Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation

Final Report 2024

Cover Photograph:

Afghan refugees girls in KP, Pakistan receive a monthly scholarship of US $18 to help them stay in school and continue their studies.
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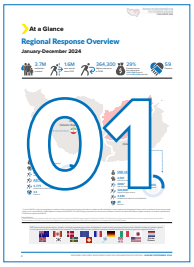

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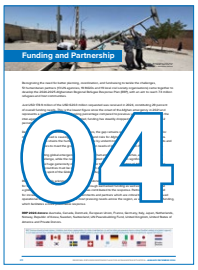

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At a Glance

Regional Response Overview

January-December 2024

3.7M individuals reached

1.6M new arrivals since 2021

364,300 Afghan returnees in 2024

29% Funded across the sub-region (**USD 179M** received out of **USD 620M** required)

59 Partners

USD 60.2M received out of **USD 252** requested

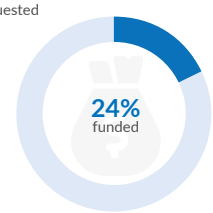
1.1M individuals reached

1M* new arrivals since 2021

237,500 Afghan refugee returns

3,775 resettlement submissions (individuals)

14 Partners



USD 117M received out of **USD 383** requested

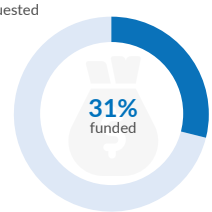
2.6M individuals reached

600k* new arrivals since 2021

126,800 Afghan refugee returns

3,146 resettlement submissions (individuals)

45 Partners



** In Iran, 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. Approximately 1 million Afghans have approached UNHCR. The 600,000 figure reported by the Government of Pakistan is based in the inflow and outflow of Afghan nationals, out of which approximately 476,000 have approached UNHCR.*

Map disclaimer:
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 been agreed upon by the parties.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub regional level has contributed to the response. The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of Donors.

Private Donors

Regional Overview

In 2024, the Afghanistan Situation continued to generate significant humanitarian and displacement challenges across the region. Evolving political dynamics and large-scale returns of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan increased humanitarian needs and intensified the complexity of the response. Despite these growing needs, funding remained the lowest since the onset of the 2021 Afghan emergency.

Iran and Pakistan remained the largest host countries of Afghan refugees, with a long history of sheltering more than 5.2 million Afghans. However, returns and deportations of Afghans from Iran and Pakistan surged throughout in 2024: 1.5 million Afghans returned or were deported from Iran and Pakistan, including 773, 286 deportations. These returns and deportations took place despite UNHCR's Guidance Note and strong advocacy by UNHCR and RRP partners. The prevailing socio-economic and human rights challenges in Afghanistan meant that reintegration for returning Afghans, particularly for women and girls, remained extremely challenging.

The **Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024-2025** for the Afghanistan Situation has sought to provide essential services to refugee and other persons with international protection needs as well as host communities in Iran and Pakistan and work towards predictable responses and opportunities for long term solutions. During the year, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and it's Support Platform remained a vital mechanism for keeping Afghan displacement on the international agenda.

In Pakistan, the safety, rights and wellbeing of forcibly displaced Afghans in Pakistan became increasingly restricted. Deportations and a registration drive increased pressure on vulnerable Afghan populations. Since the launch of Pakistan's Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFPR) in late 2023, over 764,332 Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan in 2024, including some 8,954 deportees. The extension of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until June 2025 brought protection and stability to registered Afghan PoR cardholders, yet many still faced protection and socio-economic hardships. The Government's call for Afghans to leave the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi at the end of 2024 added to the already unpredictable protection environment and existing challenges facing the affected communities.

In Iran, the economic crisis – exacerbated by ongoing sanctions and soaring inflation – continued to put immense pressure on refugee and host communities alike. Socio-economic challenges resulted in persisting anti-Afghan sentiment leading to increased protection risks, rising deportations and spontaneous returns of Afghans. The introduction of new education restrictions for Afghan students presented new barriers to accessing education. Ahead of the March 2025 expiration of Headcount slips, RRP partners intensified advocacy efforts to expand humanitarian exemptions and standardize procedures to ensure those most at risk—especially those with potential protection claims receive the assistance they need. Meanwhile, newly arrived people in need of international protection continue to lack any legal avenues for refugee status determination or access to social protection schemes.

In this context, **RRP partners efforts in both countries focused on maintaining and expanding protection and asylum opportunities and coordinating efforts towards solutions, in line with the objectives of the SSAR**. This included enhancing inclusive policies and promoting self-reliance through livelihoods, vocational training and skills development initiatives, and strengthening social cohesion with local communities. Protection services and multi-sectoral assistance, including emergency assistance, were delivered both for Afghan and host populations through coordinated efforts involving UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and relevant authorities. In Iran, 116,399 individuals received counselling on registration, documentation and international protection (more than 100 percent reached of a target of 155,440) while in Pakistan 129,404 women and girls accessed safe spaces (81 percent reached against a target of 159,500). In both Iran and Pakistan, a combined total of 64,354 individuals received legal assistance.

