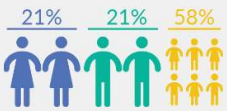
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

3.5M
Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of **31 December 2021**[1]

30,205
new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 30 June 2022 (ongoing verification)[2]



66,950
Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of July 2022

2.3M
Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of **31 December 2021**

186,680
Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since **1 January 2021**[3]

162,413
IDP returnees recorded so far in 2022

2,229
Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR flood response.** Since mid-June, over 30 million people in Pakistan have been affected by unprecedented rains and devastating floods across the country, leaving 6.4 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. More than 1,300 fatalities have been reported, over 950,000 houses either damaged or fully wrecked and 2 million acres of crops destroyed. Some 80 districts have been officially declared 'calamity hit' by authorities. Further rainfall is expected to continue and threatens to exacerbate an already dire situation for at-risk populations who are among the most vulnerable to climate change.
- As part of UN-system wide efforts in Pakistan, UNHCR is supporting the government-led response to scale up humanitarian assistance to refugee and host communities affected by the monsoon rains. 1.2 million lifesaving supplies for 50,000 households have been mobilized by UNHCR, with much of this already delivered for distribution. The supplies have been mobilized through existing countries, a series of airlifts from Dubai, and trucks from Termez, Uzbekistan. Since the beginning of the floods, UNHCR – as the protection sector lead – has been coordinating with other partners to mainstream protection in the humanitarian response. UNHCR is also engaged in the inter-sectoral coordination of the shelter, WASH, education, health, food and nutrition, and livelihoods response. The immediate priority is to provide assistance to the worst flood-hit areas with relief items to address urgent needs.

UNHCR continues to support the government-led relief efforts in flood-hit parts of Pakistan, where the situation remains dire. ©UNHCR

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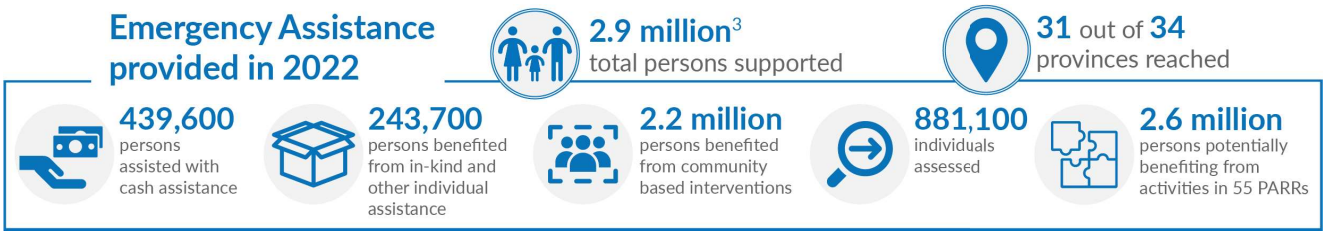
[1] This figure comprises the 2020 year-end figure of 2.9M (Source: UNHCR), the total estimated conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan in 2021 (Source: OCHA), excluding the recorded number of IDPs which have returned to their places of origin (Source: UNHCR), with the inclusion of the underestimated number of newly displaced IDPs during 2021, .

[2] Source OCHA, https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps

[3] The number of new arrivals includes those who approached UNHCR and Partners in Tajikistan (5,710), Iran (46,620) and Pakistan (117,550), new arrivals reported by the Government of Uzbekistan (13,020), as well as the Afghans who were kept by the Iranian authorities at border locations (3,780) since 1 January 2021, although only 738 individuals of the latter group remain in the country. The vast majority of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher. The increase on the overall figure does not necessarily reflect the displacement of that same period, but rather the date of assessment.

