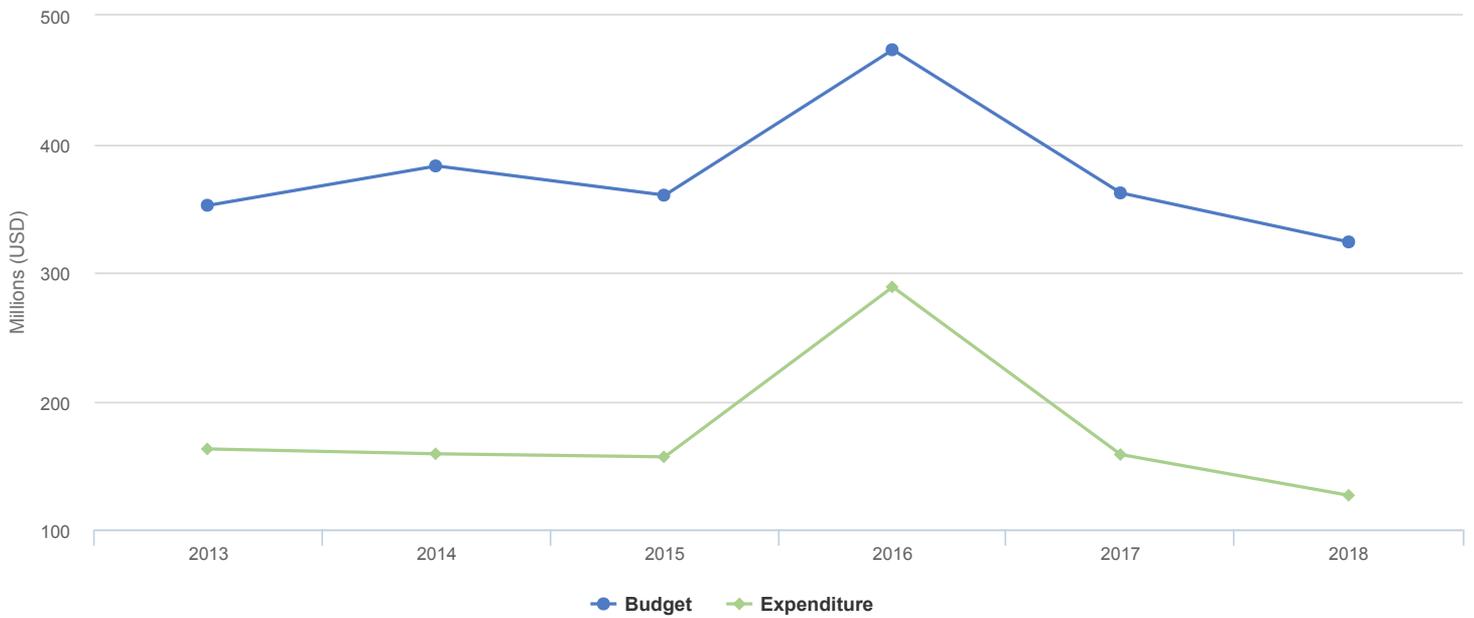


Subregion: South-West Asia

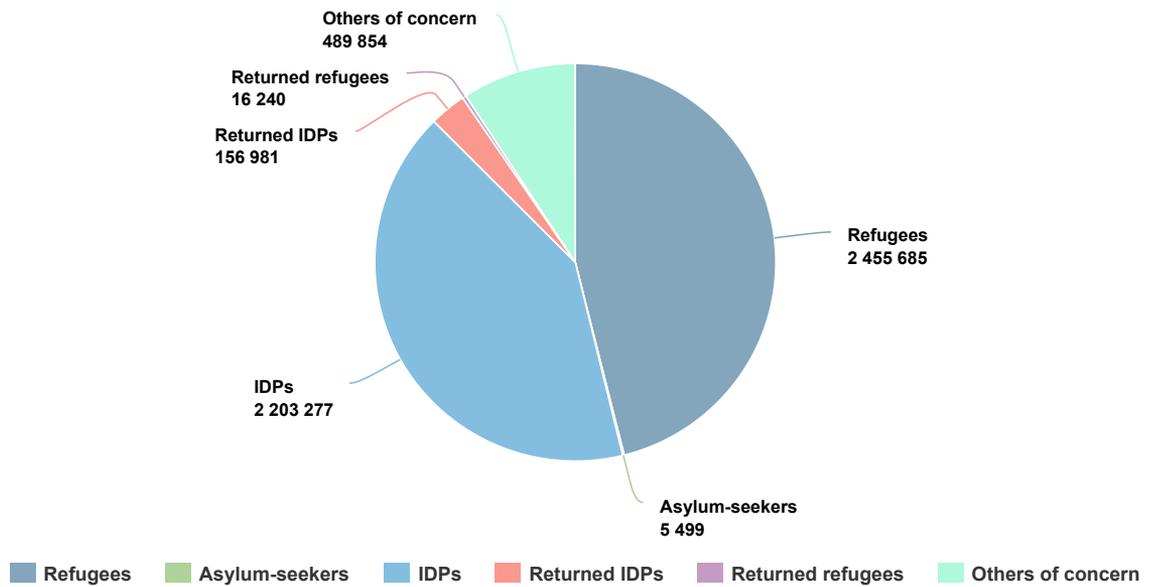
| Afghanistan | Islamic Republic of Iran | Pakistan |



Budgets and Expenditure in Subregion South-West Asia



People of Concern - 2018



Response in 2018

Close to forty years since the beginning of large-scale displacement, Afghans remained the largest refugee population of concern to UNHCR in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the most protracted refugee situation in the region.

2018 witnessed the lowest number of returns in many years, with 15,699 registered Afghan refugees who returned under UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme, a decrease by 73% compared to 2017, due in part to a challenging security environment, incipient political transitions and uncertainty regarding ongoing peace processes.

Within Afghanistan, more than 270,000 people were newly displaced due to conflict in 2018, with 31 out of 34 provinces affected by conflict. A severe drought also generated additional displacement of over 230,000 people, whom UNHCR assisted by providing 15,100 family tents as part of the Humanitarian Country Team response.

In a positive development, the Government of Afghanistan committed in July 2018 to the roll out of the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) as a country of origin. This provides an opportunity to showcase good practices based on experiences gained in implementing the "Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees" (SSAR), notably in relation to the inclusion of returnees in Afghanistan's national policies and priorities, as well as to garner further support for reintegration. Designed as a regional multi-year initiative, the SSAR offers a comprehensive and integrated framework for joint interventions aimed at facilitating voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, while at the same time providing assistance to refugees, host communities and host countries.

Parliamentary elections took place in October 2018 and the presidential election is scheduled for September 2019. Diplomatic efforts aimed at peace talks with militant groups have accelerated in recent months.

The Geneva Conference on Afghanistan held in November 2018, co-hosted by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations, provided an opportunity to assess progress and reconfirm commitments made since the "transformation decade" (2015-2024) was announced.

UNHCR has been working to support the Government of Afghanistan in translating the Displacement and Return Executive Committee (DiREC) action plan into priority development and humanitarian actions in 15 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration.

The vast majority of Afghan refugees continue to be generously hosted by the neighbouring Islamic Republics of Pakistan (1.4 million) and Iran (950,000).

In Pakistan, UNHCR continued to support the government in the implementation of various aspects of its "Comprehensive policy on voluntary repatriation and management of Afghan nationals, approved in 2017," which includes i) the continued extension of "proof of registration" (PoR) cards (currently valid until the end of June 2019); ii) the implementation of a flexible visa regime for PoR card holders, who would be able to obtain Afghan passports and Pakistani visas in Pakistan and iii) the registration of close to 880,000 undocumented Afghans who have been given an "Afghan citizen card".