RRP partners collaborated to align the RRP with broader development initiatives in Iran and Pakistan including expanding area-based programmes that provide health, nutrition, and education services to Afghans and vulnerable host communities. Access to public schools and health facilities for both Afghan refugees and vulnerable host communities was expanded throughout 2024. Livelihood programmes, including vocational training and microfinance initiatives encouraged self-reliance: 7,663 out of the 17,500 targeted individuals, both Afghans and host communities, received vocational training achieving 44 percent of the planned targets in Iran and Pakistan.

RRP partners continued advocating for national policies that enhance access to documentation, legal assistance and legal remedies for people in need of international protection. Throughout 2024, RRP partners prioritized legal aid, counselling, and advocacy to protect at-risk Afghans. 84,096 individuals received legal support, exceeding the target of 70,700 — representing 119 percent of the planned target in Iran and Pakistan. Precarious documentation status for Afghans in Iran and Pakistan continued to present protection challenges.

RRP partners continued to support government-led emergency preparedness efforts to respond to those newly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises. For example, more than 72,000 individuals affected by floods in Iran's three provinces in March/April 2024 were assisted with core relief items, including tents, kitchen sets, blankets and dignity kits. The continued impact of climate-induced disasters deepened vulnerabilities among both refugee and host communities in both Iran and Pakistan.

RRP WHO Ambulance- Handing over an ambulance to Kerman University of Medical Sciences. © WHO Pakistan

Afghan refugee girls in a Saranan Refugee Village in Balochistan. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

Regional Key Achievements by Sector

Actual Target

EDUCATION

77,791 children (Afghan refugees and of other statuses and members of host community) supported to access **primary** (54,812) and **secondary** (22,979) **education**

primary education 39% 140,059

secondary education 25% 93,221

281 educational facilities **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

32% 885

FOOD SECURITY

44,870 individuals receiving **in-kind food assistance**

56% 80,300

30,580 receiving monthly **cash assistance** for food security

62% 48,948

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

483,761 Afghans have been supported to **access healthcare services**

27% 1,800,903

62 health facilities have been **constructed** or **rehabilitated**

141% 44

55 health facilities have been supported with **equipment, medicines and medical supplies or salaries**

82% 67

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

3,036 individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses**

10% 30,703

2,850 individuals benefited from **vocational training**

11% 26,304

Actual Target

PROTECTION

2,430 newly identified children at heightened risk supported by a Best Interests Procedure

6,473

116,399 individuals provided with counselling on registration, documentation and international protection

98,440

64,354 individuals have received legal assistance

72,702

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

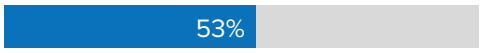
43,641 individuals receiving **NFI / core relief items**

85,249

99,924 receiving **cash assistance** for shelter/NFI purposes

58,337

63,027 receiving unconditional **Multi Purpose Cash Assistance**



120,000

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

102,400 individuals received **hygiene supplies**

975,484

54,100 reached through **installation or rehabilitation or improvement of water supply system**

1,452,747

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Consolidated Polymer Piping vocational training in Mashhad, Iran © UNHCR

