



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

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PLANNED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE JULY-DECEMBER 2021

515,000

NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN A POSSIBLE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO

US\$ 299.2 M

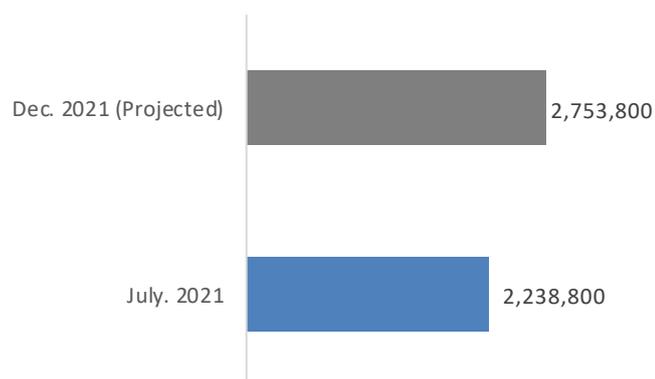
REQUIREMENTS

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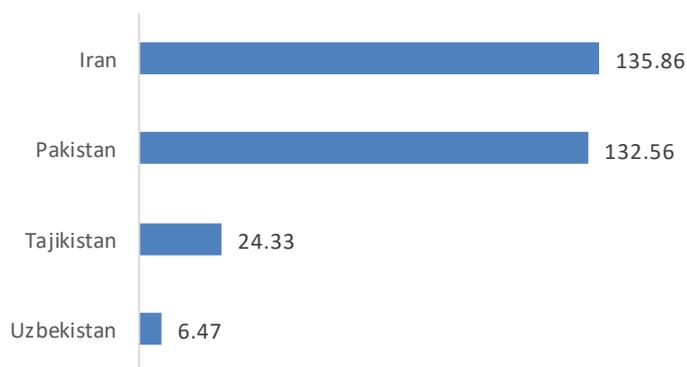
PARTNERS INVOLVED



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.

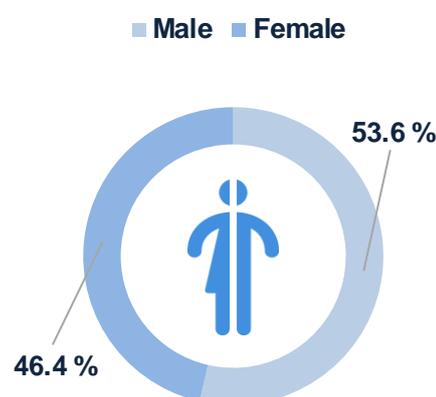
⁴ Hereafter "Iran" and "Pakistan"

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

Refugees will be actively engaged in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of all response activities by soliciting, hearing, and acting upon the voices and priorities of women, girls, boys and men, including the most marginalized, persons with disabilities and other persons at heightened protection risk among affected communities. All sectors of the community have the right to participate in and play an active role in decisions that will impact their lives, well-being, dignity and protection. Partners will be responsive to input from communities and adapt approaches as needed. Assistance will be standardized, and refugees will receive clear and tailored information about the content of provided and available assistance and other priority information needs. Communities will also be informed about their rights, including the right to participate in decisions, expected behaviour of staff and how to report concerns. The preferences and ease of access to communication channels from different age, gender and diversity groups will be used to inform the selection of communication channels and strategies for communication with communities. Where possible, community-based or community-led approaches will be used to improve the reach and effectiveness of communication initiatives.

Partners will establish and support the implementation of accessible, confidential and culturally appropriate communication mechanisms for refugees of all ages, genders and diversities to provide feedback on services, the response in general, and report complaints including sensitive ones such as on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) or fraud. Mechanisms must have accompanying standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure feedback is appropriately referred, action is taken, and the feedback loop is closed. Feedback data will also be systematically analyzed and used in decision-making. Partners will consult with and integrate host communities in their humanitarian response planning and implementation to avoid social tension and address existing vulnerabilities.

Host communities

In refugee-hosting areas, including any new site, refugees and local populations are likely to face increasing challenges, especially during emergencies, and are equally in need of humanitarian assistance and support for access to quality services. In practice, some of the host community members are benefiting from services offered by partners where refugees are being hosted. In cooperation with local authorities, primary health care services are provided to refugees and surrounding host communities, in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, partners will continue their efforts to strengthen local social/public services for both refugees and impacted members of their host communities, including support to address the needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as supporting the national vaccination programmes and improving access to adequate sanitation services. Among the most vulnerable of the host and refugee populations, women and girls will continue to be targeted for assistance and support to prevent gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, given that experience has shown that there is a heightened risk of gender-based violence during humanitarian emergencies.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

PSEA is an integral part of the Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is a breach of accountability to affected population (AAP) and all actors involved in the plan are to uphold the zero-tolerance policy on SEA. Measures to prevent, mitigate the risks of, and respond to SEA will be prioritized and integrated in all sector programmes. In view of the ongoing displacement inside Afghanistan and the potential large-scale movement across borders, it is paramount to strengthen the inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms and systems in affected countries, including setting up confidential and safe reporting mechanisms and ensuring functioning referral pathways and access to critical and specialized services. Capacity-building of humanitarian actors, host community and affected populations will also be prioritized. Throughout the process, consultation with communities, as well as support for initiatives such as capacity-building and training of local authorities, and awareness raising activities, will be ensured to reflect the views of affected populations in programming, and strategies and actions addressing SEA will be guided by a victim-centred approach to strengthen protection and support victims.

Modality of assistance provision

Especially at the border points, the modality for initial support to households will be in-kind, as refugees often arrive with few belongings and need immediate material help including shelter, food, and core relief items. The capacity of local markets at the borders is often surpassed by the needs of refugees in terms of essential household and food items. However, as this may change over time or be different in specific settings, cash assistance will be systematically considered, based on coordinated feasibility studies. Whether cash or in-kind, one modality can replace the other to reach the most effective and protection-sensitive response.

Cash assistance has been successfully implemented in refugee responses in this region and in particular during emergency situations. As the modality of choice of persons of concern, cash assistance will be used whenever possible to meet basic needs, protection, education, shelter, health, livelihoods and protection against winter conditions. Post-distribution monitoring, together with feedback and complaints mechanisms which are developed in consultation with refugees, and especially women and girls, to also reduce risk of SEA/GBV incidents, will be expanded to inform the design of the cash assistance. In line with the UN Common Cash Statement, implementing common cash arrangements accessible to all humanitarian partners and stakeholders will be explored to improve reach, cost efficiency and avoid duplication.

