

# Annual Results Report

**2024**

**Afghanistan**

## Acknowledgements

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### **Note:**

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2024, UNHCR faced an increasingly restrictive and unpredictable environment in Afghanistan, where new edicts and laws added to the ongoing challenges, directly impacting protection and solutions efforts. The Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (PVPV) Law – introduced in August – codified the curtailment of women’s rights and mobility, shrinking protection space and creating barriers to durable solutions for refugee returnees, IDPs and IDP returnees. The reported ban on women attending medical education institutions created operational uncertainties for UNHCR’s midwifery training. Throughout the year, UNHCR and its partners worked to mitigate the impact of these restrictions by securing exemptions where possible and ensuring the continuation of women-to-women service delivery.

The scale and speed of returns to Afghanistan exceeded planning assumptions and strained existing response mechanisms. With 2.1 million returns from Iran (1.8 million) and Pakistan (315,000) in 2024, UNHCR had to scale up its presence at border points, strengthening monitoring and humanitarian support. These returns were largely driven by growing anti-Afghan sentiment, protection risks, fear of arrest or deportation, and economic hardship. Post-return monitoring surveys provided critical data on emerging needs, informing adjustments to UNHCR’s programming in Afghanistan.

UNHCR’s efforts to facilitate reintegration in priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRs) locations, including five major cities, also faced challenges. Access restrictions, bureaucratic barriers and resource constraints made it increasingly difficult to maintain support for refugee returnees and host communities. In response, UNHCR conducted a strategic review of PARRs locations to prioritize resources more effectively, reduce the number of sites, and enhance the impact of interventions. This realignment, which included consultation with the Durable Solutions Working Group and other platforms, aimed to optimize assistance in response to operational constraints.

Beyond protection and reintegration, broader shifts in the operational context disrupted UNHCR’s and partners’ programming. The de facto authorities’ temporary suspension of some UNHCR-managed construction projects stalled the completion of Education, Health, and WASH infrastructures, impacting the communities’ access to these essential services. The delayed signature of Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the Ministry of Economy resulted in the discontinuation of some partnerships, delaying the delivery of critical humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, the closures of the Torkham border slowed the delivery of core relief items, further straining UNHCR’s supply chain.

Despite these challenges, UNHCR continued to deliver in line with the principled approach, by women for women and girls, and remained engaged, navigating evolving policies and logistical hurdles to advance sustainable responses wherever feasible. Looking ahead, UNHCR will build on this progress and leverage its field presence, strategic partnerships, and data-driven insights to bolster protection, shelter, and livelihoods at the border and in areas of return and reintegration to ensure a nexus approach to refugee returnees in Afghanistan.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By 2024, the protection environment for all Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Returnees in Afghanistan is enhanced in line with humanitarian, human rights, and international refugee protection standards.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	25.14%

Since August 2021, the lack of clarity surrounding the applicability of legal identity and civil documentation laws has continued to complicate access to rights and durable solutions for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). This uncertainty has been exacerbated by the surge in returns, both voluntary and forced, further highlighting the urgent need for clear mechanisms to enable vulnerable communities to claim and enjoy their rights.

Against the backdrop of a deteriorating protection environment marked by restrictive edicts such as the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice Law, UNHCR and its partners worked to promote access to human rights, often within severely constrained operational parameters. Despite these challenges, over 11,000 civil documents were issued, providing legal identity and unlocking access to education and other essential services for thousands. At the same time, 58,000 women received protection assistance, reinforcing their rights to safety, justice, and remedies in a context where restrictions have intensified. Child protection assistance also reached 43,565 children and parents, while community engagement mechanisms – including outreach volunteers and hotlines – connected more than 300,000 people with lifesaving information and support services.

Progress made before 2021 toward establishing Afghanistan's first asylum framework for refugees and asylum-seekers remained suspended, leaving refugee status and documentation in limbo. In the absence of a national asylum system, access to rights and durable solutions remained tenuous. Despite these challenges, UNHCR's advocacy, registration, and documentation efforts ensured that 100% of asylum-seekers retained access to Afghan territory and asylum procedures.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**By 2024, refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs will benefit from, and have equitable access to, inclusive quality life-saving assistance that will enable them to live in safety and dignity**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	82.00%

In 2024, Afghanistan's economic decline continued, exacerbating vulnerabilities for refugee returnees, IDPs, IDP returnees, and refugees. According to the Asian Development Bank, more than half of the population (54.5%) now lives below the national poverty line. The findings from the 2024 Whole of Afghanistan survey indicate that average household incomes dropped from 10,712 AFN (approximately USD 136) in 2023 to 9,004 AFN (approximately USD 115) in 2024. The situation was worse for IDPs,

returnees, and refugees. Unemployment rates increased from 14.1% in 2022 to 15.4% in 2023, with IDPs and returnees facing even greater challenges in securing livelihoods.

In response to Afghanistan’s evolving operational and protection landscape, UNHCR and its partners delivered critical support to displaced populations across approximately 80 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration. Amidst constraints on humanitarian access and service delivery, UNHCR prioritized lifesaving assistance for refugee returnees and IDP returnees as well as IDPs and asylum-seekers, ensuring access to shelter, cash assistance, health, WASH, and core relief items (CRIs) despite mounting logistical challenges.

Recognizing the need for adaptable, efficient assistance, UNHCR scaled up cash-based interventions, making them a cornerstone of its response. These interventions supported refugee returnees from Pakistan, people with specific needs, and livelihoods programming, providing displaced communities with greater flexibility and dignity to meet their own needs. UNHCR also provided targeted support to vulnerable groups, including students, returnees, IDPs and other populations of concern impacted by extreme weather events such as floods and harsh winters. The construction and equipping of Health, Education and WASH facilities helped reinforce essential services and improve living conditions in areas of return.

As the lead agency for the Protection, Shelter and Non-food Items Clusters and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Working Group, UNHCR played a critical role in inter-agency coordination, working to mitigate protection risks, strengthen resilience and improve displaced communities’ access to services. Capacity-building initiatives for UNHCR staff, partners, cluster members and affected communities further enhanced the effectiveness of the protection response and emergency preparedness measures.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**1. By 2024, refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs benefit from a wide range of solutions.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25.00%	0.00%

On top of the worsening economic landscape, the absence of an asylum law as well as formal permits for refugees and asylum-seekers further limited their access to work and essential services, leaving many in legal and economic limbo. Furthermore, restrictions imposed by the authorities that prevent women and girls from attending secondary and higher education have impacted data availability.

