

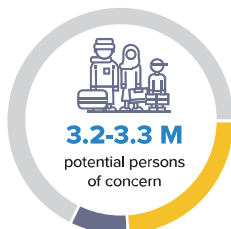
The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, first opened its office in Iran in 1984 and has since maintained an uninterrupted field presence countrywide. UNHCR's main government counterpart in Iran is the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR also collaborates with other government ministries and organizations, as well as local and international NGOs and other UN agencies, to help ensure that all refugees have covered their basic needs and can access services. UNHCR works with refugee communities and assists the most vulnerable. Through the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR works with the government to support the inclusive refugee policies, in particular in health and education.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Afghan valid Amayesh card holders are considered as refugees and are the primary group of concern to UNHCR in Iran. In view of widespread instability in Afghanistan, the promotion of large returns is currently not foreseen. For this reason, UNHCR also supports undocumented Afghans (those with expired or no documentation) and advocates before the Government of Iran to extend temporary protection and documentation to this group, in particular the most vulnerable, whilst underscoring the importance of having an open asylum system. In addition to refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR extends its protection mandate to people at risk of statelessness i.e. Feili Kurds, Khavari Afghans, Zabolis, Lakzaee tribes and Baluchis.

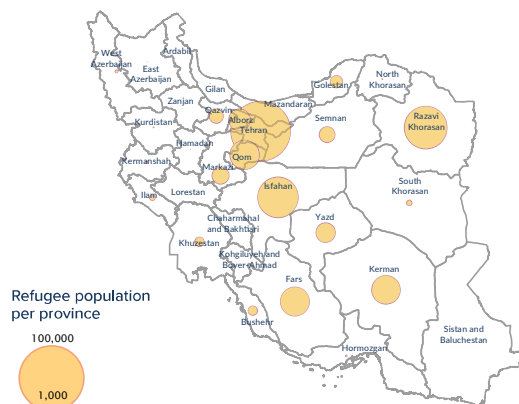
2.1-2.25M
undocumented
Afghans

275,000
Afghan passport
holders



800,000
Afghan & Iraqi refugee
card holders
out of which
780,000
are Afghans &
20,000
are Iraqis

REFUGEE POPULATION PER PROVINCE



RECEPTION

UNHCR operates 5 reception areas in Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, Kerman and Mashhad, where refugees can approach UNHCR to request assistance. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, UNHCR increased its hotline capacity so that refugees continue to contact us.

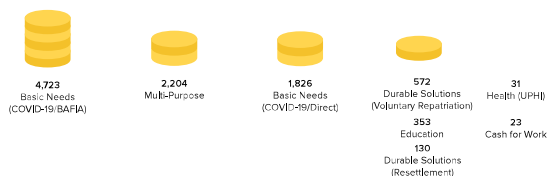
Since the beginning of 2020, **23,694** individuals approached UNHCR one time or more.



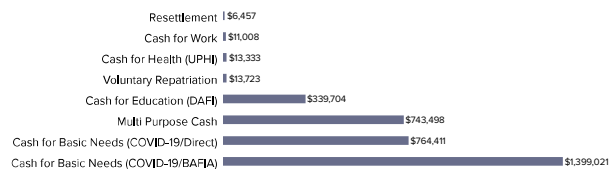
CASH BASED INTERVENTIONS

44,803 individuals (9,931 households) in total received cash assistance from UNHCR. Due different vulnerabilities, some households received cash assistance more than one time.

CBI BENEFICIARIES BY ASSISTANCE TYPE



BUDGET BY ASSISTANCE TYPE



LEGAL SERVICES

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the Dispute Settlement Committees (DSCs) sessions were suspended or postponed for a limited period of time. DSCs' activities decreased significantly due to movement restrictions and health protocols. Some DSCs introduced innovative means of working through virtual sessions with UHLs. UHLs also provided phone and virtual consultations leading to investing more time with and being more accessible to PoC clients.

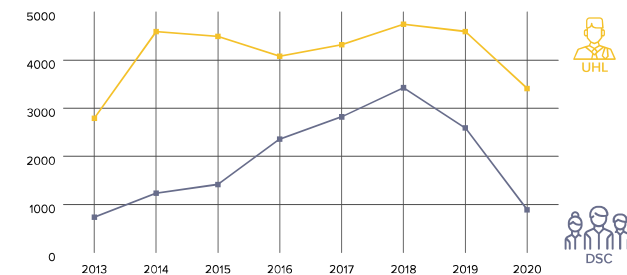
891

PoCs supported through
Dispute Settlement Committees (DSCs)

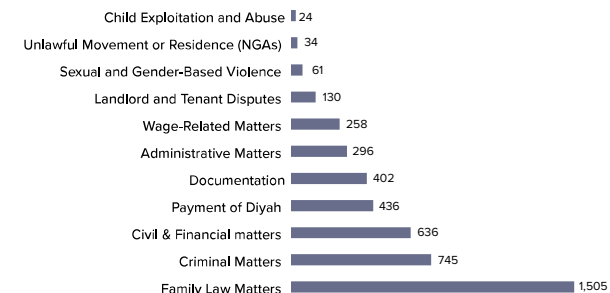
3,411

PoCs supported by
UNHCR Hired Lawyers (UHLs)

TREND: UHL & DSC CASES



UHL TYPES OF CASES



*UNHCR recognizes Amayesh card holders as refugees. **According to the data recently received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in October 2020, on which consultations are ongoing, 800,000 refugee card holders reside in Iran. Disclaimer: the boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. ***PoC refers to Persons of Concern to UNHCR.

