


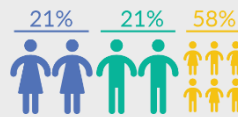
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.4M**


Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 30 June 2022¹

 **32,410**

new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022 (ongoing verification)²


 **59,787**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of July 2022

 **211,807**

IDP returnees recorded so far in 2022

 **5,315** Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2022 as of 31 Oct. 2022

 **2.1M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 30 June 2022

 **1.3M**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring Countries since August 2021³

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR released the [Mid-year Report](#) on the Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Conditions for refugees and Afghans of other statuses in host countries have deteriorated since the launch of the RRP earlier this year, compounded by rising living costs and lack of livelihoods opportunities across the region. To support host governments and to reduce the impact on vulnerable populations, partners continue to adopt a community- and area-based approach by working through government systems – wherever possible – in the spirit of burden sharing. Of note, nearly 350,000 Afghans have been supported to access secondary and tertiary healthcare services, over 165,000 children (including Afghan refugees, Afghans of other status and members of the host community) supported to access primary and secondary education and some 12,500 received unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance.
- From 30 October to 2 November, UNHCR Director of External Relations, Ms Dominique Hyde and Ms Ellen Hansen, UNHCR Deputy Director for the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, visited Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Afghanistan's Jalalabad, the delegation had the opportunity to speak with communities receiving assistance, including women and other vulnerable groups and witnessed the impact of UNHCR projects. The delegation also met with the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Roza Otunbayeva, Deputy SRSG Ramiz Alakbarov, senior *de facto* authorities, the UN Country Team, members of the diplomatic corps, programme partners and the NGO community in Kabul. In Pakistan, they met with authorities, including the Minister of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, SAFRON Secretary Pervaiz Ahmed Junejo and provincial Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CAR) Muhammad Abbas Khan, as well as UN agencies, the diplomatic corps, DAFI scholars, and refugee families affected by the floods in Peshawar (Balochistan).
- In Afghanistan, winter has arrived amid a steep economic decline, and only months after June's earthquake in south-eastern Paktika and Khost provinces. Against this harsh backdrop, UNHCR is continuing to provide targeted seasonal support via the provision of warm clothing, blankets, heaters and fuel, emergency shelter improvements as well as repairs and upgrades to shelters in poor condition and rental support in communities where climate conditions are severe. UNHCR has committed over \$16 million targeting over 380,000 individuals (54,300 families) who have inadequate heating sources and whose houses were affected by the June earthquake.
- Advocacy by the humanitarian community to mitigate the negative consequences of a new Code of Conduct introduced by *de facto* authorities in Afghanistan governing the activities of NGOs providing humanitarian assistance continues. Despite the challenges this has had on the delivery of much-needed assistance, UNHCR remains committed to supporting vulnerable communities.
- In Pakistan, UNHCR continues to support the government-led response to scale up assistance for flood-affected refugee and host communities. In October, a [Supplementary Appeal](#) was launched requesting some \$65.8 million to cover the immediate and mid-term needs of flood-affected communities from September 2022 to December 2023. While the immediate priority has been to provide relief items to the worst flood-hit areas to address critical needs, reprioritizing activities for early recovery and rehabilitation is also well underway.

Publishing date: 2 December 2022 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP).

¹ This figure comprises the 2021 year-end figure of 3.5M (Source: UNHCR), the total estimated conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan in 2022 (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 first half of 2022.

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

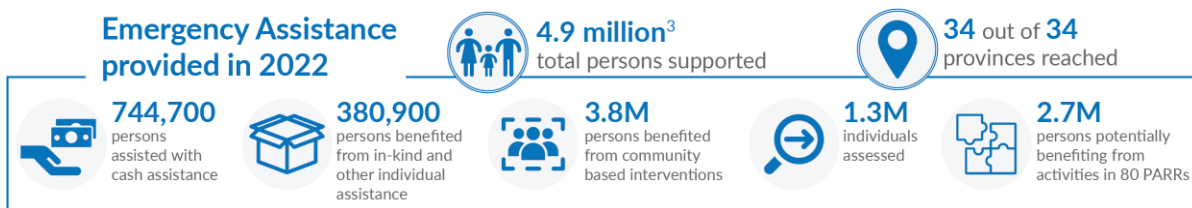
³ In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure according to various government estimates and continues to follow-up with authorities to receive updated and disaggregated data as well as an estimate of how many presently remain in Iran. Of the average 1 million new arrivals, over 52,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 250,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, over 230,000 have approached UNHCR. According to Government of Uzbekistan sources, some 13,020 Afghan citizens arrived in the country since January 2021. The majority arrived before August 15 with valid visas issued by the Uzbek consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.



