UNHCR AFGHANISTAN
MONTHLY PROTECTION UPDATE
As of April 2026

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

This monthly protection update for Afghanistan provides a comprehensive overview of UNHCR's different protection programs, aiming to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks faced by vulnerable populations in the context of the current humanitarian crisis and in the absence of durable solutions. The data and insights presented are derived from an extensive protection analysis, collected through a variety of robust tools and systems. The activities include protection monitoring, household assessments, voluntary repatriation, returns monitoring, specialized support for persons with specific needs, community engagement, complaints and feedback systems, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, women protection, and civil documentation. This update aims to highlight key achievements, ongoing challenges, and the critical needs of the affected communities, ensuring a transparent and effective protection response.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

74,604
Number of people reached through protection services (**34,731** in April)

34,395
Number of women and girls reached (**14,858** in April)

86,269
Number of refugee returns assisted by UNHCR (**44,154** in April)

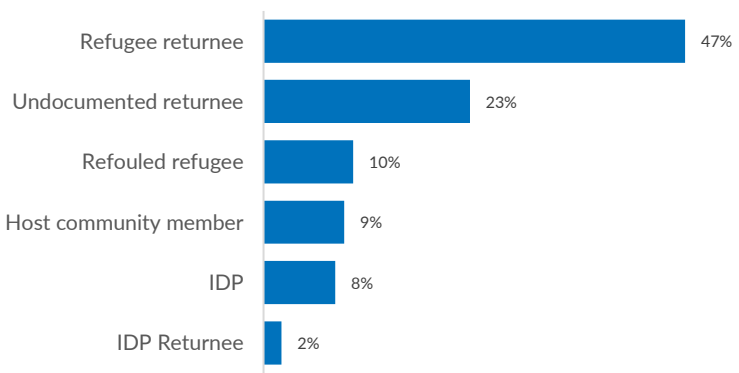
PROTECTION MONITORING

UNHCR relies on a broad variety of protection monitoring activities to collect evidence-based information on the protection needs and risks of forcibly displaced, returnee and host communities across Afghanistan. These activities include border monitoring, returnee monitoring, community-based protection monitoring (including household assessments, FGD and KII modalities). The data collected informs strategic priorities, operational decision-making and advocacy at field, national and global levels shaping the humanitarian and basic human needs response.

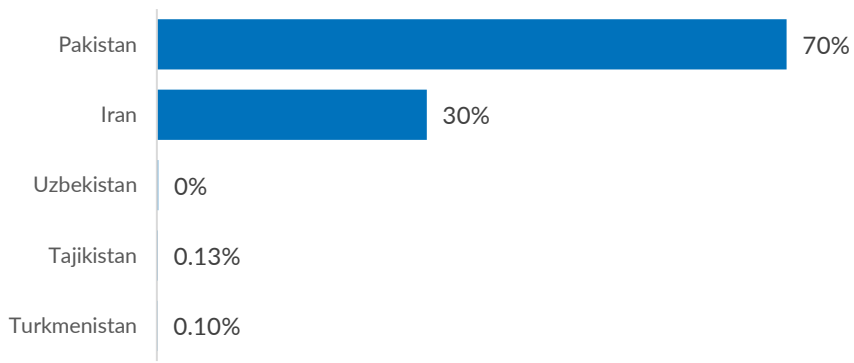
989 CBPM assessments (**616** in April) reaching **6,996** individuals (**4,290** in April)

36,988 Border inflow monitoring interviews Afghans returnees/deportees (**15,106 in April**)

CBPM assessments conducted by population status



Border Monitoring (Afghans returning)



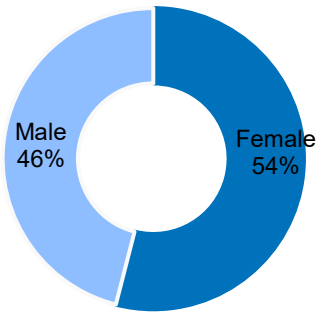
Documentation

UNHCR partners with local legal experts in the Mazar, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Jalalabad provinces to reinforce access to legal assistance for refugees, refugee returnees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees and host community members. One of the key objectives is to facilitate access to civil documentation as a tool to claim rights and access services. The support provided includes legal awareness sessions focusing on civil documentation, tailored legal counseling, legal representation and legal aid to cover administrative fees.

