Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation 2024 - 2025

Cover Photograph:

An Afghan refugee girl painting during a workshop in Mashhad, Iran. UNHCR/Bahareh Safarnia

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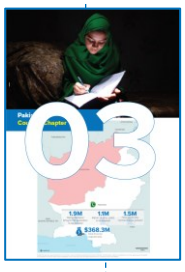

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At a Glance

Regional Planned Response

2024 – 2025*

* The RRP is multiyear but this page lists only 2024 financial requirements and targets.

7.7 M
Total Afghan population

(Source : UNHCR Operational Data Portal)

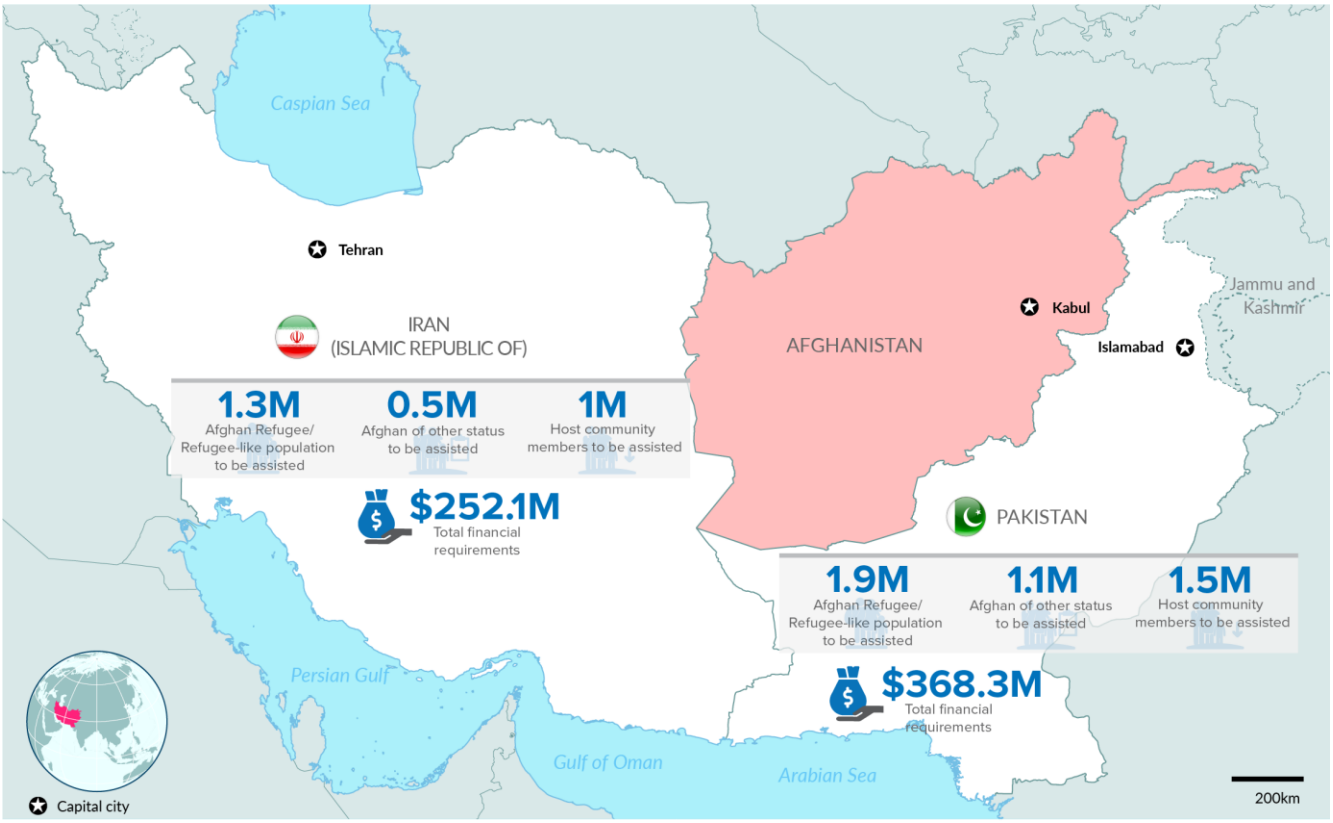
3.2 M
Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like population to be assisted

1.6 M
Afghan of other status to be assisted

2.5 M
Host community population to be assisted

$620.4M
Total financial requirements

51
RRP Partners



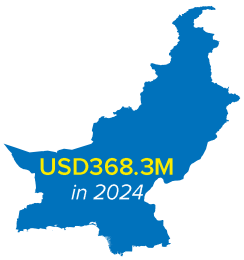
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Regional Financial Requirements for 2024

Budget summary by country

Country	Financial requirements in USD	Partners involved
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	USD252,099,522	14
Pakistan	USD368,285,112	45

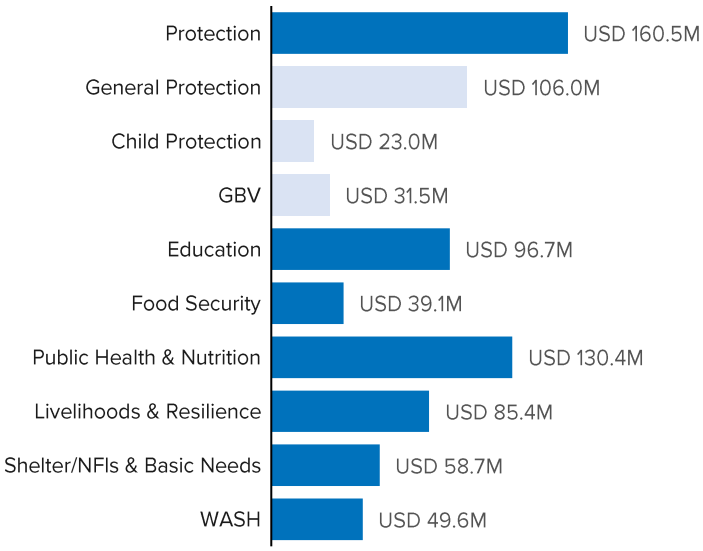
Iran (Islamic Republic of)



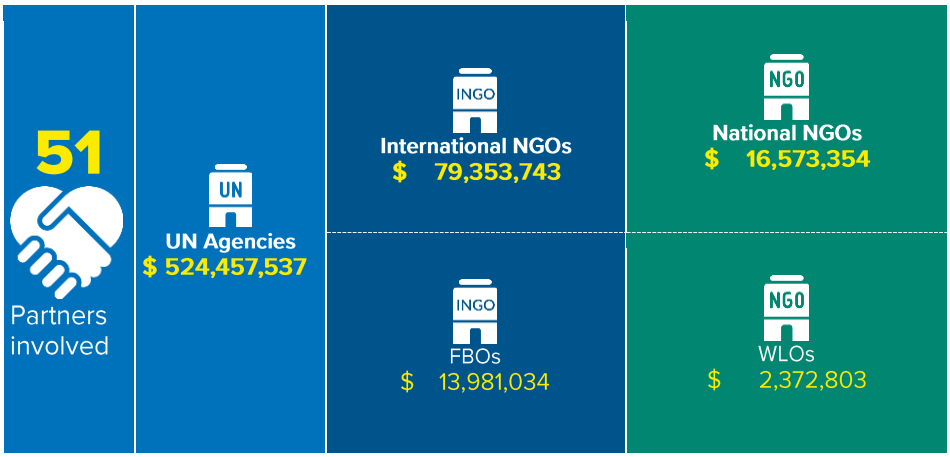
Pakistan

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD



Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 79,146,012



Notes:

This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Annex 1 - Budget Summary by Partner in 2024/2025' for partner breakdown per type.

FBO budget is a subset of the INGO budget as the four FBOs are also INGOs.
WLO budget is a subset of the NNGO budget as the two local NGOs are also WLOs.

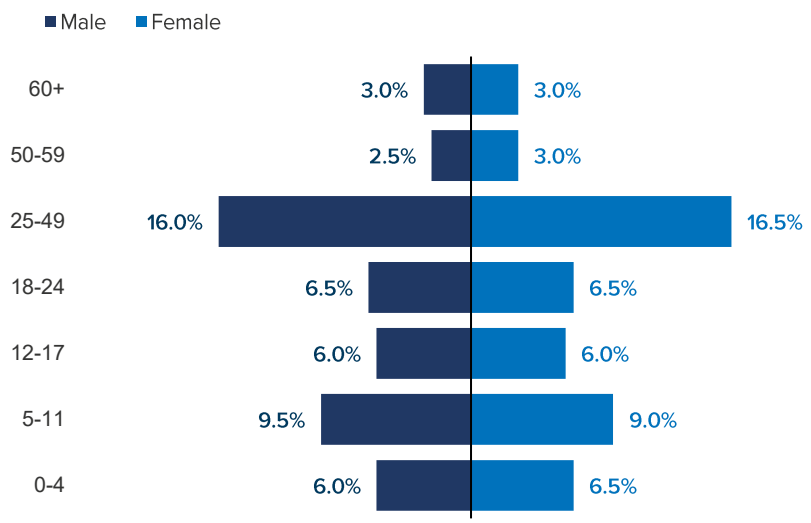
**This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes. See Annex 4 - Cash Assistance Breakdown per Sector for more information.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	TARGETED POPULATION			
	Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like* population to be assisted	Afghan of other status to be assisted	Host community population to be assisted	Total Population to be assisted in 2024
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1,247,334	498,771	1,023,759	2,769,864
Pakistan	1,948,201	1,108,000	1,456,000	4,512,201
TOTAL	3,195,535	1,606,771	2,479,759	7,282,065

*Persons in a refugee-like situation are groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but of whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

Overall Age and Gender Breakdown



16% of total targeted[1]

Persons with disabilities

50.5%

Women and girls

49.5%

Men and boys

[1] An estimated 1.3 billion people – or 16% of the global population – experience a significant disability today. For more information, please refer to WHO Key Facts on persons with disabilities

Regional Overview

Looking to 2024, the situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries will be challenging. As highlighted by the UN Security Council,[2] the human rights situation inside Afghanistan, especially related to the rights of women and girls and religious and ethnic minorities, remains dire. Some 23.7 million people (more than half of Afghanistan's population) require urgent humanitarian assistance to survive. Devastating natural disasters and climate-induced emergencies, including deadly earthquakes in Afghanistan in 2022 and 2023 and floods and earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran in 2022, have compounded the situation.

The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan host some 7.7 million Afghans while around 1.6 million have arrived since 2021, according to government estimates.[3]

Pakistan hosts approximately 3.2 million Afghan refugees and Afghans of other statuses (76 per cent of whom are women and children), reflecting the long history of solidarity and support extended by the country. However, in recent years, the protection environment has become increasingly challenging. In early October 2023, Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsed the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) to return foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans. As of early February 2024, over 500,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September.

Against a challenging economic situation,[4] increasing insecurity and evolving protection landscape, Pakistan continues to grapple with the complexities of providing adequate support and ensuring the protection of a substantial population of Afghan refugees and Afghans of other statuses while balancing the needs of its own citizens. Recognizing the plight of Afghan refugees and those in refugee-like situations, including women and girls without documentation and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) regardless of their documentation status, there is a pressing need for sustainable solutions and comprehensive support systems. Ensuring access to education and healthcare for all and creating opportunities for livelihoods to alleviate poverty and promote self-reliance are other critical priorities. The multifaceted challenges presented by the current dynamic protection environment highlight the need to work collaboratively and proactively with authorities to promote the safety and well-being of Afghan refugees and individuals of other statuses in Pakistan and to foster an environment that upholds Afghan's rights and safeguards their dignity while addressing host communities' concerns.

According to government estimates, Iran hosts at least 4.5 million Afghans (some 71 per cent women and children), including those who have arrived since 2021. This includes 3.4 million Afghan refugees and Afghans in a refugee-like situation, including some 750,000 *Amayesh* card holders[5] and 2.6 million recorded in the 2022 headcount exercise. Many of the remaining Afghan individuals in Iran are without documentation due to a lack of available pathways to seek asylum or regularize their stay. Afghans continue to arrive in Iran daily for various reasons, primarily via irregular routes, with a degree of back-and-forth movement also observed. New arrivals join millions of other Afghans who have been generously hosted in Iran for decades, many of whom are third or fourth-generation refugees. Iran continues to grant access to education and healthcare to Afghan nationals, including those without documentation. However, limited livelihoods opportunities and poverty – exacerbated by the combined impact of high inflation and sanctions – continue to drive needs. According to data from the Statistical Centre of Iran, the annual inflation rate was around 45.5 per cent as of November 2023. Food price increases continue to outpace overall inflation, disproportionately impacting the least well-off who spend a higher proportion of their income on food. As a result, the most disadvantaged in society, which mostly comprises Afghan refugees, are forced to make difficult trade-offs or resort to harmful coping mechanisms to make ends meet. In 2024, Afghans will likely experience greater challenges covering associated cost of school enrolment, healthcare, or documentation. Those without documentation face a particularly precarious situation due to the persistent risk of deportation, various forms of exploitation, abuse and trafficking, and further barriers to accessing services. At the same time, there is a significant strain on Iranians and the inclusive services extended to Afghans, which can undermine social cohesion and subsequently limit opportunities for self-reliance.

[2] Resolution 2721 (2023), adopted by the UN Security Council on 29 December 2023.
[3] For a breakdown, please see the Afghan Situation page of the UNHCR dataportal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan
[4] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pakistan/overview#1
[5] The equivalent of refugee status in the context of Iran and provides the holders of the card the protection accorded to refugees.

The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan Situation will evolve into a two-year plan (2024-2025) to provide more predictable responses and opportunities for mid- to long-term solutions. Partners will provide a budget for 2024 and an indicative budget for 2025 to be reassessed at the end of 2024 informed by the situation on the ground. More predictable funding for the RRP has become even more important considering the decreasing funding in recent years, which has been exacerbated by competing global emergencies and growing donor fatigue. In view of this, RRP partners will continue to advocate for multi-year funding in the spirit of the Grand Bargain. As part of this transition, the RRP will focus on the two major host countries for Afghan refugees – Iran and Pakistan – where 90 per cent of Afghan refugees worldwide reside. Host communities also need significant support, with major attention paid to greater investments in public services and infrastructure since they continue to support large Afghan populations. In the event of significant developments, including large-scale movements to neighbouring countries, or new large-scale needs being identified beyond those foreseen in this plan, the RRP will be revised to better adapt to the evolving situation.

Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs

Since August 2021, UNHCR has maintained a non-return advisory for Afghan nationals in response to the overlapping human rights, security, and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan. The advisory was reaffirmed in the February 2023 update of the Guidance Note on International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan. The Guidance Note calls on states to grant access to their territories for Afghan nationals and to ensure – in situations where asylum systems could be overwhelmed by a large number of applications – the establishment of temporary protection or stay arrangements with protection safeguards in place for Afghans until the security, humanitarian, rule of law, and human rights situation in Afghanistan has meaningfully and objectively improved to enable voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. It also highlights the worsening situation of women and girls in Afghanistan as a result of increasingly restrictive measures being put in place by the de facto authorities.[6] Due to their particularly precarious protection situation, women and girls are at heightened risk of gender-based violence (GBV), exploitation and abuse, and trafficking, which can exacerbate the challenges already experienced by those fleeing for safety. Afghans who lack documentation are also at heightened risk of exploitation and human trafficking. This has been worsened by the lack of clear, transparent, and fair access to asylum, which increases the prevalence of irregular border-crossings and onward movements.

While the primary driver of Afghan displacement to neighbouring countries is the need for international protection, other factors, including poverty, limited education opportunities and access to livelihoods, medical needs and family reasons often contribute to Afghans' decision to leave Afghanistan. However, these individual needs and considerations do not negate the broader international protection concerns linked to the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan, as reiterated in the Guidance Note. Individualized protection threats can only be adequately assessed through asylum procedures and the lack of access to an asylum system cannot lead to the conclusion that Afghans who are not registered and who may not have documentation do not have international protection needs.

Despite their own political and socio-economic challenges, Iran and Pakistan have maintained inclusive policies, notably access to national education and healthcare, and advanced human capital development and economic opportunities. However, the shrinking protection space in both countries in 2023 has created new and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. The introduction of Pakistan's IFRP resulted in large-scale Afghan returns in challenging conditions and, as highlighted in a joint-statement by UNHCR and IOM, could have "serious implications for all who have been forced to leave the country [Afghanistan] and may face serious protection risks upon return." Although the Government of Pakistan provided assurances safeguarding PoR card holders and ACC holders and made exemptions with respect to vulnerable groups and "individuals destined for third countries," Afghans continued to report intimidation and harassment.

In Iran, most Afghan new arrivals cross the border irregularly and the ability or inability of populations to access asylum and regularize their stay, primarily through acquiring or renewing documentation, is a key determinant of overall vulnerability. While the provision of a form of documentation to 2.6 million Afghans who participated in the 2022 headcount exercise was a significant development, there remains a considerable undocumented population who may be in need of international protection and are at particular risk of detention and deportation. UNHCR border monitoring in Afghanistan indicates that lack of documentation was the principal factor for being subjected to deportation from Iran in

[6] As also highlighted by the Afghanistan Crisis update: Women and Girls in Displacement | Factsheet III - May 2023

most cases between January and June 2023. The fear of arrest, detention, and deportation among undocumented Afghans and Afghans with expired documentation also impacted their physical and mental wellbeing. As a result, many have been forced to limit their movements or refrain from using public services, both of which have contributed to their dependence on humanitarian assistance. The lack of clarity regarding the eligibility and process for accessing asylum for those who participated in the headcount exercise could also prevent refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals, from enjoying their fundamental rights.

Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Regional Strategic Objectives

Acknowledging the huge contribution of host countries, the 2024-2025 RRP reaffirms the regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach aimed at strengthening the humanitarian and development response in support of host countries. The RRP will deliver concrete actions with a focus on community-based interventions incorporating an age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach, cross-border collaboration, and pathways towards durable solutions within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). The 2024-2025 RRP will seek to:

SO1: Ensure coordinated efforts towards solutions in line with the objectives of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).[7]

SO2: Take a humanitarian-development nexus approach to build resilient communities, anchored in government systems wherever possible, reinforce the local and national systems of host countries which have supported Afghans for decades, in the spirit of international responsibility-sharing and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. Priorities include national education and healthcare infrastructure and supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities.

SO3: Support host governments to ensure access to territory and asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, reception, individual registration and documentation.

SO4: Respond to the basic needs of the most at risk, including via sustained support to government-led emergency preparedness efforts and multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral support to swiftly respond to those newly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises, as well as to existing populations who have seen their situation deteriorate due to the rising cost of living.

[7] The Objectives of the SSAR are: I). Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; II). Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and III). Preserving asylum space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.

Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)

RRP 2024-2025 will ensure refugees' needs are identified and addressed in support of government efforts, paying special attention to age, gender, and diversity (AGD) in programming across sectors. While constraints related to access to populations continue to exist, partners will consistently engage with forcibly displaced Afghans to enhance understanding and better analyse the impact of their situations, thereby working towards an effective response that takes into account specific situations and needs. Partners will monitor responses based on age and gender aspects to identify under-served groups and reduce access barriers thereby enabling organizational learning and corrective action. In Iran, this continues to be encompassed in the programmes implemented in cooperation with government entities, especially for women and people with disabilities. In Pakistan, RRP partners and their staff as well as outreach volunteers have undergone training on diversity and inclusion and a safe referral network of 35 national organizations dedicated to serving diverse profiles across Pakistan, including Afghan refugees, has been established. Across both countries, partners consult communities to build on existing capacities – in relation to livelihood programmes, for example – and to provide an opportunity for Afghan communities to shape responses in line with their priorities and needs. Programmes across sectors will aim to advance gender equality and take into account the best interests of the child, especially although not exclusively in relation to access to services such as protection, education, and health.

AGD: Disability Inclusion

In line with the United Nations Country Team's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2023, RRP partners in Iran will build on AGD-sensitive engagements with the Afghan population to enable people with disabilities to express their views and concerns. These engagements specifically seek to identify barriers to inclusion and participation as well as identify specific needs and situations of risk to people with disabilities. This will enable partners to undertake the necessary measures, such as developing more accessible programmes and supporting community-led initiatives. When working with government partners, identifying and removing barriers will continue to be mainstreamed throughout programme design and disability inclusion will remain a key advocacy objective. Across Iran and Pakistan, RRP partners will continue to support initiatives that create conditions in which people with disabilities do not suffer discrimination. In addition, immediate and tailored responses to these specific needs will be provided, including in the form of cash-based interventions to, for example, facilitate access to assistive devices. Finally, partners will monitor the situation of people with disabilities to strengthen inclusion and participation and to identify and respond to instances of exploitation or abuse.

Girls participating in remedial courses – Primary School- Khorasan Razavi 2023 © RI – UNICEF Iran

AGD: Youth

Against a challenging economic and protection environment marked by limited access to livelihoods, services and assistance, Afghan youth face multiple risks. Limited educational and livelihood opportunities leave many Afghan youth at risk of early marriage, exploitation and abuse, and vulnerable to being recruited into illicit activities. Over half of the Afghan population in Iran is under 24 years of age and this offers an opportunity to develop impactful and forward-looking interventions. When given the chance to develop their talents and skills and build on their human, social, and financial capital, male and female youth have the potential to make important contributions to protection and solutions, both for themselves and for their communities. Building on strengthened youth engagement and involvement, education and livelihood activities will continue to be key focus areas, while programmes will aim to include youth to mitigate specific risks related to a lack of livelihoods, including harmful coping mechanisms. Youth will also continue to be a

target group for solutions, including those related to access to university in Iran as well as complementary pathways for study visas abroad and labour mobility schemes. In Pakistan, efforts have been made to enhance access to quality education, including vocational and skills training programmes that foster sustainable employment, entrepreneurship, and skills building. Additionally, recognizing the capacities of Afghan youth, youth engagement and participation in protection and other sectoral interventions will continue to be prioritized. Currently, youth engagement has been mainstreamed within protection programming, including through Child Club activities, Engagement of Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) and community-based protection.

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Across Iran and Pakistan, partners continue to ensure the needs and views of Afghans remain central to the response. Despite constraints related to the operational context, partners will foster accountability to affected populations (AAP) through the active inclusion of diverse groups across the refugee population, information provision and two-way communication with communities, and continued operationalization of feedback and response mechanisms, in partnership with government partners where feasible. Participatory assessments and AGD-specific focus group discussions will enable affected populations to express their views, concerns and priorities and to propose solutions. Public information boards, websites,[8] and social media channels will be used to provide Afghan populations with information on asylum procedures and available assistance and services, including eligibility criteria where possible. Complaint boxes will enable the provision of individual anonymous and safe feedback, while the UNHCR-managed protection hotlines will provide an additional channel for two-way communication with individuals. These engagements aim to facilitate organizational learning to enhance programme impact while also ensuring the risks related to assistance programmes are identified and mitigated. In Pakistan, an AAP working group will provide regular capacity building opportunities to partners and community-based organizations.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Forced displacement, poverty and limited livelihood opportunities, traditional gender roles, social cohesion challenges, and a general lack of a positive and predictable long-term outlooks are key challenges affecting Afghans' mental health and well-being across the region. Of particular concern is displacement-related emotional distress which can have long-term implications if not addressed, while pre-existing and developing mental health conditions have also been observed. In Iran, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is an integral part of primary health care (PHC) services. Over the years, RRP partners have tried to strengthen existing mechanisms and joint efforts continue to address the remaining needs. Similar issues also exist in Pakistan. Barriers to access have been identified, predominantly relating to stigma, and limited available information among communities. Programming across sectors will continue to seek to address specific psychosocial needs among men, women, boys, and girls. The Protection sectors in Iran and Pakistan aim to expand MHPSS activities, working through protection spaces and centres and integrating community-based activities within existing health programming by using health posts to engage communities and carry out MHPSS activities, and training outreach volunteers and community members on psychological first aid. Furthermore, partners in Iran will support the establishment of dedicated safe spaces, including MHPSS centres. The Education sector plans to sensitize teachers on MHPSS and implement caregiver and parental training on life-skills, positive parenting, and other MHPSS-related activities. Institutional support to health system under the Health sector will contribute to achieving a more holistic response – supported by interventions across all sectors – to reduce stressors among the population by addressing critical needs.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) Risk Mitigation

The RRP prioritizes gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation across all interventions and sectors. Despite considerable sensitivities around the issue, assessments and GBV risk monitoring on programme delivery potentially affecting women and girls as well as men and boys will be undertaken regularly. These include GBV safety audits, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews with the purpose of understanding the causes of risks and barriers to safety and protection, and developing, strengthening, and integrating solutions

[8] Links: https://help.unhcr.org/pakistan/
https://help.unhcr.org/iran/

across sectors to address GBV risks. Tools will be contextualized based on the situation in each country considering, for instance, the ability to navigate constraints to providing direct outreach to refugee communities. Through joint coordination, GBV actors will facilitate training, coaching, and action plans for sector actors on GBV guiding principles, safe disclosures, and referrals. All services and assistance will be designed in a gender-sensitive manner and mitigation measures will be integrated to ensure safety and access for all individuals that may require them.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) training and capacity building will be prioritized across the region. In Iran, training will be provided to all partner staff through close collaboration with the PSEA Task Force under the leadership of UNFPA and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. As part of this, specific efforts will be made to enhance senior management leadership of partner organizations in the prevention, mitigation, and response to SEA. Further accountability measures, including encouraging staff and partners to sign Codes of Conduct, as well as the implementation of standard operating procedures to address SEA incidents, will also be adopted. Efforts will continue to strengthen referrals via GBV referral pathways, facilitating survivor access to survivor-centred GBV services. PSEA focal point networks will be strengthened by bolstering feedback mechanisms and increasing general awareness of PSEA among communities and staff. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, building the sustainability of community-level complaints and feedback mechanisms will be a priority and advanced through capacity strengthening for staff and partners as well as awareness raising among communities. The PSEA network will work closely with GBV sub-sector to ensure they have access to the most updated referral pathways and that PSEA focal points are trained on safe disclosure and referral. The recent decentralization of the network at the provincial level will also enable a more targeted focus on areas that require special attention.

Localization

In Iran, due to the current government policy, local organizations do not directly appeal under RRP. However, a substantial portion of the planned RRP response in 2024-2025 will be delivered through local organizations. Under the 2023 RRP, an estimated one-quarter of the overall response was implemented through local organizations by mid-year. In line with this approach, RRP partners continue to invest in strategic partnerships with key national/local organizations to promote inclusion and advance national ownership. Although the ability to engage directly with local NGOs through the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) is limited, RRP partners continue to engage with Iran to consolidate and expand partnerships with local NGOs, particularly in areas where there is limited international presence. Furthermore, RRP partners will continue to provide coordinated training and capacity-building opportunities for local NGO (LNGO) staff across a range of issues, including administrative and financial procedures as well as humanitarian standards. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, taking into consideration the complex operational context and the protracted nature of the situation of Afghans residing in Pakistan, robust relationships with the host community cultivated over years by national/local partners are crucial to the successful implementation of programmes. 19 directly appealing partners in Pakistan are local NGOs, while 29 LNGOs also act as implementing partners for RRP partners.

Climate Action[9]

The south-west Asia sub-region is extremely susceptible to a range of climate-related and other natural hazards, as witnessed in the recent earthquakes in Afghanistan and Iran and recurrent floods in Pakistan. For the past 20 years, Pakistan has been the third most frequently hit country in the world by extreme weather events while Iran ranks fourth in the world for water stress, with extended periodic multi-year droughts a recurrent occurrence over the past 50 years. This particularly impacts eastern border provinces such as Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan, where a significant number of Afghans reside or transit through. Transborder environmental issues such as sand and dust storms are also becoming more prevalent.

