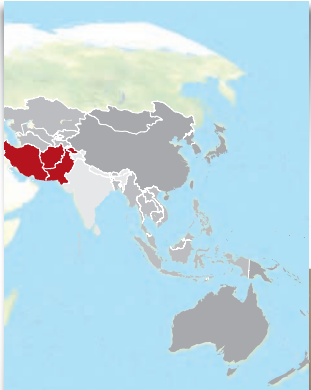


SOUTH-WEST ASIA



UNHCR

2013 GLOBAL REPORT

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Pakistan



An Afghan teacher trained by the Educate A Child Initiative delivers a lesson in a refugee school in Pakistan

UNHCR / Q. K. AFRIDI



| Overview |

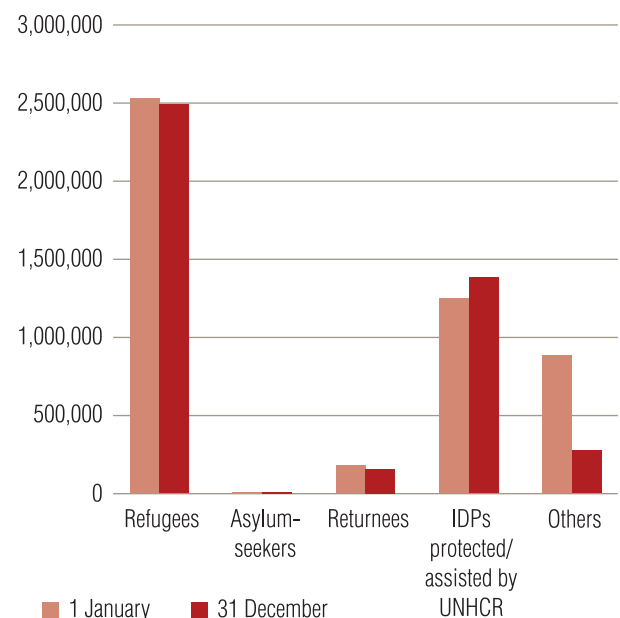


Highlights

- The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries (SSAR) remained the relevant regional framework to address both the needs of Afghan refugees and to advance solutions.
- With UNHCR support, an SSAR quadripartite steering committee was established, as were national steering committees in each of the three countries covered by the subregion. To mobilize resources for the SSAR, country-specific project portfolios aimed at addressing the needs of refugees and host populations were being developed. These Portfolios included specific focus on youth empowerment through education and skills training. A joint resource mobilization strategy was also endorsed in 2013, aimed at securing multi-year, reliable support for the implementation of the SSAR through individual and collective efforts.
- 5.8 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002, constituting some 25 per cent of the country's total population today. However, refugee returns to Afghanistan

in 2013 dropped to 39,600, representing a 60 per cent decrease on 2012 numbers. Returns from Pakistan also went down by 63 per cent,

People of concern to UNHCR in South-West Asia | 2013



and there was a 46 per cent reduction in voluntary repatriation numbers from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those who chose to return received non-food items and cash grants to cover transportation and other costs related to their initial reintegration.

- In Afghanistan, both the SSAR and the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions promoted an approach to relief and assistance that ensured the inclusion and engagement of host communities, providing an incentive to be receptive to returnees, refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs).

| Results in 2013 |

Working environment

The working environment in South-West Asia remained volatile. The security situation continued to impact humanitarian access. The complex political and security transitions in Afghanistan, with upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections and the withdrawal of international military forces in Afghanistan, have created a climate of uncertainty. Economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to impact significantly on refugees there. Elections were held in the country, as well as in Pakistan, during 2013, with new governments being established. Afghanistan was preparing for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2014.

Achievements and impact

Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, with the support of UNHCR, continued to use the framework of the SSAR to advance solutions for Afghan refugees in the region. The Quadripartite Steering Committee, composed of the three concerned Governments and UNHCR, met twice to guide and oversee the implementation of the Solutions Strategy, and organized a high-level side event at UNHCR's Executive Committee in 2013. An important outcome of the various meetings was the adoption of a joint resource mobilization strategy designed to ensure predictable, multi-year funding and to forge new partnerships, particularly with development actors.

In 2011, six years after its ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, Afghanistan had pledged to draft a national refugee law and asylum procedures which met international standards. With UNHCR's help, by the end of 2012 the draft had been finalized. Together with development partners, UNHCR has played a catalytic role in advocating for the mainstreaming of returnee issues into the National Priority Programmes. Promoting the National Solidarity Program (NSP) as a platform for delivering community-based programmes in high return areas it is expected to further facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees. The number of internally displaced Afghans had steadily risen since then, with more than 630,000 people uprooted inside the country at the end of 2013, more than half of them in urban areas. The new

national policy on the rights of IDPs adopted in 2013 was a positive step, but humanitarian needs remained overwhelming.

Though UNHCR continued to provide emergency assistance to those displaced by conflict in Afghanistan, in 2013 it began to focus more intensely on facilitating durable solutions, particularly for IDP returns, and on creating an environment conducive to local integration. The organization also strengthened its monitoring capacity, mostly through Afghan NGOs, and identified partners to assess IDP movements in the areas bordering Pakistan. The information collected was fed into a real-time database called Population Movement Tracking, which assessed the magnitude of movements, their causes and the protection and assistance needs of IDPs.

