

AFGHANISTAN



Operational highlights

- Over 118,000 Afghan refugees returned home voluntarily with UNHCR assistance in 2010, double the 2009 figure. All received cash grants to support their initial reintegration.
- UNHCR constructed some 17,000 shelters for vulnerable returnee families and implemented more than 80 income generation and water projects to help over 138,000 beneficiaries.
- In view of the growing number of smaller-scale emergencies in the country, UNHCR maintained an

emergency preparedness and response capacity. Planning and coordination with partners was improved and contingency stocks for 60,000 families were maintained.

- Some 3,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned voluntarily to their areas of origin and received reintegration assistance.
- UNHCR worked closely with other UN agencies, NGOs and donors to maximize the use of available funding and coordinate relief assistance and reintegration initiatives.
- The finalization of the IDP strategy for Afghanistan in 2010 helped UNHCR improve identification of people of concern, needs assessments and assistance through

Persons of concern

| Type of Population | Origin | Total | Of whom assisted by UNHCR | Per cent female | Per cent under 18 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Refugees | Various | 40 | 40 | 37 | 37 |
| People in a refugee-like situation | Pakistan | 6,400 | 6,400 | 50 | 58 |
| Asylum-seekers | Various | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 |
| IDPs | Afghanistan | 351,900 | 351,900 | 50 | 58 |
| Returnees (IDPs) | Afghanistan | 3,400 | 3,400 | 50 | 58 |
| Others of concern | Afghan returnees of concern to UNHCR | 838,300 | 838,300 | 49 | 55 |
| Returnees (refugees) ¹ | Pakistan | 109,400 | 109,400 | 50 | 58 |
| | Islamic Rep. of Iran | 8,500 | 8,500 | 50 | 58 |
| | Various | 160 | 120 | 50 | 58 |
| Total | | 1,318,130 | 1,318,090 | | |

¹ Demographic breakdown of returnees refers to the total 118,060 Afghan returning refugees.

This settlement near Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan is home to some 2,000 Hazara families who have returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2002.



UNHCR / R. ARNOLD

collaboration with key stakeholders, including government departments and NGOs.

| Working environment |

The political situation in Afghanistan remained unstable throughout the year. Moreover, deterioration in security hampered humanitarian agencies' access to the field and ability to identify and assist people of concern.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's main objectives in 2010 were to support the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs and their initial reintegration; maintain an emergency response capacity; and enhance protection monitoring. Other equally important goals were to improve coordination with government entities, donors and other agencies to assist reintegration and to help asylum-seekers gain access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR worked closely with a number of partners to improve the protection environment. Partnership with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission helped in the resolution of land disputes, besides ensuring protection for the growing caseload of conflict-induced IDPs. UNHCR also contributed to the special fund for the elimination of violence against women administered by UNIFEM.

- Information, counselling and legal-assistance centres registered over 2,300 cases, of which 750 were resolved. Some 420 of these cases addressed property claims, land rights, ownership, inheritance and applications for the Afghan Government's Land Allocation Scheme. The remaining 330 legal claims concerned family law and water rights, among other issues.
- UNHCR, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF and ILO established a working group on the asylum-migration interface in Afghanistan. The group aimed to develop joint strategies to respond to challenges posed by the increasingly complex nature of population movements in and out of Afghanistan. It also helped to strengthen UNHCR's protection role in the context of mixed population flows.

Fair protection processes

- In 2010, UNHCR launched its strategy for IDPs, which included a range of possible durable solutions. Access to asylum procedures was ensured for cases screened and interviewed by UNHCR in Kabul and Herat. All registered asylum-seekers had unimpeded access to the RSD procedure. UNHCR was able to meet asylum-seekers in detention centres and establish a referral mechanism with ICRC.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Through its support for UNIFEM's special fund for the elimination of violence against women, UNHCR participated in a range of projects in areas such as awareness-raising, research, advocacy, capacity-building of women (including victims of sexual and gender-based violence), psychosocial and legal support, and access to justice.

Basic needs and services

- In line with the assessed needs of beneficiaries, the provision of shelter remained a major goal in Afghanistan. The construction of some 15,000 shelter units for returning refugees and over 1,500 units for IDPs helped ensure sustainable reintegration.
- Some 20,000 non-food item (NFI) winterization assistance packages were distributed to returnee families and over 14,000 NFI packages were provided to IDP families. Some 14,000 displaced families received core NFI assistance during the flood emergency response.

Community participation and self-management

- UNHCR conducted participatory needs assessments to identify returnees' requirements for shelter, water, income generation, assistance for persons with specific needs, and protection. This formed the basis for project design and the delivery of services and assistance.

