

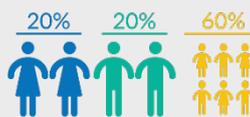
## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.4M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 1 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

 **669,492**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021<sup>2</sup>


 **72,481**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 28 November 2021

 **2.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries as of 31 December 2020

 **96,600**

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021<sup>3</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **The operational context in Afghanistan remained stable during the reporting period.** Despite several security incidents caused by non-state actors in the country, UNHCR has been able to proceed with its humanitarian activities and protection programmes in nearly all provinces of Afghanistan.
- **The humanitarian situation in the country, however, continues to be of serious concern.** The UN has reported in recent weeks that one in two people in the country are now in need of humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic and lifesaving needs.
- **To respond to these needs, UNHCR is planning to deliver five airlifts of emergency supplies in December,** with the support of the Qatari authorities and de facto authorities in Afghanistan. The flights will include emergency relief, including nearly 50,000 high-thermal blankets, as well as thousands of solar lamps.
- **UNHCR's emergency response in Afghanistan has been further scaled up in recent weeks.** During the reporting period, UNHCR has provided essential assistance to nearly 170,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons in need, which brings the total number of people assisted this year by UNHCR to more than 720,000. This assistance includes the following items and services:

### Emergency Assistance provided in 2021 (as of 1 December)



**95,600 | 720,700\***  
persons supported



**31 | 34**  
provinces reached



**9,800 | 270,900**  
persons benefited from core relief items



**63,000 | 128,000**  
persons benefited from cash for winterization



**7,500 | 52,000**  
persons benefited from cash assistance for Protection needs



**5,800 | 29,500**  
persons benefited from cash for shelter/rent



**100 | 15,100**  
persons benefited from solar panels distribution



**2,300 | 10,400**  
persons benefited from cash for Reintegration (CARE)

**Legend: XXX** assistance provided from 16 to 30 November 2021 | **XXX** assistance provided in 2021

\*The total persons supported may include multiple counting of beneficiaries receiving assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- In support of solutions for internally displaced people in Afghanistan, UNHCR has in **the last two weeks provided cash assistance for the reintegration of some 2,300 returning IDPs.** The cash will support people to safely and sustainably reintegrate back into their communities. Out of nearly 669,000 people internally displaced (IDPs) in Afghanistan by conflict this year, an estimated 170,000 IDPs have returned to their previous places of origin since September, particularly as the security situation across the country has stabilized. UNHCR will continue to support them to return and reintegrate to their homes, should they voluntarily wish to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure comprises the 2020 year-end figure of 2.9M (Source: UNHCR), the total estimated conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January (Source: OCHA), excluding the estimation of IDPs which have returned to their places of origin (Source: UNHCR).

<sup>2</sup> Source OCHA, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

<sup>3</sup> The number of new arrivals includes those who approached UNHCR and Partners in Tajikistan (5,600) and Iran (23,960), those collected largely through key informant interviews in Pakistan (49,640), new arrivals reported by the Government of Uzbekistan (13,020), as well as the Afghans who were kept by the Iranian authorities at border locations (3,650) since 1 January 2021, although only 607 individuals of the latter group remain in the country. The vast majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher. The increase on the overall figure does not necessarily reflect the displacement of that same period, but rather the



UNHCR scaling-up efforts to assist IDPs with core relief items to meet their immediate needs. © UNHCR Afghanistan

- **Despite operational progress, several challenges continued to impact the humanitarian response.** They include cash and liquidity issues, which are affecting UNHCR's ability to provide cash-based interventions and procure humanitarian aid. Some challenges for female staff also remain, including access in some areas, though the ability of female staff to work has increased in recent weeks across the country. UNHCR, alongside other humanitarian actors, continues dialogue and advocacy with de facto authorities to ensure unhindered humanitarian access and the full participation of women and girls, including throughout the response.

## REGIONAL

- During the reporting period, **UNHCR has highlighted the escalating risks faced by Afghans seeking to flee into neighbouring countries as the situation within Afghanistan continues to deteriorate.** Afghanistan's land borders with Pakistan and Iran are open almost solely to those with the required passports and visas, though a small number of medical cases are permitted to exceptionally enter Pakistan without documents. The land borders of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan remain closed to Afghans.
- While official borders remain closed to the vast majority of Afghans, **UNHCR is aware of asylum-seekers crossing into neighbouring countries through unofficial channels.** Many entering Iran report having sought the assistance of smugglers to leave Afghanistan. Most Afghans have told UNHCR and partners they were exposed to serious protection risks on the journey – including extortion, beatings, and other violence, particularly against women and girls. In Iran, local media continue to cite the Iranian authorities continue to estimate upwards of 5,000 newly arriving individuals per day into Iran.
- **Deportations of Afghans have also escalated from Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan in the recent period, in contravention of UNHCR's non-return advisory.** UNHCR estimates that an average of 3,000 Afghans have been deported from Iran to Afghanistan daily between August and November. In Pakistan, deportations of some 1,800 Afghans were reported during September and October. UNHCR is also seriously concerned by the deportation of twenty-three Afghan asylum-seekers, including women and children, from Tajikistan during the past month. UNHCR continues to call on the authorities of all countries to immediately cease the forced return of Afghans, many of whom may be in need of refugee protection.
- So far this year, **UNHCR has recorded 96,600 newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since the start of the year,** composed of 50% children and 24% adult women in Iran and Pakistan. The overall number of Afghans in need of international protection are thought to be higher, particularly as not all approach UNHCR or partners. The majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. Basic needs cited by those newly arriving Afghans interviewed in Iran and Pakistan include access to shelter, livelihoods, food and documentation, with a large majority of those undocumented Afghans in Iran also citing concerns regarding detention and forced return.
- The [2022 Global Humanitarian Overview \(GHO\)](#) was launched by OCHA on 2 December, in Geneva, with the overarching theme of "Climate Change and Humanitarian Action". Planning figures for 2022 from both the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Afghanistan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) have fed into the GHO. Inside Afghanistan, the HRP has identified 24 million people in need and will target 22.1 million of them, with total requirements of USD 4.5 billion. The RRP will target some 5.7 million people in the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status, and host communities, with total interagency requirements for 2022 of USD 623 million.