2,094 individuals identified for **legal aid** (**1,196** in April)

6,357 individuals received **legal assistance** (**4,612** in April)

Individuals receiving legal assistance by gender



MHPSS

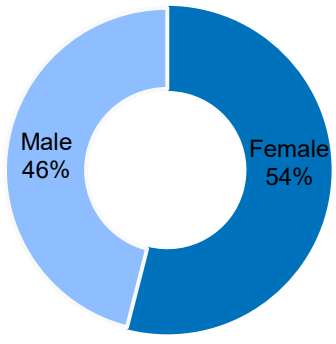
UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Afghanistan programme is designed to address MHPSS needs practicing a multilayered approach, including social considerations in basic services, strengthening of community and family support, focused non-specialized psychosocial support and referrals to specialized mental health services. The aim is to protect and promote psychosocial wellbeing and to prevent and treat mental health problems. The activities include one-on-one individual counselling, group and family-based psychosocial support and awareness-raising about MHPSS, addressing the stigma attached to seeking such support.

63 benefited from **MHPSS** services (**63** in April)

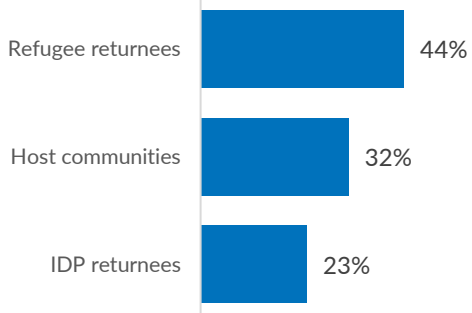
54% of MHPSS beneficiaries are **women and girls**

122 benefited from **service orientation and awareness raising** sessions (**122** in April)

Individuals receiving MHPSS services by gender



Individuals receiving MHPSS services by population type



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PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT (PCM) FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS (PSN)

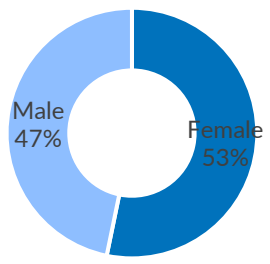
UNHCR's PCM programme focuses on individuals with specific needs and risks arising from their displacement status, role in the community, legal situation, disability, social or health vulnerability and/or an individual protection risk. It aims to provide structured support to persons at heightened risk of a rights violation, drawing on strengths of the client, the community and multi-sectoral referrals to mitigate and address the identified risks.

914 intake interviews conducted (**677** in April)

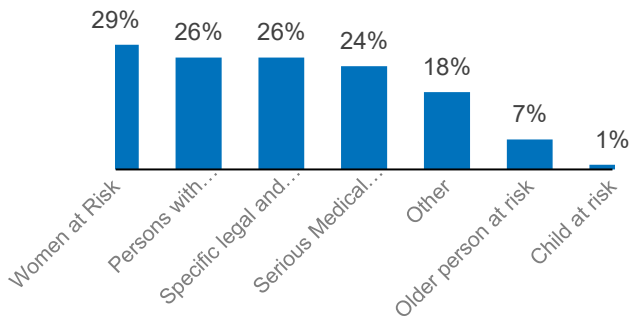
887 protection risk assessments conducted (**651** in April)

96 individuals received cash Assistance (**46** in April)

Individuals benefiting from PCM by gender



Key protection risks identified



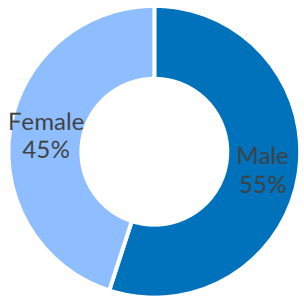
CHILD PROTECTION

UNHCR child protection (CP) interventions aim to address child protection risks in Afghanistan employing a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach. In close collaboration with the CP Workstream and its local partner NGOs, UNHCR offers essential support to children at risk and their families through the provision case management, psychosocial support and other recreational activities for children at integrated child-friendly spaces within Women Protection and community awareness raising and the strengthening of community-based child protection network.

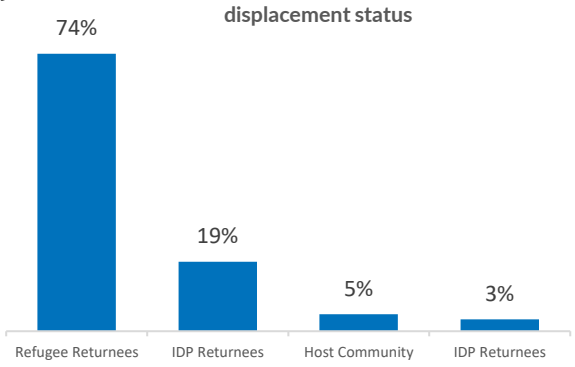
221 children referred to child protection services (**221** in April)

93 children with heightened Protection Risks supported through Case management (**93** in April)

Individuals receiving CP services by gender



Individuals receiving CP services by displacement status



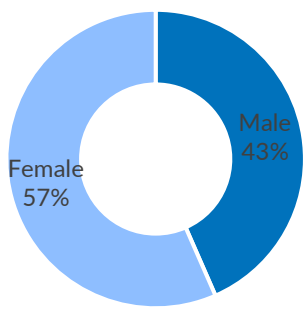
WOMEN PROTECTION

UNHCR women protection interventions aim to respond to the specific protection needs of women and girls and empower community members with knowledge and skills to mitigate harmful practices and create a safe and enabling environment. The activities contribute to the operationalization of inter-agency referral systems designed to support women and girls at risks through community awareness raising, dialogues with community leaders, MHPSS support, economic empowerment and wellbeing activities, the provision of female hygiene kits, and conducting safety audits.

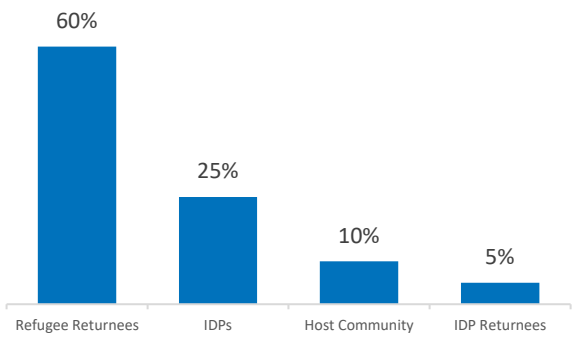
56 dialogues conducted with community leaders (**38** in April)

5,222 individuals reached through awareness raising (**3,559** in April)

Individuals receiving women protection services by gender



Individuals receiving women protection services by displacement status



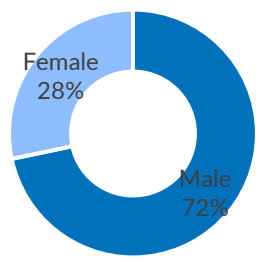
ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

UNHCR's complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) provides community members with the opportunity to share questions, feedback, suggestions and complaints. It relies on a variety of communication channels accessible across the country, including one mailbox, three hotlines, 33 complaint boxes and helpdesks set up in Encashment centers. As a part of its strategic objective to strengthen its engagement and communication with communities, UNHCR has also established a country-wide network of 106 community-outreach volunteers (COVs).

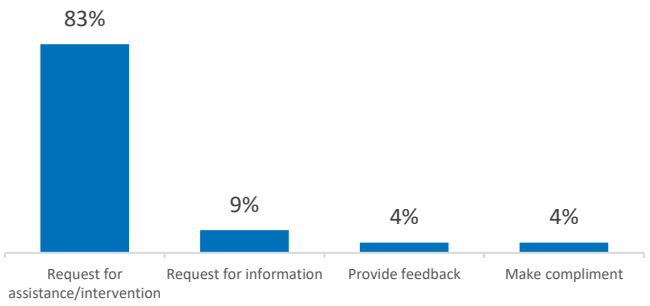
14,582 queries reached via CFM channels (**4,057** in April)

56% of queries received via emails

Individuals benefited from CFM b gender



Queries by category



COORDINATION

UNHCR Afghanistan is a key actor in the Inter-Agency structure to respond to the protection and humanitarian needs in the country. As such, UNHCR leads and actively participates in several clusters and working groups within the coordination architecture of international presence in Afghanistan.

Entity	Role	Entity	Role
GBV Workstream	Member	Disability Inclusion Working Group	Member
Child Protection Workstream	Member	Legal Assistance & Civil Documentation Workstream	Co-chair
Protection Coordination Group	Lead/Member	Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)	Member
PSEA Network	Member	Population Movement Task Team (PMTT)	Member
Thematic Working Group for Gender and Human Rights	Member	Border Consortium	Member
Thematic Working Group on Protection Mainstreaming in Durable Solutions	Convenor	UNSFA Results Group 3	Co-chair
Thematic Working Group on Data and Analysis for Solutions	Convenor		

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the donors who contributed to UNHCR's response in Afghanistan in 2024, as well as those who contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funds which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

Bulgaria | Canada | China | Czech Republic | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Islamic Development Bank | Japan | Luxemburg | Norway | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund | Central Emergency Response Fund | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

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