

**Regional Refugee Response Plan** for Afghanistan Situation 2023



### **Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements** January-December 2023

7.90M **TOTAL TARGET POPULATION IN 2023** 

**USD 613M INTER-AGENCY FUNDING** REQUIREMENTS \$ IN 2023

TO SUPPORT 5 **HOST COUNTRIES:** IRAN, PAKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN **AND UZBEKISTAN** 

65 PARTNERS **ENGAGED IN** THE RESPONSE

### AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN Situation Overview





### 2023 POPULATION FIGURES (inclusive of all five countries above)

# 8.2 Million 2.3 Million 2.9 Million 2.7 Million

Estimated total Afghan population Targeted Afghan Refugee/ Refugeelike population Targeted Afghans of other Status

Targeted host community population

The situation inside Afghanistan remains complex. There has been an improvement in overall security since August 2021 and a marked reduction in civilian casualties, enabling humanitarian access to all provinces, including areas which had been inaccessible for decades. However, the humanitarian, economic, and human rights situation continues to deteriorate significantly, particularly for women and girls. The recent restrictions on women and girls' participation in society in Afghanistan impact access to secondary and tertiary education, freedom of movement, and ability to work for non-governmental organizations, among other facets of life, and increase the risk of genderbased violence. Widespread food insecurity, soaring inflation and high economic instability, exacerbated by sanctions, limited livelihoods, and more frequent and severe climate shocks have left vulnerable populations in an increasingly precarious situation. The World Bank estimates that Afghanistan's economy contracted by a cumulative 30-35 per cent over 2021 and 2022. Two thirds of households report difficulties in covering their most basic expenses.

For 2023, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) covering inside Afghanistan (separate to this appeal) has identified 28.3 million people in need, an increase from 24 million in 2022. Since the start of 2021, according to government estimates, at least 1.6 million Afghans have arrived in neighbouring host countries. This is despite borders being tightly managed, with many Afghans making their way informally through unofficial border crossing points. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (GIRI) estimates that 1 million Afghans have arrived since the start of 2021 although deportations have occurred on a large scale and significant (seasonal) circular movements have continued. Some 57,000 of these new arrivals have approached UNHCR requesting assistance and protection in Iran. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, approximately 256,000 have approached UNHCR. According to the Government of Uzbekistan, 13,020 Afghan citizens arrived in the country since January 2021, while UNHCR has recorded some 5,700 new arrivals in Tajikistan. In 2023, a steady flow of new arrivals is expected, including via unofficial border crossings.

## AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN Situation Overview (continued)

Meanwhile, in respect of onward movement, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAS) reported that in October 2022, applications lodged by Afghans in European Union Member States plus Norway and Switzerland exceeded 15,000 for the first time since September 2021, in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover. In addition to new arrivals, neighbouring countries continue to host over 2 million registered refugees from previous waves of displacement, and a further 5 million Afghans of varying statuses, the vast majority being hosted by the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. The continued flow of new arrivals, combined with arrivals since 2021 and large in situ populations, places a significant additional burden on host countries. Voluntary returns to Afghanistan are expected on a small-medium scale. Some 6,000 Afghan registered refugees have been recorded voluntarily returning to Afghanistan from neighbouring countries in 2022, which represents a significant increase compared to 2020 and 2021 but remains low compared to previous years. Inside Afghanistan, UNHCR has recorded over 1.3 million internally displaced Afghans who have already voluntarily returned since the end of the conflict, but some 3.2 million people remain internally displaced by conflict.

UNHCR estimates that 300,000 IDPs may return to their homes inside Afghanistan in 2023 as well as another 60,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. Nonetheless, the ongoing situation in Afghanistan continues to constrain the ability and willingness of Afghans to return (highlighted in UNHCR's <u>Guidance Note on the International Protection</u> <u>Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan</u>, updated in February 2023), and the number of Afghans hosted in neighbouring countries is not expected to alter significantly in 2023.