The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, now in its 10th year, plays a major role in fostering social cohesion between refugees and the Pakistani communities that host them. In 2018, 20 projects were implemented under RAHA across four provinces of Pakistan in the sectors of health, education, livelihoods, water and community infrastructure.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its commitment to maintaining inclusive policies towards refugees by providing them with access to health care, education and livelihood opportunities, in line with the main objectives of the SSAR for 2018-2019. Health insurance policies have been made available to refugees since 2015, and in 2018 alone the scheme provided assistance to 92,000 vulnerable refugees, including for pre-existing medical cases. UNHCR and the Government provided funding for the construction of schools, benefiting both refugees and host communities. Close to 500,000 refugees and undocumented Afghans have had access to education as a result of these efforts. Children enjoyed unhindered access to Iranian public schools, notwithstanding infrastructure challenges that need to be addressed. UNHCR supported BAFIA's efforts in shelter renovation and maintenance in extremely poor areas, in addition to implementing projects related to potable water, sanitation facilities, waste disposal systems and energy. Rehabilitation of infrastructure in communities hosting Afghan refugees remains one of the important aspects requiring attention for the improved well-being of refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2018 Voluntary Contributions to South-West Asia | USD

| Earmarking / Donor | Pillar 1 Refugee programme | Pillar 3 Reintegration projects | Pillar 4 IDP projects | All pillars | Total |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| South-West Asia overall | | | | | |
| Japan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 941,708 | 941,708 |
| United States of America | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61,600,000 | 61,600,000 |
| South-West Asia overall subtotal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62,541,708 | 62,541,708 |
| Afghanistan | | | | | |
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,512,859 | 1,512,859 |
| Canada | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,099,764 | 1,099,764 |
| Common Humanitarian Fund Sudan | 0 | 0 | 8,758,844 | 0 | 8,758,844 |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,503,185 | 3,503,185 |
| European Union | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,636,322 | 3,636,322 |
| France | 0 | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 200,000 |
| Germany | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,744,386 | 4,744,386 |
| Italy | 1,860,870 | 623,602 | 0 | 0 | 2,484,472 |
| Japan | 614,800 | 321,000 | 64,200 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| Luxembourg | 0 | 0 | 0 | 523,013 | 523,013 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,958,474 | 5,958,474 |
| Private donors in Austria | 0 | 177 | 0 | 0 | 177 |
| Private donors in Japan | 0 | 0 | 148,125 | 0 | 148,125 |
| Republic of Korea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Switzerland | 0 | 508,130 | 0 | 0 | 508,130 |
| United States of America | 0 | 26,750 | 0 | 0 | 26,750 |
| Afghanistan subtotal | 2,475,670 | 1,679,659 | 8,971,169 | 23,978,003 | 37,104,501 |
| Islamic Republic of Iran | | | | | |
| Australia | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| Denmark | 2,229,299 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,229,299 |
| European Union | 4,260,130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,260,130 |
| Germany | 2,171,553 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,171,553 |
| Japan | 1,300,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,300,000 |
| Luxembourg | 261,506 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 261,506 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 510,921 | 510,921 |
| Private donors in Japan | 594,614 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 594,614 |
| Private donors in Qatar | 1,103,823 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,103,823 |
| Republic of Korea | 2,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000,000 |
| Russian Federation | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |

| Earmarking / Donor | Pillar 1 Refugee programme | Pillar 3 Reintegration projects | Pillar 4 IDP projects | All pillars | Total |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| UNAIDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50,650 | 50,650 |
| <i>Islamic Republic of Iran subtotal</i> | 15,020,925 | 0 | 0 | 561,571 | 15,582,496 |
| Pakistan | | | | | |
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,512,859 | 1,512,859 |
| Canada | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,571,092 | 1,571,092 |
| Denmark | 2,079,299 | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 2,279,299 |
| European Union | 1,111,111 | 0 | 0 | 1,324,066 | 2,435,177 |
| Germany | 743,014 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 743,014 |
| Italy | 552,373 | 750,944 | 0 | 0 | 1,303,317 |
| Japan | 845,234 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 845,234 |
| Luxembourg | 0 | 0 | 0 | 261,506 | 261,506 |
| Norway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,021,842 | 1,021,842 |
| Private donors in Italy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 28 |
| Private donors in Japan | 604,049 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 604,049 |
| Private donors in Qatar | 1,302,907 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,302,907 |
| Private donors in the Republic of Korea | 5,654 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,654 |
| Private donors in the United States of America | 298,200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 298,200 |
| Switzerland | 508,130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 508,130 |
| United States of America | 53,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53,500 |
| <i>Pakistan subtotal</i> | 8,103,471 | 950,944 | 0 | 5,691,394 | 14,745,809 |
| Total | 25,600,066 | 2,630,603 | 8,971,169 | 92,772,676 | 129,974,514 |

Note: