

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.2M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 30 April 2025

 **285,900**

Total returns from neighbouring countries to Afghanistan from 1 - 30 April 2025



Out of the total returns, **72% are women and children**
50.3% are female; 20% are girls

 **6.1M**

Afghans under UNHCR's mandate in neighbouring countries as of 30 April 2025

 **148,200**

Returns¹ from Pakistan to Afghanistan from 1 - 30 April 2025

 **137,700**

Returns from Iran to Afghanistan from 1 - 30 April 2025

 **20,800**

Refugees in Afghanistan as of 30 April 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, UNHCR [launched a regional appeal](#), which seeks \$71 million to respond to emergency needs over the next nine months in response to the ongoing wave of returns to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan. The appeal targets 602,000 people with immediate humanitarian assistance and reintegration support. The additional funds will allow UNHCR to provide crucial financial assistance for returnees to cover urgent needs, travel, access to services, and reintegration activities – with an emphasis on reaching women and girls. Since 2023, more than 3.4 million Afghans have returned or been deported from Iran and Pakistan, including over 1.5 million in 2024 alone. Such mass returns have strained the capacity of many provinces in Afghanistan and exacerbated the risk of further internal displacement. This appeal draws on UNHCR's operational presence in the three countries, along with regional coordination from Bangkok, Thailand, to deliver a swift, protection-centred response to this complex situation.
- Phase 2 of the Government of Pakistan's "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan" (IFRP) was initiated on 1 April 2025, marking the start of deportations of Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders alongside undocumented people to Afghanistan. In April, 148,200 Afghans returned, including 30,200 (20%) who were deported. Most returns in April were undocumented people (72%), followed by ACC holders (22%) and Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders (6%). Deportations in April account for 42% of all deportations since 15 September 2023, surpassing the levels recorded in November 2023 during the height of Phase 1 of the IFRP. Although UNHCR recognises the pressures on countries that have hosted millions of Afghans for decades, it continues to engage with the Government of Pakistan to advocate for voluntary returns, as many people may face serious protection risks in Afghanistan.
- 137,700 returns were recorded from Iran in April, including 77,700 deportations. These movements follow the Government of Iran's announcement that headcount slips will not be extended beyond 20 March 2025. Following their expiration, the Government of Iran introduced a regularization and return scheme to manage the status of over two million affected people. Headcount slip holders are now required to undergo Government assessments to determine whether they will be allowed to remain in the country or are required to depart. Certain groups qualify for exemptions, including people in mixed-status families (those with both *Amayesh* cards and headcount slips) and former Afghan government or military personnel. These groups are issued temporary cards (*Movaqqat*), which grant short-term stay rights and access to services like those available to *Amayesh* card holders. However, the long-term validity of these cards remains subject to further Government decisions. Most others are required to leave Iran and may only return with a visa. UNHCR continues to urge the Government of Iran to ensure that returns to Afghanistan are voluntary, safe and dignified. Given the human rights situation in Afghanistan, many Afghans face serious protection risks upon return, particularly women, girls, and members of ethnic and religious minorities, regardless of documentation status. For the latest information on returns from Pakistan and Iran, please visit the [Afghanistan situation](#) page of the Operational Data Portal.
- On 25 April, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations concluded a [three-day visit](#) to Pakistan to reaffirm support for Afghan refugees and their host communities. In Islamabad, he met with several senior officials, including the Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions, Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, and other officials from the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs. During the meetings, the Assistant High Commissioner underscored the importance of continued solidarity with Pakistan and the Afghan refugee population amid the ongoing humanitarian and human rights crisis in Afghanistan. He also urged the continuation of Pakistan's longstanding tradition of hospitality towards Afghans in need of international protection and reiterated UNHCR's commitment to work with the Government on durable solutions, including

¹ An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. UNHCR began monitoring return trends from mid- 1 September 2023 before the official announcement of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan by the Government of Pakistan in October 2023.

voluntary, dignified, and sustainable returns, and advocated for the extension of PoR cards to ensure continued protection. He also met with refugee representatives in Islamabad, who spoke about the challenges they currently face and their concerns at the prospect of forced return.

AFGHANISTAN



- In 2025, UNHCR and its partners provided humanitarian assistance to over 105,800 people across 33 provinces in Afghanistan. Among those reached, over 55,900 people received cash assistance, while over 49,800 benefited from in-kind and other forms of assistance, including core relief items, shelter, seasonal assistance, and community-based interventions. Needs assessments were conducted for close to 49,900 people to determine the specific support required.
- UNHCR continues to carry out border monitoring with returnees from Pakistan and Iran consistently reporting protection concerns, including fear of arrest and deportation, experiences of arrest and abuse at the hands of police, raids by police targeting Afghan houses and businesses, rising anti-Afghan sentiment and discrimination, and heightened economic hardship.



Exhausted Afghan families return through Torkham border crossing point ©UNHCR/Oxygen Media

REGIONAL

- On 7 April, a local-level Support Platform for the [Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees \(SSAR\)](#) technical meeting was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, with the participation of several donor missions and partners. UNHCR and IOM provided updates on recent returns and the evolving situation of Afghans in Pakistan. In recent months, increased pressure on Afghan communities has heightened protection concerns. UNHCR anticipates a potential rise in returns in a coercive environment in the coming months, with inter-agency coordination and protection efforts ongoing. Advocacy with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the international community continues toward a comprehensive approach addressing both immediate needs and long-term solutions.

² The total number of people supported may include multiple counts of beneficiaries who received assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- In Pakistan, the International Centre for Refugee and Migration Studies at Balochistan University, in partnership with UNHCR, launched a course to help Afghan refugee students prepare for undergraduate entry tests and develop essential digital skills. Out of 309 applicants, 147 were shortlisted and 125 (51 women and 74 men) were interviewed. Following orientation, 70 students (28 women and 42 men) enrolled when classes began in April. This initiative supports UNHCR's efforts to expand education and inclusion opportunities for refugee youth by reducing barriers to higher education and promoting their integration into local communities.
- In April, UNHCR Iran submitted 328 refugees for resettlement consideration. Another 79 refugees departed for resettlement. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, UNHCR submitted 169 refugees for resettlement although no departures took place. Resettlement remains an essential part of UNHCR's response, offering refugees a durable solution for refugees and the opportunity to rebuild their lives in a safe and secure environment.
- In Iran, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Iran Health Insurance Organization and the Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs, launched the 11th cycle of the Universal Public Health Insurance scheme. The programme aims to ensure continued access to primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare for refugees. As in previous cycles, up to 95,000 vulnerable refugees holding valid *Amayesh* or *Hoviat* cards, or a *Laissez-Passer*, including people with serious medical conditions, are eligible to register for free medical coverage at designated Government counters across the country. In line with Iran's inclusive approach, primary healthcare remains accessible nationwide to everyone, regardless of legal status or documentation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Afghanistan situation in 2025 stands at [\\$478.4 million](#). By late April, only 22% of this critical funding had been secured. UNHCR appreciates the generosity of donors who have stepped up to support the Afghanistan situation response with earmarked, softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions, ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need:

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However, urgent gaps remain, and continued support is essential to sustain and expand this vital work. For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the [2025 Global Appeal](#) and [2023 Global Report](#).