- **Several provinces across the eastern, central, southern and western regions in Afghanistan have also been hit by heavy rains**. This follows the devastating earthquake in June that hit Paktika and Khost provinces in the southeast. In response to both disasters, UNHCR has been supporting affected communities with emergency assistance. More is planned in the coming weeks, though access has remained challenging in the areas hit by rains. UNHCR has also continued to support some of the worst earthquake-affected households in 35 villages, particularly in refugee-hosting regions. Work is ongoing to complete 2,300 earthquake-resilient winterized houses including stoves, solar panels and latrines.
- **UNHCR's humanitarian response in Afghanistan**. The broader humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains challenging across the country, with more than half of the population remaining dependent on assistance. This includes may displaced people, who often live-in makeshift settlements under difficult conditions. In response to the humanitarian situation, UNHCR and partners have reached nearly three million Afghans in nearly all provinces with essential relief and assistance since the beginning of the year.
- As part of this effort, some 2.5 million individuals have also benefited from health centres, schools, water systems and other infrastructure that UNHCR has supported in areas prioritised for the return of refugees and IDPs. The Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs) are now in 80 locations in Afghanistan, which includes 5 cities and 75 districts, covering over 12,000 villages.
- For UNHCR's assistance and relief programmes, this assistance in 2022 has included the following, as of the end of August:



- **Support to IDP returnees.** A priority for UNHCR's work in Afghanistan remains the sustainable return and reintegration of displaced Afghans to their places of origin. At least 162,400 IDP returnees have been identified by UNHCR in 2022, and the 2021 IDP returnee figure has recently increased to at least 948,400 individuals, bringing the total number of IDP returnees identified by UNHCR since 2021 to more than 1.1 million. These figures are expected to increase with assessments ongoing. The data is from household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners undertaken in all 34 provinces. In support of returnees, UNHCR has provided cash assistance for reintegration of some 192,000 returning IDPs since the start of the year, while nearly 31,000 people have received cash and vouchers for the start-up of businesses.

Kutobzai Girls High School constructed by UNHCR in Mehteriam District, Laghman Province. ©UNHCR

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- In 2022, 2,229 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan (89% from Pakistan) as of 1 September, surpassing the 1,305 Afghans who returned in 2021, as well as the overall returns in 2020. Returnees stated as the main reasons behind return movements from Iran and Pakistan the cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in host countries, reunification with family, and improved security situation, among others. Returnees receive cash assistance from UNHCR at encashment centres, as well as other types of support from partners, including basic health care and accommodation, when required.

