

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees



Regional Overview



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: Afghan Returnees and Refugees

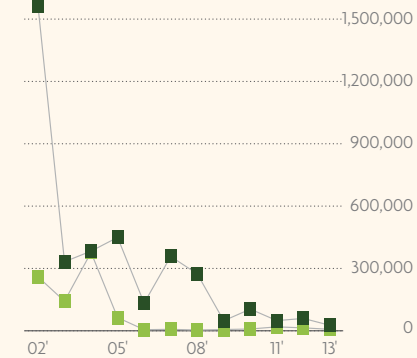
January 2014

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

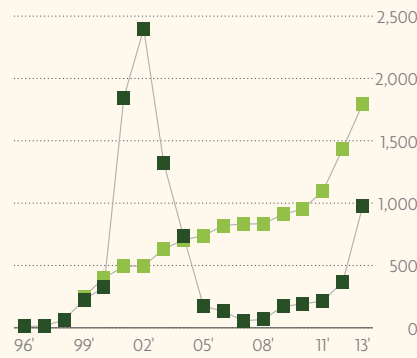


* of which 4.7 million were facilitated by UNHCR

20,724 Afghan refugees resettled since 1996

Afghan refugee resettled from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran

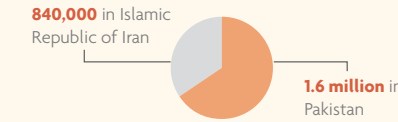
■ Pakistan ■ The Islamic Republic of Iran



Afghan Refugees



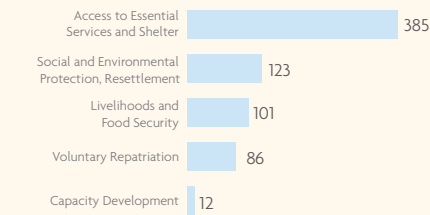
2.5 million remaining registered Afghan refugees in the region



SSAR Financial Requirements

US\$ 707 million budgeted in 2014 by 50 partners

Total budget per outcome (in million US\$)



