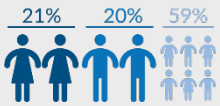
## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

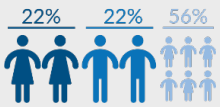
**3.22M**
**Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict** within Afghanistan as of **30 June 2024**

**758,500**
**Total returns from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September 2023**[1]




**5.53M**
**Refugees and asylum-seekers** from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of **30 June 2024**

**31,100**
**Refugee returns** to Afghanistan in 2024[2]




**34,800**
**Refugees in Afghanistan** as of 30 June 2024

**20,000**
**IDP returnees** recorded in 2024

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 15 September 2023 and 31 October 2024, close to 760,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan, with UNHCR providing critical assistance to 116,000 of these returnees. Notably, nearly half (49%) of those assisted are women, including 28% girls, while 29% are boys and 22% men. Among the returnees, 2.5% have disabilities and 31% are female-headed households, highlighting the vulnerability of those returning. Return numbers peaked in May and June, with approximately 38,000 people returning each month, before declining to around 36,000 in July, 29,000 in August, 23,000 in September and 24,000 in October. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued its vital work, providing biometric processing and cash assistance to Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders and their families, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and those referred for protection. For more information, please see the latest UNHCR Pakistan-Afghanistan Returns Emergency Response Update.
- On 1 October, UNHCR and UNDP Afghanistan signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration between the two agencies focused on promoting the economic inclusion of refugee returnees and their host communities, fostering social cohesion, enhancing resilience to climate change, and facilitating data sharing. The partnership aims to improve the economic resilience and rights of Afghan women, particularly those at heightened risk, by expanding their access to economic opportunities. It is also expected to support resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction by promoting sustainable natural resource management, including initiatives in renewable and clean energy. Signed on the margins of the Afghanistan Coordination Group Meeting in Dubai, UAE, the agreement builds on a prior partnership (2022–2023) jointly implemented through UNDP's ABADEI (Area-Based Approach for Development Emergency Initiative) and UNHCR's Co-PROSPER (Community-Based Protection and Solutions Programme).

*Mohmad Yasin, a recent returnee receives cash assistance from UNHCR, with support from UN CERF, and local partner Watan's Social and Technical Services Association at the Kabul Encashment Centre. ©UNHCR/Mushtaq Ahmad Munawarzada*

[1] *An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. UNHCR began monitoring return trends from mid-September 2023 before the official announcement of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan by the Government of Pakistan in October 2023. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to 30 June 2025.*

- On 17 October, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) Support Platform marked the official handover of its Chairmanship from Qatar to the Netherlands during a hybrid meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Qatar's outgoing Chair and the Netherlands' incoming Chair were joined by UNHCR officials, including Assistant High Commissioner for Operations and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, as well as Global SSAR Core Group members. During the meeting, Qatar reaffirmed its commitment to Afghan refugee solutions, while the Netherlands expressed gratitude to Qatar for its leadership. Global Core Group members reiterated concerns over restrictive laws by de facto authorities affecting women and girls and emphasised the importance of a gender-sensitive humanitarian response.

## AFGHANISTAN

- In October 2024, UNHCR and its partners provided humanitarian assistance to over 1 million people across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, with a strong focus on protection support. Among those reached, 256,000 people received cash assistance, while 904,000 benefited from in-kind aid and other forms of support, including core relief items, shelter, seasonal assistance, and community-based interventions. Needs assessments were conducted for approximately 563,000 people to determine the specific support required.
- UNHCR continued its commitment to supporting Afghan returnees, having assisted 50,453 people (12,138 households) in the first 10 months of 2024, bringing the total number of returnees supported since January 2023 to 127,305 people (30,692 households) by the end of October 2024. In October alone, 3,025 people (841 households) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan, with most coming from Pakistan. Returnees included Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and undocumented family members. UNHCR, in coordination with partners, facilitated their reception and assistance at Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul. In addition, an estimated 1.62 million IDPs have returned to their places of origin between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various forms of support, including cash assistance, vocational training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education.[6]

## REGIONAL

- In October, UNHCR Pakistan submitted six cases (21 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024 so far, 417 cases (1,609 refugees) have been submitted. During the month, 31 refugees departed for resettlement. For 2024, 2,408 refugees departed. Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 48 refugees for resettlement consideration. Another 87 refugees departed on resettlement, bringing the total departures this year to 1,010.
- In Pakistan, the UNHCR and National Incubation Centre (NIC) project, *"Meri Shinakhat Mera Karobar"* (My Business, My Identity), hosted a five-day "boot camp" in Balochistan that trained 50 participants (17 women and 33 men) on key business skills. These included entrepreneurship fundamentals, personal vision development, business idea selection, pre-feasibility studies, pricing, and marketing strategies. The project highlights the importance of entrepreneurship and introduces trainees to NIC's grant programme and training opportunities.

