

AFGHANISTAN

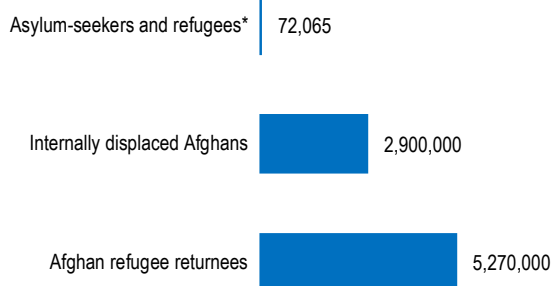
June 2021

The operational context in Afghanistan has been marked by a new wave of **COVID-19**, drought, **deteriorating security situation**, and **ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks**.

As a result of the C19 pandemic, numbers of households lost their livelihoods, even as borders were closed to prevent the spread of the pandemic. **Armed conflict displaced over 287,000 persons** in Q1 and Q2.

UNHCR is executing plans to **assist 3.1 million refugees, asylum-seekers, Afghan refugee returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities**, with access to basic services - education, health and other public facilities.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

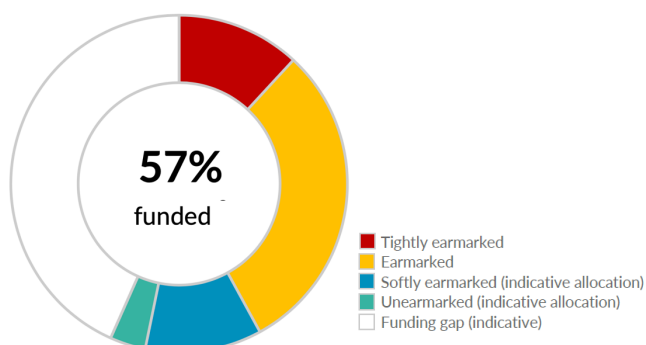


* Registration in some locations is suspended due to insecurity.

FUNDING (AS OF 21 JULY)

USD 127.1 million

requested for the Afghanistan Situation and the Coronavirus Emergency



UNHCR PRESENCE

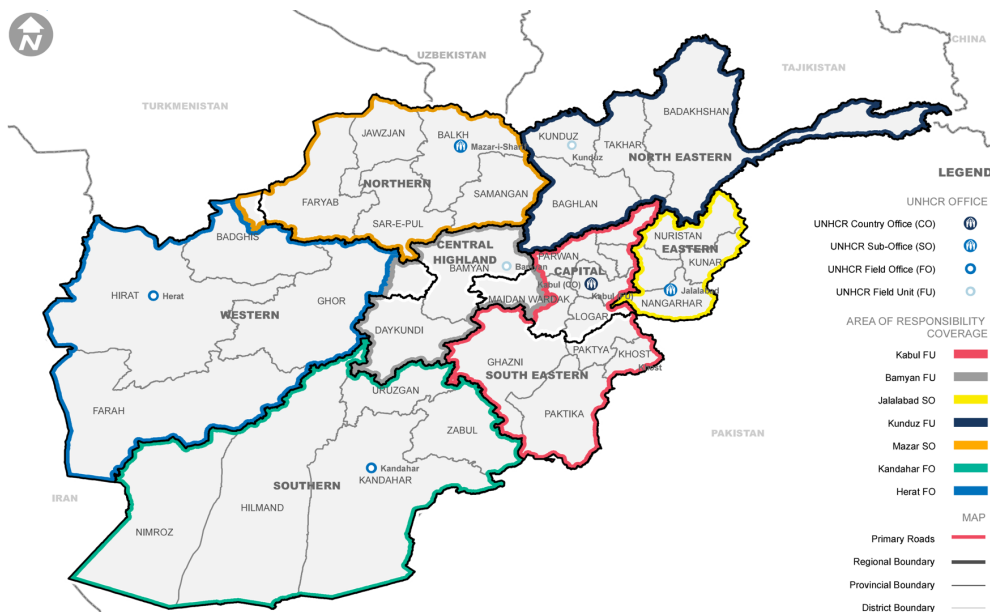
Staff*:

185 national staff
30 international staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Kabul
2 Sub Offices in Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif
2 Field Offices in Herat and Kandahar
3 Field Units in Bamyán, Kabul and Kunduz

* As of 1 July 2021



COVID-19 REPOSENSE

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of Afghans including, Afghan refugee returnees, asylum-seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons. Traditional coping mechanisms are being tested and access to basic essential services has been limited, with general increasing poverty. **Around 95 per cent of surveyed Afghan refugee returnee households reported decreased incomes due to COVID-19. Food insecurity levels worsened by COVID-19 are now similar to those during the 2018 drought.** UNHCR is supporting vulnerable Afghans in response to COVID-19, in line with the [2021 COVID-19 Supplementary Appeal](#) through the provision of protection and assistance for families and individuals affected by displacement.



