

# AFGHANISTAN



## UNHCR's planned presence | 2014

<b>Number of offices</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total personnel</b>	<b>300</b>
International staff	34
National staff	255
JPOs	1
UN Volunteers	8
Others	2

## Overview | Working environment

- 2014 is a key transition year for Afghanistan, with the presidential elections planned in April 2014 and the withdrawal of international security forces scheduled for the end of the year. There is broad international consensus that assistance for institution-building will continue to be needed during the transition period.

- In this context, Afghanistan's security situation is likely to remain complex. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) is currently estimated at some 600,000 and this figure may rise further in 2014. Although the Government of Afghanistan respects the principle of *non-refoulement*, asylum-seekers and refugees face protection concerns related to the volatile security situation and difficulties in accessing basic services.

- The withdrawal of the international forces is expected to have security implications, and therefore UNHCR's access to certain locations and communities may be negatively affected.

- Afghanistan continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, which are exacerbated by the security situation, economic insecurity and the limited capacity of the Government to provide access to basic services. National and international NGOs, which have been

providing basic services to the most vulnerable communities, may be limited in the transition period. Moreover, continued conflict, recurrent drought and other natural disasters, rapid urbanization, and a disproportionately high number of young people in the country, pose formidable challenges to efforts to encourage return and create an enabling environment for sustainable reintegration. A fall in refugee returns may also be associated with increased uncertainty about security in view of the 2014 elections and the withdrawal of international security forces. Afghanistan continues to be the world's largest repatriation operation, and over 5.7 million Afghan refugees (representing a quarter of the country's population) have voluntarily returned home since 2002. Yet, a substantial number of returnees have not fully reintegrated in the absence of socio-economic opportunities, and still need assistance.

- The unstable socio-economic and security situation is further exacerbated by increasing urbanization, with many returning Afghans having migrated to towns and cities, thus contributing to rising poverty and unemployment in urban centres. The complex challenges related to urbanization and displacement require attention within broader management and planning frameworks.

## People of concern

The main groups of people of concern planned for in 2014 under the Afghanistan operation are: Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan through the voluntary repatriation programme, and returnees who are facing challenges in reintegrating in Afghan society; IDPs who are forced to flee because of conflict and general insecurity and those who are seeking a durable solution to end their displacement; and other foreign nationals who are seeking asylum in Afghanistan. In 2014, the issue of statelessness will be considered with a view to identifying the individuals who are potentially at risk of statelessness.

## 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
<b>Refugees</b>	Various	80	80	90	90	100	100
<b>People in refugee-like situations</b>	Pakistan	17,000	17,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	Various	70	70	80	80	90	90
<b>Returnee arrivals during year (ex-refugees)</b>	Afghanistan	172,000	172,000	172,000	172,000	172,000	172,000
<b>Internally displaced</b>	Afghanistan	650,000	650,000	750,000	750,000	800,000	800,000
<b>Returnee arrivals during year (ex-IDPs)</b>	Afghanistan	20,000	20,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Others of concern</b>	Various	1,020,000	1,020,000	970,000	970,000	780,000	780,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,879,150</b>	<b>1,879,150</b>	<b>1,960,170</b>	<b>1,960,170</b>	<b>1,820,190</b>	<b>1,820,190</b>

## | Response |

### Needs and strategies

In 2014, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) will continue to be the framework for UNHCR's activities. Responding to humanitarian needs related to return and investing in sustainable reintegration in the context of a constrained financial environment have been major challenges. In the coming biennium, the Office will focus on supporting government line ministries and development actors to ensure that areas of high return are adequately prioritized in national development planning and strategies, and will remain a strategic partner in this process. Moreover, UNHCR will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan through initial reintegration assistance, including repatriation grants and shelter assistance.

Concerning internal displacement, UNHCR's inter-agency coordination role will continue through its leadership of the protection cluster, the national IDP task force, the emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI) cluster and by supporting the implementation of the national IDP policy (expected to be finalized in the course of 2013). UNHCR will remain ready to respond to possible new conflict-induced displacements. As cluster co-lead agency with NRC for IDP protection in Afghanistan, UNHCR will also strengthen its information management system throughout 2014, to provide real-time information on conflict-induced population movements, the root causes of displacement, immediate humanitarian assistance needs, and the approach for solutions.

