

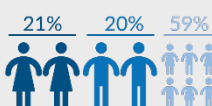

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.22M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 30 June 2023

 **712,200**

Total returns from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September 2023¹


 **34,800**

Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 Dec. 2023

 **15,500**

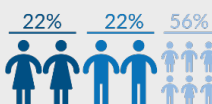
IDP returnees recorded in 2024

 **5.82M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2023

 **26,100**

Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2024²


 **1.6M**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring countries since August 2021³

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 712,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15 September 2023 and 31 August 2024. UNHCR assisted 109,000 of these returnees, 49% of whom are female, including 28% girls. Among those assisted, 29% are boys and 23% are men. In addition, 2.4% have disabilities and 30% are female-headed households. Returns peaked in May and June with some 38,000 returns each month. Since then, returns have decreased with some 28,000 returns recorded in August. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to biometrically process and provide cash assistance to Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders and their nuclear family members, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders and Afghans with other protection referrals. For more information, please see the [latest](#) UNHCR Pakistan-Afghanistan Returns Emergency Response Update.
- On 7 August, the Members of the Global Core Group of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) [Support Platform](#) convened to discuss SSAR Pillar 2: *Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan* to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration. The consultation provided an opportunity to review the current operational context in Afghanistan, and the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan in relation to the Pillar and considered the needs, priorities, and future planned responses in support of solutions. A common outcome document summarizing key considerations and recommendations was developed to guide a strategic dialogue between the Global Core Group and the Quadripartite Steering Committee planned for the end of the year. The consultation was facilitated by the Netherlands, UNHCR, JICA, GIZ, the EU, and FAO.
- In a significant step towards bolstering Iran's healthcare infrastructure, [UNHCR handed over](#) a substantial consignment of essential medical equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education. This contribution is part of a \$30 million multi-year initiative aimed at enhancing refugee-inclusive health policies across the country. The consignment includes hundreds of centrifuges and microscopes, over one million rapid test kits for communicable diseases, power generators, and essential medicines. These vital resources will be distributed to health centres and hospitals nationwide, with a particular focus on border regions and provinces hosting large numbers of displaced people. This contribution will ensure that both host communities and refugees have better access to critical healthcare services.
- In August, Pakistan's monsoon rains and flooding caused significant damage and loss of life. UNHCR played a key role in supporting affected communities, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported dozens of casualties. Although refugee communities were largely spared, UNHCR provided targeted assistance to affected families. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PDMA acknowledged UNHCR's critical contribution of ICT equipment and requested further support to operationalize the District Disaster Information Management System in 17 districts. UNHCR also worked with protection partners to enhance inter-agency contingency planning in support of government-led efforts. Across the country, floods claimed close to 200 lives, injured over 360 people, and damaged almost 2,300 homes. UNHCR provided assistance to four flood-affected refugee villages in Balochistan, with infrastructure repairs planned once conditions allow.

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¹ An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that ACC and PoR cardholders are exempted. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to 30 June 2024. Advocacy by UNHCR is ongoing. UNHCR began monitoring return trends from mid-September before the official announcement of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan by the Government of Pakistan in October 2023.

² This category includes all refugee returnees as well as PoR card holders who returned without passing through the established Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) set up in Pakistan.

³ In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure according to various government estimates and continues to follow-up with authorities to receive updated and disaggregated data as well as an estimate of how many presently remain in Iran. Of the average 1 million new arrivals since August 2021, over 92,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, over 476,000 have approached UNHCR.

