UNHCR AFGHANISTAN
MONTHLY PROTECTION UPDATE
As of August 2026

This monthly protection update for Afghanistan provides a comprehensive overview of UNHCR's different protection programs, aiming to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks faced by vulnerable populations in the context of the current humanitarian crisis and in the absence of durable solutions. The data and insights presented are derived from an extensive protection analysis, collected through a variety of robust tools and systems. The activities include protection monitoring, household assessments, voluntary repatriation, returns monitoring, specialized support for persons with specific needs, community engagement, complaints and feedback systems, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), child protection, women protection, and civil documentation. This update aims to highlight key achievements, ongoing challenges, and the critical needs of the affected communities, ensuring a transparent and effective protection response.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

257,630
People reached through protection services (**50,871** in August)

129,982
Women and girls reached in 2026 to-date (**25,062** in August)

197,862
Refugee returnees received UNHCR emergency cash assistance (**11,428** in August)

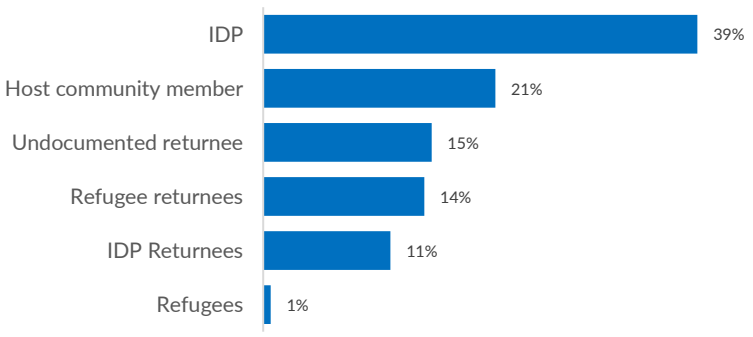
PROTECTION MONITORING

UNHCR relies on a broad variety of protection monitoring activities to collect evidence and information on the protection needs and risks of forcibly displaced, returnee and host communities across Afghanistan. These activities include border monitoring, returnee monitoring and community-based protection monitoring (CPBM). The latter includes household assessments, focus group discussions and interviews with key informants. The data collected informs strategic priorities, operational decision-making and advocacy at field, national and global levels shaping the humanitarian and basic human needs response.

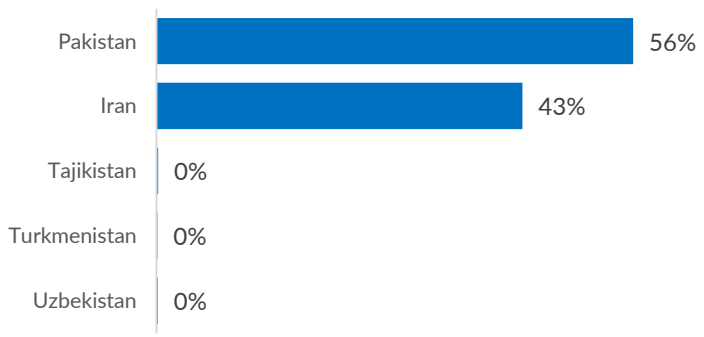
5,472 community-based assessments (**1,297** in August) reaching **35,925** individuals (**8,251** in August)

78,373 border monitoring interviews with Afghan returnees or deportees (**9,512** in August)

Community-based assessments conducted by population type



Border monitoring (by country of asylum of Afghans returning)



LEGAL ASSISTANCE & CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

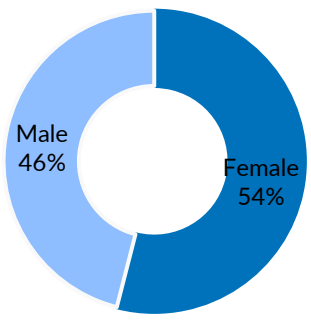
UNHCR partners with local legal experts in Mazar, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Jalalabad provinces to reinforce access to legal assistance for refugees, refugee returnees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees and host community members. One of the key objectives is to facilitate access to civil documentation as a tool to claim rights and access services. The support provided includes legal awareness sessions focusing on civil documentation, tailored legal counseling, legal representation and cash assistance to cover administrative fees.