1.1M individuals reached

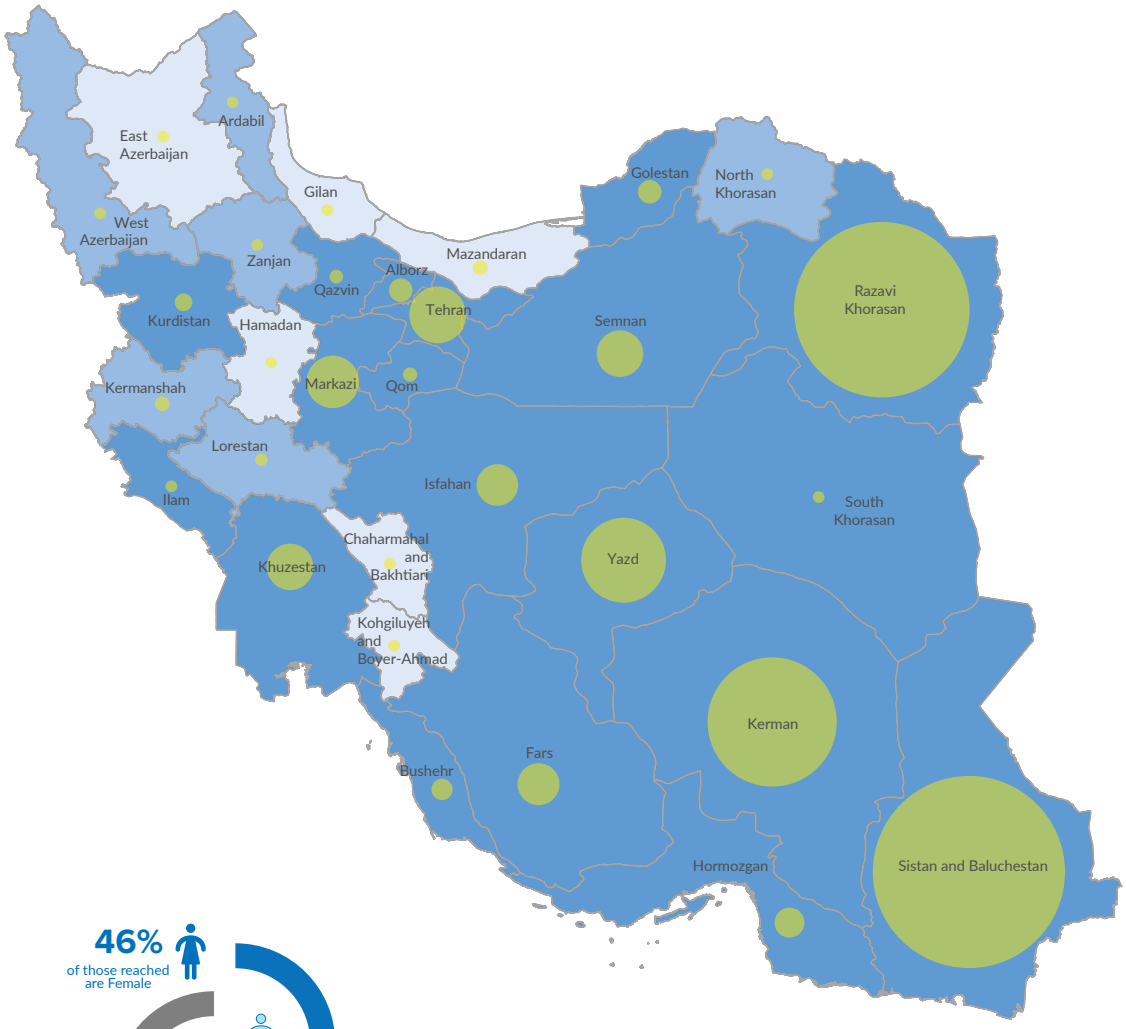
3.8M estimated total Afghan population

1M* new arrivals since 2021

237,500* Afghan returnees in 2024

24% Funded across the sub-region (**USD 60M** received out of **USD 252M** required)

14 Partners



46% of those reached are Female

83% of those reached are Women and Children

54% of those reached are Male

3% of the beneficiaries reached are Elderly individuals

Partner Presence**

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 - 4

Beneficiaries

- 1,000,000
- 500,000
- 250,000

Note :

** In Iran, 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, approximately 91,950 Afghans have approached UNHCR. For those new arrivals who remain in Iran, it is also assumed that some were enrolled in the headcount exercise, which has provided a degree of protection and predictability for previously undocumented populations.*

*** The partner's presence is based on activities reported by appealing agencies during January-June 2024 per provinces in the reporting platform*

**** Based on the ASR, the mid-year figure was based on VolRep alone, which is a subset of this total.*

Disclaimer:
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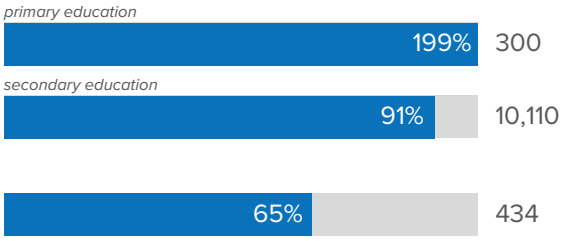
Country Sector Results/Impact Overview

Actual Target

EDUCATION

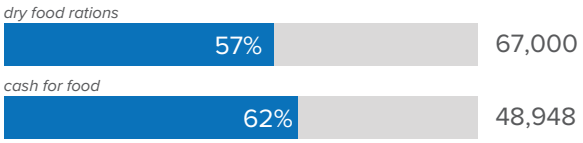
9,826 children (Afghan refugees and of other statuses and members of host community) supported to access **primary** (598) and **secondary** (9,228) **education**

266 classrooms & **15** schools constructed, rehabilitated or renovated



FOOD SECURITY

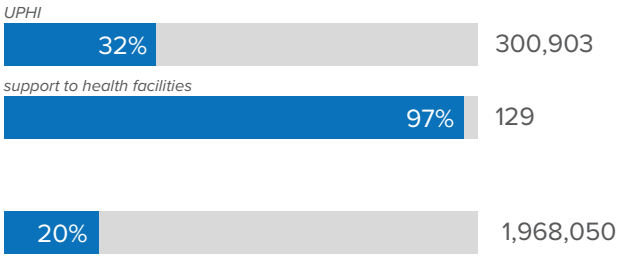
38,122 individuals receiving **monthly dry food rations** and **30,580** receiving **monthly cash for food**



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

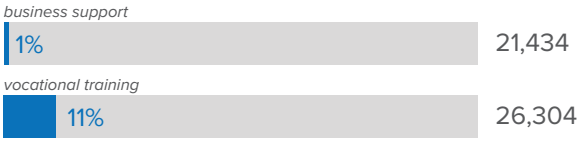
95,571 Afghans have been supported to through Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI), **125** health facilities supported with **equipment, medicines and medical supplies or salaries**

