

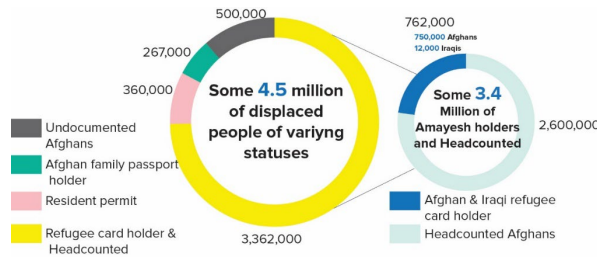


Iran has been one of the world's leading refugee hosts for over forty years. In August 2021, following the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, many Afghans fled to Iran. UNHCR rapidly scaled up its operation in Iran to respond to the large number of new arrivals and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



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

Population



99% of refugees live in urban areas side by side with the local community



1% of refugees live in 20 refugee settlements in 12 provinces of Iran

FUNDING

114.1 M

Funded
31%
35.2 M



Unfunded
69%
78.8 M

Refugee Response Plan 2023: Total USD 199 M (UNHCR USD 65 M), of which some 33% funded

HEALTH

UNHCR supports the Ministry of Health to include refugees in the national health system. Free primary health care, including vaccinations, essential medicines and maternal and child health services are available to all, regardless of documentation status. Refugees also have access to health insurance to cover secondary and tertiary health care, on par with nationals. For 2023, UNHCR is covering the insurance premium for up to **95,000** of the most vulnerable refugees, while others can enroll by paying the premium themselves.

EDUCATION

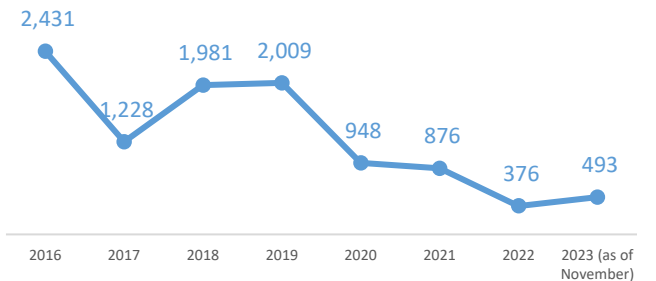
All children in Iran have access to primary and secondary education regardless of their documentation status. Refugee, undocumented and other foreign children study side by side with Iranian school children, following the same national curriculum. In 2016, the Government of Iran removed 'refugee-specific'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

LIVELIHOOD

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

VOLREP

As of November 2023, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of **493** individuals which includes **488** Afghans and **five** Iraqis – **38** individuals repatriated in the month of November. This represents a **36%** increase compared to the same period in **2022**. Amongst the main reasons for return, returnees stated family reunification and facing financial difficulties in Iran.



RESETTLEMENT

While in 2021 UNHCR received no quota for the resettlement of Afghan refugees, in 2022, in collaboration with resettlement partners and the Government of Iran, UNHCR managed to submit **3,092** refugees to resettlement countries. Given the increasing protection needs of refugees in Iran and the ongoing volatile security situation in Afghanistan, UNHCR is advocating for more resettlement quotas.



UNHCR Iran is grateful for the generous contributions of its main donors in 2023.