

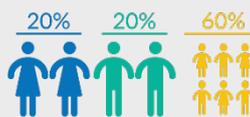
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.4M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 15 November 2021¹

 **667,903**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021²


 **72,377**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 2 November 2021

 **2.2M**

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

 **68,330**

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021³

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The operational context in Afghanistan remained stable in the reporting period.** Despite several security incidents caused by non-state actors in the country, **UNHCR has been able to proceed with its humanitarian activities and protection programmes in nearly all provinces of Afghanistan.**
- Out of 667,900 people internally displaced (IDPs) in Afghanistan by conflict this year, **an estimated 169,000 IDPs have returned to their previous places of origin** since September, particularly as the security situation across the country has stabilized. Out of those who have returned, 36 per cent returned to Southern and 35 per cent to North Eastern regions, among others.
- In the reporting period, **UNHCR's emergency response in Afghanistan was further scaled up**, particularly ahead of the harsh winter season. UNHCR provided essential winter assistance to over 62,700 IDPs and persons in need, bringing the total to nearly 623,200 persons assisted since the start of this year. This assistance includes the following items and services:

Emergency Assistance

provided in 2021 (as of 15 November)



92,700 | 623,200*
persons supported



29 | 34
provinces reached



9,900 | 261,100
persons benefited from core relief items



50,100 | 62,700
persons benefited from cash for winterization



9,600 | 44,500
persons benefited from cash assistance for Protection needs



11,100 | 23,800
persons benefited from cash for shelter/rent



1,100 | 15,000
persons benefited from solar panels distribution



1,700 | 8,000
persons benefited from cash for Reintegration (CARE)

Legend: **XXX** assistance provided from 1 to 15 November 2021 | **XXX** assistance provided in 2021

*The total persons supported may include multiple counting of beneficiaries receiving assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- **UNHCR has ramped up its cash assistance to IDPs and vulnerable communities for several purposes**, including cash for protection, rent, winterization assistance, livelihoods and reintegration upon return, with **some 80,000 individuals receiving cash during the reporting period.** This, for instance, included cash for the reintegration of nearly 1,700 IDPs who had been previously displaced to Kabul province. The returnees received some \$400 per household to support them to reintegrate in their places of origin after returning.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR was able to resume **all its protection activities at the field-level, as access negotiations continued with the de facto authorities.** The de facto authorities have recently authorized female humanitarian workers to resume work and UNHCR female staff have largely been able to return since. Despite this, female workers continue to face some challenges in several field locations, which UNHCR and the wider UN system is monitoring and following up with the de facto authorities, as required.



Afghan displaced waiting to receive cash for rent assistance. © UNHCR/Tony Aseh

- **Considering this, UNHCR's protection work was also scaled up in the reporting period.** This included conducting household assessments to understand the needs of IDPs and other vulnerable individuals across the country, with UNHCR reaching more than 11,000 households in the reporting period, as well as providing psychosocial support to some 1,900 individuals in different provinces. UNHCR also received nearly 8,000 protection inquiries to its hotline, based on which advice, guidance and support are provided to individuals.
- From the assessments and protection work, UNHCR has found that many participants – particularly women – are indicating the biggest challenges that they are facing is poverty and financial stress, with many reporting that they are without work. This corresponds with reports of the economic crisis across the country.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR, in coordination with partners, is **leading the development of a Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2022 (RRP 2022) for the Afghan situation** in neighbouring countries Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. RRP 2022 is an inclusive and participatory planning process and has a broad partnership. In each country, UNHCR has been working with UN agencies and NGO partners as part of the ongoing development of the plan, in consultation with host governments. As such, the plan reaffirms a regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, by enhancing community-based investments in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and working towards the solutions outlined in the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). RRP 2022 will ensure coordinated efforts to support government responses, including supporting the resilience of Afghans and host communities, as well as protection, humanitarian assistance and preparedness.
- Against this backdrop, UNHCR has **recorded 68,330 newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since the start of the year**, composed of 47% children and 26% women in Iran and 50% children and 25% women in Pakistan. In Tajikistan, Afghan new arrivals are composed of 31% women and 40% children. The overall number of Afghans in need of international protection are thought to be higher as not all approach UNHCR or partners. The majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. Basic needs cited by those newly arriving Afghans interviewed in Iran and Pakistan include access to shelter, livelihoods, food and documentation, with a large majority of those undocumented Afghans in Iran also citing concerns regarding detention and forced return.

- Afghanistan's land borders with Pakistan and Iran remain closed, except largely to those with the required passports and visas.** In Pakistan, after almost a month of closure, Chaman-Spin Boldak – one of the main land border-crossing points between Pakistan and Afghanistan – was re-opened on 02 November to both pedestrian and commercial movements. Since then, bidirectional movements have restarted between Pakistan and Afghanistan, including the entry of some 500 Afghans a day, largely with valid visas and Afghan passports, into Pakistan. The Pakistani authorities have also said that Afghans from Kandahar and Spin Boldak can enter with their Tazkiras (Afghan ID cards), as well as serious medical cases. Afghans crossing the border often have to wait several days to cross, further to undertaking administrative formalities. At Torkham border – the other main crossing point between Afghanistan – those with Pakistani visas and Afghan passports have continued to be able to cross during the reporting period.
- In Iran, official borders between Afghanistan and Iran remain largely closed, except for those with Afghan passports and valid visas for Iran. At the same time, local media citing the Iranian authorities continue to estimate upwards of 5,000 newly arriving individuals per day into Iran, largely through irregular crossing points.
- 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. During the reporting period, UNHCR has observed an average daily deportation rate of 3,200 Afghans from Iran, 11 individuals have reportedly been deported from Tajikistan while 45 families remain at risk of deportation and about 1,800 individuals have been deported from Pakistan in September and October.
- UNHCR has in stock or in the pipeline the following essential supplies and stocks** for Afghans who have been or may be displaced in the future, as part of regional preparedness and response efforts:

	Afghanistan	Iran	Pakistan	Tajikistan
 Blankets	33,400 / 266,700	9,600 / 31,900	49,800 / 130,200	3,300 / 12,600
 Buckets	45,100 / -	- / 14,000	22,400 / 10,600	700 / 2,500
 Family tent	14,200 / 12,000	1,900 / 2,500	8,000 / 6,500	600 / 2,600
 Jerry can	31,000 / 117,900	4,200 / 32,800	16,900 / 17,200	1,300 / 5,100
 Kitchen set	12,200 / 37,400	1,800 / 6,200	5,600 / 15,000	700 / 2,500
 Mosquito net		- / 20,000	27,600 / 307,400	
 Sleeping mats		14,100 / 27,700	50,500 / 39,500	3,300 / 12,600
 Tarpaulins	34,500 / 103,200	5,000 / 19,000	13,200 / 6,800	- / 6,400
 Soap	343,000 / -	190,000 / -	45,400 / -	13,000 / -
 Cloth for sanitary napkins	37,100 / 117,800	650,000 / -	70,500 / 199,500	

Legend: in-stock / pipeline