## 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
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
<b>Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained</b>			
Further to the recommendations of the shelter survey commissioned in 2012, shelter assistance will continue to be a cornerstone of the Office's reintegration interventions in 2014 for both IDPs and refugee returnees. Coordinated improvements in the beneficiary selection process, construction monitoring, and community participation will enhance the positive impact of this project.			
<b>Number of transitional shelters provided</b>	Afghan returnees	<b>9,500</b>	<b>8,380</b>
	Internally displaced people (IDPs)	<b>2,380</b>	<b>1,910</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
<b>Risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and quality of response improved</b>			
UNHCR is currently refining a four-year strategy on action against SGBV for IDPs and refugee returnees. This will focus on the following areas: promoting the establishment of women's <i>Shuras</i> for improved representation; facilitating forums for women through skills development while encouraging dialogue surrounding culturally sensitive topics; tackling harmful practices such as preventing girls from attending school and being forced into early marriage; monitoring IDP and returnee girl children's education; and providing accurate information to relevant institutions to further create opportunities for girls and women.			
<b>Number of community-based committees/groups working on SGBV prevention and response</b>	Afghan returnees	<b>80</b>	<b>priority area</b>
	IDPs	<b>160</b>	<b>priority area</b>
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
<b>Law and policy developed or strengthened</b>			
Asylum-seekers and refugees face protection concerns related to the volatile security situation and difficulties in accessing basic services. UNHCR advocates for this group to be included in the provision of basic services provided by the Government.			
The national IDP policy, expected to be adopted in 2013, will broaden the scope of durable solutions allowing for local settlement. Simultaneously, Afghanistan will be a pilot country for the Secretary-General's Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict. UNHCR will continue to advocate for the establishment of a new multi-stakeholder forum on IDP solutions, needed to build a comprehensive durable solutions strategy and consistent with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.			
<b>Number of instances of UNHCR commentary on legal acts and drafts provided</b>	Refugees and asylum-seekers	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
	IDPs	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>

## Durable solutions

### Potential for voluntary return realized

UNHCR will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan, mainly from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as from other non-neighbouring countries. Afghan refugees who wish to voluntarily repatriate will receive a repatriation cash grant of USD 200 per person to cover their transport and initial reintegration costs.

<b>Number of people of concern receiving cash grants</b>	Afghan returnees	<b>172,000</b>	<b>132,120</b>
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### Reintegration made more sustainable

Systematic returnee monitoring is prioritized for 2014, ensuring a comprehensive and systematic needs assessment. Interventions will take place in selected areas with a high ratio of returnees and where direct access is possible. Interventions will also benefit the host communities to increase their absorption capacity, promote coexistence, and facilitate the host community's ability to support the most vulnerable returnee families.

<b>Extent to which reintegration monitoring system is established</b>	Afghan returnees	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>
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### Potential for integration realized

The needs of IDPs have not been systematically monitored following initial assessments throughout the operation. This has resulted in issues including information gaps particularly with regard to secondary displacement and spontaneous returns with limited follow-up adjustment of data. A key priority for 2014 is therefore to improve information-sharing, monitoring, and data collection.

<b>Extent to which area or sectoral-based monitoring systems providing disaggregated data are established</b>	IDPs	<b>100%</b>	<b>65%</b>
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# | Implementation |

## Partners

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation

#### NGOs:

Afghan Community Rehabilitation Unit, Afghan General Help Coordination Office, Afghan Planning Agency, Afghan Public Welfare Organization, Afghan Society Relief and Care Organization, Afghan Unique Development Organization, Afghanistan Agency for Integrated Development, Afghanistan Human Resources Development Agency, Afghanistan Reconstruction and Planning Department, Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Education Programme, *Agence d'Aide à la Coopération technique et au développement*, Agency for Farming Support, Alfiah Institute of Higher Education, Ansari Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan, Central Afghanistan Welfare Committee, Communication Development and Social Affairs Charity, Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan, Danish Refugee Council, Development and Care Group, Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan, Development of Afghan Women Organization, Engineering Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan, Greenway Organization, *Gruppo Volontariato Civile*, Human Dignity Society, Humanitarian Action for the People of Afghanistan, Humanitarian Organization for Local Development, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS – Italy, Justice and Civil Society Support Organization, Mediothek Afghanistan, New Consulting and Relief Organization, Norwegian Project Office–Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan, Norwegian Refugee Council, Organization for Relief Development, Organization of Human Welfare, Reconstruction and Social Services for Afghanistan Organization, Sanayee Development Organization, Shafaq Reconstruction Organization, Social Service Organization for Afghan Returnees, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan, Warchild UK, Watan Social and Technical Services Association

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Urban Planning and Development, Ministry of Water and Agriculture, Ministry of Women Affairs

#### NGOs:

ACBAR (Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development), Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council

#### Others:

Asian Development Bank, ILO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNMACCA, UNMAS, WFP, World Bank

## Coordination

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and its provincial departments will continue to be UNHCR's main Government counterparts in Afghanistan. UNHCR is in the process of reviewing its partnership arrangement with the MoRR with a view to enhancing results-oriented capacity-building to further mutual objectives from 2014 onwards.

