



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Annual Results Report

2022

Afghanistan

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2022, Afghanistan continued to face complex and multi-pronged humanitarian, basic human needs and socio-economic crises, wide-reaching ripple effects of the Ukraine war, terrorism-related insecurity, more frequent and severe climate shocks and natural disasters, crippling food insecurity and deepening economic instability. While humanitarian access and security improved in parts of the country, the dire humanitarian situation was further exacerbated by the systematic erosion of women and girls' rights and their gradual exclusion from socio-economic and political life, culminating in an indefinite ban on women from attending university and working for international and national non-governmental organizations. All this had a disproportionately negative impact on Afghan returnees, IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers as well as the communities that continue to generously host them.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR undertook nimble shifts and re-oriented its response to better respond to the growing needs and deliver much-needed assistance to people forced to flee. UNHCR's Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) expanded from 55 to 80 in 2022. In line with the organisation's policy on Cash-based Interventions (CBIs), UNHCR expanded and integrated the use of CBIs into various programmes to support protection and solutions outcomes and IDP voluntary returns and reintegration. UNHCR distributed cash assistance (worth \$91.8 million) to 1.46 million people. In total, 6.1 million people were supported across all 34 provinces, 4.1 million of whom benefited from community-based interventions and over 500,000 from in-kind and other individual assistance.

Despite the unpredictable context in Afghanistan, 6,424 registered Afghan refugees voluntarily returned from Pakistan (6,029), Iran (372), and other countries (23) under UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme in 2022 – a significant increase from 2020 and 2021 although lower than previous years.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2024, the protection environment for all Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Returnees in Afghanistan is enhanced in line with humanitarian, human rights, and international refugee protection standards.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	95.46%

Despite the absence of a national asylum legal framework, UNHCR sought to enhance the protection environment in 2022. UNHCR registered 13 refugees and asylum seekers, conducted three refugee status determination (RSD) assessments, submitted five cases for resettlement, and facilitated the departure of four refugees under a family reunification programme. In addition, UNHCR intervened in three cases of arrest and detention and provided counselling on an ad hoc basis to refugees who required more information on resettlement or additional assistance because of the specific risks they might be facing. Given the limited employment opportunities, UNHCR provided monthly cash assistance to 326 refugees and asylum seekers in Kabul and Herat to enable them to meet their basic needs. Seasonal support was provided to 104 refugees and asylum seeker households composed of 366 individuals in urban settings and 8,930 refugee households in Khost and Paktika.

The protection environment for women and girls, however, deteriorated following the introduction of several restrictions limiting their freedom of movement and right to education and work. All this heightened the protection risks women and girls faced, including gender-based violence (GBV) and exacerbated the likelihood of resorting to negative coping mechanisms. In response, UNHCR bolstered core protection activities, expanded border monitoring, strengthened complaints and feedback mechanisms, and introduced several pilot child protection and GBV activities across several provinces. UNHCR strengthened mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions. UNHCR also employed a protection monitoring tool to systematically identify and support the delivery of different types of assistance (cash, shelter, core-relief items) to those in need. Not only did this tool go some way towards mitigating assessment fatigue, but its scoring system also ensured objective beneficiary selection, facilitated timely access to assistance, and promoted the safety and dignity of people forced to flee.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2024, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Returnees and IDPs will benefit from, and have equitable access to, inclusive quality life-saving assistance that will enable them to live in safety and dignity.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	28.00%	2.56%
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.00%	49.91%
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Returnees	37.00%	44.36%

2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Host Community	56.00%	86.00%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	IDPs	50.00%	82.69%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.20%	79.00%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Returnees	59.00%	87.00%

Positive steps were made to promote equitable access to inclusive and quality life-saving assistance for those in need in the course of 2022. UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance across all 34 provinces and deployed local and corporate tools to reduce duplication, enhance transparency, protect personal data and automate timely and efficient CBIs. In 2022, the operation supported 15,549 people with specific needs (PSN), with 14,631 individuals receiving cash or in-kind assistance to mitigate protection risks and reduce the likelihood of resorting to harmful coping mechanisms.

In addition, UNHCR provided shelter assistance to 262,318 individuals and built 1,815 permanent and 881 transitional shelters, repaired 22,230 shelters and distributed 12,631 solar energy kits. Over 200,000 beneficiaries were provided with clean water and sanitation facilities.

In addition, UNHCR constructed five health care facilities, including one community health centre, four basic health centres and two maternity clinics. UNHCR also upgraded a regional hospital, equipping it with an incineration room and an intensive care unit. These initiatives improved access to essential health care services for almost 170,000 people and enabled 2,000 pregnant women to deliver children safely. Moreover, the operation maintained five warehouses throughout the country as part of preparedness efforts to facilitate the efficient delivery of in-kind assistance in emergencies. 50,814 core-relief packages (blankets, buckets, cookers, gas, jerrycans, kitchen sets, plastic tarpaulins) were released for distribution last year, reaching some 355,696 individuals (50,814 families).