19,829 individuals identified for **legal aid** (**5,283** in August)

30,383 individuals received **legal assistance** (**7,249** in August)

6,720 legal **identity documents** issued (**5,276** in August)

Individuals receiving legal assistance by gender



MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

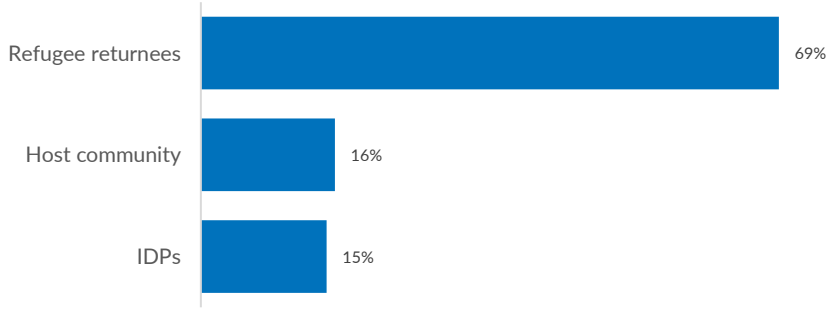
UNHCR's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme is designed to address MHPSS needs, protect and promote psychosocial wellbeing and prevent and treat mental health problems. The activities include one-on-one individual counselling, group and family-based psychosocial support and awareness-raising about MHPSS, addressing the stigma attached to seeking such support. These programmes are particularly crucial for women and girls, and other marginalized groups who are more likely to suffer mental health challenges.

6,767 benefited from **MHPSS** services (**1,656** in August)

53% of MHPSS beneficiaries are **women and girls**

10,366 benefited from **service orientation and awareness raising** sessions (**2,647** in August)

Individuals receiving MHPSS services by population type



For further information please visit the Afghanistan page data portal or please contact AFGKAIMU@unhcr.org.

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN
MONTHLY PROTECTION UPDATE
As of August 2026

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

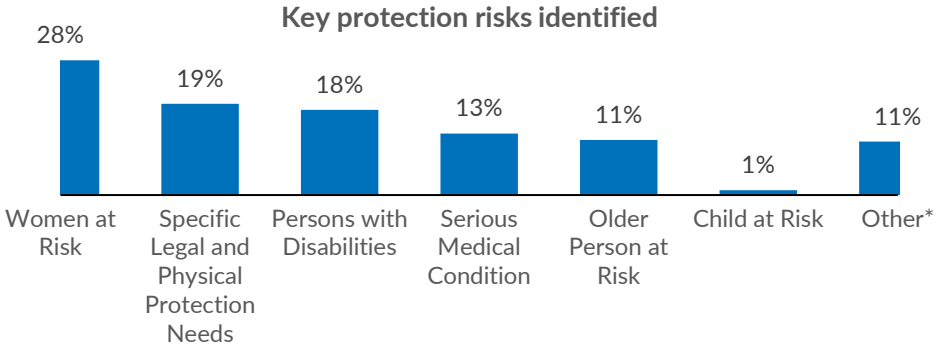
PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT (PCM) for PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS (PSN)

This programme focuses on individuals facing specific needs and risks arising from their displacement status, role in the community, legal situation, disability, social or health vulnerability and/or an individual protection risk. It aims to provide structured support to persons at heightened risk of a rights violation, drawing on the strengths of the individual and the community and multi-sectoral referrals to mitigate and address the identified risks.