Coordination

In support of the national humanitarian response mechanisms and in line with the Refugee Coordination Model in the host countries and the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR and Partners will support the concerned Governments to lead in humanitarian preparedness and to respond to the Afghan refugee emergency.

Building on existing country-level inter-agency coordination structures, the multisectoral response in the event of mass influx includes UN agencies and national and international NGOs in their respective areas of expertise. This includes sector working groups in the areas of protection (including child protection and gender-based violence), education, health, food security, WASH, shelter, core relief items, cash and camp management, as required.

Close collaboration and consultation will be maintained with relevant Government counterparts and line ministries in the countries of asylum to support and ensure complementarity with the national response. At the regional level, Partners will work together to update on developments and to undertake joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts.

Coordination related to the modality of assistance, and to cash assistance in particular, is necessary not only to respond but also to get prepared. Thus, this will be ensured both at country and regional level, through the existing cash working group or an ad-hoc mechanism. It will look at both coordination and collaboration, e.g. common cash transfer mechanisms, the calculation of transfer value, joint studies and analysis.

Any major influx would require the international community to provide immediate and sustained support to neighbouring countries, in a spirit of responsibility- and burden-sharing and in keeping with the Global Compact on Refugees. Specific information-sharing and updates will also be provided through the existing Afghanistan Regional Support Platform.

File/archive photo. Pakistan. Afghan refugee children in their settlement. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad



Regional financial requirements

By agency

Organization	Acronym	Total Requirements (in USD) for 2021
Médecins Sans Frontières	MSF	144,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	36,224,876
Relief International	RI	5,900,292
UN - International Organization for Migration	IOM	410,180
UN - United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	65,497,257
UN - United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	5,810,000
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO	302,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	130,896,656
UN - United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	4,570,600
UN - World Food Programme	WFP	29,842,681
UN - World Health Organization	WHO	19,611,740
TOTAL		\$ 299,210,282

By sector

Sector	Total Requirements (in USD) for 2021
Education	22,826,988
Energy & Environment	13,960,000
Food Security	28,324,313
Health & Nutrition	52,610,445
Livelihoods & Resilience	1,720,000
Logistics & Telecoms	8,396,788
Protection	20,905,143
Shelter & NFIs	92,878,165
WASH	57,588,440
TOTAL	\$ 299,210,282

By country

Country of Asylum	Total Requirements (in USD) for 2021
Iran	135,856,299
Pakistan	132,560,000
Tajikistan	24,326,327
Uzbekistan	6,467,656
TOTAL	\$ 299,210,282

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PLANNED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE JULY-DECEMBER 2021

150,000

NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN A POSSIBLE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO

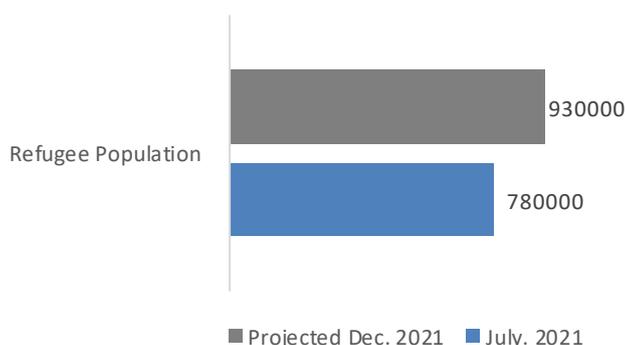
US\$ 135.9 M

REQUIREMENTS

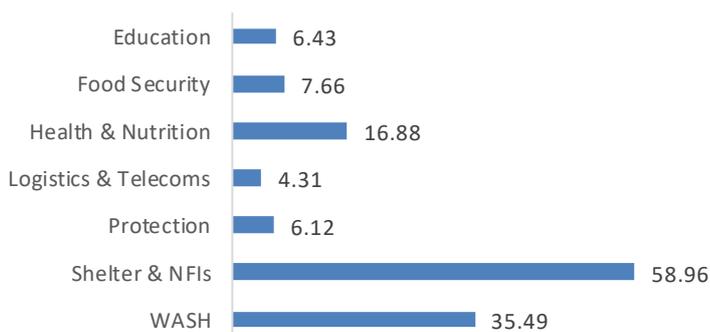
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PARTNERS INVOLVED

Refugee Population Trends



Requirements by Sector | In millions \$



Situation overview

The Islamic Republic of Iran hosts almost 4 million Afghans, including 780,000 Afghan refugees (Amayesh card holders), almost 600,000 Afghans who hold Afghan passports with Iranian visas, and some 2.1 million undocumented Afghans. Despite the generous support of the Government in providing asylum to Afghan refugees for more than four decades, the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related socioeconomic downturn has put pressure on the capacity of the Government to maintain inclusive policies towards Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers.

The deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan over the course of 2021 has contributed to an increase in reported irregular cross-border movements of Afghans seeking protection and asylum in Iran. Throughout the year, UNHCR has seen an increased number of Afghans approaching its reception centres – mainly in Tehran, but also in smaller numbers in other provinces – and reaching out through hotlines and the Protection mailbox, requesting urgent assistance and seeking assurances of protection, including guidance on accessing the asylum system. An increase such as that observed in undocumented movements may suggest that more people would enter Iran due to protection and security concerns, i.e. in addition to regular pendular movements of undocumented persons for livelihoods and other reasons. Reports of increased numbers of women, children and families among those crossing into Iran also supports this assumption. However, there are currently concerns that persons fleeing Afghanistan in search of safety have been unable to enter Iran. UNHCR continues to advocate for the Government to keep open the borders to those seeking safety and to facilitate their access to urgent humanitarian assistance.

In mid 2021, the Government confirmed that it will grant access to its territory to Afghans seeking safety. Currently, UNHCR and Partners continue to liaise with the Government to understand the impact of recent developments on planning assumptions. Central to the Government's contingency plan is the establishment of new refugee sites in the three main border provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and

Khorasan Razavi. From June to August, UNHCR and Partners accompanied the Bureau of Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) on three missions to these provinces to assess proposed sites.

UNHCR continues to advocate for a hybrid approach to refugee settlements, including the most cost-effective shelter options and, ideally, that camps should be adopted only as a last resort. The Government's preferred strategy is to accommodate new arrivals in camps through the establishment of new sites in border areas. The RRP does consider alternatives as part of contingencies should the arrivals occur suddenly and exceed available capacity. There is a likelihood that many Afghans may arrive through informal routes, potentially reaching urban centres. These urban-based populations will also have urgent humanitarian needs and will require support. In addition to scaling up emergency preparedness capacities, the RRP will also be used to augment existing regular programmes targeting refugees and host communities. This will enable the continuation of inclusive policies supporting the existing refugee population and the ongoing delivery of social services and public infrastructure, including in the areas of health care and education.