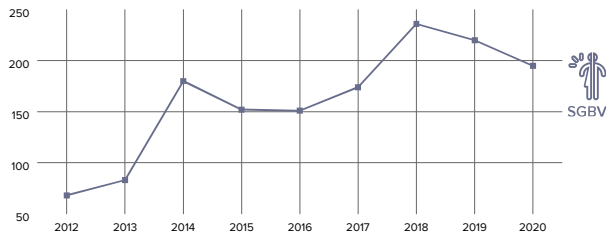
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

UNHCR records data for GBV incidents directly reported by the victims. Cultural sensitivities around GBV and fear of retaliation may have a bearing in the low number of incidents accounted for.

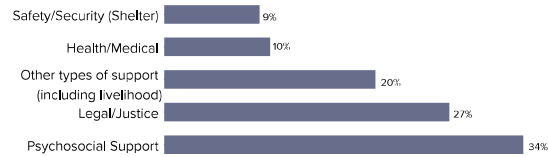
195
reported SGBV survivors



TREND: REPORTED SGBV SURVIVORS



SGBV RESPONSE

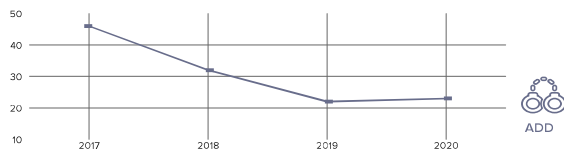


ARREST, DETENTION & DEPORTATION (ADD)

UNHCR in Iran does not have a detention monitoring program in place and does not visit detention facilities. It only records and conducts advocacy interventions for ADD incidents it becomes aware of as reported by PoCs. By end of 2020, UNHCR Offices became aware of 23 individuals being subject of an ADD incident, 10 of which due to lack of valid documentation/residency permit. 15 were released following a UNHCR intervention.

23
individuals

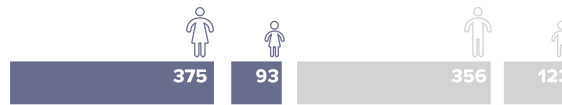
TREND: ADD



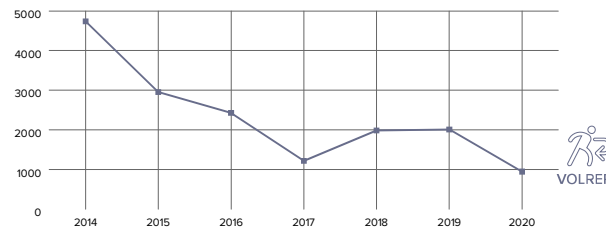
VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

Given the prevailing insecurity in Afghanistan, UNHCR facilitates the return of Afghan refugees if it is established that their return is voluntary, safe, dignified and durable. Since 2002, UNHCR Iran has supported nearly 1 million refugees to return to Afghanistan from Iran. It is worth noting that a large percentage of refugees are students who go back to Afghanistan to exchange their Amayesh cards for a national passport and Iranian visa, to be able to enroll in university.

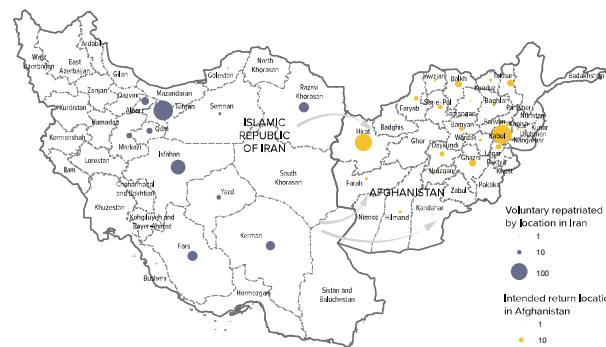
947
Afghan refugees voluntary repatriated (including students)



TREND: VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION



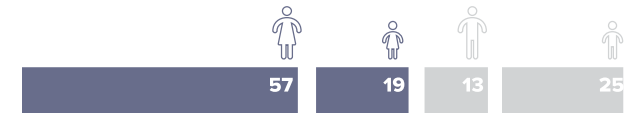
REPATRIATED BY LOCATION IN IRAN & INTENDED DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN



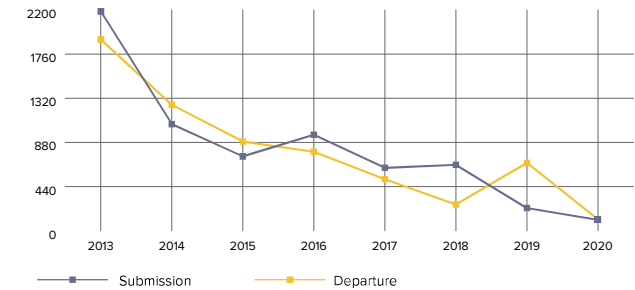
RESETTLEMENT

Resettlement is one of three durable solutions to the plight of refugees and an essential element of international protection. However, the resettlement quota for refugees in Iran is at an all-time low. Only two resettlement countries, the United Kingdom and Iceland, gave Iran a quota for 120 individuals in 2020. While UK allocated a quota of 100 to Iran, due to some internal issues the country refused to receive the whole quota and only 33 individuals could be submitted to UK. All resettlement departures were on hold since around end February until end November due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

53 estimated quota
110 submitted to the hosting countries for consideration
114 departed to the hosting countries



TREND: RESETTLEMENT



SUBMISSION AND DEPARTED COUNTRIES

