

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

2.9M

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

665,182

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021¹



72,375

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 26 September 2021

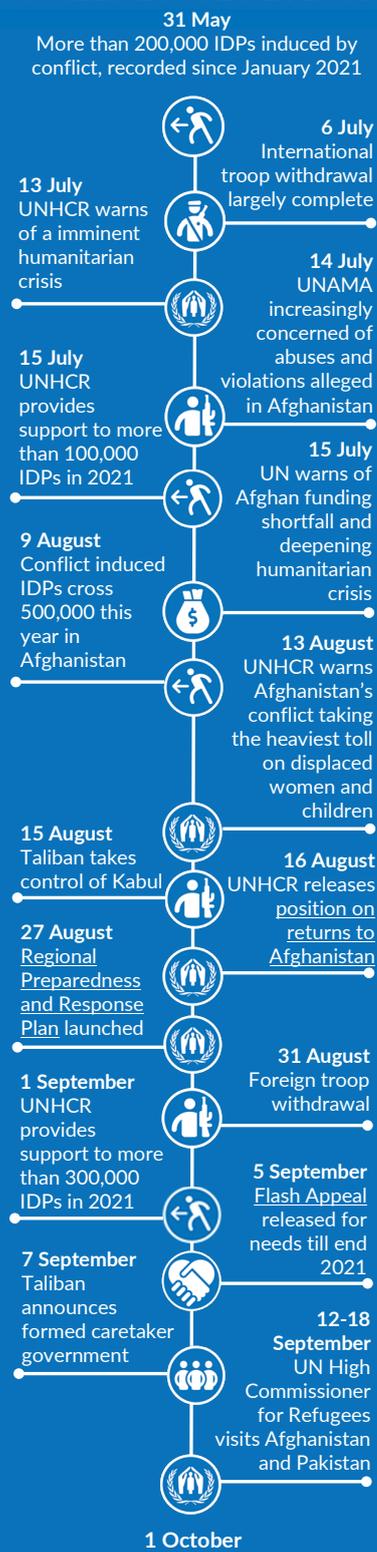
2.2M

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

38,770

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021²

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

- Some 665,182 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan since the start of 2021, according to OCHA. Some 80 per cent of this total are women and children. Meanwhile, 143,125 IDPs are estimated to have returned to their places of origin. These include nearly 37,000 IDPs in 15 priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRs) districts, where UNHCR has ongoing projects.
- From the start of August, UNHCR in Afghanistan has reached over 92,000 people with non-food items, almost 78,500 people with hygiene kits, and over 7,000 girls and women with sanitary kits, almost 11,000 people with cash for protection, and over 1,700 persons with psychosocial support.
- In total this year, UNHCR has reached some 477,000 newly internally displaced persons with life-saving support.



- UNHCR plans to conduct three airlifts to scale up supplies to Afghanistan in the coming period. The consignments will be airlifted to Termez, Uzbekistan and subsequently trucked to Hairaton/Mazar. The airlifts will deliver approximately 90 metric tonnes of urgently needed core relief items (CRIs), including plastic tarps and kitchen sets. The first flight is planned for mid-October.
- UNHCR is also working on the organization of two further direct airlifts to Kabul, including for the urgent scale up of its winter assistance programme with core relief items to allow IDPs to prepare to the harsh winter ahead.
- UNHCR's protection hotline and mailbox in Afghanistan have continued to witness a high demand for protection-related information during September. In September, more than 15,000 queries were received, an average of almost 590 per day. The figures of 590 – 600 queries per day in August and September. UNHCR processes each query and either responds directly or provides referrals to appropriate services and/or assistance.

