

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



UNHCR's planned presence | 2014

Number of offices	5
Total personnel	118
International staff	11
National staff	101
JPOs	1
Others	5

Overview

Working environment

- The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to host one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, despite the voluntary return of hundreds of thousands Afghan and Iraqi refugees to their countries of origin over the past decade. According to the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA), as of October 2011, the number of refugees registered with the authorities stood at over 882,000 (over 840,000 Afghans and some 42,000 Iraqis).
- In the Islamic Republic of Iran, 97 per cent of all refugees are living in urban and semi-urban areas. Between January 2002 and July 2013, UNHCR assisted over 913,000 Afghans to return home voluntarily, and almost 30,000 Iraqi refugees have also been assisted to repatriate voluntarily since 2003. However, the number of people who have returned in 2013 remains low in comparison with previous years, and the assistance programme will need to continue.
- Hyperinflation in the country has affected the delivery of services by different government sectors. There has also been a dramatic rise in the cost of living, including

food items, other basic needs, health and education-related costs. This has affected the refugee population in particular. At present, approximately 24 per cent of registered refugees are considered vulnerable, and this situation is expected to affect increasing numbers of refugees.

- International sanctions and the effects of inflation continue to affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as operational costs for UNHCR and other organizations.
- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was actively involved in the process leading to the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR), endorsed in May 2012. This strategy aims to enhance the prospects for sustainable solutions for Afghan returnees.
- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran grants the refugee population on its territory access to: medical services, education for students, literacy classes for out-of-school children and the labour market.

People of concern

The main groups of people of concern planned for in 2014 are: Afghan refugees, most of whom arrived before 2001 as *prima facie* refugees; and Iraqi refugees, the majority of whom were registered in 2002 as *prima facie* refugees. Almost all refugees live in rural and urban areas, with just 3 per cent residing in settlements allocated for Iraqi refugees.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Dec 2013		Dec 2014		Dec 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Afghanistan	804,090	804,090	784,090	784,090	764,090	764,090
	Iraq	41,590	41,590	39,090	39,090	36,590	36,590
	Various	70	70	60	60	50	50
Asylum-seekers	Afghanistan	10	10	60	60	50	50
	Iraq	-	-	10	10	10	10
	Various	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total		845,770	845,770	823,320	823,320	800,800	800,800

| Response |

Needs and strategies

UNHCR's planning for 2014 will reflect the organization's global strategic priorities (GSPs), elements of the SSAR, and the draft protection framework for refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Office will continue to strengthen asylum space in the country by providing support to the Government, while building refugees' skills and capacities in preparation for sustainable return to their country of origin or departure to a third country. The programme therefore focuses on four main areas of interconnected needs, namely health, education, livelihoods and durable solutions.

UNHCR will pursue joint efforts with governmental counterparts to strengthen and develop the protection framework for refugees, including facilitating and implementing available durable solutions. In the area of livelihoods support, UNHCR will ensure that any vocational training opportunity is linked to a business plan or to opportunities for refugees to gain skills that will facilitate the process of reintegration upon return to their country of origin. The health insurance scheme for refugees will be continued. This is very important for vulnerable refugees, whose most critical medical needs can thus be addressed.

Main objectives and targets for 2014

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2014. Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what – under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process – has been planned (**Planned activities**) for particular groups of people of concern (**People of concern**);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (**2014 comprehensive target**); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (**Potential gap**). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context, strategic priorities and

experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (**priority area**). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2014, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PEOPLE OF CONCERN	2014 COMPREHENSIVE TARGET	POTENTIAL GAP
Basic needs and essential services			
Health status of the population improved			
UNHCR will continue to support the Ministry of Health, the main partner for providing primary health care, to ensure that refugees continue to benefit from free primary health care, as well as access to family physicians.			
A health insurance scheme in collaboration with an insurance company will complement UNHCR's existing health interventions, thereby alleviating expensive hospitalization costs for vulnerable refugees.			
Number of people referred to secondary and tertiary medical care	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	60,000	20,000
Health insurance scheme established to improve refugee access to health services (yes/no)	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	yes	partially
Population has optimal access to education			
The Ministry of Education will remain UNHCR's main counterpart regarding improved access for refugees to education through joint activities, such as the provision of vouchers for vulnerable refugee students, the construction of educational units and schools, the provision of literacy classes, the provision of equipment for schools hosting high numbers of refugees, and other related projects.			
Number of households that receive conditional cash grants or vouchers for education support	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	9,540	priority area
Number of schools that receive support for technology maintenance	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	150	50
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved			
The most pressing difficulties faced by refugees in both urban settings and settlements are: the high cost of vocational skills training and tertiary education; low wages; extremely limited access to employment opportunities; and obtaining mandatory work permits. Technical and vocational education and training, loans and income-generating tools will help develop the human capital of the refugee community and diversify their livelihood options.			
Number of people of concern provided with entrepreneurship/business training	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,000	650
Number of small business associations formed/supported	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,000	290
Durable solutions			
Potential for voluntary return realized			
UNHCR will pursue its activities with regard to information sharing and verification of voluntariness of return. This will ensure that all refugees have the opportunity to make an informed and voluntary decision to return, and that those returning receive assistance.			
Number of people of concern receiving return packages	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	22,500	500
Potential for resettlement realized			
It is estimated that 87,000 individuals are in need of resettlement. The resettlement of approximately 5,000 people a year will have a significant impact on burden-sharing and maintaining protection space.			
Number of people for whom UNHCR will make interventions to facilitate their departures	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,500	0 gap

| Implementation |

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, State Welfare Organization of Iran, Technical and Vocational Training Organization