390,770 individuals reached with nutrition support services



LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

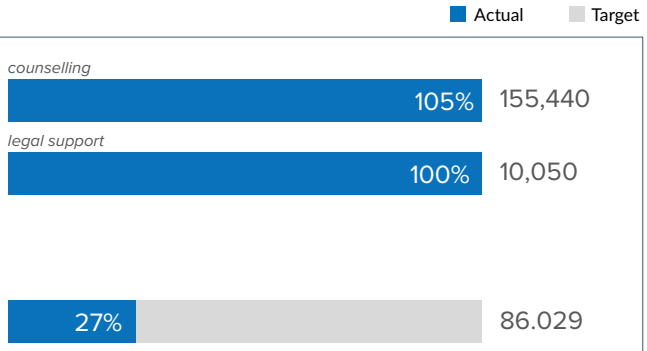
211 individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses** and **2,850** individuals benefited from **vocational training**



PROTECTION

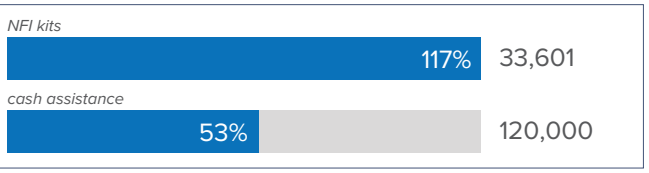
162,885 individuals provided with counselling on registration, documentation and international protection, and **10,084** have received legal support

23,584 individuals reached through community-based MHPSS, PSS counselling, child-focused services, UASC case management support, and women and girls empowerment spaces



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

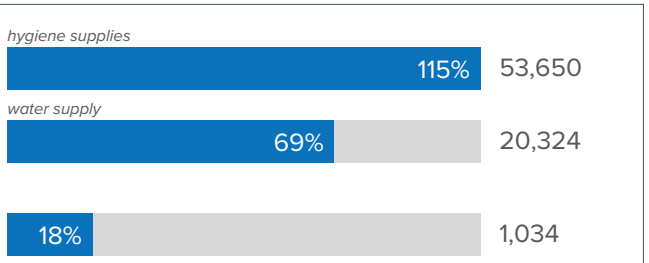
660 individuals receiving **NFI kits**, and **58,268** receiving **Multi Purpose Cash Assistance** (unconditional)



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

53,800 individuals received **hygienic supplies**, and **1,700** reached through **installation or rehabilitation of water supply**

181 latrines and **20** bathing units were constructed or rehabilitated



Country Overview

In 2024, Iran was the largest refugee-hosting country globally, with some 3.8 million refugees and other persons with international protection needs of various documentation statuses, including 2.6 million Afghans identified through a government-led headcount exercise in 2022. In 2024, significant changes in the operational context posed new challenges to the protection environment and refugee response in Iran.

Throughout the year, the Government of Iran introduced restrictive policies for Afghans without full legal documentation, including access to formal education and, in some provinces, the right to stay. These policy shifts primarily impacted the group of 2.6 million Afghans registered through the 2022 headcount exercise, who had been granted temporary protection in principle, safeguarding them from deportation and granting access to some rights and services. This group is at risk of losing their status and protections attached to this when headcount slips expire in March 2025.

Following the July 2024 Presidential election, discussions on a proposed legal framework for foreign nationals, including forcibly displaced populations, remained ongoing in Parliament. While there were plans to transition all legally staying foreigners to smart ID cards, the process was put on hold. Instead, the Government launched an *Amayesh* card renewal exercise (*Amayesh* 18) in December 2024 to verify existing *Amayesh* card holders (some 773,000 Afghans recognised as de-facto refugees). Government plans to introduce a new financial scheme which could result in more inclusive access to essential services for foreign nationals was also put on hold in July 2024.

In this context, RRP partners prioritized legal aid, counselling, and advocacy to protect at-risk Afghans, particularly undocumented individuals and those with expired headcount slips. In 2024, over 10,000 legal interventions were delivered, with cases covering family reunification, protection from refoulement, and documentation support. More than 116,000 individuals were provided with counselling on registration, documentation and international protection, with a focus on vulnerable groups, including single women with children and people with specific needs. Some 23,500 individuals were reached through community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) counselling, child-focused services, unaccompanied and separated children case management support, and women and girls empowerment spaces.

Rising deportations and spontaneous returns of Afghans placed new strains on already vulnerable populations and increased humanitarian needs. In 2024, more than 63,000 Afghans received multi-purpose cash assistance to help them meet their most urgent and basic needs. These were delivered alongside protection counselling. More than 38,000 individuals received monthly dry food rations, and some 30,000 individuals received monthly cash for food. More than 60,000 individuals received hygiene supplies and 14,000 people were reached through the installation or rehabilitation of water supplies in Sistan and Balochistan Province.

