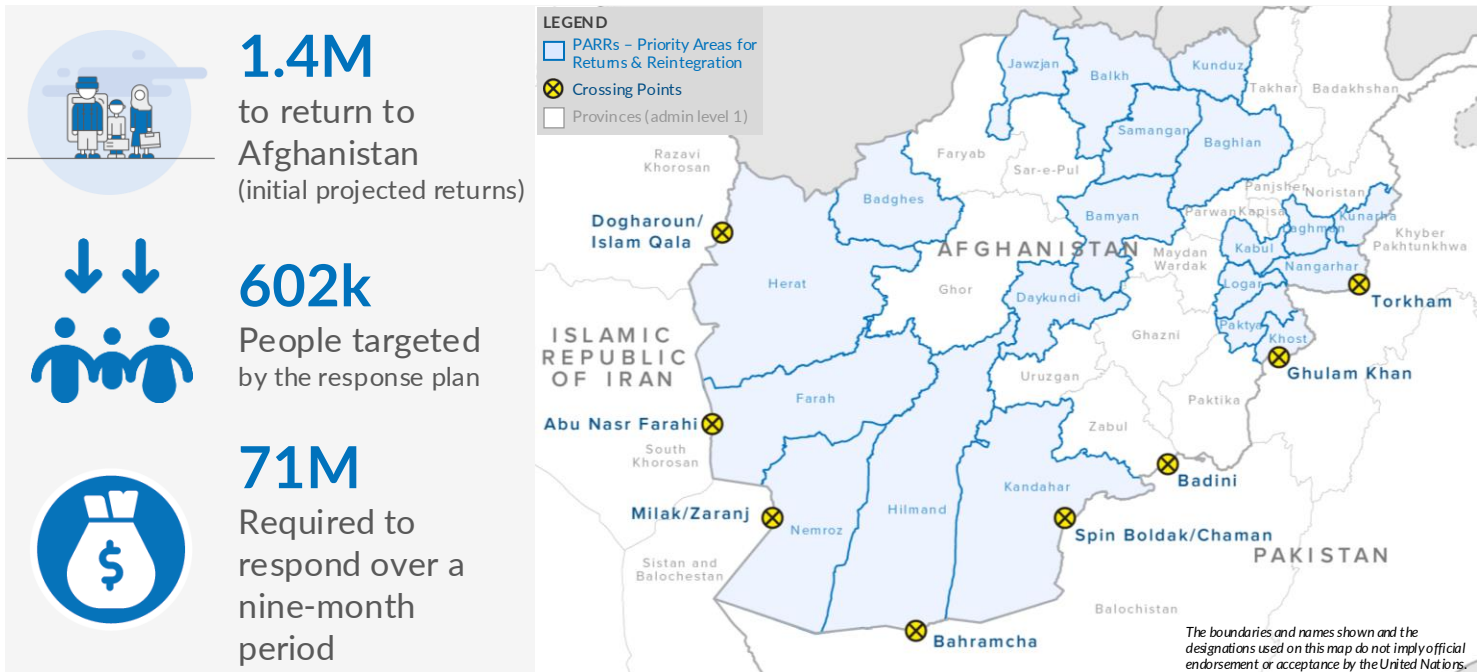


KEY FIGURES



OVERVIEW

In April 2025, the rate of return of Afghans started to increase rapidly across the Pakistan border, with many being forced or coerced into returning. Over 144,500 Afghans crossed back into Afghanistan.

Iran and Pakistan are among the world's major refugee-hosting countries, hosting 3.75 million and 1.75 million Afghans respectively, despite facing their own challenges. Since 2023, a shift in displacement trends has been taking place amid growing anti-Afghan sentiments in these host countries. UNHCR estimates that more than 3 million Afghans have returned or been deported from the two countries since September 2023, including over 1.5 million in 2024 alone. Such mass returns have strained Afghanistan's already overstretched resources and services and hindered reintegration efforts, leading to risks of secondary and new displacement, including cyclical movements back into Pakistan and Iran.

