Iran has been one of the world’s leading refugee hosts for over forty years. In August 2021, following the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, many Afghans fled to Iran. UNHCR rapidly scaled up its operation in Iran to respond to the large number of new arrivals and their urgent needs for assistance.

Within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR supports the Government of Iran in implementing inclusive refugee policies. The SSAR also facilitates coordinated protection approaches among partners, consensus-building on international protection priorities, and dialogue and partnerships in support of the Afghan refugee situation.

**800,000 REFUGEES IN IRAN**

- 780,000 Afghans
- 20,000 Iraqis

**3.5M AFGHANS IN IRAN**

- 780,000 refugees
- 2.1 M undocumented
- 586,000 passport holders

**500,000 to 1 Million**

Afghans have newly fled to Iran since 2021

(According to evolving estimates by the Government of Iran)

**40,714 Newly Arrived Afghans**

(Arrived to UNHCR directly requesting assistance since January 2021)

**HEALTH**

UNHCR supports the Ministry of Health to include refugees in the national health system. Free primary health care, including vaccinations, essential medicines and maternal and child health services are available to all, regardless of documentation status. Refugees also have access to health insurance to cover secondary and tertiary health care, on par with nationals. For 2022, UNHCR covers the insurance premium for up to 120,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, while others can enroll by paying the premium themselves.

**EDUCATION**

All children in Iran have access to primary and secondary education regardless of their documentation status. Refugee, undocumented and other foreign children study side by side with Iranian school children, following the same national curriculum. In 2016, the Government of Iran removed ‘refugee-specific’ fees, ensuring primary and secondary education is affordable to all. Higher education can also be accessed by Afghans and Iraqis. UNHCR supports the government in constructing schools, providing literacy training to refugees, and scholarships for tertiary education.

**LIVELIHOOD**

UNHCR implements various livelihoods interventions for refugees, including certified technical and vocational training and other income generating projects. Supporting refugees to access livelihoods opportunities can prepare them to become more self-sufficient and better able to meet the basic needs of their families. Refugees can thus also increase their economic potential, enabling them to contribute to their host community and one day, their home country, when conditions become conducive for returns.

**FUNDING**

- Funded 75%
- Unfunded 32%
- 30.4 M

**VOLREP**

"By the end of June, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 173 returnees to Afghanistan and one returnee to Iraq. This represents a decrease compared to the 706 returns facilitated in the same period in 2021. Voluntary repatriation declined by 75% compared to the same period in 2021. This decrease is due to the instability and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan."

**RESETTLEMENT**

While in 2021 UNHCR received no quota for resettlement of Afghan refugees, in 2022 it is working with resettlement partners and the Government of Iran to resettle 3,000 refugees, given the increasing protection needs of refugees in Iran and the ongoing volatile security situation in Afghanistan.

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