



Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

Update 2015-2016

Regional Overview



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: Afghan Returnees and Refugees

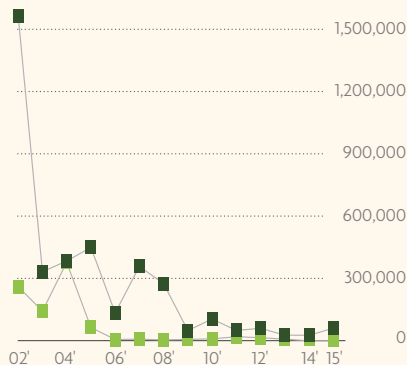
August 2015

Afghan Returnees/Durable Solutions

5.8 million* returned to Afghanistan since 2002

Afghan refugee returns from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran

■ Pakistan ■ The Islamic Republic of Iran

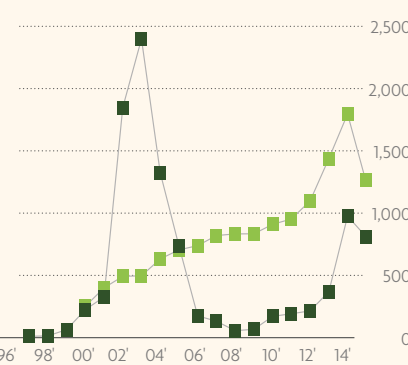


* of which 4.8 million were facilitated by UNHCR

24,400 Afghan refugees resettled since 1996

Afghan refugee resettled from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran

■ Pakistan ■ The Islamic Republic of Iran

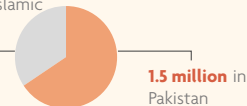


Afghan Refugees



2.5 million remaining registered Afghan refugees in the region

950,000 in the Islamic Republic of Iran

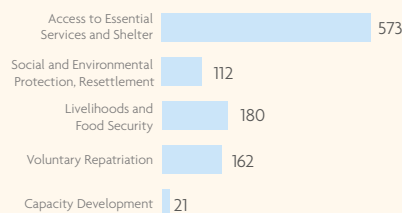


SSAR Financial Requirements

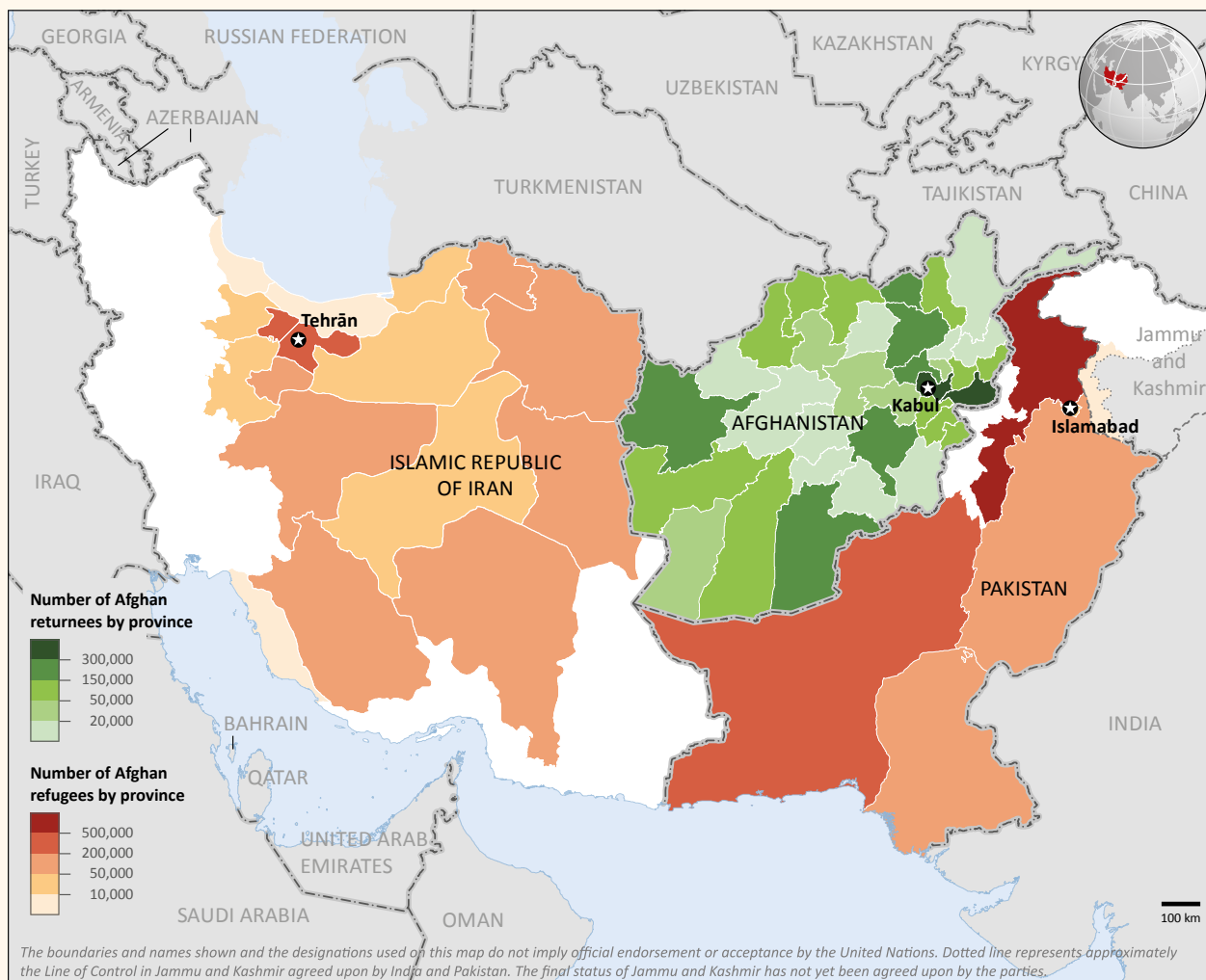
US\$ 1 billion

budgeted in 2015-2016

Total budget per outcome (in million US\$)



Regional map



Sources: UNCS, UNHCR



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I. Displacement from Afghanistan: Overview

World's largest protracted refugee population

Since the mass exodus from Afghanistan began in 1979, either Pakistan or the Islamic Republic of Iran has ranked as the world's top refugee hosting country for 33 out of the past 36 years. At the height of the displacement there were more than 6 million Afghan refugees displaced within the immediate sub-region. After more than three decades of protracted displacement, Afghan refugees still constitute the second-largest refugee group and the world's largest protracted refugee situation under UNHCR's mandate, with some 2.6 million persons. This represents approximately 18 per cent of the global refugee population.¹

While Afghan refugees are dispersed across more than 70 countries, an overwhelming 95 per cent of them (approximately 2.5 million) continue to be hosted by just two countries – the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. Half of the Afghan refugee population is children below 18 years, a fact that underlines the vulnerability of the displaced communities and stresses the need for urgent, prioritized responses.

The situation in Afghanistan remains highly complex: the continued deterioration of the security situation has led to sharp increases in displacement in recent years resulting in high levels of humanitarian needs. At the same time, reintegration needs of returnees and IDPs remain high as development interventions have yet to enable comprehensive access to land, housing and basic services across the country.

2014 was marked by significant transitions in Afghanistan, including the presidential elections and the establishment of a National Unity Government. The new Government has demonstrated commitment to the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees, offering an unprecedented opportunity to pursue durable solutions for this protracted situation. The Government of Afghanistan together with the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, have coordinated efforts to pursue durable solutions for Afghan refugees in the region, including through the continued implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR).

¹UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2014: World at War, 20 June 2015, available at: <http://unhcr.org/556725e69.html>.



▲
Photo: UNHCR/S.Rich

“

Today's Afghanistan stands different to what it was in the past. Today's Afghanistan resembles hope for new generations

”

(Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan)

Pakistan – host to the world's largest protracted refugee population

With over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, Pakistan hosts 10.5 per cent of the global refugee population which also constitutes the world's largest protracted refugee situation under UNHCR's mandate. Originating mainly from the provinces in the eastern border areas, the majority of registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan are ethnic Pashtun (85 per cent) with smaller numbers from other ethnic groups, including Turkmen, Uzbek, Tajik and Hazara. The majority (82 per cent) reside in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (62 per cent) and Balochistan (20 per cent) provinces bordering Afghanistan.

Since the late 1990s a significant number of Afghan refugees have moved out of refugee villages to (semi-)urban areas. Today, 67 per cent live in urban or rural areas, while the remaining 33 per cent reside in 54 refugee villages. More than half of the Afghan refugee population in Pakistan is under the age of 15, 64 per cent of whom are children between 5 and 14 years. Youth (15-24 years old) make up another 20 per cent of the total Afghan refugee population.²

² See UNHCR Population Profiling and Verification of Afghan Refugees (PPVR), 2012

The Islamic Republic of Iran – host to one of the world’s largest urban refugee population

The Islamic Republic of Iran hosts over 950,000 registered Afghan refugees, according to Government figures. 97 per cent of these refugees reside in urban or semi-urban areas across the country. The majority of Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran originate from central, western and northern provinces of Afghanistan. Based on available statistics from 2011, it is estimated that 57 per cent of Afghan refugees live in the provinces of Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, or Esfahan; another 22 per cent live in Kerman, Fars, or Qom; eight per cent in Qazvin, South Khorasan, Khuzestan, Gilan, or Mazandaran; and three per cent in Alborz, Semnan, or Markazi.

