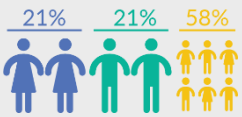
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

3.25M
Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of **31 December 2022**[1]

32,410
new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022 (ongoing verification)[2]



52,160
Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 December 2022

5.2M
Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of **31 December 2022**

1.62M
Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring Countries since **August 2021**[3]

1,900
IDP returnees recorded in 2023

8,029
Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Afghanistan Coordination Group (ACG) – co-chaired by the EU, UNAMA and the World Bank – convened a series of high-level meetings in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the situation inside Afghanistan. The highlight was the ACG Senior Officials meeting, where donors reaffirmed their support to address Afghans' basic needs via the continued provision of humanitarian assistance. The ACG commended Afghanistan's UN Country Team (UNCT) and NGOs for staying and delivering in a principled and non-discriminatory manner during a complex period and expressed their trust regarding the measures put in place to ensure the participation of female staff following the ban on women working for NGOs and UN entities. The ACG reiterated that monitoring and reporting was essential for the Group to continue providing financial support and that the release of additional funds was under consideration. 15 UNCT Heads of Agency, led by the Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Daniel Endres, attended the meeting, including UNHCR's Representative for Afghanistan, Mr Leonard Zulu.

- In 2023, UNHCR has been able to provide the following assistance in Afghanistan thus far:

Humanitarian Assistance provided in 2023

537,500 total persons supported

34 out of **34** provinces reached

205,300 persons assisted with cash assistance

249,800 persons benefited from in-kind and other individual assistance

82,400 persons benefited from community based interventions

162,700 individuals assessed

218,600 persons potentially benefiting from activities in 80 PARRs

- UNHCR and partners reached an estimated 537,500 individuals with emergency assistance in 34 out of all 34 accessible provinces countrywide as of end-July. Of the total reached, 205,300 were supported with cash assistance while 249,800 received in-kind and other individual assistance. 162,700 individuals were covered by assessments and 218,600 benefited from activities in the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs). The number of beneficiaries in the 80 PARRs increased significantly following the completion of several major education, health and community support infrastructure projects in July. Other assistance included protection, core relief items (CRIs) as well as shelter and seasonal support.

AFGHANISTAN

- At least 35 people were killed, more than 30 injured and 40 reported missing following devastating flash floods in Kabul's Maidan Wardak and Paghman districts, according to a joint inter-agency assessment conducted by the UN, NGOs and the de facto National Disaster Management Authority. Flash floods caused by heavy seasonal rains partially or completely damaged more than 200 homes as well as hundreds of acres of agricultural lands and killed hundreds of livestock. Efforts are currently underway to mobilize support and resources for affected families. In Pakistan, heavy rainfall left close to 200 people dead, 260 injured, 1,600 houses damaged, and the loss of 480 livestock across the country, according to reports by Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority. UNHCR has activated its internal contingency plan for Pakistan to ensure preparedness across all sectors during the monsoon season and is working closely with authorities and communities to facilitate a coordinated and efficient response.

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[1]ASR figures still under review.
[2] Source: OCHA – https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps
[3]In 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 since August 2021, some 66,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, some 295,000 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 15 August with valid visas issued by the Uzbek consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Refugee returnees from Pakistan receive mine awareness training at the Encashment Centre in Kabul
©UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

REGIONAL

- EU INTPA – ECHO conducted a two-week joint monitoring visit to Pakistan during the reporting period. The delegation visited Islamabad, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar and the Torkham border, and held meetings with refugees, host communities, authorities and partners implementing EU-funded programmes. These included programmes in health, education, livelihoods, energy, protection (child protection and the prevention and response to gender-based violence) and flood response. The EU is UNHCR Pakistan's second largest donor, providing support through development and humanitarian funding streams.

- As part of capacity building efforts, UNHCR supported one of its legal partners in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to conduct two workshops for 60 police officials in Abbottabad and Dir Upper districts on UNHCR's mandate, national arrangements for the protection of forcibly displaced people, international legal frameworks, and human rights. These workshops play a critical role in strengthening coordination and collaboration with police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and enhancing the protection environment for refugees and host communities.

- On 17 July, UNHCR organized the first Shelter/Non-Food Items and Energy sector meeting under the 2023 Afghanistan Situation Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Appealing agencies and partners, including the Chief Commissionerate Commissioner for Afghan Refugees joined the meeting, with partners providing sector updates on the Monitoring Framework and the Mid-Year report. The 2023 RRP is currently 5.7 per cent funded, receiving some $35 million against the requested $613 million.

- UNHCR Iran provided cash assistance to some 29,495 individuals (6,147) households during the first half of 2023, including new arrivals, amounting to $1.9 million. Almost 94 per cent of UNHCR's cash transfers constituted multi-purpose cash assistance. UNHCR in the Asia and the Pacific region is working to expand the use and quality of cash-based interventions to better support protection and solution outcomes – in line with UNHCR's Policy on CBIs (2022 – 2026).

- To ensure fair compensation for school staff in Refugee Village (RVs) in Pakistan, UNHCR completed an incentive harmonisation process to promote a standardised approach across its programmes. Teachers in RVs are critical to maintaining access to basic education. Currently, UNHCR supports 1,465 refugee village school personnel across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces.

- Ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2023, UNHCR is supporting the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkmenistan to develop and advocate for pledges to improve the international protection environment for forcibly displaced people in these countries.

