

2024 Workplan of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform

Under the Chairmanship of the
State of Qatar
and the
Vice-Chairmanship of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands



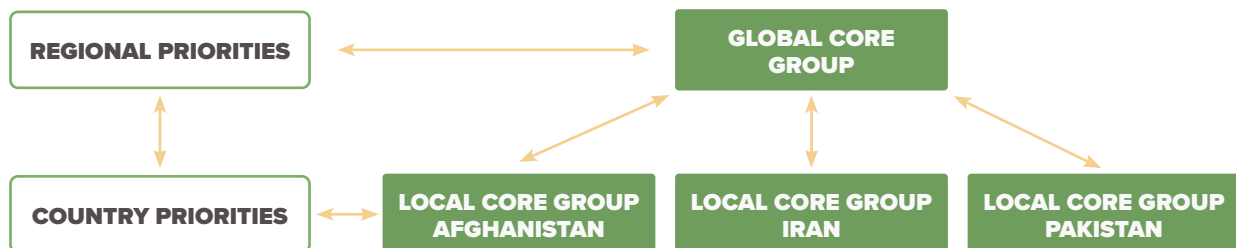
The objectives, scope of engagement and priorities of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) are detailed in the [Modalities of the SSAR Support Platform](#), [Terms of Reference of the Core Group](#) and in the [Chairperson's Summary](#) of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group with the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. This workplan builds on these agreed strategic directions, with a view to identifying specific areas of engagement for 2024.

Relevant information and documents can be found on the website of the Support Platform:
<https://ssar-platform.org/>

I. CORE GROUP ARCHITECTURE

In line with the deliberations of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group, the Core Group functions at two levels. The Secretariat of the SSAR Support Platform at the global level is provided by UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. At the country level, the Secretariat is provided by the UNHCR Operations in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

1. The Global Core Group (GCG)
2. The Local Core Groups (LCG) at the country-level in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan



The Core Groups at both the global and local levels have been operational since 2021 and the Global Core Group is comprised of 15 Members.¹ In July 2023, the State of Qatar assumed the Chairmanship of the Core Group from the European Union, the inaugural Chair. The Kingdom of the Netherlands currently holds the Vice-Chair of the Core Group.²

¹ Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Qatar, Switzerland, the Republic of Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, as well as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme.

² The role of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform are described in the 2022 Terms of Reference Chair of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

II. GLOBAL CORE GROUP OBJECTIVES³ IN 2024

General Objective

Galvanize structured regional coordination to increase political, financial, and technical support from existing and new partners for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in 2024, with a view to continue and expand the work of the Core Group.



Specific Objective 1

Coordination for enhanced burden and responsibility-sharing

Continue to facilitate structured, regional exchange and cooperation among Core Group members in support of the objectives of the SSAR (enabling voluntary and sustainable return and reintegration while also supporting host countries, and third-country solutions).



Specific Objective 2

Engagement with the countries of asylum and origin

Facilitate opportunities for engagement between the Quadripartite Steering Committee (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR) within the framework of the SSAR, and the Members of the Core Group.



Specific Objective 3

Visibility for Displaced Afghans

Amidst competing crises globally, keep a spotlight on the situation of Afghan refugees, displaced persons, and other vulnerable people on the move within the region, and their host communities.



Specific Objective 4

Partnerships

Mobilize new and diverse stakeholders - in particular, civil society, private sector, and international finance institutions - to support the multi-year priorities of the SSAR, including through implementation of the ReSolve Multi-Stakeholder Pledge, to advance protection, basic needs, self-reliance and third country solutions.

³ To be read along with the Terms of Reference of the Core Group and the Chairperson's Summary of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group with the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

III. GLOBAL CORE GROUP ENGAGEMENTS IN 2024



Specific Objective 1

Global Core Group Technical Consultations on the Pillars of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

The SSAR is the result of an unprecedented quadripartite consultative process among the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan and UNHCR. Since its launch in 2012, the SSAR has served to jointly identify and implement approaches toward lasting solutions for Afghan refugees in the region. The SSAR has provided a comprehensive strategic vision built around three mutually reinforcing Pillars: (1) *Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return*, (2) *Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration*, and (3) *Enhanced support for refugee hosting communities, preserving protection space in host countries and third country solutions*.

Three dedicated virtual consultations will provide an opportunity for the Core Group Members to review the current operational context in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan as it relates to each Pillar, and consider needs, priorities, and future planned responses in support of solutions. The consultations will inform the preparation of a common outcome document, presenting a summary of key considerations and recommendations, that will inform a strategic dialogue between the Core Group members and the Quadripartite Steering Committee, and support future actions by the Core Group Members.



Specific Objective 2

Quadripartite Steering Committee and Core Group Strategic Dialogue

A Quadripartite Steering Committee Meeting between Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR will inform SSAR coordination, collaboration, and strategic dialogue throughout the year. In addition, an in-person strategic dialogue between the Quadripartite Steering Committee and the Core Group serves as a platform for multi-partner coordination, joint decision-making, and resource mobilization. The dialogue will be informed by the technical consultations of the Core Group on the SSAR Pillars and include an articulation of the joint recommendations emerging from those consultations. Programmes that promote socio-economic reintegration in Afghanistan may also be discussed, with a particular emphasis on sectors with high potential for refugee participation. Members' commitment to providing enhanced support to refugee hosting communities in Iran and Pakistan, while also preserving protection space for refugees and exploring options for third country solutions will also receive attention.