Afghan refugees outside the region

After the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, Germany hosts the largest number of Afghan refugees with 27,800 Afghan refugees in 2014.³ Asylum-seekers from Afghanistan filed the fourth highest number of new asylum applications worldwide (73,500). Turkey remained the principal destination for Afghan asylum-seekers in 2014, with 15,700 applications, followed by Germany (9,100), Hungary (8,500), Austria (5,100), and Indonesia (3,600).⁴

Afghans also represent the largest groups of unaccompanied or separated children lodging individual asylum claims in 2014, with more than 8,600 applications registered asylum seekers. The reasons behind the large figure of unaccompanied children range from conflict and insecurity to poverty, inadequate opportunities for education and employment and family and peer expectations. These children are forced to put their lives at risk by trusting smugglers with their journeys and face considerable challenges in countries of asylum

Afghan Displacement: Key Facts and Figures

- One in five refugees worldwide is from Afghanistan
- Afghans constitute the second largest refugee population after Syrians
- Afghan refugees make up approximately 70% of the refugee population in Asia and the Pacific
- 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees in over 70 countries around the world
- The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan jointly host 95% of Afghan refugees worldwide
- More than 50% of Afghan refugees are children
- In 2014 asylum-seekers from Afghanistan filled the fourth highest number of applications globally
- Afghan children are the largest groups of unaccompanied or separated children lodging claims in 2014

³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2014: World at War, 20 June 2015

⁴ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Asylum Trends, 2014. available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/551128679.html>



“

We still have Afghan refugees as the second largest refugee group after the Syrians. My appeal is to the international community to understand that this is not only the responsibility for Pakistan or Iran or other neighboring countries; it is a collective responsibility.

”

(António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)



2. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Communities

The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) is the result of a unique and unprecedented quadripartite consultative process between the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and UNHCR, initiated in 2011 to identify and implement lasting solutions for Afghan refugees in the region.

Designed as a regional multi-year initiative, the SSAR offers a comprehensive and integrated framework for joint interventions aimed at facilitating voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, while at the same time providing assistance to host countries.

Three Pillars of the Solutions Strategy:

- Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return;
- Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan to enable sustainable reintegration; and
- Preserving protection space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities and resettlement in third countries.

To achieve these objectives, proposed interventions in all three countries concerned are structured within the following five key outcome areas:

- Support to voluntary repatriation;
- Access to shelter and essential social services for refugees, returnees and host communities;
- Improved and diversified livelihood opportunities and enhanced food security;
- Social and environmental protection of refugees and returnees, as well as assistance and support to host communities; and
- Capacity development of national authorities, associations, organizations and communities concerned with refugees, returnees and host communities.

Since its endorsement by the international community in 2012, the SSAR has served as an enabling multilateral platform for consensus-building, strengthening of existing partnerships and engagement of new actors. There has been a reinvigorated effort to broaden the engagement of development partners in the region. In Afghanistan, the 2015-2016 portfolio of projects includes key line ministries such as the Ministry for Urban Development Affairs (MUDA), the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) as well as UNDP. UNDP remains an important partner in Pakistan, where it is part of the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme, which is a key element of the SSAR.

Selected Inter-Institutional Linkages

The need to achieve stability in Afghanistan, including by anchoring the returnee population, has been widely recognized by the international community. The new Government of National Unity has shown ownership and commitment to the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees and is coordinating with partners across the country to ensure that the needs of returnees are adequately addressed. UNHCR and partners continue to use the multilateral international and regional fora to advocate for reinvigorated support for the Afghan displacement situation in general and for the SSAR in particular.

2012

- Istanbul Process/Heart of Asia Ministerial Meeting held in April 2012 reaffirms support for the creation of conditions conducive to voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees.
- The international ministerial conference on “Refugees in the Muslim World” convened in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in May 2012 by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in coordination with UNHCR, endorses the SSAR.
- A group, Friends of the SSAR, is set up in Geneva in June 2012 by interested donors, UNHCR and UNDP, and continues to provide support to the implementation of the SSAR.
- Governments of Afghanistan and Japan, along with UNHCR, hold a side event on the SSAR during the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan in July 2012. The Tokyo Conference Declaration recognizes that sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons is essential to security and stability; and makes a direct reference to the commitment of the international community to support the implementation of the SSAR. This includes efforts to enhance the development and reintegration potential in Afghanistan to create communities that are viable in the long-term and to support the increased return of refugees from neighboring countries.
- Afghanistan is selected as one of the pilot countries of the UN Secretary-General’s Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions (2012), building on synergies with the SSAR.

2013

- Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan continue the meetings of the Quadripartite Steering Committee and adopt the Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy.

2014

- Commitment to support the implementation of the SSAR is included into the Joint Action Plan of the OIC and the United Nations during the OIC-UN bi-annual meeting on cooperation held in May 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- High Level Consultations on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees: The Way Forward in the Islamic Republic of Iran are held in Geneva in June 2014 with the participation of the Minister of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the diplomatic community.
- The London Conference on Afghanistan is held in December 2014. The final Communiqué acknowledged the commitment shown by the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran to Afghan refugees and called on the international community for continued support to Afghanistan.

2015

- Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and UNHCR meet in Islamabad for the 25th Tripartite Commission Meeting. Both Governments agree to develop mutually reinforcing plans for return and reintegration in Afghanistan as well as management arrangements for Afghan refugees in Pakistan beyond 2015. Subsequently, the Government of Afghanistan's Comprehensive Voluntary Repatriation and Sustainable Reintegration Plan and the draft proposal for the Government of Pakistan's Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan Nationals beyond 2015 were presented at the 26th Tripartite Commission Meeting held in Kabul in August 2015.
- A Tripartite Commission Meeting is held between the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and UNHCR in Kabul in August 2015. The parties emphasized the need for regular exchange of information between the Governments, cross-border cooperation on livelihoods initiatives, prioritization of returnees by the Government of Afghanistan under its new Comprehensive Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Plan, developing further novel approaches such as the Enhanced Voluntary Return and Reintegration Package (EVRRP), and go-and-see visits by Afghan refugees to gauge the prospects for return to their home country.
- A Quadripartite Meeting is held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19 May 2015 where the three Governments and UNHCR endorsed the second phase of the SSAR (2015-17) for continued support to the gradual, safe, dignified and sustainable voluntary return of Afghan refugees. The Governments also endorsed the Afghan led initiative of the EVRRP.
- Friends of the SSAR for Afghan Refugees group is established in Afghanistan.

“

I am excited and optimistic as there is a President, Chief Executive Officer and government truly committed to dealing with the problems of reintegration and displacement.

”

(António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

- Over 5.8 million Afghan refugees returned home since 2002
- Every fifth citizen of Afghanistan is a returnee
- More than 50% of Afghanistan's population is children

Voluntary return, sustainable reintegration: key to stability in Afghanistan and the region

In his inaugural address in September 2014, President Ashraf Ghani highlighted the need for balanced and inclusive development across the country as a prerequisite for ending the 'national refugee situation', noting that unless all refugees returned home, the Afghan nation would remain incomplete. The new Government of National Unity has shown exemplary commitment to find durable solutions for the millions of Afghan refugees that remain in the region and around the

world. It has developed new coordination bodies to enhance inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral support for reintegration and is in the process of finalizing a national return and reintegration policy, identifying major needs and response gaps, and directing assistance for returnees towards these at the national level. As the main coordinating body for returnee-related affairs in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) has demonstrated the National Unity Government's leadership and renewed commitment to finding comprehensive and lasting solutions for returnees by spearheading policy development and implementation, bilateral and trilateral consultations on return and reintegration with the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.

Since 2002, over 5.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home. Over 80 per cent of them (4.8 million) were assisted through the largest voluntary repatriation program in the history of UNHCR. About 3.9 million returned from Pakistan and more than 900,000 from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The majority of these returns took place during the peak period of 2002-2008. In recent years however, the rate of voluntary return has been decreasing significantly, hitting a historical low in 2013 and 2014 with some 39,000 and 17,000 returnees respectively.

“

We still have five million refugees abroad and until those refugees do not return home, we will not be a full-fledged body.

(Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan)

”

The lack of opportunities for sustainable reintegration, compounded by uncertainties surrounding the complex transition that took place in Afghanistan in 2014, was seen as one of the factors affecting the decision to return. Afghan refugees surveyed in Pakistan cited security and economic concerns as the two most significant reasons for their continued stay in exile.⁵ Many decided to postpone their decision on return pending a better understanding of the impact of the presidential elections and the drawdown of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on the security situation in Afghanistan.