Afghan refugee girls in a Saranan Refugee Village in Balochistan.
© Asif Shahzad

Education is the key to a brighter future.
© UNHCR/Waseem Ahmad

RRP partners continued to support national systems and facilitate access to inclusive services, extending support to public health insurance schemes, and facilitating school enrollment. More than 95,500 Afghans were supported through Universal Public Health Insurance in Iran during the year. Just over 10,000 Afghan and host community children were supported to access primary and secondary education, with construction/renovation of 15 new schools and 266 new classrooms delivered by RRP partners. New restrictions on education introduced in 2024 presented new challenges. Location-based quotas meant many refugee children could not enroll in nearby schools, increasing financial and logistical burdens, and heightening the risk of drop-out—particularly for girls.

Following the Government's introduction of student enrollment bans for Afghans without legal documentation, UNHCR coordinated with provincial Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) offices to facilitate access to education, resulting in growing provincial level acceptance of handwritten passports and embassy-issued identity slips as recognized documentation. While not yet applied equally across provinces, this flexible approach enabled issuance of temporary cards and access to basic services for Afghans possessing headcount slips. With the headcount slip expiration foreseen in March 2025 and new school year in September, the risk of exclusion remains high, especially for children and undocumented families.

RRP partners continued efforts to promote longer-term solutions through regularization, livelihoods, and social inclusion. Vocational training and self-reliance initiatives targeted 2,850 refugee and host community members, enhancing local acceptance and social cohesion, and more than 200 individuals were supported to start their own businesses.

Partnerships and Coordination

The 2024–2025 RRP brought together 14 UN agencies and international partners aiming to assist 2.8 million people in Iran. Overall leadership for the refugee response is led by the Government of Iran, through the National Organisation for Migration, under the Ministry of Interior. Under the Refugee Coordination Model, the Refugee Response Group is the main platform for strategic level inter-agency coordination. At the operational level, coordination is carried out by eight Sectoral Working Groups which play a critical role in addressing operational challenges in the response and aligning priorities. Sector level coordination is also complemented by regular senior level meetings by heads of agencies/organizations to enable information-sharing across partners, joint advocacy, and harmonized responses.

Despite mounting pressure on the education system, Iranian public schools remained open and even expanded access to Afghan children, thanks to sustained joint advocacy by RRP partners and strong collaboration with national counterparts. As a result, over 600,000 Afghan refugees, including a number of undocumented children accessed education alongside their Iranian peers in 2024—an achievement that underscores the impact of coordinated efforts in advancing inclusive education. In the Protection Sector, partners advanced a unified advocacy approach that contributed to the identification of vulnerable groups eligible for temporary regularization, ensuring coordinated messaging and field-level implementation.

Teacher Training in Saranan Refugee Village, Balochistan.
© UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

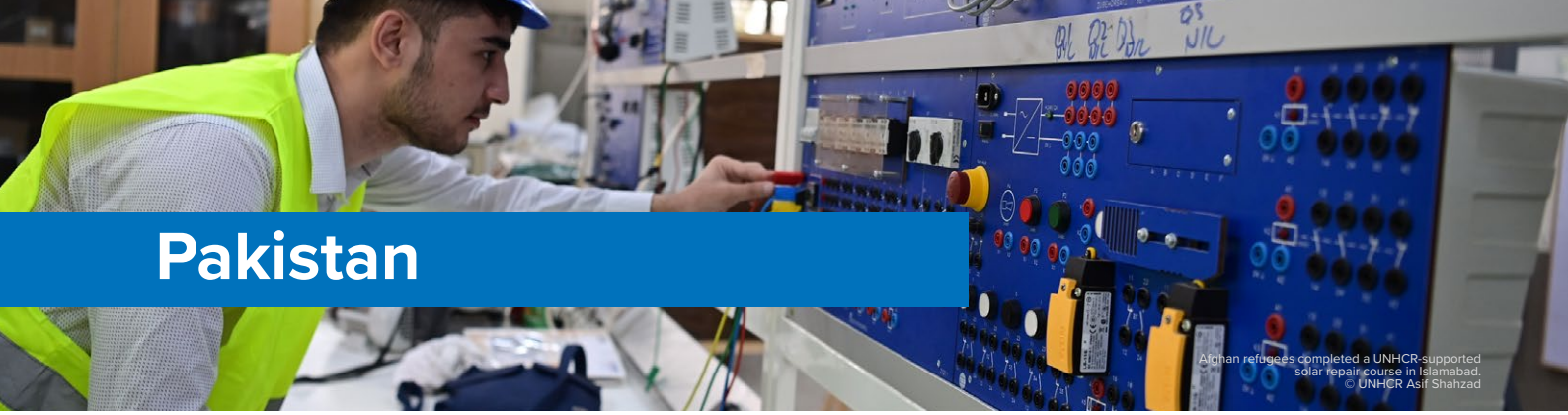
A midwife conducts a prenatal check-up for an Afghan woman at a rural health center Khalabat, Pakistan. © UNFPA

Consequences of Underfunding

By the end of 2024, the 2024 RRP response for Iran was only 24 percent funded, with USD 60.2 million received out of USD 252 million requested. This represents a 76 percent funding gap, reducing the critical support needed to improve access to essential services. This had a far-reaching impact across several sectors including protection, primary healthcare and nutrition and livelihoods.

