

## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.5M**

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

 **822,546**

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



 **67,200**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 23 May 2022

 **2.3M**


Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2021

 **178,240**

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

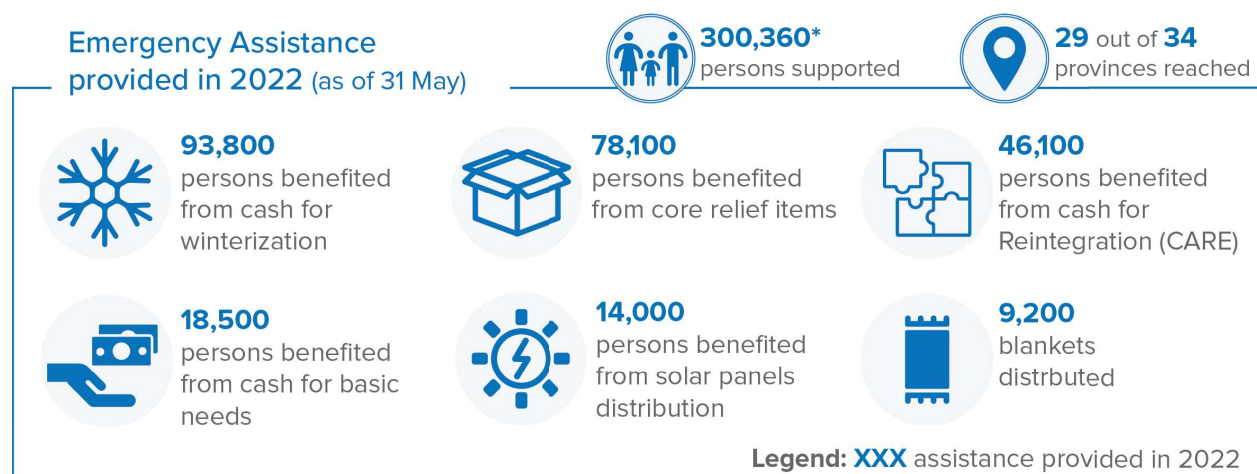
 **791,000**

IDP returnees recorded in 2021

 **994** new conflict induced IDPs between the period of 10 April to 10 May 2022<sup>2</sup> (ongoing verification, figure is expected to increase)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation continues to remain challenging in Afghanistan. More than half of the population is currently dependent on life-saving and essential humanitarian assistance. This includes many internally displaced people, who often live in makeshift settlements under difficult conditions.
- In response to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, UNHCR and partners have reached more than 300,000 displaced people in nearly all provinces with essential relief and assistance since the beginning of the year. In addition, some 86,000 individuals have also benefited from health centres, schools, water systems and other infrastructure that UNHCR has supported in areas prioritised for the return of refugees and IDPs.
- For UNHCR's assistance and relief programmes, this assistance in 2022 has included the following:



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

- A priority for UNHCR's work in Afghanistan remains the sustainable return and reintegration of displaced Afghans to their places of origin, with over 791,000 Afghans returning in 2021, as the security situation has stabilised in many parts of the country.
- In the reporting period, UNHCR supported nearly 9,000 Afghans to return to their places of origin in Nili, Daikundini province, following years of internal displacement. UNHCR also distributed cash to support the reintegration of more than 1,500 people returning to Maidan Shahar district, which has helped them to restart their lives.

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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 in 2021 (Source: OCHA), excluding the recorded number of IDPs which have returned to their places of origin (Source: UNHCR), with the inclusion of the underestimated number of newly displaced IDPs during 2021, .

<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 (5,710), Iran (38,180) and Pakistan (117,550), 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 (3,780) since 1 January 2021, although only 738 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 date of assessment.



Afghans who returned to rebuild after years of internal displacement are receiving aid this month Nili, Daikundi Province.  
 © UNHCR Afghanistan

- Since the start of the year, nearly 550 Afghan refugees have also returned from neighbouring countries under UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme. Cash assistance is provided to returnees at Encashment Centres, as well as a range of services, including basic health and malnutrition screening and vaccination, mine risk awareness, information on school enrolment, and overnight accommodation, should this be needed.
- To support the distribution of assistance in Afghanistan, UNHCR has been utilising a new feature of the Global Distribution Tool (GDT), which allows the collection of electronic signatures. The deployment of GDT is part of a larger deployment together with Cash Assist and the Deduplication Tool (DDT) developed by the Data, Identity Management and Analysis Team. This is with the goal to strengthen accountability in the delivery of cash assistance by mitigating the risks of duplicating delivery of the same type of cash assistance to the same households.
- In this connection, a GDT pilot took place in March in Sheberghan, Jowzjan Province, in Northwest Afghanistan supporting the cash distribution for reintegration and for shelter repair, during which over 100 households received cash assistance. Since the pilot, UNHCR has successfully completed deployments in other parts of the country and plans to cover 34 provinces by mid-July 2022.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR in Afghanistan also successfully deployed a Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) within the assessment tool for displaced persons, to automate identity information recording where electronic id cards or e-tazkiras are available. This speeds-up data collection and strengthens accountability in information gathering.
- UNHCR's Afghanistan situation response in 2022 (inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring host countries which are hosting Afghan refugees) has requirements of USD 609.5 million and is currently 61 per cent funded with USD 372 million received. UNHCR's response inside Afghanistan in 2022 has requirements of USD 340.3 million and is currently 57 per cent funded with USD 193 million received.

## REGIONAL

- There are more than 178,200 reported newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection in countries neighbouring Afghanistan since 1 January 2021. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher, as not all approach or contact UNHCR. In Iran and Pakistan, more than half are children and a nearly a quarter are women.
- In Pakistan, at Torkham border point, entry remains limited to those Afghans with valid passports and visas. At Chamam border – the other main border crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan – entry is restricted to passport holders with valid visas, Tazkira holders from Kandahar province, persons with serious medical conditions and CNIC holders. Since early April, the exit of Afghans on Tazkira through Torkham border has not been permitted by the authorities. However, Afghans can exit to Afghanistan on ACC, PoR cards and visas. In addition, some exceptions are applied to allow critical health and other humanitarian cases who entered into Pakistan with Tazikras to travel back to Pakistan.
- In Iran, according to evolving estimates by the Government, approximately 500,000 – 1 million Afghans have arrived since 2021. The Fariman facility is located approximately 80 km away from Mashhad and functions as a transit/reception area where BAFIA hosts newly arrived Afghans who voluntarily report themselves to border guards for assistance and asylum at Khorasan Razavi province border points. According to the manager of Fariman facility, some 2,300 individuals who were previously in Fariman have since been given Laissez-Passers and been allowed to leave to urban settings in Mashhad. Currently, 250 families (1,200 individuals) remain in the facility; they have been screened and may receive documentation when they are relocated to Torbat e Jam refugee settlement or allowed to move to urban settings.
- UNHCR has observed an increasing trend of deportations of undocumented Afghans between January and May 2022. Documentation requirements for official border crossing seems to be leading to family separation and women/children opting to cross through unofficial border crossing points, exposing them to a heightened risk of smuggling and trafficking. During the past months, UNHCR has identified an increasing trend of PoCs fleeing violence and persecution – whilst at the same time noting that many of those interviewed at border crossing points might be reluctant to share persecution related reasons for flight.
- Through the analysis of available data and information provided by the Government of Iran, UNHCR estimates that 65% of all newly arriving Afghans are deported from Iran and 274,000 of the new arrivals will remain in Iran by the end of 2022.