Durable solutions

- Of the nearly 118,000 individuals (18,850 families) who returned to Afghanistan, over 104,300 were from Pakistan, 8,400 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 100 from other countries. While the number of returns was lower than initially expected, it was nevertheless double the 2009 figure (some 54,500 individuals).
- Five encashment centres provided various services to returnees, including distribution of cash grants, basic health care, legal advice and counselling. They also ran a "back-to-school" campaign and provided mine-awareness education. UNHCR helped the local authorities to monitor the border to guarantee safe and unhindered passage for returnees and manage the encashment centres.
- UNHCR was able to meet the most acute needs of people of concern by targeting vulnerable individuals to improve their standard of living and running community-based projects in areas of high return. Vocational training focused on developing skills such as tailoring and embroidery.

External relations

- Regular contact with donors through briefings, updates and progress reports helped to foster a clearer understanding of UNHCR's activities in Afghanistan and to strengthen donor support in Kabul.

Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR managed its stocks and transported goods from the central warehouse in Kabul to field locations. A workshop on vehicle maintenance benefited UNHCR and its partners.

| Constraints |

Conflict and insecurity hampered UNHCR's access to a number of areas in Afghanistan and its response to newly displaced populations. However, UNHCR was able to engage operational partners and community-based organizations to conduct field monitoring and implement activities.

Insecure conditions, limited absorption capacity, inadequate access to basic services and the lack of humanitarian assistance in some areas led to some secondary displacements.

| Financial information |

Although all key activities in Afghanistan were pursued, there are many unmet needs among populations of concern. The lack of resources created a backlog of eligible returnees waiting for reintegration assistance. Donor contributions over the last five years have increased steadily, reaching over USD 67 million in 2010.

| Organization and implementation |

Despite the precarious security environment, there was no reduction in the number of staff in Afghanistan.

| UNHCR's presence in 2010 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| □ Number of offices | 12 |
| □ Total staff | 364 |
| International | 36 |
| National | 322 |
| JPOs | 0 |
| UNVs | 3 |
| Others | 3 |

| Working with others |

UNHCR worked with over 40 implementing partners, including government departments, international and national NGOs and UN agencies. Cooperation with operational partners, including government ministries, improved assistance to beneficiaries. UNHCR's leadership of the IDP Task Force resulted in harmonization of IDP data. The protection, emergency shelter and NFI clusters led by UNHCR improved the profiling of protection and assistance needs among people of concern within the inter-agency framework.

| Overall assessment |

The main goals of the operation in areas such as shelter support and winterization; income generation; and the building of emergency response capacity, were achieved through partnerships that maximized the delivery of assistance. The gaps that remain can be attributed to the deteriorating security environment, capacity shortfalls among government departments and resource shortages. UNHCR will continue to help the Government develop its capacity to manage populations of concern, conduct more extensive monitoring and deliver comprehensive reintegration assistance to ensure the sustainability of returns.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled, Public Health, Refugees and Repatriation, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Women's Affairs

NGOs: Afghan Agency for Integrated Development, Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction, Afghan Community Rehabilitation, Afghan General Help Coordination Office, Afghan Planning Agency, Afghan Public Welfare Organization, Care International, Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan, Engineering and Rehabilitation Service for Afghanistan, Human Dignity Society, International Rescue Committee, Mediateck Afghanistan, National Consultancy and Relief Association, New Noor Rehabilitation Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, Reconstruction and Employment Unit for Afghan Refugees, Sina Association Rehabilitation Service, Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan, Watan's Social and Technical Services Association, *Zardozi*

Others: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, British Broadcasting Corporation, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, ICRC, United Nations Development Fund, UNV

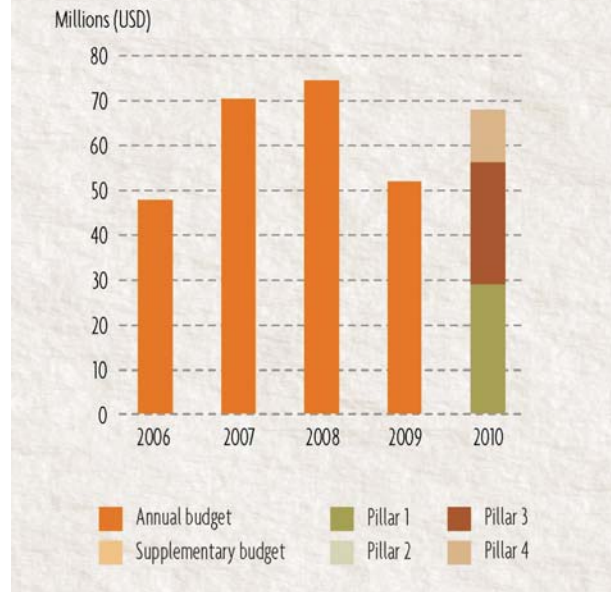
Operational partners

Government: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

NGOs: Protection cluster members, emergency shelter and NFI cluster members, national and regional IDP task forces, the Housing, Land and Property Task Force

