

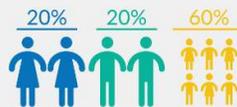
## KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.4M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 1 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

 **736,889**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021<sup>2</sup>



 **72,487**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 13 March 2022

 **2.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries as of 31 December 2020

 **174,460**

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021<sup>3</sup>

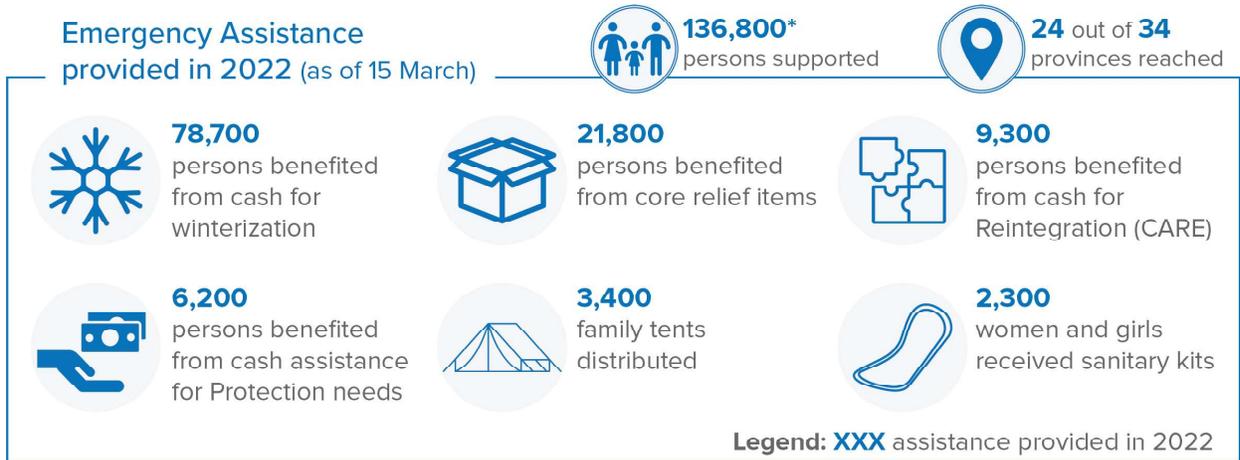
## HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation continues to remain challenging in Afghanistan. More than half of the population is currently dependent on life-saving and essential humanitarian assistance. This includes many internally displaced people, who often live in makeshift settlements under difficult conditions. The prices of food and fuel have also significantly risen in recent weeks, compounding existing humanitarian challenges.
- In view of the humanitarian situation, particularly for displaced people, the High Commissioner for Refugees undertook a visit to Afghanistan in the middle of March – his second since August 2021 – appealing for robust assistance to address the country’s humanitarian needs and those of Afghan refugees abroad. During the visit, he met with the interim Afghan government as well as UN and NGO workers who continue to provide vital assistance. During his meetings, the High Commissioner said UNHCR’s commitment to stay and deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan is unwavering. His visit also included the opening of a UNHCR-built health centre in Kandahar and to a girl’s school which UNHCR constructed in Jalalabad.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visits a girls' high school in the Saracha area of Jalalabad, Afghanistan. © UNHCR/Hafizullah Habib

- In response to the humanitarian situation inside Afghanistan, UNHCR’s assistance and relief programmes so far in 2022 have supported more than 500,000 Afghans, including more than 136,000 people who received relief items or direct financial assistance to survive the winter. More than 370,000 people have also benefited from health centres, schools, water systems and other infrastructure that UNHCR has built in areas prioritised for the return of refugees and IDPs. For UNHCR’s emergency response, this assistance in 2022 has included the following items:



\*The total persons supported may include multiple counting of beneficiaries receiving assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- As part of this work, UNHCR has continued to prioritise support solutions for IDPs. In 2022, UNHCR has supported nearly 100,000 persons with cash assistance. Out of some 700,000 IDPs displaced by conflict since January 2021, approximately 170,000 have now returned to their previous places of residence, as the security situation has stabilized across the country.
- Additional support has also been provided by the private sector and other partners to the overall humanitarian response in Afghanistan, as previously reported. During the reporting period, UNIQLO provided 1,500 vulnerable people with clothing in Daikundi province of the central highlands, with the support of UNHCR.



Winter temperatures continues to cause great hardship across Afghanistan. UNIQLO donated clothing to vulnerable people in Daikundi province. ©UNHCR Afghanistan

- UNHCR requires some \$340 million for Afghanistan this year to support its response to displaced people and other vulnerable Afghans. The agency’s work in Afghanistan is currently only 28 per cent funded, with some \$97 million received to date.

## REGIONAL

- Further to his visit to Afghanistan, the High Commissioner for Refugees also travelled onward to Tajikistan, calling on the international community to redouble its support for Afghan refugees in Tajikistan and throughout the region. As part of his visit, he met with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. They discussed the humanitarian situation inside Afghanistan and the international protection needs of refugees and asylum seekers. He also met with the Minister of Foreign and Internal Affairs. The High Commissioner visited the Balkhi refugee settlement near the Tajik-Afghan border in Khatlon province with the Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense. The settlement was recently established by the Tajik authorities, with support of the international community, as part of its emergency preparedness measures.



*UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited the Balkhi refugee settlement which was established by Tajikistan authorities with the support of UNHCR and other international partners as part of emergency preparedness efforts. © UNHCR Tajikistan*

- Access to Iran's territory remains limited to Afghan passport holders with valid visas for Iran, though the Iranian authorities report that some 500,000 Afghans crossed into Iran since 2021. An increase in security measures at unofficial border crossing points, as well as the resumption of visa issuance at the Iranian embassy in Kabul, has led to a decrease in the proportion of arrivals who reported arriving irregularly and a decrease in the proportion who reported using smugglers to enter. With the potential for new arrivals, UNHCR and the Iranian authorities continue to make progress on preparing potential sites in the location of Niatak, comprising of some 400 shelters.
- In Pakistan, entry is limited at Torkham border crossing point to those with valid passports and visas. Children under the age of eight can now cross into Pakistan through Torkham without passports or visas, and up to 100 undocumented Afghan medical patients are permitted to enter each day. At Chamam border, entry is restricted to passport holders with valid visas, Tazkira holders from Kandahar province, persons with serious medical conditions and CNIC holders. Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have their borders open with Afghanistan, however restricted only for passport and visa holders.
- There have been 174,460 reported newly arriving Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021. The number of new arrivals includes those who approached UNHCR and Partners in Tajikistan (5,710), Iran (34,400) and Pakistan (117,550), new arrivals reported by the Government of Uzbekistan (13,020), as well as the Afghans who were kept by the Iranian authorities at border locations (3,780) since 1 January 2021, although only 738 individuals of the latter group remain in the country. The vast majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher. The increase on the overall figure does not necessarily reflect the displacement of that same period, but rather the date of assessment.

