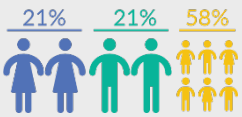
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

3.25M
Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of **31 December 2022**[1]

32,410
new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022 (ongoing verification)[2]



52,160
Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 December 2022

5.2M
Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of **31 December 2022**

1.6M
Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring Countries since **August 2021**[3]

1,200
IDP returnees recorded in 2023

3,748
Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 3 May, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P), Gillian Triggs, concluded her four-day visit to Afghanistan, where she met with key stakeholders, including UNHCR beneficiaries, senior UN and de facto authority (dFA) officials as well as members of civil society. The AHC-P also visited UNHCR projects in Bamyan, including a primary school, midwifery training centre and community youth centre. In meetings with high-ranking dFA officials in Kabul, which included the Minister for Economy and two Deputy Ministers for Refugees and Repatriation, the AHC-P reiterated the UN's grave concern regarding the bans and impact on the humanitarian response and advocated for their reversal. On her last day, the AHC-P met with the visiting UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, and Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, who were also on a joint visit to Afghanistan to discuss the current state of human rights and the need for continued advocacy with the dFA on human rights protection.

- During the reporting period, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, convened a closed-door two-day meeting on Afghanistan with various special envoys and representatives of some 20 countries in Doha, Qatar. The meeting sought to reinvigorate international engagement around key issues such as human rights, in particular women's and girls' rights, inclusive governance, counter terrorism and drug trafficking, and to achieve a common international approach to these challenges. Speaking after the meeting, the Secretary General condemned the latest edict banning Afghan women working for the United Nations and NGOs and reiterated the UN's commitment to speaking out against the systemic erosion of women's and girl's rights by the dFA, as it seeks the necessary conditions to deliver much needed humanitarian assistance. The meeting came days after the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2681 condemning the "unprecedented" decision of the dFA to ban Afghan women and girls from public life.

- UNHCR hosted the Ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan, Takashi Okada, who was in Kandahar from 30 April to 2 May. Ambassador Okada visited various Japan-funded projects, including a school, community centre, and clinic, where he met with several beneficiaries and learnt more about the positive impact these projects have had on their lives.

AFGHANISTAN

- In 2023, UNHCR provided the following assistance in Afghanistan:

Publishing date: 23 June 2023 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP).
[1]ASR figures still under review
[2] Source : OCHA – https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps
[3]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 since August 2021, some 62,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, some 287,000 have approached UNHCR. According to Government of Uzbekistan sources, some 13,020 Afghan citizens arrived in the country since January 2021. The majority arrived before August 15 with valid visas issued by the Uzbek consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR and partners reached an estimated 309,400 individuals with emergency assistance in 32 out of 34 provinces countrywide as of end-May. Of the total reached, 132,100 were supported with cash assistance while 177,300 were reached with in-kind and other individual assistance. 101,900 individuals were also assessed while 53,200 potentially benefited from activities in Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs). Other assistance ranged from protection, core relief items (CRIs) as well as shelter and seasonal support.

- On 16 May, UNHCR successfully rolled out the Afghan Refugee Return Database (ARRD) in Afghanistan and Pakistan. ARRD is an online and harmonized regional data tool which provides Afghanistan real time access to the data of returnees processed at the Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan and Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, seeks to enhance the integrity of voluntary repatriation via the use of biometrics and increase efficiency by offering an automated data-sharing solution across borders.

- On 28 May, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO attended a meeting at Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME), on the countrywide January to April 2023 immunization campaign. Some 2.5 million Afghans and Iraqis residing in 16 provinces in Iran reportedly benefited from this initiative which UNHCR supported via the provision of technical and financial assistance. During the meeting, MoHME asked for more support to scale up tuberculosis screening and treatment because of its prevalence among the Afghan population. UNHCR and WHO agreed to follow up on this with other relevant UN agencies.

Ambassador Okada visited several projects funded by Japan in Afghanistan, including a school in Kandahar. © WAW

- In Pakistan, some 249,000 Afghan refugee families were reached through a one-time cash assistance scheme launched in February 2023. PKR 4.78bn (approximately $16 million) has been distributed via the scheme, which targets Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders affected by last year's devastating floods. To date, 1.2 million people out a planned 1.4 million have been reached in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad and Kashmir.

- Since the start of UNHCR's pilot project in Kazakhstan's Surkhandarya region in August 2022, more than 200 Afghan and Uzbek women and men have completed vocational courses on hairdressing, nail care, sewing or confectionary making. The project also included three-month Uzbek, Russian and English language courses for over 100 Afghan and Uzbek children.

- To support preparedness planning efforts, UNHCR sent its first convoy of CRIs from UNHCR's Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Termez, Uzbekistan, to Iran. The three-truck convoy carried 12 Rubbhalls, 1,500 tarpaulins, 3,000 sleeping mats, and 3,000 thermal blankets.

- During the reporting period, UNHCR met with JICA representatives from Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and their Regional Bureau. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss progress made in 2022 with regards to the joint UNHCR-JICA collaboration in Tajikistan which supports refugees through livelihoods projects. To date, 56 women have been trained and 25 provided grants to establish businesses. However, more resources are needed to scale up support to refugees and host communities.