UNHCR prioritized livelihood and economic inclusion interventions, reaching 43,166 people – 55% of whom were women – to enhance self-reliance and mitigate economic shocks. These efforts included training for small- and medium-sized businesses, providing cash assistance and asset provision, offering technical, vocational education and training, facilitating job placements, investing in production, and supporting livelihood-related infrastructure. Beyond livelihoods, UNHCR strengthened access to essential services in displacement-affected areas. In 2024, UNHCR supported 21,580 children through school construction, provided access to healthcare for 329,242 people through the construction of health facilities, and ensured improved WASH infrastructure for 95,888 people through construction and rehabilitation efforts.

Recognizing the critical role of community engagement, UNHCR worked to empower displaced communities as active participants in their own protection and solutions. This included 113 community-outreach volunteers who provided vital information and collected feedback, nearly 64,000 people engaging

with UNHCR and partners via functioning complaints and feedback mechanisms and 10,319 households participating in community-based protection monitoring.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**By 2024, refugees, IDPs and returnees have increased access to durable solutions.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
<b>4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
<b>4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2024, Afghan refugees faced many obstacles, including the absence of a national asylum framework and limited prospects for local integration. Despite these constraints, UNHCR remained a vital source of protection and assistance, reaching 54,720 Afghan refugees, including 28,093 women. At Encashment Centers, UNHCR provided cash grants to cover transportation, shelter and other immediate needs for the first three to four months after return. A supplementary CARE grant – a cash assistance programme providing registered refugee returnees with a once-off payment to cover immediate needs and transportation upon their return to Afghanistan – was provided three to four months later to help sustain reintegration. A supplementary grant for families was also offered to help sustain reintegration. Referrals to protection partners ensured that those in need could access legal assistance, specialized support for women, mental health and psychosocial support, and child protection.

Recognizing the urgent need to stabilize returnees and displaced populations, UNHCR prioritized livelihoods in the priority areas of return and reintegration, with a particular focus on women and young people. Community-Based protection and solutions programmes targeted all age and gender groups, with special attention given to women and young people. They supported small and medium-sized businesses, technical and vocational training, value-chain development, cash for work initiatives, and job placement programmes. These efforts not only provided income opportunities but also strengthened resilience and self-reliance.

Additionally, 37,859 people benefited from shelter upgrades, while community infrastructure supported 52,288 individuals. The construction of schools and health clinics improved access to essential services, benefiting over 21,580 children and 329,242 people, respectively. 95,888 people gained access to newly constructed or rehabilitated WASH facilities, ensuring safer and more dignified conditions.

However, despite these efforts, asylum-seekers and refugees continued to navigate an uncertain legal landscape. Without a national asylum framework, pathways to solutions such as local integration, including access to documentation or residency, were limited. Only one resettlement case was accepted, benefiting a family of five, while two additional cases, covering 10 people, were submitted for consideration.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The situation for women and girls in Afghanistan continued to deteriorate in 2024, with new restrictions further limiting access to rights and solutions. The issuance of the Law on the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in August 2024 reinforced existing bans, including those on post-primary education, while introducing additional measures that deepened inequalities. UNHCR and its partners upheld a principled approach, ensuring that all activities for women were by women. This was supported through budgeting for “mahram” (male guardian) accompaniment and facilitating teleworking modalities where necessary to maintain engagement despite restrictive conditions.

The increasing number of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan has placed further pressure on local capacities in areas of return. Extremely fragile and limited national health services remain the key obstacle to realizing the health impact among refugees, returning refugees, and IDPs. Moreover, economic instability continued to drive families toward harmful coping mechanisms, including taking on debt and sending children away from home in search of employment. These financial hardships have contributed to both internal and cross-border movements, further exacerbating vulnerabilities among displaced populations.

At the operational level, bureaucratic and administrative hurdles such as delays in securing memoranda of understanding between the de facto authorities and implementing partners have hindered the timely implementation of UNHCR’s programmes. These challenges were mitigated through advocacy efforts initiated in 2024 aimed at streamlining agreements and ensuring the continuity of humanitarian and basic human needs interventions.

Despite an increasingly complex operational environment, UNHCR remained committed to stay and deliver in line with relevant Security Council Resolutions. However, attempts to interfere with humanitarian operations led to the temporary suspension of certain activities in specific regions, impacting UNHCR’s ability to address the needs of communities. In response, targeted advocacy efforts were undertaken to safeguard principled humanitarian action and ensure the resumption of programming in accordance with UN commitments and standard operating procedures.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2024, UNHCR deepened its engagement with donor partners, marking a milestone with its first in-country donor mission since 2021. UNHCR remained actively involved in discussions on durable solutions for returnee refugees at key forums, including the Afghanistan Coordination Group and the EU Senior Officials Meeting, ensuring sustained donor engagement and advocacy.

UNHCR also expanded its collaboration with development finance institutions, establishing non-transactional relationships with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation in Afghanistan.

Coordination with UN agencies was further strengthened through partnerships with UNDP, ILO and UNCTAD and formalized via memoranda of understanding. These agreements set the foundation for a collective response to the sustainable reintegration of returnees, with UNHCR playing a catalytic role in livelihoods, economic empowerment and shelter, while other partners expanded and scaled up complementary initiatives.

Through the Emergency Shelter/NFIs Cluster, UNHCR and over 34 partners, in collaboration with national and local stakeholders, provided essential support, including emergency shelter, NFIs, winterization assistance, and transitional shelter to more than 1.1 million people across the country. Strategic partnerships with humanitarian and basic human needs’ actors, including UNDP and UNOPS, further bolstered recovery efforts. In response to the Herat earthquakes, 8,400 families received shelter assistance.



Technical collaborations with REACH enabled evidence-based programming through independent cluster assessments, while work with the Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Task Force led to an integrated guidance note aligning shelter programmes with HLP considerations. Gender mainstreaming workshops with the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group enhanced the capacity to address the specific needs of women and girls in shelter interventions.

In 2024, UNHCR expanded its partnerships, working with 17 NGOs (four INGOs and 13 local NGOs), alongside other UN agencies and operational partners, leveraging their expertise and resources to complement its programmes and promote more sustainable responses. These interventions were coordinated through UNHCR offices in Kandahar, Herat, Jalalabad, Gardez, Mazar, Kunduz, Bamyān and Kabul, ensuring a broad and responsive presence across Afghanistan.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

People with and for whom UNHCR works have access to efficient registration and documentation in line with global standards.

