

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

AUGUST 2019



School construction in Bamyan province. UNHCR/H. Macdonald

HIGHLIGHTS

As of 31 August, **5,038** registered refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan, out of which 3,604 returned from Pakistan, 1,368 from Iran and 66 from other countries.

262,129 individuals have been displaced by conflict in 2019 and profiled by OCHA as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of protection and assistance.

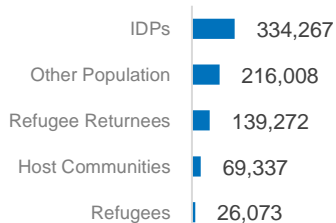
UNHCR commissioned an **independent evaluation**, led by ITAD Ltd., to better understand results achieved, key contributing and constraining factors, and the strategic future directions UNHCR should consider in Afghanistan. Consultations were held with government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, and UNHCR staff across the country.

Lessons learned from the **joint UNHCR-WFP project on mitigating risks of abuse of power in cash assistance** in Afghanistan are now available. Findings include: Encouraging competition between cash delivery mechanisms and FSPs, analyzing risks relating to data protection and accountability, building on good practice relating to complaints and feedback mechanisms, ensuring humanitarian cash transfers facilitate financial inclusion, and strengthening beneficiaries' access to cash.

KEY FIGURES

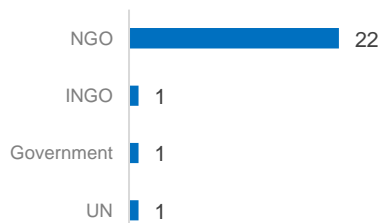
BENEFICIARIES

784,957 # of persons of concern reached by UNHCR in 2019



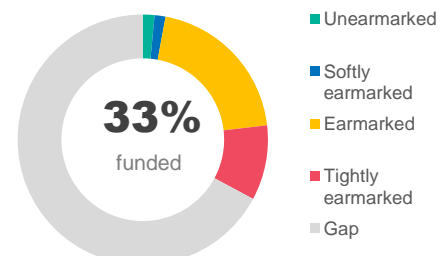
PARTNERS

25 # of partners implementing key UNHCR activities in 2019



DONORS

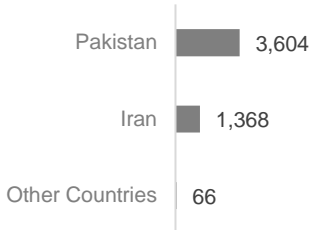
121.7M Funding required for 2019 (17 Aug 2019)



POPULATION DATA

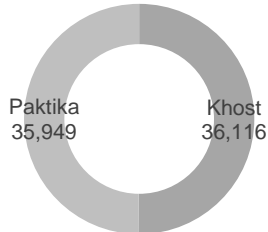
5,038

of registered refugee returnees (UNHCR)



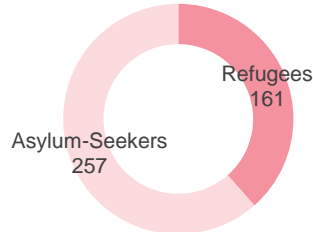
72,065

of Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika in 2019 (UNHCR)