Meanwhile, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government set about legalizing the status of undocumented Afghans, providing them with temporary stay arrangements on the basis of renewable residence permits placed on Afghan passports. This allowed them to apply for work permits. By the end of 2013, Afghan consulates in the Islamic Republic of Iran had issued some 135,000 Afghan family passports and Iranian resident permits have reportedly been issued to these previously undocumented Afghans. The number of refugee children enrolled in schools has increased by 12 per cent from 2012, further improving the literacy rates amongst Afghan refugees to 60 per cent.

In Pakistan, the new Government adopted an Afghan Refugee Management and Repatriation policy. This includes the extension of the Tripartite Agreement and stay of registered Afghan refugees by the extension of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until December 2015. The new government policy also envisages the adoption of a national refugee law and UNHCR is working closely with relevant counterparts on the draft law. UNHCR conducts individual refugee status determination (RSD), assists asylum-seekers and refugees with special needs pending durable solutions, and helps vulnerable refugees apply for resettlement. The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme expanded, impacting some 4 million refugees and Pakistanis in hosting communities with some 2,000 projects being implemented since the inception of the initiative in 2009.

The SSAR and the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions were well-received and endorsed by regional governments as well as by donors and NGO stakeholders. The SSAR provides a collaborative approach to community-based assistance for the benefit of returnees, refugees, IDPs and hosting communities. The SSAR also offers a platform to engage development actors more closely and strongly in community-based initiatives.

Constraints

The volatile security conditions restricted UNHCR's access to some areas of operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, impeding the provision of assistance. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the impact of sanctions and resulting economic pressure has also affected refugee relief programmes. The complex transition

period in Afghanistan with upcoming elections and the withdrawal of international forces is expected to continue to pose challenges for humanitarian activities in 2014.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Afghanistan**, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Pakistan** are covered in separate chapters.

The implementation of the SSAR to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host communities, the strengthening of existing partnerships and the engagement of new partners were major 2013 achievements for the South-West Asia operational subregion.

| Financial information |

In 2013, financial requirements for the South West Asia subregion amounted to USD 352.3 million. With UNHCR's comprehensive needs budget for operations in the region funded at a level of 46 per cent, overall expenditure was USD 162.7 million. Given the need

to respond to the growing numbers of IDPs and address secondary displacement among returnees to Afghanistan, funding gaps affected these areas in particular.

Budget and expenditure in South-West Asia | USD

Operation		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Afghanistan	Budget	38,231,787	0	65,790,765	27,352,674	131,375,226
	Expenditure	18,327,593	0	30,541,908	15,056,315	63,925,816
Islamic Republic of Iran	Budget	59,588,289	0	0	0	59,588,289
	Expenditure	38,437,155	0	0	0	38,437,155
Pakistan	Budget	59,970,189	1,489,108	59,679,718	40,215,307	161,354,322
	Expenditure	30,487,843	78,690	13,698,496	16,044,794	60,309,822
Total budget		157,790,265	1,489,108	125,470,483	67,567,981	352,317,837
Total expenditure		87,252,591	78,690	44,240,403	31,101,109	162,672,793

Voluntary contributions to South-West Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
SOUTH-WEST ASIA OVERALL					
Finland				2,554,278	2,554,278
United States of America				58,150,000	58,150,000
SOUTH-WEST ASIA OVERALL Total				60,704,278	60,704,278
AFGHANISTAN					
Australia		856,000	324,000		1,180,000
Central Emergency Response Fund	3,001,350		998,203		3,999,553
Denmark	78,707	3,844,921	917,684		4,841,313
European Union		3,444,067	3,741,505		7,185,571
Germany	951,299		347,403		1,298,701
Japan	4,037,000	8,140,325	1,072,675	990,099	14,240,099
Netherlands				2,500,000	2,500,000
Norway				2,063,629	2,063,629
Private donors in Italy		65,991			65,991
Private donors in the Netherlands			696,576		696,576
Private donors in the United States of America		186,624		340	186,964
Sweden		1,008,207	483,885		1,492,092
Switzerland			907,070		907,070
United Nations Office for Project Services			11,948		11,948
AFGHANISTAN Total		8,068,356	17,546,135	9,500,949	5,554,068
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN					
Australia	228,095				228,095
Czech Republic	106,952				106,952
Denmark	1,621,720				1,621,720
European Union	3,274,229				3,274,229
France	388,098				388,098
Germany	3,923,663				3,923,663
Japan	5,000,000			990,099	5,990,099
Norway	566,875				566,875
Private donors in Qatar				878,217	878,217
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN Total		15,109,631		1,868,316	16,977,947
PAKISTAN					
Australia	1,821,446	3,388,852			5,210,299
Canada				1,947,420	1,947,420
Central Emergency Response Fund			1,390,947		1,390,947
Denmark		4,389,045			4,389,045
European Union	2,311,169		5,531,450		7,842,619
Germany	651,890	3,192,848			3,844,739
Japan	6,000,000			990,099	6,990,099
Norway				1,375,752	1,375,752
Private donors in Japan	10,247				10,247
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	6,824		556		7,380
Private donors in the United Kingdom				946	946
Switzerland	188,985		188,985		377,970
United Nations Development Programme		374,500			374,500
United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	40,000				40,000
United States of America			6,400,000		6,400,000
PAKISTAN Total		11,030,561	11,345,245	13,511,938	4,314,217
Total		34,208,548	28,891,380	23,012,886	72,440,879
					158,553,694

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM)