



UNHCR's presence in 2012	
Number of offices	4
Total staff	124
International staff	13
National staff	105
Others	6

## | Overview |

### Operational highlights

- A multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries was adopted by the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, with the support of UNHCR and the backing of the international community, in May 2012 in Geneva.
- These three countries and UNHCR agreed to form a Quadripartite Steering Committee to coordinate and guide the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.
- UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 15,000 Afghan refugees and some 1,800 Iraqis, while 1,400 refugees of other origins were resettled in third countries.
- UNHCR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran completed the re-registration of Afghan refugees and issued some 850,000 *Amayesh* refugee cards in total. Holders of *Amayesh* cards and Afghan national passports were able to apply for temporary work permits.
- Refugees were given greater access to State educational facilities, with more than 330,000 enrolled in schools.
- More than 850,000 refugees benefited from basic primary health care, and close to 330,000 benefited from secondary and tertiary health insurance coverage, the result of the collaboration between UNHCR and the Ministries of Health and Education.

### People of concern

In 2012, UNHCR's main populations of concern in the Islamic Republic of Iran were: Afghan refugees who fled as a result of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan from 1980-1992; and Iraqi refugees who have fled conflict in their country over the past decade.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

##### Government agencies:

Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs; Ministries of the Interior, Education, Health, Treatment and Medical Education; Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare (State Welfare Organization), Technical and Vocational Training Organization

##### NGOs:

Chain of Hope, Danish Refugee Council, International World Relief Foundation, Iraqi Refugee Aid Council, Organization for Defending Victims of

Violence, Rebirth Charity Organization, Society for Recovery Support Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer,

##### Others:

Alborz Insurance Company, UNIDO

#### Operational partners

##### Government agencies:

Ministry of Justice

##### NGOs:

Norwegian Refugee Council

##### Others:

IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNDP, WFP

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Afghanistan	824,100	824,100	-	-
	Iraq	44,100	44,100	-	-
	Various	70	70	41	41
Asylum-seekers	Various	20	20	29	24
Returnees (refugees)	Various	10	10	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>868,300</b>	<b>868,300</b>		

## | Report on 2012 results |

### Achievements and impact

#### Basic needs and essential services

- Through an agreement with the Ministry of Health, UNHCR contributed towards the provision of basic primary health care services for the entire refugee population, at minimal cost. The services included vaccinations, antenatal care, maternal and child health services and family planning. An arrangement with an insurance company enabled close to 40 per cent of the registered refugee population to enjoy insurance coverage for secondary and tertiary health services. More than 40,000 extremely vulnerable refugees received financial support for their medical bills from UNHCR and the insurance company.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, more than 330,000 refugees, of whom 25 per cent were exempt from fees, were enrolled in Iranian schools during the 2011-2012 academic year. The number of enrolled students was 11 per cent higher than in the 2010-2011 academic year. In addition, some 2,400 out-of-school children benefited from literacy classes. The DAFI scholarship programme benefited 250 students, 63 per cent of them women, to enrol in Iranian universities.
- All vulnerable women of reproductive age and refugee students residing in settlements received sanitary materials and hygiene kits.

#### Community participation and self-management

- With the involvement of refugee communities, UNHCR helped the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) to launch a survey to assess the impact of the Government's "Targeting of Subsidies" plan on the living conditions of refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The results of the study will help design programme interventions in 2013-2014.
- UNHCR worked closely with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on a cross-border multi-year project to support refugee- and returnee-owned enterprises. The project was based on the results of a series of market and value-chain analyses conducted in 2012. This joint programme aims at increasing livelihood opportunities for refugees and returnees through support for new businesses, value-chain development, improved access to capital and markets, and the introduction of new skills and technologies.

- A partnership agreement grouping UNHCR, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization and the International World Relief Foundation provided training in market-driven vocational skills to some 1,800 refugees, with a special focus on economically active vulnerable women.

#### Durable solutions

- A total of 15,000 Afghans and nearly 1,800 Iraqis were assisted to return home voluntarily in safety and dignity.
- The files of four Iraqis and some 2,400 Afghans were submitted for consideration by resettlement countries in 2012, and more than 1,400 Afghans and two Iraqis departed for resettlement countries.

### Assessment of results

UNHCR was able to meet its objectives in the Islamic Republic of Iran only partially, owing to the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country. Key achievements included maintaining asylum space for close to 850,000 refugees in collaboration with BAFIA, ensuring access to primary health care for all refugees, reinforcing access to educational facilities in Iranian schools and promoting durable solutions for more than 18,000 refugees. However, these achievements were affected by the difficult socio-economic conditions in the country, which increased the numbers of vulnerable refugees. In 2012 the Government registered more than 210,000 individuals as vulnerable refugees, or 24 per cent of the registered refugee population.

### Constraints

The socio-economic situation of refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran is being affected by the economic changes in the country, inflation and international sanctions. During the reporting period banks were unable to provide UNHCR with hard currency to pay refugee repatriation grants. Hyper-inflation increased the cost of operations, with the result that UNHCR was able to provide assistance to a smaller number of refugees than originally planned. The rising cost of health services was one of the reasons the Government decided to stop providing direct assistance to refugees suffering from a number of serious medical conditions.