- A preliminary analysis of community-based protection monitoring assessments by UNHCR Afghanistan as of September indicates that major issues include **lack of food and access to basic items; an inability to pay rent; and the costs of medicine**. Assessed persons face limited access to healthcare services and increasing unemployment. This information corresponds to recent WFP statements that, as of mid-September, 95 per cent of households had insufficient food consumption, an increase of 15 per cent points compared with previous assessment on 15 August. **The vast majority reported having insufficient money and means to buy food.**
- As well as its emergency response and ongoing critical protection activities, **UNHCR is staying and delivering its regular programme with key interventions in several sectors including health, education, and livelihoods**. A key focus is improving access to quality education to the children of returned and displaced population. Currently UNHCR is carrying out 38 education infrastructure projects, which will benefit nearly 65,000 students and will be completed by the end of 2021. These include the construction of 19 schools, including 2 girl schools, 1 youth learning centre, and 1 internet café.
- In the area of health, **UNHCR is working to improve access to quality healthcare services through construction and rehabilitation of health clinics, Mental Health and Psycho-Social Services (MHPSS), health and hygiene promotion awareness, and midwife trainings**. Construction of nine health clinics is ongoing that will benefit more than 300,000 people. Meanwhile, to promote access to livelihoods and income generating activities, UNHCR's ongoing interventions include market-based vocational and technical trainings including job placement and business support for 2,300 people.
- In the **meeting of the Global Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)**, which took place on 1 October, the Global Core Group, consisting of 10 States and 3 development partners and chaired by the European Union, affirmed their **commitment to scale-up international humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons in Afghanistan, and for refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries**.

REGIONAL

- **During the reporting period, most land border-crossing points with Afghanistan remain closed, except in limited instances for those with passports, valid visas or valid travel documents**. Afghan nationals with documents, including passports, valid visas and tazkira holders from Kandahar have been permitted entry into Pakistan citing medical or security reasons. Amongst the new arrivals interviewed by UNHCR in Iran, only 17% indicated they travelled to Iran with passports and valid visas, reconfirming that most Afghans are crossing into the country irregularly.
- **UNHCR border monitors have observed a decrease in attempted movement of largely undocumented Afghans through official border points as border restrictions continue to be enhanced and those without valid documentation not permitted entry**. As a result, UNHCR continues to receive reports of increased movements of undocumented Afghans resorting to irregular land border crossing points, particularly into Iran, where 75% of those interviewed by UNHCR reported having crossed into Iran through unofficial borders.
- **UNHCR continues to call on countries to keep their borders open to those seeking safety**, as well as draw to attention UNHCR's non-return advisory for Afghanistan, calling for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals in the current circumstances.
- **UNHCR has recorded 37,800 newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since the start of the year**. The majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. Basic needs cited by those newly arriving Afghans interviewed include access to shelter, livelihoods and food. The overall number of Afghans in need of international protection are thought to be higher.
- **In support of relevant authorities, UNHCR continues to prepare for potential new arrivals in neighboring countries, as well as support the emergency needs of IDPs still in Afghanistan, including with the pre-positioning of the following essential supplies and items:**

	Afghanistan	Iran	Pakistan	Tajikistan
 Blankets	63,200 / 235,200	9,600 / 46,400	49,800 / 20,400	3,300 / -
 Buckets	15,900 / 43,000	- / 10,000	22,400 / 10,200	700 / -
 Family tent	9,200 / 15,000	8,400 / 4,000	9,000 / 5,400	600 / -
 Jerrycan	17,300 / 98,400	4,200 / 19,800	16,900 / 6,800	1,300 / -
 Kitchen set	11,000 / 44,600	1,800 / 9,700	5,600 / 3,400	700 / -
 Mosquito net		- / 39,800	32,200 / 10,200	
 Sleeping mats		12,000 / 44,300	41,000 / 13,600	3,300 / -
 Tarpaulins	29,800 / 98,300	5,000 / 19,000	12,000 / 6,800	
 Soap	236,300 / -	100,000 / -	45,400 / -	13,000 / -
 Cloth for sanitary napkins		480,000 / -		

Legend: in-stock / pipeline