[9] Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030

Across the region, climate change also risks reducing agricultural productivity, including due to the greater frequency of locust swarms. Climate-related events, specifically drought and associated water scarcity, as well as flash floods, and longer-term/chronic climate impacts are likely to have a more prominent impact on needs and dynamics in these locations, including by increasing the prevalence of communicable diseases and potentially leading to competition for resources/social tensions. Additionally, barriers to accessing essential resources, infrastructure, institutions, and services exacerbate refugees' vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change, potentially contributing to internal displacement and migration that could lead to added pressure on natural resources elsewhere and jeopardize social cohesion. Threats to social cohesion could be exacerbated by the knock-on effect water scarcity may have on key sectors of the economy, including agriculture and construction, which employ many Afghans. To mitigate these risks, RRP partners will follow do-no-harm and safe programming considerations to ensure interventions, particularly in settlements in Iran and refugee villages in Pakistan, do not detrimentally impact the availability of resources for host communities. This may include, for instance, carrying out environmental impact assessments in consultation with communities before launching infrastructure projects and subsequently adopting environmental and social safeguarding measures to mitigate adverse environmental impacts which could undermine social cohesion. Similarly, mitigation measures have also been adopted to protect beneficiaries from adverse climatic conditions. This includes, for instance, the construction of windbreakers for shelters in settlements exposed to dust storms. Meanwhile, partners will prioritize 'greener' procurement of CRIs, localising procurement where possible and using greener specifications.

Use of Cash Assistance[10]

Building on existing practices and responses implemented under RRP 2023, partners in Iran and Pakistan will continue to use cash assistance to extend protection, cover basic needs and overcome barriers to accessing services. Protection support through cash helps those with specific needs, including new arrivals, child protection cases, or people with disabilities, address their basic needs or respond to economic shocks. It is also used to advance protection specific objectives, including by enabling beneficiaries to cover documentation-related costs or supporting voluntary repatriation. Most cash assistance under the RRP involves the use of unconditional and unrestricted multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). This gives beneficiaries the flexibility and autonomy to cover their needs as they see fit, promoting accountability to affected populations. Under the Cash Working Groups, RRP partners will seek to promote coordinated approaches by harmonizing transfer values according to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket. In Iran, in addition to the use of MPCA primarily to allow beneficiaries to cover their basic needs, RRP partners also use targeted restricted cash to facilitate inclusion by enabling access to services. Such modalities are used to cover secondary and tertiary healthcare costs of patients and education-related costs that can be a barrier to school enrolment or retention.

Regional Partnerships and Coordination

In support of national humanitarian response mechanisms and in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in the host countries (which are in some cases a hybrid form of the RCM based on existing humanitarian coordination structures and capacities) and the Global Compact on Refugees, RRP partners will continue to support the concerned governments' response to the situation of Afghans and their host communities in neighbouring countries. Initially launched in 2021 with 11 partners, the RRP expanded to 40 partners in 2022, and 65 partners in 2023 across the five countries. For 2024-2025, the RRP has 51 partners (13 UN agencies, 19 INGOs, and 19 LNGOs). Of the INGOs in Pakistan, four are also faith-based organizations (FBOs), and of the LNGOs in Pakistan, two are also women-led organizations (WLOs). The increase in partners in 2023 was partly due to the large scale up of national actors in Pakistan in response to the devastating floods in 2022. Some of these actors do not ordinarily participate in the Afghan response and were only present in RRP 2023 due to cross cutting flood response activities. Nonetheless, a five-fold increase in partners between 2021 and 2024 demonstrates the continued importance of the RRP to coordinate the response, facilitate a joined-up approach, promote synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and provide opportunities for unified strategic advocacy with the host governments and international community. Building on the capacities and expertise of affected populations to act as first responders,

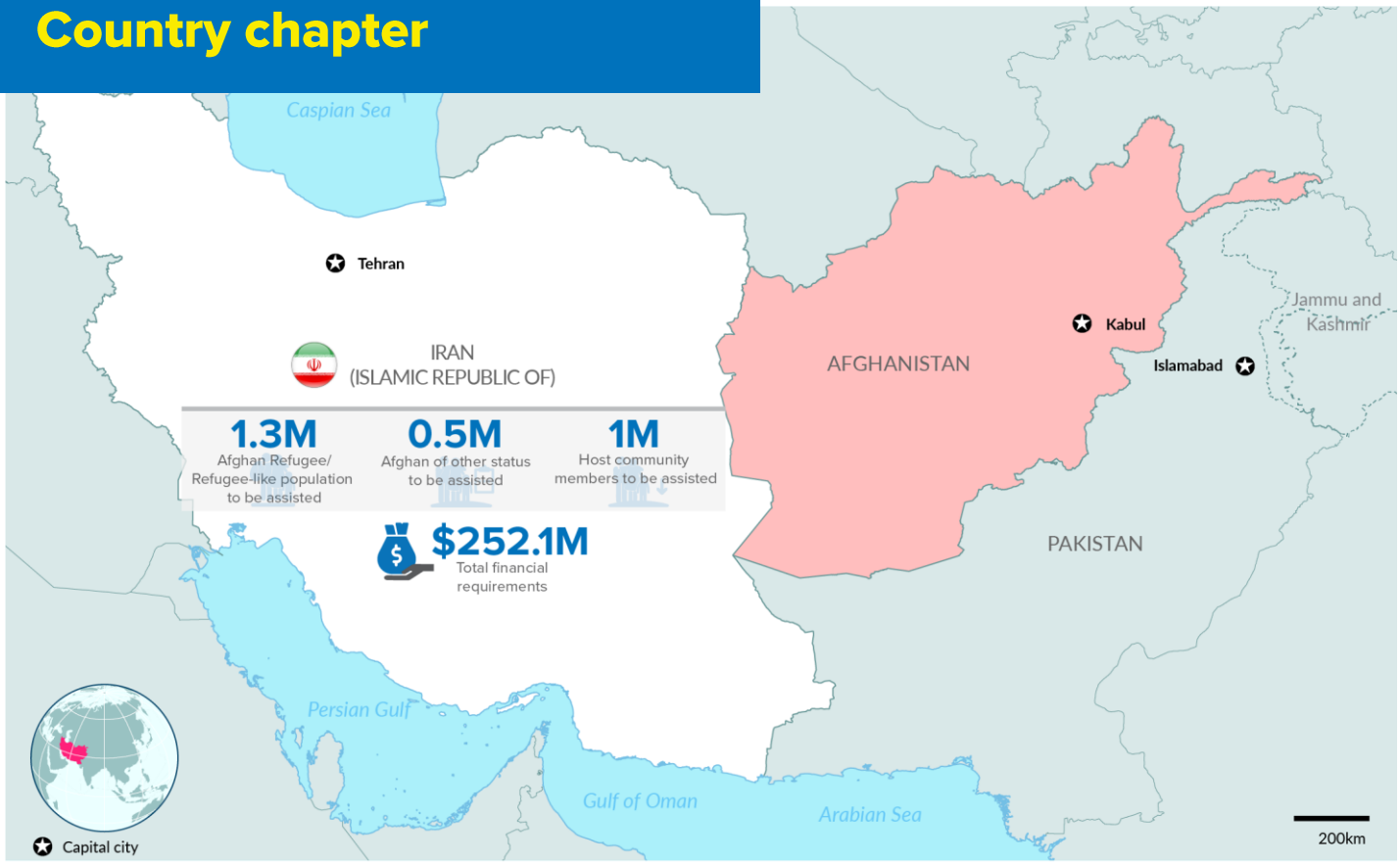
[10] 2022-2026 UNHCR Policy on Cash-based Interventions

the plan will address the needs of Afghans and host communities in line with the SSAR and the ReSolve Pledge at the Global Refugee Forum.

Since 2021, partners have worked to first put in place, strengthen an inter-agency results framework through which all partners plan activities in the planning phase and monitor the implementation of planned activities throughout the year. This promotes effective coordination, robust information management, and provides a good evidence base for programming and course correction of the response as required.

Two young women working in an electronic company in Shiraz, Iran.
©UNHCR/Sebastien Rich

Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Country chapter



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 been agreed upon by the parties. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

At a Glance

Country Planned Response

2024 - 2025*

***Budget and target population figures below are for 2024 only.**

4.5 M Total Afghan population

1.3 M Afghan Refugees/ Refugee-like population to be assisted

0.5 M Afghans of other status to be assisted

1 M Host community population to be assisted

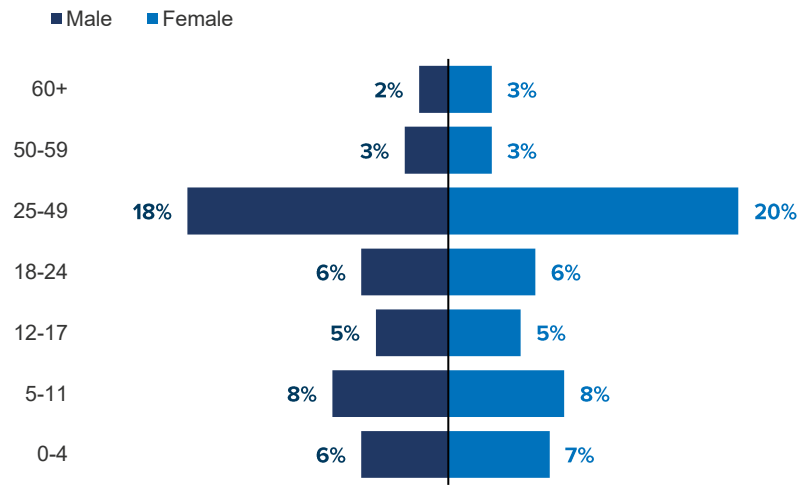
$252.1M Total financial requirements

14 RRP Partners

Population Planning Figures

	PROJECTED POPULATION TO BE ASSISTED			
Country	Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like population	Afghans of Other Status	Host Community population	Total Population to be Assisted in 2024
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1,247,334	498,771	1,023,759	2,769,864

Age and Gender Breakdown[11]



16% of total targeted[12]

Persons with disabilities

52%

Women and girls

48%

Men and boys

[11] AGD disaggregation is extrapolated based on available data from the Amayesh card population.
[12] An estimated 1.3 billion people – or 16% of the global population – experience a significant disability today. For more information, please refer to WHO Key Facts on persons with disabilities

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Over the past four decades the Islamic Republic of Iran has extended its generous hospitality to millions of Afghans seeking refuge and international protection due to recurrent humanitarian, human rights, and security crises in Afghanistan. Afghans are provided inclusive access to health and education services on a similar level to Iranians and many have also received documentation that provides legal protection and access to socio-economic opportunities.
Iran hosts a total estimated Afghan population of at least 4.5 million, 71 percent of whom are women and children. Of this population, 3.4 million Afghan refugees and Afghans in refugee-like situations have been issued with documentation by the GIRI. They comprise some 750,000 Amayesh Card Holders as well as some 2.6 million Afghans recorded under the Government's 2022 headcount exercise (including those who have arrived since 2021), who were subsequently issued with documentation valid until April 2023 resulting in a temporary arrangement providing protection from refoulement.

The further 1.1 million Afghans in Iran including an estimated 500,000 fully undocumented Afghans, 360,000 residence permit holders, and 267,000 Afghan family passport holders are without proper documentation also due to a lack of available pathways to seek asylum or regularize/renew their stay. These individuals may face particularly acute vulnerabilities and protection risks on account of their documentation situation. Currently, many Afghan nationals present in Iran as well as newly arriving Afghans entering regularly or irregularly have limited opportunity to seek asylum and have their individual claims reviewed. While Iran continues to extend inclusive access to education and health services to all Afghans, the increased demand for services combined with sharp inflation presents significant challenges to inclusion policies and to the GIRI's capacity to maintain funding for such services.

The challenging socio-economic situation not only impacts the provision of inclusive services but, more generally, leaves Afghans struggling to make ends meet. As of November 2023, Iran's inflation rate stood at 45.5 per cent (SCI), marking the fourth consecutive year where inflation has exceeded 35 per cent. Due to the increase in the price of critical food imports following the depreciation of the Iranian Rial, food prices have been particularly impacted with the SCI observing an almost 80 per cent rise in the cost of basic food items as of the end of June 2023, ranking Iran among the five countries in the world with the highest inflation rate for food. Against the backdrop of limited prospects for unilateral sanctions relief and continued regional instability, inflationary pressures will likely persist. At a household level, this will contribute to continued cost-of-living challenges, leading to entrenched needs and deprivation.

This difficult socio-economic situation has coincided with a rise in anti-Afghan sentiments, marked by an increased trend of xenophobic rhetoric, discriminatory behaviour towards Afghans, including in some cases reported security incidents. In addition, instances of arrest, detention and deportation of Afghans in Iran have steadily increased since 2021. UNHCR Afghanistan border-monitoring recorded some 310,000 deportation-related arrivals, including women and children, in the first six months of 2023, a 16 per cent increase in deportations compared to the same period in 2022. Additionally, Iranian authorities have announced adoption of stricter measures for the identification and deportation of "irregular" foreign nationals. Against this backdrop the need to actively engage with and support national asylum systems to ensure that Afghans can access transparent and fair asylum procedures is essential. These dynamics could compel Afghans – particularly undocumented –to leave Iran. The government-facilitated return scheme purportedly on a voluntary basis might be used for this mean, though it could be likely influenced by the inability of some Afghan nationals to access documentation and b livelihood opportunities hindering their ability to benefit from available services. – This underlines the need to continue supporting Afghan refugees and the GIRI, to relieve the increasing strain on public services.

Country Risks and Needs

In the short to medium term, increased inflationary pressure, driven by external factors, including sanctions as well as continued structural challenges facing Iran's economy, are likely to deepen socio-economic vulnerabilities. This will lead to entrenched needs among the most disadvantaged groups including Afghan refugees, particularly those without documentation, often lacking the means to achieve self-reliance, with negative consequences on their overall wellbeing and security, as well as their capacity to capitalize on solutions opportunities. Protection, humanitarian, and resilience needs vary across populations and geographic areas, with vulnerabilities being exacerbated by individual risk factors, some of which are outlined in more detail below.

Access to territory, asylum, and documentation

The ability of populations to access asylum and regularize their stay, primarily through acquiring documentation, is a key determinant of overall vulnerability. Those currently entering Iran daily do so via irregular routes at significant financial cost, putting them at risk of pushbacks and extortion. For these new arrivals, as well as in situ Afghan refugees without documentation in Iran, there has been no further opportunity to regularize their stay since the completion of the headcount exercise in June 2022. These undocumented populations are at particular risk of detention and deportation. UNHCR border monitoring in Afghanistan indicates that a lack of documentation was the principal factor for being subjected to deportation from Iran in most cases between January and June 2023. Fear of arrest, detention, and ultimately deportation among undocumented populations as well as those with expired documentation also impacts the physical and mental wellbeing of Afghans in Iran and on opportunities for self-reliance and access to formal labour markets, leading them to limit their movements, refrain from utilizing public services and, as a consequence, contributing to their reliance on humanitarian assistance.

