

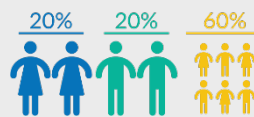
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **2.9M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2020

 **570,482**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021¹



 **72,065**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 1 September 2021

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



 **2.2M**

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

 **16,500**

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- As the evacuation flights from Kabul airport ended on 30 August, **the needs in Afghanistan remain enormous** with half the population requiring humanitarian assistance.
- There are some 570,000 newly internally displaced persons (IDPs) induced by conflict since January 2021, which increased by almost 20,000 since the last update. The priority needs of IDPs remain shelter, non-food items, livelihoods, and cash assistance to meet their basic needs, according to the most recent inter-agency assessments.
- Some IDPs are starting to return to their places of origin** as the security situation in some areas has stabilized. The number of IDP returnees could yet further increase.
- UNHCR has access to all provinces in Afghanistan**, operating in some two thirds of districts, in the reporting period. **In August, UNHCR has assisted some 20,000 IDPs** through its emergency programming, including through **the provision of tents, cash, hygiene kits, and other essential items**. This brings the number of IDPs that UNHCR has provided emergency assistance to this year to some 240,000 individuals. **Humanitarian assistance and distributions by UNHCR and partners are ongoing in Kabul, Helmand, Zabol, Kunar, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Badghis, and other provinces.**
- UNHCR has continued with its regular community programming in the country, **including the development of schools, infrastructure, and expanding livelihood opportunities**. This has reached more than 1.3 million people this year, which has increasingly included IDPs returning to their places of origin.
- UNHCR has been able to continue with some of its **protection activities** in recent weeks, including border monitoring, case management, and psychosocial support. UNHCR continues to do its utmost to respond to protection queries, which have consisted of more than 5,000 in the past week alone, representing an exponential increase.
- UNHCR continues to provide support to pre-existing refugees and asylum seekers in Afghanistan. This includes through protection and community mobilisation activities, as well as case management.
- Unhindered and safe humanitarian access, ensuring safety and security of staff, particularly of females, and intermittent border closures, remain challenges for UNHCR and partners** in carrying out humanitarian work and operations.

REGIONAL

- There are currently no commercial flights to travel outside of Afghanistan. **Most of the land border-crossing points have been closed, except in limited instances for those with visas, passports, or valid travel documents.** UNHCR continues to call on neighboring countries to keep their borders open to those seeking safety, particularly as numbers attempting to leave by land borders and those Afghans intending to seek asylum could increase.
- UNHCR has, however, observed **steady numbers of Afghans moving towards the Pakistan border posts, particularly to the Chaman-Spin Boldok crossing point.** UNHCR has **increased its border monitoring** on both sides and is continuously assessing the evolving situation, particularly as it concerns Afghans that may be seeking refuge and safety.
- The numbers of **Afghans approaching UNHCR or partners offices and/or recorded based on key informant interviews in neighboring countries has increased.** The recorded numbers do not purport to represent total border population movements or total new arrivals, which would likely be a significantly higher number.
- Based on this data collection, **the number of new arrivals to neighboring countries is currently reported at least some 16,500 since the start of this year** and this number is increasing. This includes more than 5,300 new Afghan arrivals to Pakistan (largely informed by key informant interviews), the majority of whom are women and children and arrived, as well as some 3,400 in Iran. The vast majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons.
- UNHCR continues to work with authorities in countries neighbouring Afghanistan to **plan and prepare for potential future large-scale movement of Afghan refugees**, including to safeguard their right to seek asylum. **UNHCR, together with Partners, has launched an inter-agency Regional Preparedness and Response Plan** for the projected needs of any new Afghan refugees.