For 2023, it is expected that Afghan populations, including new arrivals, will remain in need of significant support. As well as responding to the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations, investments in infrastructure including health, education, and water and energy networks require major attention. RRP partners will seek to take an area-based approach, anchoring the response in national systems which will support host governments to continue to include Afghans in national systems, while also supporting the refugee-hosting communities who use these systems. Opportunities for durable solutions will also be pursued wherever including resettlement available. and complementary pathways

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As a matter of moral responsibility – and regional and global security and prosperity – we cannot abandon the people of Afghanistan. Afghans need peace, hope, and help, and they need it now.

> United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres © UN News - Story link





In the event of further large refugee movements to neighbouring countries beyond the level foreseen in this plan, or new needs being identified, this plan may be revised as required by the developing situation. In Iran, recent statements by authorities indicate, among other issues, a significant shortage of classroom space to accommodate Afghan children in schools in line with its inclusive policy. Further joint planning and consultations are taking place and additional resources (beyond those requested under the RRP appeal) may be required to enhance system capacity and educational outcomes for Afghans in Iran and this may require a review and potential revision of RRP 2023.

### **PROJECTED SITUATION IN 2023 AND BEYOND**

The situation for Afghans in host countries, especially recent arrivals, is challenging and of increasing concern. The economic situation has deteriorated, livelihoods opportunities have dried up and the cost of living has increased dramatically. Inflation has increased the cost of rent and basic staples which, coupled with limited livelihood opportunities, has eroded purchasing power and severely impacted vulnerable populations' ability to afford basic goods and services.

Food prices have risen by over 50 per cent in Iran between May 2021 and May 2022. Global inflationary pressures play a significant role in this respect – Russia and Ukraine account for approximately 60 per cent of Iran's supply of staples such as wheat, sunflower oil, and corn. Total annual inflation in Iran has now exceeded 35 per cent for a third year in a row, reaching 54 per cent in July 2022, the highest level since June 1995. Inflation in Pakistan reached 27.6 per cent in January 2023, its highest level since 1975. Countries in Central Asia are also impacted by global inflation and supply chain issues. Inflation sits at over <u>12 per cent in Uzbekistan</u> (although this is down from a peak of over 20 per cent in 2018. It reached <u>8.3 per cent in Tajikistan</u> in July 2022, while inflation in <u>Turkmenistan reached almost 15 per</u> cent in 2022, its highest level since 1979.

Emergencies brought on by climate-related and other natural hazards continue to impact populations in host countries, as evident in Pakistan where the devastating floods have affected 33 million people and displaced half a million. Forty-one of the "calamity hit" districts host an estimated 800,000 Afghan refugees, with two thirds of these hosted in just four districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh provinces. A damage, loss, and needs assessment following the floods estimates total loss and damages due to the floods at over USD 30 billion (damages USD 14.9 billion; economic losses about USD 15.2 billion). Estimated needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction alone are at least USD 16.3 billion. Meanwhile, a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Report found that the national poverty rate may increase by up to 4.0 percentage points, potentially pushing between 8.4 and 9.1 million more people below the poverty line. Separate to the RRP, to cover the needs of the flood emergency, an interagency Floods Response Plan was first issued in early September 2022, with a revised version launched on 4 October, seeking USD 816 million to support the Government of Pakistan with relief and early recovery activities until May 2023. Activities contained in the Flood Response Plan are not duplicated in the RRP but the huge scale of the needs in areas hosting refugees means that much of the response is cross cutting and additional activities not included in the Flood Response Plan have been included in the RRP. The entire South-west Asia region remains vulnerable to emergencies brought on by natural hazards, also highlighted this year by the devastating earthquake which struck south-eastern

---- Afghanistan in June leading to wide-scale destruction across already vulnerable districts in Paktika and Khost provinces resulting in thousands of deaths, injuries, and the destruction of homes, health facilities, schools, and water networks.

