

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



| Overview |

Operational highlights

- Enhanced partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations, key ministries, UN agencies and international NGOs allowed UNHCR to continue pursuing its operational objectives. The Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) remained UNHCR's main government counterpart and the key national body responsible for refugee matters. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was the primary contributor to refugee programmes in the areas of health, education, livelihoods and protection. BAFIA maintained responsibility for coordinating refugee affairs in all areas.
- To assure the availability of comprehensive health care for all refugees residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR collaborated with nine governmental and NGO partners. The Ministry of Health remained the sole country-wide primary health-care service provider for refugees and provided unhindered access for refugees to health care of the same standard as for nationals, through well-established health facilities.
- Nearly 210,000 vulnerable refugees benefited from complementary health insurance between July 2012 and July 2013, thanks to collaboration between

UNHCR's presence | 2013

Number of offices	4
Total personnel	153
International staff	11
National staff	103
Others	39

UNHCR, BAFIA and a private insurance company (ASIA). Its success prompted the launch, in September, of Health Insurance Scheme III, covering care costs for 220,200 extremely vulnerable refugees.

- The number of Afghan refugees registered in schools increased by 12 per cent in 2013 compared to the previous year. During the 2012/2013 academic year, some 319,000 Afghan and Iraqi students were enrolled in

Iranian schools and benefitted from the same quality education as Iranian nationals. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education generously provided access for out-of-school children to literacy classes.

- Together with partners, UNHCR provided technical, vocational and skills training, and initiated a revolving funding project, to enhance the livelihoods and self-reliance of Afghan refugees wishing to return to Afghanistan.
- A national steering committee that guided implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan

Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries (SSAR) approved a portfolio of projects for 2014, aimed at addressing the needs of Afghan refugees and Iranian host communities. The initiative brings together 27 partners, including government agencies, national and international NGOs, as well as UN agencies.

- With UNHCR’s support, almost 9,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees voluntarily repatriated and more than 1,900 refugees departed for resettlement.

People of concern

Afghan refugees – many of whom arrived before 2001 – constituted the main population of concern to UNHCR in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Approximately 97 per cent of Afghan refugees lived in urban areas and the rest resided in 11 settlements. The Afghan refugees were recognized on a *prima facie* basis during a comprehensive registration programme conducted in 2001, referred to as *Amayesh* registration. New arrivals claiming asylum were required to undergo refugee status determination (RSD) by the Government, however UNHCR did not have access

to the procedures. As of end of 2013, there were some 814,000 Afghan refugees in the country.

The majority of Iraqis in the country were registered in 2002 on a *prima facie* basis under the same *Amayesh* procedures as for the Afghan refugees. Approximately 97 per cent of Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran lived in urban areas and 3 per cent in 10 out of the country’s 20 settlements. At the end of 2013, there were approximately 43,000 Iraqi refugees residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Afghanistan	814,000	814,000	-	-
	Iraq	43,300	43,300	-	-
	Various	70	70	44	44
Asylum-seekers	Various	50	50	45	40
Total		857,420	857,420		

| Results in 2013 |

Achievements and impact

The following matrix contains examples of objectives and targets set for UNHCR's programme interventions in this operation in 2013. Short commentaries on the

end-year results and impact on people of concern are provided, including indications of why targets may not have been met.

