

# UNHCR Afghanistan

Fact Sheet | February 2012  
Asia-Pacific Field Update

## Overall strategic direction and priorities

UNHCR's priorities and direction are in harmony with the Government's five year (2008-2012) Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the National Priority Programmes (NPP) and the UN Integrated Strategic Framework (July 2011 -December 2012). The main focus of the operation is i) assisting the voluntary return of Afghans from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and other host countries, ii) strengthening the national capacity for reintegration through an integrated approach aimed to bridge the gap between humanitarian assistance and development, iii) addressing internal displacement through tracking, protection coordination and humanitarian assistance, and iv) promoting a regional transitional solutions strategy through the Stakeholders Conference.

## Main operational objectives

- Realising the potential for voluntary return by providing 162,000 refugee returnees with cash grant assistance and assisting 10,000 IDPs to return to their villages of origin over the course of the year;
- Protection and material assistance to 150,000 new conflict-displaced IDPs in the country;
- Emergency interventions and response through maintenance of a contingency stock of core NFIs to assist up to 60,000 families (360,000 individuals) with urgent relief items.
- Monitoring and profiling of returnees and IDPs to assess population dynamics and gauge the level of reintegration vis-à-vis local population. Establishing a Population Movement Tracking (PMT) system to improve timely and reliable collection, compilation and sharing of information.
- Improve return conditions and absorption capacity in up to 48 high-return locations in Afghanistan through community-based projects to improve access to basic services (water, education, health), improve livelihoods, protection and provide assistance to the most vulnerable (including shelter).
- Ensuring the sustainable reintegration of returnees and IDPs through an integrated approach targeting selected sites through the implementation of comprehensive reintegration intervention.

## Persons of concern

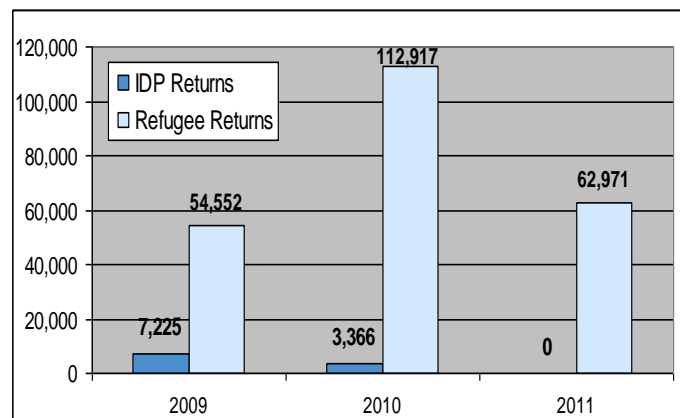
Population	Total in country	Assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	43	43
Asylum Seekers	51	51
Refugee returnees	4.6 million since 2002	162,000 planning figures for 2012
IDPs	447,000	447,000

## Legal and institutional framework

Convention	Dates of Accession
1951 Refugee Convention	30 August 2005
1967 Protocol	30 August 2005
Statelessness 1954	-
Statelessness 1961	-
ICCPR	1983
ICESCR	1983
CAT	ratified 1983
CEDAW	ratified 2003
CRC	ratified 1994
Who does refugee status determination?	UNHCR

## Refugee repatriation and IDP returns

Refugee repatriation is primarily from Iran & Pakistan. On 29 February 1,160 have repatriated to Afghanistan in 2012.



## Working with partners

**Inter-agency and Cluster arrangements:** UNHCR leads the Afghanistan Protection Cluster and the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster and together with the Government, co-leads the IDP Task Force.