Borders with neighbouring countries are likely to remain tightly regulated in 2023 but a certain level of population movement is expected to continue irregularly, increasing vulnerabilities and protection risks, including exploitation and abuse of those seeking documentation and crossing borders. Upon arrival, people moving through irregular channels are at increased risk of deportation, which may be in contravention of the principle of non-refoulement. RRP Partners continue to underscore the ongoing need for all countries to grant fleeing Afghans access to their territories and asylum procedures, and to respect the principle of nonrefoulement. It is imperative that this fundamental human right not be compromised and that people in need of international protection be afforded asylum. It is equally important not to forcibly return Afghans, which UNHCR has cautioned against in Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan, updated in February 2023. Non-refoulement includes rejection of individuals seeking international protection at the frontier. Inter-Agency partners will continue to monitor the situation in Afghanistan with a view to assessing the international protection needs arising out of the current situation.



**Iran:** Kerman flood affected houses: UNHCR and BAFIA distributing core relief items to flood affected refugee and Iranian families in Yazd

#### ©UNHCR/Mohammed Daryadel

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Afghan Refugee Populations in neighbouring countries may alter slightly in 2023 due to population verification exercises like the 17th round of the Amayesh card renewal exercise, which is underway in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as limited levels of return, resettlement, and complementary pathways for admission into third countries. In 2022, GIRI conducted a headcount exercise open to all undocumented populations, including new arrivals. Initial estimations indicate that some 2.6 million Afghans reportedly enrolled, receiving a headcount slip and temporary protection from deportation. This is a positive indication that GIRI is committed to maintaining inclusive policies and identifying opportunities to provide documentation (and facilitate predictable access to social services). It is particularly positive initiative given the high levels of deportations of Afghans witnessed in Iran in 2021 and 2022. RRP partners will continue to monitor the protection situation and advocate for extension of the temporary protection from deportation, increased access to rights and services, and regularization through documentation such as longer-term residency permits.

In Pakistan, the Document Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE) conducted by the Government in conjunction with UNHCR concluded in 2022, having identified almost 1.3 million refugees with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, verifying and updating refugee data to delivering them new smartcards. In 2023 the Government in conjunction with IOM plans to conduct a verification exercise for the Afghan Citizen Card population, also expected to be open to undocumented Afghans.

Afghans both inside Afghanistan and in host countries face a plethora of protection risks, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Some 74 per cent of new arrivals that approached UNHCR in neighbouring countries since the start of 2021 are women and children.

Iran (Islamic Republic of): Children attending an interactive awarenessraising sessions about their basic and human rights through fun activities such as playing games, drawing, and flash cards, to ensuring that refugee children are protected from harm and their rights are upheld through the provision of psychosocial support and targeted programmes to meet their specific protection and developmental needs.

Due to their precarious protection situation, these groups face a threat of, and exposure to, gender-based violence, exploitation, and trafficking, compounding the challenges already faced by those fleeing for their safety. Afghan women and girls are at increased risk of gender-based violence in Afghanistan, during flight and in neighbouring countries, who also have high rates of intimate partner violence and child marriage. Refugee and displaced women and girls may also be suffering from heightened stress given the events in Afghanistan and the specific threats to women. Refugee girls face barriers in attending school due to patriarchal norms as well as poverty. According to updated figures from DRIVE in Pakistan, 61 per cent of refugees reported having no education and of those reporting an education only 38 per cent are women. Refugee, asylumseeker and displaced women and girls in neighbouring countries face many barriers in accessing basic health, including sexual and reproductive health services, and in accessing livelihoods opportunities.