## Unmet needs

- Some 12,000 vulnerable refugees in need of secondary health care services could not gain access to them.
- Some 3,500 out-of-school refugees could not be assisted to attend literacy classes and the construction of two schools had to be deferred.
- More than 6,000 refugees were unable to benefit from vocational skills training.
- The protection needs of some 7,000 refugees could not be addressed, affecting child labourers, unaccompanied children, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, female headed households and the elderly, in particular.
- Some 2,500 refugees living with disabilities were excluded from community-based rehabilitation projects.
- A total of 20,000 vulnerable refugee women of reproductive age living in urban areas could not be provided with sanitary kits.
- Infrastructural improvements could not be made in the areas of shelter, heating and water.
- Some 75 per cent of the 5,000 refugees who were targeted for resettlement could not be processed.

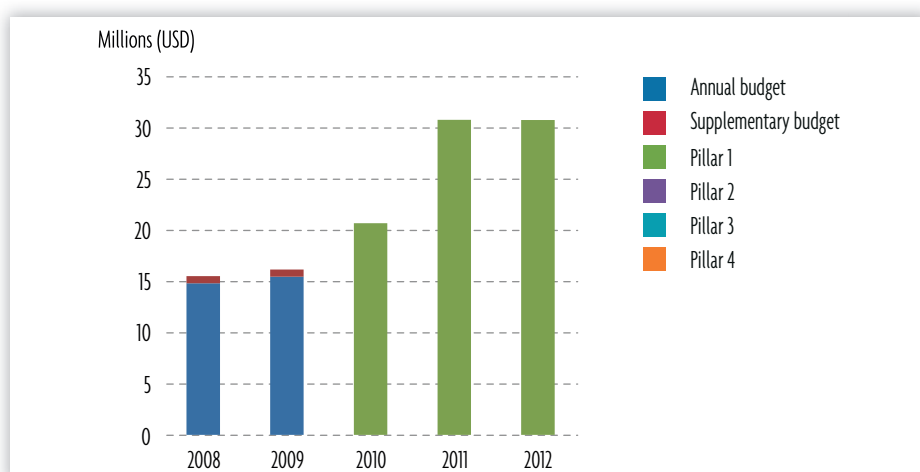
## Working with others

UNHCR signed 13 agreements with governmental organizations and NGOs to deliver humanitarian assistance to refugees. Collaboration with the UN Country Team continued, with WFP providing food assistance to settlement-based refugees and UNIDO assisting UNHCR with its cross-border livelihood initiatives. The Danish and Norwegian Refugee Councils partnered with UNHCR to address protection- and livelihood-related assistance gaps.

## | Financial information |

Against financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in the Islamic Republic of Iran of some USD 53 million in 2012, available funding allowed the operation to expend USD 30.8 million. Requirements have increased steadily since 2008, as UNHCR has moved from a repatriation-oriented operation to one focusing on the humanitarian needs of refugees within the country. The gap between refugee needs and the assistance provided has widened as the socio-economic environment has deteriorated over the years, leaving some 24 per cent of the refugee population vulnerable in 2012.

### Expenditures for the Islamic Republic of Iran | 2008 to 2012



### Budget, income and expenditure in the Islamic Republic of Iran | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>53,221,255</b>	<b>53,221,255</b>
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	19,175,234	<b>19,175,234</b>
Other funds available / adjustments / transfers	11,676,423	<b>11,676,423</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>30,851,657</b>	<b>30,851,657</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN</b>		
<i>Favourable Protection Environment</i>		
International and regional instruments	91,762	<b>91,762</b>
Law and policy	137,033	<b>137,033</b>
Access to legal assistance and remedies	516,672	<b>516,672</b>
Public attitude towards persons of concern	207,930	<b>207,930</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>953,397</b>	<b>953,397</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<i>Fair Protection Processes and Documentation</i>		
Reception conditions	202,019	<b>202,019</b>
Status determination procedures	183,524	<b>183,524</b>
Individual documentation	99,014	<b>99,014</b>
Civil registration and status documentation	178,920	<b>178,920</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>663,477</b>	<b>663,477</b>
<i>Security from Violence and Exploitation</i>		
Prevention and response to SGBV	330,923	<b>330,923</b>
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	45,881	<b>45,881</b>
Protection of children	224,401	<b>224,401</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>601,204</b>	<b>601,204</b>
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>		
Health	9,646,750	<b>9,646,750</b>
Reproductive health and HIV services	252,690	<b>252,690</b>
Food security	152,236	<b>152,236</b>
Water	373,987	<b>373,987</b>
Sanitation and hygiene	695,305	<b>695,305</b>
Shelter and infrastructure	1,313,477	<b>1,313,477</b>
Basic and domestic items	163,008	<b>163,008</b>
Services for people with specific needs	697,923	<b>697,923</b>
Education	2,242,800	<b>2,242,800</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15,538,175</b>	<b>15,538,175</b>
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>		
Community mobilization	389,461	<b>389,461</b>
Self-reliance and livelihoods	981,213	<b>981,213</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,370,674</b>	<b>1,370,674</b>
<i>Durable Solutions</i>		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	208,571	<b>208,571</b>
Voluntary return	2,564,652	<b>2,564,652</b>
Resettlement	891,715	<b>891,715</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,664,938</b>	<b>3,664,938</b>
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>		
Coordination and partnerships	142,541	<b>142,541</b>
Donor relations and resource mobilization	313,631	<b>313,631</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>456,173</b>	<b>456,173</b>
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>		
Logistics and supply	180,159	<b>180,159</b>
Operations management, coordination and support	300,474	<b>300,474</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>480,633</b>	<b>480,633</b>
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	7,122,986	<b>7,122,986</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,851,656</b>	<b>30,851,656</b>

\*Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.