



AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

**REGIONAL REFUGEE PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE PLAN**

JULY - DECEMBER 2021

CREDITS:

The UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva wish to acknowledge the contributions of partners in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the preparation of this document.

The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

All statistics are provisional and subject to change. Except where indicated otherwise, all population figures provided in this report are as of July 2021.

PHOTO CONTENT:

File/archive photo. Pakistan. Afghan refugee child goes to school for the first time. She is one of the thousands of refugees supported through UNHCR's Education Strategy 2020-2022 in Pakistan. © UNHCR/Humera Karim

CONTENTS

REGIONAL OVERVIEW	5
Introduction.....	5
Beneficiary Population.....	6
Regional Protection and Population’s Needs.....	6
Regional Response Strategy and Priorities.....	7
Coordination.....	10
Regional Financial Requirements.....	11
By Agency	11
By Sector.....	11
By Country.....	11
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN	12
Situation Overview.....	13
Beneficiary Population.....	14
Needs Analysis	14
Response Strategy and Priorities	15
Planned Response Priorities	16
Partnership and Coordination.....	17
Sector Financial Requirements Summary.....	17
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN	18
Situation Overview.....	19
Beneficiary Population.....	20
Needs Analysis	20
Response Strategy and Priorities	20
Planned Response Priorities	22
Partnership and Coordination.....	23
Sector Financial Requirements Summary.....	23
CENTRAL ASIA	24
Situation Overview.....	25
Beneficiary Population.....	26
Needs Analysis	26
Response Strategy and Priorities	28
Planned Preparedness and Response Priorities	28
Partnership and Coordination.....	30
Sector Financial Requirements Summary.....	31
ANNEX.....	32
Regional Financial Overview	33

PLANNED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE JULY-DECEMBER 2021

515,000

NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN A POSSIBLE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO

US\$ 299.2 M

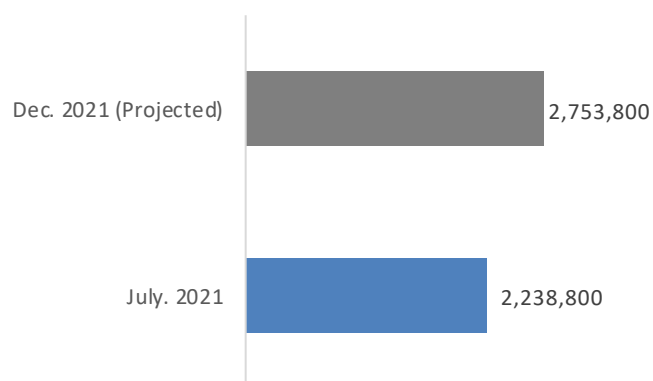
REQUIREMENTS

11

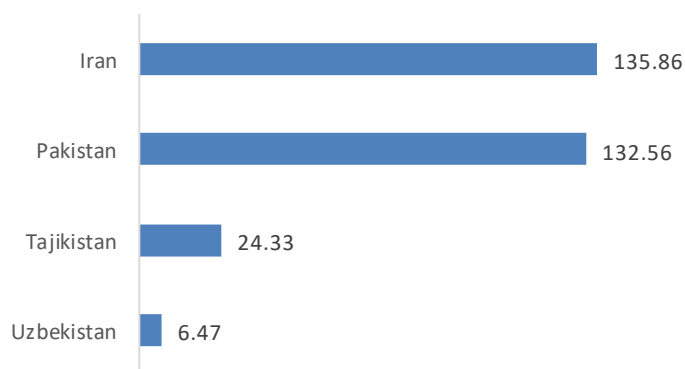
PARTNERS INVOLVED



Refugee Population Trends



Requirements | US\$ millions



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Introduction

The humanitarian situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan¹ has deteriorated dramatically, with significant consequences for the most vulnerable among the population. Even prior to the events of August 2021, this year had seen the highest number of conflict-related casualties on record. In recent months, there has been a further striking decline in the security and human rights situation in large parts of the country. It is estimated that since the beginning of 2021 over 558,000 Afghans have been internally displaced by the armed conflict within the country.²

The situation remains uncertain and may evolve rapidly. The upsurge of violence across the country and the fall of the elected government may have a serious impact on civilians and cause further displacement. Some 80 per cent of these newly displaced are women and children³. UNHCR estimates that the number of displaced will rise, both internally and across borders. Separate to the internal displacement mentioned above, a potential worst-case scenario envisages over 515,000 newly displaced refugees fleeing across the borders.