While RRP Partners face several challenges which affect emergency preparedness, efforts are ongoing with the Government to address several issues, including: access in border areas in Sistan and Baluchestan to support the rapid delivery of humanitarian activities for new refugee arrivals; coordination and information-sharing to ensuring accurate data on population movements, including sharing/tracking of data on new refugee arrivals; the limited number of international and national partners with specialist (sector-level) capacity in Iran and who are permitted to support refugee response; and advance prepositioning of core relief items (CRIs) due to importation challenges related to international sanctions, which result in gaps in some critical humanitarian supplies, including medical items.

Beneficiary population

	Current population as of 31 December 2020	Potential worst-case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Afghan refugees	780,000*	150,000	930,000
Total	780,000	150,000	930,000

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

Needs analysis

Consistent with historical cross-border displacement trends, most Afghan arrivals are likely to be of Hazara or Tajik ethnicity, predominantly from border provinces (Herat, Farah and Nimruz). UNHCR conducted 131 family interviews (representing 498 individuals) of new arrivals in August: 47 per cent were Hazara, 34 per cent Tajik, 6 per cent Pashtun and 11 per cent other ethnic groups. Moreover, 78 per cent of households were male-headed and 22 per cent were female-headed, however only 44 per cent of household members were male (56 per cent female). Thirty-nine per cent were children. In terms of documentation, about 70 per cent of interviewed households had some sort of documentation (while 30 per cent had none), with *tazkera* being the main identity document. Fifty-eight per cent reported having fled Afghanistan due to the general security situation, while 36 per cent fled due to specific security threats. A handful reported fleeing due to loss of property/land. While this data is not a representative sample of all Afghans arriving in Iran, it provides insight into the profiles of new arrivals who have approached UNHCR.

In case opportunities to claim asylum in Iran through formal channels are restricted, i.e., due to border closures, non-issuance of Iranian visas to Afghans, Afghans seeking safety may resort to smugglers and/or be pushed towards trafficking networks to enter Iran. These groups are likely to be particularly vulnerable to exploitation, including violence and robbery.

According to the sex-age disaggregation, there are specific needs and vulnerabilities which must be prioritized as part of ongoing emergency preparedness for new arrivals. Those whose needs should be identified on a priority basis include children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, people

with disabilities and single men who may be forced to return. Issues which will be monitored include the access to education, health and nutrition, family reunification, case management, specific issues facing women and girls (prevention, risk mitigation of and response to gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health).

In addition to the specific needs of new arrivals, the RRP also considers the ongoing needs of existing refugees in Iran. The protracted socioeconomic downturn in Iran, exacerbated by economic sanctions and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, have seen families struggle to make ends meet. Maintaining and, where possible, scaling up regular programmes supporting refugees and others of concern is therefore essential; ensuring that support to existing vulnerable populations can be continued in case of a new emergency, while at the same time demonstrating the commitment of the international community to tangible burden-sharing vis-à-vis the Government of Iran.

Response strategy and priorities

OVERALL STRATEGY

In collaboration with the Government, preparedness priorities by all Partners include prepositioning of assistance and the development of required infrastructure to support new arrivals. The Government has requested support for the establishment of sites in border areas to host new arrivals and initial support and planning has already taken place through an inter-agency mechanism. Other assistance to new arrivals may include cash-based and in-kind relief where possible. The scope of support is consistent with a hybrid approach which also considers alternatives to camps and is modular/scalable, expanding depending on the needs.



File/archive photo. Iran. Afghan refugee girl goes to school for the first time. © UNHCR/Mohammad Hossein

In line with these principles, Partners envisage supporting the development of up to five sites, with a combined capacity of 40,000 individuals, based on a maximum estimate of what could be implemented by the end of the year, and consistent with a hybrid approach. In a potential worst-case scenario of 150,000 arriving in Iran within the duration of this plan, there may be little option but to consider alternatives to new sites, subject to further discussions with the Government. This RRP will also seek to strengthen social services/ public infrastructure in areas hosting new arrivals to support enhanced services provision to existing refugees in these areas, host communities and new arrivals themselves.

Partners have prioritized the prepositioning of assistance for 150,000 people, including “ready to eat rations” (RTERs), shelter items and core relief items (CRIs), COVID-19 kits, dignity kits, food rations and hygiene kits. Contingencies are also being made to procure additional stock at short notice, utilizing regional stockpiles as necessary, to enable a swift response as required.

Strategic priorities:

- Supporting the Government in ensuring that Afghans seeking asylum/protection in Iran have access to the asylum system, upholding the principle of non-refoulement and setting up registration sites.
- Establishing scalable plans to support up to 150,000 arrivals, based on a hybrid approach which considers alternatives to encampment.
- Developing transit/reception sites in border areas to facilitate access to basic assistance, enhance protection/population-monitoring and support efforts to process the status of arrivals.

- Ensure that requirements for persons with specific needs are carefully considered in ongoing preparedness efforts, and that referral and case management systems and services are implemented to support the identification of particularly vulnerable new arrivals to meet their needs.
- Bolster assistance to regular programmes supporting refugees as part of efforts to promote more tangible burden-sharing and reinforce national capacities to respond to new arrivals on top of existing populations. Providing life-saving assistance with a view to supporting and complementing any response carried out by the Government of Iran, including the provision of food, shelter, health/nutrition, water and sanitation, education, protection services, including assistance to persons with specific needs, child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, and the provision of mental health and psychosocial support.