Return figures have increased in 2015 with approximately 50,000 returnees in the first eight months. The majority of these returnees (48,000) came from Pakistan, while 2,000 returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran. At present, returnees constitute 20 per cent of the entire population of Afghanistan. UNHCR and its partners conduct returnee monitoring at encashment centers in Afghanistan. From these interviews, it was identified that pull factors in Afghanistan include localized improvement in the security situation, UNHCR's assistance package and employment opportunities.⁶ However, the overall situation for return to Afghanistan remains complex. Continued insecurity in parts of the country has resulted in new population displacements with significant humanitarian needs. This is also having an effect on prospects for returnee families to safely re-establish themselves in areas of origin and rebuild livelihoods. Despite more than a decade of humanitarian and development interventions, returnees continue to face multiple challenges reintegrating and effectively exercising their social, economic, political and cultural rights to the same extent as local communities in the areas of return.

Poverty in Afghanistan remains endemic while access to basic natural resources, such as water and land, continue to present a major challenge and are drivers of conflict between communities. The labour market is unable to accommodate the large number of labour market entrants, which is currently estimated to be more than 400,000 each year. Since more than half of Afghanistan's population today are children, the pressures on the labour market and competition over employment are likely to grow in the coming years. The majority of Afghans live in rural areas with limited livelihood opportunities and rely on agricultural outputs, vulnerable to weather shocks and affected by scarce water resources and the lack of irrigation and basic infrastructure. Furthermore, with increased returnees and internal displacement, Afghanistan is experiencing rapid urbanization. With this growth in population in large urban centers and the limited absorption capacity, access to basic services remains a major concern. While returnee needs differ from province to province, the top three needs identified by returnees across the country, in order of priority, are shelter, access to land and livelihoods.⁷

⁵ See UNHCR Population Profiling and Verification of Afghan Refugees (PPVR), 2012.

⁶ Interviews conducted by UNHCR and partners with returning refugees from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.

⁷ Ibid.

Top 3 Needs Identified by Returnees:

- **Shelter**
- **Land**
- **Livelihoods**

Insecurity in Afghanistan remains a major concern for returnees and reason not to return to their place of origin. The country has witnessed an intensification of the conflict in 2015. In the first six months of 2015, 4,921 casualties were reported.⁸ In addition, Afghanistan is a disaster prone country subject to recurrent drought and other natural disasters. This is leading to increased displacement within the country and across the borders.

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), finalized in 2008, presents the overarching national development framework for reintegration of Afghan refugees. It was aligned with the outcomes of the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) Conference in 2012⁹ and was further adjusted at the 2014 London Conference on Afghanistan¹⁰, where the National Unity Government presented its reform strategy.

The National Priority Programmes (NPPs), through which the Government is implementing its development strategy, aim to strengthen sub-national governance and community-led development in a bid to enhance access to basic services, including health, education and livelihoods. As part of the reform agenda, the NPPs are currently being revised and reduced from a total of 22 to 12 programmes. The NPP revision process provides an opportunity for the mainstreaming of returnees' rights into key national programmes.

“

There is a need for collective and comprehensive efforts, backed by strong support by the international community, for the national programmes that have the potential to address the urgent needs of returnees in Afghanistan. ”

(Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, Afghanistan)

One of the new NPPs, the Citizen's Charter, focuses on the development and rehabilitation of rural areas through the empowerment of communities and promotion of their participation in local development. The Citizen's Charter has therefore a significant potential to reach returnee communities and to contribute to their sustainable reintegration. The new NPP for Urban Development will be also of importance to for returnee communities, as it covers the issue of land allocation and affordable housing schemes in urban and peri-urban areas.

In order to embed the SSAR within the larger framework of the NPPs and to ensure that its outcomes are included in the prioritization by ministries involved in the implementation of the NPPs, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) concluded 11 Memoranda of Understanding with relevant key line ministries. These MoUs provide the basis for close interaction and coordination of programmes across various relevant line ministries.

⁸ Afghanistan Midyear Report 2015, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/55c1bdc4d.html>

⁹ The Tokyo Conference, a meeting between the Afghan Government and international community on 8 July 2012, together with the Chicago Summit of Afghanistan and ISAF contributing countries of May 2012, established a renewed, stronger foundation for partnership to support sustainable growth and development of Afghanistan throughout the Transformation Decade (2015–2024). The Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) establishes an approach based on mutual commitments of the Government and international community to help Afghanistan achieve its development and governance goals.

¹⁰ The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Community along with other partners, met on 4 December 2014 in London to reaffirm and consolidate their partnership. They renewed their commitment to the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) and the Afghan Government presented a reform strategy built around regional connectivity, good governance, and investments in productivity.

In 2015, the Government of Afghanistan developed a Comprehensive Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Plan in order to address the specific needs of returnees in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The plan gives particular attention to the needs of returnees for a period of two years during which they will have access to social services and be included in individual and community based development initiatives. Other key measures include new strategies for development of land allocation sites in urban and peri-urban settings or the inclusion of returning refugees into livelihood and income generating activities.

Through the Tripartite Commission framework, this plan has been aligned with the Government of Pakistan's draft Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan Nationals Beyond 2015, which is currently undergoing inter-ministerial deliberations and pending the final decision by the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan. This policy aims to promote lasting solutions for Afghan refugees, in line with the SSAR and includes the proposal for the extension of the Tripartite Agreement and validity of the PoR cards until the end of 2017, and to allow PoR card holders to voluntarily obtain Afghan travel documents through Afghan consulates in Pakistan with visas/work permits, depending on their profiles and needs, continued protection for refugees in accordance with international norms, and access of undocumented Afghans with protection needs to UNHCR. It also commits to the development of a national refugee law, recognizing that the current legal gap in this area complicates a predictable and distinct management of refugees and migrants in Pakistan.

“

We are proud of our hospitality and will continue supporting every initiative for the establishment of peace, prosperity and development in Afghanistan... A peaceful and developed Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan and the improving brotherly relations between the two countries are equally important for regional peace and security

”

(Lt. Gen (Retd.) Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Pakistan)

Despite these achievements, the needs of Afghan returnees remain dire and far exceed the capacity of humanitarian actors operating in the country.

Development projects can contribute to creating conditions for voluntary and sustainable return. Community-based development interventions can have a significant impact on sustainable reintegration. Populations are further empowered and able to apply the skills gained abroad in a conducive environment, thereby further contributing to the development of their communities and country. Such long term processes, however, require long-term commitment and solidarity of the international community.

Call for Action:

More efforts are needed to align the development processes with the provision of humanitarian assistance, strengthen partnerships between development and humanitarian actors, prioritize full reintegration of returnees into the Afghan society and ensure inclusion of returnee related activities into national development planning and programmes.

The recently established inter-ministerial High Commission for Migration (HCM), chaired by the President and attended by all line ministries, provides a high profile platform for decision-making on migration/displacement related issues. This will enable humanitarian and development actors to better complement ongoing efforts with more focused assistance in areas where continued gaps are noted.

“

The Government of National Unity is committed to making the voluntary repatriation of its citizens among its highest national priorities...The recent establishment of the High Level Commission on Migration chaired by the President and supported by MoRR together with its international partners is testimony to this commitment at the highest levels.

”

(Sayed Hussein Alemi Balkhi, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, Afghanistan)

Assistance to host communities: investment in long-term stability

The political, socio-economic, financial and environmental consequences associated with more than three decades of protracted refugee presence have placed a heavy burden on the host communities and contributed to an increasing sense of asylum fatigue.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the combined impact of the global financial crisis, the economic situation in the region, high inflation and the sanctions has affected the service delivery of various sectors of the Government. Over the past three years, the phasing out of a number of nationwide Government subsidies, including for fuel and some food items, has resulted in a sharp rise in the cost of basic services. For instance, school tuition fees increased by approximately 45 per cent in the 2013-2014 school year. Health treatment charges have likewise seen a 30 per cent rise since 2012, while energy prices have increased several-fold. These price hikes have particularly affected refugees, who are often in a more vulnerable situation than the host population.

Despite these challenges, the Government has demonstrated continuous solidarity and hospitality to Afghan refugees and undertaken significant efforts to provide them with housing, education, healthcare, employment and enhanced livelihood opportunities.

In July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the nuclear programme of Iran was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran, P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States plus Germany) and the European Union. Through this agreement, there are positive prospects of lifting sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran which could potentially relieve some burden off of the Government in terms of service delivery to vulnerable refugee population.