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2024, affected populations benefit from a wide range of solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	IDPs	26.00%	26.00%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	38.28%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Returnees	27.42%	27.42%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	IDPs	74.00%	91.71%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	100.00%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	Returnees	78.00%	93.76%

In 2022, efforts to advance sustainable return and solutions continued in the 80 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs), as UNHCR and partners linked community-based protection initiatives to medium- to long-term development objectives to improve access to basic services and infrastructure in these areas.

To enhance access to education, in 2022 UNHCR constructed 13 new schools (10 high schools including 6 girls' schools, 3 boys' schools and 1 mixed school, two secondary schools, and one mixed primary school) and upgraded 10 existing schools with new extensions and additional facilities (solar-powered water facilities, new classroom and boundary wall constructions, sanitation and child-friendly spaces). As a result, 57,000 students and youth (both male and female) in the PARRs not only benefitted from improved access to learning opportunities, but these were also important spaces which enabled them to meet and exchange ideas. Moreover, 60 refugee returnees were supported by the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme to undertake advanced studies.

In addition, profiling on urban refugees to feed into tailored livelihoods support was carried out in 2022. Protection concerns were regularly and systematically captured via community-based protection monitoring whereby vulnerable cases were referred to the relevant actors and supported via robust complaints and feedback mechanisms.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2024, refugees, IDPs and returnees have increased access to durable solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	4
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2022, significant strides were made to secure durable solutions despite the unpredictable socio-political context. 6,424 Afghan registered refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan: 6,029 from Pakistan, 372 from Iran and 23 from other countries (e.g., Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation). This figure is three times higher than previous years, where the number of recorded returns in 2021 was 1,363 people and 2,147 people in 2020.

Given registered refugees' increased interest to voluntarily return to Afghanistan, UNHCR adjusted the cash grant from \$250 to \$375 per person to better respond to the skyrocketing living and transportation costs as well as the deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation inside the country in August 2022. Four Encashment Centres were fully functional, thereby enabling refugee returnees to receive multi-sectoral support and cash grants. In addition to the voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan, four registered refugees departed Afghanistan for family reunification.

UNHCR continued to cultivate robust and strategic partnerships with multiple UN agencies and private actors to advance solutions and create conducive conditions for the sustainable re-integration of returnees and IDPs. An IDP Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) was established to bolster inter-agency coordination and drive forward a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach for IDP solutions. UNHCR serves as the secretariat to the Resident Coordinator for the DSWG. The Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme (Co-Prosper) activities on livelihoods, community infrastructure, health and education continued to be implemented in the 80 PARRs with the aim of bolstering the reintegration and resilience of people forced to flee via an area-based approach. A total of 51,319 IDPs and IDP returnee families were supported with cash assistance for reintegration (CARE) to help ease some of the pressures faced.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

For the first time in many years, UNHCR had full access to all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. This improved situation provided UNHCR with the opportunity to conduct needs assessments and reach more people in need despite the challenges of responding effectively and efficiently to the vast and increasing humanitarian needs. However, reliance on humanitarian assistance continued in 2022 and was further exacerbated by a lack of dedicated coordination resources at the regional level and restrictions on development discussions. This limited the upscaling of livelihoods activities and implementation of the humanitarian-development-nexus approach. A series of restrictions targeting women also complicated efforts by UNHCR to advocate for long term solutions and asylum space for the people of Afghanistan in 2022. UNHCR leads three clusters/working groups where IDP evictions/forced returns featured prominently, with some IDPs forcefully returned to their areas of origin without consultation or in coordination with displaced people in many parts of the country in 2022.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Throughout 2022, UNHCR continued to cultivate and expand partnerships with several UN agencies including UNDP, ILO, UN HABITAT, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, IOM, and UN WOMEN, I/NGOs, as well as civil society (e.g. the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Letters of Intent were signed with UNDP, ILO, FAO, UN HABITAT, UN WOMEN, the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AWCCI), BRAC, and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to ensure coordinated and complementary programming. UNHCR also worked extensively with community-based organizations, including charities, to provide a comprehensive protection and solutions response through the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and its Core Group (CG). UNHCR worked closely with CG members (donors and development agencies such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank) to advance protection and solutions for returnees and displaced communities.

UNHCR and UNDP partnerships, under the PARRs and ABADEI (Area-based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives) approaches enabled 80 PARRs to have the first ever global initiative to transition area-based approaches focused on humanitarian interventions to local economic recovery and resilience efforts at the grassroots level. In partnership with ILO, a Rapid Market Appraisal and Market Systems Analysis identified economic opportunities for self-reliance in the PARRs. UN Habitat's Spatial Profiling supported returnees in displaced areas in cities in line with urban planning and development.

