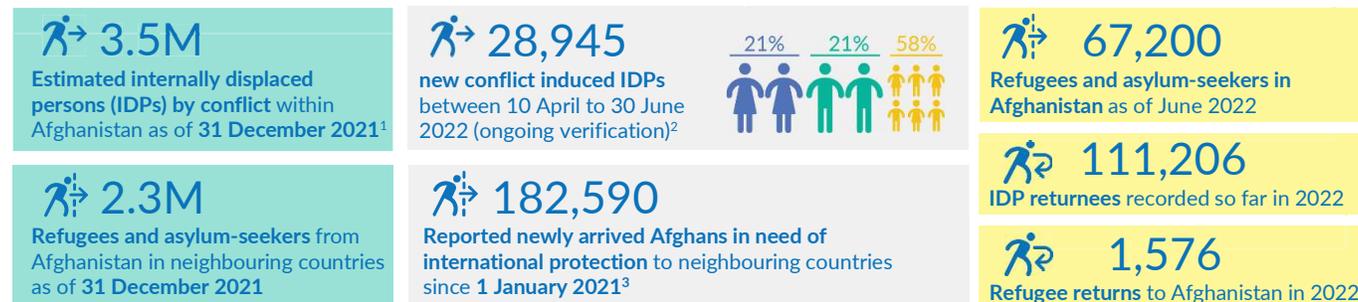
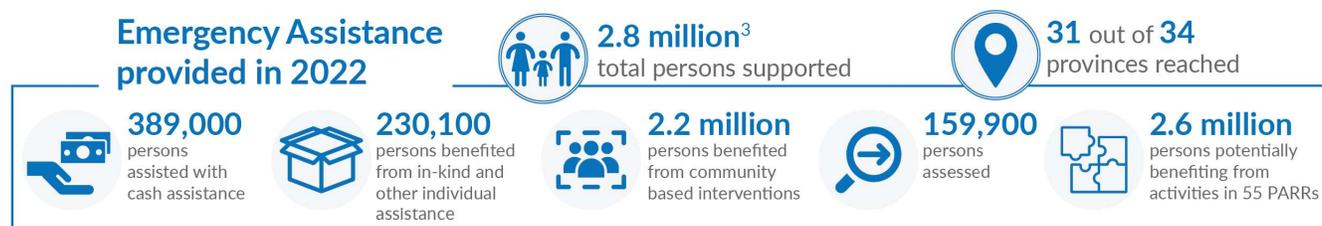


KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES



HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing earthquake response.** In late June, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck districts in Paktika and Khost provinces, south-eastern Afghanistan. Over 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed, including 250 children, while an additional 3,000 people were injured, among them 600 children. At least 70% of houses in the most impacted areas were damaged or destroyed. As part of inter-agency efforts, UNHCR has since assisted 12,700 individuals affected by the earthquake with shelter and non-food item kits (including tents), and dignity kits. In addition, UNHCR delivered nearly 2,000 additional tents to affected areas in the first week of August, which will provide emergency shelter for 14,000 additional people, while also planning the construction of 2,300 earthquake-resilient homes in affected areas. In the reporting period, UNHCR has signed an agreement with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation of Bahrain in support of these efforts, following a senior-level visit of the foundation to Afghanistan in early August.
- UNHCR's broader response in Afghanistan continues.** The broader humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains challenging across the country, with more than half of the population remaining dependent on assistance. This includes many displaced people, who often live-in makeshift settlements under difficult conditions. In response to the humanitarian situation inside the country, UNHCR has reached more than 600,000 displaced people in nearly all provinces with essential relief and assistance since the beginning of the year. In addition, some 2.6 million individuals have also benefited from health centres, schools, water systems and other infrastructure that UNHCR has supported in areas prioritised for the return of refugees and IDPs. For UNHCR's assistance and relief programmes, this assistance in 2022 has included the following:



- UNHCR first visit to Nuristan province in 15 years.** In the reporting period, UNHCR staff undertook a two-day mission to Nuristan Province for the first time since 2007, as the province had been largely inaccessible due to active conflict. The province capital, Parun, is more than eight hours by road from Jalalabad over mountainous terrain in Nangarhar Province, eastern Afghanistan. During the visit, the UNHCR team met with authorities, IDP representatives and partner agencies. The visit highlighted the lack of access to basic services, including potable water, education, health, access roads, and lack of access to viable livelihood opportunities in remote districts and locations. As part of the immediate response, UNHCR started the distribution of tents and CRIs to the most vulnerable IDPs, while also assessing the further potential for scaling up further through an area-based approach in the two new PARR locations.