Regional map

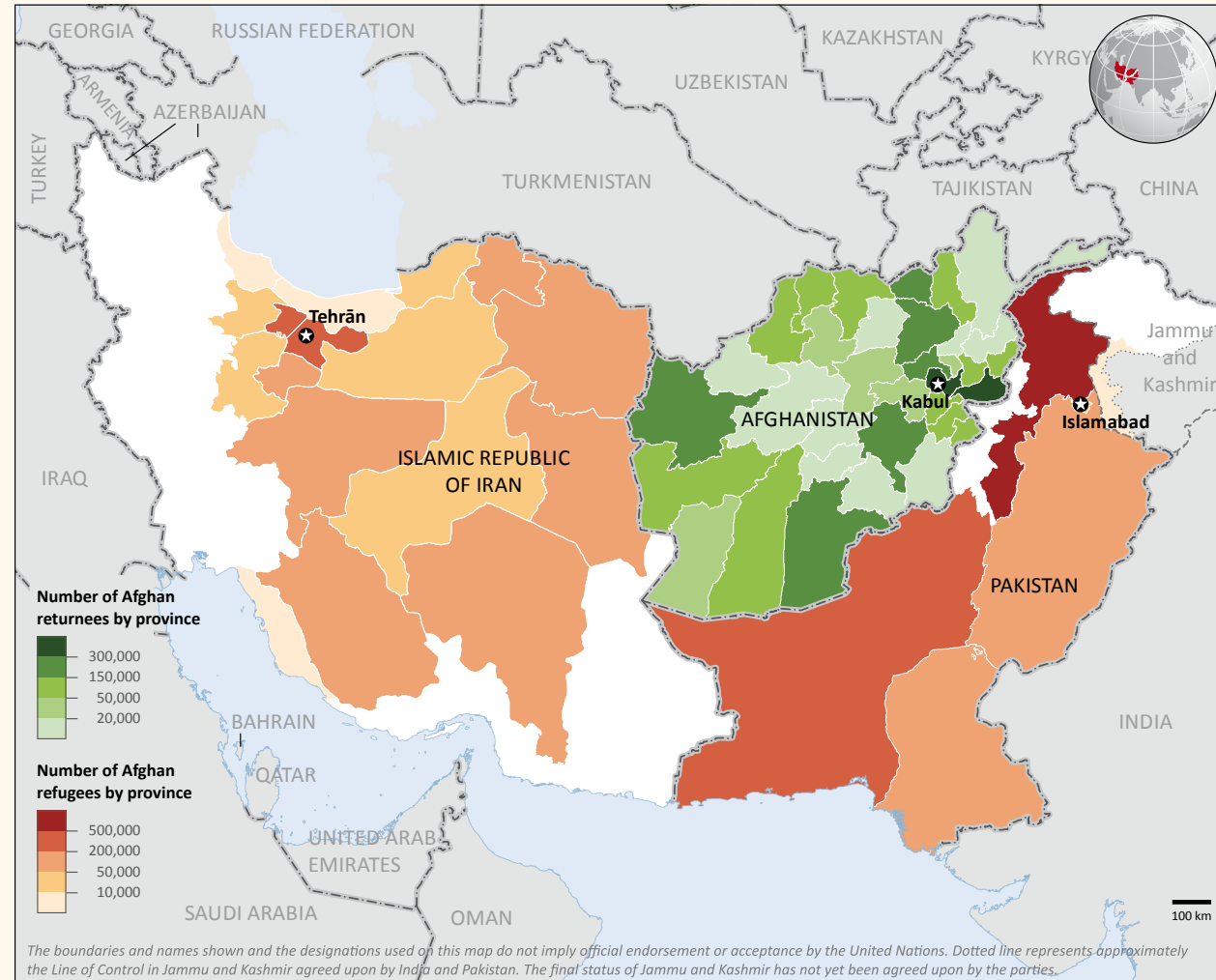


Table of contents

1. Displacement from Afghanistan: Overview	4
World's largest protracted refugee population	4
Pakistan – world's top refugee hosting country	4
The Islamic Republic of Iran – host to the world's largest urban refugee population	5
2. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Communities	6
Voluntary return, sustainable reintegration: key to stability in Afghanistan and the region	8
Assistance to host communities: investment in long-term stability	10
3. Operationalization of the Solutions Strategy	14
Development of country portfolios of projects	14
Ensuring enhanced national and regional coordination	15
Key operational achievements in the implementation of the Solutions Strategy	16
4. Overview: Key Elements of the Country Portfolios of Projects	18
Outcome 1: Voluntary repatriation	18
Outcome 2: Access to shelter and essential social services	19
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security	21
Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection and resettlement	22
Outcome 5: Capacity development	23
5. Unique Features of the Solutions Strategy	24
6. Joint Advocacy and Resource Mobilization	28
Summary Financial Requirements	30
Partnership Diagrams	34



Photo: families departing to Afghanistan under the UNHCR facilitated Voluntary Repatriation Programme at Chamkani, Voluntary Repatriation Centre in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. UNHCR/Q.Afridi

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 35 years. Pakistan has been the top country for 22 years (including for the past 11), while the Islamic Republic of Iran held this spot for another 11 years.¹ 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 more than one fifth (21 per cent) of the global refugee population and 40 per cent of the world's protracted caseload.² With some 2.6 million registered refugees, Afghanistan remained the leading country of origin in 2013 for the 33rd consecutive year, surpassed by Syria only in 2014.

While Afghan refugees are dispersed across more than 80 countries, an overwhelming 96 per cent of them (nearly 2.5 million) continue to be hosted by just two countries - the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran. 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.

In addition to registered Afghan refugees, according to estimates of host Governments, there are 2 million undocumented Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran (1 million) and in Pakistan (1 million).