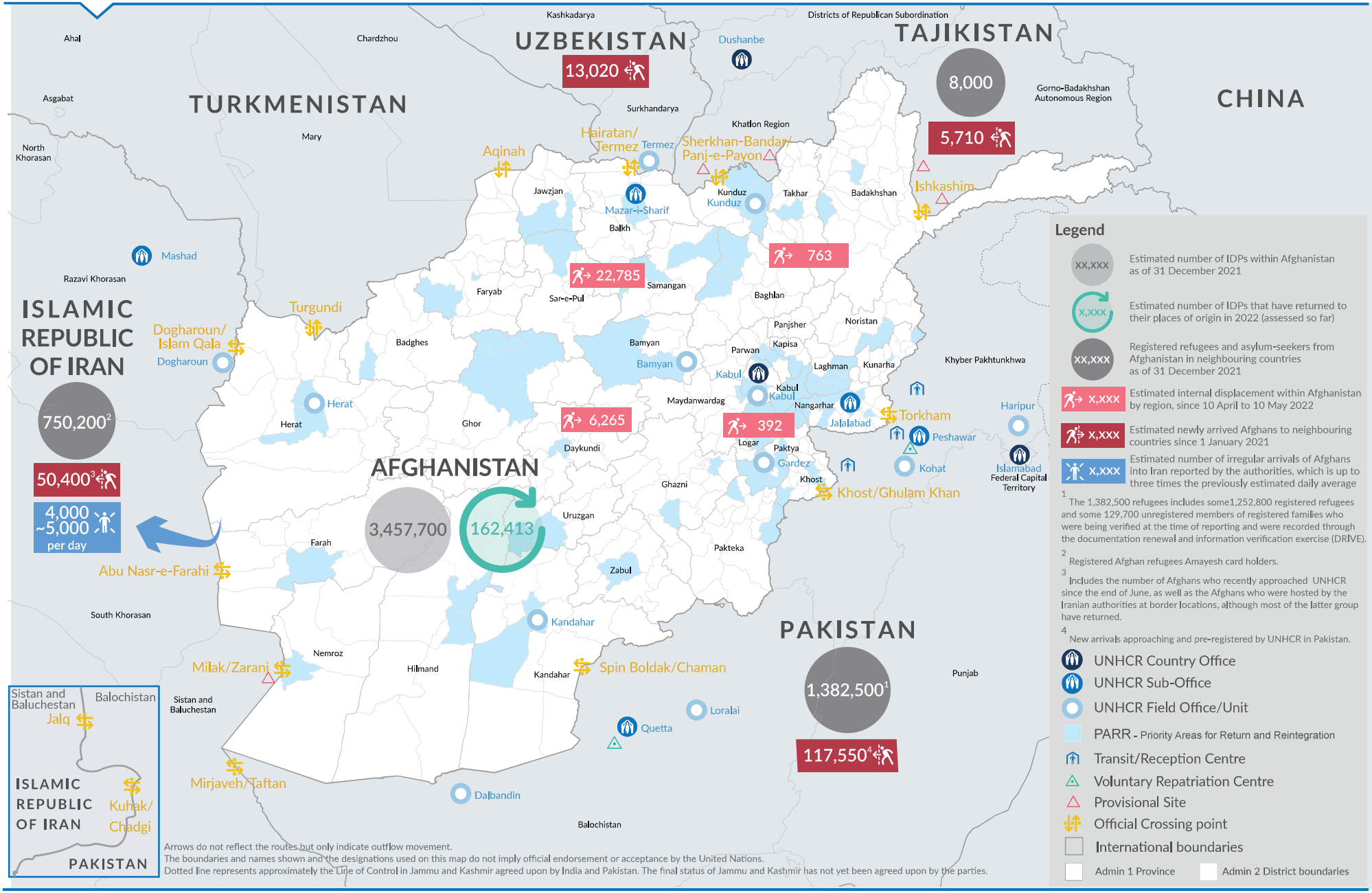
Afghanistan's most vulnerable, including internally displaced people, returnees and host community residents in need are receiving UNHCR aid before winter arrives. In remote Nuristan Province, UNHCR helped over 28,000 people with cash support, reaching previously inaccessible areas. ©UNHCR

- There are some 187,000 reported newly arrived Afghans seeking international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021. The arrivals are comprised of 52% children and 22% adult women in Iran and Pakistan. In Tajikistan, Afghan new arrivals are composed of 31% adult women and 40% children. Most of those interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for protection-related reasons. The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher, as not all approach or contact UNHCR. According to the Government of Pakistan, around 250,000 Afghans are reported to have arrived in Pakistan since August 2021. According to evolving estimates from the Government of Iran, they estimate an average of 1 million Afghan new arrivals since 31 August 2021.
- UNHCR has also continued to receive reports of the deportation of Afghans from neighbouring countries. Of particular note during the reporting period, some five Afghans, including a family comprising of three children and their mother, were returned to Afghanistan on August 23 through the Panji Poyon border checkpoint in southern Tajikistan despite UNHCR's interventions to halt the deportations. A UNHCR global non-return advisory for Afghanistan issued in August 2021 and renewed in February 2022, calls for a bar on forced returns of all Afghan nationals.

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP)

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY - REGIONAL OVERVIEW MAP

as of 01 September 2022



Data sources: UNHCR operations, OCHA | Author: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)

For feedback and clarifications, please write to UNHCR RBAP at < rbapdima@unhcr.org >