



RRP- FLASH REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran

March – May 2026

Islamic Republic of Iran

Preliminary Summary and Inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan Requirements March – May 2026

1.65M

REFUGEES AND OTHERS IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

1M

HOST COMMUNITY

0.15M

AFGHANS OF OTHER STATUS

9

INTER-AGENCY PARTNERS IN A COORDINATED RESPONSE

\$80M

TOTAL INTER-AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Overview

Iran hosts the largest refugee population in the sub-region, the vast majority from Afghanistan. The country has maintained access to its territory for over four decades, largely providing Afghans with access to national health or education services. The recent military escalation has triggered significant internal population movements: according to the Islamic Republic of Iran, 600,000 to one million households are estimated to have temporarily left their residences due to the conflict. Refugees, other Afghans and host communities in Iran are struggling with concerns for their safety, job loss, psychological distress, and urgent shelter needs. Ongoing conflict and frequent aerial strikes make it harder to move around and reach humanitarian services.



Planning figures

Population group	Total planning figure
Afghan and Iraqi refugees	770,000
Other Afghans in need of international protection	880,000
Afghans of other status	150,000
Host communities	1,000,000
Total	2,800,000

Protection risks and needs

Iran has hosted Afghan refugees for over forty years, generally giving them access to the same health and education services as nationals. Even before the current conflict, inclusive policies were difficult to maintain due to the impact of sanctions and economic challenges impacting the capacity of national systems. The conflict has put national social systems under serious strain, as protection needs are on the rise. Refugees are now reporting job losses, rising prices, unaffordable medical care, including for pregnant women, newborns, and people with chronic conditions, as well as urgent shelter needs for psychosocial support, in addition to increased needs for social and protection support, counselling and legal assistance. Movement within the country has become harder for security reasons, though refugees can obtain travel permits to move between provinces. Food prices have risen sharply, affecting both nationals and refugees. As a result, maintaining access to food is essential. Access to financial services remains possible but is disrupted in many areas due to the conflict. A prolonged crisis risks further deterioration of essential services, particularly in urban centres where most refugees live.

Sectoral preparedness and response priorities

Sector	Key response priorities
Protection (incl. GBV and CP)	Working with the authorities to maintain capacity for needs identification and services for affected populations; provide counselling, information on available services; prioritize CP and GBV prevention and response; ensure mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) and legal assistance reach those most marginalized and at risk of exclusion, including persons with disability, older persons, female headed households, girls and boys, and other extremely vulnerable persons.
Basic Needs (incl. Multi Purpose Cash and Core Relief Items)	Leverage existing cash transfer mechanisms for multi- purpose cash; cash for protection for emergency cases; stockpile core relief items at strategic locations; transportation support for third country nationals exiting Iran.
Education	Maintain refugee and host community access to the national education system; prepare contingency plans for learning continuity (including facilitating online education); support educational facilities in areas affected by conflict hosting refugee children.
Food Security	Maintain food security and monitor rising food prices and their impact on refugee food security; coordinate with relevant stakeholders to support access to adequate food; coordinate with national/ international food security programmes.
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	Sustain or innovatively re-design the existing livelihoods programmes despite movement restrictions; reestablish access to markets in affected areas; advocate for continued inclusion in labour markets; prepare to scale up livelihoods programmes once feasible.
Health and Nutrition (including MHPSS)	Support inclusive primary health care for refugees and host communities; expand health insurance access for the most vulnerable; scale up MHPSS to address rising mental health needs; ensure continuity of care for serious medical conditions; explore international procurement of medical supplies; ensure energy and water availability for healthcare delivery.
Settlement, Shelter and Housing	Identify and prepare reception capacity in key locations; coordinate collective site contingency planning with authorities; pre-position emergency shelter materials near border areas.
WASH	Ensure access to safe water and sanitation in affected areas; pre-position hygiene supplies (including dignity kits for women and adolescent girls); coordinate with national WASH systems in affected areas.
Telecommunications	Establish emergency telecoms to support coordination; strengthen information management and situation monitoring.

Coordination and Partnerships

The inter-agency response in Iran is coordinated through the Refugee Coordination Forum, in close collaboration with the Government's Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA) and relevant line ministries and local NGOs. Sector Working Groups are operational. Inter-agency partners maintain a long-standing presence across the country, providing a strong foundation for preparedness and response. Partners are reinforcing response capacity mapping and contingency planning, building on decades of cooperation with national systems and institutions, coordinating with the UN Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to ensure coherence with broader frameworks.

Financial requirements March - May 2026 | USD

Sector	Total budget
Protection (including GBV & CP)	\$ 6,505,000
Basic Needs (incl. MPCA, Transportation and CRIs)	\$ 10,090,000
Education	\$ 11,165,000
Food Security	\$ 7,000,000
Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	\$ 6,590,000
Public Health & Nutrition (including MHPSS)	\$ 24,225,000
Settlement, Shelter & Housing	\$ 8,380,000
WASH	\$ 5,570,000
Telecommunications	\$ 100,000
Coordination	\$ 375,000
TOTAL	\$ 80,000,000

RRP Partners

- **INTERSOS**
- International Organization for Migration (**IOM**)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (**NRC**)
- United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**)
- United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**)
- United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**)
- World Food Programme (**WFP**)
- World Health Organization (**WHO**)

For more information please contact:

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Annex: Regional budget summary per appealing inter-agency partner

Financial requirements March – May 2026 | USD

Appealing partner	Acronym	Protection	Basic Needs	Education	Food Security	Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	Health and Nutrition	Settlement, Shelter and Housing	WASH	Telecommunications	Coordination	Total
<i>UN Agencies</i>												
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	2,750,000	6,230,000	10,000,000		1,375,000	8,750,000	4,000,000	2,750,000		375,000	\$36,230,000
UN Children's Fund	UNICEF	540,000		600,000			1,310,000		690,000			\$3,140,000
International Organization for Migration	IOM	2,000,000	1,600,000				3,500,000	3,250,000	1,000,000			\$11,350,000
World Food Programme	WFP				7,000,000					100,000		\$7,100,000
World Health Organization	WHO						3,765,000					\$3,765,000
UN Development Programme	UNDP					5,215,000	3,350,000					\$8,565,000
UN Population Fund	UNFPA	300,000					550,000					\$850,000
<i>International NGOs</i>												
INTERSOS	INTERSOS						3,000,000					\$3,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	915,000	2,260,000	565,000				1,130,000	1,130,000			\$6,000,000
TOTAL		\$6,505,000	\$10,090,000	\$11,165,000	\$7,000,00	\$6,590,000	\$24,225,000	\$8,380,000	\$5,570,000	\$100,000	\$375,000	\$80,000,000

Note: This list reflects initial appealing partners. Additional partners may join the response as the situation evolves. Budget figures will be revised accordingly.