

SOUTH - WEST ASIA

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Pakistan



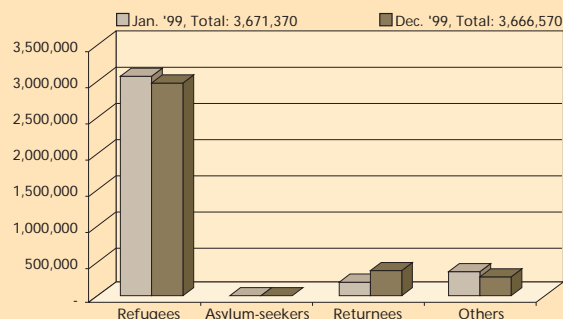
MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Attempts by the international community to bring the warring factions in Afghanistan together to negotiate a peace agreement continued, but failed to achieve the desired results. Renewed fighting in the northern and central regions of Afghanistan resulted in further mass displacement of the civilian population, both within and outside the country's borders. Sanctions were imposed on the Taliban authorities by the UN Security Council in November 1999 for harbouring alleged terrorists (a ban on international flights by the Afghan national airline and a freeze on Taliban assets abroad). As a result, UN and other humanitarian agencies became the targets of demonstrations and acts of violence.

An Iraqi governmental decree issued in June announced that those who had left the country ille-

gally would benefit from a general amnesty from prosecution if they decided to return home.

Persons of Concern to UNHCR



CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Unpredictable political developments and insecurity in Afghanistan made long-term planning for solutions to the Afghan refugee situation very difficult.

Reintegration activities were undermined by the reluctance of donors to invest in development in Afghanistan before a return to peace (with the establishment of a multi-ethnic representative government and the elimination of institutionalised discrimination against women, ethnic and religious minorities). So any large-scale voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees remained unlikely.

Although UN international staff were allowed to return to Afghanistan in March, UNHCR's ability to protect and assist returnees in Afghanistan was further hampered by UN security restrictions and late funding for reintegration activities. This affected returnees from the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly some 100,000 persons who were involuntarily returned by the authorities. The size and unorganised nature of these movements also made it extremely difficult for UNHCR to respond adequately to needs inside Afghanistan. A further 60,000 Afghans returned under bilateral arrangements with the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran or the Consulate in Mashad.

Thousands of members of ethnic minorities continued to flee from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries. This prompted the authorities in Pakistan to introduce restrictions on the admission of new refugees at border entry points, and to turn back those intercepted while trying to cross elsewhere. Members of the Hazara ethnic minority were stopped and turned back at the border when trying to cross into Baluchistan to join a larger group of Hazaras already living there. UNHCR will consult with the authorities to ensure the continued provision of asylum and protection to newly arrived refugees in Pakistan.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS

Voluntary repatriation remained the durable solution of choice for the Afghan refugees. UNHCR facilitated the return of some 100,780 to their places of origin in Afghanistan (91,834 from Pakistan and 16,918 from the Islamic Republic of Iran).

UNHCR and the Iranian Government agreed to work together to attain three broad objectives: (i) develop a Joint Programme to assist voluntary returns and provide continued protection for persons in need; (ii) gradually shift programme resources towards the majority of the refugees, i.e. those living outside the camps; and (iii) promote increased involvement of NGOs in refugee programmes. This approach is expected to

bear fruit in 2000.

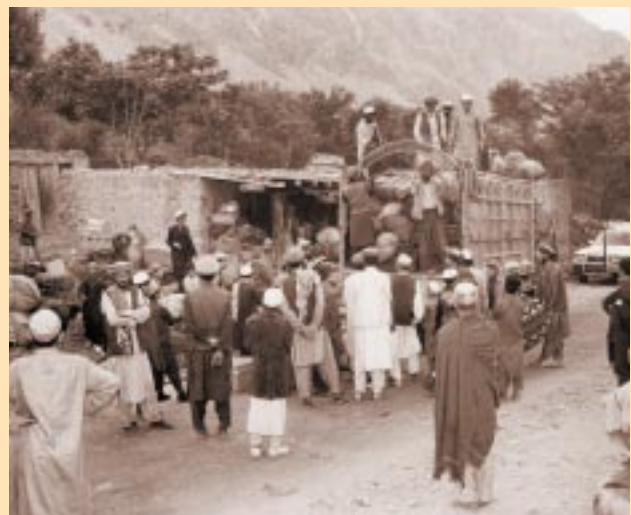
Reintegration assistance in Afghanistan focused on sectors that required immediate intervention. These included water, shelter, health and income-generation. Many a village abandoned after years of conflict came back to life following the assisted return of its population. Houses and schools were rebuilt, irrigation systems were overhauled and small income-generating projects revived the village economy and helped women heads of household care for their families. Overall, the assistance afforded the returnees a degree of long-term stability in their communities and reduced the potential for inter-ethnic or communal conflict driven by competition for scarce resources.