New arrivals in those countries will join more than 2.2 million registered refugees from previous waves of violence, and a further 3 million Afghans of varying status including many undocumented persons, who have been generously hosted in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan⁴ over the past four decades. Any major influx will require the international community to support an immediate and sustained intervention to Afghanistan's neighbours, in a spirit of responsibility- and burden-sharing.

Inter-agency Response

The humanitarian programme to support the existing 2.2 million registered Afghan refugees in Iran, Pakistan, and other countries in the region remains critically underfunded, as does the Humanitarian Response Plan for the population inside Afghanistan. Attention must be drawn to the need to address these critical funding gaps. This inter-agency Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RRP) thus outlines several underfunded elements of existing programmes for refugees in Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Additionally, this RRP outlines the humanitarian preparedness and priority interventions in the region in the event of new refugee outflows from Afghanistan. It covers the period from July to December 2021, including the contingency preparedness efforts that were put in place in July. The RRP will support government responses to date, also in consistency with the projected new arrivals in the worst-case scenario included in this plan. In the event of new refugee movements this plan will be revised as needed and complemented with further activities, including from Partners to scale up the inter-agency response. The RRP builds on contingency planning undertaken at the country level with the authorities, UN agencies and NGOs, within the inter-agency coordination structures in each country. The ability to ramp up inter-agency interventions are greatly dependent on the availability and timely delivery of the resource requirements outlined in this plan.



File/archive photo. Iran. Afghan refugees during COVID-19 times. © UNHCR/Zahra Nazari

¹ Hereafter "Afghanistan"

² <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps> as of 23 August.

³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps> as of 23 August.

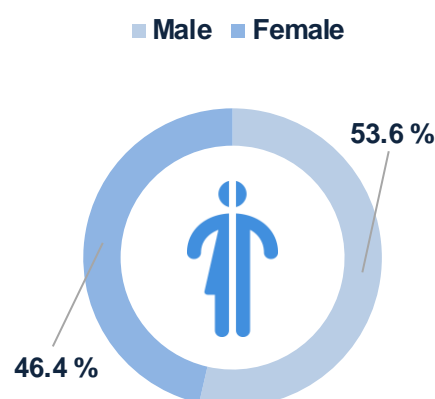
⁴ Hereafter "Iran" and "Pakistan"

Beneficiary Population

	Current population (July 2021)	Potential worst- case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Pakistan*	1,448,100	300,000	1,748,100
Iran*	780,000	150,000	930,000
Tajikistan	10,700	50,000	60,700
Uzbekistan	<50	10,000	10,000
Turkmenistan	<50	5,000	5,000
Total	2,238,800	515,000	2,753,800

*Registered refugee figures as provided by the Government, as of 31 December 2020

Disaggregated data of planned assisted refugee population ⁵ (based on profile of current refugee population)			
Age group (years)	% of total	Female % of total	Male % of total
00-04 y.	7.2%	3.5%	3.7%
05-11 y.	21.2%	10.3%	10.9%
12-17 y.	15.9%	7.7%	8.2%
18-59 y.	50.7%	23.1%	27.6%
60+ y.	5.0%	1.8%	3.2%
Total	100%	46.4%	53.6%



Persons with disabilities
15% of total

Regional protection and population's needs

Based on an analysis of the ongoing social, economic, political and security situation in Afghanistan, it is assessed that a further deterioration in the country may result in new refugee outflows before the end of 2021. A potential worst-case scenario envisages the arrival of an additional 515,000 Afghan refugees into neighbouring countries.