Students of the newly constructed Deh-Misken Primary School washing their hands before entering the school. © UNHCR/Gulbuddin Elham

- UNHCR's prioritized interventions include emergency **livelihood activities** such as business start-up grants and business incubation activities through **cash-based interventions** to support the livelihoods for returnees and displaced persons. These activities are mostly concentrated in priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRs) where returnees and displaced populations are living side by side with members of host communities. From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, UNHCR **provided livelihood opportunity to 340 persons** and **unconditional one-time multi-purpose cash grants to 14,868 persons**.
- In line with UNHCR's protection monitoring objectives and noting with concern the increasing impact of COVID-19 pandemic on **cross-border movements** in Afghanistan; UNHCR expanded its **protection and return monitoring** activities to official entry points with Iran (Islam Qala/Dogharoon and Zaranj/Milak crossing points) and Pakistan (Spin Boldak/Chaman and Torkham) by establishing border monitoring activities mostly focusing on inflows in April. In view of the current context in Afghanistan, UNHCR in consultation with its offices in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, revised its border (inflow) monitoring tool to include outflow monitoring in all four official entry points with Iran and

Pakistan. The new tools were launched on 1 April 2020 with the purpose to understand the triggers, intentions and reasons for movement of Afghans into Iran and Pakistan. Through regular and consistent presence at these zero points, UNHCR aimed to ensure efficient, timely and systematic collection and analysis of protection related information from Afghan returnees and deportees, irrespective of their status. **Border monitoring also helps to assess access to the territory and “the right to asylum” for people fleeing persecution who may be in need of international protection.** It also aims at assessing the right to return for Afghan refugees and other nationals amidst possible limitations imposed by COVID-19.

- From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, **UNHCR conducted 42,198 interviews (29,307 males and 12,891 females) with returnees and deportees of various status upon return from Iran and Pakistan.** Similarly, between 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2021, outflow interviews were conducted with a total of 5,236 Afghans (3,385 males and 1,851 females) prior to their departure to Pakistan and Iran. The findings of the border monitoring interviews through monthly updates are posted on the [Data Operational Portal for Afghanistan](#).
- From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, **UNHCR conducted 405 focus group discussions, 5,116 household level interviews and 177 key informant interviews** with internally displaced persons and members of the host community under its community-based protection monitoring interventions.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The Government of Afghanistan has laid out its vision in the **Mutual Accountability Framework**, the **Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework** (ANPDF-II) and **Afghanistan Partnerships Framework** – which explicitly focuses on addressing the needs of returnees and internally displaced persons in 10 of the 15 **National Priority Plans** across different sectors. The Government of Afghanistan also affirmed its commitment to the **Global Compact on Refugees**, which supports multi-stakeholder efforts to address the root causes and drivers of displacement. UNHCR works with the Government of Afghanistan and diverse actors to **create conducive conditions for sustainable return and reintegration**, building resilient communities, and promoting peacebuilding at the grassroots level.



UNHCR Afghanistan @UNHCRAfg · 30 Mar

A Letter of Intent is ✍️ by @UNHCRAfg 🤝 @UNDPAf for achieving #SustainableReintegration & #DurableSolutions for #Returnees/#IDPs in 🇦🇫. A step towards accelerating structural transformation for #SustainableDevelopment. #ANPDFII #Statebuilding #Marketbuilding #Peacebuilding



UNHCR Afghanistan @UNHCRAfg · 28 Mar

@UNHCRAfg Thanks to 🇰🇷 for the generous donation of 150,000 #KF94Masks to @MoPHAfg – that will be distributed to #HealthcareWorkers, and #Returnees #IDPs – and to support #GoIRA #COVID19 #preparedness #response efforts. #Afghanistan

data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/d...



- UNHCR continues supporting the Government of Afghanistan in the implementation of its policy framework for returnees and internally displaced, namely, the national **policy on internal displacements** and the **National Action Plan for Return and Displacement**.
- UNHCR continues to engage through the **One UN** and **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)** to support the Government of Afghanistan in identifying and providing durable solutions to all displaced communities across the country. UNHCR co-leads the UNSDCF **Peace Working Group**, co-chairs the **Housing, Land and Property Task Force**, co-leads the **Protection Cluster** and the **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster**, actively engaged in the **Cash and Voucher Working Group**, and acts as secretariat for **Durable Solutions and Reintegration Working Group**.
- UNHCR continues engagement with the private sector, including the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry** and industrial unions.
- UNHCR is strengthening its engagement with communities, particularly through **Community Development Councils**, community leaders, and civil society organizations, promoting civic and social engagement, inclusion and participation.
- UNHCR is also strengthening its cooperation with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the German Agency for International Cooperation, UNDP, ILO, UNHABITAT, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, IOM, UNWOMEN, BRAC, the Aga Khan Development Network, and the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry to provide a comprehensive response towards sustainable reintegration and solutions through humanitarian-development-peace programming for collective outcomes, impact, and sustainability, and in Delivering As One approach.



