

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.4M**

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

 **32,410**

conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022²



59,787

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of July 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


224,000

IDP returnees recorded so far in 2022


6,148

Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2022 as of 4 Dec 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR and the Aga Khan Development Network's First Micro Finance Bank Afghanistan (FMFB-A) launched a new microfinancing scheme to assist internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and host communities engaged in small business activities. The Grants and Microfinance (GRAM) scheme is [UNHCR's first microfinance initiative in Afghanistan](#) and is part of its area-based work in the 80 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration. It is currently being rolled out by FMFB-A in Balkh, Bamiyan, Herat, Kabul and Nangarhar provinces with plans to expand to other locations where FMFB-A has branches. Since its launch, 102 loans amounting to over \$166,000 have been disbursed to 67 men and 35 women entrepreneurs. In addition, 51 micro-loans are being processed while 1,888 potential micro-loan beneficiaries are undergoing joint UNHCR-FMFB-A verification. 500 Afghans are expected to benefit from these loans by 2022 year-end.
- UNHCR's winter response programme in Afghanistan to protect and assist over 380,000 individuals (54,300 families) whose houses were affected by the June earthquake and who lack adequate heating is currently underway. This support includes 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. By 30 November 2022, some 179,010 individuals (22,615 families) were reached.
- In follow up to the [Post-Disaster Needs Assessment](#) led by the Government of Pakistan and supported by the Asian Development Bank, the EU, UN agencies and the World Bank, a [Supplemental Report](#) was released summarising the findings of the September-October flood assessment. The report – which comes ahead of a planned conference on recovery and reconstruction in January 2023 – provides further sectoral analyses on the impact of the floods and outlines the recovery and reconstruction needs. In early October, UNHCR released a [Supplementary Appeal](#) asking for 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, scaling up support for early recovery and rehabilitation is also well underway to promote a balanced approach between humanitarian and recovery assistance.
- UNHCR and partners across the region commemorated the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign. In Pakistan, UNHCR organised a [three-day exhibition](#) showcasing artwork by seven Pakistani and Afghan refugee artists highlighting the importance of safe spaces for women and girls. In Afghanistan, UNHCR and partners [held a workshop](#) on strengthening women and girls' access to healthcare in Paktika, Khost and Ghazni provinces. In Kazakhstan, UNHCR issued a [joint statement](#) with several government partners, UN agencies and other international non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations reiterating its commitment to work with authorities and civil society to develop plans and strategies and to enact the necessary legislative amendments to protect women and girls against violence.
- Between 2021 and 2022, almost 1.3 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 329,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners between October and December although this figure may increase since household-level assessments are currently ongoing. In addition, 320,306 IDPs received assistance for re-integration as of 30 November.

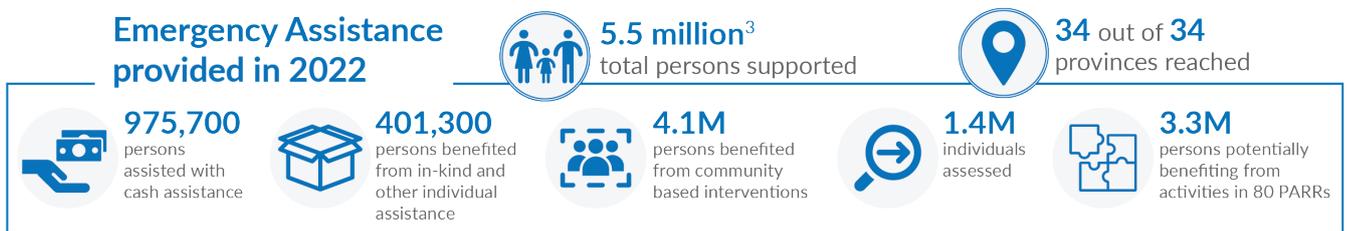
Publishing date: 22 December 2022 | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) | For more information on the Afghanistan Situation, please consult the Operational Data Portal [here](#).

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. 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, approximately 55,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 250,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, approximately 240,000 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 15 August with valid visas issued by the Uzbek consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif.

REGIONAL

- In response to the humanitarian situation inside Afghanistan, UNHCR provided the following assistance in 2022:



- To date, UNHCR has supported 4,190 flood-affected refugees (779 families) with much-needed cash-assistance in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces covering Chakwal, Chitral, DI Khan, Gujrat, Karachi, Nowshera, Peshawar, Quetta and Rahim Yar Khan districts. Cash transfers are useful tools which provide protection, assistance and services in both protracted and emergency situations.
- In Uzbekistan, UNHCR and a national NGO partner are implementing a six-month livelihoods project in Termez, which seeks to improve the skills of Afghan citizens in the host community, help fill a national shortfall in human capital and support vulnerable groups to recover and rebuild. Since July 2022, 94 people have completed two-month courses to become hairdressers, manicurists, tailors and confectioners. Three-month language courses are also offered to children. To date, 7 boys and 5 girls have completed courses in English, 8 girls and 8 boys in Russian and 6 boys and 5 girls in Uzbek.
- 896 Afghan cases (3,175 individuals) were submitted by UNHCR Pakistan to several resettlement countries, including Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States. Of these cases, seven families (19 individuals) departed to Australia, Canada, and United States. In addition, 87 refugee families (272 individuals) were admitted to third countries via complementary pathways.
- To promote refugees’ economic inclusion, UNHCR Tajikistan and the Innovation and Industry Development Fund – a public fund promoting digitalization – signed an agreement to establish a framework to support skills learning for refugee and local youth through innovation, digitalization and technology. The partnership aims to strengthen refugee and Tajik youths’ professional skills and expand employment opportunities in the innovation industry and technology sector.



An Afghan refugee artist explains how she uses art to talk about the dreams of women in Afghanistan at an exhibition to mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in Islamabad, Pakistan. © UNHCR/Shahzad

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- In 2022, 6,148 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan – over four times more than the overall number of returns in 2021. Of this figure, 94 per cent of returnees were from Pakistan while the rest returned from Iran, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Russia. The main reasons cited by returnees for leaving include high living costs and lack of employment opportunities in host countries as well as a desire to be reunited with family and the perceived improved security situation in Afghanistan. In addition to cash grants, a range of inter-agency services are provided to returning refugees, including basic health and malnutrition screening and vaccination, information on school enrolment and overnight accommodation, if needed.
- With the borders to Central Asian States open to only those with valid visas, no influx of new arrivals from Afghanistan into Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan has been reported. Nevertheless, UNHCR and partners continue to focus on preparedness efforts while also supporting governments to meet the critical international protection needs of Afghan citizens already in the countries and advocating for safe access to territory.



As part of winterization efforts, UNHCR is also supporting the construction of earthquake-resilient housing in Afghanistan's Bamal District, Paktika Province. © UNHCR/Kankanamalage

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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