In 2022, UNHCR was the first UN/international organization to launch a microfinance loan product called Awdat Murrabaha for IDPs and returnees, in compliance with Islamic and Sharia financing and in partnership with the First Microfinance Bank of Afghanistan and AKDN after 2021. This was the first initiative to ensure people forced to flee had access to finance and microfinance loans. Moreover FAO, UNHCR and UN WOMEN launched a joint platform – Women's Access, Dignity, and Advancement (WADA) – to support women's socio-economic inclusion through women-led innovative small and medium enterprises in the agricultural and artisanal sectors.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

People We Serve have access to efficient registration and documentation in line with global standards.

Returnees and IDPs have access to sustainable solutions

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	88.00%	100.00%
1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].	IDPs	71.17%	60.00%	66.47%
1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.97%	0.00%	0.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to the 2022 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA), 56 per cent of respondents cited that some members in their households lacked documents such as Tazkeras (identification cards). This sometimes had dire consequences and would lead to movement restrictions and reduced access to basic services. While there is a critical need to support access to documentation, concerns and sensitivities around the collection of data and biometrics associated with documentation remain. Against this backdrop, and in preparation for future legal assistance activities, UNHCR engaged in the United Nations Legal Identity and Identity Management Working Group's legal identity research project to identify the gaps, challenges and risks associated with civil documentation. UNHCR also co-funded a legal identity research project and provided technical guidance on its design and implementation. The project's findings and recommendations are expected to inform UNHCR's advocacy and programming for civil documentation activities next year. UNHCR identified partners to start legal assistance activities in 2023 and some preparatory actions have already been initiated. In addition, UNHCR continued its reception and registration of people seeking international protection. In 2022, UNHCR registered 11 individuals of three nationalities.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The lack of a national asylum system and legal framework safeguarding their rights to access, documentation, formal education, housing, land and property, and livelihoods are some of the contributing factors to refugees' unmet needs. All this increased refugees' reliance on humanitarian assistance, thereby undermining their ability to progress towards self-reliance. According to the 2022 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA), 97 per cent of refugee households said they experienced economic shocks in the last six months, 75 per cent fell within the poor or borderline food consumption score, 97 per cent were living in inadequate shelters, 95 per cent were in debt, and 68 per cent did not have any children (aged between 6 –

17 years) enrolled in formal schools.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR took steps to sensitize de facto authorities on refugee rights through bilateral negotiations and workshops as a way of enhancing the asylum space inside the country. In addition, UNHCR designated refugee-inhabited areas in Khost and Paktika as PARRs in 2022 and applied area-based programming to develop community infrastructure and enhance self-reliance.

Despite these gains, access to civil documentation remained an unmet need for many Afghans and refugees. According to the 2022 WoAA, only 42 per cent of the surveyed households held a civil identity document. This was significantly lower among female-headed households, refugees and other displaced populations. According to community-based protection monitoring, 46 per cent were unable to access existing basic services, with 82 per cent saying it was due to a lack of documentation. To mitigate this, UNHCR intends to launch legal assistance programmes in 2023 to raise awareness of the different types of available documentation and provide legal counseling and assistance to individuals requiring tailored information and services so that they can overcome the barriers limiting their access to documentation.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Refugees and Asylum-seekers benefit from national reception procedures supported through UNHCR

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not Adequate	Adequate	Not Adequate

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR organized several workshops advocating for de facto authorities to uphold refugee rights, age, gender and diversity mainstreaming, area-based approaches, data protection and SSAR to bolster the protection environment. In tandem, UNHCR continued to step up advocacy in bilateral meetings with de facto authorities for refugee cases (family reunification, detention, etc.). UNHCR worked closely with the housing, land, and property technical forum (HLP-TF) coordinated by UN Habitat and NRC and technically supported MoRR's land allocation scheme evaluation and stocktaking exercise.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The absence of a robust legislative framework continues to limit refugees' rights. Although Afghanistan ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, a national law on asylum is still pending and is unlikely to be promulgated in the current operational context. Moreover, the lack of legal status and documentation has undermined the ability of refugees and asylum seekers to progress towards self-reliance. The land allocation scheme (LAS) is currently suspended although refugee returnees often refer to the scheme as one of their reasons for voluntary return. Without its effective implementation, landless refugee returnees, IDPs and IDP returnees will find it difficult to achieve sustainable reintegration and solutions.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

GBV risks are reduced, all survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services and GBV prevention programming effectively addresses root causes of GBV

GBV risks are reduced, all reported survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services and prevention programming which effectively addresses root causes of GBV

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	Host Community	24.44%	10.00%	7.33%
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	21.93%	10.00%	4.09%
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	23.20%	10.00%	3.41%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR ramped up efforts to enhance the protection environment, particularly for female refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees as well as the host community. Considering the sensitivities underpinning this thematic area, the project focused on promoting dialogue with community leaders and raising awareness of available GBV services and referral pathways, safety audits, capacity building for UNHCR and partner staff and creating safe spaces via women's community centres.