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- In 2021 and 2022, over 1.37 million IDPs returned to their places of origin: approximately 1.12 million IDPs returned in 2021 and 254,000 in 2022. In 2023, some 1,200 returned to their places of origin. The source of these figures are the 363,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners since 10 October 2021 until 1 June 2023. These figures are expected to increase retroactively due to ongoing assessments and considered indicative rather than overall statistical data of IDP returnees in Afghanistan.

- In 2023, 3,748 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan (93 per cent from Pakistan, 6 per cent from Iran and 1 per cent from other countries). This is seven times higher than the number of returns in 2022 during a similar period.

- As part of its support to refugees voluntarily returning home from countries of asylum, UNHCR offers a voluntary repatriation package consisting of a one-off cash grant of $375 to cover transportation and immediate needs upon arrival. In 2023, UNHCR provided some $1.44 million in cash assistance to returnees at Encashment Centres. Returning refugees also receive basic health care and overnight accommodation when needed as well as other services provided by partners present in each Encashment Centre. In the medium to long term, UNHCR and partners continue to support returnees in the 80 PARRs with services such as shelter, education, health, energy, livelihoods, and community infrastructure.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

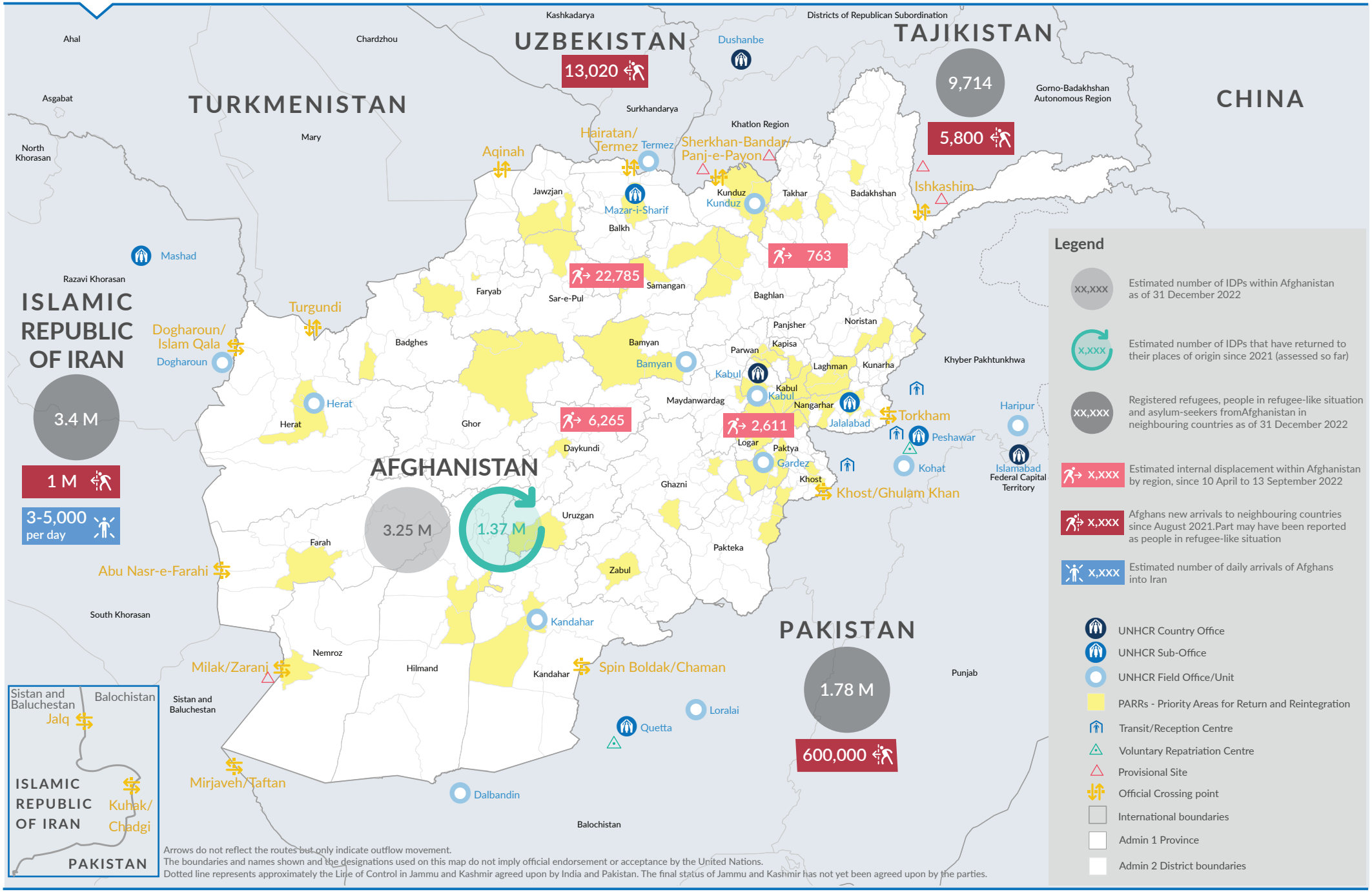
UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan Situation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Private donors Spain | United Kingdom | France | Germany| Switzerland | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Belgium | Ireland | Private donors Australia | France

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 01 June 2023



Arrows do not reflect the routes but only indicate outflow movement.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
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 yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Data sources: UNHCR operations, OCHA | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)
For feedback and clarifications, please write to UNHCR RBAP at < rbapdima@unhcr.org >