



Afghan refugee girls studying in school in Varamin @UNHCR/S.Rich

HIGHLIGHTS

2,846

Refugees repatriated in 2015

889

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2015

345,406*

Afghan and Iraqi students enrolled in the 2014-2015 academic year

3,400

Refugees targeted for livelihoods related interventions in 2015

Population of concern

A total of **979,410**** people

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	951,142
Iraq	28,268
Total	979,410

Funding

USD 70.66 Million requested

USD 5.79 Million contributions

8.19% funded

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

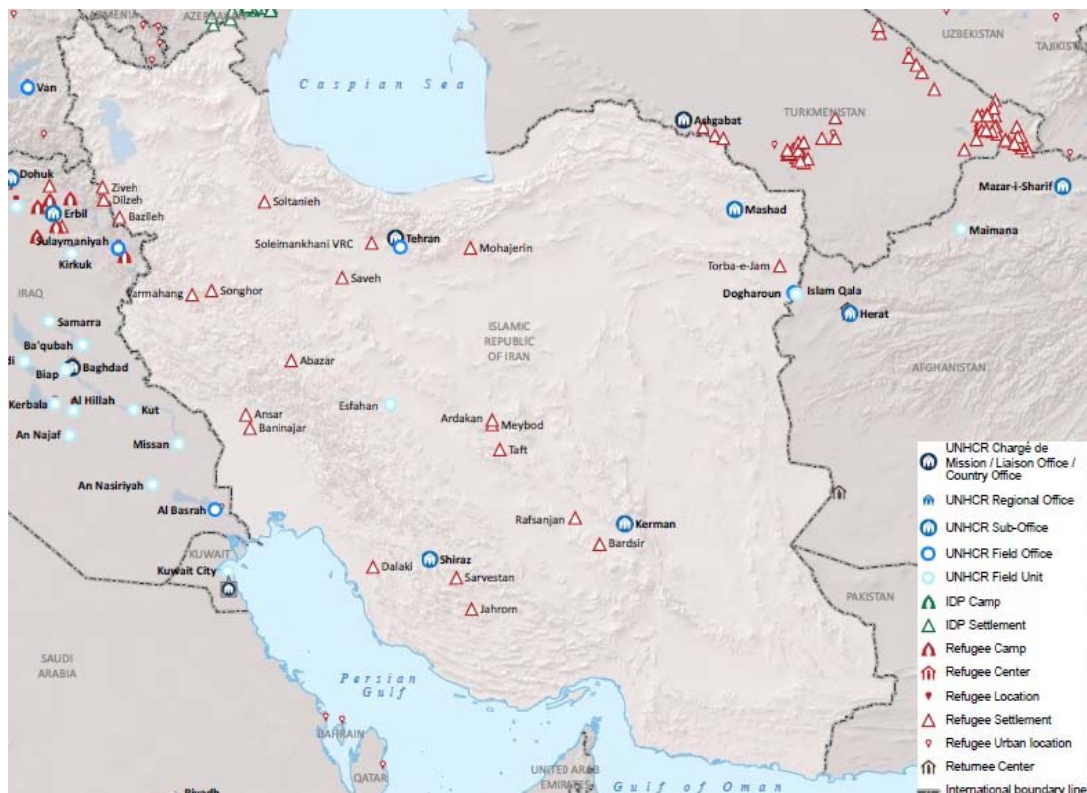
Regular: **97** national/**11** international

Affiliated-Project: **33** national/**1** international

Offices:

6 offices located in:

Tehran, Kerman, Mashhad, Shiraz, Esfahan, Dogharoun



* Not all Afghan and Iraqi students enrolled are Amayesh card holders.

** Based on the Amayesh IX statistics received from the Government in May 2015.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR is collaborating with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) as UNHCR's main Government counterpart in addition to cooperation with other partners: **Governmental:** the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO), Ministry of Education (MoE), Literacy Movement Organization (LMO), Ministry of Health (MoH), State Welfare Organization of Iran (SWO), Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO), Iran Health Insurance Organization (IHIO); **National NGOs:** Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMII), Chain of Hope (CoH), Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK), Society for Recovery Support (SRS), Rebirth Charity Organization (Rebirth), World Relief Foundation (WRF), Kowsar Scientific and Cultural Foundations (Kowsar); **UN Agencies:** UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). UNHCR also coordinates with a number sister UN agencies, as well as NGOs and international organizations directly under the umbrella of the SSAR. In 2016, UNHCR plans to continue to collaborate with a network of partners and to be engaged in the implementation of joint activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

- The SSAR is a regional, multi-year strategy for voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries endorsed by the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Five outcomes guide the Strategy in Iran: 1. Voluntary repatriation; 2. Essential Services and Shelter; 3. Livelihood and Food Security; 4. Protection and Resettlement; and, 5. Coordination and Support.
- On 6 – 7 October 2015, the High-Level Segment on the Afghan refugee situation was held during the 66th Executive Committee in Geneva. The outcome statement called upon the international community to back Afghanistan in its commitment to create the necessary conditions for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration and implement lasting solutions for Afghan refugees within the framework of the SSAR through supporting concrete initiatives in the respective national project portfolios. The updated 2015-16 country portfolios for Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan were officially launched at a side event on 7 October 2015. Both English and Farsi versions of the 2015-16 Iran portfolio were distributed to UN agencies, international NGOs and embassies in late December 2015.

