

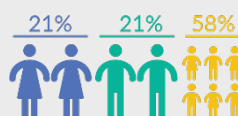
KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.25M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2022¹

 **32,410**

new conflict induced IDPs between 10 April to 13 Sep. 2022 (ongoing verification)²



 **52,160**

Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 December 2022

 **5,150**

IDP returnees recorded in 2023

 **10,971**

Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2023

 **5.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2022

 **1.6M**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring Countries since August 2021³

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 28 August, UNHCR Pakistan Representative, Ms Noriko Yoshida, met with Denmark's Special Envoy to Afghanistan, Mr Lars Bo Møller, as well as several members of Denmark's Humanitarian Engagement Department from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy personnel. During the meeting, the UNHCR Representative underscored the pressing protection requirements of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, including those who have arrived since 2021. The meeting also touched on the forthcoming Global Refugee Forum in December and Denmark's potential role. On 29 August, the Special Envoy, accompanied by the Danish Ambassador and UNHCR, visited Torkham border crossing point and a Legal Aid Centre in Peshawar, where the delegation was briefed about the five UNHCR-funded Advice and Legal Aid Centres SHARP operates across the province. The delegation also discussed the various issues facing Afghan refugees in Pakistan, including the extension of Proof of Registration cards, cross-border movements as well as livelihood opportunities and met with new Afghan arrivals, where they learned about the challenges related to legal protection, lack of documentation, and the limited livelihood opportunities available for these newcomers.
- From 23 to 25 August, UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. for Afghanistan, Mr Daniel Endres, and UNHCR Representative in Afghanistan, Mr Leonard Zulu, visited Islamabad, Pakistan. The delegation met with several Afghan refugees and Afghan DAFI scholarship recipients as well as various officials, including the Secretary of States and Frontier Regions Division, Special Advisor on Afghan Refugees for Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan and the IOM Country Director.

AFGHANISTAN

- UNHCR has been able to provide the following assistance in Afghanistan in 2023:



- UNHCR and partners reached an estimated 649,200 individuals with emergency assistance in all 34 provinces countrywide as of end-August. Of the total reached, 248,300 were supported with cash assistance while 279,500 were reached with in-kind and other individual assistance. 443,700 individuals were also assessed and 232,200 potentially benefited from activities in the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs). Other assistance ranged from protection, core relief items as well as shelter and seasonal support.

REGIONAL

- During the reporting period, UNHCR Sub-Office Quetta organized four one-day capacity-building sessions on International Refugee Protection. These workshops were attended by 25 Public Prosecutors, 21 Federal Investigating Authority Officers, 29 women Paralegals/Outreach Volunteers and 26 Police Officers.
- Pakistani television and film actor, Mahira Khan, carried out her first official visit as UNHCR's National Goodwill Ambassador since the start of COVID-19 pandemic. Khan visited a UNHCR-supported vocational training institute for women in Karachi, Sindh Province, and met with refugee and host community women to raise awareness of programmes focused on women's empowerment. UNHCR is planning an extended visit in October to Quetta to amplify its work on the ground.
- On 28 August, UNHCR Iran and officials from the National Organization for Migration in Sistan and Baluchestan provinces conducted a joint technical mission to Niatak settlement to assess the site and discuss challenges and potential mitigating measures to address issues such as water scarcity.
- Ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023, UNHCR has been supporting the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Turkmenistan to develop and advocate for pledges to improve the international protection environment for forcibly displaced people in both countries.

CROSS BORDER SITUATION

- In 2023, some 5,150 IDPs have returned to their places of origin. In 2021 and 2022, over 1.4 million IDPs returned to their places of origin: approximately 1.14 million IDPs returned in 2021 and 265,300 in 2022. The source of these figures are the 371,000 household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners since 10 October 2021 until 1 September 2023. These figures are expected to increase retroactively due to ongoing assessments and considered indicative rather than overall statistical data of IDP returnees in Afghanistan. Figures may be underestimated due to recent downscaling of assessments undertaken in 2023.
- In 2023, 10,971 Afghan refugees voluntarily returned to Afghanistan (96 per cent from Pakistan, 3 per cent from Iran and 1 per cent from other countries). This is higher than the overall number of returns in 2022 (10,511) and five times higher than the number of returns in the first eight months of 2023. To date, UNHCR has provided some \$4.2 million in cash assistance to returnees at Encashment Centres.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan Situation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with [broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds](#) which allow us to respond in an agile manner where the needs are greatest:

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