Pakistan – world's top refugee hosting country

With more than 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees, Pakistan remains the world's largest refugee hosting country. Originating mainly from the provinces in the eastern border areas, the majority of 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. In recent years, a significant number of Afghan refugees have moved out of the refugee villages. Today, 67 per cent live in urban or rural areas, while the remaining 33 per cent reside in 76 refugee villages.

¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2013: War's Human Cost, 20 June 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53a3df694.html>.

² Ibid.

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

Providing for more than 840,000 registered Afghan refugees, the Islamic Republic of Iran currently ranks as the third largest refugee hosting country in the world. With 97% of these refugees residing in urban or semi-urban areas across the country, the Islamic Republic of Iran is host to the world's largest urban refugee population. The majority of Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran originate from central, western and northern provinces of Afghanistan.

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 40% of the world's protracted refugee caseload and 70% of the refugee population in Asia and the Pacific
- 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees in 86 countries around the world
- The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan jointly host 96% of Afghan refugees worldwide, which constitutes more than 20% of the global refugee population.
- More than 50% of Afghan refugees are children
- In 2013 asylum-seekers from Afghanistan filed the fourth highest number of asylum applications globally
- Afghan children are the most numerous of all children seeking asylum worldwide



Photo: UNDP

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 a 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 Strategy 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 2012,³ the Solutions Strategy has served as an enabling multilateral platform for consensus-building, strengthening of existing partnerships and engagement of new actors.

³ The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries was endorsed by the international community at an international conference in Geneva in May 2012. The document is available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan/solutions-strategy.pdf>.

“ Now a window of opportunity is open in front of the international community [to meet the needs of Afghan refugees and returnees]...constructive engagement of the international system is a must to progress from promise to practice. ”

(H.E. Mr. Hossein Dehghani, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN at the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly)

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. UNHCR and partners seek to build synergies with relevant ongoing initiatives and continue to use the multilateral international and regional fora to advocate for reinvigorated support for the Afghan displacement situation in general and for the Solutions Strategy 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 Solutions Strategy.
- A group, Friends of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, is set up in Geneva in June 2012 by interested donors, UNHCR and UNDP, and continues to provide support to the implementation of the Solutions Strategy.
- Governments of Afghanistan and Japan, along with UNHCR, hold a side event on the Solutions Strategy 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 Solutions Strategy. 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 Solutions Strategy.

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 Solutions Strategy 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.

- 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

Over the past three decades the voluntary repatriation of Afghans has taken place in waves during moments of change when refugees considered that prospects for peace and stability had improved. In addition to these return movements there have also been refugee influxes during time of conflict. Since 2002, over 5.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home. More than 80 per cent of them (4.7 million) were assisted through the largest voluntary repatriation program in the history of

UNHCR. About 3.8 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, the rate of voluntary return has been decreasing significantly, hitting a historical low in 2013 with some 39,000 returnees. During the first seven months of 2014 some 10,000 refugees repatriated voluntarily, a 65 per cent decrease in return rate compared to the same period of 2013.

The lack of incentives for return and opportunities for sustainable reintegration, compounded by uncertainties surrounding the complex transition processes taking place in Afghanistan in 2014, is 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.⁴ Many have 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.

At present, returnees constitute 20 per cent of the entire population of Afghanistan. Despite more than a decade of humanitarian and development interventions, they 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.

“The Solutions Strategy will further enhance our capacity to assist Afghan returnees and it will create more conducive conditions for them to return. Conditions which will help returnees get back on their feet. Conditions that mean they don't have to leave home again ... this time in search of work.”

(Dr. Jamaher Anwari, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, Afghanistan)

The limited absorption capacity is linked to the chronic underdevelopment of the country. Ranking 175 out of 186 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index, Afghanistan continues to be one of the least developed countries in the world. More than one third of the total population lives below the poverty line, 9 million are estimated to be in need of humanitarian aid, an estimated 8 million are food insecure, and more than half of the children under the age of five years are malnourished. The limited labour market is unable to accommodate the fast growing population with more than 400,000 new market entrants each year. Since more than half of Afghanistan's population is 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.