In 2014 Pakistan hosted the world's second highest number of refugees in relation to its national economy (316 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita),¹¹ with a considerable strain on its overstretched public structures and services. With regard to their current living conditions in Pakistan, Afghan refugee households identified access to income/livelihood opportunities (22 per cent) and shelter (20 per cent) as their primary concerns, followed by access to healthcare (15 per cent) and water (13 per cent).¹² While UNHCR and partners provide access to basic healthcare and education in the refugee villages, refugees living outside of these villages encounter more difficulties in accessing essential services due to overstretched resources and financial constraints. Literacy rates and levels of education of Afghan refugees remain low, particularly amongst women and girls. Pakistan is faced with

¹¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2014: World at War, 20 June 2015

¹² Refugee Affected Hosting Areas Comprehensive Needs Assessment (Provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), 2012



the second largest out-of-school population (25 million) after Nigeria, not counting the also relatively large number of out-of-school Afghan refugee children with 80 per cent not being engaged in formal schooling. Moreover, 80 per cent of Afghan refugee boys and 90 per cent of refugee girls drop out before completing grade 3 and only 6 per cent of boys and 4 per cent of girls manage to complete primary education. Female literacy among the Afghan refugee population is 7.59 per cent. National and provincial level policy reforms, backed by appropriate resource allocations, could help to enhance the access of refugee children to quality education. Reintegration of Afghan students in the Afghan school system after return is posing further challenges as certification processes of school documents on both sides are overly bureaucratic, expensive and lengthy. The Government of Afghanistan, through relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Education, is committed to facilitating re-entry of children into the national education system in Afghanistan.

“

Now is not the time to give up, to squander what has been achieved and to leave the long-suffering people without crucial assistance. I appeal to the donors to ensure that, as part of their continuing engagement in Afghanistan, they allocate sufficient resources to allow good projects based on local needs and local cooperation to go on, and to go on helping those whose requirements are greatest.

”

(John Holmes, chair of the International Rescue Committee UK)

Islamic Republic of Iran: Best Practices

- Through collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, a private insurance company and UNHCR, innovative complementary health insurance services were provided to 220,200 vulnerable refugees, including some 2,000 individuals with Special Diseases (haemophilia, thalassemia, renal failure, cancer and multiple sclerosis).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Minister of Labor, the Minister of Interior, and the Minister of Health in May 2015 regarding the integration of refugees in the public health insurance scheme.
- Significant increase in the literacy rate among Afghan refugees, from 6% in 1979 to 60% in 2014.
- The Supreme Leader of Iran declared that all Afghan children, regardless of their status, should have access to education.

Pakistan: Best Practices

- In July 2013, the Federal Cabinet adopted the National Policy on the Management and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees and extended the validity of PoR cards and the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation until 31 December 2015. A nation-wide PoR card renewal exercise was completed in February 2015 with the support of UNHCR. A total of 1,208,632 PoR card holders (93 per cent of the Afghan refugee population) were issued with new cards that are valid until 31 December 2015. A special helpline, mass information campaigns and SMS services were provided in support of the renewal process.
- In 2015, the Government of Pakistan embarked to develop a Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan Nationals Beyond 2015. The policy aims to promote lasting solutions for Afghan refugees, in line with the SSAR.
- Bilateral negotiations between the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan resulted in an agreement to register all undocumented Afghans in Pakistan for the purpose of identification, followed by issuance of travel documents by the Government of Afghanistan, on the basis of which their stay in Pakistan can be regularized through visa applications. The Government of Pakistan has committed its own resources to fund the registration and issuance of cards in Pakistan.
- The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme is a Government- led initiative and a joint undertaking within the framework of the “UN Delivering as One” approach. As a key element of the SSAR and the Government’s Management and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees Strategy, RAHA, remains a principal solidarity platform for maintaining temporary protection space and enhanced community acceptance of refugees in Pakistan. The revision of the RAHA programme and its extension through to 2017 in line with the SSAR was endorsed in early May 2015.

The Human Cost of Non-Action:

Worsening economic conditions and limited livelihood opportunities in the host countries may trigger unprepared returns to Afghanistan or induce onward (irregular) movements of Afghan refugees outside of the region in search of better prospects. In the context of decreasing international support and limited development interventions in Afghanistan, these movements may increase in scale and scope in the foreseeable future.

Call for Action:

The National Unity Government in Afghanistan has shown ownership and commitment to the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees. Renewed efforts by the international community are needed to improve return conditions in order to increase interest in return and support the host countries and communities, thereby contributing to the preservation of the asylum space and stabilization of refugee populations. Coordinated multi-stakeholder engagement with robust donor support can help advance comprehensive solutions in the spirit of international solidarity, but also constitute an important investment in the future security and stability in the region.





3. Operationalization of the Solutions Strategy

The Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan have made significant efforts to ensure the operationalization and effective implementation of the SSAR at both national and regional levels.

Objective:

Support Afghan refugees in preparation for voluntary repatriation by building their human capital and expanding livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan, while reducing the impact of the refugee presence on host communities and demonstrating international solidarity with host countries.

Development of Country Portfolios of Projects

In order to operationalize the SSAR and facilitate donor engagement and resource mobilization, the concerned Governments, in cooperation with more than 50 humanitarian and development partners, developed three country specific portfolios of projects in 2014.¹³ Designed around the interlinked sectors of education, health and livelihoods, the portfolios offer a pragmatic and integrated framework for multilateral cooperation and coordination in each country to address the needs of Afghan refugees and to advance solutions.

While each portfolio is unique and tailored to the local realities and specificities, the design and implementation of interventions in each country has been geared towards achievement of the five key outcomes of the SSAR in order to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts across the region.

In 2014, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees undertook missions to the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan to launch the portfolios jointly with the key Government representatives. In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees undertook a mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to advocate for support in the implementation of the SSAR. The High Commissioner also met with senior Government officials in Afghanistan and undertook a Ramadan Solidarity Visit to Pakistan in June 2015.

¹³ The respective country portfolios of projects for the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f9016576.html>

While the country portfolios for the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan were launched, the complex political situation in Afghanistan and the delays in establishing the new Government resulted in the postponement of the official launch of the portfolio. Instead, the Government and UNHCR agreed to update the 2014 Afghanistan portfolio and to launch it at UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting in Geneva in October 2015. In addition, the portfolios of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan were also updated during the course of 2015.

Cross-Cutting Priority Theme of Country Portfolios: Youth Empowerment

Afghanistan has one of the youngest populations in the world. Children constitute more than 50% of the Afghan refugee population and more than 50% of the total population in Afghanistan. Youth (15-24 years old) make up nearly 70% of its total population.

The future security and well-being of refugees and returnees is intrinsically linked to the acquisition of transferrable skills and assets, as well as knowledge and capacities developed through education. With limited access to education and livelihood opportunities and with no guarantee of a durable solution, young people face uncertain futures, particularly upon their return to Afghanistan. Youth unemployment may become a factor of insecurity. Furthermore, displacement may force the youth to take up new roles and responsibilities to ensure their own and their families' basic needs, amplify their vulnerabilities and expose them to new risks.

Investment is needed in :

- Programs targeting adolescent refugees and their peers from host communities to address their unique psycho-social and developmental needs.
- Social inclusion and participation of the youth.
- Formal and informal education of the youth, including relevant and market-driven vocational and skills training, and complemented by specific youth employment creation programmes, to help build young people's confidence and enhance their protection.
- Cross border initiatives and job placement schemes to enable Afghan refugee youth to find improved opportunities upon their return to Afghanistan.

“ I wish to reach a point where I can return to Afghanistan and serve my country. The majority of my peers dream to study and to return to Afghanistan and serve their country as engineers, doctors, artists, social scientists and in education, upon completion of their degrees ”

(Young Afghan refugee in the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Ensuring Enhanced National and Regional Coordination

National Steering Committees (NSCs), composed of representatives of key Government ministries and UNHCR, have been established in all three countries to supervise projects and monitor progress in the implementation of the SSAR at country level. The NSCs report to the Quadripartite Steering Committee (QSC) which was created in 2012 to guide the implementation of the Strategy at the regional level, and is comprised of the three Governments concerned and UNHCR.

To improve internal coordination and collaboration on migration and displacement, the National Unity Government, following MoRR's recommendations, has established an inter-ministerial High Commission for Migration (HCM), which held its first meeting in June 2015.

In Afghanistan, platforms such as the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) are being used by UNHCR – in close coordination with MoRR – to raise awareness around the issue of refugee returns. SSAR coordination mechanisms, such as the Friends of SSAR, also provide opportunities for strategic exchange with a view to strengthening joint efforts to assess and prioritize needs, develop and implement responses.

Good Practice Example: Establishment of Friends of SSAR in Afghanistan

Consisting of MoRR, representatives of the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, donors, strategic and implementing partners and UNHCR, the Friends Group provides recommendations to the Government and UNHCR on policy issues, including on issues such as the integration of regional and national policy frameworks for return and reintegration, response gaps and the redirection of resources for reintegration activities.

UNHCR, in coordination with MoRR, and other UN agencies is working closely together to address major development issues under the UN Development Assistance Framework for Afghanistan (UNDAF). Identifying five priority areas, the UNDAF focuses on equitable economic development, the provision of basic social services, social equity and the investment in human capital, justice and rule of law and accountable governance. Utilizing the UNDAF results matrix, agencies already engaged in reintegration activities and with objectives in alignment with the five SSAR outcomes were identified and encouraged to participate in the SSAR process in Afghanistan. In particular, the alignment of objectives under UNDAF priority areas two (basic social services) and three (social equity and investment in human capital) was sought between the two frameworks.

