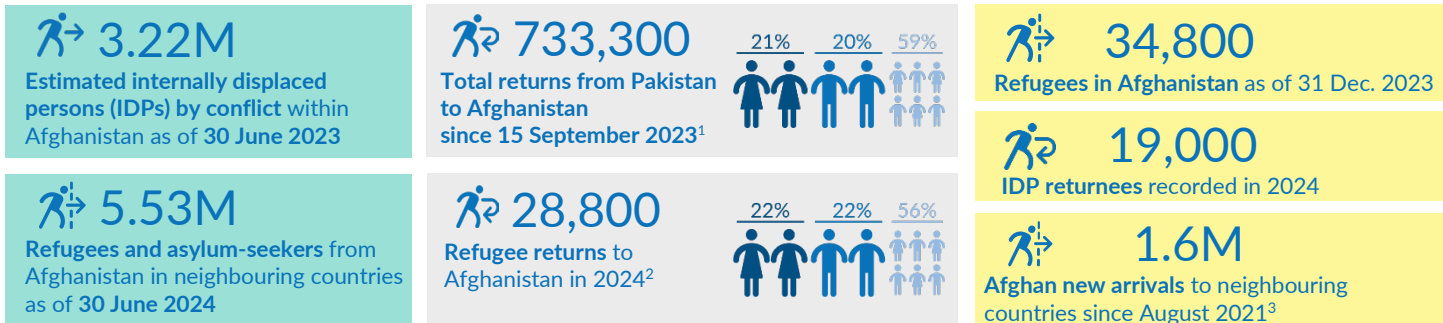


KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES



HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2024 Midyear Report for the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan Situation is now available. From January to June 2024, UNHCR and 51 partners reached 2.4 million people across the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. In the region, 60,000 people received counselling on registration, documentation, and international protection. In addition, 89,200 children, including Afghan refugees, those with other statuses, and members of host communities, were supported in accessing primary (66,800) and secondary (22,400) education. Healthcare services were provided to 287,400 Afghans. Despite these achievements, the RRP remains underfunded, having received just 28% of the requested \$620 million by the end of September. To read more, click [here](#).
- Between 15 September 2023 and 30 September 2024, over 730,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan, with UNHCR providing critical assistance to 109,000 of these returnees. Notably, nearly half (49%) of those assisted are women, including 28% girls, while 29% are boys and 22% men. Among the returnees, 2.5% have disabilities and 30% are female-headed households, highlighting the vulnerability of those returning. Return numbers peaked in May and June, with approximately 38,000 people returning each month, before declining to around 35,000 in July, 28,000 in August and 23,000 in September. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued its vital work, providing biometric processing and cash assistance to Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders and their families, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and those referred for protection. For more information, please see the [latest](#) Afghan Returns Weekly Update.

AFGHANISTAN



- In September 2024, UNHCR and its partners provided humanitarian assistance to over 1 million people across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, with a strong focus on protection support. Among those reached, more than 251,000 people received cash assistance, while over 780,000 benefited from in-kind aid and other forms of support, including core relief items, shelter, seasonal assistance, and community-based interventions. Needs assessments were conducted for approximately 486,000 people to determine the specific support required.

¹ An umbrella term that covers all returns, including deportations, assisted voluntary repatriation and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and the undocumented. UNHCR began monitoring return trends from mid-September 2023 before the official announcement of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan by the Government of Pakistan in October 2023. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to 30 June 2025.

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

³ In Iran, UNHCR is using an average figure based on various government estimates and is actively engaging with authorities to obtain updated, disaggregated data and an estimate of the current number of Afghans remaining in the country. Of the estimated 1 million new arrivals in Iran since August 2021, over 92,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR. In Pakistan, where the government reports 600,000 new arrivals, more than 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.

⁵ UNHCR has developed the priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRs) programme under the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration, and assistance to host countries. PARR projects focus on improving access to education, healthcare, shelter, community-based services, livelihoods, and providing cash and in-kind support to vulnerable families.

