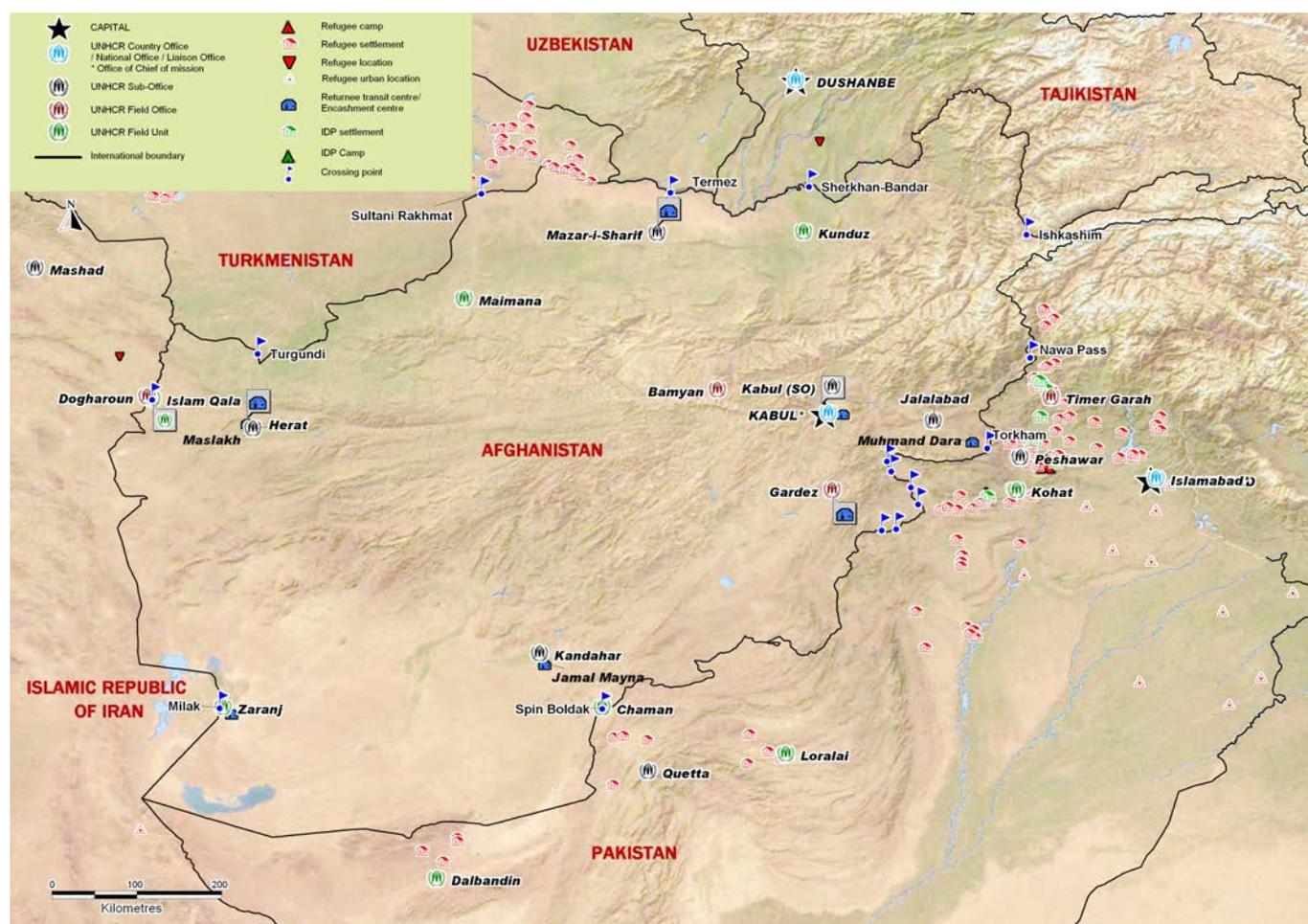


# AFGHANISTAN



## Working environment

### The context

More than 5.7 million refugees have voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan in the last 10 years, of whom more than 4.6 million were assisted to do so by UNHCR. Nonetheless, some 2.7 million Afghans continue to live in exile in neighbouring countries. An international conference in Geneva in May 2012 brought the

Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, UNHCR and donors together to endorse a Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, which aims to pursue voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries.