Returnees and IDPs have access to sustainable solutions

##### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Unknown	100.00%
<b>1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
IDPs	25.00%	75.00%	41.67%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%	100.00%

##### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>	
IDPs	3,180
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	593
Returnees	5,832

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, access to documentation in Afghanistan improved due to UNHCR and partners' legal assistance interventions. These efforts facilitated access to registration and documentation for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, IDPs and IDP returnees, helping to establish their legal status and access to essential services.

In the absence of a national asylum framework and system, UNHCR supported asylum-seekers and refugees by issuing asylum-seeker certificates, a critical protection tool that safeguards the principle of non-refoulement. 93 new asylum-seekers, 76% of whom were from Pakistan, received these certificates, which provide proof of identity and facilitate residence and freedom of movement. UNHCR prioritized this activity by ensuring that all asylum-seekers who sought assistance or were referred in 2024 were registered and documented.

More broadly, access to legal assistance and civil documentation, including “tazkiras” (national identity cards) and birth certificates, was enhanced for asylum-seekers, refugees, refugee returnees, IDPs, and IDP returnees. These documents improved access to services such as education and microfinance, while also fostering self-reliance through formal employment. Working with four local legal NGOs and one INGO, UNHCR engaged legal experts in Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar and Kunduz. Through awareness-raising sessions and legal counseling for over 17,000 people, 11,000 new civil documents were issued.

Women accounted for over 45% of those accessing legal assistance, underscoring UNHCR and its partners’ ability to reach and support women despite existing restrictions. This was made possible through targeted measures such as the recruitment of female legal experts, remote counseling and “mahrams” (male guardians) to facilitate women’s participation.

Refugee returnees represented the largest group benefitting from legal assistance services, comprising 34% of all those reached. Access to civil documentation for refugee returnees remains a key enabler of sustainable reintegration, self-reliance and social cohesion, reinforcing UNHCR’s broader efforts to support durable solutions for returnees.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Refugees and Asylum-seekers benefit from national reception procedures supported through UNHCR**

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned	Not yet aligned
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Unknown	Unknown	Progressing toward alignment

#### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since August 2021, Afghanistan’s policy and legal landscape has remained unpredictable. The de facto authorities suspended the Constitution, and all laws previously enforced under the Republic, replacing them with thematic edicts issued without a clear legal and administrative framework. To date, more than 80 edicts have been introduced, in addition to the PVPV law, which has further restricted and limited women’s and girls’ access to basic rights.

In this context, UNHCR reassessed its engagement on policy and legal strategies. Progress toward

Afghanistan’s first asylum law and framework – which was close to finalization – was halted, despite significant advancements before 2021, including a draft bill prepared for parliamentary submission. As a result, UNHCR continued to lead in the registration and documentation of asylum-seekers and refugees. Although the legal framework remained absent, de facto authorities upheld access to Afghan territory for asylum-seekers and, on an ad hoc basis, recognized UNHCR-issued documentation. However, despite these positive developments, the prevailing legal vacuum hindered the full enjoyment of rights and access to services for refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in education and employment. This lack of legal clarity has limited self-reliance and impeded progress toward durable solutions.

To mitigate these challenges, UNHCR continued to advocate for compliance with international refugee law, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to which Afghanistan acceded in 2005. In parallel, the capacity of legal assistance partners was strengthened to provide guidance to asylum-seekers and refugees. Host communities, including landlords and mobile network providers, were sensitized to the specific needs and legal status of asylum-seekers and refugees.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**1.1. Gender-based violence risks are reduced, all survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services and gender-based violence prevention programming effectively addresses the root causes of gender-based violence.**

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>	
Host Community	24,583
IDPs	23,499
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10
Returnees	9,753

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

While overall humanitarian needs in Afghanistan have decreased compared to 2023, gender-based violence needs rose in 2024, with 14.2 million people requiring assistance.

Despite the shrinking protection space, UNHCR and partners implemented specialized women’s protection activities targeting refugee, IDP and returnee communities in five provinces across five regions (Kabul, Kunduz, Kandahar, Herat, and Bamyān). Prioritizing the safety of both partner staff and clients in programme design, UNHCR adapted programme modalities to address regional sensitivities. This included piloting the integration of gender-based violence programmes into community engagement interventions in the east and south-east regions, reaching 2,300 people (76% women and girls) through trained outreach volunteers.

To prevent, mitigate and respond to violence, UNHCR and partners carried out awareness-raising activities and established referral mechanisms, enabling survivors to seek help and access multi-sectoral services in coordination with the related Sub-Cluster. Over 320 women and girls were referred to specialized services through the inter-agency referrals system. UNHCR facilitated dialogues with 6,400 community leaders (44% female) and reached over 34,800 people (55% women and girls) through information-sharing and awareness-raising efforts. These initiatives strengthened the capacity of refugee, IDP, returnee and host

communities to respond to and mitigate gender-based violence. The 16 Days of Activism campaign further enhanced community engagement and outreach activities, reaching around 5,400 people. In addition, in the last quarter of 2024, UNHCR provided 3,553 vulnerable women and girls in Kandahar, Kabul, Kunduz, Bamyán, Gardez and Herat with dignity kits, alongside guidance on their use.

UNHCR's four women's community centers in Kabul, Bamyán, and Herat served as safe spaces for 7,180 women and girls facing restrictions on community participation, which enhanced their wellbeing through small-scale livelihoods and recreational activities. Mental health and psychosocial support services were also provided, reaching 8,950 women and girls through individual and group counselling sessions.

To strengthen gender-based violence programming, UNHCR and partners conducted a safety audit exercise involving 1,543 people (50% women and girls) across five regions. The findings informed advocacy and planning efforts with Clusters and other stakeholders, helping to identify risks and mitigation measures for both UNHCR programmes and affected communities.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, IDPs and the host community have access to a wide range of solutions.

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.</b>			
IDPs	Unknown	Unknown	Moderate
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	Unknown	Moderate
Returnees	Unknown	Unknown	Moderate
<b>7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms</b>			
Host Community	100.00%	100.00%	36.91%
IDPs	100.00%	100.00%	42.25%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	80.00%
Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	33.41%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments</b>	
IDPs	1,117
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	263
Returnees	1,264
<b>07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback &amp; response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback</b>	
Host Community	20,475
IDPs	11,517

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,280
Returnees	30,073
<b>07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services</b>	
IDPs	102,650
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,132
Returnees	332,702

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite the shrinking protection space in Afghanistan, which limited opportunities for meaningful participation of women and girls, children, people with disabilities and minority groups, UNHCR bolstered accountability to affected people, two-way communication with communities and child protection.