“2014 is a critical moment in the country's history, now is time to redouble humanitarian efforts not to scale them back.”

(David Miliband, IRC President and CEO)

⁴ See UNHCR Population Profiling and Verification of Afghan Refugees (PPVR), 2012.

Difficulties in accessing land, shelter, basic services and livelihood opportunities constitute some of the major obstacles to efforts to encourage return and ensure sustainable reintegration. While returnee needs differ from province to province, the top three needs identified by returnees across the country, in order of priority, are shelter, water and livelihoods.⁵ Findings of the baseline survey conducted in the areas of high return indicate that limited access to services is another important factor affecting the return trends.

In addition, persisting insecurity in some areas, recurrent drought and other natural disasters, as well as rapid urbanization, continue to uproot people and induce (secondary) displacement within the country and across the borders, including reverse movements to the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.

To address the development needs in the country, the Government of Afghanistan formulated the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and identified National Priority Programmes (NPPs) aimed at enhancing access to basic services, including health, education and livelihoods. In order to embed the Solutions Strategy within the larger framework of the NPPs and to ensure that its outcomes are included in the prioritization process of the 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.

“[We are pleased to note that] the planned activities are sought to be integrated in national development plans. This is the way to go for sustainability to be achieved.”

(Mr. Aron Bonanno, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva)

One of the NPPs, the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) focuses on development and rehabilitation of rural areas through empowerment of communities and promotion of their participation in local development. With its wide geographic coverage, the NSP has a significant potential to reach returnee communities in Afghanistan and to contribute to their sustainable reintegration. UNHCR seeks to further align the implementation of the Solutions Strategy in Afghanistan with the NSP to ensure that existing gaps in areas of high return are addressed.

⁵ The comprehensive needs assessment was conducted by multi-functional teams comprising of UNHCR, local Departments of Refugees and Repatriation (DORRs) and other humanitarian actors.

Afghanistan: Key Concerns

- Despite the increase in school attendance, 3.5 million children are still out of school
- 11 million people have not received formal education or were unable to complete school
- Youth and adult literacy rates are among the lowest in the world
- More than 30% of the population lives below the poverty line
- Estimated 9 million are in need of humanitarian aid
- 8 million are food insecure

Top 3 Needs Identified by Returnees:

- Shelter
- Water
- Livelihoods

Afghanistan: Commendable Practices

- Alignment of the Solutions Strategy with the National Priority Programmes (NPPs) through conclusion of 11 Memoranda of Understanding with key line Ministries
- Stimulating rehabilitation and development of rural areas through the National Solidarity Programme

Despite these achievements, the needs of Afghan returnees remain dire and far exceed the capacity of humanitarian actors operating in the country. Under-development underlies continued displacement, discourages returns and diminishes prospects for sustainable reintegration - contingent, among other factors, upon the availability of housing, employment and access to basic services such as healthcare and education. For instance, the results of the baseline survey conducted in areas of high return in Afghanistan revealed that only 1.7 per cent of returnee households from Pakistan and 1.2 per cent from the Islamic Republic of Iran regarded development projects in Afghanistan as a pull factor when making their decision on return.

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.

Development projects can create the much needed incentives for return and boost the confidence of refugees and returnees. Needs assessments carried out under the Solutions Strategy indicate that community-based development interventions have a significant impact on sustainable reintegration. Populations are stabilized, empowered and able to apply the skills gained abroad in a conducive environment, thereby further contributing the development of their communities and country. Such long term processes however require long-term commitment and solidarity of the international community.

“These kinds of projects strengthen the trust of people in the government and this motivates people to work for peace building.” (Afghan returnee in Qizil Sai)

Islamic Republic of Iran: Key Concerns

- 45 % increase in school tuition fees in 2012-2013
- 30 % increase in health treatment charges since 2012

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 host countries.