From August to December 2022, information was disseminated to 198 community leaders and 1,518 individuals across three provinces on the available GBV services and referral pathways. Four women's community centres were established through which various recreational, social and educational activities (sewing, knitting, drawing) were provided to 1,146 women and 680 girls. Moreover, two safety audits were conducted to assess the safety and accessibility to GBV services. 26 GBV cases were referred to specialized services while 70 partner staff and 19 UNHCR staff were trained on GBV core principles and GBV sub-cluster referral pathways. These activities and messages were built on the referral pathway standard operating procedures and service mapping prepared by the GBV sub-cluster. In addition, 61,645 people were reached by six partners in 23 out of 34 provinces through different types of counselling and awareness-raising activities. Over 55 per cent of beneficiaries were women aged between 18 and 59 years.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The protection environment deteriorated significantly following the introduction of several bans limiting the rights of women and girls in 2022. The dissolution of the Ministry of Women Affairs, National Human Rights Commission, and the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women reversed the substantial progress made before August 2021 to advance women's rights and protection. Despite the rising needs, the space for GBV interventions diminished considerably with GBV service providers suspending or minimizing services due to the shrinking space for rights advocacy and provision of protection services. The lack of a conducive environment also limited the scope of GBV projects and this dire situation increased anxiety, uncertainty, insecurity and concerns about the future, with 53 per cent children and 44 per cent of adults requiring different protection services.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Refugees and Asylum Seekers, returnees, IDPs and the host community have access to a wide range of solutions

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	Host Community	20.00%	25.00%	100.00%
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	IDPs	20.00%	25.00%	100.00%
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	25.00%	100.00%
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	Returnees	20.00%	25.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	Host Community	40.00%	60.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	IDPs	41.00%	60.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.00%	60.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	Returnees	44.00%	60.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, the first pilot child protection activities were introduced to strengthen the child protection structure in the PARRs on case management for children at heightened risk, bolster psychosocial support and its provision in schools and child friendly spaces, and raise awareness of child protection issues. Two pilot projects were launched in Herat and Kandahar. 22 staff in Herat and 20 in Kandahar were recruited and received comprehensive training on child protection. Up to 251 cases in need of case management were identified and 1,300 people reached in meetings to introduce the project and share child protection awareness-raising messages. In addition, joint child protection and GBV workshops were conducted to enhance internal capacities. UNHCR continued to be actively involved in various inter-agency efforts such as the Strategic Advisory Group of Child Protection sub-cluster case management task force and provided technical inputs on child protection.

In an increasingly restrictive protection environment, toll-free hotlines and community feedback mechanisms (CFM) were among the key communication tools employed by the operation to identify displacement trends and protection concerns. In 2022, a total of 35,203 queries were received, including 24,070 emails and 10,971 phone calls, 52 complaints box inquiries and 51 inter-agency call centre referrals. In addition, 59 face-to-face counselling sessions were held. To streamline operations, standard operating procedures (SOPs) were developed and CFM pamphlets disseminated. A country-wide and harmonized CFM reporting strategy was initiated and a call centre in Kandahar piloted. Enhanced community engagement was prioritized and a multi-functional team established to shape community outreach and facilitate two-way communication. Peaceful co-existence was promoted through the provision of various types of assistance and targeted protection community-based activities for the host community.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Although some improvements in the security situation enabled increased access to beneficiaries, access to women and potential or current beneficiaries became more restricted in December 2022. The capacity of enumerators employed by implementing partners was also a challenge further complicated by centralized data processing at the national level, which created delays in data cleaning and analysis in certain districts and provinces.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Returnees and IDPs with heightened risk are able to meet their basic needs within six months of displacement

Refugees, Returnees and IDPs have unhindered and equitable access to multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	IDPs	1.41%	30.00%	28.60%
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.26%	25.00%	93.43%
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	Returnees	8.30%	30.00%	2.91%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to support people with specific needs (PSNs) to mitigate protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms. PSNs were identified through different channels: self-referral, hotlines, protection monitoring as well as partner referrals. Most vulnerable individuals and families with heightened protection risks received comprehensive support through targeted projects or referrals to other services. Through these interventions, cash and in-kind assistance was provided to address the immediate and/or lifesaving needs.

In 2022, a total of 17,447 individuals were assessed – 15,549 of whom were assisted directly (14,631 individuals with cash or in-kind) and 918 individuals referred to other services. Given the lack of access to employment opportunities, UNHCR provided monthly cash assistance to 326 refugees and asylum seekers in Kabul and Herat to enable them to meet their basic needs. Seasonal support was provided to 104 refugees and asylum seeker households in urban setting as well as 8,930 refugee households in Khost and Paktika. Up to 6,424 refugee returnees received voluntary repatriation cash grants amounting to \$375 per person to prevent, mitigate and respond to their immediate protection risks and vulnerabilities upon return to Afghanistan and to cover transportation costs.