Community engagement was enhanced through the support of 113 community outreach volunteers (COVs) representing different population groups, 50% of whom are female. These volunteers provided access to vital information and support to over 269,000 community members across 24 provinces and 67 districts, with 46% of beneficiaries being women. In total, nearly 64,000 people utilized UNHCR's complaints and feedback channels, marking a 25% increase from the previous year. As in 2023, 38% of queries came from women, highlighting continued accessibility despite restrictions on protection space.

Through community engagement, UNHCR identified and registered 4,228 children facing specific protection risks, including 1,646 girls, for enrolment in best interest procedures. 15,033 children, including 7,688 girls, received psychosocial support and participated in recreational activities at 12 child-friendly spaces, including seven newly established in 2024, as well as after-school programmes.

As part of community-based protection efforts, UNHCR established 31 community-based child protection networks across four regions, with 23 newly created in 2024. UNHCR and its partners focused on strengthening the technical capacity of network members, enabling them to raise awareness of key issues within their communities. Capacity-building efforts were also extended to 150 UNHCR and partner staff through dedicated training sessions. This extensive community engagement enabled UNHCR to continue its community-based protection monitoring, which helped inform planning, programming and advocacy. UNHCR's community-based protection monitoring covered all 34 provinces and 267 districts, including 10,319 household assessments (46% women-headed), 4,717 key informant interviews (53% female key respondents), and 6,347 focus group discussions – an 18% increase compared to 2023. UNHCR's CBPM gathers information on protection risks of diverse population groups and ethnic background, ensuring their voices are adequately captured and interventions are relevant to their specific needs.

UNHCR continued to share assessment findings with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster and other coordination forums, ensuring access to up-to-date and comprehensive protection data for the wider humanitarian community and contributing to evidence-based responses. In 2024, 30% of all household-level assessments and 49% of key informant interviews analyzed by the Cluster were provided by UNHCR. To enhance transparency and accessibility, a public community-based protection monitoring dashboard was also made available. In addition, to further facilitate community engagement, UNHCR completed 68 community infrastructure projects, including carpet weaving centers, community and women's business centers and WASH facilities.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs at heightened risk can meet their basic needs within six months of displacement.**

**Refugees, returnees and IDPs have unhindered and equitable access to multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.**

## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
IDPs	8.38%	29.00%	1.55%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.15%	93.00%	7.80%
Returnees	100.00%	83.00%	100.00%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
Host Community	95,042
IDPs	49,539
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,627
Returnees	214,662
<b>08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items</b>	
IDPs	31,100

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To address basic needs and protection concerns, 6,350 people received cash assistance for urgent expenses, while 386 urban refugees benefited from monthly support to bridge protection gaps. Furthermore, 6,545 people with specific needs, including 3,560 women and 2,985 men, received cash management cash assistance to mitigate protection risks and enhance resilience.

UNHCR also supported 54,720 returnees. Among them, 33,344 returnees received 26,500 Afghan Afghani (AFN) to cover transportation and reintegration while 21,376 returnees from Pakistan who returned under the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan received 9,850 AFN ( USD 125) in multi-purpose cash assistance, a transportation grant of 1,400 AFN (USD 18), and a protection grant of 4,230 AFN (USD 54). Returnees holding voluntary repatriation forms or proof of registration cards qualified for a supplementary grant of 48,900 AFN (USD 62) per household to support long-term reintegration. In 2024, 22,936 people (5,340 households) received this grant, with remaining disbursements scheduled for the first quarter of 2025.

For shelter and reintegration, 12,989 people received cash for permanent shelter construction, and 4,711 for shelter repairs. 2,549 IDPs received transportation and reintegration cash assistance, and winterization assistance reached 221,753 people. To strengthen livelihoods, 2,440 people received cash for small-and medium-sized enterprises and job placements, while 702 benefited from cash for work opportunities. Cash support for obtaining "e-Tazkira" (electronic national identity cards) or birth certificates was provided to 23,265 people. 17 students also received a DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship for higher education. Meanwhile, to enhance cash assistance delivery, UNHCR expanded the use of Cash Assist and Global Distribution Tools across all programmes, transitioning from over-the-counter disbursements to digital solutions, including mobile money, prepaid cards, and bank accounts.

A post-distribution monitoring survey revealed that 94% of assisted households reported improved living conditions, while 99% noted a reduction in stress and better psychosocial well-being. 99% of recipients

reported no security concerns when carrying, storing, or spending their cash assistance. Among recipients, 65% met their most pressing needs, 47% increased food purchases, 14% sustained productive assets, and 11% accessed or repaid existing loans.

UNHCR successfully delivered core relief items (CRIs) to 21,348 households, providing essential relief to vulnerable populations across Afghanistan. Among recipients, 22% were refugee returnees, 21% were conflict-induced IDPs, and 20% were IDP returnees.

UNHCR continued to coordinate all in-kind assistance through the Afghanistan Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster and the Protection Cluster. Partner organizations also played a key role in facilitating the delivery and prepositioning of CRIs in country warehouses.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs have access to adequate dwellings.**

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs have sufficient access to energy.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing</b>			
IDPs	0.93%	10.00%	1.65%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.87%	85.00%	0.00%
Returnees	71.24%	80.00%	43.38%
<b>9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting</b>			
IDPs	0.82%	10.00%	1.07%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.39%	75.00%	0.00%
Returnees	21.39%	80.00%	5.10%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance</b>	
Host Community	12,630
IDPs	1,205
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0
Returnees	25,408

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR expanded shelter access for IDPs, refugee returnees, and other displaced populations, reaching 39,243 people – 90% of the target. Assistance included permanent and disaster-resilient shelters, major housing repairs, and emergency shelter support in response to extreme weather events.



Through implementing partners and cash-based interventions (CBIs), UNHCR facilitated the construction of 2,582 permanent and disaster-resilient shelters, benefiting 23,485 people. 647 shelters were repaired through CBIs, restoring safe and functional housing for 4,711 people affected by disasters or displacement. In response to floods and frequent earthquakes, UNHCR provided 903 emergency shelters (tents) to 9,663 people. Seasonal assistance included the distribution of 1,190 solar systems, 1,267 stoves, and winterization packages to families in newly constructed shelters.

To enhance community resilience and local ownership, UNHCR integrated resilient designs into all shelters, reducing environmental risks and improving sustainability. A people-centered approach empowered displaced communities to plan and implement shelter solutions, helping to ensure cultural appropriateness and long-term viability.