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- To date, some 1,900 IDPs returned to their places of origin in Afghanistan. In 2021 and 2022, over 1.39 million IDPs returned to their places of origin: approximately 1.13 million IDPs returned in 2021 and 259,000 in 2022. The source of these figures are the 370,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners since 10 October 2021 until 1 August 2023. These figures are expected to increase retroactively due to ongoing assessments and considered indicative rather than overall statistical data of IDP returnees in Afghanistan. Figures may be underestimated due to the recent downscaling of assessments undertaken in 2023.

- In 2023, 8,029 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan (95 per cent from Pakistan, 4 per cent from Iran and 1 per cent from other countries). The refugee returnee figure in the first seven months of 2023 is five times higher than the number of returns during a similar period in 2022 as well as the total number of returns in 2022 (6,424). As part of its support to refugees voluntarily returning home from countries of asylum, UNHCR offers a voluntary repatriation package consisting of a one-off cash grant of $375 to cover transportation and immediate needs upon arrival. In 2023, UNHCR provided some $3.26 in cash assistance to returnees at Encashment Centres. Returning refugees also receive basic health care and overnight accommodation when needed as well as other services provided by partners present in each Encashment Centre.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan Situation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

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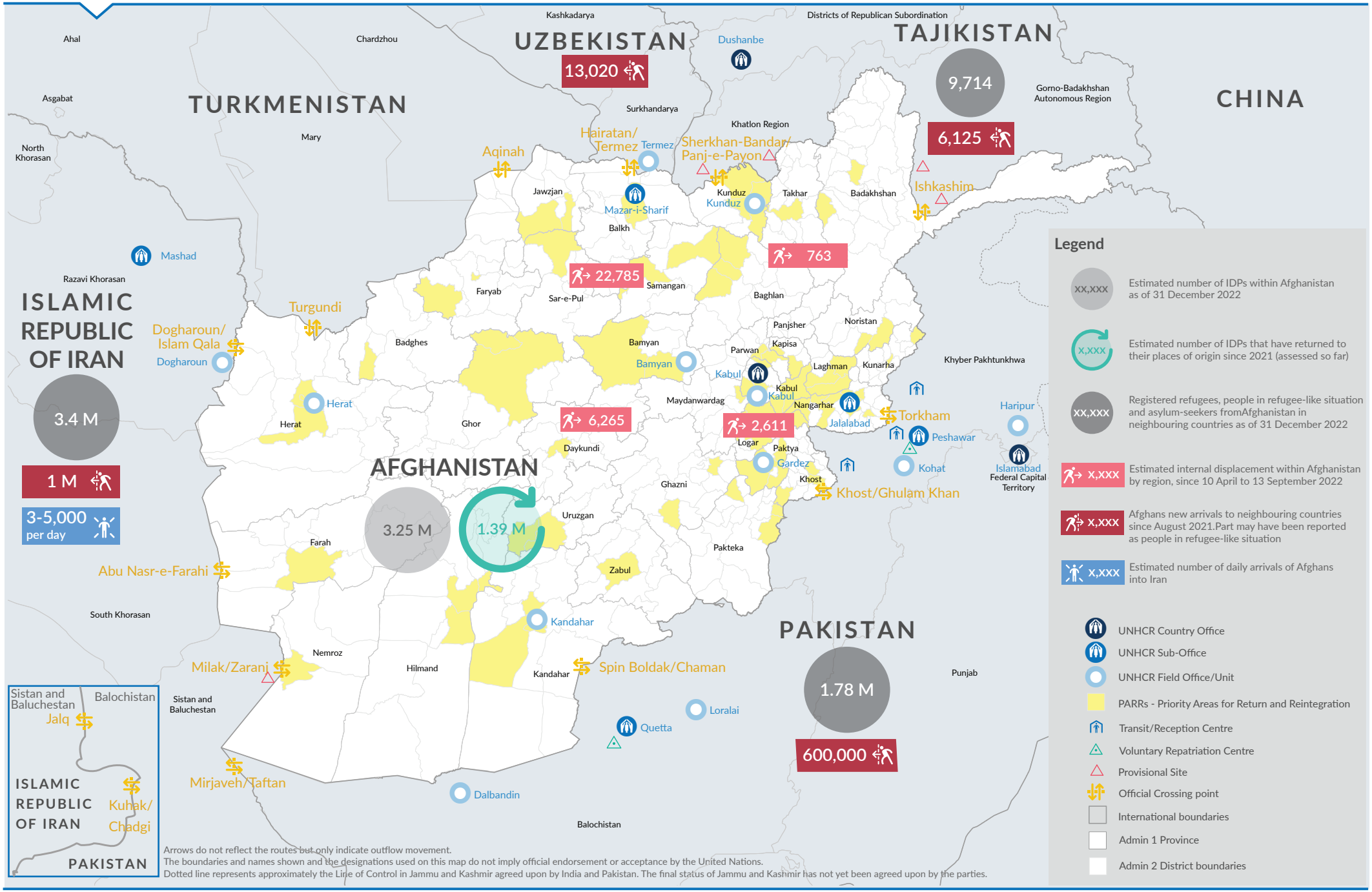
UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 01 August 2023



Arrows do not reflect the routes but only indicate outflow movement.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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 yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Data sources: UNHCR operations, OCHA | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
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