Students during the computer class in newly constructed Saracha school in Nangarhar province.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR continues to support the Government of Afghanistan with the coordination of the response to **72,065 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Kabul, Khost and Paktika. Majority of refugees and asylum-seekers require birth certificate, access to education, livelihoods, water, sanitation and health. UNHCR strives to find the interim solutions for **407 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Kabul pending the adoption of a **National Asylum Law**.

- In the absence of a national asylum framework, UNHCR continues to **register asylum-seekers** as a protection tool and conducts **refugee status determination** under its mandate when required to facilitate durable solutions or protection interventions and provide material assistance to vulnerable persons. UNHCR continues working with line ministries and partners to enable refugees and asylum-seekers **access to basic services such as education, health** and formal **employment opportunities**. UNHCR continues providing critical financial assistance to the vulnerable population and engaging in activities to build **self-reliance** of the refugees and asylum-seekers through community-based programmes including through innovative approaches.

Voluntary repatriation

Despite a fragile security situation and significant socio-economic and political challenges, Afghanistan remains the largest voluntary repatriation operation in UNHCR's history with over **5.27 million Afghan refugees having been assisted to return by UNHCR since 2002**.

- From 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, **1,143 Afghan refugee returnees were repatriated**: 706 persons (62 per cent) from Iran, 400 persons (35 per cent) from Pakistan and 37 persons (3 per cent) from other countries of asylum.



Afghan refugee returnees receiving cash grant at the Encashment Center in Kandahar (left) and undergo medical screening (rights).

- During 2020, UNHCR provided support to 2,147 Afghan refugee returnees. The return trend in 2020 decreased by 71 per cent compared to 2019 when 8,079 Afghans returned. This declining trend in returns is mainly due to the deteriorating security and economic situation in Afghanistan, ambiguity in the progress of the peace process with the Taliban and the improved protection situation in Pakistan and Iran.
- In line with the regional [Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees](#) (SSAR), tripartite and quadripartite legal frameworks, UNHCR continues supporting Afghanistan and Afghan refugees to voluntary repatriate depending on the protection environment in countries of asylum and the overall political, economic and security conditions as well as positive progress in peace negotiations.
- Afghan refugee returnees who make an informed and voluntary decision to repatriate under the voluntary repatriation programme are provided with **unconditional multi-purpose cash grant of an average of US\$ 250 per person** to meet basic needs and transportation costs to their origin or intended destination.

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

The regional SSAR, launched in May 2012, with Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan supported by UNHCR, and endorsed by the international community, has pioneered the key elements of the GCR and remains the central framework for responsibility-sharing and solutions in the Afghan situation with the primary objectives of easing pressure on host community in Iran and Pakistan while addressing root causes and creating conditions for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan.



Students playing in front of newly constructed Daman Middle School in Nangarhar. © BEST/U.K.

- In 2021, **Core Group Afghanistan** was established. The Core Group for Afghanistan, chaired by the EU, met three times, adopted its **work plan** and started its engagement in several thematic areas including Access to jobs and livelihoods, Land Allocation, Civil Documentation, and Partnership for investment in PARRs.
- In June 2021, UNHCR organized the **First Virtual Mission** to show the progress made in the two PARRs namely, in Sarcha in Nangarhar province and in Jebrail in Herat province. The UNHCR and the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations have been engaged in the two locations since 2019.

Priority areas of return reintegration

- An estimated 1.3 million Afghan refugee returnees currently reside in the 40 PARRs located in 23 out of 34 provinces. UNHCR continues supporting the Government of Afghanistan in establishing essential public facilities and enabling access to basic services in education, health and livelihood sectors through Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER).
- In 2021, UNHCR conducted a third party **Impact evaluation 2021** with the objective to understand what was achieved in PARRs and how the program contributed to and helped population to sustainable reintegrate. The Co-PROSPER in PARRs reported to have had **moderate to large positive impacts on the overall wellbeing of households** living in priority areas of return and reintegration. However, most households also reported that they still **live in sub-standard conditions, mainly due to poor access to livelihoods, and to a lesser extend poor access to services like healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene**.



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_17180

