

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January – December 2022



Cover photograph:

Pakistan. Twenty-nine-year-old Afghan refugee, Dr. Saleema Rehman, visits the refugee school in Pakistan that she attended as a child. During school visits, Dr. Saleema helps raise awareness about the importance of education and inspires young refugees, especially girls, to dream of a better tomorrow. She is the 2021 Regional Winner for Asia of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award. © UNHCR/Amsal Naeem

Contents

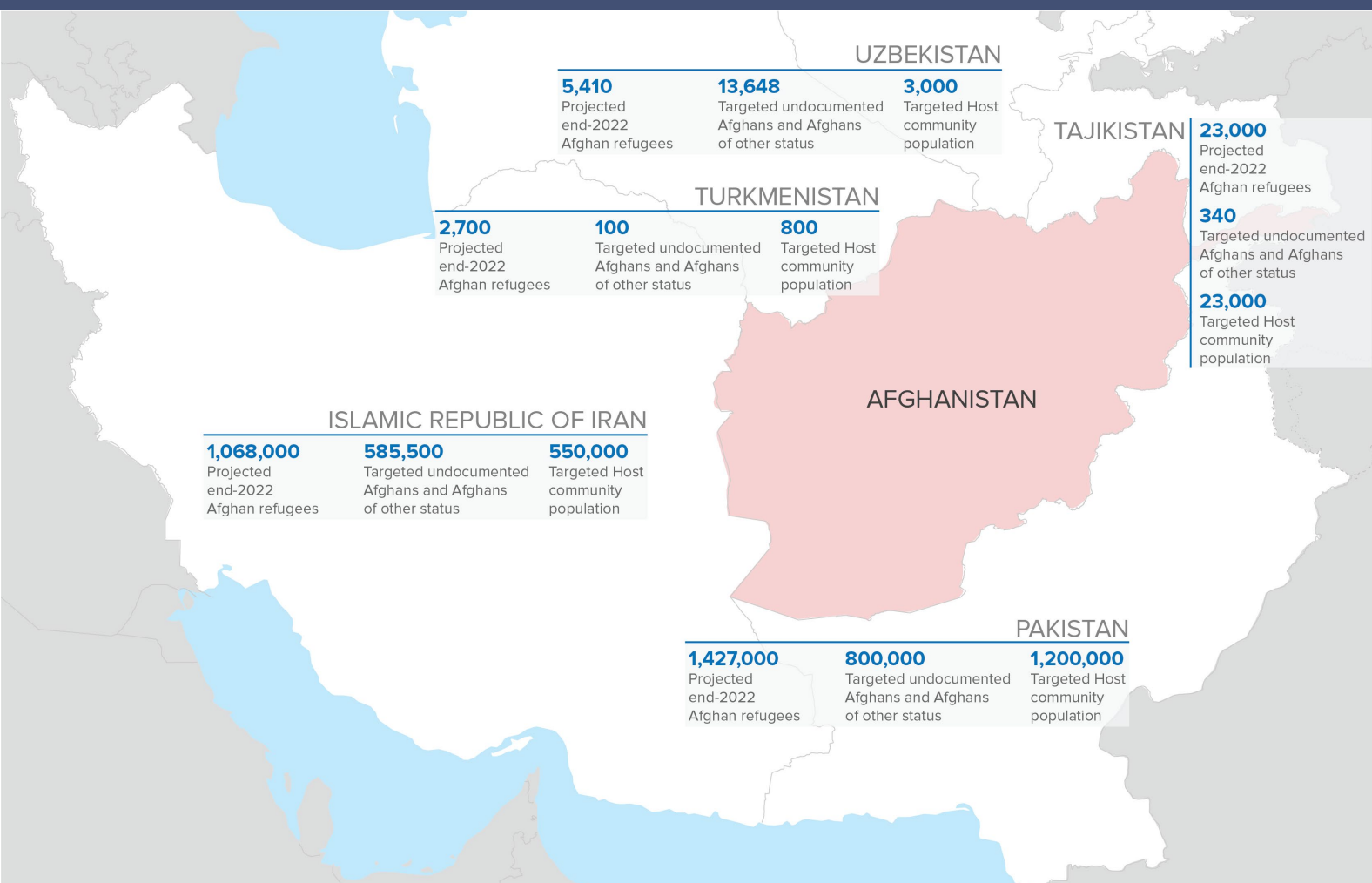
Introduction.....	5
Regional Protection and Population's Needs.....	6
Regional Response Strategy and Priorities	8
Target Population	10
Coordination	11
Regional Financial Requirements	11
By Agency	11
By Sector.....	12
By Country.....	12
The Islamic Republic of Iran.....	14
.....	15
Situation Overview	16
Population Planning Figures	17
Needs Analysis.....	17
Response Strategy and Priorities.....	19
Partnership and Coordination	21
Planned Response Priorities for 2022	22
2022 Financial Requirements Summary	24
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan.....	25
.....	26
Situation Overview	27
Population Planning Figures	28
Needs Analysis.....	29
Response Strategy and Priorities.....	30
Partnership and Coordination	32
Planned Response Priorities for 2022	33
2022 Financial Requirements Summary	35
CENTRAL ASIA	37
Situation Overview	38
Population Planning Figures	39
Needs Analysis.....	40
Response Strategy and Priorities.....	42
Partnership and Coordination	44
Planned Response Priorities for 2022	45
2022 Financial Requirements Summary	50
ANNEX I: Regional Response Sector Target Summary (targets aggregated regionally)	52

