

## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES



## HIGHLIGHTS

- UN High Commissioner Filippo Grandi concluded a successful three-day visit to Pakistan from 7 to 9 July. During his visit, he met with Afghan refugees in Peshawar and Haripur and held discussions with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and other senior officials in Islamabad. Grandi praised Pakistan's longstanding hospitality toward Afghan refugees, advocated for the extension of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, and proposed convening a dialogue later this year with key stakeholders to develop solutions that benefit both Afghan refugees and host communities.
- On 10 July, Pakistan's Cabinet approved a one-year extension for PoR cards, bringing significant relief to Afghan refugees. This decision, a result of sustained advocacy by UNHCR, the donor community, and members of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees Core Group, underscores Pakistan's goodwill and commitment to working with the international community on long-term solutions.
- Over 683,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15 September 2023 and 31 July 2024. Returns have been steadily increasing since March, peaking in May and June with approximately 38,000 returns each month. July saw a slight decrease, with close to 36,000 returns. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to biometrically process and provide cash assistance to PoR card holders and their nuclear family members, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders and Afghans with other protection referrals. For more information, please see the [latest](#) UNHCR Pakistan-Afghanistan – Returns Emergency Response Update.
- On 12 July, a delegation from the German Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee on Afghanistan visited Pakistan. They met with DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) students, PoR card holders, and newly arrived Afghans to discuss third-country resettlement and livelihood opportunities. UNHCR Pakistan's Deputy Representative briefed the delegation on the High Commissioner's recent visit and Germany's ongoing support, including via multi-year funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The recent Berlin Conference on sustainable programming and the need for a regional approach were also discussed. The delegation, which met with Pakistani officials, expressed appreciation for Pakistan's efforts and pledged continued advocacy at the Berlin level.
- In response to the flash floods and storms in eastern parts of Afghanistan on 15 July, inter-agency humanitarian teams, including UNHCR and Women for Afghan Women staff, were deployed to Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar provinces. The teams assessed the affected areas to gauge the impact and identify families in need of assistance. Due to damaged roads and bridges, many areas remain inaccessible. Initial estimates report 58 fatalities and 380 injuries in severely hit provinces, particularly in districts with high numbers of displaced Afghans and refugee returnees. The floods have caused significant loss of life, livelihoods and infrastructure, highlighting Afghanistan's vulnerability to natural disasters. UNHCR has bolstered its services to provide mental health and psychosocial support to those affected. Legal assistance will be available for those who lost documentation, including help with civil documentation and land/property issues. UNHCR partners continue to refer individuals with specific protection concerns, such as gender-based violence and child protection, for further support.

## AFGHANISTAN:



- UNHCR and partners in Afghanistan reached an estimated 758,925 people with humanitarian assistance in all 34 provinces countrywide in July 2024. Among those reached, 228,106 people received cash assistance while 530,819 benefitted from in-kind and other individual assistance, including protection support, core-relief items, shelter, seasonal support and community-based interventions. Assessments were also carried out for 274,491 people to determine their special needs.
- In the first seven months of 2024, UNHCR Afghanistan assisted 40,822 Afghan returnees (9,748 households), bringing the total supported since January 2023 to 116,764 people (27,849 households) as of 31 July 2024. In July 2024, 2,119 people (591 households) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan and received assistance from UNHCR and partners. Most returned from Pakistan and included various categories such as Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, certificate holders, and undocumented family members. Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul facilitated the reception and assistance of the returnees.
- On 28 July, UNHCR Afghanistan Representative Arafat Jamal met with the Japan's Ambassador to Afghanistan H.E. Takeyoshi Kuramaya and his delegation. During the meeting, the Representative commended Japan for its cooperation at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, where Japan made a significant multi-stakeholder pledge. He also thanked Japan for its support amid declining donor contributions. The discussion focused on UNHCR's current priorities, including returns and the education of women and girls. The Ambassador appreciated UNHCR's close relationship with the Embassy, reaffirming Japan's commitment to supporting all Afghans, especially women and girls.

## REGIONAL

- In July, UNHCR Pakistan submitted 49 cases (153 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024, 325 cases (1,244 refugees) were submitted to 11 resettlement countries (Australia: 21; Belgium: five; Canada: 537; Finland: one; France: three; Germany: five; Italy: one; the Netherlands: one; New Zealand: 15; the United Kingdom: six; and the United States: 649). In July, nine refugees departed for resettlement. In 2024, 1,867 refugees departed to six resettlement countries (Australia: 260; Canada: 460; New Zealand: 130; Norway: six; the United Kingdom: 887 and the United States: 124). Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 214 cases (824 people) for resettlement in July, bringing the total to 743 cases (2,724 people) from January to July 2024. 25 cases (91 people) departed for Australia, one case (five people) departed for Finland and nine cases (25 people) departed for the UK in July. To date, 2,430 refugees have departed Iran and 2,625 Pakistan since the resumption of the resettlement programme in 2022. Resettlement continues to be an invaluable responsibility-sharing mechanism and a durable solution and protection tool for refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or fundamental human rights are at risk.
- The Amirabaad Comprehensive Health Centre in Najaf Abad in Iran's Esfahan Province, which hosts over 23,000 non-Iranians, mostly Afghans, was inaugurated. Supported by UNHCR, the Ministry of Health, the National Organization for Migration, and a local philanthropist, the centre will provide primary healthcare to over 11,000 people, including Afghans and locals, offering services from immunizations to mental health care.
- In Iran, UNHCR-donated solar streetlights are currently being installed in Ardakan refugee settlement, complementing similar projects in other settlements and suburban areas under Sub-Office Kerman. The construction of a UNHCR-funded school in Zahedan in Sistan and Baluchistan Province is also on track for completion by September 2024.
- In Pakistan's Balochistan Province, 390 people (205 women and 185 men) from seven Refugee Villages and the Urban Cohesion Hub have been enrolled in the second batch of certified skill training programmes for 2024. These programmes cover auto mechanics, mobile repair, tailoring and design, homestead gardening, tunnel farming, and livestock interventions. The goal is to empower refugees by enhancing their skills and helping them establish sustainable livelihoods.

## IDP SITUATION

- 1.56 million IDPs are estimated to have returned to their places of origin in Afghanistan between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various types of support, including cash assistance, technical and vocational education and training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education. The source of these figures are household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from October 2021 to July 2024.<sup>6</sup>



UN High Commissioner Filippo Grandi addresses Afghan refugee elders at Panian village, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR's total requirements for the Afghanistan situation for 2024 are **USD 479.7 million**. By late July, the situation was **39% funded**. UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors who have contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked funding:

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For the latest funding update, please see [here](#). For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the [2023 Global Report](#) and [Operational Data Portal](#).