In order to ensure more inclusive participation in the coordination of partners under the SSAR in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a working group was created, consisting of NSC members and representatives from government ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and donor countries. In Pakistan, close coordination is maintained under relevant UN agencies to ensure the adequate inclusion of refugee interventions within the UN Delivering as One programme.

Key Operational Achievements in the Implementation of the SSAR¹ (2014-2015)

Voluntary Repatriation

- Though returns are taking place at a much slower pace than during the peak years (2002-2008), the Afghan voluntary repatriation operation remains the largest in UNHCR's history. The SSAR highlights the need to enhance the potential for voluntary repatriation and quantifies the necessary resources through the country portfolios of projects.

Resettlement

- Resettlement of Afghan refugees remains a priority for UNHCR. Contact Groups on Afghan Refugees were established in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan to mobilize international support for resettlement on a more predictable, multi-year basis, and to provide broader support to the SSAR.
- 1,255 people were resettled from the Islamic Republic of Iran to third countries in 2014.
- A total of 2,200 places have been secured for the 2015 resettlement programme to third countries from Pakistan. By the end of August, 1,242 refugees have been submitted for resettlement.

Afghanistan

- 3,038 shelter units were constructed in return areas (503 in Central and Central Highlands, 844 in Northern, 368 in Western, 300 in South-eastern and 1,023 in Eastern Regions) benefitting 18,228 individuals. Conditional cash grants for shelter were provided to the individuals through innovative digital payments using the mobile phone network.
- 167 community-based projects were implemented in return areas across the country. Projects included 142 potable-water wells, a hydropower/electrical project, a water-supply project, flood-protection walls, and the rehabilitation of a water-irrigation system.
- 15 vocational-training and livelihood projects were implemented for vulnerable returnees in five regions of the country. These benefitted over 5,800 returnees.
- A total of 98,682 individuals benefitted from the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) project, which targets returnees, refugees, IDPs, and extremely vulnerable local community members.

Islamic Republic of Iran

- The Government and UNHCR provided primary health care in 15 settlements and 29 urban locations, and all registered refugees are entitled to benefit from the medical services free of charge.
- For the 2013-2014 school year, nearly 326,670 Afghan refugee children enrolled in the formal education system, an increase of 7 per cent compared to the previous year.

¹ For more details on achievements in the implementation of the SSAR please see the specific country portfolios of projects <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f9016576.html>

- In 2014, five new schools were constructed to accommodate 1,903 Afghan children. In addition, two school buildings were renovated to assist 324 children. The Ministry of Education enrolled 3,621 over-aged and out-of-school children in the literacy programme.
- Vocational training in over 50 different occupations were provided to 2,447 refugees in 2014, and additional 828 refugees are enrolled in the vocational training programme in 2015.
- Two job fairs were organized in February 2015 with six Afghan companies representing various industries. 782 Afghan refugees and passport holders attended the job fairs in search of employment opportunities in Afghanistan for skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Pakistan

- By the end of August 2015 some 62,000 birth of Afghan refugee children were registered in the six Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) centres.
- Ten Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALAC) run by NGOs and funded by UNHCR provide support to refugees in terms of legal interventions in the main refugee-hosting areas in Pakistan. The ALACs carry out legal camps and door-to-door visits to inform refugees of their rights, duties and existing programmes, and regular awareness-raising sessions for law enforcement agencies on refugees' rights in Pakistan.
- Access to free primary education (Grades 1-8) has been provided to over 71,000 refugee children in 54 refugee villages through 174 conventional, 48 satellite classrooms and 13 early child education centers with a total of 1,455 teachers. Particular attention was on increasing girls' enrolment and retention, including through operation of 18 home-based schools.
- Primary health care services were provided to nearly 580,000 patients in Afghan refugees in Refugee Villages across the provinces of KP, Balochistan and Punjab through Basic Health Units (BHUs).
- Since its launch, nearly 3,500 RAHA projects have been implemented across the country, in the sectors of health, infrastructure, livelihoods, water and sanitation, education and social protection benefitting over 10.6 million people. RAHA programme's endeavour to mobilize and empower communities for the uplift and development of target areas and resulted in the organization of an estimated 37 per cent of the target population. A total of 3,390 Community Organizations, 285 Village Organizations and 24 Local Support Organizations are now actively engaged in planning and implementing projects related to social services and infrastructure.
- Through capacity building and skill development of the poor and vulnerable individuals in marketable trades, the RAHA programme has reduced population living below poverty line by 3 per cent. An estimated 50 per cent of the total 4,935 individuals trained are engaged in income generating activities.





4. Overview: Key Elements of the 2015-2016 Country Portfolios of Projects

Detailed needs and gaps analysis in each country, as well as concrete project proposals under each Outcome are elaborated within the respective country portfolios.¹⁴ The following section seeks to outline some of the key proposed interventions across the region.

Outcome I: Voluntary Repatriation

Fundamental to refugee protection and the pursuit of durable solutions, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity is a core component of the implementation of the SSAR in the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran projects include providing skills training and education to allow returnees to find livelihoods in Afghanistan. Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO) organized job fairs in February 2015 with companies from Afghanistan where refugees will be able to secure job opportunities upon their return. UNHCR aims to strengthen and expand the existing cross-border initiative for Afghan refugees who are interested in being matched with, and placed in, formal and/or informal sector employment opportunities in Afghanistan. In this context, UNHCR Iran's livelihood team conducted a mission to Afghanistan in August 2015 to obtain a better understanding of the labor market needs in Kabul and Herat in order to identify economic sectors and related occupations for which there is a need for semi-skilled and skilled workers. The up-to-date information collected on the labor market and the support network of public and private sector entities in Afghanistan will improve the effectiveness of cross-border job matching and placement initiatives in facilitating voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration.

Furthermore, Go-and-See Visits for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan will be facilitated. These can provide an opportunity for third generation Afghans who have never been to Afghanistan, to learn and experience the situation first hand so they can make an informed decision. In Pakistan UNHCR and its partners will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees through supporting the operation of two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Camkani (Khyber Pakhtunkwa) and Baleli (Balochistan).

¹⁴ The respective country portfolios of projects for the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f9016576.html>.

Towards Innovative Solutions

In order to support enhanced voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, the Afghan Government, with the support of the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, as well as UNHCR, developed the Enhanced Voluntary Return and Reintegration Package (EVRRP). This enhanced multi-purpose cash grant aims to support voluntary returns and sustainable reintegration by empowering returnees at an individual level. Subject to the availability of funding, the EVRRP is complementary to the broader efforts being undertaken by the Government of Afghanistan to create improved conditions conducive for reintegration by enabling returnees improved access to basic needs including land, housing, education and health facilities.

Provision of return and reintegration assistance to returnees from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan has been placed within the Afghanistan country portfolio which has correspondingly higher financial requirements under this Outcome than the host countries. Key activities include the provision of an initial reintegration grant to approximately 170,00 refugee returnee families, as well as distribution of non-food items and shelter packages. Monitoring and assessments are undertaken with a view to improving reception conditions, identifying vulnerabilities and ensuring targeted assistance to returnees with specific needs. In addition, the EVRRP, subject to the availability of funding, would provide 16,600 returnee families with an enhanced return and reintegration package.

“ There are still also, many Afghan refugees like me living in various countries and wishing to return to their country. They need to be assisted to return and contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. This is my longtime dream, and that of my compatriots. ”

(Dr. Haidari, an Afghan refugee in the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Outcome 2: Access to shelter and essential social services

Projects under Outcome 2 focus on improved access to land, shelter and essential social services, including education, healthcare and water and sanitation. These projects are designed to benefit both Afghan refugees and returnees and their host communities and contribute to improved social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Access to land and shelter

Projects under this Outcome address the concerns around land allocation, tenure insecurity as well as providing shelter support to returnees. MUDA, UN Habitat, UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provide tangible shelter assistance for returnees in Afghanistan, as well as support with conflict resolution and community mobilization around these issues. Other interventions include the provision of cash grants and improved shelter units.

“

My husband was blind. I build this house with my own hands...
I am so proud and happy to have this house.
I took my children away from the sun and gave them shade

”

(Gul Khanum, 37, a widow with nine children, Charikar Par, Parwan province)

Improved access to education

Access to quality education is imperative to improve community relations and help refugees reintegrate upon their return. Education provides protection to children and youth with specific needs and helps to prevent child labour and gender based violence. The quality of school facilities is also critical to ensuring a safe learning environment for children.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran particular focus is given to the enrolment, attendance and completion of schooling cycles. Projects will also focus on access to language, literacy and numeracy training for over-aged students and adults, particularly women. Improved coordination between the Ministries of education of the three countries will be encouraged to facilitate equivalencies for certifications and rapid enrolment of returnee children in the appropriate grades upon return. In Pakistan proposed projects aim to create a conducive and safe learning environment for children.

In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Education is spearheading a project in 10 cities, providing education and literacy material to children as well as constructing water and sanitation infrastructure in schools. Other organizations, such as UNOPS and NRC, provide community-based education models, emergency education assistance and constructing or improving the physical infrastructure of schools.