OPERATIONS

Please see separate country chapters on Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

FUNDING

Delays in funding hampered reintegration activities in Afghanistan and had direct consequences for the group repatriation programme from Pakistan. These delays also affected Afghans repatriating from the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly those who returned independently of UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme. The situation improved after a donor mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan in June highlighted the extent of the needs of the returnees. However, the majority of the funds for the Afghan programme arrived after September, making it extremely difficult to complete vital preparatory work on reintegration projects in time for the arrival of the returnees.



Voluntary Contributions - Earmarked (USD)

Donor	Earmarking*	General Programmes		Special Programmes	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
CANADA	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	534,899	534,899
DENMARK	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	1,101,364	1,101,364
FINLAND	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	879,709	879,709
FRANCE	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	326,445	326,445
GERMANY	Pakistan	270,000	270,000	0	0
NORWAY	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	314,861	314,861
ITALY	Islamic Republic of Iran	540,228	540,228	0	0
	Pakistan	540,228	540,228	0	0
JAPAN	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	4,721,142	4,721,142
	Islamic Republic of Iran	900,000	900,000	0	0
	Pakistan	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
THE NETHERLANDS	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	474,665	474,665
SWITZERLAND	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	963,817	963,816
	Islamic Republic of Iran	314,465	314,465	0	0
SWEDEN	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	710,220	710,220
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	4,242,000	4,242,000
	Pakistan	530,000	530,000	0	0
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	590,464	847,459
	Islamic Republic of Iran	105,932	211,864	0	0
	Pakistan	749,360	1,483,050	0	0
UNFPA	Pakistan	67,950	67,950	0	0
NIPPON FOUNDATION (JAP)	Islamic Republic of Iran	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
RADDA BARNEN (SWE)	Pakistan	59,966	59,966	0	0
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (JPN)	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	50,258	50,258
WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE (JPN)	Pakistan	1,000	1,000	0	0
	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	43,478	43,478
PRIVATE DONORS JAPAN	Afghan Rep. Op.	0	0	1,535	1,535
TOTAL**		6,079,129	6,918,751	14,954,857	15,211,851

* For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

** Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unearmarked voluntary contributions, lightly earmarked contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

Budget and Expenditure (USD)

Country	Working Budget*		Expenditure*	
	General Programmes	Special Programmes	General Programmes	Special Programmes
Afghanistan	0	6,840,623	0	5,809,255
The Islamic Republic of Iran	13,922,723	4,465,736	12,829,545	4,001,696
Pakistan	13,648,946	2,976,105	13,350,724	2,886,431
TOTAL	27,571,669	14,282,464	26,180,268	12,697,382

* Figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

Financial Report - Special Programme (USD)

Programme Overview	Current Year's Projects	notes		
Opening Balance	1,320,811	(1)		
Income from Contributions	14,954,857	(1)		
Other Funds Available	357,357			
Total Funds Available	16,633,025	(5)		
Expenditure	13,173,202	(1) (5)		
Closing Balance	3,459,823	(1) (5)		
Expenditure Breakdown			Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination*	4,364,303		88,316	
Crop Production	37,490		73,334	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	2,279,355		20,508	
Education	55,380		191,797	
Forestry	0		275	
Health / Nutrition	37,655		45,184	
Income Generation	11,348		287,360	
Legal Assistance	1,164,088		(126,441)	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	218,980		235,986	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	335,200		98,077	
Transport / Logistics	110,526		192,910	
Water	0		229,307	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	844,051		(232,742)	
Combined Projects	67,202		(830,996)	
Sub - total Operational	9,525,578		272,875	
Administrative Support *	1,833,159		6,577	
Sub - total Disbursements/Deliveries	11,358,737	(5)	279,452	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,814,465	(5)	0	(6)
TOTAL	13,173,202	(1) (5)	279,452	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	924,901		886,614	
Reporting Received	80,850		1,119,356	
Balance	844,051		(232,742)	
Outstanding 1 January	0		551,300	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		0	
Currency Adjustment	0		8,030	
Outstanding 31 December	844,051		326,588	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1 January	0		611,704	(6)
New Obligations	13,173,202	(1) (5)	0	
Disbursements	11,358,737	(5)	279,452	(6)
Cancellations	0		332,252	(6)
Outstanding 31 December	1,814,465	(5)	0	(6)

* Includes costs at Headquarters.

Figures which cross reference to accounts

(1) Annex 1 to Statement 1

(5) Schedule 5

(6) Schedule 6