From 1 to 30 April, over 282,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan and Iran, including some 107,600 by deportation. In Pakistan, April deportation levels (29,900) surpassed November 2023 (24,500), during the start of the first phase of Pakistan's Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP). From 20 March to 30 April, over 170,200 Afghans, mainly undocumented, have returned from Iran, out of which 97,000 (57%) have been deported. In theory, registered refugees in Pakistan and Iran are exempted from these return orders. However, in reality, given the complex legal framework on asylum and residence for Afghans in those countries, refugees and people in refugee-like situations are also being coerced or forced into returning. A crisis at both major borders with Afghanistan is taking place.

UNHCR has consistently advocated against the forced return of Afghans, many of whom are women, ethnic minorities and others who could face serious protection risks in Afghanistan. Efforts continue to advocate for voluntary, safe and dignified return, as well as exemptions for at-risk and vulnerable groups.

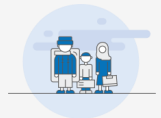
Returnees arrive in Afghanistan scared and traumatized, facing an uncertain future in a country where half the population relies on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Compounded by high levels of poverty and food insecurity, human rights violations and overstretched services and infrastructure in Afghanistan, the large-scale returns risk further destabilizing an already fragile country and perpetuating endless cycles of displacement.

UNHCR response and financial requirements

UNHCR is seeking \$71 million to respond to this crisis over a nine-month period. Flexible funding is essential to adapt to fluid return dynamics and provide sustained support in Afghanistan. It also ensures ongoing protection and stability for refugees who remain in host countries. By investing in flexible funding, donors enhance efficiency, predictability and long-term solutions for millions affected by displacement.

Afghanistan

- Conduct registration and protection screening of Afghan returnees under UNHCR's mandate.
- Provide emergency cash assistance to help Afghan returnees meet their immediate needs such as food and transport away from the border.
- Ensure safe spaces for returning families, along with specialized counselling and support for children at risk.
- Protect Afghan returnees by identifying and linking those at risk, providing information and advice, and enabling their access to essential support and services for healthcare, gender-based violence, child protection, legal assistance and support for psychosocial needs.
- Conduct border monitoring to collect key information on returnees and their needs to inform planning and decision-making for targeted support and service delivery.



1.4M returns



228k

People targeted

Iran

- Protect Afghans at risk in Iran through legal counselling and psychosocial support, including through enhanced communication with communities.
- Enhance the facilities at Dogharoun border crossing, including provision of food, water and equipment for the health clinic, as well as essential medicine.
- Cash support for internal transportation.
- Provide emergency cash assistance, including for documentation to those with specific needs to assist in their regularization process.



800k returns



270k

People targeted

Pakistan

- Protect Afghans at risk including preventing and responding to gender-based violence and child protection, psychosocial support and legal services.
- Enhance protection interventions, including border monitoring, community outreach, protection monitoring and communication with communities.
- Provide targeted assistance to people with specific needs including those relocating within Pakistan.