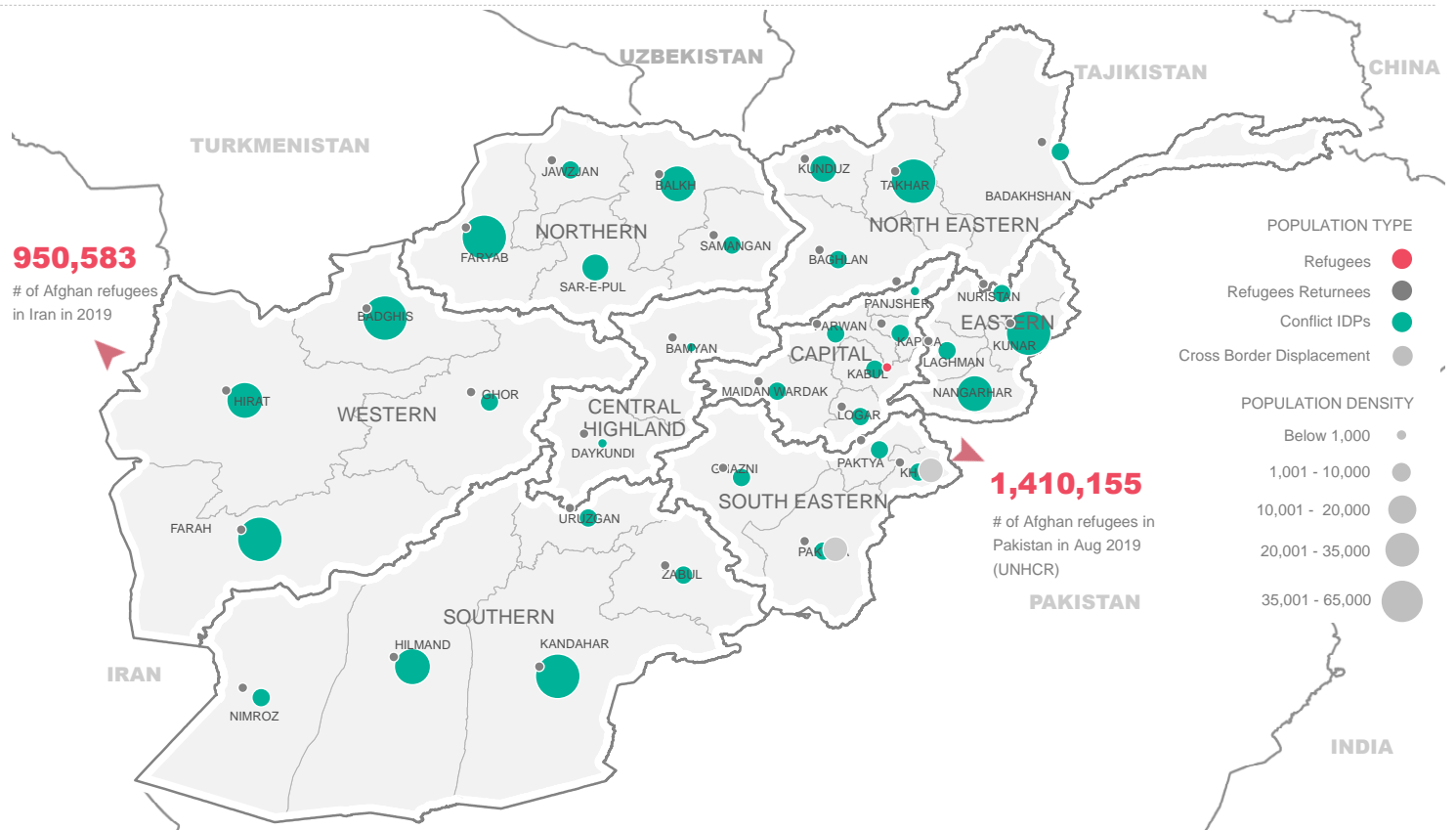
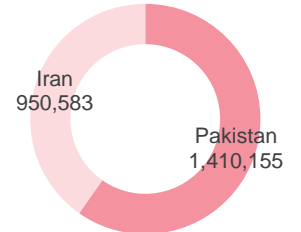
418

of urban refugees and asylum seekers in 2019 (UNHCR)



2,361,000

of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran in 2019 (UNHCR)



OTHER POPULATION OF CONCERN IN 2019 (SECONDARY SOURCES)

318,197

of undocumented Afghan returnees in August 2019 (IOM)

262,129

of newly displaced IDPs due to conflict in August 2019 (OCHA)

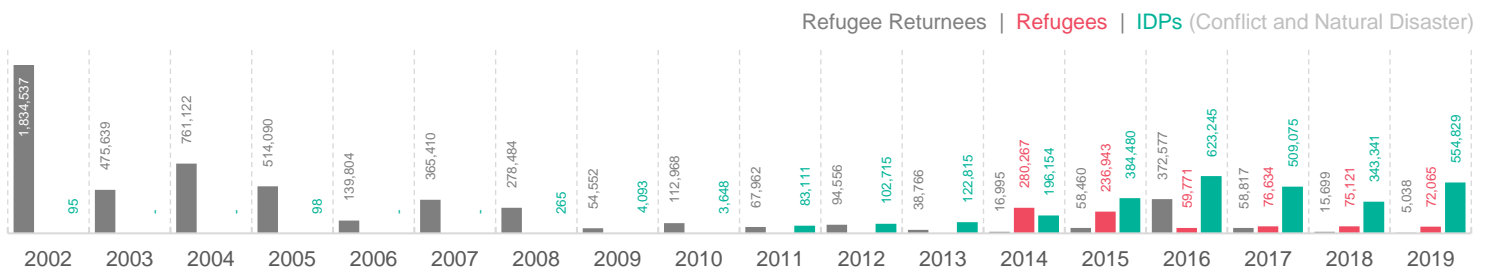
292,700

of newly displaced IDPs due to natural disasters in August 2019 (OCHA)

35.7 M


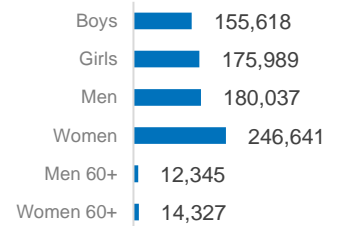
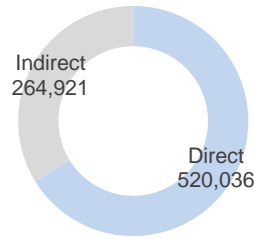
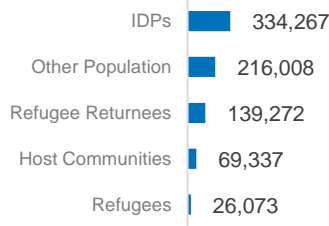
Total population in Afghanistan (Flowminder and UNFPA 2018)

POPULATION TRENDS (2002 – 2019)



KEY ACTIVITIES

784,957


 # of persons of concern directly and indirectly reached by UNHCR in 2019


DISCLAIMER: The number of persons of concern shown above includes individuals who received multiple forms of assistance and does not represent the unique number of individuals assisted.