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¹ This figure comprises the 2020 year-end figure of 2.9M (Source: UNHCR), the total estimated conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan in 2021 (Source: OCHA), excluding the recorded number of IDPs which have returned to their places of origin (Source: UNHCR), with the inclusion of the underestimated number of newly displaced IDPs during 2021. .

² Source OCHA, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

³ The number of new arrivals includes those who approached UNHCR and Partners in Tajikistan (5,710), Iran (42,530) 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.



UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Jalalabad William Ejal, during a CRI distribution exercise in the area. © UNHCR Afghanistan

- Support to IDP returnees.** A priority for UNHCR's work in Afghanistan remains the sustainable return and reintegration of displaced Afghans to their places of origin. Over 110,000 IDP returnees have been identified by UNHCR in 2022, bringing the total number of IDP returnees identified by UNHCR since 2021 to more than 989,000. The data is from household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners undertaken in all 34 provinces. These figures are expected to increase with assessments ongoing. As part of its work, UNHCR has provided cash assistance to some 120,000 returning IDPs to support their reintegration in their places of origin. In the reporting period, this included cash support to 8,400 former conflict-displaced persons who voluntarily returned to Kandahar province, further to needs assessments.



After needs assessments, 8,400 former conflict-displaced persons who voluntarily returned to Kandahar province received cash support for their reintegration assistance. © UNHCR Afghanistan

- UNHCR's Afghan Situation response for 2022, which covers the emergency response inside Afghanistan as well as the humanitarian response for millions of Afghans and their host communities in the main neighbouring host countries (the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran, and Central Asia) is 64% funded with USD 392.6 million received of USD 609.6 million requirements as of 9 August.

REGIONAL

- **Refugee arrivals.** There are more than 180,000 reported newly arriving Afghans seeking international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021. Most of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for protection-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher, as not all approach or contact UNHCR. At the same time, authorities in Pakistan have indicated that more than 250,000 Afghans have arrived in the country since August 2021 for a variety of reasons, while authorities in Iran indicate that, according to evolving estimates, that between 500,000 and 1 million Afghans have arrived in the country since January 2021.
- **Refugee returns.** Since the start of the year, some 1,576 Afghan refugees have returned under UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme, including 231 from Iran and 1,340 from Pakistan. This figure surpasses the 1,300 Afghans who came back during the full year of 2021, and almost triples the number who returned up to this point in 2020. Returnees have indicated that the main reasons for their returns movements from Iran and Pakistan include costs of living and lack of employment opportunities in their host countries, reunification with family in Afghanistan, improved security situation, and land allocation opportunities in Afghanistan. As highlighted above, UNHCR provides cash assistance to those returning to help support their reintegration in Afghanistan, while also running programmes and projects in priority areas of return and reintegration.
- **New arrivals from Afghanistan.** There are more than 180,000 reported newly arriving Afghans seeking international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021, composed of 53% children and 22% adult women in Iran and Pakistan. In Tajikistan, Afghan new arrivals are composed of 31% adult women and 40% children. Many of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for protection-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher, as not all approach or contact UNHCR.
- **UNHCR's verification reaches half the refugee population living in Tajikistan.** UNHCR and its partners have been able to verify nearly 6,300 refugees and asylum seekers in Tajikistan. The verification continues, with around 400 refugees daily continuing to approach the Verification Centres functioning in Vahdat and in Dushanbe cities. This will enable UNHCR to streamline its population data management and enhance its cash and assistance distribution in the future, as well as to update the information on vulnerabilities of persons with specific needs and facilitate protection, assistance and solutions.



UNHCR reached out and verified 50% of the refugee population living in Tajikistan. "Collected data will enable UNHCR and its partners to streamline the provision of humanitarian assistance and better plan our programs", - says UNHCR Representative in Tajikistan Mulugeta Zewdie. © UNHCR Tajikistan