III. GLOBAL CORE GROUP ENGAGEMENTS IN 2024



Specific Objective 3

Engagement hosted by the State of Qatar, Chair of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform

To mark the culmination of the Qatari Chairmanship of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform, a High-Profile Signature Event will be hosted by Qatar. While serving to generate visibility for displaced Afghans, the Event will focus on a strategic priority of the State of Qatar, aligned to the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). The Event will also provide a forum for Members of the Core Group to articulate ongoing or planned programmatic support that aligns with the Event's thematic focus, or for Members to articulate a related Pledge under the ReSolve Multistakeholder Pledge for Resilience and Solutions.



Specific Objective 4

Civil Society Consultation

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognizes the important role of civil society in shaping GCR commitments, and as a vital stakeholder in their implementation and success. This includes a critical role in local reintegration, bringing unique perspectives, expertise, and resources that complement the efforts of national, and international actors. This can include community engagement and empowerment, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, protection monitoring, and direct service delivery in areas including child protection, education, healthcare, psychosocial support, WASH, and emergency response. A virtual consultation between members of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform, and Members of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the Asia Displacement Solutions Platform (ADSP) will focus on community-based approaches to local reintegration in Afghanistan, with a specific focus on the protection of women and girls, in the context of the SSAR Pillar 1: Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return.

ReSolve Multi-Stakeholder Pledge

The SSAR Support Platform will be used as the primary forum to follow up on the implementation of the commitments made under the ReSolve Pledge at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. Modalities shall be discussed during the first meeting of the Core Group.

Membership of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform

During the year, opportunities will be explored to diversify the membership base of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform, to include additional governmental partners, particularly those who made policy commitments under the GRF ReSolve Multistakeholder Pledge for Resilience and Solutions. In addition, consultations will also be held among existing members to identify the next Chair and Vice-Chair. Finally, while Membership of the Platform is drawn from governmental, financial and development partners, opportunities will also be explored to engage non-governmental organizations on a needs basis to inform consultations between the Core Group Members.

IV. COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR 2024 OF THE LOCAL CORE GROUPS:

AFGHANISTAN

Priorities

- I. Scale protection monitoring at official and un-official border points**, to ensure the compilation of comprehensive protection data and subsequent referral to community-based protection services.
- II. Strengthen the protection space**, with a particular focus on community-based protection mechanism, utilizing volunteer networks, community centres and facilities to enable the delivery of protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support.
- III. Expand the provision of civil documentation for displaced persons and returnees**, to enable access to basic services, including health and education, and the full range of available entitlements.
- IV. Foster socio-economic empowerment**, through the expansion of economic empowerment programming and GBV services targeting displaced and returnee women and youth, in collaboration with the national Durable Solutions Working Group.

IRAN

Priorities

- I. Maintain and expand a favourable protection environment**, for all Afghans in Iran, strengthening access and the provision of protection services.
- II. Maintain and strengthen the inclusive policies through the national system**, to ensure access and support to national services – particularly to education and health, to ensure the sustainability.
- III. Promote resilience, self-reliance, and durable solutions**, in close collaboration with various partners.

PAKISTAN

Priorities

- I. Attaining a favourable protection environment** - The development of comprehensive refugee management legal and policy framework in Pakistan, while addressing and overcoming barriers to documentation.
- II. Empowering Communities and achieving gender equality** - Advance investment in the humanitarian development nexus to promote the inclusion of forcibly displaced people and stateless people in national and provincial planning and programming, with due consideration of climate concerns. Empower and engage all segments of community and building human capital.
- III. Securing Solutions** - Access to sustainable solutions in safety and dignity, including local options, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and complementary pathways.

No.	Engagement	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Tripartite meetings <i>In-person sessions. Opportunity for tripartite meetings between Iran-Afghanistan-UNHCR, and Pakistan-Afghanistan-UNHCR</i>												
2	Meeting of the Global Core Group <i>Virtual session on workplan, inter-agency collaboration, and the ReSolve GRF Pledge</i>												
3	Civil Society Consultation <i>Virtual session on local approaches to reintegration, with a focus on the protection of women and girls</i>												
4	Quadripartite Steering Committee Meeting <i>In-person meeting between Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR</i>												
5	Qatar Signature Event <i>In-person event to mark the conclusion of the Qatari Chairmanship of SSAR Support Platform</i>												
6	Global Core Group Meeting on SSAR Pillar 1 <i>Virtual session. Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return</i>												
7	Global Core Group Meeting on SSAR Pillar 2 <i>Virtual session. Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration</i>												
8	Global Core Group Meeting on SSAR Pillar 3 <i>Virtual session. Enhanced support for refugee hosting communities, preserving protection space in host countries and resettlement in third countries</i>												
9	Quadripartite Steering Committee and Core Group Strategic Dialogue <i>In-person consultation on the SSAR</i>												
10	Closing meeting of the Global Core Group <i>Virtual session. Consultation on Country Core Groups in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.</i>												

*Modest adjustments to scheduling are anticipated throughout the year.