The Protection Sector received just 3 percent of its USD 46 million target, limiting legal, psychosocial, gender-based violence and child protection services. A rise in anti-Afghan sentiment created further protection concerns. The Livelihoods and Resilience Sector received only 6 percent of its USD 24 million target, resulting in only 610 individuals of the 17,500 targeted supported with vocational training. The Health and Nutrition Sector received only 26 percent of its USD 58.8 million target, meaning only 20 percent (390,770) of the 1.9 million individuals targeted benefited from nutrition support services. Only 23 percent of Afghans targeted for support through the national public health insurance were reached, leading to overcrowding of public health services and a decline in quality of primary health services.

A young Afghan refugee learning new skills through a beautician course in Pakistan. © UNHCR



Pakistan

Afghan refugees completed a UNHCR-supported solar repair course in Islamabad.
© UNHCR Asif Shahzad

2.6M individuals reached

2.6M estimated total Afghan population

600k* new arrivals since 2021

126,800*** Afghan returnees in 2024

32% Funded across the sub-region (**USD 117M** received out of **USD 383M** required)

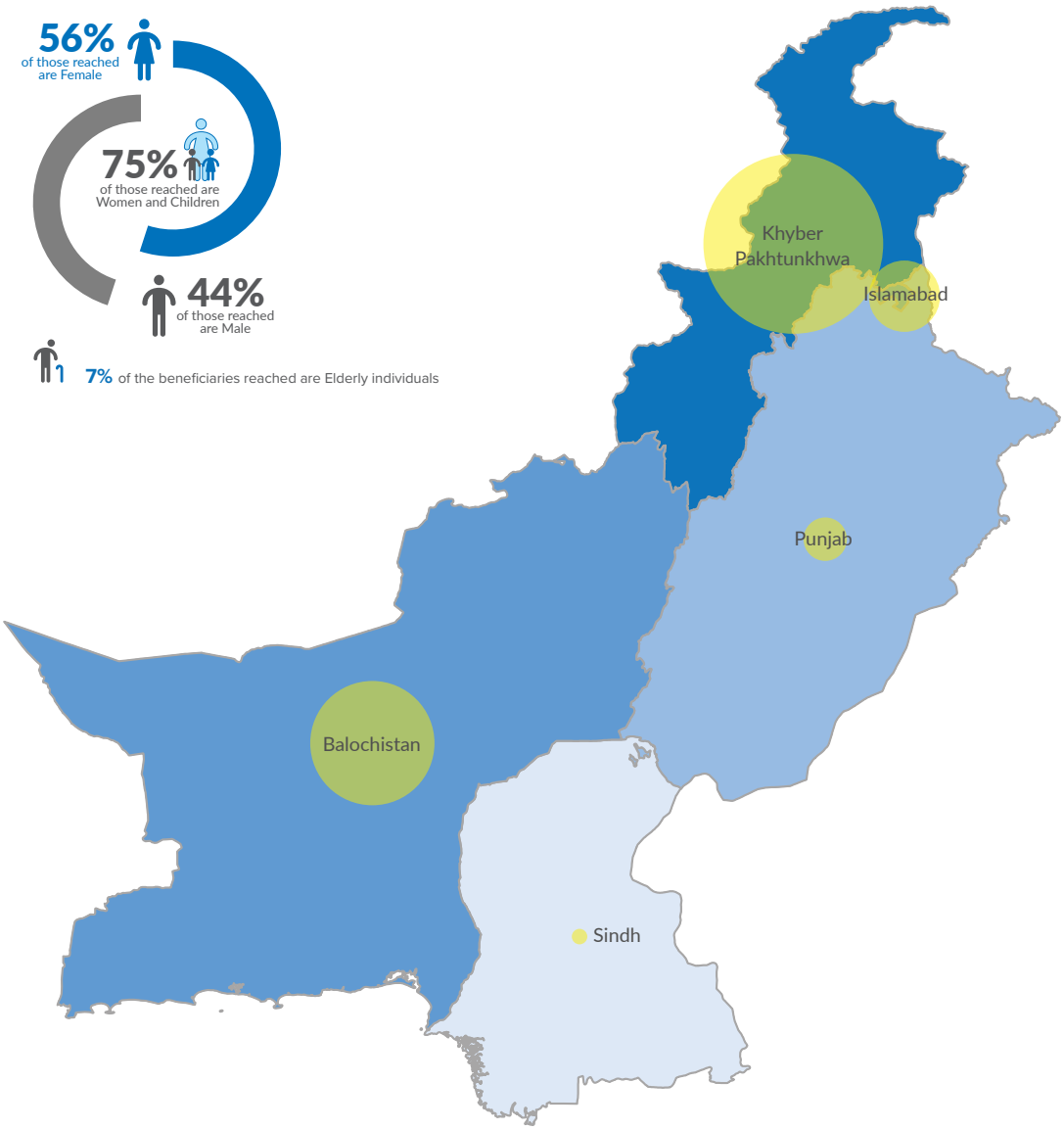
45 Partners

56% of those reached are Female

75% of those reached are Women and Children

44% of those reached are Male

7% of the beneficiaries reached are Elderly individuals



Partner Presence**

- 0
- 1 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 300

Beneficiaries

- 1,000,000
- 500,000
- 50,000

Note :