In addition to cash grants, returnees received basic health care, overnight accommodation, mine risk awareness, information on school enrolment, drug awareness and malnutrition screening. 29 per cent of IDPs, 3 per cent of refugee returnees and 57 per cent of host communities received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help them address basic needs.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Although MPCA addressed some of the immediate multi-sectoral needs, humanitarian needs remained high because of the dynamic context and this exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. The frequency of this

assistance, coupled with the way in which MPCA was often spent based on the hierarchy of needs, meant that small gains were made with regards to the recipients' well-being.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Returnees and IDPs have sufficient access to energy

Refugees and Asylum, Returnees and IDPs have access to adequate dwellings

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	IDPs	1.96%	10.00%	4.79%
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31.25%	60.00%	79.75%
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	Returnees	1.96%	10.00%	71.92%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	IDPs	16.00%	40.00%	2.88%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.93%	40.00%	71.34%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	Returnees	12.00%	40.00%	77.05%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR provided shelter assistance to 262,318 beneficiaries and ensured those with adequate shelters were in physically safe and secured settlements with access to basic facilities. Of this figure, 65 per cent were returnees and 35 per cent refugees and asylum seekers. To protect families from the harsh outside elements and to ensure they lived in safety and dignity, durable shelters were provided. 1,815 permanent and 881 transitional shelters were built and a further 22,230 damaged shelters repaired. In addition to shelters, efforts were made to improve existing infrastructure to ensure access to basic services such as drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education and health. UNHCR also assisted in the construction of communal centres, women's business centres and children's play areas. Shelters were built with locally available materials to enable beneficiaries to meet maintenance costs. To support ongoing efforts to promote sustainability, 12,631 solar kits were distributed across all provinces. UNHCR protection partners also selected beneficiaries via a Multi sectoral Rapid Assessment tool which identified eligible beneficiaries via a scorecard system. Once construction was completed, UNHCR conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) via a multifunctional team to assess the outcomes of the assistance provided and to collect beneficiary feedback.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite beneficiaries' sensitization on cash assistance for shelter, some (around 5 per cent) would use shelter cash assistance for other urgent needs (medical bills, medicine, food) rather than its intended purpose while others constructed low quality shelters. Beneficiaries also struggled to source construction

materials at competitive prices since the market demanded bulk purchases rather than retail purchases. UNHCR emphasised monitoring to support shelter provision. UNHCR also continued discussions with beneficiaries on how to support them.

With the suspension of the land allocation scheme (LAS) intended to allocate land plots for vulnerable landless IDPs and refugee returnees, returning refugees and IDPs faced challenges accessing habitable and affordable housing without having access to land.

Other challenges included fluctuations in exchange rates and price hikes. As a result, construction companies faced serious financial challenges completing projects. UNHCR, alongside the Land, Housing and Property (LHP) sub cluster, worked with the de facto authorities on the revision of the LAS. In addition, UNHCR was not always able to conduct physical verification visits to earthquake-affected areas towards the end of 2022.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2024, health status of the people we serve has improved.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR constructed five healthcare facilities, including one community health centre and four basic health centres (two of which had maternity clinics attached). UNHCR also upgraded a regional hospital, equipping it with an incineration room and an intensive care unit. These initiatives improved access to essential healthcare services for almost 170,000 people and enabled 2,000 pregnant women to deliver safely and receive other vital interventions, thereby reducing the risks associated with home births. These facilities are now maintained by local communities in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and provide a safe environment where expectant mothers are supported by skilled health care professionals. UNHCR also supported the training of 40 midwives, which improved access to reproductive and maternal health services, especially in rural communities in the PARRs.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Women continued to experience various challenges accessing health care, including insecurity, lack of safe transportation, mobility restrictions, long distances to health care services, and a shortage of trained female staff. This situation was exacerbated in December 2022 after the introduction of the ban on women aid workers. While women health workers were exempted from the edict, mahrams were an essential requirement for women to access health care and only female doctors had the right to examine women. The high cost of health care and medicine also increased the likelihood of many individuals resorting to harmful coping strategies. Despite these challenges, UNHCR worked closely with WHO and other organizations to ensure consistency and availability of services in PARRs.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Returnees have access to primary, secondary, and tertiary education.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	50.00%	28.99%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The unpredictable situation in Afghanistan continues to have a devastating impact on the education system. An estimated 6 million children, 60 per cent of them girls, have been left without access to education. The inadequate number of schools coupled with the long travel distances to the available schools are major barriers, particularly in rural areas. In response to these challenges, UNHCR sought to improve access to education for school-aged children in the PARRs through school construction and rehabilitation. According to a socio-economic vulnerability assessment, the lack of nearby educational facilities was a contributing factor to the low school enrollment rates.

To address this issue, UNHCR constructed 13 new schools (10 high schools including 6 girls' schools, 3 boys' schools and 1 mixed school, two secondary schools, and one mixed primary school) and upgraded 10 existing schools with new extensions and additional facilities (solar-powered water facilities, new classroom and boundary wall constructions, sanitation and child-friendly spaces).