Planned response priorities

Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preposition ready-to-eat rations and longer-term food supplies in response locations - Implement food voucher or cash-based response in urban areas
Health & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support existing host community health facilities, establish temporary primary health facilities near camps and in transit sites - Provide critical medical supplies (including for emergency health and reproductive health) to strengthen the public health and COVID-19 response - Establish secondary referral system to support critical cases and provide health insurance coverage for longer-term stays - Ensure community management of acute malnutrition through prepositioning of therapeutic formulas and ensuring nutrition education and response for infants and young children
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish multisectoral referral pathways, case management services, and capacity-building of key partners on child protection and gender-based violence in emergencies and clinical management of rape (CMR) - Prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be strengthened in all locations - Prioritize advocacy on access to territory and asylum system/documentation for new arrivals - Ensure adequate reception conditions in transit sites including information sharing to new arrivals and community-based protection interventions - Establish fully equipped child-friendly spaces and early childhood care and development (ECCD) spaces (including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services), with community engagement - Establish an identification documentation tracing and reunification (IDTR) process for separated and unaccompanied children - Preposition of dignity kits for women and girls of reproductive age including pregnant women - Establish women-friendly safe spaces (including MHPSS services) in camps and mobile psychosocial support outreach in non-camp settings
Shelter & NFIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preposition CRI/non-food item (NFI) kits and tents to ensure sufficient stocks to respond to an influx of 150,000 people, including advance prepositioning - Develop up to 5 sites (for 40,000 individuals) and several transit/reception sites - Identify energy options for 40,000 individuals and provide winterization support as part of renewable energy solutions
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out hydrological surveys and water utilization feasibility studies to ensure sustainable and responsible water supply - Establish age, gender, and diversity (AGD)-sensitive WASH infrastructure (latrines, bathing areas, laundry facilities, water infrastructure, etc) based on site plans and Sphere standards - Preposition hygiene kits and COVID-19 kits for 40,000 households - Implement hygiene promotion/ awareness, water trucking and solid waste management focusing on site-based populations
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish temporary learning spaces in site with required supplies, and support running costs as required - Construct, rehabilitate and expand existing educational infrastructure in refugee-hosting areas to accommodate new arrivals - Provide age appropriate, inclusive, and safe education services to children in both camps and host areas through trained staff/volunteers, implement back to school campaigns

Logistics & Telecoms

- Ensure adequate warehousing facilities near the three eastern border provinces and transportation for unimpeded supply of food and non-food items to 5 sites/transit/reception centres.

Partnership and coordination

Overall leadership for ongoing preparedness for any new refugee arrivals is with the Government of Iran, through BAFIA, in collaboration with Partners. Under its own overall leadership, the Government has expressed support for UNHCR to facilitate coordination among UN agencies and international NGOs.

In the spirit of partnership and in line with UNHCR's global mandate, as of July 2021, the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) has been activated and strengthened in Iran, tailored to the specific context. The Refugee Emergency Coordination Group (RECG) is the main platform for strategic-level inter-agency coordination. This forum is chaired by UNHCR and includes UN agencies and international NGOs supporting this plan. The RECG is responsible for overall strategic planning, government liaison, policy (including collective positioning in relation to minimum operating standards and principles of engagement) and resource mobilization.

At an operational-level, seven sector working groups have been activated/strengthened to coordinate preparedness and response activities, ensuring overall complementarity: Food Security (lead WFP/co-lead UNHCR), WASH (lead UNICEF/co-lead NRC), Health and Nutrition (lead WHO/co-lead UNHCR; UNICEF for Nutrition), Protection (lead UNHCR/co-leads: UNICEF - Child Protection; UNFPA - GBV), Shelter and NFI (including Camp Management; lead UNHCR/co-lead NRC), Logistics and Supply (lead WFP/co-lead UNHCR), and Education (lead UNICEF/co-lead NRC). In line with the Preparedness Action Plan (included under the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan), steps have been taken through the sector working groups to agree on common standards, clarify collective positions/ priorities and divide roles/responsibilities.

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



Sector financial requirements summary

By organization & sector

Partners	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Protection	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	Education	Logistics & Telecoms	Total
MSF		144,000						144,000
NRC	755,000		600,000	19,000,000	14,228,720	1,641,156		36,224,876
RI	645,732	514,205	204,060	2,547,000	1,675,000	314,295		5,900,292
UNDP				4,910,000				4,910,000
UNESCO						302,000		302,000
UNFPA		2,000,000	1,050,000					3,050,000
UNHCR	750,000	9,500,000	3,800,000	32,500,000	7,875,000	2,200,500	2,250,000	58,875,500
UNICEF		725,000	470,000		11,706,720	1,975,037		14,876,757
WFP	5,508,874						2,064,000	7,572,874
WHO		4,000,000						4,000,000
Total	7,659,606	16,883,205	6,124,060	58,957,000	35,485,440	6,432,988	4,314,000	135,856,299

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

PLANNED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE JULY-DECEMBER 2021

300,000

NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN A POSSIBLE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO

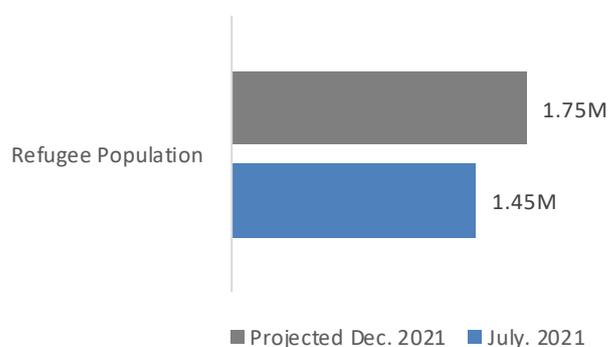
US\$ 132.6 M

REQUIREMENTS

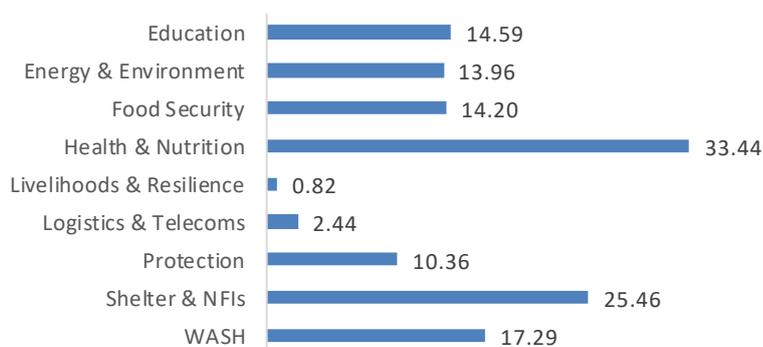
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PARTNERS INVOLVED

Refugee population trends



Requirements by sector | US\$ millions



Situation overview

Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghans for over 40 years. With hundreds of thousands newly internally displaced in Afghanistan, Pakistan may be confronted by the possibility of a new refugee influx. Over the years, Pakistan has built a fence along some 90 per cent of its 2,252 km land border with Afghanistan and implemented a series of border security management measures, including by making a valid passport and visa a requirement for Afghans wishing to cross into Pakistan.

Despite having hosted refugees for over four decades, Pakistan is not signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. Also, the country does not have national legislation that specifically refers to the right to seek asylum or the principle of non-refoulement. Nevertheless, Pakistan has a decades-long history of providing asylum and protection to Afghan refugees.