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

5,038

of refugee returnees who received cash grants in close coordination with MoRR. UNHCR and its partners manage four encashment centers in Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul and Kandahar with services including basic healthcare, malnutrition screening, mine risk education, child friendly spaces, back to school information, legal counselling, SIM card distribution, SGBV awareness raising, and transit accommodation.

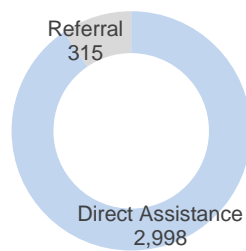
USD 1,042,181

Has been provided to 5,038 refugee returnees to support their immediate humanitarian needs as well as transportation costs.

PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

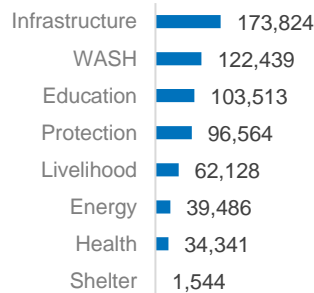
3,313

persons with acute vulnerabilities and protection risks receiving cash or in-kind assistance and/or referral to specialized services, such as medical assistance, employment, skills development, shelter, food and education.


COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

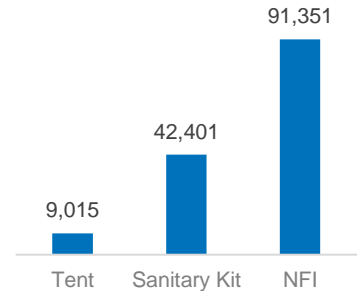
633,839*

UNHCR engages with communities to identify and address their needs through skills training, business support and community mobilization to mitigate protection risks, strengthen resilience, facilitate reintegration, and promote peaceful coexistence with host communities.


EMERGENCY RESPONSE

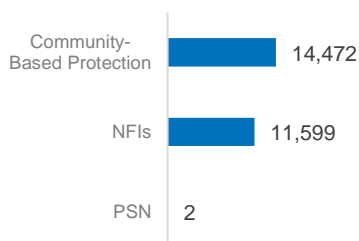
142,767

of beneficiaries assisted, in coordination with the Government, through non-food items, sanitary kits, emergency shelter and solar panels. (note that some beneficiaries received multiple assistance on NFI, Sanitary Kit, and Shelter.)


REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

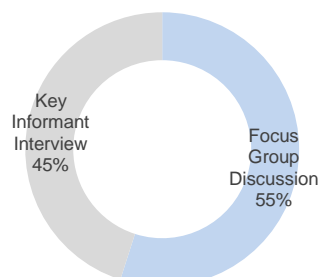
26,073

of refugees assisted with birth registration, NFI distribution, emergency shelter, winterization, and camp management and coordination in Gulistan Refugee Camp


PROTECTION MONITORING, REFERRAL AND RESPONSE

1,207

of protection monitoring missions to systematically and regularly collect, verify and analyze information to assess the protection situation of IDPs, returnees and host communities in order to plan and implement more effective responses.


POLICY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

UNHCR is part of the Tripartite and Quadripartite mechanisms established with the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran to plan, coordinate and undertake repatriation of Afghan refugees within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS


UNHCR works to strengthen linkages between humanitarian initiatives and development programmes through partnership with the Government, development actors and the private sector, including in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team, the Displacement and Return Executive Committee, and the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and other government initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable reintegration and harmonizing response to the needs of refugees, returnees, IDPs and members of host communities.

*Over 100,000 beneficiaries through Community-Based Protection were removed in August 2019 due to duplicate records

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION



474,434

 # of beneficiaries reached by the Protection Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap




2.4 M  People in need

1.3 M  People targeted

44.7 M  Funding required



470,235

 # of beneficiaries reached by the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster

■ Reached ■ Gap




1 M  People in need

0.8 M  People targeted

48.3 M  Funding required



26,073

 # of beneficiaries reached through Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination

■ Reached ■ Gap



50 K  People in need

50 K  People targeted

8.8 M  Funding required

UNHCR appreciates the partnership and financial contributions of both unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds from donors, as well as for those who have contributed regionally and directly to Afghanistan and the Afghan situation:

Australia | Canada | CERF | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Private Donors of Italy | Japan | Private Donors of Japan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Norway | Netherlands | Republic of Korea | Private Donors of the Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Private Donors of Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | UN Programme on HIV/AIDs | United States of America

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