


KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **3.22M**


Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2023

 **650,800**

Total returns from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September 2023¹

 **34,800**

Refugees in Afghanistan as of 31 Dec. 2023

 **3,200**

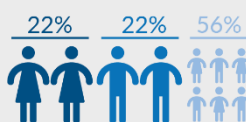

IDP returnees recorded in 2024

 **5.82M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighbouring countries as of 31 December 2023

 **18,000**

Refugee returns to Afghanistan in 2024²


 **1.6M**

Afghan new arrivals to neighbouring countries since August 2021³

HIGHLIGHTS

- Close to 650,800 Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15 September 2023 and 30 June 2024. Returns have been steadily increasing since March this year, with May and June showing a significant increase of approximately 40,000 returns. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to biometrically process and provide cash assistance to Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders and their nuclear family members, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders and Afghans with other protection referrals. Since 15 September 2023, around 98,900 people who returned from Pakistan have been provided with cash assistance in Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad Encashment Centres, including over 61,000 PoR card holders. In addition, the last two weeks of June saw the overall reported rate of arrest and detention decrease by approximately 13 per cent, compared to the previous two weeks. For more information on trends, please see the latest UNHCR [External Update](#) on Pakistan-Afghan Returns.
- On 26 June, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Global Core Group of the [SSAR Support Platform](#), convened a meeting with its members. The meeting reviewed the operational context in Afghanistan related to Pillar One of the SSAR Support Platform, which focuses on creating conditions conducive for voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of return. Members discussed the needs, priorities and future responses to strengthen conditions for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration. They also discussed ways to advance social cohesion between host communities and returnees along with UNHCR's efforts to enhance community-based protection and expand livelihood opportunities. The consultation will inform the preparation of a common outcome document covering the three pillars of the SSAR, summarizing key considerations and recommendations.
- Flash floods in Afghanistan's Guzargah District in Baghlan Province affected two villages, damaging around 150 homes and highlighting the region's vulnerability to flooding. While access has been largely restored, some areas remain unreachable due to the floods and poor road conditions, particularly in the [western region](#). Significant damage to public infrastructure, including roads, health centres, water networks, and education facilities, was also reported. Over 2,200 acres of land was damaged, and more than 5,500 individuals in the northern and north-eastern regions have lost their livelihoods. Protection assessments revealed high levels of psychosocial stress, necessitating urgent protection services, including support for those with specific needs, psychosocial first aid, and civil documentation. UNHCR and partners are conducting joint inter-agency assessments to identify the humanitarian impact of the floods in the northern, north-eastern, and western regions. Comprehensive protection response efforts include providing psychosocial first aid, supporting vulnerable individuals, disseminating information through community outreach volunteers, raising awareness about available services, and ensuring protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Referrals to relevant service providers are being facilitated through service delivery points, mobile response, and community engagement teams. For more information on the flood response, please see the [UNHCR Afghanistan Flash Update](#).

AFGHANISTAN:

Assistance provided in 2024



541,504⁴
total persons supported



33 out of **34⁵** total provinces supported



206,079
persons assisted with cash assistance



335,425
persons benefited from in-kind and other assistance, including community-based



274,064
persons assessed



224,139
persons benefiting from activities in 80 PARRs

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¹ An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that ACC and PoR cardholders are exempted. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to 30 June 2024. Advocacy by UNHCR is ongoing. UNHCR began monitoring return trends from mid-September before the official announcement of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan by the Government of Pakistan in October 2023.

² This category includes all refugee returnees as well as PoR card holders who returned without passing through the established Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) set up in Pakistan.

³ In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure according to various government estimates and continues to follow-up with authorities to receive updated and disaggregated data as well as an estimate of how many presently remain in Iran. Of the average 1 million new arrivals since August 2021, over 88,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. Of the 600,000 new arrivals reported by the Government of Pakistan, over 476,000 have approached UNHCR.

⁴ The total number of people supported may include multiple counts of beneficiaries who received assistance through more than one activity during the reporting period.