AFGHANISTAN



- UNHCR and partners in Afghanistan reached over 895,000 people with humanitarian assistance in all 34 provinces in August 2024. Among those reached, some 236,000 people received cash assistance while close to 660,000 benefitted from in-kind and other individual assistance, including protection support, core-relief items, shelter, seasonal support and community-based interventions. Assessments were also carried out for over 445,000 people to determine their specific needs.
- In the first eight months of 2024, UNHCR Afghanistan assisted 44,786 Afghan returnees (10,782 households), bringing the total supported since January 2023 to 120,728 people (28,883 households) as of 31 August 2024. In August 2024, 3,964 people (1,035 households) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan and received assistance from UNHCR and partners. Most returned from Pakistan and included various categories such as Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and undocumented family members. Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul facilitated the reception and assistance of the returnees.
- From 11 to 14 August, the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) Trust Fund Management Unit visited south-east Afghanistan, including Gardez, Paktika, and Khost provinces. The objectives were to evaluate the implementation of the Joint Programme, assess the impact of STFA support on communities, capture human interest stories, and identify regional bottlenecks. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, Indrika Ratwatte, and Chair of the STFA, joined the visit. Mr Ratwatte observed UN and NGO programming, met with local authorities, and discussed emerging opportunities and challenges in the region.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR Pakistan hosted a technical-level SSAR Core Group+ meeting, chaired by the Netherlands and attended by representatives from Australia, the EU/ECHO, Japan, the UK, the US, IOM, and the World Bank. During the meeting, UNHCR provided key updates on developments since the July PoR card extension, including the latest restrictive edicts from Afghanistan and security concerns in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. UNHCR also shared protection trends, noting an increase in sporadic raids on Afghans in August, while return figures remained stable despite a significant decrease in voluntary repatriations between July and August. IOM gave updates on holding sites, most of which are inactive, while acknowledging the potential for the resumption of Phase II of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan.
- In Pakistan, UNHCR and JICA led a [national education workshop](#) to drive collaboration and scale up [Accelerated Learning Programmes](#) for disadvantaged, out-of-school children and youth. The workshop brought together over 80 participants, including government officials and education actors from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. UNHCR and JICA facilitated discussions on best practices, enhancing coordination, and the urgent need for innovative solutions to tackle the education crisis. The event emphasized collective efforts and policy development to ensure greater access to education for vulnerable children.
- In Pakistan, the Balochistan Food Authority granted a license to Riwayat, a social enterprise supporting refugees, to sell solar-dried fruits and vegetables. Riwayat, a subsidiary of the Taraqee Foundation, partners with UNHCR to implement livelihood projects. Since 2021, solar drying has been a key component of UNHCR's "Safe from the Start" initiative, training over 200 female refugees. The license will open new market opportunities, empowering these women to sell their products directly and improve their livelihoods.
- In August, UNHCR Pakistan submitted 33 cases (164 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024 so far, 358 cases (1,408 refugees) have been submitted to 11 countries, including Australia (22), Belgium (five), Canada (544), Finland (one), France (three), Germany (five), Italy (one), the Netherlands (one), New Zealand (15), the United Kingdom (six), and the United States (800). In August, 113 refugees departed for resettlement, bringing the total to 2,245 for 2024.

These refugees have been resettled in Australia (443), Canada (511), New Zealand (140), Norway (six), the United Kingdom (887), and the United States (258). UNHCR is close to meeting its Canada quota (550), while the United States has increased its 2024 target for Pakistan to 2,000, supported by the ongoing presence of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers. On 13 August, UNHCR briefed a new USCIS team at the American Embassy. Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 21 cases (78 people) for resettlement in August, totalling 691 cases (2,583 people) from January to August 2024. In August, 50 people departed for Australia, one person to Italy, 15 to New Zealand, and 73 to the United Kingdom. Since resettlement resumed in 2022, 2,565 refugees have departed Iran. Resettlement remains a vital tool for sharing responsibility and offering protection to refugees at risk.



- 1.59 million IDPs are estimated to have returned to their places of origin in Afghanistan between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various types of support, including cash assistance, technical and vocational education and training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education. The source of these figures are household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from October 2021 to August 2024.⁵

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR's total requirements for the Afghanistan situation for 2024 are **USD 479.7 million**. In late August, the situation was **41% funded**. UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors who have contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked funding:

Australia | Denmark | Canada | China | Czechia | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Norway | Netherlands | Saudi Arabia | Switzerland | United States of America | Australia for UNHCR | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

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Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Ireland | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Italy | Private donors Korea | España con ACNUR | Japan for UNHCR

For the latest funding update, please see [here](#). For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the [2023 Global Report](#).