PLANNED RESPONSE

5.7 MILLION
TARGET POPULATION
IN 2022

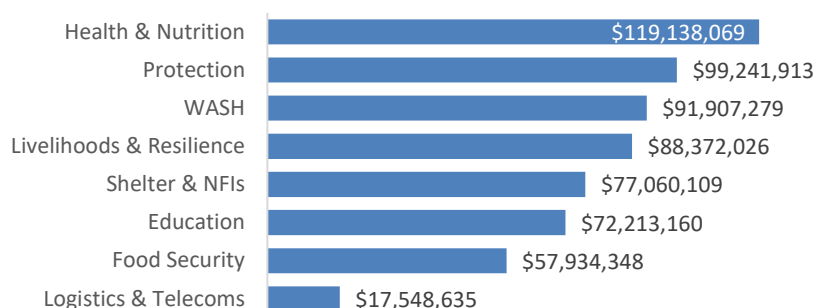
(INCLUDING AFGHANS OF VARYING
STATUS AND HOST COMMUNITY) *

US\$ 623 MILLION **40**
REQUIREMENTS FOR
2022 PARTNERS
INVOLVED



* Target population figures include registered Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers and a projection of new arrivals, in addition to a portion of targeted undocumented Afghans, Afghans with other status, and members of the host community.

Sector Requirements for 2022



Regional Overview

Introduction

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan deteriorated dramatically in 2021, with significant consequences for the most vulnerable among the population. Even prior to the events of August 2021, the year had seen the highest number of conflict-related casualties on record and a striking decline in the security and human rights situation in large parts of the country. According to OCHA, close to 700,000 people (59 per cent children and 21 per cent women)¹ have been newly internally displaced by conflict in 2021, bringing it to a total of 3.4 million displaced by conflict inside Afghanistan as of December 2021. The situation remains uncertain and may evolve rapidly. The upsurge of violence across the country in 2021 and instability has had a serious impact on civilians and, combined with hardships caused by political uncertainty and the economic and food security situation, may cause further displacement, both internally and across borders. This would add to the 2.2 million registered refugees from previous waves of violence, and a further four million Afghans of varying status including undocumented persons. Many have been generously hosted in the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereafter “Iran”) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (hereafter “Pakistan”) over the past four decades, with several generations of Afghans being born in exile.