600k returns



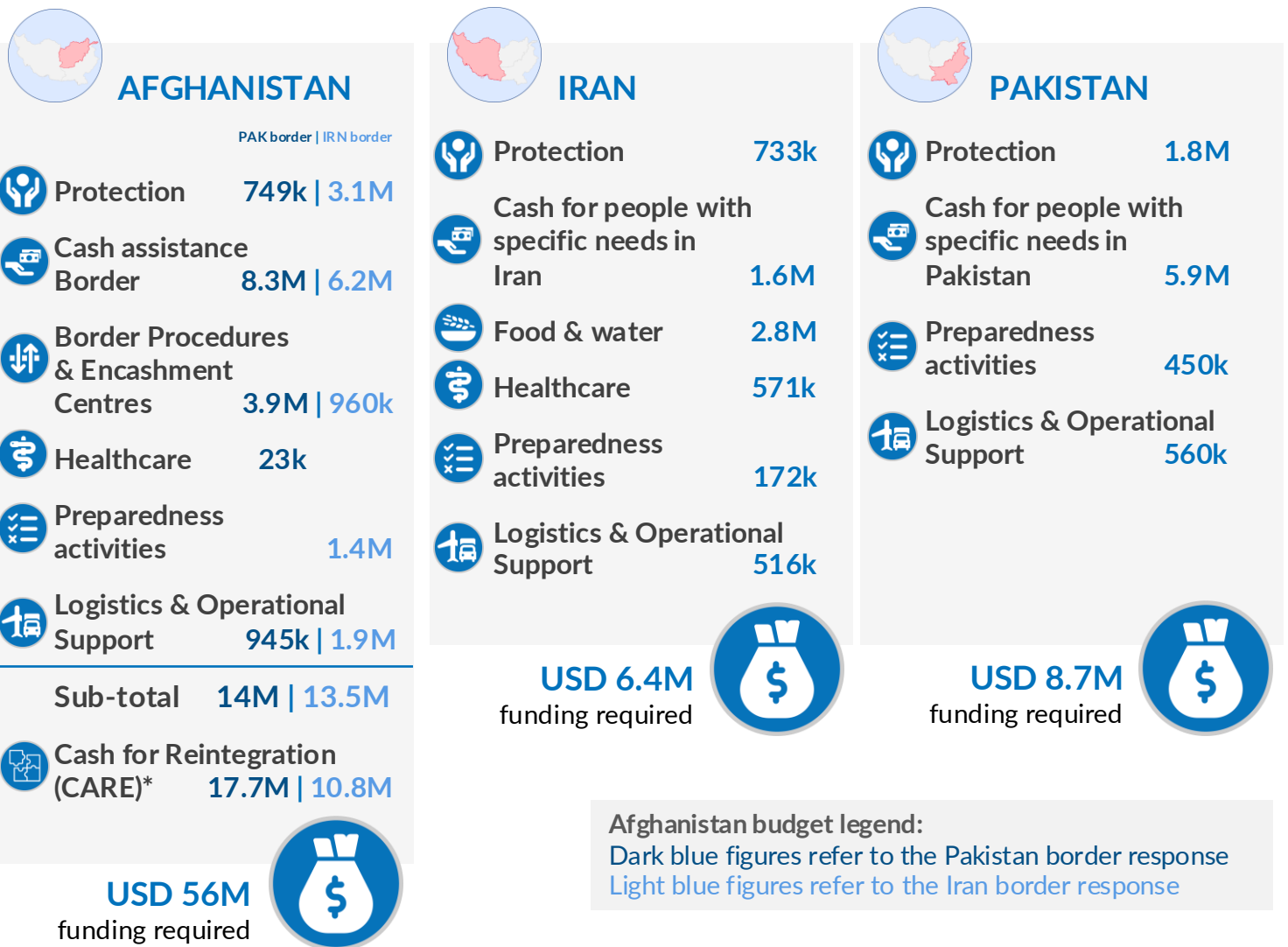
104k

People targeted

Coordination

This Appeal is aligned with the Pakistan Border Consortium requirements included in the Integrated Appeal on responses within Afghanistan for the current phase of forced returns. UNHCR is leveraging its presence across Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, as well as the Regional Bureau in Bangkok, to ensure swift data triangulation and information exchange for efficient and protection-centric cross-border responses. Advocacy is coordinated through the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) platforms. In Afghanistan, UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter Clusters, as well as the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group, and is a core member of the Border Consortium and the Durable Solutions Working Group. UNHCR is working with the International Organization for Migration, other UN agencies and NGOs to support the growing number of returnees in Afghanistan.

Financial Requirements (in USD)



Afghanistan budget legend:
 Dark blue figures refer to the Pakistan border response
 Light blue figures refer to the Iran border response

* UNHCR provides CARE grants to returnees three months after arrival in areas of return to facilitate reintegration as outlined in the Integrated Appeal, among other UNHCR reintegration activities which are budgeted separately.

For additional information on the situation, please refer to the [Afghanistan Situation Operational Data Portal](#) and [UNHCR Global Focus](#)

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