A significant number of Afghans are reported to be persons with disabilities, many of whom have faced systematic discrimination and barriers to accessing essential services. According to a 2019 study, almost 80 per cent of adults in Afghanistan aged 18 and over have some form of physical, functional, sensory, or other impairment. Others face heightened risk due to their ethnicity, with ethnic Pashtun, Hazera (at particular risk), and Tajiks, making up most new arrivals in neighbouring countries. Specific protection risks are also faced by those from certain occupations including former public sector workers, journalists, and NGO workers. Boys and men who have fled are also heavily impacted by the psychological effects of displacement while young men especially have faced high levels of deportation, particularly in Iran. Meanwhile, a 2020 study examining post-traumatic stress symptoms in resettled refugee minors from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan found that 42 per cent of refugee minors from Afghanistan experienced symptoms of PTSD - the highest among all the countries included in the study







## AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy

#### **REGIONAL PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY**

Most Afghans in neighbouring countries reside in urban and peri-urban areas, relying on national public services available to them. Despite their own challenges and the needs of their populations, for decades Iran and Pakistan, who host the majority of displaced Afghans globally, have upheld their international protection obligations and have pursued policies that provide refugees with access to public services, notably in areas of education, health care, and livelihoods. However, host governments are facing challenges to continue their progressive policies towards refugees. The scale of needs necessitates an expanded response from the international community to ensure that the immediate needs of Afghans and their host communities are met. Immediate multi-sectoral assistance is required in the areas of protection (e.g. registration, documentation, legal assistance, community-based protection initiatives, GBV and child protection programming and targeted assistance and support for vulnerable at-risk women, children, and people with other protection needs, including through case management); food security; health and nutrition; education; shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene; and livelihoods.

However, longer-term investments in public infrastructure related to the existing and urgent needs in host countries are crucial to promote resilience, facilitate solutions, and stabilize displaced populations. Host governments have been and continue to be the primary responders to the Afghan displacement and the response should be anchored in national systems including social protection systems wherever possible. This means bolstering existing national systems, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, to equip them to respond to the needs of displaced populations and ensure durable and sustainable interventions. Linkages are also made with national development plans wherever possible. Area- and communitybased programming will be crucial in this respect. The presence of Afghan populations has placed additional pressure on a range of national services, particularly health services for which host countries have had an inclusive approach to refugees for decades. Extra demand on public infrastructure has placed a strain on overall availability and quality of service provision and can exacerbate tensions between the host community and the Afghan population.



Pakistan: Children at the Alternate Learning Programme (ALP) centre Kahan in Quetta, sitting in their classroom during a lesson. © UNICEF/Sami Malik

Programmes to support the existing Afghan refugee populations in the region have been critically underfunded for 10 years prior to the current crisis and this has also had an impact on support available for host communities. This further highlights the need for programmes aimed at fostering co-existence and strengthening the humanitariandevelopment nexus, to create additional capacity and contribute towards improving services. RRP Partners continue to adopt community-based approaches which will benefit all Afghan populations as well as host communities in areas with a high concentration of Afghans. Such interventions support displaced and host communities and promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

allocations of places in third countries, but the needs continue to far outweigh the number of places available. Innovative programmes for complementary pathways like third level scholarships and work placement programmes will be pursued wherever available.

Opportunities for durable solutions will be promoted wherever possible. Resettlement has been expanded in 2022 and partners will continue to advocate for increased Elements of emergency preparedness and response continue to form part of RRP 2023. New arrivals continue and they have a variety of specific needs while emergencies brought on by climate-related and other natural hazards witnessed in the region in 2022 underline the need for adequate preparedness measures to be put in place, in collaboration with host governments. Since the year 2000, Pakistan is the third most frequently hit country in the world by extreme weather disasters (Afghanistan is 8th) while Pakistan suffered the fifth highest direct economic losses globally during this period

### **AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN** Strategic Objectives and Partnership

### **REGIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Acknowledging the huge contribution of host countries, the RRP reaffirms the regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach which aims at strengthening the humanitarian and development response in support of host governments. As well as building community resilience, the RRP will deliver concrete actions, with a focus on community-based interventions incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, cross-border collaboration, and durable solutions within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

RRP 2023 will have five Strategic Objectives (SO):



#### **SO1**:

Ensure coordinated efforts towards durable solutions in line with the objectives of the SSAR\*.