These interventions improved access to education for more than one million school-aged children in the PARRs. In addition, UNHCR implemented other initiatives to support education, including the CODE4FUN programme (which taught 600 boys and girls how to code), internet and computer skills training for 19,000 women and girls and literacy training for over 500 women.

Moreover, the DAFI programme continued to be implemented despite the challenging education context in Afghanistan. In-kind assistance such as educational equipment (10 high quality projectors, two color printers, one plotter and 15 different types of stationery) was handed over to Kabul University. 20 new DAFI slots in Nangarhar and Balkh universities were also created and Memoranda of Understanding signed with these universities. Due to the lack of an asylum legislative framework for refugees, refugee children cannot officially enroll into public schools nor obtain graduation certificates.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Education continued to be severely affected by a range of factors, with the situation becoming more precarious following the ban on women attending university. The ban on girls attending grades 6 to 12 and women attending university not only had a negative effect on women at present but also undermined Afghanistan's future by denying women the opportunity to study in formal institutions.

It is estimated that 4.2 million children are not in school – 60 per cent of whom are girls. Children with disabilities have also been particularly affected by this because of the various institutional, social, physical, and financial barriers they face and the lack of individualized support on offer. All this has had a psychological impact on girls' well-being. Although the future of the DAFI scholarship programme remains unclear, the operation will continue efforts to expand the programme in other return areas.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Refugees and Asylum Seekers, IDPs, Returnees and the Host Community access safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

37 water wells, 16 solar bore wells, 10 water network projects, eight water storage projects and three sanitation facilities were constructed, with over 200,000 individuals benefitting. The increased availability of clean drinking water reduced waterborne disease cases and mitigated protection risks since households no longer had to travel long distances to access water. In all, these interventions promoted better household hygiene and improved the well-being of the target population.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Limited technical expertise to conduct geophysical investigations remained a major challenge. More financial assistance is needed to scale up water, sanitation and hygiene interventions across the country.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Returnees and IDPs have access to decent, formal employment or self-employment

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners continued to support access to employment and livelihood opportunities in the PARRs. Through UNHCR's implementing partners, 1,232 individuals received various kinds of skills training. Up to 31,465 individuals received business start-up kits and 3,760 individuals entrepreneurship and business support – either through cash grants or in-kind assistance. 64 per cent of these were women-led. To boost livelihoods interventions and market access, UNHCR, in partnership with ILO, conducted a comprehensive market system analysis to identify constraints hindering job creation and inclusive growth with a particular focus on women. UNHCR also signed Letters of Intent with UNDP, ILO, FAO, UN-Habitat, UN Women, UNODC, the Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AKDN, AKAH, and BRAC to ensure coordinated humanitarian and development programming in the PARRs. UNHCR worked closely with IOM, UNDP, UN Habitat, and the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan to ensure complementarity, optimal resource utilization, and a holistic approach to forced displacement.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The capacity of UNHCR staff and implementing partners to drive forward livelihood programming remained limited and the shift in the political landscape has created an additional barrier. The challenges of conducting timely and focused assessments (labour market assessments, market appraisals, value chain analysis) and other relevant research reduced evidence-based approaches

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Returnees have the necessary information and resources to voluntarily return to their country of origin.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR conducted systematic border monitoring at official and unofficial crossing points with neighboring countries. This enabled the collection of real-time data to better assess population movement trends and understand the triggers, intentions and reasons for Afghan cross-border movements, as well as the challenges and barriers hindering the movement of people fleeing persecution. The trend analysis helped ascertain the scale of population movements, reasons for departure, return and deportations, and the type of protection risks and human rights violations faced during the journey to neighboring countries. Diverse border monitoring teams were deployed to eight official and unofficial crossing points. Up to 149,411 outflow and inflow monitoring interviews were conducted using the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach. Data was collected using the Kobo Tool, applying the necessary personal data protection measures. Regular cross-border meetings with the Iran and Pakistan operations were also conducted throughout the year to discuss issues related to cross-border population movements such as voluntary repatriation.

Coordination with the four Encashment Centres and field offices allowed timely assistance provision. Post-returnee monitoring was carried out through 17,000 household interviews with refugee returnees, undocumented returnees, IDPs and host communities to assess the returnees' socio-economic situation, the effectiveness of the voluntary repatriation cash grant, potential protection risks and concerns after settling in their areas of origin or intended destination.