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 seriously 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 2012-2013 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. The insufficient international support further limits the ability of international organizations and the Government to carry out important humanitarian interventions in sectors where needs remain high.

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 2013 Pakistan hosted the world's highest number of refugees in relation to its national economy (512 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita),⁶ with a considerable strain on its over-stretched public structures and services. In 2012, comprehensive needs assessments were conducted in designated "Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA)," during which Afghan refugee households identified access to income/livelihood opportunities and shelter as their primary concerns, followed by access to healthcare and water.⁷ 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 their limited overall availability in the country. The lack of economic opportunities impairs the ability of refugees to become self-reliant and amplifies their dependency on aid. The geographical and demographic characteristics of some provinces, with small communities scattered across remote areas, along with insufficient road infrastructure, further complicate access to services and livelihoods. For instance the Balochistan province, hosting nearly 400,000 Afghan refugees, is home to a population of 8 million people (or 12 persons/km²) scattered across an area similar to that of Germany.

Islamic Republic of Iran: Commendable Practices

- Innovative complementary health insurance services currently provided to 220,200 vulnerable refugees through a joint initiative of the Ministry of Interior, an insurance company and UNHCR.
- Significant increase in the literacy rate among Afghan refugees, from 6 % in 1979 to 60 % in 2013.
- 349,445 refugee children enrolled in the national Iranian education system in 2013-14, which represents a 9.5 % increase from the previous school year.
- Over 11,000 Afghans enrolled in universities across the country. Approximately 15,000 have already received university degrees.
- Temporary work permits issued to some 270,000 Amayesh card holders.

In 2013, asylum-seekers from Afghanistan filed the fourth highest number of new asylum applications worldwide (49,100) and constituted the third largest asylum-seeking population in the industrialized countries.⁸ Reports suggest that many have been onward movers from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan. Turkey remained the principal destination for Afghan asylum-seekers in 2013, followed by Germany, Sweden, Australia and Austria. After the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran, Germany hosts the third largest Afghan refugee population globally, estimated at 24,200 in 2013.⁹

Pakistan: Key Concerns

- Pakistan has the second highest number of out-of-school children in the world (5.5 million) and the third highest number of illiterate adults.
- 20% of the 620,000 Afghan refugee children (between the ages of 5 and 16) are enrolled in formal education. Just 5% of these children study up to grade 3.

⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2013: War's Human Cost, 20 June 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53a3df694.html>.

⁷ Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Comprehensive Needs Assessment (Provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), 2012.

⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Global Trends 2013: War's Human Cost, 20 June 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53a3df694.html>.

⁹ Ibid.

Pakistan: Commendable Practices

- Launched in 2009, 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 Solutions Strategy and the Government’s Management and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees Strategy, RAHA remains a principal burden and responsibility-sharing platform for maintaining temporary protection space and enhanced community acceptance of refugees in Pakistan.
- In July 2013, the Federal Cabinet adopted the National Policy on the Management and Repatriation of Afghan Refugees beyond 30 June 2013.
- The Cabinet approved the extension of the validity of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards and the Tripartite Agreement until 31 December 2015. So far, 90 per cent of PoR card holders have renewed their cards in the ongoing documentation exercise. The Government has agreed to attach certain legal entitlements to PoR cards, which will benefit not only refugees but also the economy of the host country.
- The Government is considering a national refugee law to form part of the national policy on Afghan refugees.
- Efforts are underway to finalize a Health Strategy for Afghan Refugees (2014-2018) which will, inter alia, harmonize refugee healthcare with national systems.
- A Sustainable Livelihood Strategy for Afghan Refugees (2014-2018) is being finalized to support self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods for refugees.
- The Government of Pakistan issued approximately 800,000 birth certificates to Afghan refugee children; another 330,000 are due to be issued in 2014.