Others: IOM, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, World Bank

Expenditure in Afghanistan 2006 - 2010



Budget, income and expenditure in Afghanistan | USD

| | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects | PILLAR 4 IDP projects | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| FINAL BUDGET | 51,093,485 | 46,829,610 | 11,812,591 | 109,735,686 |
| Income from contributions ¹ | 44,383,315 | 19,112,875 | 3,912,467 | 67,408,657 |
| Other funds available | (15,553,637) | 8,526,188 | 7,660,123 | 632,674 |
| TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE | 28,829,678 | 27,639,064 | 11,572,590 | 68,041,332 |

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Favourable protection environment

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| International and regional instruments | 205,048 | 0 | 0 | 205,048 |
| National administrative framework | 0 | 0 | 198,914 | 198,914 |
| Policies towards forced displacement | 0 | 0 | 198,914 | 198,914 |
| National and regional migration policy | 303,570 | 0 | 0 | 303,570 |
| Prevention of displacement | 0 | 0 | 198,914 | 198,914 |
| Co-operation with partners | 475,136 | 0 | 198,914 | 674,051 |
| Emergency management strengthened | 205,048 | 0 | 198,914 | 403,962 |
| Subtotal | 1,188,802 | 0 | 994,572 | 2,183,373 |

Fair protection processes and documentation

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| Reception conditions | 60,309 | 0 | 0 | 60,309 |
| Registration and profiling | 704,746 | 0 | 155,049 | 859,795 |
| Access to asylum procedures | 60,309 | 0 | 0 | 60,309 |
| Fair and efficient status determination | 60,309 | 0 | 0 | 60,309 |
| Family reunification | 233,601 | 0 | 0 | 233,601 |
| Civil status documentation | 0 | 0 | 155,049 | 155,049 |
| Subtotal | 1,119,273 | 0 | 310,098 | 1,429,371 |

| | PILLAR 1 Refugee programme | PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects | PILLAR 4 IDP projects | Total |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Security from violence and exploitation</i> | | | | |
| Effects of armed conflict | 173,986 | 0 | 134,584 | 308,570 |
| Law enforcement | 75,495 | 0 | 134,584 | 210,078 |
| Gender-based violence | 173,986 | 0 | 134,584 | 308,570 |
| Non-arbitrary detention | 75,495 | 0 | 0 | 75,495 |
| Access to legal remedies | 173,986 | 0 | 134,584 | 308,570 |
| Subtotal | 672,948 | 0 | 538,335 | 1,211,284 |
| <i>Basic needs and essential services</i> | | | | |
| Food security | 0 | 351,411 | 203,131 | 554,542 |
| Water | 0 | 431,327 | 303,051 | 734,377 |
| Shelter and other infrastructure | -1 | 17,326,341 | 2,022,465 | 19,348,805 |
| Basic domestic and hygiene items | 1,091,195 | 3,374,862 | 2,536,752 | 7,002,809 |
| Primary health care | 237,672 | 351,411 | 203,131 | 792,213 |
| Education | 0 | 351,411 | 0 | 351,411 |
| Sanitation services | 0 | 351,411 | 203,131 | 554,541 |
| Services for groups with specific needs | 877,640 | 0 | 0 | 877,640 |
| Subtotal | 2,206,506 | 22,538,172 | 5,471,660 | 30,216,338 |
| <i>Community participation and self-management</i> | | | | |
| Participatory assessment and community mobilisation | 366,501 | 0 | 0 | 366,501 |
| Community self-management and equal representation | 366,501 | 0 | 0 | 366,501 |
| Self-reliance and livelihoods | 366,501 | 0 | 304,914 | 671,415 |
| Subtotal | 1,099,502 | 0 | 304,914 | 1,404,416 |
| <i>Durable solutions</i> | | | | |
| Durable solutions strategy | 75,495 | 0 | 331,990 | 407,484 |
| Voluntary return | 14,231,041 | 0 | 724,147 | 14,955,189 |
| Rehabilitation and reintegration support | 0 | 3,277,010 | 920,547 | 4,197,558 |
| Resettlement | 75,495 | 0 | 0 | 75,495 |
| Subtotal | 14,382,030 | 3,277,010 | 1,976,684 | 19,635,725 |
| <i>External relations</i> | | | | |
| Donor relations | 131,908 | 144,468 | 198,904 | 475,279 |
| Resource mobilisation | 131,907 | 144,468 | 198,904 | 475,279 |
| Partnership | 131,908 | 144,468 | 198,904 | 475,279 |
| Public information | 143,032 | 144,468 | 198,904 | 486,403 |
| Subtotal | 538,754 | 577,870 | 795,616 | 1,912,241 |
| <i>Logistics and operations support</i> | | | | |
| Supply chain and logistics | 2,318,702 | 0 | 0 | 2,318,702 |
| Programme management, coordination and support | 4,615,542 | 0 | 907,906 | 5,523,448 |
| Subtotal | 6,934,243 | 0 | 907,906 | 7,842,149 |
| Instalments to implementing partners | 687,618 | 1,246,011 | 272,804 | 2,206,434 |
| Total | 28,829,678 | 27,639,064 | 11,572,590 | 68,041,332 |

¹ 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.