As the Shelter Cluster lead, UNHCR coordinated shelter responses across multiple provinces. Collaboration with UN agencies, implementing partners, and the de facto authorities facilitated efficient humanitarian interventions, ensuring timely and well-coordinated responses.

UNHCR addressed key challenges, including constraints in hard-to-reach areas, funding shortages, and disruptions caused by extreme weather events. To ensure project continuity, remote monitoring and partnerships were strengthened. Flexible construction schedules and resilient designs mitigated environmental risks thereby enhancing long-term sustainability.

De facto authorities and local leaders played a key role in land allocation, securing tenure for displaced families. UN agencies and partners provided essential services such as food, healthcare, and WASH support. Implementing partners led construction, site assessments, and skills training, while donor contributions enabled emergency and durable housing solutions. Beneficiary Advisory Committees ensured community participation, cultural relevance, and local ownership.

In 2024, UNHCR assisted 4,906 displaced families with durable and emergency housing. Resilient designs and community-led approaches improved resilience and sustainability. Moving forward, UNHCR will continue advocating for long-term housing solutions by leveraging localized strategies and partnerships to secure dignified and stable living conditions for displaced communities in Afghanistan.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2024, the health status of forcibly displaced and stateless people has improved.

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
IDPs	48,936
Returnees	44,323

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR improved access to health services for 329,242 people across 80 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration. Support covered the construction of 15 health facilities, including comprehensive, basic and maternal health clinics. Completed facilities were handed over to local community leaders, community development councils and other relevant stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability.

To further bolster healthcare services, UNHCR supported midwifery training for 797 women, equipping them with the necessary skills to take up employment at hospitals, including those constructed by UNHCR. Their inclusion in the healthcare system will contribute to improving maternal health services, particularly in remote areas where access remains limited.

Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) remained a critical component of UNHCR's response, benefitting 44,323 refugee returnees. Services were delivered through a multi-layered approach in accordance with Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines, which saw 6,396 people receive one-on-one counseling services, 15,996 people attend group psychosocial support sessions, and 264 people participate in family-based interventions. In parallel, awareness-raising sessions reached 21,667 people, which helped break down stigma and encourage greater community support for mental health needs. Similar support was extended to IDPs, reaching 48,936 people. 25,102 people also received consultation services, including 7,306 people who participated in one-on-one counseling services, while 17,76 attended group psychosocial support sessions. 290 individuals took part in family-based interventions and 23,384 were reached via awareness-raising services. 45,501 people from both refugee and displaced populations participated in community-based awareness-raising activities.

To ensure a coordinated and effective response, UNHCR worked closely with the MHPSS Technical Working Group, which brings together over 20 organizations, including UN sister agencies such as IOM, WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF. The de facto Ministry of Public Health also played a key role in providing psychosocial support across the country, further bolstering national capacities to deliver essential health services.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, and refugee returnees have access to primary, secondary, and tertiary education.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	70.00%	0.11%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
Host Community	12,290
IDPs	6,828
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	144
Returnees	2,318

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Afghanistan estimates that eight million people require education assistance. Extreme weather events have contributed to gaps in essential services, while

poverty has driven families to deprioritize schooling. The education sector also faces significant challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Restrictive policies on girls' access to education exacerbated these issues, widening gender disparity and reducing opportunities for thousands of students. A shortage of qualified teachers – especially female educators – combined with high student-teacher ratios continued to undermine the quality of education.

A nationwide survey conducted in 2024 highlighted the severity of these challenges. While 78% of children in surveyed households attended primary school, only 12% progressed to secondary education. Among respondents, 26% cited school bans, primarily affecting girls beyond secondary school age, as the reason for non-attendance, while 18% reported a lack of schools in their area. These barriers have deepened the education gap, leaving many children, particularly girls, without pathways to further learning.

To ease pressure on service delivery and increase access to quality education in the priority areas of return and reintegration, UNHCR invested in Education-related infrastructure. In 2024, 36 schools were constructed, rehabilitated or expanded, benefitting more than 21,580 children. UNHCR also supported the training of 173 volunteer teachers, helping to reduce student-teacher ratios and improve the overall learning environment.

While UNHCR continues to support education initiatives, comprehensive countrywide data on refugees and asylum-seekers enrolled in tertiary and higher education remains unavailable. Similarly, engagement in national education tracking was discontinued, leaving gaps in data on children and young people enrolled in the national system. Despite these limitations, UNHCR remains committed to strengthening educational opportunities, particularly in communities that face the greatest barriers to learning.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees and the host community access safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	100.00%	82.00%
Returnees	0.00%	100.00%	82.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
<b>12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services</b>	
Host Community	30,327
IDPs	24,267
Returnees	31,608

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The 2024 Whole of Afghanistan Survey highlighted significant gaps in access to clean water, with 34% of households relying on hand pump wells, while 7% depended on surface water, and another 7% on unprotected springs and wells. Limited infrastructure further compounded these challenges, as 35% of respondents reported inadequate water storage in their households and 16% cited an insufficient number of

water points.

To address these issues, UNHCR supported the construction and maintenance of 10 WASH facilities in 2024, including water supply systems and infrastructure repairs. These efforts benefitted 95,888 people, enhancing access to safe drinking water. As a result, 82% of targeted population were able to use at least basic drinking water services. However, while the intervention improved overall access, the available data does not provide a detailed population breakdown, limiting further analysis of specific needs and coverage.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

**Refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs have access to decent formal employment or self-employment.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</b>			
IDPs	0.00%		8.74%
Returnees	0.00%		15.77%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Host Community	3,563
IDPs	16,611
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	204
Returnees	1,848

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR supported over 22,226 people through livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions with particular focus on women, equipping them with skills and opportunities to enhance self-reliance. 7,570 people (6,749 women and 821 men) participated in various market-oriented technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses. Among them, 337 women received midwifery training, providing professional skills and employment in one of the sectors where women are currently permitted to work. Of those benefitting from TVET programming, 467 were refugee returnees, 614 IDP returnees, 4,455 IDPs and 2,034 host community members. UNHCR further facilitated capacity-building and job placements for 363 people, including 173 people (90 men and 83 women) under the teacher training and capacity-building programme, and 90 women through the visually impaired women empowerment programme. The visually impaired women programme enhanced beneficiary women's economic self-sufficiency, social stability and mental health by providing relevant training, skills development, market linkage and start-up supports.

To promote self-employment, UNHCR supported 3,287 people (2,096 women and 1,191 men) in

establishing and expanding micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This assistance helped foster income generation opportunities through self-employment, particularly for vulnerable groups. Among the beneficiaries, 388 were refugee returnees, 427 IDP returnees, 1,507 IDPs and 821 host community members. In addition, MSME support was extended to 204 refugees and asylum-seekers, further promoting economic resilience.