The security situation in Afghanistan continues to be volatile, and obtaining humanitarian access to many areas remains impossible. The lack of security continues to be the main cause of displacement. UNHCR estimates that as of

## Planning figures for Afghanistan

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Islamic Rep. of Iran	40	40	40	40
	Iraq	10	10	10	10
	Pakistan	40	40	40	40
People in refugee-like situations	Pakistan	4,940	4,940	7,440	7,440
Asylum-seekers	Islamic Rep. of Iran	20	20	20	20
	Pakistan	40	40	40	40
Returnees (refugees)	Afghanistan	162,000	162,000	172,000	172,000
IDPs	Afghanistan	547,550	547,550	697,550	697,550
Returnees (IDPs)	Afghanistan	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Others of concern	Afghanistan	1,113,170	1,113,170	1,285,170	1,285,170
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,877,810</b>	<b>1,877,810</b>	<b>2,212,310</b>	<b>2,212,310</b>

mid-2012, some 425,000 Afghans were internally displaced. UNHCR pursues innovative practices to gain access to people of concern, track population movements and provide assistance to the vulnerable through a network of partners throughout the country.

### • The needs

Returning refugees struggle to achieve sustainable reintegration, which is defined as reaching parity with local community members. UNHCR is currently conducting community surveys in high-return areas, where the initial indications are that returnees have specific vulnerabilities. Protection monitoring to understand the return environment and confirm the voluntariness of returns is also critical.

During the last three years, internal displacement has increased significantly in Afghanistan. Securing access and providing emergency humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) is a key objective for UNHCR pursuant to its leadership of the protection and emergency shelter/non-food items clusters. UNHCR works with cluster participants to respond to immediate needs, pursue advocacy to reduce displacement, and support durable solutions.

## | Strategy and activities |

For 2013, UNHCR's planning figure for voluntary returns to Afghanistan is 172,000. This includes 150,000 returnees from Pakistan, 20,000 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 2,000 from other countries. These figures take into account the growth of "asylum fatigue" in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, where authorities have stated that voluntary repatriation is the primary solution for the approximately 2.7 million Afghan refugees in these countries.

Returning refugees will receive voluntary repatriation grants of USD 150 per person. Five encashment centres will provide the grants, as well as counselling in health, legal and social issues. Returnees will also receive information about mine and ordnance risks. Following return to their place of origin, the most vulnerable returnees will be identified and assisted with an in-kind or cash grant. Legal counselling and support will be provided through a network of information centres.



Returnees wait to receive their transportation allowance from UNHCR.

UNHCR, in coordination with other stakeholders, will continue to pursue reintegration to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance in selected high-return areas. Working with ministries, UN agencies and international and national NGOs, UNHCR will advocate for these areas of high return to be included in the Afghan Government's national priority programmes. Sites will be identified for reintegration assistance, which will target accessible locations with a high proportion of returnees. This will be done in partnership with UNDP, with the possible inclusion of other UN agencies. Technical assistance and expertise will be solicited to ensure that the interventions are strategic and effective in their design and implementation.

UNHCR estimates that there are currently some 450,000 internally displaced Afghans. For 2013, UNHCR expects to expand its interventions for conflict-induced IDPs. Better coordination is required to track population movements as well as to understand and address the root causes of displacement, in addition to improving emergency response mechanisms. UNHCR will support an inter-agency approach to devise a durable solutions framework for IDPs, for which it will also work with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

Urban displacements occur largely as a form of secondary displacement driven by the absence of basic protection, services and/or livelihoods, as well as natural disasters and lack of food security. UNHCR will continue to improve its emergency

## Main objectives and targets for 2013

### Fair protection processes and documentation

- The quality of registration and profiling is improved and maintained
  - ➔ Sex- and age-disaggregated data are available for 62 per cent of IDPs.

### Basic needs and essential services

- People of concern have shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained.
  - ➔ Some 48 per cent of the most vulnerable returning refugee households are able to live in adequate dwellings.

### Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Self-reliance and livelihoods are improved.
  - ➔ Some 22 per cent of returning refugees have access to sustainable self-reliance and livelihood activities.

### Durable solutions

- The potential for voluntary return to Afghanistan is realized.
  - ➔ All returning refugees do so voluntarily and are supported with grants from UNHCR.
  - ➔ About 75 per cent of returnees have the same access to rights as other citizens.

## UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	8
□ Total staff	304
International	34
National	263
JPOs	2
UNVs	5

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock  
Ministry of Public Health  
Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation  
Ministry of Women's Affairs

#### NGOs

Afghan Community Rehabilitation Unit  
Afghan General Help Coordination Office  
Agency for Farming Support  
Afghan Planning Agency  
Afghan Public Welfare Organization  
Afghan Unique Development Organization  
Agency of Consultancy for Training  
Agency for Afghanistan Integrated Development  
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development  
Blind Association Nangarhar  
Cooperation Center for Afghanistan  
Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance  
Coordination of Rehabilitation and Development Services for Afghanistan  
Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee  
Danish Refugee Council  
Development of Afghan Women Organization  
Engineering and Rehabilitation Services for Afghanistan  
*Gruppo Volontariato Civile*  
Human Dignity Society  
Humanitarian Organization for Local Development  
Humanitarian Action for the People of Afghanistan  
International Rescue Committee  
Justice and Civil Society Support Organization  
Mediotek Afghanistan  
National Consultancy and Relief Association  
New Noor Rehabilitation Organization  
Norwegian Project Office-Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Organization for Relief Development  
Reconstruction and Employment Unit for Afghan Refugees  
Reshad Reconstruction Association  
Social Service Organization for Afghan Returnees  
SERVE-Afghanistan  
Shafaq Reconstruction Organization  
Sanayee Development Organization  
Society for Afghanistan Development and Assistance in Technologies  
United Methodist Committee on Relief  
Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan  
Watan Social and Technical Services Association  
Zardozi - Markets for Afghan Artisans

#### Others

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance  
UN Office for Project Services  
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
ILO  
UNDP  
UNV

response to new conflict-induced displacement. Assistance will be provided to conflict IDPs, with priority given to the pursuit of solutions, including return and reintegration. Legal counselling and support will also be provided for IDPs.

The number of asylum-seekers and refugees in Afghanistan is modest (fewer than 130). In addition, more than 3,000 people are considered to be living in a refugee-like situation, having been displaced from their homes across international borders. UNHCR is increasingly engaged in the drafting of national refugee legislation, and is working with the authorities to improve reception conditions and ensure protection-sensitive border policies. While the number of refugees and asylum-seekers is expected to remain little changed in 2013, the number of people living in a refugee-like situation is expected to increase by some 3,000 due to instability in some border regions.

#### ○ Constraints

A complex array of political, security, and socio-economic factors in Afghanistan have contributed to the gradual decline in the number of refugees returning from neighbouring countries. The most significant assumption regarding internal displacement in Afghanistan is the likely increase in conflict-induced IDPs. This may be due to security challenges in the wake of the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan and their handover of responsibilities to the nascent Afghan security forces.

It is expected that humanitarian access will continue to be limited, and perhaps worsen, in 2013. Attacks may continue to target international military forces as well as organizations perceived to be foreign in nature. Though UNHCR is making headway in obtaining humanitarian access

directly and through partners, operational momentum is constrained by limits on freedom of movement. This hinders direct discussions with people of concern and visits to affected areas and makes it difficult to coordinate assistance with other actors.

## Organization and implementation

#### ○ Coordination

UNHCR engages actively with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, and Housing and Urban Development. The main government counterpart, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), will be assisted to strengthen its management. Greater responsibilities for repatriation, monitoring and speedy identification of IDPs will be entrusted to relevant MoRR district offices. The active engagement of other key partners will also be sought. In 2012, UNHCR supported the work of more than 70 national NGOs.

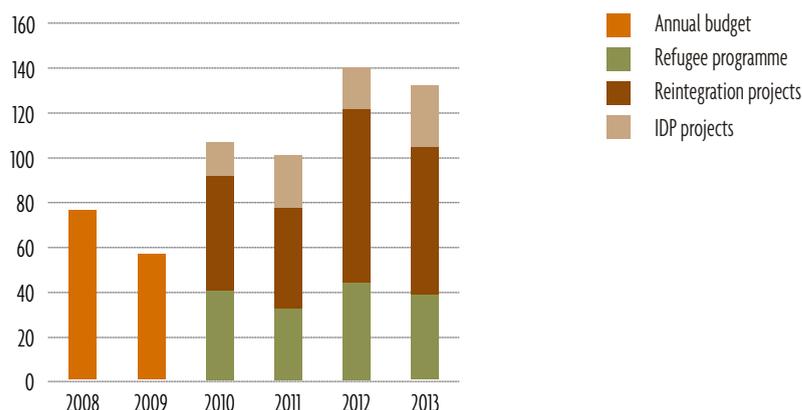
As part of the UN Country Team, UNHCR works with the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator as well as with UNAMA, UNDP, UN-Habitat, WFP, ILO, WHO and UNICEF. UNHCR's role in leading the protection and emergency shelter clusters as well as co-chairing the national and regional IDP task forces will continue. Coordination and cooperation with major UN agencies, relevant government departments and other actors in selected sites and communities will be strengthened to ensure comprehensive reintegration interventions.