NGOs:

Chain of Hope, Danish Refugee Council, Iraqi Refugee Aid Council, Kowsar Scientific and Cultural Foundation, Norwegian Refugee Council, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Rebirth Charity Organization, Society for Recovery Support, The Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children, The Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer, World Relief Foundation

Others:

UNIDO

Operational partners

NGOs:

Caritas, Family Planning Organization, Global Partners, International Consortium for Refugees in Iran, *Médecins sans Frontières*, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development, Relief International

Others:

FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP, WHO

Coordination

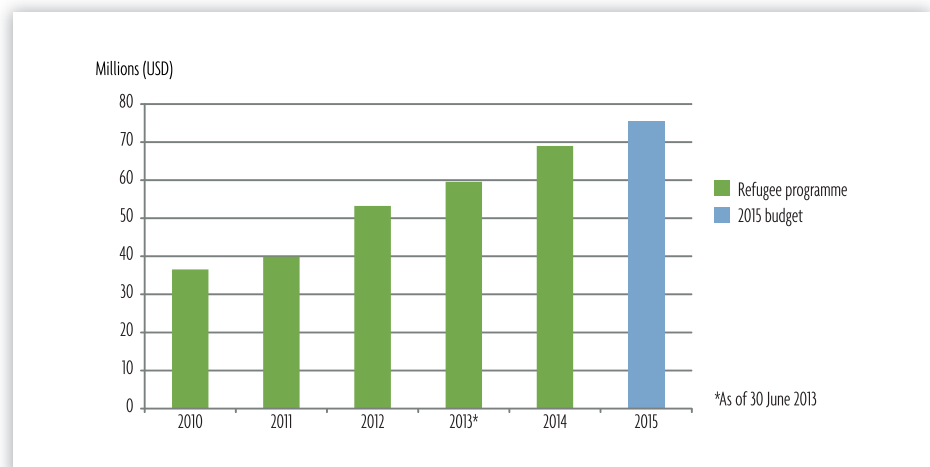
The Office's main partner in the Islamic Republic of Iran remains BAFIA for refugee issues, as well as for coordination with all other actors in the areas of health, education and livelihoods. In 2014, UNHCR will continue to coordinate with WFP to provide food rations for vulnerable refugees in settlements. IOM will match job opportunities in Afghanistan for qualified highly-skilled Afghans, who are ready to return. UNHCR will maintain collaboration with UNODC in drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation for Afghan refugees. Through joint efforts with UNDP, UNIDO, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, and the World Relief Foundation, UNHCR will support livelihood projects.

In the area of education, the Ministry of Education will be UNHCR's main counterpart. The Ministry of Health will remain the key actor in providing health services to refugees.

| Financial information |

Over the past several years, the financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in the Islamic Republic of Iran have steadily grown from USD 36.5 million in 2010 to a revised 2013 budget of USD 59.6 million, to address the increasing needs of Afghan and Iraqi refugees. In 2014, the operation's financial requirements are set at USD 69 million, an increase of USD 9.4 million compared to the revised 2013 budget. This is due partially to an increase in the number of vulnerable individuals relying on UNHCR's support, owing to rising costs in the country.

Budgets for the Islamic Republic of Iran | 2010–2015



2014 budget for the Islamic Republic of Iran | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
2013 revised budget (as of 30 June 2013)	59,563,289	59,563,289
Favourable protection environment		
Law and policy	165,521	165,521
Access to legal assistance and remedies	542,167	542,167
Public attitude towards people of concern	725,990	725,990
Subtotal	1,433,679	1,433,679
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Reception conditions	553,735	553,735
Registration and profiling	310,624	310,624
Status determination procedures	322,624	322,624
Civil registration and status documentation	509,732	509,732
Subtotal	1,696,714	1,696,714
Security from violence and exploitation		
Prevention and response to SGBV	452,280	452,280
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	256,624	256,624
Protection of children	396,187	396,187
Subtotal	1,105,090	1,105,090
Basic needs and essential services		
Health	26,411,714	26,411,714
Reproductive health and HIV services	681,918	681,918
Food security	103,055	103,055
Water	1,799,863	1,799,863
Sanitation and hygiene	152,055	152,055
Shelter and infrastructure	998,491	998,491
Basic and domestic items	3,145,312	3,145,312
Services for people with specific needs	404,863	404,863
Education	16,919,437	16,919,437
Subtotal	50,616,708	50,616,708
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Community mobilization	188,312	188,312
Coexistence with local communities	136,312	136,312
Natural resources and shared environment	1,104,110	1,104,110
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	7,662,215	7,662,215
Subtotal	9,090,949	9,090,949
Durable solutions		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	184,796	184,796
Voluntary return	2,749,467	2,749,467
Resettlement	1,115,068	1,115,068
Subtotal	4,049,331	4,049,331
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	141,312	141,312
Donor relations and resource mobilization	261,412	261,412
Subtotal	402,724	402,724
Logistics and operations support		
Logistics and supply	176,312	176,312
Operations management, coordination and support	428,936	428,936
Subtotal	605,247	605,247
2014 total budget	69,000,442	69,000,442