UNHCR also provided value-chain-oriented support to 10,521 people, with over 10,000 people (mostly women), benefiting from infrastructure and training in agriculture, carpet weaving, trading, and other sectors. By integrating people into various value chains, this initiative strengthened their economic participation and long-term sustainability. In addition, 700 people, (74 women and 626 men) received temporary employment opportunities through cash for work programmes, enabling them to earn an income while contributing to community asset development and infrastructure development.

Through its area-based and inclusive approach in the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs), UNHCR played a key role in fostering social cohesion and coexistence among different population groups. By providing inclusive support, UNHCR helped bridge economic gaps and strengthen community ties.

To enhance evidence-based programming, UNHCR conducted a socioeconomic vulnerability assessment in 75 PARRs. The findings provided critical insights into socioeconomic vulnerabilities, identifying sectors and locations in need of further support. The data also served as a foundation for tracking key outcome indicators, informing and refining future programming and policy decisions.

Lastly, to promote financial inclusion (such as access to bank account or mobile service money), UNHCR held detailed discussion with a microfinance institution to initiate the development of a microfinance project. UNHCR will strengthen its engagement in microfinance in 2025.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Returnees have the necessary information and resources to voluntarily return to their country of origin.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
Returnees	35.00%	60.00%	40.02%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 54,720 Afghan refugees returned with UNHCR's assistance, with women and children comprising 78% of returnees. The vast majority (98%) returned from Pakistan, followed by Iran and other countries. The overall number of returns was 28% lower than in 2023, largely due to improved protection conditions in Pakistan and the extension of proof of registration cards. In contrast, returns from Iran doubled compared to previous year, driven by rising anti-Afghan sentiment observed since July 2024. Refugee returnees received cash assistance through four Encashment Centers to support their reintegration. This assistance helped returnees to cover transportation, shelter, and other immediate needs for the first three to four months. Upon arrival, returnees received \$375 per person, while those in a refugee-like situation were provided \$140 per household plus \$20 per person as transportation support. A supplementary CARE grant (\$700 for families and \$350 for individuals) was distributed three to four months after their return to assist with ongoing reintegration needs. In addition to financial support, returnees benefited from protection

services, basic healthcare, vaccinations, mine risk education, child-friendly spaces, overnight accommodation, and referrals for specialized assistance.

At Encashment Centres, UNHCR operated its online Kobo-based registration system, integrated with the Biometric Identity Management System and Global Distribution Tool/CashAssist. These tools strengthened accountability, created a regional data repository, and improved systematic reporting and analysis of repatriation data and trends. Support was also provided to UNHCR and partner staff at border points and Encashment Centres to ensure effective response capacity and timely protection assistance for refugee returnees.

Throughout the year, UNHCR maintained close coordination with its offices in Pakistan, Iran and the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with regular discussions held on population movements, voluntary repatriation, and the protection challenges faced by returnees both in asylum countries and upon their return.

Systematic return and border monitoring also remained a key priority, with harmonized Kobo tools. 146,600 border inflow and outflow monitoring interviews were conducted with Afghans regardless of status across nine official and 50 unofficial crossing points. This protection-focused monitoring assessed cross-border movement triggers, access to territory, asylum rights, and barriers faced by those in need of protection.

To further safeguard voluntary repatriation, UNHCR interviewed 3,031 returnee households, including 1,189 female-headed households, at four Encashment Centres to ensure their decisions were informed and that returns were carried out in safety and dignity. A post-return monitoring phone survey reached 7,100 returnee households in areas of return and evaluated protection risks, needs, socioeconomic conditions, and the impact of the repatriation cash grant. Findings were shared through reports and online dashboards, informing stakeholders and other UNHCR operations in their contingency planning and advocacy efforts.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Refugees can access resettlement and complementary pathway programmes to support in finding solutions in a third country where they can enjoy their full rights.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2	51	10

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite significant challenges, refugees in Afghanistan continued to access resettlement programmes. In 2024, while no refugees departed for resettlement, one case was accepted – a family of five – and two cases involving 10 people were submitted to resettlement states for consideration. UNHCR staff conducted

interviews and prepared these cases in accordance with the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, ensuring confidentiality throughout the process.

However, resettlement opportunities from Afghanistan remained extremely limited due to the lack of an allocated resettlement quota and the absence of diplomatic representations from resettlement states. Given these constraints, UNHCR continued to explore alternative solutions on a case-by-case basis, including complementary pathways, to facilitate safe and sustainable solutions for refugees. Moreover, the absence of a national legal and administrative system in Afghanistan made local integration challenging, further underscoring the need for resettlement as a viable option.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**IDPs and IDP returnees have access to sustainable solutions.**

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs	Limited
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not at all
Returnees	Limited

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, progress remained limited due to the continued absence of a national asylum framework, limiting access of refugees and asylum-seekers to basic rights including housing, residency, documentation and national social protection systems. Advocacy efforts to highlight these gaps and promote inclusion in national framework need to be continued.

In 2024, UNHCR remained a key member of the National Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) and all eight Regional Durable Solutions Working Groups (R-DSWGs), strengthening coordination efforts to support IDPs and IDP returnees.

UNHCR assumed the role of Chair in the East, South, North, South-East, North-East and as Co-Chair in the West, Center, Central Highlands. This leadership position reinforced UNHCR's role within the DSWG, which includes UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and other stakeholders. UNHCR also served as either as a Convenor or Co-Convenor in all eight priority workstreams of this group.

As the Convenor of the Protection Mainstreaming workstream, UNHCR promoted the centrality of protection in durable solutions by delivering workshops for all eight R-DSWGs, reaching 150 participants from various DSWG member organizations. UNHCR also led the Data Analysis and Solutions workstream, collaborating with OCHA's Information Management Working Group to enhance coordination and avoid duplication. As a Co-Convenor for the Capacity-Building workstream, UNHCR facilitated workshops on durable solutions concepts, principles, and processes in coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO).

To support IDPs and IDP returnees, UNHCR played a major role in developing Regional Action Matrices for the East, West, South, North and Central regions. These efforts contributed to the formulation of the National Solutions Plan (Phase 1) and the Reintegration Appeal document in coordination with the RCO and DSWG members, specifically targeting the priority areas of return and reintegration.