With increased flows of new arrivals through official and unofficial border crossing points since the beginning of 2021 and increases in those approaching UNHCR, UNHCR has pre-screened over 68,000 newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection in neighbouring countries.² The majority of those interviewed by UNHCR report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The total number crossing into neighbouring countries can be difficult to verify as undocumented Afghans may resort to irregular land border crossing points, in many cases due to restrictive border policies, non-registration, and limited information shared by the concerned authorities. As such, the overall number of Afghans in need of international protection is likely to be much higher. Despite UNHCR issuing a non-return advisory calling for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals in the current circumstances,³ there have been an increasing number of reports concerning deportations of Afghans from neighbouring countries. An analysis of available data and information has indicated a 190 per cent increase in the deportation rate from Iran in August 2021 compared to the same period in August 2020.⁴

In order to prepare for a potential worst-case scenario of influx into neighbouring countries, in August 2021, UNHCR led an interagency [Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan](#) for the remainder of 2021. The plan, which had 11 partners across the same five countries as the RRP 2022, focused on ensuring that emergency preparedness measures were in place, ensuring access to asylum including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, as well as reprioritizing certain underfunded elements of existing programmes for in-situ populations, in support of national systems and in furtherance of durable solutions. With Afghans and host communities in neighbouring countries facing increased challenges, the compelling need for greater burden- and responsibility-sharing from the international community remains. In line with the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and the [SSAR Support Platform](#) launched in 2019, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the inter-agency 2022 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan situation will support host governments in their efforts to promote resilience, aiming to ensure that no one is left behind and that the needs of Afghans and their host communities are met. The 2022 RRP will focus on a response to existing populations in the neighbouring countries of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, including registered Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers, Afghans of varying statuses including undocumented persons, host communities, and potential new arrivals. The RRP builds on the collective work already being done in these countries and promotes an area- and needs-based approach. There is a need for coordinated area-based investments in health, education, clean and renewable energy, vocational and entrepreneurship skills development, and social protection to support national systems and the progressive policies of the host governments, which benefit both refugees and their host communities. These investments will also aim to build the human capacity and resilience of Afghans and enable sustainable voluntary return and reintegration. In addition, there is a need to

¹ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

² <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan>

³ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/611a4c5c4.pdf>

⁴ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/89488>

enhance programmes and activities providing specialized support and assistance to the most vulnerable Afghans and members of the host community.



Iran: Afghan refugee sisters in Isfahan, Iran, go to school for the first time. © UNHCR/Mohammad Hossein Dehghanian

Regional Protection and Population's Needs

Most Afghans in neighbouring countries reside in urban and peri-urban areas, relying on national public services that are 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 in neighbouring countries are facing further challenges to continue their progressive policies towards refugees. Challenges include the difficult economic situation (including economic sanctions and the devaluation of the rial in Iran for example), the COVID-19 pandemic, and varying attitudes towards refugees in some host communities driven in large part by the protracted nature of the conflict.

In 2022, the situation inside Afghanistan is likely to remain fluid. Borders with some neighbouring countries are likely to remain tightly regulated and movement is taking place 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 non-refoulement. It is imperative that this fundamental human right not be compromised and that people in need of international protection be afforded asylum. In this context, it is equally important not to forcibly return Afghans, which UNHCR has cautioned against in its non-return advisory. 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. Exacerbating security concerns, according to UNDP's rapid appraisal on [Economic instability and uncertainty in Afghanistan after 15 August](#), Afghanistan may descend into universal poverty by mid-2022 and could face a total development collapse. An estimated 72 per cent of Afghans are already living below the poverty line, with a risk of this rising to 97 per cent of the population unless the country's political and economic crises are urgently addressed.

As highlighted above, some 80 per cent of those displaced internally in Afghanistan in 2021 are women and children, which would likely be replicated in the profile of those seeking safety by fleeing across borders. New arrivals in neighbouring countries in 2021 are comprised of an average of 26 per cent boys, 23 per cent girls and 26 per cent adult women.⁵ Due to their precarious protection situation, these groups face a heightened risk of, and exposure to, gender-based violence, exploitation, and trafficking, among other risks, which compounds the challenges already faced by those fleeing for their safety. Gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection risks are long-standing and severe threats in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which have high rates of intimate partner violence and child marriage. In addition, a significant number of Afghans are reported to be persons with disabilities,⁶ many of whom have faced systematic discrimination and barriers to accessing essential services. Others face heightened risk due to their ethnicity, with ethnic Pashtun, Hazara, and Tajiks, making up the majority of new arrivals in neighbouring countries.