“The long stay for over three decades of the Afghan Refugees in Pakistan has had a negative impact on the socio-economic infrastructure, and as such the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative is a very important contribution to rehabilitate and develop this infrastructure.”

(Dr. Imran Zeb Khan, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Pakistan)

The Human Cost of Non-Action:

Worsening economic conditions and limited livelihood opportunities in the host countries may trigger unprepared return 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:

Concerted efforts by the international community are needed to alleviate the pressures on the host countries and communities and thereby contribute 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 and burden-sharing, but also constitute an important investment in the future security and stability in the region.

Photo: UNDP





Photo: meeting of female community organization "Mohallah Kausar masjid" and female members of the VO – "Nayi Umeed" village Kangrah Colony, UC "Panian" of district Haripur, Pakistan. UNDP

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 Solutions Strategy 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 burden sharing with host countries.

Development of Country Portfolios of Projects

In order to operationalize the Strategy and facilitate donor engagement and resource mobilization, in 2014 the concerned Governments, in cooperation with more than 50 humanitarian and development partners, developed three country specific portfolios of projects.¹⁰ 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. They

further serve as a tool to take stock of achievements up-to-date, identify remaining challenges and priorities, and enhance and expand partnerships.

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 Solutions Strategy in order to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts across the region.

In the first half of 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 and to advocate for enhanced support of the international community in their implementation.

¹⁰The respective country portfolios of projects for the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f9016576.html>.

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 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 and may be caught up in a "state of limbo." 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.

When empowered, these new generations possess enormous potential and will play a key role in defining the future of their country and communities.

“ I wish to reach a point where I can contribute to the next generation of Afghan refugees, 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 Solutions Strategy at country level. The NSCs report to the Quadripartite Steering Committee 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.

Within the framework of the Solutions Strategy, efforts are undertaken to ensure mainstreaming of refugee and returnee considerations into overall UN agency programmes at national levels. In Afghanistan, synergies among key stakeholders will continue to play an important stabilizing role in the climate of uncertainty surrounding the transition of power in 2014. UNHCR has reached out to other UN agencies through its participation in the humanitarian country team, highlighting the needs of returnees in the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). UNHCR has also been actively involved in the Common Country Assessment and preparatory discussions leading to the 2015-2019 UNDAF process, with a view to including returnees' needs in the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Close cooperation with the UN country team will continue, with a view to aligning the Solutions Strategy more closely with the Secretary-General's Durable Solutions Framework for IDPs and Refugees. Afghanistan is one of the three pilot countries for this initiative.

In Pakistan, relevant stakeholders engage in close coordination to ensure adequate inclusion of refugee interventions within the One UN programme.

Good Practice Example: Establishment of a Solutions Strategy Working Group in the Islamic Republic of Iran

In order to ensure more inclusive participation in the coordination of in-country activities beyond the NSC, a working group was created consisting of the NSC members, representatives of other relevant Government ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and donor countries.

Key Operational Achievements in the Implementation of the Solutions Strategy

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. In 2012, there were some 73,500 voluntary returns, making it UNHCR's largest voluntary repatriation operation that year. The Solutions Strategy highlights the need to enhance the potential for voluntary repatriation and quantifies the necessary resources through the country portfolios of projects.

Resettlement

- 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 Solutions Strategy.
- In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the resettlement quota increased from 1,300 in 2011 to 2,250 in 2013. Departures also increased from some 490 in 2011 to 1,904 in 2013.
- In Pakistan, in 2013 UNHCR and resettlement countries negotiated an increase to 2,000 resettlement opportunities for Afghan refugees. The total number of departures increased more than fivefold, from 205 in 2011 to 1,107 in 2013.