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
BASIC NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES			
Health status of the population improved			
<p>Result/impact: In 2013, the Ministry of Health (MoH) provided refugees with free preventive and curative primary health care (PHC). The PHC network was established at refugee settlements' health centres, with vaccination and communicable disease services, as well as at ambulatory/non-ambulatory health posts in settlements and urban areas, where services were available to refugees and nationals alike. As a result, refugees were fully integrated into the PHC system, which was aligned with national protocols. The second phase of the Health Insurance Scheme (HISE), between July 2012 and June 2013, saw almost 219,000 PoC (including some 210,000 vulnerable people) covered for secondary and tertiary services. Vulnerable refugees were enrolled in the third phase of HISE, until year-end. Under the scheme, over 42,000 Afghan refugees were reimbursed for their medical costs.</p> <p>Gap: Due to funding constraints, the number of health centres planned for MoH support was revised down to 132. The MoH used its own funds to sustain PoC access to PHC. While over 9,000 non-vulnerable refugees benefited from HISE II, only extremely vulnerable refugees accessed the HISE III scheme owing to funding shortages.</p>			
# of health facilities equipped/constructed/rehabilitated	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	200	132
Extent PoC have access to secondary and tertiary health care	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	85%	25%
	Iraqi refugees	80%	70%
Population has optimal access to education			
<p>Result/impact: The Ministry of Education (MoE) remained UNHCR's main education partner. This constructive partnership ensured the enrolment of almost 319,000 Afghan and Iraqi students during the 2012/2013 academic year - a 12 per cent increase from 2012. A 10-classroom school in Gharchak area was constructed, accommodating 720 children of both refugee and local communities; classroom furniture and sport items were provided to schools hosting refugee students in nine provinces; and stationery packs were distributed to 12,000 vulnerable refugees. Meanwhile, USD 20 ATM cards were provided for 4,000 vulnerable refugee students in six provinces; over 3,700 refugees received literacy training; and almost 13,000 vulnerable students received uniforms.</p> <p>Gap: Due to budget constraints, the construction of four additional schools and literacy training for 1,000 refugees did not take place in 2013.</p>			
# of PoC admitted to national education system	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	320,000	309,407
% of PoC aged 6-13 years enrolled in primary education	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	80%	78%
	Iraqi refugees	95%	85%
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE			
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved			
<p>Result/impact: UNHCR expanded its livelihoods projects in 2013. Ahead of repatriation, over 2,200 Afghan and Iraqi refugees enjoyed skills training. Based on market needs assessments, the Office aimed to diversify livelihood options and make refugees self-reliant. Another 195 vulnerable refugee women established small, home-based businesses through a partnership with the World Relief Foundation. Income-generating tools/equipment and livestock were also distributed to 288 refugees.</p> <p>Gap: Budget constraints reduced the number of UNHCR livelihood interventions possible.</p>			
% of PoC using banking services (e.g. savings, loans, transfers)	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	3%	1.2%
# of PoC provided with vocational training	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,000	1,604

2013 activities	People of concern (PoC)	2013 comprehensive target	2013 year-end result
DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Potential for voluntary return realized			
<p>Result/impact: With UNHCR assistance, over 8,000 Afghan refugees and some 770 Iraqis voluntarily repatriated, a decrease of 56 and 46 per cent, respectively, from 2012.</p> <p>The Office ran mass repatriation information campaigns; maintained four voluntary repatriation centres (VRC) in areas with high refugee concentrations (Esfahan, Mashhad, Shiraz and Tehran); maintained a protection presence at VRCs and border crossings, to ensure that measures such as best interest determination or assessments preserved family unity; and sought to ensure that every return was safe and dignified.</p> <p>Gap: Increased insecurity across Afghanistan, the anticipated withdrawal of international troops in 2014, and the upcoming presidential elections created an environment not conducive for returns. UNHCR's role therefore continued to be facilitative.</p>			
# of verifications of voluntary return	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	20,000	8,185
	Iraqi refugees	2,500	772
% of PoC with intention to return who have returned voluntarily	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	100%	100%
Potential for resettlement realized			
<p>Result/impact: The 472 cases of some 2,180 people were submitted to Australia, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway and Sweden. Another 422 cases involving over 1,900 people, which included Afghan, Ethiopian and Iraqi refugees, departed.</p> <p>Advocacy activities continued with the Contact Group, chaired by Sweden, with Australia, Finland and Norway as members, and Brazil, Germany and Japan as observers. In addition, resettlement was highlighted as a solution in the 2014 Iranian portfolio of projects under the SSAR and the Contact Group members used this to garner more support and widen its scope.</p> <p>Gap: Operational challenges included: a decrease in resettlement quotas from Australia; a decreased quota for special medical cases; complicated exit procedures in resettlement departures; a delay by Slovakia in issuing visas for 70 refugees due to move to an emergency transit centre for interviews by year-end.</p>			
# of people for whom UNHCR made interventions to facilitate their departures	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	5,000	1,904
% of PoC identified in need of resettlement who have departed for resettlement	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	80%	76%

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (Ministry of the Interior), Forest, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization (Ministry of Agriculture), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, State Welfare Organization of Iran, and Technical and Vocational Training Organization

NGOs:

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

Others:

UNIDO, UNOPS

Operational partners

FAO, UNAIDS, UNAMA, UNAMI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP, WHO, IOM, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, *Médecins sans Frontières*

Assessment of results

UNHCR's goal was to bolster asylum space in the country by supporting the Government and building the human capital of refugees so that any return to their country of origin or resettlement in a third country was sustainable, while also supporting their stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The programme focused on inter-connected interventions (health, education, livelihoods and durable solutions) in line with the SSAR. Since the launch of the strategy was launched in May 2012, the Government had made considerable strides in making the process operational, allowing for registered refugees to benefit from education, access to work permits and health insurance. Over 300,000 Afghan refugee children have attended school, and literacy amongst Afghan children has increased from 6 per cent to 60 per cent over the last three decades. A comprehensive regularization plan for undocumented Afghans was put in place by the Government, with 135,000 Afghan families reportedly being offered renewable residence permits with a right to apply for work permits.