A potential worst-case scenario could see a new influx of up to 300,000 Afghan refugees into Pakistan. Specifically, the purpose of preparedness is to enable UNHCR and Partners to achieve several fundamental objectives should such an influx occur, particularly with the aim of ensuring the safe entry into Pakistan of any Afghan in need of international protection, and unhindered humanitarian access. Moreover, continued respect of the principle of non-refoulement and maintaining the civilian character of asylum are crucial, including to help create conditions conducive to the provision of life-saving assistance.

UNHCR has led preparations with Partners to respond in the case of a refugee emergency. Advocacy continues with the Government to jointly coordinate a comprehensive preparedness and response vis-à-vis a potential influx. Inter-agency coordination would help align humanitarian interventions with a view to supporting and complementing the response of the Government.

In the case of new refugee displacement, funds must not be diverted from the needs of the existing refugee population and existing programmes for refugees which are critically underfunded. These elements of existing programmes, particularly livelihood skills training, health interventions such as capacity-building, support to persons with specific needs, enhancement of community structures, primary education, documentation, and the provision of energy-efficient appliances, have been encompassed in the preparedness and response plan in Pakistan.

Beneficiary population

	Current population as of 31 December 2020	Potential worst-case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Afghan refugees	1,448,100*	300,000	1,748,100
Total	1,448,100	300,000	1,748,100

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

Needs analysis

In Pakistan, the decades-long presence of refugees has inevitably overstretched available resources, and the potential arrival of more Afghan refugees would have a significant impact. The provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that host the vast majority (81 per cent) of the existing Afghan refugee population have the highest multi-dimensional poverty levels.⁸ Of the 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees currently in Pakistan, some 44 per cent are children and 26 per cent are women, while 15 per cent of the overall total are persons with disabilities.

Should a refugee emergency occur, a rapid assessment process would be triggered and carried out within five days. The initial needs assessment would be conducted through secondary data review and primary data collection. In the event of a refugee influx, a site assessment would be undertaken in cooperation with the Government. UNHCR continues to extend support to the federal and provincial Governments for a joint site assessment and has assisted with site assessment based on international standards.

Response strategy and priorities

OVERALL STRATEGY

A potential worst-case scenario of an additional 300,000 Afghan refugees arriving in Pakistan would require a rapid, coordinated response. Current advocacy is focused on access to the territory and the right to seek asylum. Should Afghan refugees be admitted in Pakistan, the focus of advocacy would shift to non-refoulement, ensuring the civilian character of asylum, individual registration and documentation, inclusion in national systems, and non-encampment. UNHCR and its partners would seek immediate access to the newly arrived Afghans.

A major refugee influx has not occurred in the last 20 years. The scope of Pakistan's 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is mostly limited to responding to natural disasters and the impacts of COVID-19. While the HRP does include a chapter on assistance to refugees currently in Pakistan, it does not make provisions for a potential new refugee emergency, and at present it is critically underfunded.

File/archive photo. Pakistan. Afghan refugee boy playing pretend with his toy camera. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad



⁸ In Balochistan, the multidimensional poverty index is 0.394 (2014/15), and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the multidimensional poverty index is 0.25 (2014/15). In Pakistan, the national multidimensional poverty index is 0.197 (2014/15).

As such, to ensure a coordinated humanitarian response in the event of a new influx of refugees, several preparedness activities are being carried out, including the prepositioning of contingency stocks for items such as emergency shelter, including family tents and other core relief items.

Strategic objectives:

- Ensuring safe entry into Pakistan of Afghans in need of international protection; promoting the respect of non-refoulement, ensuring access to protection and legal status; and maintaining the civilian character of asylum.
- Safeguarding physical safety and security of those in need of international protection.
- Ensuring registration and documentation by the relevant government authority.
- Prevention, mitigation of, and response to, gender-based violence (GBV), and to other forms of violence and exploitation of girls, boys, women, and men.
- Safe and timely identification, referral and provision of services and targeted assistance to persons with specific needs, including women at risk, older persons, persons with serious medical condition, persons with disabilities, and child survivors of or at risk of violence, including unaccompanied and separated children.
- Providing life-saving assistance with a view to supporting and complementing any response carried out by the Government of Pakistan, including the provision of food, shelter, health/nutrition, water and sanitation, education, protection services, including assistance to persons with specific needs, child protection, GBV, and mental health and psychosocial support.

As a first step, assistance would be provided in reception centres. Under the leadership of the Government, locations for reception centres would be identified, and set up near border crossing points where new arrivals would be processed through basic registration procedures. Upon the initial security screening conducted by the authorities, the following would be carried out: initial medical screening; group pre-registration; identification and referrals of persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied and separated children and people with disabilities; and COVID-19 screening. As needed, transportation support would be provided to Government designated settlements in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

In the settlements, the response strategy would be needs-based and tailored to the specific situation. Protection monitoring would help ensure the identification and referrals of persons with specific needs for specialized assistance and case management. All Partners would implement strategies for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), for the prevention, risk mitigation of and response to gender-based violence, and for child protection. In this regard, several training sessions have already been conducted with



humanitarian partners. Family tracing would also be initiated, and psychosocial support would be provided including for women and children through the creation of safe spaces and mobile services. Community-based protection initiatives with a focus on the mapping community assets and capacities to mitigate protection risks would be prioritised. Safe and accessible feedback and/or complaint mechanisms would be put in place. Information on feedback mechanisms and available services would be widely disseminated among communities.

File/archive photo. Pakistan. Afghan refugee woman and community medical worker. © UNHCR/Humera Karim

With the agreement of the Government, a greater number of Partners would be engaged in the design and implementation of the emergency response. If the situation unfolds according to a worst-case scenario, more engagement is expected with a wider range of Partners, including international and national NGO consortia. Needs assessments and analysis would help ensure that a comprehensive, coordinated emergency response matches the speed and scale of refugee arrivals.