*[2] This category includes all refugee returnees as well as PoR card holders who returned without passing through established Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) set up in Pakistan.*
*[3] In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure based on various government estimates and is actively engaging with authorities to obtain updated, disaggregated data and an estimate of the current number of Afghans remaining in the country. Of the estimated 1 million new arrivals in Iran since August 2021, over 92,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. In Pakistan, where the government reports 600,000 new arrivals, more than 476,000 have approached UNHCR.*
*[4] The total number of people supported may include multiple counts of beneficiaries who received assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.*
*[5] UNHCR has developed the priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRs) programme under the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration, and assistance to host countries. PARR projects focus on improving access to education, healthcare, shelter, community-based services, livelihoods, and providing cash and in-kind support to vulnerable families.*
*[6] The data is based on household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from October 2021 to October 2024, and is subject to retroactive adjustments from ongoing assessments. Therefore, these figures are indicative rather than comprehensive statistics on IDP returnees in Afghanistan. The numbers may also be underestimated due to a recent reduction in assessments.*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total funding requirements for the Afghanistan situation in 2024 stand at USD 479.7 million. By late October, only 47% of this critical funding had been secured. UNHCR appreciates the generosity of donors who have stepped up to support the Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked contributions, ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need:

Australia | Denmark | Canada | China | Czechia | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Norway | Netherlands | Saudi Arabia | Switzerland | United States of America | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | UN Country-based Pooled Funds

With the support of donors who contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with unearmarked funds:

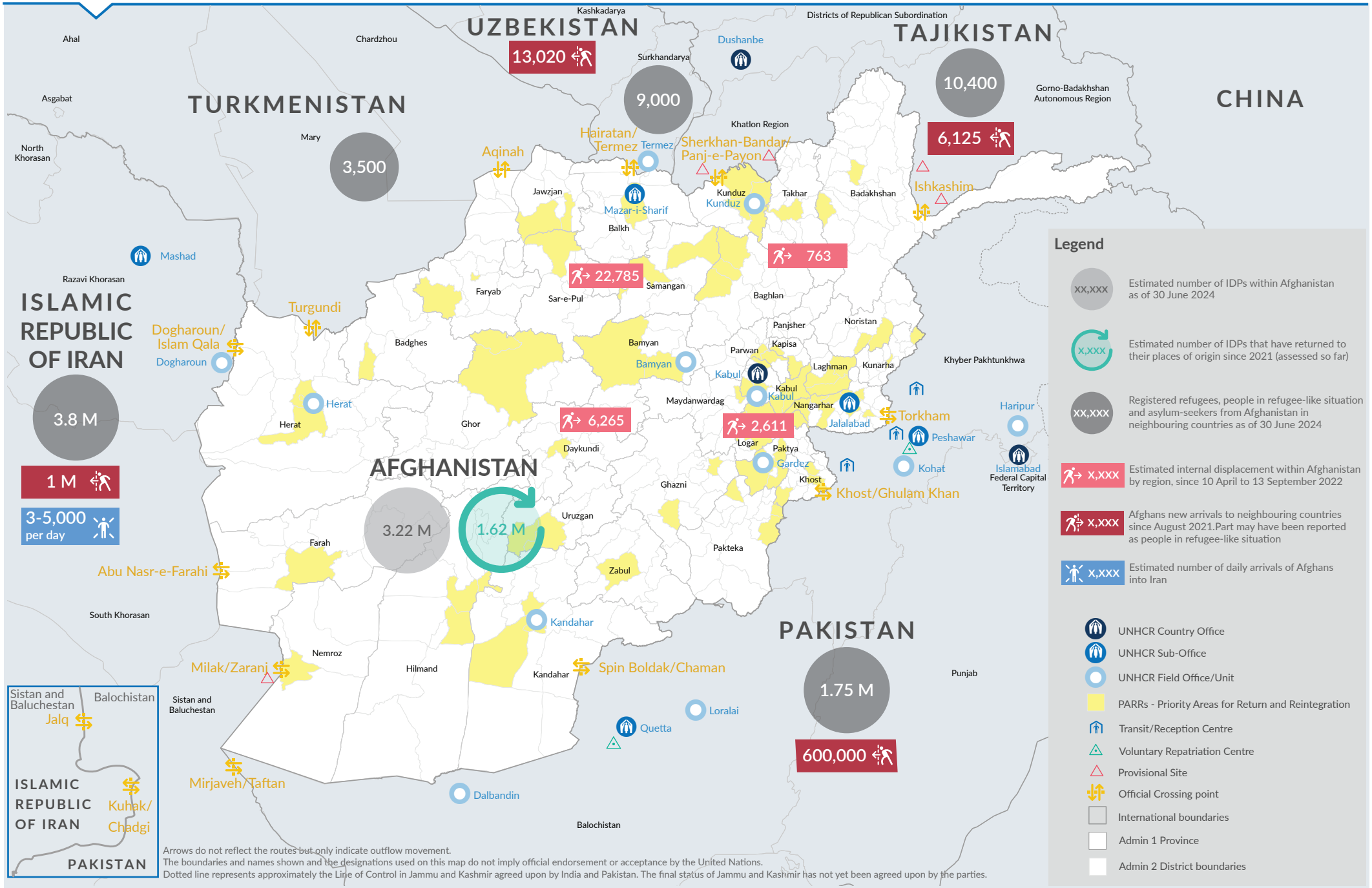
Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Japan | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Italy | Private donors Korea | Private donors the Netherlands | España con ACNUR | Sweden for UNHCR

However, urgent gaps remain, and continued support is essential to sustain and expand this vital work. The latest funding update is available here. For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the 2025 Global Appeal and 2023 Global Report.

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

# AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 31 October 2024




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 and OCHA | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
For feedback, please write to < rbapdima@unhcr.org >