households provided with **core relief items**, including winterization assistance

SNFI2	18%	7,770	44,008

# of households provided with **shelter upgrades** and **shelter repairs***

SNFI5	4%	1,490	36,250

957 individuals who received **Multi Purpose Cash Assistance** (unconditional)

SNFI3		957	N/A

* *country level indicator*

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

of persons who received **hygienic supplies**

WASH1	100%	481,104	482,019

# of people reached with improved **access to basic drinking water services**

WASH2	57%	739,871	1,295,652

Tajikistan Key Achievements

Actual *Annual Target* *Above Target*

EDUCATION

2,489 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access **primary** (2,190 children) & **secondary** (299 children) education

EDU1 168% 1,300 2,190

EDU2 119% 250 299

Afghan students supported to access **tertiary** education

EDU3 165% 41 68

# of educational facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

EDU4 100% 10

# of educational facilities supported in-kind with school furniture and equipment.

EDU5 90% 9 10

FOOD SECURITY

of individuals who received **in-kind food assistance**

FS1 61% 3,666 6,000

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH

of individuals who received **Multi Purpose Cash Assistance** (unconditional)

SNFI3 97% 11,648 12,000

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

of Afghans supported to access **secondary** and **tertiary** healthcare services

HN1 189% 787 1,484

# of health facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

HN2 80% 4 5

CBI

# of individuals who received **CBI** for health and nutrition purposes

HN4 56% 140 250

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

of persons who received **hygienic supplies**

WASH1 100% 26,353

# of people reached with improved **access to basic drinking water services**

WASH2 100% 17,834

of **WASH** and **Sanitation facilities** constructed

WASH3 100% 22

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

of individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses**

LR1.1 118% 1,180 1,398

# of individuals benefiting from **vocational training**

LR1.2 106% 450 477

PROTECTION

persons accessed **feedback and response mechanisms** (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)

PRO4 96% 7,738 8,000

LOGISTICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1 warehouse maintained for safe storage of relief items in Termez, Uzbekistan

104 housing units stored in Termez, Uzbekistan, were donated through the interagency Tajikistan response to the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan

Uzbekistan Key Achievements

EDUCATION

200 Afghan children supported to access **primary** education

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

6 **ambulances** handed over to districts bordering Afghanistan, each pre-installed with medical equipment

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

607 individuals supported with **business grants, cash for work** to establish their own businesses

10 individuals received in **kind support** to establish their own businesses

461 Afghans and host community members reached with **vocational**, and **technical education** and **training programmes** in areas such as sewing, hairdressing, manicuring, ICT, tourism, and agribusiness.

PROTECTION

3,159 service provider staff capacitated on **GBV prevention**

500 education and psychosocial professionals trained to identify, respond to, and refer **child protection issues**

400 Afghans supported with **legal counselling, psychosocial support, social counselling**

199 persons accessed **feedback and response mechanisms** (calls to hotline, messages to mailbox, or in-person approach)

2 trainings on **psychosocial support** and **legal aid** to government authorities

1 **roundtable** meeting organized to support Uzbekistan's considerations to accede the **Refugee Convention and Protocol** and establish as asylum procedure.

Turkmenistan Key Achievements

EDUCATION

10 **Early Childhood Development kits** prepositioned for families in case of emergency

Note : Each kit is designed to reach up to 50 children

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH

400 vulnerable Afghan households (**2,000 individuals**) reached with **cash based interventions** (CBI)

PROTECTION

2 **GBV hotlines** operated

3 training on **GBV prevention** provided to national entities (299 personnel from police and social services)

1 training on emergency **response to potential Refugee Influx** provided to national entities

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

300 **WASH/Dignity kits** prepositioned for families in case of emergency

Note:

Due to limited funding and capacity among partners in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, a light planning process was undertaken, and targets are not available.

Coordination Structure in RRP countries

In support of host government-led response, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in a collaborative manner with authorities, UN agencies, civil society, as well as refugees and host communities. In total, 40 partners joined the RRP in 2022 as part of the interagency response across the five countries. Individual sectors at country level are led by different actors based on their comparative advantage, as outlined below