The Office will strengthen its advocacy work with line ministries, and in particular with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, as well as the UN Country Team to facilitate sustainable reintegration. The ministerial group chaired by the Second Vice President of the country will add further impetus to such work in 2014.

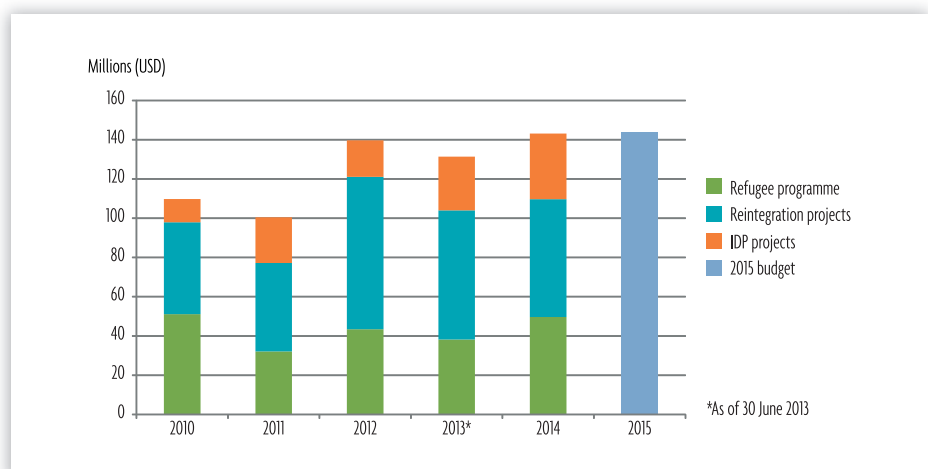
The Office will also continue to work within the Humanitarian Country Team and lead the protection and the emergency shelter/NFI clusters. UNHCR will continue to co-lead the IDP Task Force with the MoRR.

# | Financial information |

In recent years, the financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Afghanistan have seen an overall increase, peaking at USD 139.7 million in 2012 with 94,500 refugee returns. In 2013, with the fall in returnee figures that continues to date, the budget decreased, with the revised 2013 budget standing at USD 131.4 million.

In 2014, the financial requirements for Afghanistan are set at USD 143.1 million, an increase of USD 11.8 million when compared to the 2013 revised budget, due to an anticipated rise in conflict-related displacement.

## Budgets for Afghanistan | 2010–2015



## 2014 budget for Afghanistan | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<b>2013 revised budget (as of 30 June 2013)</b>	<b>38,231,787</b>	<b>65,790,765</b>	<b>27,352,674</b>	<b>131,375,226</b>
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>				
Law and policy	1,894,985	0	1,752,042	<b>3,647,026</b>
Access to legal assistance and remedies	0	2,670,468	4,056,125	<b>6,726,593</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,894,985</b>	<b>2,670,468</b>	<b>5,808,166</b>	<b>10,373,619</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>				
Prevention and response to SGBV	0	1,766,449	2,412,160	<b>4,178,609</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,766,449</b>	<b>2,412,160</b>	<b>4,178,609</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>				
Health	2,751,969	2,286,449	1,305,731	<b>6,344,149</b>
Water	0	3,655,725	2,027,042	<b>5,682,766</b>
Shelter and infrastructure	0	22,985,449	7,420,731	<b>30,406,180</b>
Basic and domestic items	1,434,985	3,850,725	1,752,042	<b>7,037,751</b>
Services for people with specific needs	0	1,131,725	1,927,042	<b>3,058,766</b>
Education	0	3,411,449	2,161,426	<b>5,572,875</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,186,954</b>	<b>37,321,521</b>	<b>16,594,012</b>	<b>58,102,488</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>				
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	0	6,951,449	3,120,731	<b>10,072,180</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,951,449</b>	<b>3,120,731</b>	<b>10,072,180</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>				
Voluntary return	42,171,904	0	0	<b>42,171,904</b>
Reintegration	0	3,451,449	0	<b>3,451,449</b>
Integration	0	0	3,754,484	<b>3,754,484</b>
Resettlement	1,368,985	0	0	<b>1,368,985</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43,540,888</b>	<b>3,451,449</b>	<b>3,754,484</b>	<b>50,746,821</b>
<b>Leadership, coordination and partnerships</b>				
Coordination and partnerships	0	1,670,468	1,752,042	<b>3,422,510</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,670,468</b>	<b>1,752,042</b>	<b>3,422,510</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>				
Logistics and supply	0	4,802,174	0	<b>4,802,174</b>
Operations management, coordination and support	0	1,450,725	0	<b>1,450,725</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,252,898</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,252,898</b>
<b>2014 total budget</b>	<b>49,622,827</b>	<b>60,084,704</b>	<b>33,441,595</b>	<b>143,149,126</b>