

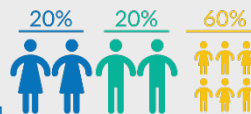
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **2.9M**

Estimated internally displaced persons within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2020

 **550,780**

Estimated total conflict induced internal displacement within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021¹


 **72,375**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 11 August 2021

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS


 **2.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries as of 31 December 2020

 **5,174**

Estimated newly arrived Afghan refugees who approached UNHCR and Partners in neighboring countries since 1 January 2021²

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, political upheaval, conflict and violence, and a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has brought increased human suffering and civilian displacement in the country.
- Some 550,000 Afghans have now been internally displaced in the country since the beginning of the year, in addition to 2.9 million Afghans already internally displaced at the end of 2020. Since the beginning of the year, some 120,000 Afghans have fled from rural areas and provincial towns to Kabul province – including some 20,000 since the start of July. Some 80 per cent of nearly a quarter of a million Afghans forced to flee since the end of May are women and children, whom the conflict is taking the highest toll on.
- While the vast majority of Afghans forced to flee their homes remain within the country, more than 5,000 refugees have approached UNHCR or partners this year in neighboring countries, with most reporting having left Afghanistan for security and conflict-related reasons.
- The total number of Afghans who have left the country seeking safety is, however, likely to be higher than those approaching UNHCR or partners, largely owing to the reports from the Iranian authorities that irregular arrivals of Afghans into Iran have recently been estimated at some 5,000 people per day – up to three times the daily average.
- UNHCR continues to monitor the situation at the borders of countries neighboring Afghanistan, calling on authorities to keep border crossings open for those who may need to seek safety. UNHCR is working to improve information collection on new arrivals at border areas, though access remains a key challenge.
- Amid intensified clashes in Nimruz province in the south-west of Afghanistan, some 200 Afghan refugees were forced to flee to Iran in the reporting period, though the total number of arrivals due to the clashes could be higher.
- Limited regular movements of Afghan individuals from Afghanistan to Pakistan has been observed at the two main border crossing points between the two countries during the reporting period, largely due to temporary border closures.
- No refugee movements from Afghanistan to Tajikistan by land border crossing points were observed during the reporting period.
- Given the situation in Afghanistan, Afghans outside of the country may have international protection needs. UNHCR has therefore strongly welcomed the actions taken by several states to temporarily halt deportations of failed asylum-seekers and ensure access to asylum procedures.

RESPONSE

- As part of the broader UN effort, UNHCR has helped assess the needs of almost 400,000 internally displaced civilians since the start of the year. Responding to the most critical priorities, UNHCR has provided food, shelter, cash, hygiene and sanitary kits and other lifesaving assistance, together with partners to more than 230,000 people this year. UNHCR has also undertaken protection monitoring covering 32 provinces in 2021.
- UNHCR currently has some 200 staff in Afghanistan, in addition to some 13 national NGO partners on the ground providing critical assistance.
- UNHCR and partners remain operational in nearly three quarters of districts in Afghanistan, though UNHCR's access to internally displaced persons and communities in some areas of the country has been constrained in recent weeks, owing to the deteriorating security situation and conflict.
- In Iran, UNHCR has provided immediate assistance to new arrivals from Nimruz in Afghanistan, in cooperation with the Iranian authorities, including essential items. UNHCR and partners continue to assess the needs on the ground and are prepared to scale up the response, should this be required.
- UNHCR continues to work with authorities in some of the countries neighbouring Afghanistan to plan and prepare for potential future movements of Afghan refugees. Across the region, UNHCR is prepositioning essential stocks and items for potential movements, including tents and other core-relief items.