- UNHCR and partners in Afghanistan reached an estimated 541,504 people with humanitarian assistance in 33 out of 34 provinces countrywide in June 2024. Among those reached, 206,079 people received cash assistance while 335,425 benefitted from in-kind and other individual assistance, including protection support, core-relief items, shelter, seasonal support and community-based interventions. Assessments were also carried out for 274,064 people to determine their specific needs.
- In the first six months of 2024, UNHCR assisted 34,905 Afghan returnees (8,266 households), bringing the total supported since January 2023 to 110,867 people (26,327 households). In June 2024 alone, 1,457 people (483 households) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan and received assistance from UNHCR and partners. Most returnees came from Pakistan and included various categories such as Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, certificate holders, and undocumented family members. Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul facilitated returnees' reception and assistance, providing comprehensive support, including health services, counselling, documentation, family reunification, child protection, cash grants, and transportation. Border monitoring is ongoing with protection desks playing a crucial role in identifying individuals with protection concerns and specific needs and ensuring timely referrals for appropriate support at border crossings and final destinations.
- From 10–14 June, UNHCR Afghanistan Representative Mr. Leonard Zulu attended the EU Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Afghanistan in Belgium and participated in events in Switzerland and Austria. The SOM, led by the EU, focused on women's participation in Afghanistan, enhancing service quality and access, discussing durable solutions, and coordinating efforts among political, development, resilience, and humanitarian actors. On 12 June, in Zurich, the Representative briefed Switzerland for UNHCR Private Sector Partners, the Switzerland for UNHCR team, the Zurich Foundation, and Zurich Insurance Group. On 14 June, he met with several stakeholders in Vienna involved in asylum procedures specific to Afghanistan and provided an overview of the current human rights and security landscape and the challenges Afghan returnees and host communities face.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR Pakistan held an event in Islamabad to commemorate World Refugee Day 2024. The event, which reflected this year's theme, "Solidarity with and Solutions for Refugees," honoured refugees and host communities that have generously supported Afghan refugees for over four decades. It also called for the continued protection for those seeking safety in Pakistan. Attendees included Pakistan's Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Mr. Amir Muqam, UNHCR National Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Mahira Khan, and other government and civil society members. UNHCR Pakistan Representative Ms. Philippa Candler urged stakeholders to commit to a more orderly and predictable refugee management policy, show compassion for refugees, and seek solutions to their plight. The Federal Minister highlighted Pakistan's financial challenges in hosting Afghan refugees and emphasized the need for continued solidarity and responsibility sharing. In Afghanistan, UNHCR commemorated this year's celebrations alongside members of the UN Country Team in a joint celebration at the UNOCA compound with an arts bazaar showcasing the talents and skills of refugees, returnees, and IDPs.
- UNHCR Pakistan hosted the SSAR Core Group+ at the ambassador level, bringing together representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union/ECHO, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the UK, the USA, and IOM, led by the co-chair, the Ambassador of the Netherlands. FAO attended, presenting findings from an agriculture study on Afghans and local communities. IRC delivered a presentation on a health survey carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting barriers refugees face in accessing healthcare. UNHCR gave an update on discussions with the Government of Pakistan. The Core Group welcomed the upcoming visit by the UNHCR High Commissioner to Pakistan (7–9 July), which includes a meeting with the SSAR Core Group Ambassadors. A key priority of the visit will be advocating for expanded protection space and maintaining the current pause in the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan.
- From 5–12 June, UNHCR Pakistan coordinated 10 capacity-building sessions on e-learning and online learning opportunities in collaboration with SABAQ Foundation, involving 118 teachers from refugee schools. These sessions taught teachers how to use the SABAQ network platform – an education technology site that offers a wealth of educational resources, including textbooks and teaching materials, to foster a more dynamic learning environment. The sessions took place in 10 schools across the Malgagai, Muhammad Khail, Saranan, Surkhab, Loralai, and Chaghi refugee villages, representing a strategic effort to enhance educational outreach in these locations.
- In June, UNHCR Pakistan submitted 43 cases (172 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024, 277 cases (1,083 refugees) were submitted to 11 resettlement countries (Australia: 18; Belgium: five; Canada: 511; France: three; Germany: five; Italy: one; the Netherlands: one; New Zealand: 15; the United Kingdom: five; and the United States: 518. In total, 1,858 refugees departed to six resettlement countries (Australia: 257; Canada: 460; New Zealand: 124; Norway: six; the United



887; and the United States: 124). Three people departed to seven countries on complementary pathways, bringing the total to 134 people (Australia: 17; Canada: 35; France: one; Germany: two; the United Kingdom: five; Switzerland: one; and the United States: 73). Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 29 cases (116 people) for resettlement in June, bringing the total to 529 cases (1,898 people) from January to June 2024. A total of 40 cases (169 people) departed for Australia and Italy in June. Resettlement continues to be an invaluable responsibility-sharing mechanism and a durable solution and protection tool for refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or fundamental human rights are at risk. To date, 2,309 refugees have departed Iran and 2,616 Pakistan since the resumption of the resettlement programme in 2022.

IDP SITUATION

- 1.56 million IDPs are estimated to have returned to their places of origin in Afghanistan between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various types of support, including cash assistance, technical and vocational education and training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education. The source of these figures are household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from October 2021 to June 2024.⁶

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR's total requirements for the Afghanistan situation for 2024 are **USD 479.7 million**. In early July, the situation was **37% funded**. UNHCR is grateful for the support of the following donors who have contributed to our Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked funding:

Australia | Denmark | China | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Norway | Saudi Arabia | Switzerland | United States of America | Australia for UNHCR | Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

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Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Ireland | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Italy | Republic of Korea | España con ACNUR | Japan for UNHCR

For the latest funding update, please see [here](#). For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the [2023 Global Report](#) and [Operational Data Portal](#).