Access to water, sanitation and healthcare

The proposed interventions in the three country portfolios seek to meet the water, sanitation and healthcare needs of communities with refugee and returnee presence. This includes the construction/rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities, raising awareness of hygiene and family health and provision of sanitary materials.

Projects include the most vulnerable parts of the refugee population (orphans, elderly persons and disabled persons). In Afghanistan, projects include the construction/rehabilitation of clinics and HIV/AIDS prevention and drug treatment. In the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, access to quality healthcare for refugees, including psychological and counseling services is the focus as well as, provision of healthcare to refugees with special diseases and capacity building of healthcare workers. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, consultations are ongoing between governmental parties and UNHCR on the content and format of the detailed implementation agreement to integrate all refugees into the universal public health insurance similar to that of Iranian nationals.



Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security

Access to vocational and skills training in host countries will improve the self-reliance and increase the chances of successful integration in the Afghan labour market upon their return. As returnees make up almost 20 per cent of Afghanistan's population, returnees' skills contribute directly to the reconstruction of the country and strengthening of the local economy. The Government of Afghanistan announced an initiative to create one million jobs over the course of the next two years. MoRR is actively advocating for the inclusion of job quotas for returnees within this program. Through the MRRD-led Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Programme (AREDP), returnees in Afghanistan will be provided with support to establish enterprises as well as livelihood and life skills trainings. Activities aim to improve the co-existence of returnees and host communities. UNDP is developing a project to create an environment conducive for enterprise formation and growth at the district level. It would facilitate the entry of IDPs, refugees and host communities into the labour market through vocational, livelihood and skills training using a community-based approach.

Activities under Outcome 3 in the country portfolios of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan include vocational and livelihood skills training. Vocational skills taught will be identified following labour market analysis in anticipated areas of return in Afghanistan. In the Islamic Republic of Iran they also include the establishment of home-based enterprises, access to a revolving loan fund for micro-credit, community based rehabilitation of natural resources, provision of equipment for income-generating activities and cross-border job matching as well as placement through which semi-skilled and skilled Afghan refugees are matched with and placed in employment in Afghanistan. In Pakistan projects include infrastructure development, including the building of bridges and roads, to support livelihood opportunities and ensuring access to markets.

Food security and assistance are strategically linked to protection and livelihoods of refugees. Activities under this include the provision of livestock and agricultural tools to support small-scale landowners and farmers. Women and vulnerable individuals will be provided with livestock and equipment to ensure a basic level of food security and income. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, WFP will implement a project that provides additional food assistance to households with youths who attend vocational courses.

“

We will focus on skills training in Pakistan to enable returning refugees to contribute to Afghanistan's future.

”

(Lt. Gen (Retd.) Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Pakistan)

Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection and resettlement

Activities under this outcome will improve the social protection of refugees, returnees and host communities. This includes the provision of legal assistance, documentation and information and assistance to refugees with specific needs. Protection concerns they may face include sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), concerns linked to inheritance of property and assets and challenges regarding harmful cultural attitudes. One of the projects still included in the Afghanistan country portfolio is the Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) project. This addresses specific legal assistance issues related to women. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR continues to work closely with the Government to provide all registered refugees with appropriate documentation. Activities also aim to enhance the legal and physical protection of refugees through the provision of legal aid and services to help resolve legal disputes. In Pakistan, activities include the capacity building of Government and other first-contact officials in child protection as well as assistance to child victims of abuse, exploitation and violence. UNHCR continues to implement activities through national and international NGOs and civil society at the national and provincial levels, notably in terms of legal interventions through the ten Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALAC) in the main refugee-hosting areas in Pakistan.

Resettlement is a strategic component of the Solutions Strategy and an important durable solution for the Afghan refugee population. It also serves as an expression of solidarity on the part of international community with the two principle host countries

The country portfolios for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan include interventions to increase the number of refugees resettled in third countries. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR has identified the needs and set the target for the resettlement of 1,000 people in 2015. This includes persons with specific vulnerabilities such as refugees with chronic medical conditions. A total of 2,200 places have been secured for the 2015 resettlement programme to third countries from Pakistan.

Projects included under Outcome 4 also promote peaceful co-existence between refugees, returnees and their host communities, including protection of the environment. In Pakistan, the RAHA initiative seeks to preserve asylum space, improve social cohesion and promote peaceful co-existence. The projects carried out under RAHA aim to reduce the strain on Government-provided public services, in particular in areas where refugees and nationals are confronted with limited services and resources.



Outcome 5: Capacity Development

Projects included under this Outcome focus on improved coordination mechanisms and increased ownership and capacity building of participating stakeholders including national authorities and organizations and communities.

In Afghanistan, these projects strengthen communities' resilience and response to new arrivals. The Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Aga Khan Foundation will provide assistance through block grants, grant writing, natural resource conflict management and community awareness campaigns to reduce possible conflict within communities. In a bid to improve and centralize information gathering and analysis capacities in regard to returnees, IOM will also support the establishment of an Afghan Returnee Information System (ARIS), which will be operated at the central level and at the provincial level in Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar and Kandahar.

“

RAHA is a breath of fresh air for the local people, especially women. We were earlier restricted to only household chores, but now I conduct monthly meetings with the help of facilitators. We are more aware of our surroundings and I haven't felt so productive in my entire life.

”

(Muhammad Jaan, a 103 years old resident of Padhana, Union Council Dheenda, District Haripur)



5. Unique features of the Solutions Strategy

Government-owned and Government-led: Throughout its formulation, adoption and operationalization, the SSAR has been owned and driven by the three Governments in the region. This inclusive and consultative process further demonstrates exemplary cooperation between the country of origin and the host countries.

Comprehensive conceptual and operational framework: The SSAR builds on the convergence of interests of all stakeholders, reconciling the concerns and needs of host countries and the country of origin, and bringing tangible benefits for entire communities in refugee and returnee populated areas by strengthening the physical and social infrastructure and offsetting the adverse impact of protracted refugee presence on the fragile local economies and environments.

Broad-based partnership and cooperation across the board: Since its formulation in 2012, the SSAR grew to become an inclusive and enabling multilateral platform for consensus-building, strengthening of existing partnerships and engagement of new actors. More than 50 humanitarian and development actors, including UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs were engaged in the formulation of the 2015/2016 country specific portfolios of projects. Through such broad engagement of a variety of stakeholders with diverse mandates, complementary capacities, and long presence in the region, the Strategy builds on lessons learned and offers an opportunity to preserve and capitalize on the achievements and gains already made. Synergies that have been created with relevant humanitarian and development actors, which ensure complementarity of approaches, avoid duplication of efforts and maximize outputs. A draft monitoring framework is being developed in consultation with SSAR partners in Afghanistan, providing a tool for measuring the impact of reintegration activities on returnees' ability to re-establish their lives upon return.

“ The emphasis placed by the Solutions Strategy on the role of civil society and NGOs alongside the international community is considered to be of great significance... [in providing comprehensive support to address various needs of Afghan refugees].” ”

(Ms.Ashrafi, CEO, HAMI, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Strong civil society engagement: The SSAR benefits from participation of a variety of civil society actors. National and international NGOs have been involved in the development of the country specific portfolios of projects and will continue to play a crucial role in their implementation. Further measures will be undertaken to build the capacity of local civil society in order to ensure ownership, future takeover of leadership and sustainability, as well as delivery of services in remote areas or places inaccessible to other stakeholders. The pro-active approach of civil society is reflected for instance through efforts of the International Consortium for Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development and the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, as well as other actors, which seek to ensure joint advocacy, effective coordination and dissemination of information among NGOs working within the framework of the SSAR at national and regional levels.

Evidence-based programming: All interventions proposed in the portfolios of projects have been developed on the basis of thorough data, analysis and (joint) assessments by stakeholders. In Pakistan, important sources of information about the profiles and needs of Afghan refugees include the registration database of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the Population Profiling, Verification and Response Survey (PPVR), as well as UNHCR’s annual age and gender-sensitive participatory assessments with persons of concern. RAHA partners conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in 2012. In Afghanistan, a needs and gaps analysis was conducted on the basis of a comprehensive needs assessment conducted in 2013, the results of which were updated in 2014.

Targeted community-based and community-led interventions: Refugees, returnees and their communities have been involved in the identification and prioritization of activities proposed in the country portfolios of projects. Project design allows for strategic investments through proven models of local community-led interventions that have direct economic and social benefits for the communities; and capitalizes on the engagement of traditional community-level governance structures.

Linking life-saving and life-building efforts: Through broad-based engagement of humanitarian and development actors, as well as efforts to streamline the needs of refugees and returnees into development planning and processes, the SSAR seeks to bridge humanitarian assistance with long-term development. This holistic approach helps to alleviate the burden on host communities, empowers refugees and returnees to move towards self-reliance and active contribution to their communities, and allows for a more strategic use of donor resources, offering an opportunity to move away from prolonged dependence on open-ended external humanitarian aid (“care and maintenance”) to productive activities. Such enhanced cost-effectiveness is particularly crucial nowadays, in the context of growing needs and diminishing international donor assistance in the region.