UNHCR also conducted a workshop on voluntary repatriation, SSAR and the tripartite and quadripartite frameworks specifically targeting de facto authorities. In tandem, three workshops were held for border monitoring partners to facilitate the smooth implementation of border monitoring activities.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Returnee monitoring findings in 2022 revealed a range of challenges, including food insecurity and a lack of access to sustainable shelter, livelihoods and other services. Although large scale conflict diminished, humanitarian access, particularly to women and girls, is shrinking day-by-day due to the ban on women working with aid agencies. This, coupled with an increasingly uncertain political outlook, highly unpredictable future and widespread concerns about targeted violence and human rights violations, meant that many Afghans, including returnees, faced numerous challenges accessing basic services thereby fueling their likelihood of resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Around 16.3 million Afghans moved back and forth between Pakistan and Iran for various reasons. The requirement that women and girls travel with a male chaperon greatly reduced their ability to seek international protection in neighboring countries. The recent ban on female aid workers also affected the ability of female partner staff to conduct border monitoring interviews.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

IDPs and IDP Returnees have access to sustainable solutions

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

232,306 IDPs returned to their areas of origin in 2022. UNHCR provided support to 51,319 IDP families through its cash and reintegration assistance (CARE) programme aimed at meeting their basic needs and facilitating their re-integration into their communities. Given the dynamic context, this support was essential for these families and facilitated their initial reintegration stage. Monitoring exercises conducted throughout

the year show that the CARE grant provided an important safety net for IDPs and helped reduce financial stress and improve household dynamics. The grant was primarily used for basic household needs, medical treatment, debt repayment, and home repairs as well as capital for small businesses, with some women using the money to purchase sewing machines and materials for tailoring and other handmade goods. In addition, co-PROSPER and area-based programming initiatives continued to connect IDPs and returnees with other essential services to facilitate their sustainable reintegration and prevent secondary displacement. To further support these efforts, UNHCR developed a CARE 2.0 concept and conducted neighborhood mapping to identify gaps in services and build partnerships with other organizations to improve the absorption capacity and promote community resilience. In response to changing circumstances and needs, the CARE programme was revised during the year to increase the number of households targeted and the amount of the re-integration grants adjusted to account for inflation and other reintegration costs.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite UNHCR's efforts, only 40 per cent of the targeted returnee population under this programme was covered in 2022. This is mainly due to funding shortfalls and the limited operational capacity of UNHCR and partners to provide the CARE grant for all identified IDP returnee families. Although the re-integration grant was adjusted, it is still not sufficient to address the most urgent needs. Sustainable reintegration remains a challenge because of the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the population and the lack of access to basic and essential services in the areas of return. Up to 48 per cent of IDP returnees reside in the PARRs and are targeted through the co-PROSPER interventions. Access to livelihoods opportunities also remained limited for most IDP returnees.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR applied an AGD approach in Afghanistan to ensure equality in decision making and in the provision of services and to create meaningful partnerships. The operation continued to systematically capture disaggregated data across various activities in 2022. UNHCR also carried out regular protection monitoring (such as community-based protection monitoring), household interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions disaggregated by age and gender. Inclusive monitoring and programming focused on other diversities and people with specific needs (PSNs), including people with disabilities, were also ensured throughout 2022.

UNHCR launched several GBV and child protection pilot projects across multiple provinces and skills training targeting people with disabilities in partnership with associations for the visually impaired in three provinces to ensure the different capacities and needs of all AGD groups were considered.

UNHCR also continued to advocate for the rights of women and girls in meetings with the de facto authorities at all levels. UNHCR enhanced community engagement by exploring diversified communication channels, particularly with women and girls who faced restrictions on their freedom of movement by conducting community outreach activities as part of various protection activities.

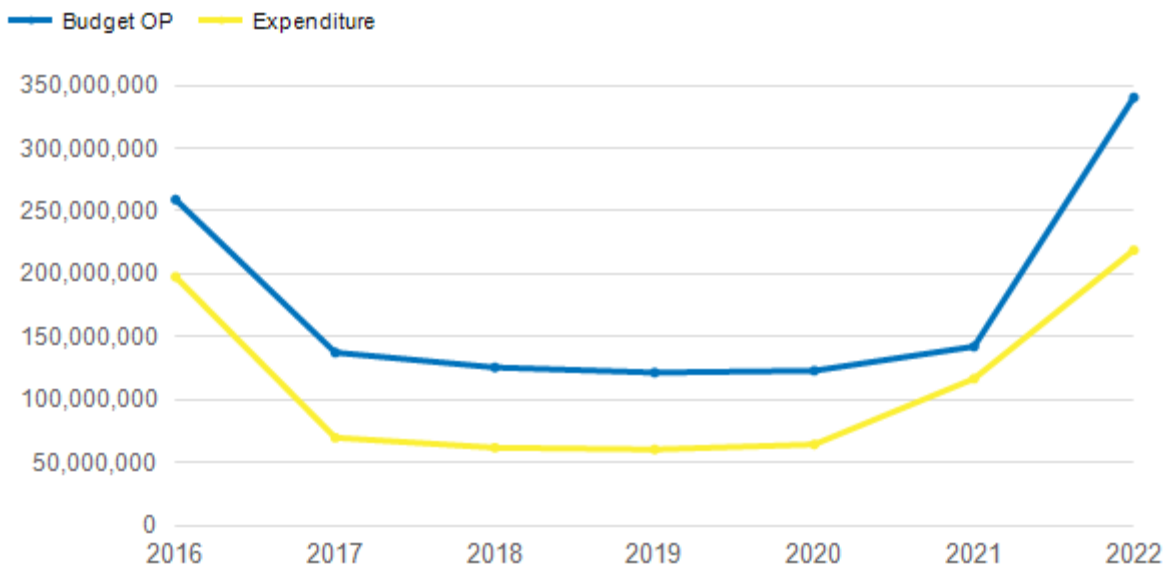
Section 3: Resources

3.1 Financial Data

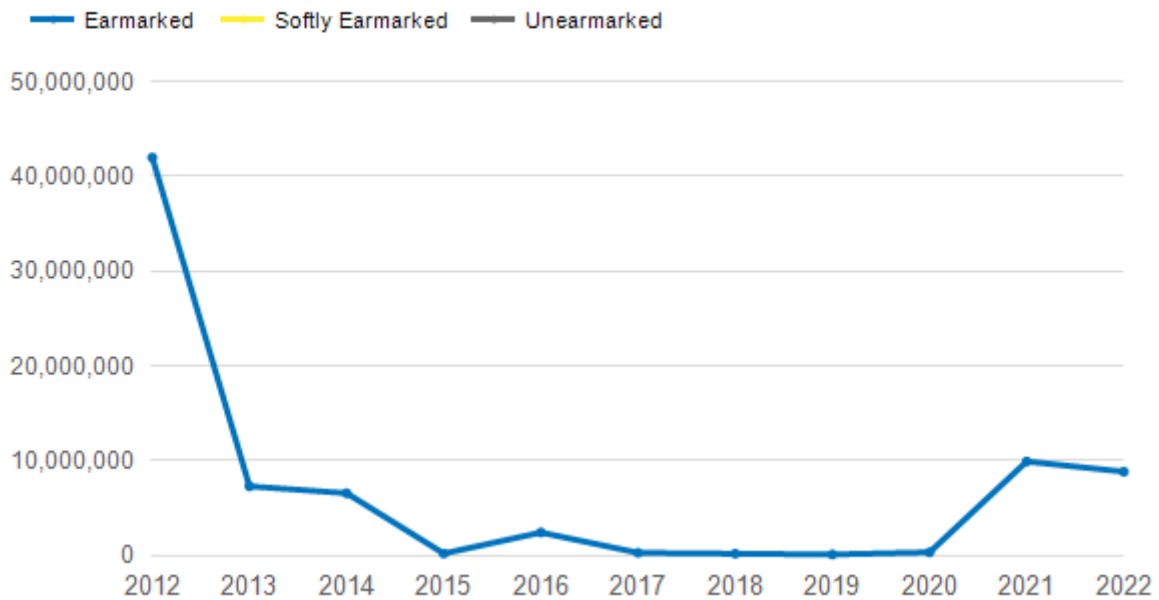
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	6,854,011	3,712,020	54.16%	3,712,020	100.00%
IA2: Respond	223,531,565	154,850,828	69.27%	152,250,664	98.32%
IA3: Empower	89,164,755	49,259,238	55.25%	49,258,630	100.00%
IA4: Solve	20,795,348	13,787,021	66.30%	13,787,021	100.00%
All Impact Areas		2,106,058	0.00%		0.00%
Total	340,345,679	223,715,165	65.73%	219,008,335	97.90%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	4,163,285	4,327,806	103.95%	4,327,806	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	477,620	925,200	193.71%	925,200	100.00%
OA4: GBV	12,794,592	2,011,708	15.72%	1,822,708	90.60%
OA6: Justice		13,278	0.00%		0.00%
OA7: Community	51,674,094	20,350,171	39.38%	20,349,563	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	165,532,209	90,211,518	54.50%	90,029,576	99.80%
OA9: Housing	42,880,406	40,600,369	94.68%	38,347,356	94.45%
OA10: Health	4,149,578	7,222,237	174.05%	7,107,118	98.41%
OA11: Education	5,742,236	7,888,008	137.37%	7,888,008	100.00%
OA12: WASH	1,301,376	3,483,977	267.71%	3,483,977	100.00%
OA13 Livelihood	23,702,880	18,942,498	79.92%	18,942,498	100.00%
OA14: Return	13,568,280	5,718,802	42.15%	5,718,802	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	2,263,210	3,083,998	136.27%	3,083,998	100.00%
EA17: Systems	2,881,068	6,721,945	233.31%	6,721,904	100.00%
EA18: Support	6,786,927	6,817,655	100.45%	6,817,598	100.00%
EA20: External	2,427,916	3,442,222	141.78%	3,442,222	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		1,953,773	0.00%		0.00%
Total	340,345,679	223,715,165	65.73%	219,008,335	97.90%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

UNHCR Afghanistan received some \$223.7M in 2022 and was 65.73 per cent funded by year end. – a 96M increase compared to 2021 when \$127.6M was secured.

The top ten donors were the United States, Japan, Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, the European Union, Country-based Pooled Funds, Switzerland, France, Australia, Spain and the Republic of Korea.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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