The Foreign Nationals Online Database Scheme" proposed as part of Iran's 7th National Development Plan, aims at consolidating all types of IDs issued to foreign nationals in Iran, including refugees. While providing opportunities to regularize the situation of Afghans in Iran through a legal stay arrangement as well as facilitating access to services such as banking and connectivity, thereby enhancing self-reliance, continued advocacy is critical to ensure that the scheme does not weaken protection safeguards by overlooking international protection considerations leading to risks of premature and involuntary return of Afghan nationals. Onward movements, often through smuggling or even trafficking rings, also put the lives of many Afghans at risk, particularly young and unaccompanied children, including through family separation and various forms of exploitation.

Basic Needs, shelter and food

The increasing cost of living constitutes the primary driver of lack of access to basic needs for Afghan nationals. This leads them to make difficult trade-offs or resort to harmful coping mechanisms to make ends meet including but not limited to not enrolling children in education, child labour and/or child marriage, forfeiting healthcare, reducing meal size, eventually leading to premature return to Afghanistan. These pressures are compounded by rising costs in other sectors, including within the housing market, also resulting in increasing risks of eviction. Lacking social safety nets – whether this be social / familial networks, a safe and secure livelihood or access to social security schemes – Afghan refugees face considerable threats to their wellbeing and are at increased risk of falling deeper into poverty.

Under its school-based programmes, WFP distributes "School Snacks" amongst 8,700 refugee students and their teachers residing in 20 settlements. © WFP / Mohammad Khodabakhsh

The cost-of-living crisis has also impacted the ability of refugees to access safe and adequate shelter. Faced with a shortage of affordable housing, particularly in densely populated hosting areas, refugees are often living in overcrowded or suboptimal conditions. As a result, women and girls face protection risks due to overcrowding or lack of adequate housing, including substandard access to sanitation facilities. Lacking access to regular income, refugees are more likely to struggle to pay rent, thereby leading to an elevated risk of eviction. This risk has intensified following a recent increase in anti-Afghan sentiment, which has also reportedly led to difficulties for some in renting houses amongst the host community. In addition to refugees in urban areas, there are more than 30,000 refugees spread across 20 settlements. Most of these settlements have been in existence for decades and are often in dire need of expansion, reconstruction, or rehabilitation.

The rise in food prices has had a severe impact on the well-being of the most vulnerable groups, including Afghan refugee families who traditionally spend a higher proportion of their income on food. Instability in global food supply chains, including due to the impacts of climate change and climates shocks, as well as inflationary impact that a potential removal of subsidies on wheat flour could have on bread prices will contribute to continued challenges.

Access to inclusive systems and services

Afghans in Iran, including those without documentation, benefit from the Government's inclusive policies, enjoying comparable access to education and healthcare as Iranians. An estimated 1.5 million school-aged Afghan children reside in Iran, many of whom have arrived since 2021, with the GIRI indicating that substantial investments in the education system are required to continue enabling access to education.[13] With more demand for these services, systems have come under increasing strain. These system-capacity related challenges and financial constraints compromise access and might negatively impact on the social cohesion. Significant overcrowding is now an issue, with reports of 40-50 students per classroom as well as utilization of two shifts (morning and afternoon) in refugee-hosting areas. At the same time financial barriers have further limited the access to education for some. Limited capacity leaves some Afghan families unable to enrol their children in school resulting in with a heightened risk of child protection-related issues. Where space is available, education-related costs – such as books and uniforms – can be a barrier for the most vulnerable leading to their non-enrolment and drop-out. In addition, the combination of supply-side challenges as well as the prevailing patriarchal attitudes and lack of awareness among some Afghan parents regarding the importance of education, presents a barrier to school enrolment. These risks are particularly acute for girls, as well as children with disabilities. This can result in a prioritisation of boys' education or even in girls being prevented from attending school, particularly where households face financial challenges.

In relation to health, services are available to all Afghans regardless of their documentation situation. Primary healthcare is free of charge, while costs for secondary and tertiary healthcare often represent a challenge for those in need of medical attention. In addition, Afghan refugees face risks including the legacy of displacement/ trauma on mental health, the impact of poverty on nutritional status, exposure to communicable diseases, and social/ cultural stigmas. In general Afghan women and girls, even if residing in Iran, face considerable GBV risks due to prevailing traditional attitudes and practices and high levels of domestic violence and its long-term negative impacts. Further, Afghan women are observed to face serious challenges and barriers within their communities that prevent them from accessing specialized assistance, including sexual and reproductive health services, and health services for GBV survivors.

In relation to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), alongside the strain on natural resources, affordability challenges also compromise access to essential hygiene items and adequate sanitation facilities, thereby contributing to the adoption of unsafe hygiene practices.

Solutions, Self-reliance, and Social Inclusion

A lack of options for durable solutions for Afghans in Iran is a continued risk. Voluntary repatriation at scale is at this point in time unfeasible due to the situation in Afghanistan and is not promoted although support continues to be offered to those who opt to return voluntarily albeit in adverse circumstances. These movements remain limited with only 516 individuals opting to voluntarily repatriate in 2023. Naturalization and local integration are inaccessible for most Afghan nationals, due to the legal requirement to have an Iranian parent. Resettlement represents a viable option for just a fraction of those in situations of elevated vulnerability and risk. While durable solutions remain elusive for most, self-reliance and social cohesion are a fundamental interim step in allowing Afghans to lead dignified and productive lives. While Afghans in Iran can access regularized employment through a Temporary Work Permit (TWP), these are only available to male Amayesh Card holders between 18- and 63-year-old and restricted to three sectors of the economy: construction, agriculture, and furnacing. For Afghans who can access TWPs, available jobs are predominately low skilled and low paid, frequently in daily labour arrangements with limited job security. TWPs remain inaccessible for undocumented Afghans forcing them – including women – to seek income generation activities in the informal sector. This often comes with reduced labour protection. Additionally, Afghan passport holders also have the possibility to work in the formal sector, if granted with work visas. This makes them eligible to be included in the nationwide Social Security Insurance scheme.

[13] For further information on the education needs in Iran, see "Education Away from Home - The Islamic Republic of Iran (Education Brief - November 2023)" https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/105138

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Ensure protection of at-risk populations.

Efforts to promote access to territory as well as to asylum and social protection systems will be prioritized. As part of this objective, support continues to be extended to the Government to promote implementation of accessible, transparent, and fair asylum procedures in accordance with international standards and through temporary stay arrangements which aim to prevent deportations. Partners will work with the Government to reduce barriers to documentation/ legal status, ensuring that procedures and services take into consideration age, gender, disability, and diversity, including through technical and targeted financial support as relevant. Alongside this support, RRP partners will also provide complementary services and assistance, including those aimed at improving child protection and women and girls' safety, as well as to other Afghans in situations of vulnerability or risk due to inaccessible, overburdened or insufficient government services and assistance.

SO2: Provide timely humanitarian assistance to mitigate the risks to immediate needs and protection faced by vulnerable Afghan refugees.

Partners will provide timely and targeted assistance through in-kind and cash-based modalities as well as tailored services to Afghans in situations of vulnerability. Such interventions will be both temporary and aimed at averting a rapid deterioration in their humanitarian situation while simultaneously considering interventions that can help address the structural drivers of their vulnerability. Partners will prioritize those in situations of acute vulnerability including new arrivals and those impacted by rapid onset emergencies, persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities and other individuals who face other protection risks liked to poverty and are without support mechanisms. Consistent with do-no-harm considerations and bolstering social cohesion, partners will consider the needs of host communities living alongside the most vulnerable refugees.

SO3: Support national systems and facilitate access to inclusive services.

Partners will prioritize the adoption of humanitarian-development nexus approaches to respond to Afghan refugees in Iran, particularly those in situations of protracted displacement. In line with this approach, RRP partners will support the Government in maintaining its inclusive policies by strengthening health and education systems and service provision in refugee-hosting areas. Acknowledging the reality that 99 per cent of Afghan refugees in Iran live outside of settlements and side-by-side with Iranian host communities, these interventions will be area-based, supporting the entire community, thereby mitigating social tension and enabling effective inclusion. At the same time, partners will provide Afghan refugees with information and targeted financial support that will help them overcome the barriers to accessing services.

SO4: Contribute to efforts to identify and promote solutions, including by strengthening social cohesion, and self-reliance as a pathway to solutions.

RRP partners will look to identify and facilitate solutions opportunities wherever possible. This will include equipping people who wish to voluntarily repatriate to Afghanistan with the support and information required to make an informed decision based on a full awareness of the risks and the adverse circumstances in areas of return. At the same time, in collaboration with Members States and the Government, partners will continue to support resettlement including through the identification of the most vulnerable individuals who can receive the maximum benefit from the limited resettlement opportunities available.[14] Acknowledging that durable solutions will remain elusive for most, partners will prioritize interventions that promote social cohesion and build self-reliance as a precursor towards longer-term durable solutions.

[14] https://reporting.unhcr.org/unhcr-projected-global-resettlement-needs-2024

Country Strategy

The RRP response in Iran is underpinned by the principles and objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the SSAR. It is also shaped by the national legal framework, and the Guidance Note on International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan. Interventions are supported by ongoing analysis of community needs and priorities identified through direct and inclusive engagement with groups of Afghans in Iran and host communities of all age, gender and diverse characteristics. Pending increased opportunities for durable solutions, partners aim to support continued protection of Afghans fleeing Afghanistan and enhance self-reliance as a precursor to achieving durable solutions.

Under the framework of the RRP, partners will continue to contribute to responsibility-sharing. Such support will enable the continuation of inclusive and progressive national policies that seek to ensure protection and improve the humanitarian conditions of Afghans in Iran. RRP partners remain ready to support the Government to further expand regularized and predictable access to territory, the asylum system including temporary stay arrangements with protection safeguards and, by extension, individual documentation. This can mitigate risks related to irregular border-crossings and irregular onward movements, including related risks of family separation.

Supporting the Government in enabling access to documentation remains a priority, and it is critical to enhance Afghans' ability to access assistance and national services. A functioning asylum system or temporary stay arrangements with protection safeguards is a vital contributing factor in preparation for the achievement of sustainable solutions.

RRP partners will support capacity development of national social protection systems and institutions, where feasible, to increase the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the services provided. Key priorities are ensuring continued equitable access to national health and education systems for Afghans regardless of legal status, as well as ensuring that sanitation and hygiene needs at the community and household level are addressed, utilizing an area-based approach wherever viable. The inclusion of individuals and households with heightened protection risks in national social protection systems remains an area of focus, with the aim of ensuring timely responses to address violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation and provide safety nets by, for example, addressing the critical needs of unaccompanied and/ or separated minors as well as female-headed households. GIRI-managed settlements will be supported with critical infrastructure, particularly health and education facilities and community centres, increasing, and improving dignified living conditions for Afghans.

There will also be a focus on ensuring that community structures are diverse and representative of all population profiles, on expanding targeted MHPSS services, on developing livelihood skills, and on ultimately building resilience. In turn this will contribute towards self-reliance, increase possibilities for residence outside of settlements and provide opportunities to deliver solutions, including return and reintegration when conditions are conducive.

Similarly, to enhance effectiveness of service delivery through public institutions in urban areas, in collaboration with GIRI institutions, RRP partners aim to engage in community-based activities which promote inclusion, participation better understanding of needs and priorities and may facilitate access to services. This will help strengthen existing community structures and capacities, while reducing risks and dependency on assistance. These activities will also facilitate access to protection mechanisms through identification and referral to specialized services where required, including for children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other profiles at risk. Support to national institutions and service providers, building on an area-based approach, will provide longer-term benefits for GIRI service delivery capacity, and help support peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between Iranian and Afghan communities.

RRP partners will continue to deliver multi-sectoral assistance to vulnerable populations. Targeted and prioritized cash-based interventions, in particular multi-purpose cash to support access to housing, food, and other basic needs, will be a primary modality to address needs aggravated by the deteriorating economic situation. This will seek to prevent the adoption of harmful coping mechanisms, such as child labour, school drop-out, depletion of assets, and indebtedness. Partners will also continue to support individuals and households to cover their documentation renewal fees, while also working with government counterparts to reduce any associated barriers. Through these interventions, efforts will also be made to promote greater community engagement and mobilization. Where feasible, in collaboration with the Government, RRP partners will maintain and enhance engagement with diverse groups within the Afghan population to provide counselling and information, strengthen two-way communication, feedback and response mechanisms, with the purpose of adapting interventions and identifying solutions in partnership with affected communities.

Agencies working together and conducting needs assessment to make a positive impact on the wellbeing of communities in Torbat-e-Jaam settlement, in Khorasan Razavi province. ©UNICEF

In line with the GCR, the efforts of RRP partners and the wider donor community are aimed at creating conditions and taking actions that further progress towards solutions. Prospects for large-scale and viable voluntary repatriation and reintegration are limited. This is both due to the challenging situation in Afghanistan and the reality that large numbers of Afghans have resided in Iran for extended periods, in many cases for multiple generations. While conditions in Afghanistan remain inconducive for a sustainable and dignified return, RRP partners will continue to work to provide services to Afghans and Iranian host populations, with the purpose of reducing pressure on national systems and enhance self-reliance with an outlook towards future returns and reintegration. Concurrently, while not promoting returns, RRP partners will continue to offer counselling to those opting to return to ensure that such returns are informed, voluntary, safe, and dignified.