UNHCR's durable solutions approach aligns with the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal



Displacement. In support of these efforts, UNHCR contributed \$8.3 million to assist displaced people in the 10 R-DSWG selected districts and an additional \$10.1 million for IDPs and returnees across 25 districts covered by the Reintegration Appeal. Under the “Delivering as One” Initiative – focused on durable solutions for returnees and IDPs in the eastern region – UNHCR secured \$3.3 million from the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan to address shelter needs.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Working Group achieved significant milestones in improving the well-being and reintegration of IDPs in Afghanistan, including facilitating the voluntary return of 111 households to Kunduz. Efforts included enhanced data collection, eviction tracking, community support, organizational improvements, capacity building, and strategic partnerships and cooperation with key stakeholders.

Through its Community-Based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) in the PARRs, UNHCR supported 414,304 people. In addition, 2,549 returning IDPs received cash and reintegration assistance grants to help facilitate their transition and integration.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2024, UNHCR continued to collect age-, gender- and population group- disaggregated data through partners, countrywide protection and border monitoring and functioning complaints and feedback mechanisms.

As the lead agency of the Afghanistan Protection Cluster and the Disability Inclusion Working Group, UNHCR compiled critical insights on the specific needs, risks and barriers faced by people with disabilities through inter-agency protection monitoring and participatory assessments. Engagement of people with disabilities by organizations during the 2024 participatory assessment as well as through projects supporting visually impaired women ensured the inclusion of diverse age, gender and diversity groups. The 2024 participatory assessment further strengthened UNHCR’s commitment to accountability to affected populations by incorporating community feedback into programming and strategic decision-making. Consultations were held with over 3,377 people (41% female) across 20 provinces, covering topics such as the new law on Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, returnee needs, disability inclusion, harmful coping mechanisms, as well as shelter, livelihood, and protection services. These consultations focused on capturing the views of community members of diverse population groups and ethnic backgrounds. The same approach is adopted for UNHCR’s protection monitoring and rapid household assessments, ensuring that the specific needs and protection risks of diverse groups are well reflected and acted upon. Complementing the participatory assessment, UNHCR conducted a safety audit exercise, with 1,543 community members (50% female) to identify risks for women and girls during service provision. To strengthen communication and participation, UNHCR expanded its community engagement project to ensure that women, girls, returnees and people with disabilities – particularly those facing movement restrictions – could meaningfully engage in decision-making. UNHCR’s commitment to women-to-women service provision is reflected in the fact that 50% of its community outreach volunteers are women. Despite increasing restrictions on women and girls, UNHCR also ensured that 87% of partner staff working on-site remain women to maintain their role in the delivery of critical services.



## Section 3: Resources

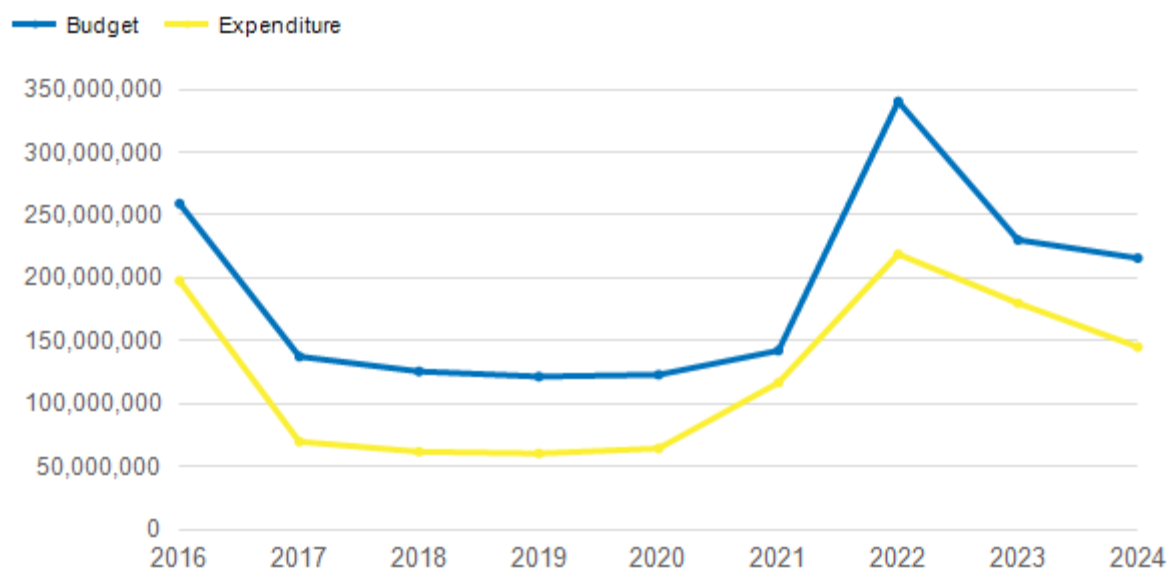
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