Planned response priorities

Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribute ready-to-use and dry food rations - Daily hot meals in reception centres and settlements - Set up of communal kitchens
Health & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for the inclusion into existing health facilities - Establish and equip medical screening site at the transit/border entry point - COVID-19 screening, testing quarantine, isolation, and preventive measures - Support inter-agency rapid assessments in sectors with nutritional needs - Establish new temporary health facilities, and strengthen vaccination services - Establish communicable disease surveillance system and establish medical referral systems and distribute emergency and reproductive health kits and supplies - Establish continuity of care for non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, as well as a mental health and psychosocial support programme - Establish community health system and risk communication with communities. - Provide clinical care for victims of rape fulfilling confidentiality and safety principles, and referral to other supportive services for survivor-centred care - Put in place community-based management of acute malnutrition programmes - Support community sensitization on infant and young children feeding in emergencies and monitor care for pregnant and lactating women - Distribute blanket supplementary food for children under five and pregnant and lactating women for one-to-two months, as needed
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct border and protection monitoring, and disseminate information on availability of protection services and protection risks - Identify, refer to and provide protection services, including child protection and GBV services, and distribute dignity kits - Establish community-based structures, and establish toll free information hotline - Establish community-based safe spaces for women and children - Procure and set up of solar systems for camp lighting (with a protection focus) - Seek Cabinet approval of policy on new arrivals; conduct individual registration and documentation of new arrivals, including a mass information campaign. - Sign data sharing agreement with Government - At reception centres: hire registration caseworkers, and provide registration desks; establish information desks and a referral system; deploy case workers to assist persons with specific needs; and provide alternative care and family tracing and reunification services for unaccompanied and separated children - From reception centres: hire buses with security escorts - Prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be strengthened in all locations.
Shelter & NFIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribute core relief items⁹ and family tents and procure prefabricated buildings - Establish reception and communal areas, and carry out site planning - Equip and cover cost of personnel for camp coordination and camp management
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide safe drinking water, carry out water quality monitoring and surveillance - Provide sanitation and bathing facilities (with a protection focus) - Distribute WASH core relief items - Establish WASH facilities in schools, health facilities and reception centres - Establish solid waste management system, and implement vector control activities

⁹ 1 x tent, 2 x plastic sheet, 6 x blankets, 2 x buckets, 2 x jerrycans, 1 x kitchen set, 4 x sleeping mats, 1 x cooking stoves, 3 x mosquito nets, 1 kg multi-purpose soap and 1 m sanitary cloth.

Livelihoods	- Provide skills training including activities aiming to enhance food security
Education	- Advocate for inclusion into existing public schools - Set up school tents for temporary learning centres - Recruit teachers (and ongoing support) - Establish solar systems for temporary learning spaces
Energy & Environment	- Provide solar cookers and lanterns
Logistics & Telecoms	- Ship, store and distribute core relief items (CRIs) - Rent warehouses/transportation services

Partnership and Coordination

The possible arrival of Afghan refugees has generated the need for strengthening coordination mechanisms with Government counterparts and within the humanitarian community. To ensure effective monitoring and efficiency of the overall response, coordination mechanisms at the local and national levels need to be adapted and/or established to include the refugee response. In many cases, this entails building on already existing capacities and structures, established between humanitarian actors and governmental counterparts.

In Pakistan, it is foreseen that a Refugee Emergency Task Force will be established at the federal and provincial levels, with UNHCR co-leading, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), with relevant government departments and/or ministries and Partners. The Refugee Emergency Task Force will utilize the existing inter-agency sector coordination mechanism at the country and provincial levels.

In the context of a coordinated humanitarian response, Partners would focus their efforts on areas where they have the greatest operational impact based on their respective expertise and experience. As the situation unfolds, a greater number of Partners are likely to be engaged and more information will be collected to assess needs and determine who is best positioned to provide a particular type of support at relevant locations.

Sector financial requirements summary

By organization & sector

Partner	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Protection	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	Livelihoods & Resilience	Education	Energy & Environment	Logistics & Telecoms	Total
UNFPA		670,000	420,000							1,090,000
UNHCR		2,540,000	9,090,000	25,460,000	2,560,000	820,000	4,770,000	13,960,000	1,440,000	60,640,000
UNICEF		14,630,000	850,000		14,730,000		9,820,000			40,030,000
WFP	14,200,000	1,000,000							1,000,000	16,200,000
WHO		14,600,000								14,600,000
Total	14,200,000	33,440,000	10,360,000	25,460,000	17,290,000	820,000	14,590,000	13,960,000	2,440,000	132,560,000

CENTRAL ASIA

PLANNED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

JULY-DECEMBER 2021

65,000

NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES
IN A POSSIBLE WORST-CASE
SCENARIO

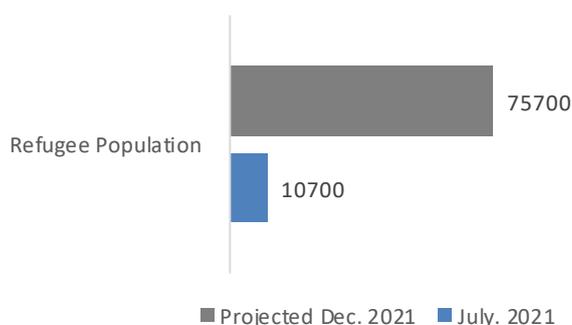
US\$ 30.8 M

REQUIREMENTS
(TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN)

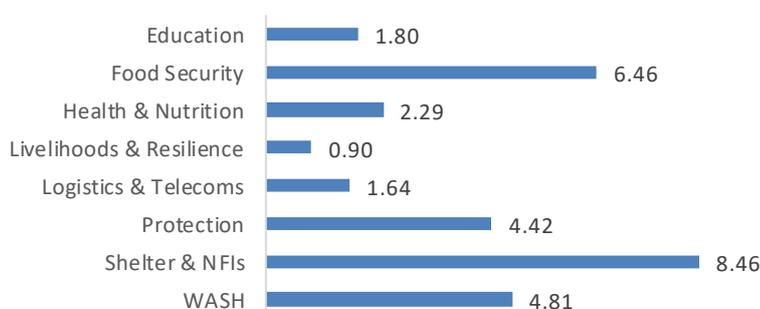
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PARTNERS INVOLVED

Refugee population trends (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)



Requirements by sector |US\$ millions (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan)



Situation Overview

Tajikistan

At the end of 2020, Tajikistan hosted some 6,000 Afghan refugees, with close to 5,000 more arriving since the start of 2021 mainly by air, with a limited number of individuals arriving through the land border crossings. Tajikistan shares a 1,357 km border with Afghanistan with eight border crossing points in the provinces of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan. Given the fluid situation in Afghanistan, continued new arrivals to the territory are expected. As a result, the Tajik authorities and UNHCR estimate that, in a potential worst-case scenario, as many as 50,000 persons may seek refuge in Tajikistan by the end of the year.

Interagency discussions are ongoing with the concerned Government authorities to identify and prepare suitable refugee sites which are expected to be near host communities where many of the basic services are available. While the Government may decide to host any new and sudden influx in refugee camps, the interagency response will continue to support host communities and their public services to ensure peaceful coexistence, and advocate that the refugees be hosted outside of camps. The COVID-19 pandemic has already triggered unprecedented health, humanitarian and socioeconomic crises in Tajikistan, and a large-scale refugee influx may further stretch the already overwhelmed government capacities and exacerbate vulnerabilities.

