CONTEXT

On 21 June, UNHCR joined the UN Secretary-General and other leaders in appealing for an urgent de-escalation in the dangerously spiralling conflict between Israel and Iran. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said: "This region has already endured more than its share of war, loss, and displacement – we cannot allow another refugee crisis to take root."

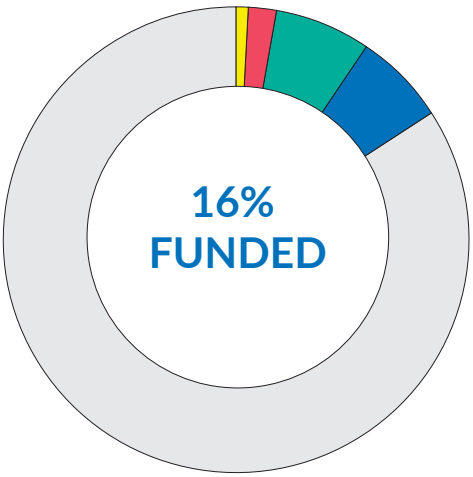
A fragile ceasefire between Iran and Israel was brokered by the United States and Qatar on 24 June. Despite some early violations, the truce currently appears to be holding. Since 13 June, over 600 Iranians have been killed and more than 5,300 injured, according to Iran's Ministry of Health.

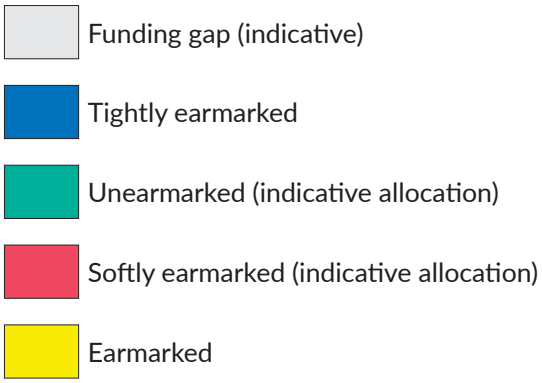
According to media reports, Iranian Member of Parliament Abolfazl Aboutorabi called for the urgent regulation of foreign nationals, citing allegations of their cooperation with Israel in recent attacks. The National Organization for Migration (NOM) Bill, now under parliamentary review after clearing the Internal Affairs Commission, is expected to include stricter measures for foreigners in Iran.

Conditions for Afghans have become increasingly precarious due to domestic uncertainty following the expiration of Headcount slips on 20 March and the rollout of a regularization and return scheme affecting two million Afghans. Rising regional tensions have added to the challenges. While the return of Afghans saw a heightened peak towards the end of June, by the end of July, returns had slowed down, and the borders were more organized for gradual returns.

On 26 July, Iran's Government launched a two-month renewal process for Amayesh cards (for Afghan refugees) and Hoviat cards (for Iraqi refugees) to help maintain legal status amid stricter enforcement. Refugees are required to visit designated centres for renewal after receiving an official SMS notification. To safeguard refugees' rights and access to services amid tighter enforcement measures against undocumented Afghans, UNHCR has shared information widely to ensure refugees know about the process.

FUNDING UPDATE





USD 140 MILLION
UNHCR's financial requirements 2025

USD 117 MILLION
Funding gap 2025

UNHCR RESPONSE

PROTECTION

Reception, Enrolment & Communication with Communities

During the reporting period from 1 January to 31 July 2025, UNHCR's five sub-offices received a total of **108,803** inquiries, of which **51,013** contacts came through the helpline and **57,790** were in-person visits at reception gates. Each inquiry resulted in appropriate support and counselling relative to the individuals' specific needs. Among those seeking assistance, **23,733** individuals were identified as having specific needs and were subsequently invited for complementary interviews to facilitate UNHCR's enrolment and verification of additional required data for potential support.

In addition to the above, UNHCR processed **23,135** emails and **3,771** letters submitted via mailboxes during the same period. The UNHCR Iran Help page serves as a significant resource, showcasing **1,719,728** views from **844,530** unique visitors. Of these visitors, **68,360** utilized the online contact form to submit inquiries and requests, and **30,276** of these forms were successfully responded to. The primary reasons for contacting UNHCR included requests for financial assistance, resettlement, and registration with UNHCR.

Legal Assistance

UNHCR-hired lawyers supported **5,529** individuals referred by UNHCR in 2025, in addition to **883** who were assisted in Dispute Settlement Committees. The legal services are key for the forcibly displaced persons to access rights and services in line with the national legislation.