- UNHCR continued its commitment to supporting Afghan returnees, having assisted 48,338 people (11,751 households) in the first nine months of 2024, bringing the total number of returnees supported since January 2023 to 124,293 people (29,852 households) as of 30 September 2024. In September alone, 3,552 people (970 households) in refugee or refugee-like situations returned to Afghanistan, with most coming from Pakistan. Returnees included Voluntary Repatriation Form holders, PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and undocumented family members. UNHCR, in coordination with partners, facilitated their reception and assistance at Encashment Centres in Jalalabad, Kandahar, and Kabul. In addition, an estimated 1.6 million IDPs have returned to their places of origin between 2021 and 2024. IDP returnees benefit from various forms of support, including cash assistance, vocational training, rehabilitated WASH facilities, and access to education.⁶
- During a visit to Kunduz in north-eastern Afghanistan, UN DSRSG/RC/HC Indrika Ratwatte visited UNHCR projects supporting returnees and displaced Afghans. Accompanied by UNHCR Representative Arafat Jamal and other UN agency heads, including the FAO Representative and UNICEF Chief of Field Service, the delegation inaugurated Ustad Abdullah Secondary School, laid the foundation stone for a new health clinic, and toured UNHCR-built permanent shelters and a community centre. The delegation also visited other UN-funded projects in agriculture, education, and business, including initiatives aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs.
- UNHCR Afghanistan Representative Arafat Jamal highlighted the critical need for access to vulnerable populations during his mission to Bamyan ahead of winter to ensure life-saving interventions reach displaced people and returnees, especially women and girls. In meetings with the acting Provincial Governor and officials from the de facto authorities' Department for Refugee Affairs, he stressed the importance of protecting these groups. While in Bamyan, he observed the impact of UNHCR's interventions in health, gender-based violence, livelihoods, women's empowerment, and shelter. He also attended the graduation of the second cohort of trainee midwives from a two-year accredited Midwifery Training Programme supported by UNHCR and visited a remote village in Yakawlang to assess the progress of a new primary school funded by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund, meeting with community elders.



Shadana, 42-year-old mother of five and recent refugee returnee receiving a cash grant at the Kabul Encashment Centre. ©UNHCR/Mushtaq Ahmad Munawarzada

REGIONAL

- UNHCR Iran's ongoing commitment to education for refugees was highlighted on 25 September with the inauguration of the Narjes Khatun School in Mashhad. Co-funded by UNHCR, the 12-classroom school, which took two years to build, will serve 310 students, including Afghan refugees and Iranian nationals. This marks the 95th school constructed with UNHCR support in Iran.

⁶ The data is based on household-level rapid assessments conducted by UNHCR and partners from October 2021 to September 2024, and is subject to retroactive adjustments from ongoing assessments. Therefore, these figures are indicative rather than comprehensive statistics on IDP returnees in Afghanistan. The numbers may also be underestimated due to a recent reduction in assessments. 2

- In Iran, the validity of Unified Smart ID Cards was extended by six months by the Government, shifting the expiry date from 20 September 2024 to 20 March 2025. This extension is intended to ensure continued access to services. Despite this, refugee community members have reported service disruptions, particularly in banking, since 20 September. Those affected are required to visit Kefalat centres to obtain certification of the extension, which can then be used to restore access to services. UNHCR is monitoring procedural challenges and advocating for solutions to ensure practical access to rights.
- In September, UNHCR Pakistan submitted 53 cases (180 refugees) for resettlement. In 2024 so far, 411 cases (1,588 refugees) have been submitted. During the month, 13 refugees departed for resettlement to nine countries, bringing the total to 195 departures for 2024 and 2,258 since the resettlement exercise resumed in 2021. Among the departures, 142 departed via humanitarian programmes, 45 via community or private sponsorship, seven via family reunification and one via education pathway. Meanwhile, in Iran, UNHCR submitted 48 refugees for resettlement consideration to Australia. Another 87 refugees departed on resettlement, bringing the total departures this year to 1,010. So far in 2024, 2,866 people have been submitted against the annual quota of 3,650 slots for resettlement consideration.
- In Pakistan, UNHCR donated medical equipment to the Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology, the province's only renal care facility. The equipment, unveiled by the Minister of Health and Head of UNHCR Sub Office Quetta, will supply oxygen to 100 hospital beds and 150 dialysis patients daily, replacing the need for cylinders. Officials praised the initiative for addressing critical healthcare gaps, reducing costs, and improving care, especially for Afghan refugees, who make up a significant portion of patients. This project underscores UNHCR's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Balochistan.
- In Pakistan, the second cohort of the UNHCR-supported "My Identity My Business" project was launched at the National Incubation Centre (NIC) in Balochistan. Some 50 beneficiaries, 40% of whom were women, participated in a two-day ideation workshop as part of their entrepreneurship journey. The project highlights the importance of entrepreneurship and educates trainees about NIC's grant programme and training opportunities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR's total funding requirements for the Afghanistan situation in 2024 stand at USD 479.7 million. By late September, only 47% of this critical funding had been secured. UNHCR appreciates the generosity of donors who have stepped up to support the Afghanistan situation response with earmarked and softly earmarked contributions, ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need:

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However, urgent gaps remain, and continued support is essential to sustain and expand this vital work. The latest funding update is available [here](#). For more information on the Afghanistan situation, please see the [2023 Global Report](#).