## Financial information

The budget in 2013 for Afghanistan is largely the same as in 2012 and reflects the

## UNHCR's budget in Afghanistan 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



continued importance of achieving sustainable reintegration for returnees as well as addressing the immediate and longer-term needs of IDPs. The trend over the past few years shows that funding support for Afghanistan has remained stable, reflecting a robust response to the immense challenges in the country. Nonetheless, more efforts are needed to ensure that humanitarian assistance is strongly linked with development efforts, which are usually of a far longer scope and require greater resources.

### Consequences of a funding shortfall

- A shortfall in funding would affect UNHCR's capacity to support comprehensive reintegration

interventions for returning refugees. This might also negatively affect refugees' opportunities for return.

- Lack of visible projects with the main government counterparts (the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Rural Rehabilitation, Housing and Urban Development, and Refugees and Repatriation) as well as local civil-society organizations might compromise the favourable protection environment that has been established for returnees, and impede returnees' access to public services.
- With a reduction in resources available for the emergency response programme, the response to the needs of the increasing numbers of IDPs would need to be drastically curtailed.

## 2013 UNHCR's budget in Afghanistan (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>				
Access to legal assistance and remedies	114,968	3,362,447	1,683,279	5,160,694
Subtotal	<b>114,968</b>	<b>3,362,447</b>	<b>1,683,279</b>	<b>5,160,694</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>				
Registration and profiling	0	0	3,810,127	3,810,127
Refugee status determination	309,968	0	0	309,968
Subtotal	<b>309,968</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,810,127</b>	<b>4,120,095</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>				
Prevention and response to SGBV	119,968	660,729	341,640	1,122,336
Subtotal	<b>119,968</b>	<b>660,729</b>	<b>341,640</b>	<b>1,122,336</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>				
Health	2,425,360	1,879,614	591,640	4,896,613
Water	0	4,682,834	1,591,640	6,274,473
Shelter and infrastructure	0	16,862,447	3,683,279	20,545,727
Basic domestic items	1,225,180	3,179,614	2,310,127	6,714,921
Services for people with specific needs	1,225,180	3,048,466	2,310,127	6,583,773
Education	129,968	2,179,614	591,640	2,901,221
Subtotal	<b>5,005,688</b>	<b>31,832,588</b>	<b>11,078,453</b>	<b>47,916,729</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>				
Self-reliance and livelihoods	0	21,592,942	4,024,919	25,617,860
Subtotal	<b>0</b>	<b>21,592,942</b>	<b>4,024,919</b>	<b>25,617,860</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>				
Voluntary return	32,566,228	0	0	32,566,228
Reintegration	0	7,962,447	0	7,962,447
Resettlement	109,968	0	0	109,968
Subtotal	<b>32,676,196</b>	<b>7,962,447</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,638,644</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>				
Logistics and supply	0	0	6,414,257	6,414,257
Operations management, coordination and support	0	329,614	0	329,614
Subtotal	<b>0</b>	<b>329,614</b>	<b>6,414,257</b>	<b>6,743,871</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,226,788</b>	<b>65,740,767</b>	<b>27,352,675</b>	<b>131,320,230</b>
<b>2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)</b>	<b>43,425,747</b>	<b>77,616,776</b>	<b>18,622,582</b>	<b>139,665,105</b>

## Operational partners

### Government agencies

Afghan National Disaster Management Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock  
Ministry of Public Health  
Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation  
Ministry of Women's Affairs

### NGOs

Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster members at national and regional level  
National and regional Protection Cluster  
IDP Task Force  
Housing, Land and Property Task Force members

### Others

IOM  
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan  
UNDP