53% of individuals receiving PCM support were women

5,997 protection risk **assessments** conducted (**1,621 in** August)

1,479 people received **cash** assistance (**339** in August)



CHILD PROTECTION

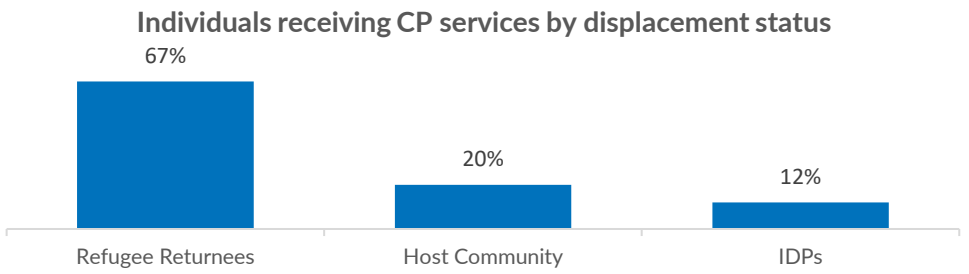
UNHCR child protection (CP) programmes aim to address child protection risks in Afghanistan employing a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach. In close collaboration with other UN agencies and local partner NGOs, UNHCR offers essential support to children at risk and their families through the provision of case management, psychosocial support and other recreational activities for children at integrated child-friendly spaces and community awareness raising and the strengthening of community-based child protection network.

665 children attended recreational activities (**189** in August)

4,675 children identified, registered & referred to CP services, including CM (**1,578** in August)

513 children received **psychosocial support** (**177** in August)

47% of individuals receiving child protection services were women



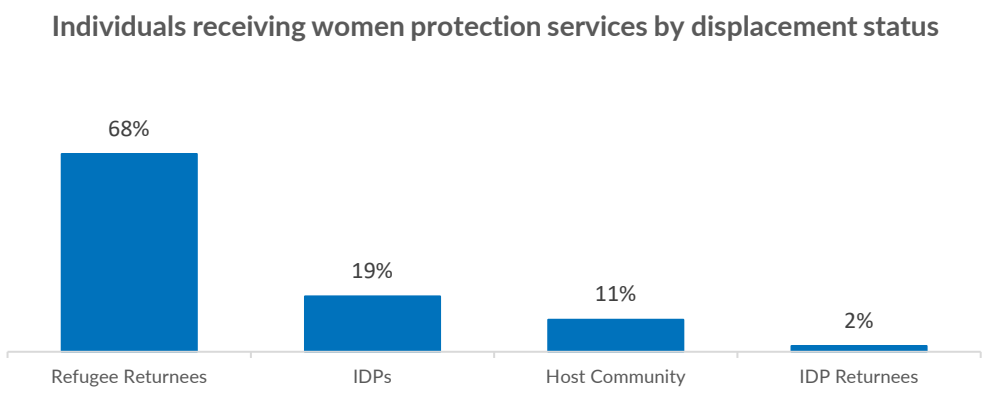
WOMEN's PROTECTION

UNHCR women protection interventions aim to respond to the specific protection needs of women and girls and empower communities with knowledge and skills to mitigate harmful practices and create a safe and enabling environment. The activities contribute to the operationalization of inter-agency referral systems designed to support women and girls at risk through community awareness raising, dialogues with community leaders, mental health and psychosocial support, economic empowerment and wellbeing activities, provision of hygiene kits, and conducting safety audits.

241 dialogues conducted with community leaders (**54** in August)

24,398 individuals reached via **awareness raising** (**5,698** in August)

51% of individuals receiving women protection services were women



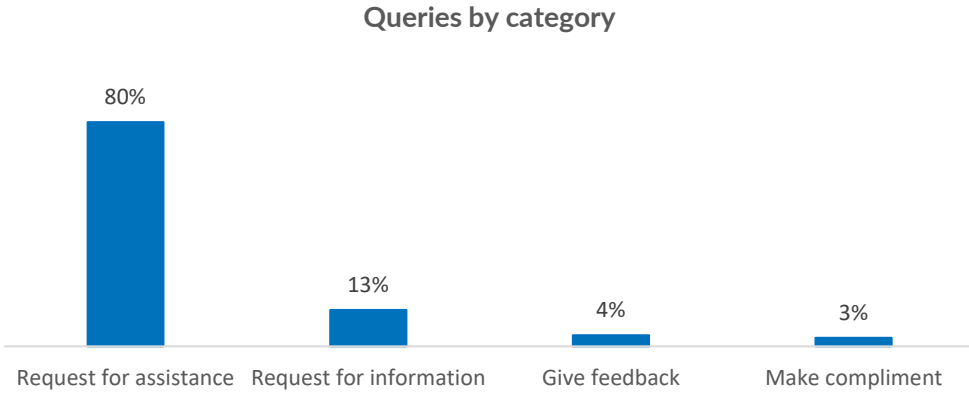
ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