** Figure reported by the Government of Pakistan.*

*** The partner's presence is based on activities reported by implementing partners during January-June 2024 per district in the reporting platform*

**** Based on the ASR, the mid-year figure was based on VolRep alone, which is a subset of this total.*

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Country Sector Results/Impact Overview

Actual Target

EDUCATION

54,214 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access **primary** education

FOOD SECURITY

6,748 individuals reached with in-kind food assistance

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

388,190 Afghans have been supported to access **primary healthcare services**

76,010 children (6-59 months) provided with Multiple Micronutrient Powder

15,906 individuals reached with secondary and tertiary healthcare services

LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

2,825 individuals supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind **support to establish their own businesses**

Actual Target

PROTECTION

355 newly identified **children at heightened risk** supported by a Best Interests Procedure

400

129,404 women and girls accessing **Women and Girls Friendly Spaces**

159,500

54,270 individuals receiving **Legal Assistance**

62,652

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

32,605 households with access to renewable energy and energy efficient items

140,000

25,764 households provided with core relief items, including winterization assistance

73,000

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

59,377 individuals benefiting from installation/rehabilitation of sanitation and solid waste management system

199,423

242,807 individuals reached through water supply system installation, rehabilitation and improvement

1,432,423

Country Overview

For over 40 years, Pakistan has provided refuge to millions of Afghans. As of December 2024, Pakistan hosted over 2.3 million Afghans and Afghans of other status. However, economic and security challenges continue to strain Pakistan's capacity to host them. Since the introduction of the IFRP in 2023, the safety, rights and wellbeing of forcibly displaced Afghans in Pakistan have become increasingly restricted. Throughout 2024, 315,100 Afghans of various documentation statuses had returned to Afghanistan, many under adverse circumstances, including over 8,000 deported.

In 2024, IFRP implementation slowed, and registered refugees gained relief when their Proof of Registration (PoR) cards were extended until June 2025. Still, others especially women, children, and vulnerable groups faced growing difficulties in accessing healthcare, education, livelihoods, and documentation. Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior announced in November 2023 that Afghan nationals were required to obtain a No Objection Certificate to reside in Islamabad and Rawalpindi which further deepened anxiety and challenges within the Afghan community.

In this context, RRP partners focused on upholding and strengthening the protection environment for at-risk Afghans during the year. Key achievements included expanding protection services for child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) with some 130,000 women and girls accessing Women and Girl Friendly Spaces. Partners prioritized legal assistance with more than 54,000 individuals reached and provided community outreach and targeted assistance to the most vulnerable. Despite progress, funding shortfalls limited the scale of protection, legal aid, and GBV services and gaps in access to documentation for Afghan nationals, particularly for those arrived after August 2021.

RRP partners sought to improve access to national services in high refugee hosting areas, including primary healthcare, education, and accelerated learning programs. Barriers to education remained especially acute for Afghan children, with documentation and linguistic constraints compounding socio-economic challenges. During 2024, some 54,000 Afghan and host community children were supported to access primary education, and more than 388,000 Afghans were supported to access primary healthcare services. 15,906 individuals were reached with secondary and tertiary healthcare services. RRP partners continued to improve access to safe drinking water, with 242,807 individuals reached through water supply system installation, rehabilitation and improvement. More than 25,000 individuals received core relief items, including winter specific items.

RRP partners advocated with the government for the protection of those with continuing international protection needs including vulnerable groups. This included advocating for appropriate long-term solutions for protracted displacement, including resettlement and complementary pathways. Continued advocacy efforts by UNHCR and others, including under the auspices of the SSAR resulted in the Government extending PoR cards for Afghans until June 2025, helping to ensure protection and longer-term stability to registered Afghans.

Efforts to promote community-based interventions that foster peaceful coexistence and shared development between refugees and host populations continued throughout the year. Efforts to ensure safe living environments in Refugee Villages and to provide skills development and livelihoods support reinforced resilience and empowerment, especially for women and youth. Some 2,800 individuals were supported with business grants, cash for work, or in-kind support to establish their own businesses.