Protection of Women and Children & Psychosocial Counselling

Since the beginning of 2025, UNHCR has identified **4,265** children with specific protection needs, many of whom–some **2,537**– are not attending school or are at risk of dropping out. While all cases were provided counselling, UNHCR has conducted a thorough assessment for **219** cases, prioritized based on their vulnerability. The protection team also carried out best interest assessments for **123** children and provided psychosocial support, legal aid, and other available services. UNHCR identified **2,616** refugee women at risk, and **219** of them were provided counselling and psychosocial support, legal aid, cash assistance, and access to health care services.

Additionally, **923** persons have participated in psychosocial counselling sessions conducted by the UNHCR-hired psychological counsellors since the beginning of 2025. The counselling sessions were conducted both in-person and remotely.

Cash Assistance

The cash instalments provide crucial support to vulnerable refugees, including those with special protection needs and disabilities, helping them meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life by making their own, dignified choices on how to use the support. From January to the end of July 2025, a total of **24,104** individuals (5,382 households) received cash assistance amounting to about USD 1,300,000 . Of this total, **2,345** individuals received cash disbursements in June-July alone.

Deportation and Returns

From January to July 2025, **1.7 million** Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Iran, including **1 million** reportedly deported according to the Returns Emergency Response. The dashboard provides updated information about the current displacement trend and cross-border movement.

UNHCR RESPONSE

SOLUTIONS

Education

UNHCR supports Iran's education system, particularly in refugee-hosting areas where classroom sizes reach up to 50 students—far exceeding the national standard.

On average, a 12-classroom school, hosting **720** students in double-shifts, costs USD 800,000, to which UNHCR contributes between 70 – 90 per cent, the rest being covered by the Ministry of Education. According to the Government of Iran, in 2025, at least 2,000 new schools are needed at both primary and secondary levels to accommodate all school-aged children.

Health

UNHCR, in partnership with Iran Health Insurance Organization (IHIO) and the Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA), launched in February the 11th cycle of the Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI) scheme to ensure refugees have access to essential medical services. This includes primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare.

As in previous cycles, **95,000** vulnerable refugees holding a valid Amayesh card, Hoviat card, or valid Laissez-Passer —including those with specific medical conditions such as haemophilia, thalassemia, kidney failure, kidney transplant, and multiple sclerosis—can register for free medical coverage at designated government counters nationwide. The Government of Iran covers 100% of the premium fee for an additional **47,000** extremely vulnerable refugees, enabling them to acquire UPHI.

Additionally, thanks to Iran's inclusive policies, primary healthcare remains available to all nationwide– regardless of status or documentation.

Livelihoods

Under the Iranian labour law, refugees holding Amayesh or Hoviat cards can obtain temporary work permits allowing them to work legally in specific job categories–primarily in the construction and agriculture sectors. UNHCR works in partnership with government institutions and NGOs to support vulnerable members and the host community with skill-building opportunities, aiming to improve prospects for employment and self-reliance. In 2025, UNHCR aims to support some **1,000** refugees and vulnerable host communities with vocational and technical training.

Resettlement and complementary pathways

In July 2025, UNHCR submitted **873** refugees for resettlement consideration to Australia. The total number of submissions from January to July 2025 has reached **2,082** refugees, including newborns. Additionally, **1,125** refugees received post-submission counselling on exit procedures and other critical issues via WhatsApp. Another **29** refugees departed for different countries, bringing the departure figure for 2025 to **460** refugees.

A total of **154** individuals were supported across all Complementary Pathways initiatives during the reporting period, including the Brazil Humanitarian Visa Pilot Project and the Digital Bridges for Afghan Scholars initiative. Complementary pathways continue to provide impactful alternatives to traditional resettlement.

UNHCR IRAN MAP

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official

REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

UNHCR and Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners continued working together to enhance the border response. A joint Risk Analysis on border support was conducted, alongside efforts across all eight RRP sectors to develop a unified messaging paper, highlighting urgent needs on the ground.

RRP PARTNERS

KEY FIGURES

3.49 M refugees and people in refugee-like situation

2.72 M people in refugee-like situation

out of which **135K** undocumented

770K refugees, out of which

758K are Afghan Amayesh card holders and

12K are Iraqi Hoviat card holders

1,763,700 total returns

1,479,800

84%

1,048,100 deportations

59%

of total returns are **deportations**

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 1 January 2025 to 30 July 2025. While the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived from 20 March 2025 to 30 July 2025.

From January to July 2025, **848** Afghans have returned to Afghanistan through UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme

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UNHCR would like to wholeheartedly thank its donors.

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german humanitarian assistance

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UKaid from the British people

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