Protection

- Community-based approaches:** UNHCR continues to reach out to communities and include them as equal partners in assessing, designing and implementing programmes. Community visits allow UNHCR to better understand the concerns of refugees and identify the most vulnerable individuals who need assistance. In Kerman and Shiraz, UNHCR and the government have encouraged refugee youth to design and implement projects that would reduce child labour, improve hygiene and ensure more children attend school.
- Registration:** The Government of Iran is responsible for refugee registration and refugee status determination. It issues 'Amayesh' identification cards to refugees that enable refugees to access basic services, facilitate the issuance of work permits and seek durable solutions. In addition 620,000 Afghan passport holders who were previously undocumented or Amayesh cardholders have been issued with Iranian visas that allow them to reside in the country. The government estimates that there remains between 1.5 - 3 million undocumented Afghans in Iran.
- Protection against violence and exploitation:** Harm prevention activities to benefit communities in relation to substance use together with a robust response to victims of violence (e.g.: sexual and gender-based violence) have been established by the government and UNHCR. Assistance to persons with specific needs, especially the elderly and the disabled has furthermore been enhanced, not least with the support of the State Welfare Organisation (SWO).
- Secondary Movement:** Over the course of 2015, a number of Afghans travelled to Europe – they either used Iran as a transit country, or had resided in Iran for some years before undertaking this journey. The government stepped up its border security to curb these efforts that place Afghans, including refugees at immense risk due to the hazardous journey where they are often exploited by smugglers and traffickers.
- Durable Solutions:** UNHCR facilitates the **voluntary repatriation** of Afghans and Iraqis throughout the country. Due to the deteriorating economic and security situation in Afghanistan and in Iraq, the number of refugees volunteering to repatriate has decreased over the years. 889 refugees with specific needs and/or protection concerns have been **resettled** to third countries during 2015.

Education

- In 2015, UNHCR supported the Government with the construction of three schools as well as expansion of one school to benefit the refugee and host communities. Additionally, UNHCR, through partnership with Literacy Movement Organization (LMO), provided literacy classes for 3,000 adults and over-aged children.
- Through DAFI program and as per previous years' practice, UNHCR financially supported students at tertiary level. In 2015, there were 182 on-going students in the first semester out of which 37 graduated in the first semester and there were 6 drop-outs and based on the budget allocated and HQ's decision 50 more students were added and therefore the number of DAFI ongoing students for second semester 2015 stands at 189.
- Following a decree by the Supreme Leader, 48,000 undocumented Afghans were able to register for formal education in Iran thereby further supporting the broader Afghan community in Iran.
- In line with the UNHCR's Global Education Strategy and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR will continue to support access to primary and secondary education of over 360,000 refugees, and addresses the needs of the most vulnerable refugees.

Health

- *Primary Health Care (PHC)* – UNHCR, throughout recent years complemented efforts of the Ministry of Health in providing PHC services to all refugees, including vaccinations, antenatal care, maternal and child health, and family planning
- Other UNHCR joint interventions include medical referral, harm reduction, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR).
- Universal Public Health Insurance (UPHI) – Further to signing of the Tripartite Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) in 2015 by UNHCR, BAFIA and IHIO; and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MOH) who plays a key role in the implementation of UPHI; all registered refugees residing in Iran, similar to Iranian nationals have access to the Salamat Insurance Scheme and benefit from a health insurance package for hospitalization and temporary hospitalization. Simultaneously, those refugees who suffer from Special Diseases (SD)¹ benefit from comprehensive insurance coverage. Access to the UPHI addresses the issue of refugees' health security as well as the financial challenges with regard to the costs of health care services, in particular when surgery or hospitalization is involved.

Self-Reliance

- In recent years there has been a positive shift in the Government's view towards the introduction of livelihood and vocational training programmes. The Government has recognized the importance of ensuring that refugees have the education and skills to earn a living upon returning to their country of origin, while also enabling them to contribute to society during their stay in Iran.
- UNHCR is collaborating with the Government and Non-Government partners such as TVTO, FRWO, Kowsar, WRF to implement diverse livelihood interventions which include technical and vocational training, Community based rehabilitation of natural resources, establishment of home-based enterprises, access to revolving and micro credit loans. UNHCR as part of its direct implementation provide equipment for income-generating activities while looking into possible cross border initiatives and interventions which will be aimed at linking knowledge, skills and refugees in Iran with job opportunities in Afghanistan.
- UNHCR supports direct and joint interventions with partners at three different levels (policy, organisation, and individual/community) to enhance self-reliance and economic conditions of persons of concern to potentially facilitate the achievement of durable solutions.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous global contributions of donors in 2016 as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the Iran operation: [European Union \(DG DEVCO\)](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Education Above All Foundation](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Private Donors in Iran](#)

¹ Haemophilia, Thalassemia, Renal Failure, Kidney Transplant, Multiple Sclerosis