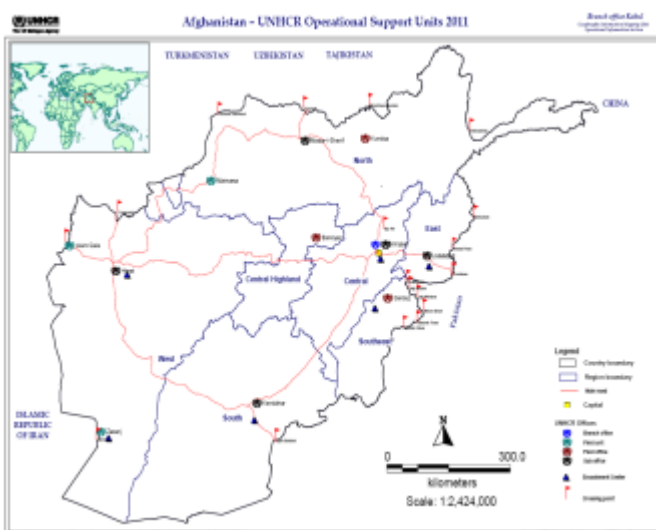
**Implementing Partners:** Government agencies: UNHCR works closely with its government counterpart the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and also with the Ministries of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Finance, Economy, Urban Planning and Development, Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Public health; Women's Affairs, Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock. NGOs: Afghan Agency for Integrated Development, Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction, Afghan Community Rehabilitation, Afghan General Help Coordination Office, Afghan planning Agency, Afghan Public Welfare Organisation, Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, Danish Refugee Council, Development & Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan, Engineering & Rehabilitation Service for Afghanistan, Human Dignity Society, Mediateck Afghanistan, National Consultancy & Relief Association, New Noor Rehabilitation Organisation, Norwegian Refugee Council, Reconstruction & Employment Unit for Afghan Refugees, Sina Association Rehabilitation Service, Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan, Watan's Social and Technical Services Association; Others: BBC, United Nations Development Fund, UNV.

**Operational partners:** Government agencies: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development; NGOs: Protection cluster and Emergency shelter/NFI cluster members; National & Regional IDP Task Forces, Housing Land & Property Task Force; Others: IOM, United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), World Bank

## Recent operational activities and highlights

- As at end January 2012, some 447,000 persons are displaced in Afghanistan. Among them 6,594 individuals were displaced due the conflict during the month of January 2012 and largely from the North and Eastern regions of the country. During the same month, 6,617 individuals spontaneously returned to their areas of origin. The total number of persons displaced during the month of January reflects a 50% decrease compared to the number of persons displaced in the previous month (December 2011) and a 29 % decrease compared to the same period in 2011. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation countrywide and through its leadership of the Protection and Emergency Shelter/NFI clusters and co-Chair of IDP Task Force which coordinates responses to the rising displacement. IOM together with OCHA, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), MoRR, the Food Security Cluster and relevant NGOs are tracking the displacement of populations due to natural disasters (drought, flood and avalanche) and will coordinate their response and assistance accordingly.
- Since January 2012, 513 returnees from Pakistan and Iran have been registered at encashment centres in Afghanistan. UNHCR continues to conduct monitoring activities at the encashment centres, identifying protection concerns and identifying returning trends among returnee families.
- The Fourth Preparatory Meeting, prior to the Stakeholders Conference scheduled for early May in Switzerland, was held in Dubai on 30 January 2012. Participants included the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and UNHCR. The three governments agreed on a text that pursues a comprehensive solutions strategy for Afghan Refugees including voluntary repatriation, sustainable integration and assistance to host communities.
- UNHCR, in partnership with UNDP, is working on a consolidated multi-year project proposal with relevant budgeting for 48 selected reintegration sites in preparation for the Stakeholders Conference.
- Insecurity and political instability in certain areas continue to hinder UNHCR's protection and relief operations, resulting in unreliable and insecure access to IDPs.

## UNHCR Presence



## 2012 Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Population Group	Budget in USD
PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	43,410,753
PILLAR 3 Reintegration programme	77,535,733
PILLAR 4 IDP programme	18,622,584
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>139,569,070</b>

**UNHCR Afghanistan:** 1 Country Office in Kabul; 5 Sub-Offices; 3 Field Offices; 3 Field Units

**Staffing:** 285 Regular National Staff; 27 Regular International Staff; 5 UN Volunteers and 2 Consultant

**Contact Information:** UNHCR Afghanistan, Media Relations Section in Kabul,  
Tel: + 93 799205711/+93700279231