Further, RRP partners will continue to advocate strongly for an increased commitment by States towards solidarity and more predictable responsibility-sharing including through consistent allocation of resettlement quotas for Afghans in Iran. Towards this aim and to ensure the integrity of respective processes, considerable resources are invested in ensuring those at the highest risk are identified, considered, and submitted for resettlement. Complementary pathways to third countries, such as family reunification and labour mobility and visa schemes, though currently limited, are also facilitated and will be further explored. Local solutions also remain limited to individuals with specific protection needs.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

Protection Sector partners will aim to address rights violations and mitigate protection risks: through supporting national systems, including in relation to their technical and absorption capacity in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees; through community-based needs assessment and response activities, including in collaboration with other sectors; as well as through specialized and tailored individual interventions. Building on engagement with communities, partners will continue advocacy aiming to increase access to territory and asylum, improve reception and registration, and strengthen settlement management and access to specialized support for individual cases (documentation, psychosocial support, child protection, GBV). In addition, where national systems and services are inaccessible, partners aim to offer complementary specialized services and interventions such as legal dispute resolution, psychosocial support, and targeted material assistance.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

To address the child protection risks, RRP partners will strengthen national child protection systems by providing resources and technical support to facilitate the provision of child protection services for Afghan children at risk of family separation, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, detention and deportation, including by removing the structural barriers to access services. The strengthening of national child protection systems will have a sustainable impact on longer term support for Afghan children. Complementary to this approach, RRP partners will continue identifying and supporting Afghan children at risk and facilitate their access to child protection services in a sustainable manner. This will be pursued through addressing legal, documentation, financial, and awareness-related barriers, and providing Best Interests Procedure/ case management, when required. Direct service provision will predominantly focus on facilitating access to national services and complement national efforts in settlements (where one per cent of refugee population resides) as well as other underserved areas where national services are limited in capacity or unavailable. Where feasible, partners will –– use community-based approaches to maximize results and impact. Considering the disproportionate impacts of barriers on girls and children with disabilities and other diversity characteristics, all programmes will be designed with an age, gender, and diversity lens, targeting specific groups when necessary.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

To facilitate access to protection and address sexual and reproductive health needs, partners aim to support individual and group-based activities. Institutional support including capacity development and predictable referrals will aim to increase access to and improve the quality of specialized national services. Where national systems are not accessible, RRP partners will aim to provide safe and comprehensive services on an individual basis to those in need. These include case management, and referral to key specialized services including health and MHPSS, legal assistance, safety and security, as well as other essential services such as cash-based interventions, livelihoods, education, and support to achievement of durable solutions.

EDUCATION

RRP education partners will contribute to the GIRI's inclusive policies through interventions which benefit both Afghans and host communities alike. As part of this, partners will support the construction, rehabilitation, and renovation of education facilities through an area-based approach that targets those communities with a high proportion of Afghan refugees, thereby reducing overcrowding and maximizing student retention.

Provision of Stationary kit for student- Primary school, Qom ©NRC

Alongside these infrastructure-based interventions, partners will also provide financial and in-kind support to help vulnerable families cover education-related costs. This support will be targeted at the up to 25 per cent of refugee households estimated to have children out of school, as well as households where children are at risk of school dropout. Alongside these interventions to improve access to equitable, safe, and inclusive education, partners will also prioritize the provision of quality education opportunities, ensuring that so-called 'soft interventions' are provided alongside interventions that promote access. This will include supporting teachers in their professional development through tailored trainings, while also providing non-formal education in the form of catch-up/ remedial classes, school readiness programmes and literacy and numeracy classes. These interventions will help address learning gaps, particularly for refugees who have seen their education interrupted, while also facilitating their reintegration into formal education.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food Security sector will continue to provide blanket food assistance through in-kind and cash-based modalities to over 90,000 Afghan refugees and host communities, including all Afghans in settlements. Those receiving food assistance are amongst the most vulnerable, and often have limited opportunities to establish self-reliance. This assistance will generally be provided in tandem with awareness raising sessions which promote dietary/ nutritional diversity and cost-effective solutions that enable households to cover their nutritional needs. Acknowledging the high levels of food insecurity among undocumented populations and new arrivals who are predominantly concentrated in urban areas, the Food Security sector will also continue to explore opportunities to provide targeted support outside settlements to the most vulnerable.

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE

Although some refugees can access regularized employment through a Temporary Work Permit (TWP), these are only available to male Amayesh Card Holders of a certain age and limited to few sectors of the economy where jobs are predominantly low skilled and low paid, routinely involving daily labour that provides limited job security. As such, most Afghans in Iran are unable to acquire TWPs, instead resorting to income-generation activities in the informal sector where they face increased risks of labour exploitation given the reduced safeguards which can have knock-on effects on overall health and wellbeing. The livelihoods sector response will therefore prioritize efforts to increase self-reliance by promoting safe and gainful employment. Noting the precarious situation of many, partners will continue to advocate for the right of Afghan refugees to work across sectors, legalizing their works status and thereby ensuring they can access basic protections such as employment insurance. At the same time, partners will also look to expand livelihood opportunities by providing Afghan refugees with vocational and business training that equips them with the skills to adapt to a changing labour market. These interventions will look to promote social cohesion, showcasing the positive contribution of Afghans to society and facilitating community dialogue that can mitigate prejudices. Lastly, wherever possible partners will continue to link livelihoods to durable solutions ensuring, for instance, that such interventions build the skills and resilience that enable them to capitalize on solutions opportunities.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

To address health risks and facilitate inclusion, RRP partners will continue to support the inclusive policies of the Government across all levels. This will include system strengthening (e.g., facilities construction and/or rehabilitation) in-kind, financial, and technical assistance to support the provision of high-quality essential health and nutrition services, targeting areas where the needs of the host community intersect with those of Afghan refugees. Efforts will be made to bolster primary health services, outreach/ awareness, and immunization campaigns in border provinces where significant numbers of refugees live or transit through and in which a sizeable increase in communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, scabies and measles has been reported over the last year.

Students taking a health screening test- Primary school, Sistan and Baluchistan ©UNICEF.

At the secondary and tertiary levels, RRP partners will continue to support the most vulnerable, including those with malnutrition, chronic or underlying conditions, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) to cover healthcare costs through a combination of targeted financial support and by covering premium fees under the Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI) scheme. RRP partners will support complementary preventative interventions such as health education, health promotion, and health and nutrition literacy, with a specific focus on enhancing knowledge around rights and entitlements to accessing inclusive health services.

SHELTER, NFI & BASIC NEEDS

For both refugees in urban areas and settlements, RRP partners' principal objective is to ensure that shelter conditions support the health, security, privacy, and dignity of refugee populations. The Shelter sector will target refugees living in settlements and urban areas through the establishment, improvement and maintenance of shelters and infrastructure, distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs), cash for shelter and non-food items, provision of winterization assistance, as well as support to energy provision and energy efficient solutions (including alternative/renewable energy). The Sector will also continue to work on the limited upgrades to shelter and infrastructure in existing settlements to ensure that residents can live in dignity.

In terms of basic needs, partners will aim to provide timely and targeted assistance on a temporary basis to those in situations of vulnerability, with the aim of preventing a deterioration in their situation which leads to the emergence of more entrenched basic needs that require sustained support. Wherever possible, partners will look to assist populations by providing them with one-off or monthly multi-purpose cash, giving beneficiaries the flexibility and autonomy to cover the full diversity of their basic needs as they see fit. At the same time, working across sectors, RRP partners will look to promote longer-term solutions through self-reliance and inclusion which, in turn, reduces dependency on humanitarian interventions by addressing the structural drivers of vulnerability.

WASH

Although most of the population enjoys adequate access to drinking water and sanitation, drought and unsustainable use of water have driven water shortages in Iran in recent years, with 2023 marking the 3rd consecutive year of drought in Iran following a 15 per cent reduction in precipitation. Environmental factors, exacerbated by water shortages, have also resulted in an increase in communicable diseases. These developments disproportionately impact refugee-hosting provinces, particularly in border areas, contributing to social tensions and conflict around access to resources as well as protection risks particularly for women and girls. RRP Partners will first and foremost aim to facilitate access to safe water for refugees, particularly those in settlements. In so doing partners will adhere to best practices in line with Environment and Social Safeguarding (ESS) criteria, ensuring that water is sourced in a sustainable manner which does not contribute to tensions with local communities. Wherever possible these interventions will look to strengthen local systems and capacities. In parallel, hygiene promotion activities, coupled with the provision of hygiene kits, will be implemented in settlements and other high-risk areas which are susceptible to communicable diseases due to environmental factors (including population density). Lastly, WASH partners will maintain emergency preparedness capacity to ensure a swift response in case of refugee influx or natural disasters that disrupt access to water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities.

Partnership and Coordination

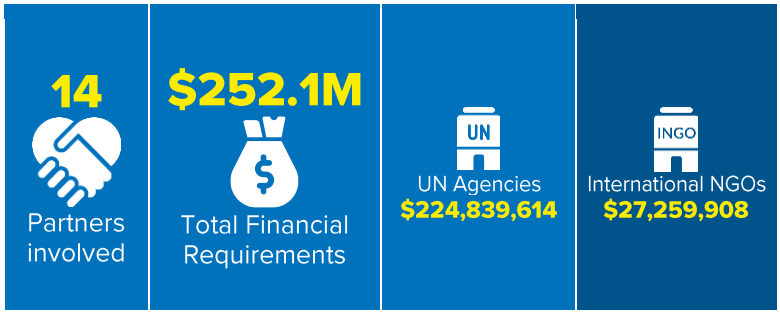
Overall leadership on the refugee response, ultimately lies with the GIRI, through the National Organization for Migration (NOM) under the Ministry of Interior.

Under the RCM, the Refugee Response Group (RRG) is the main platform for strategic-level Inter-Agency coordination with the participation of 14 partners. This forum is chaired by UNHCR and includes the main UN agencies and international NGOs supporting this plan. The RRG is responsible for overall strategic planning, government liaison, policy (including collective positioning in relation to minimum operating standards and principles of engagement) and resource mobilization. In September 2021, an Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) was established in Iran under the RCM and it operates under the delegated authority of the RRG. The ISCG facilitates operational coordination among agencies/ between sectors and enhances inter-sectoral linkages between the following seven sector working groups: Protection led by UNHCR (with sub-sectors for Child Protection, led by UNICEF, and Gender-Based Violence, led by UNFPA); Food Security, led by WFP and NRC; Settlement & Shelter/Housing, led by UNHCR and NRC; Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), led by UNICEF and NRC; Public Health and Nutrition, Health being led by WHO and UNHCR with UNICEF leading

Nutrition; Education, led by UNICEF and NRC; and Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion, led by Relief International and UNHCR. A Cash/MPC Working Group, led by UNHCR and NRC is also active.

The RRP also seeks to strengthen partnerships between humanitarian and development actors. Efforts will continue to develop and bolster synergies between different planning frameworks, most notably the RRP, the UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Iran aiming at increasing support to host communities in refugee hosting areas.

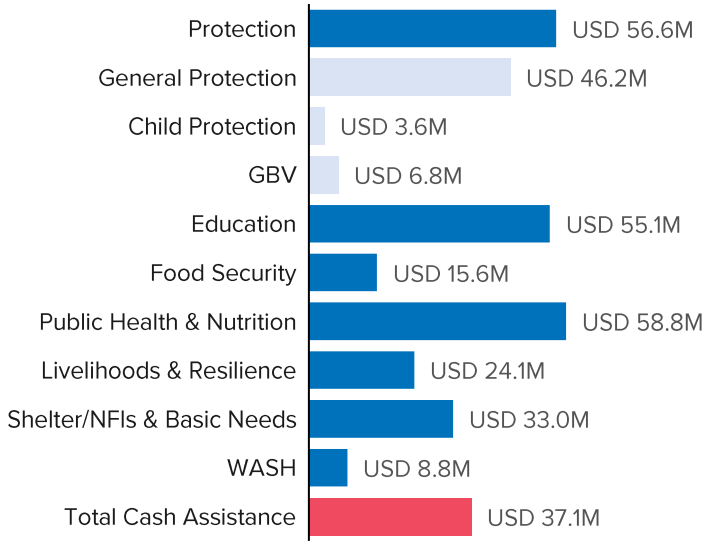
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements



Notes: "Partners involved" only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. Appealing partner budgets are found in Annex B. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD

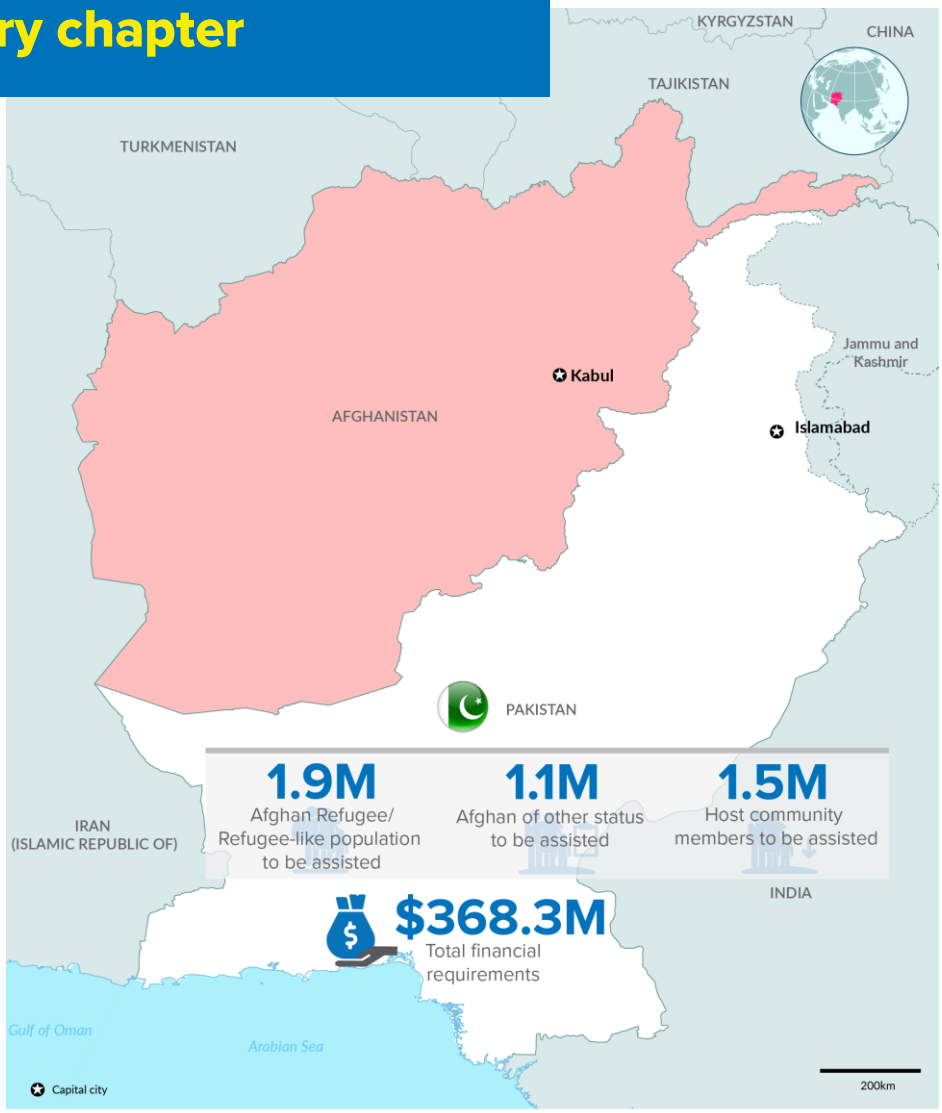


** General Protection, CP and GBV are all part of "Protection" category.*

*** "Total Cash assistance" is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets and as such it is a subset of the other sector budgets, not additional. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of persons of concern, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to provide protection outcomes and meet immediate basic needs.*