#### **SO2:**



Anchored in government systems wherever possible, the response aims to take an area-based and needs-based approach to build resilient communities, including through investments in key areas of national infrastructure like education and health and by supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities in urban areas and settlements.

#### **SO3:**

Support host governments to ensure access to territory and asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, reception, registration, and documentation.

#### **SO4**:



Ensure that immediate and longer-term needs are addressed through nexus programming by reinforcing local and national systems of host countries which have supported Afghans for decades, in the spirit of international responsibility- and burden-sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. In doing so, the plan will pay particular attention to the needs of children, youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs.

#### **SO5**:



Respond to the basic needs of the most vulnerable, including by sustained support to government-led emergency preparedness efforts and through multi-sectoral support to swiftly respond to those newly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises, as well as to existing populations who have seen their situation deteriorate due to the rising cost of living.

### PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

In support of the national humanitarian response

has increased to 65 partners across the region in 2023 across the five countries (14 UN agencies, 21 INGOs, and 30 local NGOs). This demonstrates the continued importance of platforms such as this to coordinate the response, facilitate a joined-up approach, promote synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and provide opportunities for unified strategic advocacy with host governments and the international community

mechanisms and in line with the Refugee Coordination Model in host countries, the Global Compact on Refugees and Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners will continue to support the concerned governments to respond to the situation of Afghans and their host communities in neighbouring countries. Initially launched in 2021 with 11



\* The Objectives of the SSAR are I). Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; II). Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and III). Preserving protection space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries. *For more information, please visit* <u>SSAR Support Platform</u>

### **AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN** Financial Requirements

#### **REGIONAL INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**







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## **AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN** Financial Requirements (continued)

### **REGIONAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ORGANIZATION**

UN = United Nations , INGO = International NGO, NNGO = National NGO, FBO = Faith-based Organizations, WLO = Women-led Organizations