The country is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. However, some changes are needed in its national asylum system in respect of the management of asylum referrals at the border for greater adherence to international standards. Protection space specifically related to access to territory continues to be rather tight due to disparities between Refugee Law and Criminal Code.

Uzbekistan

The situation is volatile in the northern region of Afghanistan, which shares a 144 km border with Uzbekistan. Likely entry points for refugees would be through the town of Hairatan in the northern Balkh province of

Afghanistan to Termez in the Surxondaryo Region of Uzbekistan, along the riverine border. In a potential worst-case scenario, up to 10,000 Afghans could cross into Uzbekistan to seek international protection. A higher number of elderly persons, children, and women-headed households are likely, particularly in the initial stages. Uzbekistan is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and does not have a national asylum system. The only avenue to seek asylum in the country is according to the 2017 Presidential Decree on the Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for Granting Political Asylum in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The situation in Uzbekistan's border areas with Afghanistan are already economically challenging, with certain poverty levels, while environmental and population stressors drive labour migration. Land degradation, water scarcity, and frequent natural disasters exacerbated by climate change suppress livelihoods, fuel migration, and emphasize vulnerabilities in local communities along all sides of the northern border. A lack of economic opportunities across the subregion keeps large numbers of people in subsistence-level agricultural employment, driving labour migration, weakening social cohesion and the social contract, and holding back opportunities for women and rising numbers of youth. Economic opportunities are further constrained by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has contributed to an increase in interpersonal and gender-based violence. Therefore, it will be important to align support provided to refugees with support for communities, addressing critical needs through holistic programmes.

Turkmenistan

A potential worst-case scenario envisages 5,000 Afghan refugee arrivals in Turkmenistan. Inter-agency partners are in discussions with authorities to ensure preparedness and to understand what support may be needed.

Beneficiary population

Tajikistan beneficiary population

	Current population (July 2021)	Potential worst-case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Afghan refugees	10,700	50,000	60,700
Total	10,700	50,000	60,700

Uzbekistan beneficiary population

	Current population (July 2021)	Potential worst-case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Afghan refugees	<50	10,000	10,000
Total	<50	10,000	10,000

Turkmenistan beneficiary population

	Current population (July 2021)	Potential worst-case scenario (additional)	Total projected (December 2021)
Assisted Refugee Population			
Afghan refugees	<50	5,000	5,000
Total	<50	5,000	5,000

File/archive photo. Iran. Afghan refugee children during World Refugee Day. © UNHCR/Mohammadreza Nazeri



Needs analysis

Tajikistan

Most new arrivals from Afghanistan are ethnic Tajiks (58 per cent), followed by Hazara (30 per cent). Most refugees and asylum-seekers reside in peri-urban areas near the capital Dushanbe and there are elevated levels of poverty. As job opportunities in Tajikistan are low, this further increases the overall vulnerability of the refugee population.

In the event of a large refugee influx, the immediate protection needs of the population would be access to the territory, protection from refoulement, access to life-saving assistance, emergency medical care, safe shelter, food, and water/sanitation. Other priority protection and assistance needs would include access to registration and identification of those with heightened protection needs, emergency education, identifying and addressing gender-based violence, care of persons with specific needs and family tracing. A rapid needs assessment and a protection analysis will be carried out. Special attention will be given to people with specific needs and those at heightened risk, including unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk; people with disabilities; single parent families; single women; people with physical or mental health needs; and victims of violence and torture, including gender-based violence survivors. The impacts on host communities would depend on the scale and duration of the displacement. The provision of services to the host communities will be essential. Accordingly, essential services must be available for both the host communities and the refugees, including local public infrastructure (roads, health facilities, and schools).

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

An initial inter-agency joint needs analysis will need to be carried out at the earliest stage to identify the main needs of the refugee population. It is expected that high numbers of persons with disabilities, women heads of household and unaccompanied and separated children will be among the refugee population. Therefore, the most urgent protection need will be to identify persons with specific needs as soon as possible and their

referral to services for appropriate follow-up. Identification and addressing of gender-based violence, child protection, family tracing, emergency education and protection monitoring (including to ensure access to territory and non-refoulement), are among other urgent needs. Advocacy with the host Governments will include the need to preserve the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.

Response strategy and priorities

OVERALL STRATEGY

The aim of this Plan is to ensure that humanitarian partners in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have the preparedness and response capacities to meet the immediate critical needs of the displaced population at the onset of emergency. The response will seek to apply innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable approaches to deliver basic needs and essential services, including life-saving assistance. Activities envisaged under the RRP will be implemented in accordance with core protection principles, maintaining an AGD approach, considering the vulnerabilities of the population, and ensuring equal access to protection and assistance. It will focus on:

- Ensuring safe and unhindered access to territory, respect for the principle of non-refoulement, efficient registration, provision of proper documentation. This will include the provision of support to the Government in their efforts to ensure proper admission and asylum procedures.
- Safeguarding the physical safety and security of the newly arrived population, including preventing, mitigating risks of, and responding to gender-based violence and exploitation as well as provision of child protection, counselling and psychosocial assistance and services, and advocacy with the Government on preserving the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.
- Advocacy for alternatives to refugee encampment and securing refugee settlements near host communities.
- Ensuring the provision of accurate relevant information on how to access UNHCR, partners, and governments; relevant procedures; access to assistance, etc.
- Provision of multi-sectoral assistance to refugees and host communities with a view to anchor the response in government systems, with particular attention to the needs of children, youth, and women.
- Facilitating safe and dignified access of children and women, including the most vulnerable groups, to emergency services such as health, including child vaccinations, nutrition, and emergency education.
- Identifying vulnerable groups and those with specific needs and heightened risks. Conducting rapid needs assessments in conjunction with displaced and host communities, relevant Government authorities, UN agencies and civil society.
- Application of a community-based approach and the inclusion of host population in humanitarian assistance programmes such as in-kind assistance, self-reliance projects, health care, and cash assistance to foster economic self-reliance, mitigate community tensions and promote social cohesion

Planned preparedness and response priorities

Tajikistan

Food Security	- Provision of basic food packages
Health & Nutrition	- Construction of health facilities/points. - Organization of health services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immunization campaign
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of training and capacity-development for refugee reception and registration. - Border monitoring. - Family tracing and reunification - Provision of MHPSS and child protection services, including identification and protection of children at risk or survivors of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. - GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response, including community outreach and safe referral of GBV survivors and those at risk. - Prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be strengthened in all locations.
Shelter & NFIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site development. - Installation of tents. - Installation of basic community structure. - Distribution of NFIs and sanitary kits.
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water System Development. - Age, gender, and AGD sensitive Sanitary Facilities Construction; including Communication, Communication for Development, CEAAP components
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid education needs assessment, Provision of education supply and learning material - Deployment and training of teachers - Roll-out of alternative education and skills training modalities.
Self-Reliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of employable skills and labour market of host communities - Providing access to vocational skills, awareness raising on local employment and self-employment opportunities - Providing equipment and infrastructure for small business by refugees in personal services sector. - Partnership with local civil society organisations and farmer's association to create jobs for refugees in agriculture and local economy.