UNHCR's complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) provides community members with the opportunity to share questions, feedback, suggestions and complaints. It relies on a variety of communication channels accessible across the country, including one mailbox, three hotlines, 33 complaint boxes and helpdesks set up in UNHCR centers. As a part of its strategic objective to strengthen engagement and communication with communities, UNHCR has also established a country-wide network of 106 community-outreach volunteers (COVs).

35,909 queries reached via **CFM** channels (**6.617** in August)

49% of queries received **via emails**

37% of individuals benefiting from CFM were women



COORDINATION

UNHCR Afghanistan is a key actor in the UN and humanitarian joint response to the protection and humanitarian needs in Afghanistan. As such, UNHCR leads and actively participates in several clusters and working groups within the aid coordination architecture.

Entity	Role	Entity	Role
GBV Workstream	Member	Disability Inclusion Working Group	Member
Child Protection Workstream	Member	Legal Assistance & Civil Documentation Workstream	Co-chair
Protection Coordination Group	Lead/Member	Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR)	Member
PSEA Network	Member	Population Movement Task Team (PMTT)	Member
Thematic Working Group for Gender and Human Rights	Member	Border Consortium	Member
Thematic Working Group on Protection Mainstreaming in Durable Solutions	Convenor	UNSFA Results Group 3	Co-chair
Thematic Working Group on Data and Analysis for Solutions	Convenor		

** The most frequently cited risks under the **"Other"** category include restrictions on freedom of movement, risk of eviction due to inability to pay rent, domestic violence, lack of privacy leading to GBV risks, physical security and safety concerns, and the adoption of harmful coping strategies, such as child marriage and child labour.*

For further information please visit the Afghanistan page data portal or please contact AFGKAIMU@unhcr.org.

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN
MONTHLY PROTECTION UPDATE
As of August 2026

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the donors who contributed to UNHCR's response in Afghanistan in 2026, as well as those who contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked funds which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

Bulgaria | Canada | China | Czech Republic | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Islamic Development Bank | Japan | Luxemburg | Norway | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund | Central Emergency Response Fund | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan

Private donors: Qatar Charity | Islamic Relief USA | Other private donors from Australia, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

CONTACT

Sophie Jambazishvili-yucer, Senior Protection Officer, Afghanistan Operation
yucer@unhcr.org

Nii Ako Sowa, Senior Information Management Officer, Afghanistan Operation
sowanii@unhcr.org



After more than a decade as a refugee in Iran, Shafiqa, a 38-year-old mother of five, returned to Afghanistan and settled in Injil district, Herat. As the family's sole breadwinner, she works in other people's homes to support her children.

Photo: Shafiqa with her children holding their newly obtained civil documentation in Herat Province. © UNHCR

In Iran, the lack of proper documentation created challenges for her children, including difficulties enrolling in school. After attending a legal awareness session organized by UNHCR through its partner, the Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre (AWSDC), Shafiqa learned about the importance of civil documentation, particularly the tazkira.

Equipped with this knowledge, Shafiqa secured identity documents for her children, helping them access education and other essential services. UNHCR's legal assistance programme, piloted in Herat last year, is now being expanded across Afghanistan to improve access to legal awareness, counselling and assistance for displaced and returnee Afghans.

For further information please visit the Afghanistan page data portal or please contact AFGKAIMU@unhcr.org