In neighbouring countries, the situation of existing Afghan populations has deteriorated for several reasons, further explained in the needs analysis section below; the size of the population and the scale of needs necessitate an expanded response from the international community to ensure that the immediate needs of Afghans and their host communities are met. This means immediate multi-sectoral assistance, including protection (e.g. registration, documentation, legal assistance, case management, community-based protection, lifesaving GBV programming and targeted assistance and support for vulnerable at-risk women, children, and people with specific needs); food security; health and nutrition; education; shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene; and livelihoods among other urgent needs. Longer-term investments are also needed in public infrastructure related to the existing and urgent needs in host countries to promote resilience, facilitate solutions, and stabilize displaced populations.

Women and girls in refugee-hosting countries are disproportionately affected by the crisis. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a long-standing and severe threat to women and girls in Afghanistan, and the current crisis has also introduced or exacerbated many gender-specific forms of persecution in Afghanistan.⁷ Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries have high rates of intimate partner violence⁸ and child marriage.⁹ Afghan women and girls are at heightened risk of gender-based violence in Afghanistan, during flight and in neighbouring countries. 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 also face barriers in attending school due to patriarchal norms as well as poverty. In 2019, the gross enrolment rate for refugee girls in primary school in Pakistan was 70 per cent compared with 92 per cent for boys.¹⁰ Refugee, asylum-seeking 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.¹¹ Covid-19 has exacerbated the already precarious economic situation of women, who are more likely to be in underpaid and unstable work, are disproportionately affected. An estimated 19 per cent of displaced women and girls are living with a disability and are even more vulnerable.

The inter-agency response will ensure that refugees' needs are identified and addressed in support of government efforts, with consideration of age, gender, and diversity (AGD) in programming across all sectors. In accordance with the principle of "accountability to affected populations" (AAP), elaborated upon below, partners will actively engage communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the response by consulting, hearing, and acting upon the voices and priorities of diverse women, girls, boys, and men, including the most marginalized and at-risk people among affected communities. In addition, measures to prevent and mitigate risks of GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), will be prioritized and integrated in all sector programmes. Lifesaving response services for all survivors will be prioritised. Meanwhile, in the event of further large refugee movements to neighbouring countries, the plan may be revised as required by the developing situation.

⁵ Based on UNHCR pre-registration data, where available.

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/model-disability-survey-afghanistan-2019>

⁷ Amnesty International, *Report 2020/21: The State of the World's Human Rights*, p.38, available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/English.pdf>

⁸ 50% of women in Afghanistan and 24.5% of women in Pakistan have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Statistics available at: UNFPA, *Measuring the prevalence of violence against women in Asia-Pacific*, <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/knownvawdata>. Accessed on 31 August 2021.

⁹ 28% of girls in Afghanistan, 17% of girls in Iran, 18% of girls in Pakistan, and 12% of girls in Tajikistan are married before the age of 18. *Girls Not Brides*, <https://atlas.girlsnotbrides.org/map/>. Accessed 31 Aug 2021

¹⁰ UNHCR internal statistics

¹¹ For example, UNHCR Pakistan, 'Participatory Assessment Findings and Recommendations, Yearly (2019)' (31 January 2020), pp.6-7, available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73801> and Human Rights Watch, 'List of Taliban Policies Violating Women's Rights in Afghanistan', 29 September 2021, available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/29/list-taliban-policies-violating-womens-rights-afghanistan>

Regional Response Strategy and Priorities

Regional Protection Framework

Reaffirming the regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach which aims at strengthening the humanitarian response, as well as promoting development assistance and 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 in line with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), within the framework of the SSAR Support Platform. The 2022 RRP will aim to:

- Ensure coordinated efforts and support towards durable solutions, by enhancing conditions and community-based investments in line with the solutions outlined in the SSAR. The response will support the resilience of refugee and host communities, including through investments in key areas of national infrastructure like education and health and by supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities.
- Support host governments to ensure access to asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, registration, and documentation.
- Provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to targeted populations, anchoring the response in government systems wherever possible in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, paying particular attention to the needs of children, youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs.
- Reinforce government efforts to ensure that emergency preparedness and response measures are put in place to respond to potential new arrivals.



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_16766