Uzbekistan

Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash assistance
Health & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of integrated quality tri-level medical care. - Secure medical supplies - Introduce Health Information Management system for surveillance. - Secure access to receive immunization services: - Mental health and psychosocial support and specialist care for children; treatment of mental disorders and supply of medication. - Activation of nutrition sectors and establishment of coordination with other sectors (Health and WASH) - Identification and treatment of SAM and MAM children - Infant and young child nutrition counselling and early stimulation - Support the Government to ensure essential care services for women and children, including provision of essential drugs, diagnostics, and supplies.
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake strategic advocacy in coordination with Government and other partners, on all issues related to safe and effective access to territory, relevant procedures, and solutions. - Provide refugee protection related capacity building support to relevant authorities. - Support registration and/or register arrivals at reception centre and in refugee settlements. - Establish provision and/or referrals of newly arrived population at the border in transit and in the camp to emergency and other services. - Conduct individual assessment to gauge the extent of GBV and identify GBV survivors for further support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will be strengthened in all locations. - Identification of and support to unaccompanied and/or separated children through mobile outreach teams consisting of social workers, psychologists, and cultural mediators. - Operation of Child-/Youth-Friendly Spaces, identification, and referral of cases of child maltreatment/domestic violence, provision of MHPSS procedures,
Shelter & NFIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that all people living within the Termez settlement have shelter providing thermal comfort, fresh air, and protection from the climate, and ensuring their privacy, safety, and health. - Allocation of Family tents. - Distribution and monitoring of core-relief items to refugees.
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activation of WASH sector and establishment of coordination with other sectors (Health and Nutrition) - Ensure availability of safe water by installing and renovating water points or through water trucking where needed - Establish decent toilet facilities for men, women, and children at households and shelters - Provision of safe water, sanitation and handwashing facilities at health care facilities and education institutions - Establish child friendly water and sanitation facilities in the learning centres and child friendly spaces - Ensure waste management system is functioning
Livelihoods & Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen efforts to achieve peaceful coexistence and social cohesion within host communities, and between refugees and host communities - Provide capacity development support to service providers, local authorities, communities to ensure holistic and safe response services are accessible to all. - Initiate activities supporting livelihoods through income generation and employment programmes, targeting both refugees and host communities. - Provide support to businesses, in addition to cash-for-work and other cash-related programmes. - Expand local economic development approaches to enhance livelihoods, support entrepreneurship and SME development, improve access to finance, for youth and women
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure education sector coordination to ensure rapid assessment of education requirements and developing a road map for implementing the education interventions - Support government in procuring appropriate education/learning related materials - Ensure supply of education materials to needy children and adolescents - Organize temporary learning spaces for children
Logistics & Telecoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Storage and distribution of emergency supplies in partnership with key partners/suppliers

Partnership and coordination

Tajikistan

In support of relevant authorities in the Government of Tajikistan, and within the Inter-sector Coordination Group, UNHCR is leading the inter-agency preparedness and response efforts, in collaboration with UN agencies, international organizations, civil society and other humanitarian actors. UNICEF, WFP, WHO and others will take the lead in the sectors according to their mandate and capacity and are mobilizing resources in collaboration with partners.

An Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Planning for Refugee Issues (EPCP), co-chaired by the Government Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense and UNHCR, was established in October 2018 to pool resources, expertise, and geographical presence to strengthen response capacity to any population influx. Within this framework, UNHCR supports the efforts of the

Government, including the repositioning of emergency relief items and the assessment of secure sites and locations that might receive asylum-seekers in the event of an emergency. The Government will manage border reception areas and ensure full and unhindered access to the newly arrived population to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance by UN agencies and international organizations, in support of the national response.

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

In the preparedness stage, in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, RRP partners' focus will be on monitoring and coordination with the respective Governments to ensure protection space. In the event of an influx, Partners will support the host Governments with registration and human resources and engage local partners to provide protection services.

Sector financial requirements summary

By organization & sector

Tajikistan

Partner	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Protection	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	Livelihoods & Resilience	Education	Logistics & Telecoms	Total
IOM				310,180					310,180
UNDP						500,000			500,000
UNFPA		280,000							280,000
UNHCR			1,077,870	7,113,942				1,422,788	9,614,600
UNICEF		600,000	250,000	340,000	4,500,000		1,500,000		7,190,000
WFP	6,069,807								6,069,807
WHO		361,740							361,740
Total	6,069,807	1,241,740	1,327,870	7,764,122	4,500,000	500,000	1,500,000	1,422,788	24,326,327

Uzbekistan

Partner	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Protection	Shelter & NFIs	WASH	Livelihoods & Resilience	Education	Logistics & Telecoms	Total
IOM			100,000						100,000
UNDP						400,000			400,000
UNFPA		120,000	30,600						150,600
UNHCR	394,900		524,613	697,043				150,000	1,766,556
UNICEF		275,500	2,438,000		313,000		304,000	70,000	3,400,500
WHO		650,000							650,000
Total	394,900	1,045,500	3,093,213	697,043	313,000	400,000	304,000	220,000	6,467,656

ANNEX

Regional financial overview July-December 2021

Regional summary by organization & country

Partner	Iran	Pakistan	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Total
IOM			310,180	100,000	\$410,180
MSF	144,000				\$144,000
NRC	36,224,876				\$36,224,876
RI	5,900,292				\$5,900,292
UNDP	4,910,000		500,000	400,000	\$5,810,000
UNESCO	302,000				\$302,000
UNFPA	3,050,000	1,090,000	280,000	150,600	\$4,570,600
UNHCR	58,875,500	60,640,000	9,614,600	1,766,556	\$130,896,656
UNICEF	14,876,757	40,030,000	7,190,000	3,400,500	\$65,497,257
WFP	7,572,874	16,200,000	6,069,807		\$29,842,681
WHO	4,000,000	14,600,000	361,740	650,000	\$19,611,740
Total	\$ 135,856,299	\$132,560,000	\$ 24,326,327	\$ 6,467,656	\$ 299,210,282

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

REGIONAL REFUGEE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

JULY - DECEMBER 2021

For more information please contact:

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