UNHCR Head of External Relations and Deputy Director for the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific during their visit to Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province. © UNHCR

REGIONAL

- In 2022, UNHCR has provided the following assistance in Afghanistan:



- The Protection Cluster and its sub-clusters is advancing in improving the Protection environment in Afghanistan. Key messages to support awareness raising on available services for incidents and risks in relation to gender-based violence had been developed. Following this, over 700 individuals in communities in Kabul and Parwan provinces were reached. In addition, 18 UNHCR partners received GBV training as part of ongoing capacity building efforts to strengthen monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms that empower women and girls.
- In October, 2,571 Afghan refugees were submitted for resettlement by UNHCR Pakistan to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. Among these cases, two families have already departed to Canada and one to Australia. In addition, 676 Afghan refugees departed Tajikistan to Canada by two charter flights under a private sponsorship programme. Resettlement remains key protection tool for vulnerable groups. On 3 October, the University of Balochistan in Pakistan and UNHCR signed an agreement to expand access to tertiary education by increasing the number of degree slots reserved for refugees. This collaboration also includes the creation of a facilitation desk for Afghan refugee students, which will provide support on admissions and financial aid, career counselling and possible job placements. Both parties agreed to explore decent work opportunities for graduates – in line with the priorities outlined in the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) to enhance refugee self-reliance – via entrepreneurship and market placement initiatives. To date, 108 refugee students are currently enrolled in the university.
- In partnership with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, UNHCR organized a workshop on enterprise development and asset management skills in Lower Dir district (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), which was attended by 144 refugees (110 men and 34 women). To promote self-reliance, participants were provided with various assets to set up their own businesses, including cooking sets, beauty kits and grocery kits.
- UNHCR donated nine fully equipped ambulances to the Provincial Health Department in Balochistan in a hand over ceremony attended by the Minister of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Chief Secretary Balochistan, Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, Health Secretary and CAR for Balochistan.

In Sindh province, UNHCR also donated 85 state-of-the-art dialysis machines to the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation. This donation will improve emergency health services for both refugees and host communities and is in line with UNHCR's commitment to scaling up support to host countries.

- A new 'Urban Cohesion Hub' was inaugurated in Quetta (Balochistan) with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). In coordination with UNHCR, this Hub will support case management and refugee referrals in Balochistan. A similar Hub was opened in Karachi in August 2022 to support communities living in Sindh.

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- Between 2021 and 2022, over 1.2 million IDPs returned to their places of origin – over 1 million IDPs in 2021 and 211,807 in 2022. The source of these figures are the 307,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners between October and November 2022 although this figure may increase since household-level assessments are currently ongoing.
- Between 1 January to 31 October 2022, 5,315 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan (94 per cent from Pakistan) – over four times more than the overall number of returns in 2021. In October 2022, the average number of daily returns stood at 52 individuals – the highest monthly figure (1,612) since 2018. The main reasons for leaving Iran and Pakistan cited by returnees are high living costs and lack of employment opportunities in host countries. In Afghanistan, family reunification and improved security were some of the reasons given by returnees.
- In Iran, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 335 returnees to Afghanistan and one returnee to Iraq. This represents a 59 per cent decrease compared to the 827 returns facilitated during the same period in 2021. Of this, 56 were students who returned to Afghanistan to apply for student visas to return to Iran. UNHCR Iran observes limited access to services and curtailed rights/liberties are having a major impact in terms of return intentions.
- With the borders to Central Asian States open to only those with valid visas, no mass influx of new arrivals from Afghanistan into Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan has been reported. Nevertheless, UNHCR and partners continue to focus on preparedness efforts and supporting governments to meet the critical international protection needs of Afghan citizens already in the countries while also advocating for safe access to territory.
- Following a large scale round up of Afghan refugees in Tajikistan in September 2022, many refugees are scared to return to work. This has negatively impacted their livelihoods and unpredictable economic situation, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19 and the unfolding situation in Ukraine. UNHCR continues to urge authorities in Tajikistan to allow access to territory for those fleeing conflict and persecution in Afghanistan and to halt any further deportations.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan Situation with [broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds](#) which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

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