Active sector
Non-Active sector

	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Pakistan (Islamic Republic of)	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
EDUCATION	UNICEF / NRC	UNICEF / GoP	UNICEF	UNICEF	UNICEF
FOOD SECURITY	WFP/ NRC	WFP, FAO/ GoP	-	-	-
HEALTH AND NUTRITION	WHO / UNHCR UNICEF	WHO/ GoP	WHO	UNICEF	UNICEF / UNFPA
LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE	RI/ UNHCR	WFP/ FAO	WFP/ FAO	UNHCR	UNDP/ UNICEF
LOGISTICS AND TELECOMMUNI-CATIONS	WFP/ UNHCR	-	WFP	-	UNICEF
PROTECTION	UNHCR	UNHCR/ GoP	UNHCR	UNHCR	UNHCR
CHILD PROTECTION	UNICEF	UNICEF / GoP	UNICEF	UNICEF	UNICEF
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	UNFPA	UNFPA/ GoP	UNFPA	UNFPA	UNFPA
SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)	UNHCR / NRC	UNHCR / GoP	UNHCR	UNHCR	UNHCR
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	UNICEF / NRC	UNICEF / GoP	UNICEF	UNICEF	UNICEF

GoP ; Government of Pakistan, **NRC** : Norvegian Refugee Council, **RI** : Relief International

NOTE :

1. Protection sector has 2 Areas of Responsability (AoR) which falls under it - CP (led by UNICEF) and GBV (led by UNFPA)
2. **Iran.** Health is one sector; Nutrition falls under Health but has been configured as an AoR with a dedicated coordinator

Funding and Partnerships

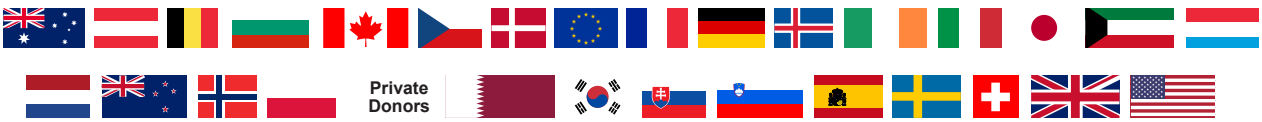
RRP 2022 partners: the following 40 partners participated as directly appealing partners in the response across the 5 countries (16 UN agencies and 24 NGOs), a significant increase from 11 partners for RRP 2021: Action Against Hunger - Pakistan |Aga Khan Agency for Habitat | Bunyad Literacy & Community Council | CARE International in Pakistan | Concern Worldwide | Cooperazione e Sviluppo | Federation Handicap International | Friends Welfare Association | Help in need | Hundreds of Original projects for Employment | International Consortium for Refugees in Iran | International Rescue Committee | Intersos | Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi Japan | Médecins Sans Frontières | Norwegian Refugee Council | Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education | Participatory Rural Development Society | Relief International | Save the Children | Society for Human Advancement for Outreach Resource Pakistan | Special Talent Exchange Program | UN - Food and Agriculture Organization | UN - International Labour Organization | UN - International Organization for Migration | UN - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | UN - United Nations Children's Fund | UN - United Nations Development Programme | UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | UN - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women | UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | UN - United Nations Human Settlement Programme | UN - United Nations Industrial Development Organization | UN - United Nations Office for Project Services | UN - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | UN - United Nations Population Fund | UN - World Food Programme | UN - World Health Organization | Voluntary Service Overseas | Women Empowerment Organization

The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of donors. As of end 2022, the RRP 2022 response was 52 per cent funded across the region with USD 324.9 million received of USD 623 million requirements. However, this represents a drop in the funding percentage compared to 2021 when the response was 58 per cent funded. With a variety of other emergencies developing globally, there is a risk of fatigue in the donor community, and this is a real risk looking towards 2023. As is clear from this plan, the needs across the region are huge and are the situation of vulnerable Afghan populations has worsened due to external regional and global factors. Their host communities, who have welcomed Afghans for over four decades, also require significant support, particularly to bolster the public infrastructure which serves Afghans and host communities alike.
RRP partners reiterate the message on the importance of flexible funding, which allows partners to prioritize the most pressing needs across the region, as well as multi-year funding, which facilitates a more predictable response. Both of these were important commitments by donors as part of the Grand Bargain and remain integral to the humanitarian response for the Afghanistan Situation.

Further information on funding levels of the response is available on the Refugee Funding Tracker which tracks interagency funding for the response. This was rolled out in 2021 and its usage has increased since then. It was the first time it had been used in these countries. Given that the response has increased its partnership significantly from 40 partners in 2022 to 65 partners in 2023, further guidance will be provided at country level on the use of the RFT to ensure that funding tracking is as up to date as possible.

RRP Partners gratefully acknowledge government donors, private donors, charities, and other organizations for their valuable contributions to RRP 2022 through earmarked funding as well as flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub regional level which has contributed to the response. RRP partners acknowledge the huge generosity of host countries for their continued hosting of Afghans over several decades. These countries must be supported through even greater responsibility sharing by the international community, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

RRP 2022 donors: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Poland | Private Donors | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America



Regional Refugee Response Plan For Afghanistan Situation

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