Partnerships and Coordination

In 2024, UNHCR continued an emphasis on strengthening partnership and coordination, building on the inter-agency collaboration that was reinforced in 2023. The Pakistan Refugee Consultative Forum co-chaired by the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and UNHCR, at both federal and provincial levels remained in place, playing a pivotal role in overseeing the overall coordination of the refugee response. The Refugee Inter-Sector Working Group continued to function as the working-level coordination forum, facilitating collaboration among the 10 Sector Working Groups. This arrangement allowed for the integration of operational partners' sectoral expertise from both humanitarian and development communities.

Coordination initiatives in 2024 included joint efforts to support the Government's emergency declaration in May 2024 to enroll 26 million out-of-school children aged 5-16 years into education institutions. In response, RRP partners in the Education Sector led accelerated engagement to support government efforts, promoting the principle of "leaving no one behind", including refugee children of school age. Progress was also made regarding the transition of Refugee Village schools to the Pakistani curriculum, and the gradual phase-out of duplicative educational facilities.

Consequences of Underfunding

The 2024 RRP brought together 45 local and international partners aiming to assist 4.5 million people in Pakistan. Only 32 percent of the funding needed - USD 117.1 million of the requested USD 383.3 million – was received, resulting in 2.5 million individuals assisted through activities in the RRP, two million less than planned.

This 68 percent funding gap severely impacted service delivery leaving many vulnerable refugees and host community members without essential services. The Protection Sector received only 58 percent of its USD 104 million target, limiting legal, psychosocial, gender-based violence and child protection services. The Education Sector, with just 30 percent of its USD 41.6 million requirement, failed to reach over 203,000 children. Food security was critically underfunded at 1 percent, assisting only 6,748 of the 695,175 individuals in need. Nutrition services received just 7 percent, leading to the closure of vital sites and restricting the capacity of health facilities in refugee settlements to reach those most in need.

Nurse at the Khalabat Health Centre, which provides antenatal and postnatal care to refugee women. © UNFPA

Funding and Partnership

Workers put up a solar street light in Bardsir settlement, Iran.
© UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

Recognizing the need for better planning, coordination, and fundraising to tackle the challenges, 51 humanitarian partners (13 UN agencies, 19 INGOs and 19 local civil society organisations) came together to develop the 2024-2025 Afghanistan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), with an aim to reach 7.3 million refugees and host communities.

Just USD 178.9 million of the USD 620.3 million requested was received in 2024, constituting 29 percent of overall funding needs. This is the lowest figure since the onset of the Afghan emergency in 2021 and represents a significant drop in the funding percentage compared to previous years. Since 2021 when the inter-agency response was 58 percent funded, funding has steadily dropped to 52 percent in 2022, 32 percent in 2023 and now 29 percent in 2024.

Despite generous contributions from several donors, the gap remains significant. The lack of funding for critical needs assessed is causing further hardship and risks for Afghan refugees and host communities. Underfunding also strains the humanitarian response by undermining the capacity of host governments and humanitarian actors to meet the growing humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

In 2025, competing global emergencies, a change in humanitarian aid approaches, and donor fatigue will remain a challenge, while the needs of those targeted in this plan remain significant. RRP partners acknowledge the huge generosity of host countries for their continued hosting of Afghans over several decades. These countries must be supported through even greater responsibility sharing by the international community, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

RRP partners gratefully acknowledge government donors, private donors, charities, and other organizations for their valuable contributions to RRP in 2024 through earmarked funding as well as flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub regional level which has contributed to the response. Partners continue to call for increased and flexible funding from governments and partners which are critical to facilitate continued operational delivery and to prioritize the most pressing needs across the region, as well as multi-year funding, which facilitates a more predictable response.

RRP 2024 donors: Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Peacebuilding Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America and Private Donors.

RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub regional level has contributed to the response. The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of Donors.

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

During the year, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) adopted by the governments of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan in 2012, remained the primary regional framework advances a regional approach to solutions and also promotes burden- and responsibility-sharing for refugees at regional and global levels. The chairmanship of the Support Platform for the SSAR, and its Global Core Group transitioned from the State of Qatar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in October 2024. By convening key stakeholders in a series of consultations —including governments, donors, and operational partners—the Platform sustained political attention and reinforced commitments to long-term solutions for Afghan refugees both within Afghanistan and in the two host countries. In parallel, UNHCR advanced the ReSolve Multistakeholder Pledge for the Afghanistan Situation, through which member states and partners mobilized resources and policy commitments to further access to protection, livelihood and solutions for Afghan refugees.

In Pakistan, the Local Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform continued to be engaged throughout the year at both the heads of mission and technical levels and played a critical role in the refugee response. Key areas of collaboration included coordinated advocacy with key stakeholders on strategic aspects of refugee protection, with the platform providing a forum for information sharing and strategizing by leveraging the expertise of all members. The high level of engagement has also been reflected in terms of information requests received from capitals and visits, ensuring that the Afghanistan Situation remains a priority. In Iran, high level representatives from the Iranian and Dutch governments met and confirmed shared interest to reinvigorate the SSAR Local Core Group, with efforts planned in 2025.

A donated CT scanner in use at the Institute of Kidney Diseases in the Kyber Teaching Hospital, Pakistan. © UNHCR

Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation

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