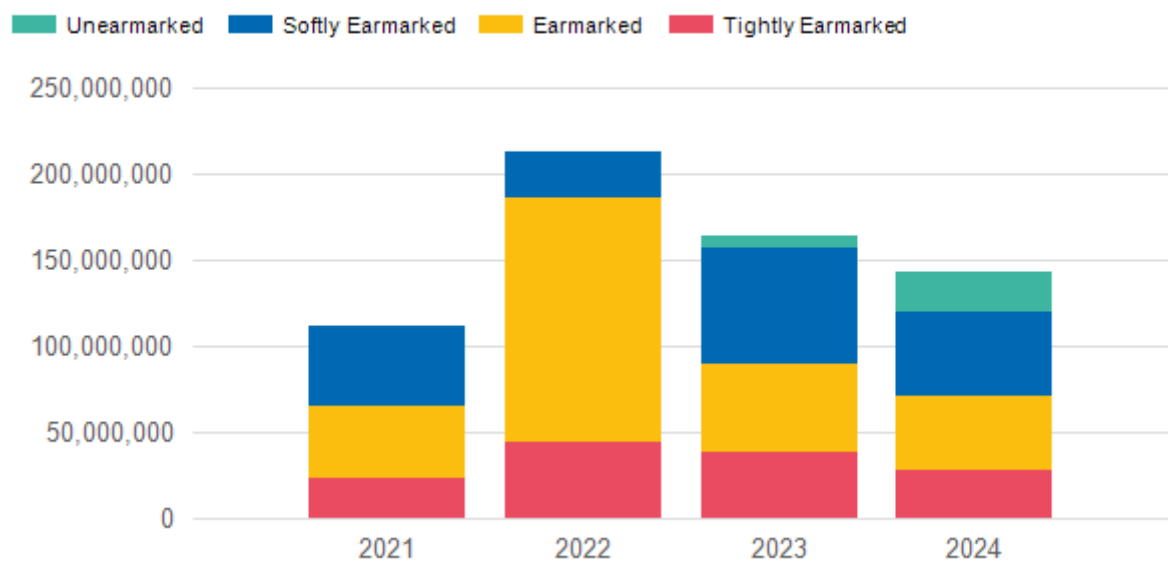
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	11,815,871	9,577,195	81.05%	9,577,195	100.00%
IA2: Assist	124,560,364	78,109,972	62.71%	75,500,750	96.66%
IA3: Empower	33,226,554	30,776,024	92.62%	30,776,024	100.00%
IA4: Solve	46,280,683	29,915,170	64.64%	29,426,670	98.37%
All Impact Areas		3,976,107			
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,883,472</b>	<b>152,354,467</b>	<b>70.57%</b>	<b>145,280,638</b>	<b>95.36%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	5,544,710	6,845,147	123.45%	6,845,147	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	2,286,716	2,900,660	126.85%	2,900,660	100.00%
OA4: GBV	4,472,479	1,183,302	26.46%	1,183,302	100.00%
OA7: Community	14,529,332	14,403,945	99.14%	14,403,945	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	33,185,962	32,261,134	97.21%	32,052,780	99.35%
OA9: Housing	49,349,063	23,089,523	46.79%	21,820,039	94.50%
OA10: Health	23,903,997	15,190,748	63.55%	13,005,771	85.62%
OA11: Education	8,629,995	6,770,090	78.45%	6,770,090	100.00%
OA12: WASH	2,045,890	1,996,121	97.57%	1,996,121	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	9,579,194	9,131,891	95.33%	9,131,891	100.00%
OA14: Return	23,703,058	22,505,630	94.95%	22,017,130	97.83%
OA15: Resettle	2,083,610	267,996	12.86%	267,996	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	20,494,015	4,880,075	23.81%	4,880,075	100.00%
EA17: Systems	2,172,330	1,165,692	53.66%	1,165,692	100.00%
EA18: Support	10,851,619	5,460,346	50.32%	5,460,346	100.00%
EA20: External	3,051,503	1,379,651	45.21%	1,379,651	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		2,922,514			
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,883,472</b>	<b>152,354,467</b>	<b>70.57%</b>	<b>145,280,638</b>	<b>95.36%</b>

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



### 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, UNHCR aligned resource allocation with established guidelines, prioritizing funds based on key parameters, including lifesaving activities, protection services, emergency response, donor earmarking and regional priorities. Amid global financial constraints, several reprioritizations were made to safeguard critical protection assistance targeting returnees and other vulnerable groups, ensuring that essential services were maintained.

Throughout the year, UNHCR's operational footprint remained unchanged, with a Country Office in Kabul, three Sub Offices in Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar and three Field Offices in Herat, Bamyán and Kunduz. As part of ongoing efforts to optimize resources, Field Office Gardez was nationalized and downgraded to a Field Unit.

However, the security situation remained volatile, with assassinations, armed robberies, theft, intimidation, kidnappings, and other crimes posing persistent threats. In addition, the country experienced armed opposition group attacks, terrorism, improvised explosive devices, unexploded ordinances, cross-border armed conflicts, and extreme weather events such as flash floods and earthquakes. Restrictions on women's employment in certain locations further compounded security concerns.

To mitigate risks, UNHCR prioritised security-related expenditures, including contracting international armed guards to secure premises, a significant financial commitment. The requirement for armed escorts for project monitoring and service delivery also remained a critical cost factor. These security constraints, coupled with infrastructure challenges, required careful budget planning. The unreliable national power grid led to increased reliance on generators, significantly driving up operational costs. Meanwhile, limited access to local healthcare facilities due to security constrictions necessitated continued investment in joint medical facilities in UN compounds. The lack of adequate medical referral facilities in field locations also meant that medical evacuations under the joint UN medical evacuation plan remained a costly but essential priority.

Despite these challenges, UNHCR continued to strengthen partnerships and expand its donor base in line with the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Strategy (2023-2024). Engagement with top donors deepened, while opportunities to diversify funding sources led to increased support from regional donor capitals and the private sector. Opportunities through global priority initiatives, including the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, were leveraged to enhance funding and operational support, ensuring continued assistance to displaced and other vulnerable populations. Despite these challenges, UNHCR continued to strengthen partnerships and expand its donor base in line with the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Strategy (2023-2024). Engagement with top donors deepened, while opportunities to diversify funding sources led to increased support from regional donor capitals and the private sector. Opportunities through global priority initiatives, including the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, were leveraged to enhance funding and operational support, ensuring continued assistance to displaced and other vulnerable populations.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

In 2024, insights gathered from monitoring, surveys, partner interactions and reports informed key decisions and were further examined internally to shape future strategies. Among the most significant takeaways were the importance of emergency preparedness, coordination with the de facto authorities, avoiding duplication of efforts, diversifying funding sources (including engagement with private and development actors), strengthening partnerships, and aligning activities with available financial and human resource capacities. Recognising the need to optimize impact, UNHCR also explored alternative implementation modalities. These lessons learned will serve as a foundation for refining future strategies and improving project implementation.

Despite increasing restrictions on rights imposed by the de facto authorities, notably the promulgation of the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice Law enacted in August 2024, UNHCR maintained its access and presence to support forcibly displaced and returning Afghans. Core protection activities remained central to UNHCR's approach, helping to ensure IDPs and returnees continued to access rights and essential services.

Looking ahead to 2025, in line with the principled approach, UNHCR will maintain its focus on access to rights and solutions, reinforcing community-based protection monitoring to track service accessibility countrywide. Mitigating risks of aid diversion or misuse will remain a priority to ensure humanitarian assistance reaches those in need. Given the rising number of returnee refugees and returnee Afghans in refugee-like situations, UNHCR will prioritize support for this population, leveraging its protection and solutions mandate and expertise in forced displacement. At the provincial level, UNHCR will focus on selected priority areas of return and reintegration to drive tangible, localized impacts, while expanding strategic partnerships with a broader range of actors to enhance protection, advocacy and sustainable responses for forcibly displaced and stateless people as well as returnees. Capacity-building initiatives targeting local NGOs and partner organizations will be carried out to empower local communities to play a greater role in advancing sustainable solutions.

The lessons learned in 2024 will be instrumental in shaping future strategies. These insights will inform the 2025 and 2026 multi-year strategy reviews, partnership agreements adjustments and fundraising efforts so that UNHCR continues to adapt and respond to evolving challenges.



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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