Faheema (13) is engrossed in her studies. She wants to become a teacher as she herself has faced many challenges getting education. Hungu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. ©UNICEF/Pakistan/Saiyna Bashir

Pakistan
Country chapter



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 been agreed upon by the parties. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

At a Glance

Country Planned Response

2024 – 2025*

***Budget and target population figures below are for 2024 only.**

3.2 M Total Afghan population

1.9 M Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like population to be assisted

1.1 M Afghans of Other Status to be assisted

1.5 M Host community population to be assisted

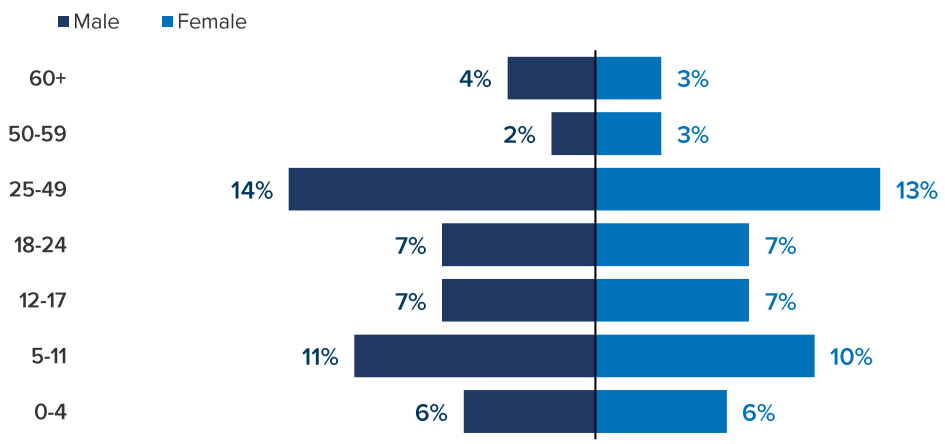
$368.3M Total financial requirements

45 RRP Partners

Population Planning Figures

	PROJECTED ASSISTED POPULATION			
Country	Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like population to be assisted	Afghans of Other Status to be assisted	Host Community population to be assisted	Total Population Target in 2024
Pakistan	1,948,201	1,108,000	1,456,000	4,512,201

Age and Gender Breakdown[15]



16% of total targeted[16]

Persons with disabilities

49%

Women and girls

51%

Men and boys

[15] Afghan Nationals Registration Database (ANR), ProGres, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

[16] An estimated 1.3 billion people – or 16% of the global population – experience a significant disability today. For more information, please refer to WHO Key Facts on persons with disabilities

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Pakistan has graciously hosted millions of Afghans for over four decades. Presently, the country accommodates over 3 million Afghans, offering access to public health and education services. In February 2022, in collaboration with UNHCR, the Government concluded the Document Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE),[17] resulting in the issuance of smart cards and the verification/update of refugee data. The exercise identified nearly 1.3 million refugees with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, along with some 146,000 unregistered members of registered families (UMRFs). Additionally, Pakistan hosts around 830,000 individuals with Afghan Citizen Cards, and 1 million undocumented Afghans (including 600,000 arrivals after August 2021).

Primarily residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) (53 per cent) and Balochistan (24 per cent), provinces with lower multi-dimensional poverty indicator scores, most refugees are able to enjoy freedom of movement, with 68.7 per cent residing outside refugee villages. Given the urban or semi-urban residence of most Afghan refugees and other nationals, intersecting with vulnerable sections of the host community, the response plan targets 3.06 million Afghan refugees and Afghans of other status, along with 1.45 million host community members.

On 3 October, Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsed a plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans under the Illegal Foreigner's Repatriation Plan (IFRP). Announcing the plan, Pakistan's Minister of Interior said that an ultimatum has been issued to illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November. Since 15 September, almost half a million Afghans have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan has provided assurances on safeguarding PoR cardholders and Afghan citizen cardholders from the initial stages of the IFRP. Nonetheless, some PoR cardholders and Afghan citizen cardholders have returned in recent months, as a result of direct or indirect impact of the IFRP. In addition, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) provided an exemption to vulnerable individuals and those destined for third countries. The current interagency response to the IFRP in Pakistan has been mostly focussed on two major pillars: Protection and advocacy; and, ensuring that critical assistance is provided to the most vulnerable among the population to meet their basic needs and mitigate protection risks.

In 2024, protection activities will be complemented by interventions from other sectors, primarily Health, with a strong focus on MHPSS. The interagency response will not facilitate the process of forced returns at the borders. In this dynamic and evolving context, the coordinated response is guided by the fundamental principle of 'do no harm.' It is imperative that all agency interventions maintain a principled humanitarian approach, considering the potential unintended negative consequences for populations served by the response. By adhering to this principle, the coordinated efforts aim to ensure that the assistance provided does not inadvertently exacerbate vulnerabilities or create additional challenges for the affected population.

Beyond this immediate response, ongoing activities under the RRP will continue to prioritize social cohesion and support Pakistan in mitigating the complexities of hosting a large Afghan refugee and refugee-like population amidst economic instability and security-related challenges. The significant presence of Afghan refugees and individuals of other status underscores the importance of navigating this evolving protection landscape with care. Pakistan continues to grapple with the complexities of providing adequate support and ensuring the protection of this vulnerable population while addressing the needs and concerns of its citizens. Against this backdrop, RRP interventions will adopt an area-based approach and focus on facilitating access to legal services, women and child welfare services, as well as health and education services for all community members.

UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for a national asylum system, which will allow identification, registration and documentation of persons with international protection needs, resulting in the further enhancement of refugee management in Pakistan. Pending further developments, RRP planning will maintain focus on an area-based approach, providing humanitarian and nexus support in communities with high concentrations of Afghans. In case of significant

[17] Between March 2021 and February 2022, the Government of Pakistan – the Ministry of States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) –, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) along with the technical support of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) conducted the first large-scale verification and documentation renewal exercise for registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan since 2010, officially known as the Document Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE).

changes due to the IFRP, RRP funding flexibility will address urgent humanitarian needs and support affected communities.

Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to disasters triggered by recurrent natural hazards. In 2022, Pakistan faced severe consequences from torrential rains and flash flooding causing extensive damage to housing, schools, and communal buildings in refugee villages and host communities. While 2023 did not witness a recurrence, the lingering impact of the 2022 disaster persists, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable in the affected districts and impacting the country's economy. The Living Indus prospectus for ecological restoration in Pakistan's Indus Basin, led by the Ministry of Climate Change and the UN, aims to address these challenges. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and scientific studies emphasize that global climate change is expected to intensify stresses on the Indus Basin coupled with highly erratic weather events. This places the country in the 'Age of Adaption' necessitating comprehensive measures to address and prepare for ongoing climate impacts.

Country Risks and Needs

Over the years a majority (estimated at 68 per cent) of Afghan refugees have moved from Refugee Villages to urban areas. Afghan nationals of other statuses also tend to live in urban areas. Documentation is a key protection tool for refugees and Afghans of other status residing in Pakistan. Registered Afghan refugees hold Proof of Registration (PoR) Cards, and this serves as an identity and residency document for a given period that can be extended through Cabinet notifications. As part of a 2021 verification exercise of registered Afghan refugees, PoR Cards were extended until June 2023. The GoP subsequently extended the validity of the PoR Cards to 31 December 2023 through a Federal Cabinet decision on 10 November 2023. Afghanistan Citizenship Cards (ACC) also remain valid.

In terms of access to gainful employment no specific permits are issued for refugees, and they cannot own businesses. Under the 2017 Repatriation and Management Policy for Afghan Refugees, a flexible visa regime provides terms for PoR card holders to apply for a visa inside Pakistan, including for work purposes. However, implementation modalities for this have not been formalized. Most refugees are engaged in unskilled labour in the informal sector, mainly as daily wage labourers in the transport, construction, agriculture, and garbage collection/recycling sectors (the latter of which has reportedly been negatively impacted in recent months). Notably, these sectors are particularly vulnerable to external shocks such as those caused by COVID-19 and floods. While engaged in the informal sector, refugees receive low wages and often face challenges maintaining stable employment and the possible risk of being exploited. A notification issued in 2019 which allows Afghan refugees with PoR Cards to open bank accounts helped to improve their economic situation but barriers remain in accessing mobile money transfers and obtaining driver's licenses.

Both Afghan refugees and host Pakistani communities have faced multiple stresses and shocks since 2020 such as natural disasters and extreme weather events, floods, the COVID-19 pandemic, crop and livestock pests and diseases, an economic downturn, and persistently high inflation. Many Afghans, who arrived in Pakistan in the aftermath of the transition in Afghanistan, are displaying a high level of vulnerability, compounded by the lack of legal status and limited livelihood opportunities, putting an extra burden on the already scarce resources and assets of many Afghan families. This situation calls for targeted external support on an urgent basis to meet food consumption gaps and protect livelihoods of refugee and host communities.

The persistent impacts of 2022 flooding and the current high inflation have worsened the situation regarding food security, malnutrition, and overall poverty. The inflation rate as of September 2023 (overall level of 31.4 per cent in September in Pakistan, with food inflation in the mid-thirties in both urban and rural areas) and the decline in livelihoods opportunities are impacting refugees and host communities' food security. The areas in KP and Balochistan, which host most of the refugee population, are already underdeveloped. Inflation and the rising cost of living, which manifest in increased rent and the price of basic staples like bread and rice, combined with limited livelihood opportunities, continues to erode purchasing power, leaving vulnerable populations less able to afford basic goods and services.

An IPC acute food insecurity analysis conducted in April 2023 found that districts with high refugee concentration such as Quetta, Pishin, Loralai, Killa Abdullah, Killa Saifullah, Chagai in Balochistan are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis levels of food insecurity). Meanwhile, an IPC acute malnutrition (AMN) analysis conducted in June 2023 found that most of these districts (excluding Chagai) are in AMN Phase 4 (Critical).

Access to services and basic needs varies among the different categories of Afghans, with undocumented individuals facing more challenges in accessing education, healthcare and housing. ACCs were designed to have time-limited validity and do not confer guaranteed access to public services such as education and health care. Further, ACC holders do not

have the right to hold formal employment, open a bank account or purchase a SIM card, factors that both make life for ACC holders more challenging, as well as making the provision of assistance and the updating of their status more difficult.

There are currently no legal or administrative mechanisms addressing the housing, land, and property rights of refugees in Pakistan. This gap adds to the vulnerability of refugees, especially refugee women, girls, and children in general. Refugees have traditionally developed informal arrangements with landowners who lease them housing and land. However, such arrangements are often not documented, exposing them to possible exploitation, fraud, and forced evictions.

For those in Refugee Villages, services vary with gaps in functionality of water systems and limited operation and maintenance capacities. In addition, aging infrastructure and irregular electricity supply means potable water is still not available to all refugees. Likewise, sanitation is poor due to impermanent housing structures, social norms, and weak sanitation and solid waste management systems.

Afghan refugees and Pakistani trainees are attending a computer class at the Women Welfare & Development Center in G-7, Islamabad.

© UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

Gender disparities have contributed to lower education access and skill levels among women and girl refugees. Gender-based violence is largely under-reported due to social norms, cultural stigma, and a lack of effective redress mechanisms within the refugee community. Outreach to women and girls through the protection helpline or other community mechanisms remains very low. Women remain under-represented in community structures and during participatory assessments refugee women and girls note that their participation in community structures depends on male relatives' or community members' permission. Women and girls identified discrimination, violence, and restriction on freedom as the main genesis of mental health issues. Men identified the lack of livelihoods as a key driver of stress. Within affected communities, as with GBV, child-at-risk cases are largely under-reported due to social norms and ineffective reporting and response mechanisms. However, children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children and those involved in child labour, and mental health and psychological distress, remain major concerns for the refugee community. During participatory assessments, mental health issues like depression, chronic stress and insomnia are widely reported.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Uphold and strengthen the protection environment. In close coordination with CCAR/CAR and other relevant government actors at provincial and federal levels, the plan will seek to support the Government of Pakistan in ensuring Afghan refugees and Afghans of other status and host communities can realize their rights in line with international protection standards. This will include documentation and humanitarian protection; prevention, mitigation of and response to gender-based violence (GBV); and child protection services. The plan will incorporate accountability to affected populations (AAP) and gender-sensitive programming across all sectors and a focus on marginalized groups, including children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and persons with other specific needs.

SO2: Continue to advance the humanitarian-development nexus to build resilient communities, reinforcing the local and national systems through access to healthcare, education, nutrition, WASH facilities, green solutions, and livelihoods. The focus on livelihoods is underpinned by fostering growth of human capital. The plan recognizes the challenges to maintain basic living conditions for both Afghans and the communities that host them across all sectors, caused by economic hardships, inflation, and the impact of floods and other climate-related hazards. By focusing on wide ranging cross-sectoral responses, this plan seeks to support the Government of Pakistan and make a substantive contribution to improving the basic needs and wellbeing of families and communities.

SO3: Improve the potential for durable solutions in line with the SSAR framework. In 2024-2025, the search for solutions for some Afghan refugees, and persons in refugee-like situations and Afghans of other status will continue to be a focus. The search for durable solutions including resettlement efforts will continue to be expanded prioritizing families at heightened protection risk, with support for dignified voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan provided where appropriate, alongside the pursuit of complementary pathways for refugees.

SO4. Promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion through sectoral responses which aim to include host communities in activities. Including through support to government efforts to maintain emergency and disaster preparedness and response measures at both local and national levels.

Given the current situation in Afghanistan and the implementation of the IFRP, solutions remain elusive. However, in line with one of the primary objectives of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and the Government of Pakistan's National Policy on Management and Repatriation of Afghan refugees, the Government of Pakistan will lead the efforts to support Afghans who wish to return to Afghanistan on a voluntary basis. In the context of voluntary repatriation, specific focus will be given to ensure that: protection counselling is conducted, the identification of children-at-risk is systematic, and that adequate provision of information on return areas is provided. Community consultations will gather relevant information on intention to return to ensure community perceptions are systematically recorded.