Critical life-saving humanitarian assistance will be required at border points and in designated sites in coordination with concerned Government counterparts. The inter-agency response will be flexible and adjust

⁵ The age and sex breakdown is based on the Afghan refugee population in Pakistan (UNHCR Annual Statistical Report (ASR) 2020). The percentage and number of persons with disabilities are based on statistical estimates and extrapolation of Afghans in the region.

delivery of humanitarian services depending on refugees' location and specific situation. Rapid needs assessments and urgent multisectoral interventions will be undertaken as required with the concerned Governments in the areas of food, nutrition, health, WASH, shelter, core relief item (CRI) distribution, cash, education, camp and settlement management, information and communication, and the protection of the most vulnerable groups and individuals. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing efforts to secure vaccines for both refugees and host populations will be intensified, especially considering the critical situation in some neighbouring countries.

Of the 558,000 Afghans already displaced in Afghanistan in 2021, 80 per cent are women and children. Inter-agency planning and preparedness efforts for larger outflows have considered the heightened risk of these and other specific population groups. Protection interventions will include the urgent identification of groups or individuals with specific needs⁶ who require immediate attention, including children at risk (including unaccompanied and separated children); women at risk (including single women and female-headed households); survivors of gender-based violence; persons with serious health conditions; persons with heightened legal or physical protection needs; older persons; persons with disabilities; and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Regional response strategy and priorities

Regional protection framework

As the situation in Afghanistan remains highly uncertain, the RRP Partners call on all countries to allow Afghans fleeing their country access to their territories and access to asylum procedures, and to respect the principle of non-refoulement. It is imperative that this human right is not compromised, that borders are kept open and that people in need of international protection are afforded asylum. In this context, it is equally important not to forcibly return refugees or asylum-seekers. Non-refoulement includes non-rejection at the frontier.⁷

In the event of significant refugee movements to neighbouring countries, this inter-agency response in support of the concerned Governments will ensure the rapid delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection. The inter-agency response will ensure that refugees' needs are identified and addressed with consideration of age, gender, and diversity in programming across all sectors.

This preparedness and response plan is driven by the following objectives:

- Preparedness measures are implemented to ensure a timely, coordinated and effective humanitarian response.
- Access to asylum is afforded and protection is delivered in accordance with international protection standards including non-refoulement, registration, and documentation.
- Provision of timely and life-saving humanitarian assistance is provided in support of national systems and responses, with a coordinated effort towards the early identification of durable solutions.

The preparedness and response outlined in this RRP are drawn from available situational analysis. Humanitarian interventions will be scalable and adaptable as the emergency develops. Strong data collection and analysis will be essential in order to provide the evidence base for protection programming and for targeting those most at risk. Multisectoral, well-coordinated responses will also strengthen the capacity of national systems to cope with the additional influx of refugees. Strengthened support for regular protection and assistance programs for the existing refugee populations in the host countries will be crucial and will serve as a shock-absorber while contributing to a more enabling environment for new arrivals.

The ability to respond in a timely and effective manner will depend on additional resources from the international community and donors to support host countries, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

⁶ Hereafter "persons with specific needs"

⁷ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/611a4c5c4.pdf>

File/archive photo. Pakistan. Afghan refugee during the COVID-19 pandemic. © UNHCR/Humera Karim



COVID-19 prevention protocols

With a potential mass influx into neighbouring countries during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, individuals involved in this response, including persons of concern, may be affected by COVID-19. While social distancing in the context of a mass influx will be difficult to maintain, COVID-19 prevention measures will be implemented in collaboration with host governments. This will include risk communication and sensitization at all operational sites; distribution of soap and the installation of hand-washing facilities; health screening at all transit locations and health facilities; distribution of face masks at all sites and transit areas; and the establishment of COVID-19 testing as well as isolation facilities at sites, if required. UNHCR will continue to advocate for vaccine equity and will strive to ensure that countries that are at a critical stage of the pandemic, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, are assisted so that both refugees and host population can access the necessary vaccines.

Accountability to affected people (AAP) and inclusion

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17058



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