Nonetheless, there remained some operational challenges which prevented UNHCR from fully assisting refugees in areas of education, health and livelihoods. Refugees had restricted access to educational facilities, health costs were higher for them than for Iranians, and their employment options were limited to low-paying positions. Medium- to long-term strategic planning remained a challenge and programme outcomes were unpredictable owing to frequent changes with governmental partners.

Working with others

UNHCR continued its partnership with six Government partners (including the Ministries of Education, Health and Interior), seven national NGOs, three international NGOs and two UN agencies focused on four main areas of interventions: health, education, livelihoods and durable solutions.

Operation Mercy and Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO) distributed non-food items and organized various events for refugees.

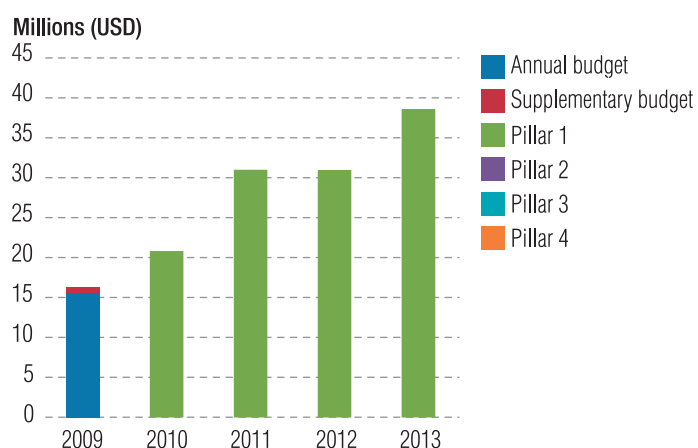
The organization's funds were insufficient to meet refugee needs and, as a result, all active bodies for refugees used their own funds or explored fundraising interventions in order to partially address needs.

Financial information

Expenditure in the Islamic Republic of Iran | 2009 to 2013

The comprehensive budget for UNHCR's operation in the Islamic Republic of Iran was set at USD 59.6 million; 12 per cent higher than in 2012 owing to the costs associated with the extended health insurance scheme.

The level of funding available for this operation allowed for overall expenditure of USD 38.4 million – 65 per cent of what was required. The main areas of unmet needs were water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as infrastructure activities. The gap between refugees' needs and assistance provided has widened in recent years with a deterioration in the social and economic environment.



Budget, income and expenditure in the Islamic Republic of Iran | USD

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	59,588,289	59,588,289
Income from contributions ¹	16,977,947	16,977,947
Other funds available / transfers	21,459,208	21,459,208
Total funds available	38,437,155	38,437,155

EXPENDITURE BY OBJECTIVE

Favourable Protection Environment

Law and policy	100,561	100,561
Access to legal assistance and remedies	499,468	499,468
Public attitude towards people of concern	448,400	448,400
Subtotal	1,048,429	1,048,429

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Reception conditions	200,585	200,585
Registration and profiling	186,672	186,672
Status determination procedures	186,672	186,672
Individual documentation	377,675	377,675
Civil registration and status documentation	186,672	186,672
Subtotal	1,138,276	1,138,276

Security from Violence and Exploitation

Prevention and response to SGBV	445,290	445,290
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	186,672	186,672
Protection of children	95,055	95,055
Subtotal	727,017	727,017

Operation	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>		
Health	18,590,431	18,590,431
Reproductive health and HIV services	250,332	250,332
Water	216,622	216,622
Sanitation and hygiene	2,425,352	2,425,352
Shelter and infrastructure	625,929	625,929
Services for people with specific needs	865,465	865,465
Education	2,964,470	2,964,470
Subtotal	25,938,600	25,938,600
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>		
Community mobilization	111,325	111,325
Natural resources and shared environment	220,320	220,320
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	2,596,807	2,596,807
Subtotal	2,928,453	2,928,453
<i>Durable Solutions</i>		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	298,889	298,889
Voluntary return	2,618,797	2,618,797
Resettlement	1,167,599	1,167,599
Subtotal	4,085,285	4,085,285
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>		
Coordination and partnerships	130,445	130,445
Donor relations and resource mobilization	414,175	414,175
Subtotal	544,620	544,620
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>		
Logistics and supply	123,677	123,677
Operations management, coordination and support	409,144	409,144
Subtotal	532,820	532,820
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	1,493,655	1,493,655
Total	38,437,155	38,437,155

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.