Contributing to the long-term development of Afghanistan: Provision of services, such as health, education and skills training, to Afghan refugees in host countries has far-reaching benefits, beyond meeting the immediate objectives of refugee protection. Through building the human capital of refugees in preparation for return, the host countries and international community make significant long-term contributions towards rebuilding, development and future stability of Afghanistan. Empowered refugees have better prospects to reintegrate and to positively contribute to the reconstruction of their country upon return, often importing skills not easily attainable in Afghanistan¹⁵. Refugees and returnees thus progress from being merely passive recipients of humanitarian aid towards becoming agents of change, fully involved in identifying their needs and solutions.

Importance of cross-border coordination and activities: Activities with cross-border components, such as those proposed by NRC, FAO, IOM or UNHCR have a particular added value, especially as relates to ensuring voluntary and coordinated return, but also provision of continued education or transferrable skills and assets for returning refugees.

¹⁵ Findings of the baseline survey conducted in the high return areas in Afghanistan indicate that the local communities feel that returnees are better equipped with skills.





6. Joint Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

With the establishment of the National Unity Government and the commitment it has shown to the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees, the coming years are pivotal for Afghanistan. President Ashraf Ghani and the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah have highlighted the continued need to strengthen interventions for returnees' reintegration in Afghanistan. Reinvigorated multi-year support of the international community is essential to ensure that the successes achieved in Afghanistan so far are not lost.

For more than thirty years, the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan have been generously hosting Afghan refugees. They continue to honor their commitments to provide protection space for Afghan refugees despite dwindling resources. It is necessary for the international community to match these efforts and provide support to Afghanistan and the host countries. This is even more essential with the increase of global refugee and humanitarian crises which has resulted in reduced support to address the continuing humanitarian and development needs in Afghanistan. The SSAR, through its country portfolios of projects, confronts this challenge by proposing to donors to efficiently channel their resources in support of prioritized interventions as per the growing long-term needs.

In 2013, the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan adopted a Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy, which serves as a framework for coordination and fundraising

Call for Action: Now is no time for donor fatigue

- Bring the Afghan displacement higher on the international agenda
- Build on gains and sustain the investments already made
- Recognize the immeasurable support provided to Afghan people by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan for over thirty years
- Support enhanced sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan to serve as a pull factor for voluntary return of Afghan refugees
- Shore up the ability of front-line host communities to bear and respond to the prolonged presence of refugees, and build resilience of refugees
- Fund activities of all partners implementing the Solutions Strategy



Photo: UNHCR/S.Rich

at both regional and country levels. Key elements of the strategy include ensuring predictable multi-year funding in support of the outcomes of the SSAR, as well as developing partnerships with non-traditional donors and development actors. Joint efforts, led by the Government of Afghanistan are taking place to secure funds for all activities contained in the portfolio of projects. In addition, joint resource mobilization for the EVRRP was launched in 2015, engaging non-traditional and traditional donors.

Following the establishment of a Friends of SSAR group in Geneva in 2012, a similar group was established in Kabul in June 2015. Consisting of Government representatives from the MoRR and other key line ministries, such as MRRD and MUDA, donors and operational partners, the group provides a platform for strategic engagement and discussion of progress and challenges under the SSAR between key stakeholders. Attempts will be made to establish a similar group in Pakistan.

Call for Action:

Reinvigorated, multi-year support of the international community is essential to ensure successful implementation of the Solutions Strategy and demonstrate support to the Afghan people and their host communities, at this crucial juncture, not only in the spirit of international solidarity, but also as a joint investment in stability and security in Afghanistan and beyond.

Regular donor briefings will continue to be conducted in all countries. Efforts will also be made to further involve donors in the programme planning, implementing and monitoring stages. With the development of the Strategy, reporting will be strengthened and field visits to project sites facilitated to monitor progress and increase contacts with communities. Publicity events and press releases will complement the overall strategy. Visibility, recognizing the source of financial support, will continue to be closely coordinated with each donor.



Summary Financial Requirements

Summary Requirements per Outcome (in USD)				
SSAR Outcome	Afghanistan	Islamic Republic of Iran	Pakistan	Total (USD)
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	141,770,859	12,310,067	7,685,421	161,766,347
Outcome 2: Access to Essential Social Services and Shelter	233,648,103	123,906,119	215,050,065	572,604,287
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	102,352,289	18,602,346	58,657,752	179,612,387
Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection, Resettlement	63,120,091	7,636,495	41,449,862	112,206,448
Outcome 5: Capacity Development	12,386,370	3,771,723	4,754,906	20,912,999
Grand Total (USD)	553,277,712	166,226,750	327,598,006	1,047,102,468

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

2015-2016 Summary Requirements per Outcome			
SSAR Outcome	Lead Agency*	Budget USD	Total Budget per Outcome USD
Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation	UNHCR	78,770,859	141,770,859
	MoRR and UNHCR	63,000,000	
Outcome 2: Access to shelter and essential social services	MRRD	2,500,000	233,648,103
	MUDA	28,800,000	
	MoE	9,105,822	
	MoEW	14,000,000	
	UNHCR	61,817,230	
	UN HABITAT	2,449,870	
	UNODC	561,356	
	UNOPS	12,721,676	
	DACAAR	31,510,652	
	NRC	70,181,497	
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security	MoAIL	37,711,548	102,352,289
	MRRD	12,600,000	
	UNDP	20,140,000	
	UNHCR	23,431,756	
	FAO	3,450,000	
	Mercy Corps	3,600,000	
	NRC	205,000	
	WHH	1,213,985	
Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection	UNHCR	19,550,212	63,120,091
	NRC	43,569,879	
Outcome 5: Capacity development	MRRD	8,000,000	12,386,370
	UNHCR	2,286,200	
	IOM	2,000,000	
	Aga Khan Foundation	100,170	
Grand Total			553,277,712

*The lead agencies will implement the projects in close collaboration with a number of Government agencies and non-governmental organizations. For more details, please refer to the Summary of Project Proposals.

The Islamic Republic of Iran

2015-2016 Summary Requirements per Outcome			
SSAR Outcome	Lead Agency	Budget USD	Total Budget per Outcome USD
Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation	BAFIA	478,902	12,310,067
	NICCO	260,016	
	MoH	1,141,446	
	HAMI	1,334,893	
	IOM	5,800,000	
	RI	450,000	
	UNHCR	2,844,810	
Outcome 2: Access to essential services and shelter	BAFIA	5,543,548	123,906,119
	DRC	1,725,000	
	UNICEF	494,400	
	UNFPA	264,081	
	UNESCO	80,000	
	WFP	185,000	
	WRF	2,810,000	
	PARS	554,319	
	CoH	2,300,000	
	MoH	37,005,166	
	Kiyana	5,559,806	
	ILIA	113,126	
	BDCO	107,093	
	MAHAK	493,688	
	HAMI	1,762,511	
	RI	1,984,000	
	MoE	8,522,284	
	NRC	637,016	
SWO	151,000		
UNHCR	53,023,081		
WHO	591,000		
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security	BAFIA	1,887,477	18,602,346
	DRC	600,000	
	UNDP	123,333	
	WFP	3,637,000	
	WRF	3,170,000	
	TVTO	1,250,000	
	PARS	37,709	
	SRS	212,679	
	Kiyana	103,312	
	FRWO	115,000	
	HAMI	509,069	
	NRC	870,000	
	UNHCR	6,086,767	
	Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection and Resettlement	BAFIA	
UNESCO		200,000	
WRF		20,000	
PARS		162,148	
Rebirth		426,583	
SRS		40,726	
FRWO		680,000	
HAMI		226,253	
UNHCR	3,846,395		
Outcome 5: Coordination and Supporting Role	BAFIA	407,632	3,771,723
	ICRI	70,600	
	UNHCR	3,293,491	
Grand Total			166,226,750

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

2015-2016 Summary Requirements per Outcome			
SSAR Outcome	Lead Agency	Budget USD	Total Budget per Outcome USD
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	DRC	50,000	7,685,421
	NRC	1,500,000	
	UNHCR	6,135,421	
Outcome 2: Access to Essential Social Services and Shelter	Government of Pakistan	134,760,946	215,050,065
	UNDP	9,510,919	
	UN-Habitat	1,996,100	
	UNHCR	65,134,344	
	UNOPS	2,341,006	
	WHO	1,306,750	
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	Government of Pakistan	19,558,626	58,657,752
	FAO	4,334,000	
	ILO	1,062,480	
	UNDP	8,506,691	
	UN-Habitat	1,200,000	
	UNHCR	22,602,375	
	WFP	1,393,580	
Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection, Resettlement	FAO	3,300,000	41,449,862
	UNDP	9,308,071	
	UNESCO	1,936,700	
	UN-Habitat	2,800,000	
	UNHCR	22,457,091	
	WHO	1,648,000	
Outcome 5: Capacity Development	UNDP	485,738	4,754,906
	UNESCO	400,000	
	UNHCR	3,869,168	
Grand Total			327,598,006

Partnership diagram

TOGETHER IN ACTION

Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation

(USD 141,770,859)

Key Elements and Partners

- Afghan refugees are able to return voluntarily, in safety and dignity, and receive initial reintegration assistance
UNHCR · MORR

Outcome 2: Access to essential services and shelter

(USD 233,648,103)

Key Elements and Partners

- Returnees and host communities have improved access to shelter
MUDA · UN Habitat · UNHCR · NRC
- Access to water, sanitation, community infrastructure and basic services is enhanced
MoEW · MRDD · UNOPS · DACAAR
- Returnees and host communities have access to quality healthcare and HIV/AIDS treatment
UNODC · UNOPS
- Education is provided to returnees and host communities
MoE · UNOPS · NRC

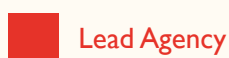
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security

(USD 102,352,289)

Key Elements and Partners

- Improved access to livelihoods through skills trainings and provision of necessary kits/tools
MoAIL · MRRD · FAO · UNDP · UNHCR · Mercy Corps · NRC · WHH
- Targeted support to youth to engage in gainful employment
Mercy Corps · NRC
- Level of food security improves
MoAIL · FAO

Legend



Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection, resettlement

(USD 63,120,091)

Key Elements and Partners

- Improved access to legal remedies through formal and informal legal systems. Documentation lends proper legal status to returnees; access to land, property and housing is enhanced
NRC · UNHCR
- Sustainability of return and reintegration is enhanced through monitoring and promotion of human rights. Provision of targeted support to victims of gender-based violence
UNHCR

Outcome 5: Capacity development

(USD 12,386,370)

Key Elements and Partners

- Support the establishment of a centralised, Government-led data collection and analysis system
IOM
- Support community-led development initiatives
MRRD · Aga Khan Foundation
- Strengthen Government and local capacity to coordinate responses to returnees and reintegration interventions across the country
UNHCR

ANDMA: Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ARAZI: Afghanistan Land Authority
DACAAR: Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
DoRRs: Department of Refugees and Repatriation
DOWA: Department of Women's Affairs
DRRD: Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
IDLG: Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IOM: International Organization for Migration
MOAIL: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MOE: Ministry of Education
MOEW: Ministry of Energy and Water
MOLSAMD: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled
MOPH: Ministry of Public Health
MORR: Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
MOWA: Ministry of Women's Affairs
MRRD: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MUDA: Ministry for Urban Development Affairs
NRC: Norwegian Refugee Council
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
WHH: Welt Hunger Hilfe

Partnership diagram

TOGETHER IN ACTION

Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation

(USD 12,310,067)

Key Elements and Partners

- Promote refugee returns to Afghanistan, in safety and dignity
BAFIA · UNHCR
- Qualified professionals are encouraged to return to contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan
IOM
- Increase chances for returnees to find employment upon return by providing them with training at the work and repatriation centres
HAMI · RI
- Secure the employment of returnees by matching and placement through job fairs
NICCO

Outcome 2: Access to essential services and shelter

(USD 123,906,119)

Key Elements and Partners

- Quality healthcare is extended to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · UNHCR · DRC · UNFPA · WRF · PARS · CoH · MoH · Kiyana · BDCO · MAHAK · HAMI · SWO · WHO
- Education is provided to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · UNHCR · DRC · UNICEF · UNESCO · WFP · WRF · PARS · Kiyana · ILIA · HAMI · RI · MoE · NRC
- Shelter, water and sanitation, and infrastructure are available to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · UNHCR · WRF · RI · NRC
- Refugees receive basic domestic and food items
BAFIA · UNHCR · PARS · ILIA · MoE · NRC


Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security

(USD 18,602,346)

Key Elements and Partners

- Diversified livelihood opportunities are available to both refugees and host communities
BAFIA · UNHCR · DRC · UNDP · WRF · SRS · FRWO · NRC
- Refugees and host communities receive targeted vocational and skills development trainings
BAFIA · UNHCR · DRC · WRF · TVTO · PARS · SRS · Kiyana · HAMI · NRC
- Food security improves
BAFIA · WFP · WRF · NRC

Legend

 Lead Agency

Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection, resettlement

(USD 7,636,495)

Key Elements and Partners

- Refugees have access to individual documentation and legal assistance; registration, profiling and reception conditions are improved
BAFIA · UNHCR
- Afghan refugees take advantage of resettlement opportunities
UNHCR
- Enhanced protection and assistance is provided to persons with specific needs, such as: refugee children engaged in work, street children, orphans, victims of GBV and persons with disabilities
BAFIA · UNHCR · WRF · PARS · RS · HAMI
- Legal and policy framework for refugees is enhanced
BAFIA · UNHCR
- Co-existence between refugees and host communities improves with enhanced environmental and social protection, community empowerment and mobilization
BAFIA · UNHCR · UNESCO · PARS · SRS · FRWO

Outcome 5: Capacity development

(USD 3,771,723)

Key Elements and Partners

- Capacity, coordination and exchange of information among NGOs are improved
ICRI
- The Solutions Strategy is implemented through strong partnership and outreach to donors
BAFIA · UNHCR
- Strengthen and optimize operations management, coordination and support
BAFIA · UNHCR

APCL: Association for Protection of Child Labourers

BAFIA: Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs

BDCO: Behnam Daheshpour Charity Organization

COH: Chain of Hope

DRC: Danish Refugee Council

FRWO: Forest, Range and Watershed Management Organization

HA: Humanitarian Ambassador

HAMI: Association for Protection of Afghan Women and Children

ICRI: International Consortium for Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran

IOM: International Organization for Migration

IRAC: Iraqi Refugee Aid Council

MAHAK: Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer

MOE: Ministry of Education

MOH: Ministry of Health and Medical Education

NRC: Norwegian Refugee Council

ODVV: Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

RI: Relief International

RS: Rebirth Society

SWO: State Welfare Organization

TVTO: Technical and Vocational Training Organization

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

WFP: World Food Programme

WRF: International World Relief Foundation

Partnership diagram

TOGETHER IN ACTION

Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation

(USD 7,685,421)

Key Elements and Partners

- Promote returns to Afghanistan, including by offering information and legal assistance to refugees and supporting continued education upon return
DRC · NRC · UNHCR
- Foster a more positive attitude towards refugees among the Pakistani population
UNHCR

Outcome 2: Access to essential services and shelter

(USD 215,050,065)

Key Elements and Partners

- Quality healthcare is extended to refugees and host communities
Government of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces
UNDP · UNHCR · WHO
- Education is provided to refugees and host communities
Government of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces · UNDP · UNHCR · UNOPS · UNESCO
- Shelter, water and sanitation and infrastructure are available to refugees and host communities
Government of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh Provinces · UNDP · UN-Habitat · UNHCR
- Refugees are involved in planning and decision making relevant to their community
UN-Habitat · UNHCR

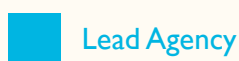
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security

(USD 58,657,752)

Key Elements and Partners

- Diversified livelihood opportunities are available to refugees and host communities
Government of Balochistan Province · FAO · UNDP · UNHCR · WFP
- Refugees and host communities receive targeted vocational and skills development trainings
Government of Balochistan Province · FAO · ILO · UNDP · UN-Habitat · UNHCR · WFP
- Afghan refugees and host communities enjoy better working conditions and access to the labour market, incidence of child labour is reduced
ILO
- Food security improves
WFP

Legend



Lead agencies will implement proposed activities in close cooperation with SAFRON, CCAR, CARs and other relevant partners.

Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection, resettlement

(USD 41,449,862)

Key Elements and Partners

- Refugees have access to individual documentation, material and legal assistance
UNHCR
- Quality of refugee status determination and access to it are improved
UNHCR
- Afghan refugees take advantage of resettlement opportunities
UNHCR
- Risk of SGBV is reduced, victims receive appropriate protection and assistance
UNDP · UNHCR
- Legal and policy framework for refugees is enhanced, child protection mechanisms are strengthened
UNHCR

Co-existence between refugees and host communities improves, including through enhanced environment, social protection and community development · **FAO · UNDP · UNESCO · UN-Habitat · UNHCR · WHO**

Outcome 5: Capacity development

(USD 4,754,906)

Key Elements and Partners

- Community organizations and government institutions contribute to building social cohesion among refugees and host communities
UNDP
- As a result of policy development and dialogue with the Pakistani authorities, more Afghan refugee children are able to enrol in schools
UNESCO · UNOPS
- Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees is successfully implemented through concerted advocacy, coordination and capacity building efforts
UNHCR

CCAR: Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees
CARs: Commissionerate(s) for Afghan Refugees
DRC: Danish Refugee Council
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO: International Labour Organization
NRC: Norwegian Refugee Council
SAFRON: Ministry of States and Frontier Regions
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat: United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
WFP: World Food Programme
WHO: World Health Organization



Photo: UNHCR/S.Rich

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees working for :

Education livelihoods
youth empowerment
skills training health

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