UN = United Nations , INGO = International Agency Name	Acronyms	Org Type	Total Requirements fo	
Agency Name Action Against Hunger Pakistan	ACIONYINS	INGO	\$	2,889,400
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO	\$	4,566,715
Alight	Alight	INGO	\$	1,938,403
Azat Foundation	AF	NNGO	\$	811,680
Balochistan Rural Support Program	BRSP	NNGO	\$	2,557,466
CARE International	CIP	INGO	\$	1,299,000
Catholic Relief Services	CRS	FBO	\$	1,946,761
Comprehensive Health and Education Forum	CHEFI	NNGO	\$	625,600
Concern Worldwide	CW	INGO	\$	239,639
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	CESVI	INGO	\$	250,000
Direct Focus Community Aid	DFCA	NNGO	\$	208,000
Dopasi Foundation	Dopasi	NNGO	\$	250,000
Foundation for Rural Development	FRD	NNGO	\$	1,127,000
Hashoo Foundation	HF	NNGO	\$	300,000
Health And Nutrition Development Society	HANDS	NNGO	\$	2,235,241
Human Appeal Pakistan	HA Pak	INGO	\$	784,500
Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment	HOPE'87	INGO	\$	1,035,600
Indus Hospital and Health Network	IHHN	NNGO	\$	5,275,000
Initiative for Development & Empowerment Axis	IDEA	NNGO	\$	1,886,100
Integrated Social Services Program	ISSP	NNGO	\$\$	372,558
Integrated Social Services Program	IMC	INGO	<u></u> Տ	3,486,000
International Medical Corps-UK	IRC	INGO	\$ \$	13,049,729
	INTERSOS	INGO	\$	
Intersos			•	2,967,848
Islamic Relief Worldwide	IRW	FBO	\$	1,500,000
Khwendo Kor	KK lanan	WLO	\$	825,000
Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi	KnK Japan	INGO	\$	1,056,526
Mercy Corps	Mercy Corps	INGO	\$	4,369,488
Mission East	Mission East	INGO	\$	20,932
Muslim Hands	MH	FBO	\$	2,538,036
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	\$	21,239,059
Pak Mission Society	PMS	NNGO	\$	460,000
Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education	PAGE	WLO	\$	1,155,325
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund	PPAF	NNGO	\$	3,591,364
Participatory Rural Development Society (PRDS)	PRDS	NNGO	\$	963,037
Poverty Eradication Initiative	PEI	NNGO	\$	537,000
Rabt Development Organization	RDO	NNGO	\$	1,235,000
Relief International	RI	INGO	\$	13,592,819
Rural Development Organization RDO Buner	RDO Buner	NNGO	\$	330,000
Rural Support Programmes Network	RSPN	NNGO	\$	3,639,809
Salik Development Foundation	SDF	NNGO	\$	450,000
Save the Children	SCI	INGO	\$	4,953,848
Secours Islamique France	SIF	FBO	\$	1,925,000
Society for Human and Environmental Development	SHED	NNGO	\$	520,000
Takal Welfare Organization	TWO	NNGO	\$	500,000
Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation	TKF	NNGO	\$	626,726
Taraqee Foundation	TF	NNGO	\$	1,851,987
The Awakening	The Awakening	NNGO	\$	193,368
UN - Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	UN	\$	8,359,849
UN - International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	\$	75,048,508
UN - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS	UN	\$	15,000
UN - United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	UN	\$	1,230,000
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	UN	\$	600,000
JN - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UNWOMEN	UN	\$	310,400
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	\$	269,204,430
JN - United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UNIDO	UN	\$	1,270,000
UN - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund	UNICEF	UN	\$	63,507,315
JN - United Nations Office for Project Services	UNOPS	UN	\$	4,000,000
JN - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UNODC	UN	\$	2,840,000
JN - United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	\$	11,671,811
UN - World Food Programme	WFP	UN	\$	31,619,080
JN - World Health Organization	WHO	UN	\$	20,285,507
Voluntary Service Overseas	VSO	INGO	\$	1,671,423
	WESS	NNGO	\$	1,650,000
Water, Environment & Sanitation Society			*	
Water, Environment & Sanitation Society Women Empowerment Organization	WFO	WIO	\$	1 000 000
Water, Environment & Sanitation Society Women Empowerment Organization Youth Organization	WEO YO	WLO NNGO	\$\$	1,000,000 553,100

### **REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION** Donor Acknowledgement

The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of Donors. As of 15 January 2023, the RRP 2022 response was 52 per cent funded across the region with USD 321 million received of USD 623 million requirements. However, this represents a drop in the funding percentage compared to 2021 when the Afghan Situation RRP response was 58 per cent funded. With a variety of other emergencies developing globally, there is a risk of fatigue in the donor community, and this is a real risk looking towards 2023. As is clear from this plan, the needs across the region are huge and are the situation of vulnerable Afghan populations has worsened due to external regional and global factors. Their host communities, who have welcomed Afghans for four decades, also require significant support, particularly to bolster the public infrastructure which serves Afghans and host communities alike.

RRP partners reiterate the message on the **importance of flexible**, which allows partners to prioritize the most pressing needs across the region, as well as **multi-year funding**, which facilitates a more predictable response. Both were important commitments by donors as part of the Grand Bargain and remain integral to the humanitarian response across the Afghanistan Situation.

Further information on the funding levels of the response is available on the <u>Refugee Funding Tracker</u> which tracks interagency funding for the response. This was rolled out in 2021 and has its usage has increased since then. It was the first time it had been used in these countries. Given that the response has increased its partnership significantly from 40 partners in 2022 to 65 partners in 2023, further guidance will be provided at country level on the use of the RFT to ensure that funding tracking is as up to date as possible.

The following donors during 2021 and 2022 are gratefully acknowledged. RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub-regional level has contributed to the response.

<u>**RRP 2021-2022 donors:</u>** Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Poland | Private Donors | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States Of America</u>

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