In terms of other durable solutions, resettlement to third countries for those at heightened protection risk will continue. Complementary pathways, particularly in the areas of education and labour mobility, as well as family reunification will be further enhanced to ensure lasting solutions to the protracted situation of displacement. This approach is aligned with the goals of the Global Compact for Refugees to promote burden and responsibility sharing, in recognition of the significant contribution that Pakistan has made in hosting refugees for 40 years. UNHCR Pakistan estimates[18] that nearly 134,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, almost all from Afghanistan, will be in need of resettlement in 2024, with the needs far outnumbering the availability of places.

[18] UNHCR Global Resettlement Needs 2024, page 86.

Against this backdrop, the Government's support for inclusion of refugees in the national programmes will be critical in ensuring not only that Afghan refugees and Afghans of other statuses can be self-reliant, live in dignity and contribute to their communities whilst in Pakistan but are also able to acquire skills and avail themselves of education opportunities which will have a long-lasting impact upon their return to Afghanistan or in a third country. A strategic approach will be pursued to ensure that social, economic, and cultural barriers that hinder refugees and Afghans of other status from exercising their rights and freedoms and accessing public services are addressed. Advocacy will be continued for the inclusion of refugees in national systems to facilitate access to protection services, social protection, education, health, and livelihoods thereby contributing to ensure that their rights are upheld whilst residing in Pakistan.

Advocacy will also be continued to support access of Afghan nationals with other statuses to similar services. Currently, ACC holders (as well as undocumented Afghans) are not entitled to access public services such as education, and they may not access formal employment, open a bank account, rent property, or register for a SIM card, and may face challenges accessing healthcare among other services. While some ACC holders can access certain services based on the willingness of local officials and service providers, and many participate in the informal economy, formalization of these rights is critical to ensure dignified lives.

Registration and documentation will also be prioritized, as well as improved access to civil registration to ensure that the births of all Afghan children are registered. Avenues will be explored for strengthening the national refugee legal and administrative framework while continuous advocacy for adherence to international protection standards will also be pursued. Documentation for Afghans of other status' will also be beneficial for ensuring the needs of this population are identified, including for solutions.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

The Protection Sector will prioritize interventions to address the most critical protection risks outlined above. This will include working in a multi-sectoral manner with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure the rights of refugees and other Afghans are upheld whilst they continue to reside in Pakistan. Key interventions include: awareness-raising and advocacy with service providers to facilitate access to education, health and protection services; supporting access to registration and identity documentation; provision of legal assistance; supporting individuals with specific protection needs, including persons with disabilities and others at risk; working with inter-agency working groups / networks to establish community-based complaint/feedback mechanisms to ensure commitments to AAP and PSEA are upheld; and identifying and facilitating durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

Under the Child Protection sub-sector, the priority response will include: the provision of integrated child protection Best Interests Procedures and strengthening referral systems through ensuring referral pathways are updated regularly and information about services for children and families are available to children, families and communities. The Sub-Sector will also continue supporting the e national child protection system through capacity development efforts and ensure inclusion of refugee children; the identification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), family tracing and family-based care or suitable, safe and community-based alternative care arrangements will be made available for children in need; and communities will be supported to create a safe and protective environment for children including through awareness on child protection risks and knowledge of referral pathways as well as strengthening of child protection community-based mechanisms.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Under the GBV sub-sector, the priority response will include, the provision of timely access to quality services for GBV survivors (psychosocial support, safety support, medical and legal assistance) through case management in-line with a survivor-centered approach; establishing women and girl safe spaces and supporting specialized shelters and safe homes for women and children; the provision of dignity kits; Safe disclosure and referral training for frontline workers; technical support across sectors to mainstream GBV risk mitigation measures; and capacity building on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response (including case management) for partners and national counterparts.

EDUCATION

Addressing the educational needs of refugees in Pakistan, Education partners will support improved access to both formal and non-formal education at primary, secondary, tertiary, and higher education level, with specific focus on refugee girls' education. To ensure a safe learning environment and address the low absorption capacity in overcrowded public schools, school infrastructure will be provided, including WASH facilities. To facilitate quality learning, educational and recreational supplies will be provided to refugee children and youth. Refugee and host community teachers will access continued teacher professional development opportunities, including training that leads to inclusive and student-centered teaching approaches. Post-secondary education will be increased through the provision of higher educational scholarships, advocacy for a higher quota for university admittance, access to careers counselling and private sector internships, and supporting certified technical courses for youth.

To reduce parallel education services, the national education system will be strengthened to respond to refugee education needs through capacity building initiatives for partners and the education authorities. Communities will be directly mobilized through parent-teacher associations, education committees and teacher councils to encourage enrolment and retention. Innovative approaches, such as accelerated learning, digital learning, and cash assistance, will expand access to education for the most vulnerable students.

FOOD SECURITY, AGRICTUTURE & LIVELIHOODS

Food Security, Agriculture and Livelihoods (FSAL) sector partners[19] will undertake humanitarian food security and livelihoods related activities and complement response by UNHCR and other sectors, for refugees and host communities, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. The focus is on highly food insecure vulnerable populations affected by multiple shocks. Programming of integrated livelihoods restoration/rehabilitation and resilience building interventions including capacity-building trainings will help achieve medium to long-term food security and livelihoods improvement as well as resilience building of the targeted communities. Assistance packages for conditional support will also address immediate food security needs for targeted households. This inclusive targeting approach has been a long-standing component of the Afghan refugee response in Pakistan, mitigating the impacts of hosting a protracted refugee population. Collaborative approaches on food security with other sectors will support self-reliance of Afghan refugees and host communities, moderating harmful coping strategies and improving inclusion.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

In recent years, Pakistan has faced serious infrastructural damages to health facilities, destruction of medicines and medical equipment, and population displacement in 90 districts, including districts hosting Afghan refugees after devastating extreme weather events. Through the Refugee Response Plan, health facilities providing services to the refugee population will be repaired/rehabilitated, ensuring the availability of medicines and medical equipment. Additionally, healthcare workers will be trained in the provision of services, including maternal neonatal and reproductive health, mental health, health services for GBV survivors and psychosocial support services, while healthcare staffing will also be supported. The mental health needs of the population will be addressed through training primary health care providers and community health workers on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, including referrals. IEC material on mental health and psychosocial support will be printed and provided to health facilities and community health workers. Community health workers will be further engaged to link refugees to national health services and provide information on disease prevention.

Currently, Pakistan is experiencing malaria outbreaks in 54 high-risk districts. Apart from malaria, Dengue and Acute Watery Diarrhoea, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) outbreaks are also on the rise in many districts and are expected to continue in 2024, including in refugee-hosting districts. Sector partners aim to strengthen disease surveillance systems and preparedness and response to disease outbreaks.

The proposed interventions will enhance the prevention, early detection and treatment of child wasting in 9 districts of Balochistan, 11 districts in KP and one district

[19] In Pakistan the Livelihoods Sector has been incorporated into the Food and Agriculture Sector and it is the FSAL sector working group that provides coordination and oversight to this programming.

in Sindh province. All children < 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers will be screened for their nutritional status, children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) will be enrolled to Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) following the simplified approach, while those with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) will be linked/referred to Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP). Pregnant and lactating mothers with acute malnutrition will be referred to TSFP and other community-based malnutrition prevention activities. Children with SAM medical complications will be referred to the nearby stabilization centres for specialized care. Children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating mothers will be provided with multi-micronutrient supplementation.

Furthermore, children, adolescents, caregivers, and communities will be engaged through participatory behaviour change interventions to improve their nutritional status by adopting key family care practices. Community-based nutrition promotion activities, including the protection, promotion, and support for optimal maternal, infant, and young child feeding (MIYCF) practices will be scaled up across the refugee response districts.

Capacity of frontline workers will be raised and reinforced on delivery of essential and life-saving nutrition interventions through training, on-job coaching and technical assistance. The LHWs/CHWs will be capacitated and engaged in services delivery. The community outreach team will be engaged in door-to-door screening of children and referral of malnourished cases to nearby nutrition sites and the delivery key messages on MIYCF practices/behaviours. Technical assistance and support will also be provided to the Health Department on coordination of nutrition information management for better monitoring.

SHELTER, NFI & BASIC NEEDS

The sector aims to achieve safe, dignified, and healthy living conditions for the targeted population, without overburdening government resources. The sector will provide short to mid-term solutions through NFIs, in-kind and cash assistance for shelter and housing needs, in accordance with government policies on refugee housing. To ensure the sustainability of these interventions, a range of measures will be implemented, including provision of alternate/renewable energy for cooking, heating, and street lighting for refugee and host communities, also as a protection/GBV risk mitigation measure.

Efforts will be made to ensure clear communication to the communities regarding assistance eligibility and safeguards. Additionally, AGD sensitive complaint, feedback, and redress mechanisms will be put in place. Partners involved in the response plan will be responsive to input from the communities and adapt their approaches as needed, including in response to the outputs of post-distribution monitoring. Refugees and other target populations will receive tailored and clear information about available assistance. Whenever possible, community-based or community-led approaches will be utilized to enhance the reach, effectiveness, and sustainability of initiatives.

Partners will also establish and support the implementation of accessible, confidential, culturally, and age, gender and diversity appropriate communication mechanisms. These mechanisms will enable refugees to provide feedback on services, report complaints, and address sensitive issues such as sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) or fraud.

WASH

Inclusive WASH services are critical to building the resilience of refugees and host communities and they support stabilization in situations where environmental pressures and rising demand for services can increase inequities in WASH services.

The WASH sector will focus on improving access to safe and sufficient water, basic sanitation, and improved hygiene behaviour for Afghan refugees, residing within refugee villages (RVs) or in hosting communities. This includes investment in inclusive access to safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation, WASH in schools and health facilities, and support for improved hygiene practice, and mainstreaming gender-responsive programming to mitigate GBV and other protection risks of and address sexual exploitation and abuse. WASH interventions will contribute to improved health and nutrition status of populations, protection (especially prevention of gender- based violence) and will support climate change adaptation and resilience.

The WASH sector will work in coordination with CAR and counterparts to advocate for and streamline refugee WASH needs in sector planning, coordination, capacity building and sustainability of services. This includes at provincial level with the Local Government and Public Health Engineering Departments and Water and Sanitation Agencies (WASAs) in urban areas.

Partnership and Coordination

In 2024, there will be a continued emphasis on strengthening partnership and coordination, building on the Inter-Agency collaboration that was reinforced in 2023. The Pakistan Refugee Consultative Forum (PRCF) at both federal and provincial levels will play a pivotal role in overseeing the overall coordination of the refugee response. Co-chaired by the Ministry of SAFRON/CCAR and UNHCR, the PRCF brings together all partners involved in the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), along with other operational partners, totalling an estimated 60-70 participants, including both appealing and implementing agencies, engaging in coordination structures across Pakistan.

The Refugee Inter-Sector working group functions as the working-level coordination forum, facilitating collaboration among the Sectoral Working Groups. This arrangement allows for the integration of operational partners' sectoral expertise from both the humanitarian and development communities. Notably, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027 is in its early stages, and close coordination will be maintained between the PRCF and Outcome Group work for the UNSDCF. This collaborative effort aims to better contribute to the Government's endeavours to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while ensuring that the principle of "no one is left behind" is upheld.

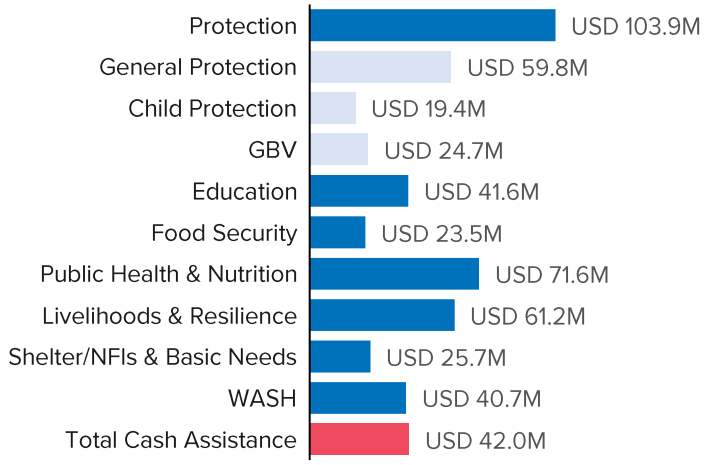
Sector working groups are active for each of the following: Protection (coordinated by UNHCR in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan (GOP), with sub-sectors active for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) coordinated by UNFPA, and Child Protection (CP) coordinated by UNICEF; Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and Basic Needs, coordinated by UNHCR in collaboration with the GOP; WASH, coordinated by UNICEF in collaboration with the GOP; Food Security, Agriculture, & Livelihoods, coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Health, coordinated by the World Health Organization; Nutrition, led by UNICEF and the GOP; and the Education co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children in coordination with GOP. A PSEA taskforce has been setup at interagency level, coordinated by UNFPA and UNICEF with UNHCR taking the lead in the capacity building workstream. An Information Management Working Group, led by UNHCR, and a Cash taskforce, led by WFP with FAO and ACTED, are operational as cross-cutting entities.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD



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Donor Acknowledgment

The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of donors. Since the onset of the emergency in 2021, when the response was 58 per cent funded, funding has steadily dropped to 52 per cent in 2022 and now to its lowest figure of 32 per cent in 2023 (USD 196 million received of USD 613 million requirements). Competing global emergencies and donor fatigue is likely to remain a challenge in 2024. As is clear from this plan, the needs across the region are huge and are the situation of vulnerable Afghan populations has worsened due to external regional and global factors. Their host communities, who have welcomed Afghans for four decades, also require significant support, particularly to bolster the public infrastructure which serves Afghans and host communities alike.

RRP partners reiterate the message on the importance of flexible funding, which allows partners to prioritize the most pressing needs across the region, as well as multi-year funding, which facilitates a more predictable response. Both were important commitments by donors as part of the Grand Bargain and remain integral to the humanitarian response across the Afghanistan Situation.

Further information on the funding levels of the response is available on the Refugee Funding Tracker which has tracked interagency funding for the Afghan RRP response since 2021 and as such contains a repository of historical funding data.

RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub-regional level has contributed to the response.

Annex Chapter

Annex 1 – Regional Budget Summary by Partner in 2024/2025

Below are confirmed partner budgets for 2024 and an indicative budget for 2025 which will be reassessed at the end of 2024, based on the developing situation.
UN = United Nations, INGO = International NGO, NNGO = National NGO, FBO = Faith-Based Organization, WLO = Women-Led Organization

Partner	Type	Requirements in USD	
		2024	2025
Action Against Hunger	INGO	$ 5,762,123	$ 3,662,122
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	INGO	$ 9,033,351	$ 10,193,633
Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee - ARC)	INGO	$ 2,854,721	$ 2,854,721
Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment	NNGO	$ 2,800,000	$ 240,000
Bright Star Development Society Balochistan	NNGO	$ 400,000	$ 774,996
Catholic Relief Services	INGO/FBO	$ 201,046	$ 1,353,580
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	INGO	$ 14,440	$ 170,758
Drugs & Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity	NNGO	$ 917,400	$ 1,101,600
Global Educational, Economic and Social Empowerment	NNGO	$ 533,000	$ 44,000
Health And Nutrition Development Society	NNGO	$ 54,000	$ 150,000
Help In Need	NNGO	$ 180,000	$ 163,200
Human Appeal	INGO	$ 1,995,625	$ 1,424,700
Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment	INGO	$ 522,400	$ 522,400
Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis	NNGO	$ 515,500	$ 2,000
Integrated Regional Support Program	NNGO	$ 250,000	$ 250,000
International Medical Corps	INGO	$ 820,113	$ 1,268,870
International Rescue Committee	INGO	$ 3,495,666	$ 854,244
INTERSOS	INGO	$ 1,217,500	$ 1,513,000
Islamic Relief Pakistan	INGO/FBO	$ 8,759,468	$ 9,720,068
Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK) Japan	INGO	$ 537,500	$ 305,000
Mercy Corps	INGO	$ 1,506,406	$ 237,248
Muslim Hands	INGO/FBO	$ 1,413,214	$ 1,745,214
Norwegian Refugee Council	INGO	$ 21,506,583	$ 19,700,064
Pak Mission Society	NNGO	$ 117,000	$ 78,000
Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education	NNGO/WLO	$ 324,240	$ 324,240
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund	NNGO	$ 3,168,600	N/A
Pakistan Village Development Program	NNGO	$ 26,205	N/A
Relief International	INGO	$ 4,535,825	$ 5,981,688
Rural Support Programmes Network	NNGO	$ 1,158,534	$ 572,778
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	NNGO	$ 2,275,902	$ 1,277,978
Save the Children	INGO	$ 7,754,850	$ 8,698,710
Secours Islamique France	INGO/FBO	$ 3,607,306	$ 3,971,620
Society for Empowering Human Resource	NNGO	$ 860,657	$ 876,000
Tameere Khalaq Foundation	NNGO	$ 504,800	$ 57,200
Taraqee Foundation	NNGO	$ 256,453	$ 256,453
Terre des hommes Foundation	INGO	$ 3,815,606	$ 755,606
UN - Food and Agriculture Organization	UN	$ 11,918,780	N/A
UN - International Organization for Migration	UN	$ 99,673,920	$ 95,644,360
UN - International Trade Center	UN	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,665,000
UN - United Nation Children's Fund	UN	$ 51,765,334	$ 52,688,856
UN - United National Population Fund	UN	$ 36,896,828	$ 43,200,721
UN - United Nations Development Program	UN	$ 360,000	$ 200,000
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UN	$ 3,747,000	$ 3,904,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN	$ 259,260,817	$ 280,074,115
UN - United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN	$ 5,531,160	$ 18,611,400
UN - United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UN	$ 1,862,500	$ 2,687,500
UN - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UN	$ 508,100	$ 610,000
UN - United Nations World Food Programme	UN	$ 35,237,957	$ 27,648,937
UN - World Health Organization	UN	$ 16,195,141	$ 14,279,747
Women Empowerment Organization	NNGO/WLO	$ 2,048,563	$ 2,005,397
Youth Organization	NNGO	$ 182,500	$ 182,500
Grand Total		**$ 620,384,634**	**$ 624,504,223**

Annex 2 – Iran (Islamic Republic of) Budget Summary by Partner in 2024/2025

UN = United Nations, INGO = International NGO, NNGO = National NGO, N/A = Not Applicable

Partner	Type	Requirements in USD	
		2024	2025
Iran (Islamic Republic of)			
INTERSOS	INGO	$ 1,217,500	$ 1,513,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	INGO	$ 21,506,583	$ 19,700,064
Relief International	INGO	$ 4,535,825	$ 5,981,688
UN - International Organization for Migration	UN	$ 42,273,198	$ 51,749,638
UN - International Trade Center	UN	$ 1,500,000	$ 1,665,000
UN - United Nation Children's Fund	UN	$ 6,950,311	$ 8,178,120
UN - United National Population Fund	UN	$ 17,810,000	$ 21,060,000
UN - United Nations Development Program	UN	$ 160,000	N/A
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UN	$ 247,000	$ 404,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN	$ 140,001,534	$ 160,814,832
UN - United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UN	$ 1,862,500	$ 2,687,500
UN - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UN	$ 508,100	$ 610,000
UN - United Nations World Food Programme	UN	$ 12,741,971	$ 12,967,029
UN - World Health Organization	UN	$ 785,000	$ 785,000
Grand Total		**$ 252,099,522**	**$ 288,115,870**

Annex 3 – Pakistan Budget Summary by Partner in 2024/2025

UN = United Nations, INGO = International NGO, NNGO = National NGO, FBO = Faith-Based Organization, WLO = Women-Led Organization, N/A = Not Applicable

Partner	Type	Requirements in USD	
		2024	2025
Pakistan			
Action Against Hunger	INGO	$ 5,762,123	$ 3,662,122
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	INGO	$ 9,033,351	$ 10,193,633
Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee - ARC)	INGO	$ 2,854,721	$ 2,854,721
Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment	NNGO	$ 2,800,000	$ 240,000
Bright Star Development Society Balochistan	NNGO	$ 400,000	$ 774,996
Catholic Relief Services	INGO/FBO	$ 201,046	$ 1,353,580
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	INGO	$ 14,440	$ 170,758
Drugs & Narcotics Educational Services For Humanity	NNGO	$ 917,400	$ 1,101,600
Global Educational, Economic and Social Empowerment	NNGO	$ 533,000	$ 44,000
Health And Nutrition Development Society	NNGO	$ 54,000	$ 150,000
Help In Need	NNGO	$ 180,000	$ 163,200
Human Appeal	INGO	$ 1,995,625	$ 1,424,700
Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment	INGO	$ 522,400	$ 522,400
Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis	NNGO	$ 515,500	$ 2,000
Integrated Regional Support Program	NNGO	$ 250,000	$ 250,000
International Medical Corps	INGO	$ 820,113	$ 1,268,870
International Rescue Committee	INGO	$ 3,495,666	$ 854,244
Islamic Relief Pakistan	INGO/FBO	$ 8,759,468	$ 9,720,068
Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK) Japan	INGO	$ 537,500	$ 305,000
Mercy Corps	INGO	$ 1,506,406	$ 237,248
Muslim Hands	INGO/FBO	$ 1,413,214	$ 1,745,214
Pak Mission Society	NNGO	$ 117,000	$ 78,000
Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education	NNGO/WLO	$ 324,240	$ 324,240
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund	NNGO	$ 3,168,600	N/A
Pakistan Village Development Program	NNGO	$ 26,205	N/A
Rural Support Programmes Network	NNGO	$ 1,158,534	$ 572,778
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	NNGO	$ 2,275,902	$ 1,277,978
Save the Children	INGO	$ 7,754,850	$ 8,698,710
Secours Islamique France	INGO/FBO	$ 3,607,306	$ 3,971,620
Society for Empowering Human Resource	NNGO	$ 860,657	$ 876,000
Tameere Khalaq Foundation	NNGO	$ 504,800	$ 57,200
Taraqee Foundation	NNGO	$ 256,453	$ 256,453
Terre des hommes Foundation	INGO	$ 3,815,606	$ 755,606
UN - Food and Agriculture Organization	UN	$ 11,918,780	N/A
UN - International Organization for Migration	UN	$ 57,400,722	$ 43,894,722
UN - United Nation Children's Fund	UN	$ 44,815,023	$ 44,510,736
UN - United National Population Fund	UN	$ 19,086,828	$ 22,140,721
UN - United Nations Development Program	UN	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UN	$ 3,500,000	$ 3,500,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN	$ 119,259,283	$ 119,259,283
UN - United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN	$ 5,531,160	$ 18,611,400
UN - United Nations World Food Programme	UN	$ 22,495,986	$ 14,681,908
UN - World Health Organization	UN	$ 15,410,141	$ 13,494,747
Women Empowerment Organization	NNGO/WLO	$ 2,048,563	$ 2,005,397
Youth Organization	NNGO	$ 182,500	$ 182,500
Grand Total		**$ 368,285,112**	**$ 336,388,353**

Annex 4 – Cash Assistance Breakdown per sector

The tables below show the breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

2024

Sector	Cash Assistance Activity		Budget Requirement (USD)
	Non-cash	Cash-based	
Education	**$ 95,801,104**	**$ 918,196**	**$ 96,719,300**
Food Security	**$ 6,810,490**	**$ 32,322,326**	**$ 39,132,815**
Public Health & Nutrition	**$ 124,415,676**	**$ 5,982,570**	**$ 130,398,246**
Livelihoods & Resilience	**$ 79,409,544**	**$ 5,969,801**	**$ 85,379,345**
Protection	**$ 153,394,246**	**$ 7,115,478**	**$ 160,509,724**
Child Protection	*$ 22,914,132*	*$ 93,525*	*$ 23,007,657*
Gender Based Violence	*$ 30,007,001*	*$ 1,532,413*	*$ 31,539,414*
General Protection	*$ 100,473,112*	*$ 5,489,541*	*$ 105,962,653*
Shelter/NFIs & Basic Needs	**$ 31,848,711**	**$ 26,837,641**	**$ 58,686,352**
WASH	**$ 49,557,852**	**-**	**$ 49,557,852**
Grand Total	**$ 541,238,622**	**$ 79,146,012**	**$ 620,384,634**

2025

Sector	Cash Assistance Activity		Budget Requirement (USD)
	Non-cash	Cash-based	
Education	**$ 104,596,519**	**$ 1,032,370**	**$ 105,628,889**
Food Security	**$ 6,075,790**	**$ 20,050,527**	**$ 26,126,316**
Public Health & Nutrition	**$ 135,241,823**	**$ 5,633,666**	**$ 140,875,489**
Livelihoods & Resilience	**$ 71,432,344**	**$ 5,232,801**	**$ 76,665,145**
Protection	**$ 148,024,960**	**$ 7,201,802**	**$ 155,226,762**
Child Protection	$ 19,897,180	$ 105,191	$ 20,002,371
Gender Based Violence	$ 31,882,269	$ 1,569,912	$ 33,452,181
General Protection	$ 96,245,511	$ 5,526,699	$ 101,772,210
Shelter/NFIs & Basic Needs	**$ 31,720,981**	**$ 41,711,829**	**$ 73,432,810**
WASH	**$ 46,548,812**	**-**	**$ 46,548,812**
Grand Total	**$ 543,641,228**	**$ 80,862,995**	**$ 624,504,223**

Annex 5 – Regional and Country Monitoring Framework*

*The below is a summary of key selected indicators from each sector and does not reflect the entire work of the sectors, the full results framework for each sector will be reported upon in dashboards and reports during 2024.

Regional Monitoring Results	Sector	Indicator	Target
	Protection	# of persons who have accessed feedback and response mechanisms, including individuals engaged in assessments and community structures/ committees	15,905
	Sub-Sector: Child Protection	# of children at high risk, including UASC, with BIP undertaken.	10,013
	Sub-Sector: GBV	# of trained participants who increased their GBV knowledge and skills on prevention and response	4,000
	Education	# of primary school-aged children supported to access primary education	278,398
	Food security	# of individuals receiving in-kind food assistance	65,300
	Public Health & Nutrition	# of Afghans who have been supported to access secondary and tertiary healthcare services	346,031
	Livelihoods & Resilience	# of individuals being supported with business grants, seed funding, cash for work, or in-kind support to establish their own businesses	29,703
	Shelter & NFIs	# of households provided with core relief items, including winterization assistance	93,311
	WASH	# of persons who have received hygienic supplies	975,484

Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sector	Indicator	Target
	Protection	# of individuals provided with counselling on registration, documentation, and international protection in-person	6,000
	Sub-Sector: Child Protection	# of individuals attending group-based information session sensitizing communities on child rights, child protection and services for children	3,000
	Sub-Sector: GBV	# of individuals attending group-based information sessions sensitizing communities on women and girls rights risk mitigation and services for women and girl	9,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals benefiting from Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (unconditional)	156,000
	Education	# of classrooms equipped with basic furniture or other equipment	180
	Food security	# of individuals receiving monthly in-kind food assistance	52,000
	Public Health & Nutrition	# of health volunteers identified and trained through the Afghan health volunteers network to support the provision# of primary health care and community health services	710
	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	# of individuals supported through e-commerce and digital marketing	1,838
	Shelter & NFIs	# of individuals supported with shelter repair and rehabilitation	2,112
	WASH	# of latrines constructed or rehabilitated at HH level	550

	Sector		Indicator	Target
Pakistan		Protection	# of individuals accessing legal assistance	62,652
		Sub-Sector: Child Protection	# of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support activities	209,728
		Sub-Sector: GBV	# of women/girls friendly spaces established	252
		Education	# of students and teachers provided with education supplies	217,747
		Food security	# of individuals receiving in-kind food assistance	13,300
		Public Health	# of individuals who received CBI for health purposes	315,250
		Nutrition	# of severely acutely malnourished girls and boys (6-59 months) successfully treated at Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme sites	147,884
		Livelihoods & Resilience	# of individuals benefiting from vocational training	8,239
		Shelter & NFIs	# of community/public facilities solarized and/or powered by renewable energy	86
		WASH	# of schools with repaired/new WASH infrastructure	223

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Regional Refugee Response Plan
for Afghanistan Situation
2024 - 2025