Afghanistan (2012-2013)

- Approximately 4,200 vulnerable families have received shelter assistance through UNHCR's programme. As a result 25,000 individuals have adequate and improved living space. By including vulnerable families from the local communities in the programme, this project has also promoted acceptance of returnees and peaceful coexistence.
- 80 small-scale, community infrastructure projects were implemented, including a strong cash-for-work component as well as training for semi-skilled labourers, with a particular focus on youth. The projects provided both direct and indirect benefits for some 466,000 individuals in high return areas.
- 526 water points, 19 pipe schemes, and 11 deep wells with solar-powered, water-lifting systems, were constructed, benefiting some 327,000 individuals.
- Three health clinics were renovated and ambulances provided in areas of high return, improving access to health services for both returnees and local communities.

- Some 3,140 returnees, mostly vulnerable individuals, were trained in various trades. Productive assets, including roads and irrigation systems, were provided; agricultural lands were protected from floods; training was offered in animal husbandry and carpet-weaving plants were set up.
- 16 education facilities (including training centres) were constructed or expanded, including eight new schools, additional classrooms built in three schools, and the rehabilitation of numerous existing structures. This contributed to a general increase in school enrolment in high return areas by 35 per cent.
- Some 1,400 solar lighting systems were installed in houses and along streets in high return areas, enhancing the safety of women.
- Three micro-hydro power plants were constructed, improving access to electricity for both returnees and host communities. In addition, socio-economic infrastructure (roads, irrigation systems and community centres) was rehabilitated, benefiting 13 return communities.

Islamic Republic of Iran

- The Government and UNHCR provided primary health care in 15 settlements and 29 urban locations.
- Community integrated social and medical assistance programmes assisted 7,770 vulnerable refugees.
- 220,200 vulnerable refugees were enrolled into the Health Insurance Scheme and some 2,000 benefitted from the coverage for special diseases. Primary healthcare services were provided through 134 health units.
- Construction of five schools was initiated in areas with largest refugee populations. Schools being constructed in urban areas benefit both Iranian and refugee children.
- Vocational training in more than forty occupations was provided and a revolving fund was established by UNHCR and BAFIA to provide refugees with small business loans to increase employment opportunities.

Pakistan

- Since the launch of the RAHA programme in 2009, some five million people, of which 15 per cent are Afghan refugees, have been reached through more than 2,500 community-based projects in over 41 districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab, and Sindh provinces and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Over 96 per cent of the initial requirements for RAHA's first phase (2009-2013) has been funded. In 2014, over 500 projects are being implemented throughout Pakistan covering the sectors of education, health, environment, social protection, water and sanitation, livelihoods and infrastructure.
- Seeking to improve coordination and harmonization, in April 2014 the RAHA Federal Task Force established a multi-agency working group tasked with researching and implementing key recommendations to improve the RAHA initiative.
- 174 refugee village-based schools provided education to 73,213 Afghan refugee children. Some 55,000 children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,000 in Balochistan, and 1,640 in Punjab have been enrolled in primary schools funded by UNHCR, while another 573 students were supported through 11 community-based schools.



Photo: looking for a customer, M.Masoumi

4. Overview: Key Elements of the 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.¹¹ The following section seeks to outline some of the key proposed interventions across the region.

Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation

Fundamental to refugee protection and the pursuit of durable solutions, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity is an integral component of the implementation of the Solutions Strategy in the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

Call for Action:

While a successful 2014 transition process in Afghanistan may positively impact voluntary repatriation trends in 2015, comprehensive reintegration efforts underpinned by robust development initiatives need to take place simultaneously to ensure sustainability of returns.

On a personal level, voluntary return promises the restoration of national protection and allows refugees to break away from their “state of limbo” and become an active part of the solution to their problems and those of their country of origin. This is particularly so in the context of returns to Afghanistan, where the presence, capacity and skills of returnees will be required to boost the reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes in the years to come.

Projects included under Outcome 1 of the portfolios of the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan seek to increase the potential for voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees and facilitate the return process. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government prioritizes enhancement and operation of voluntary return centers in order to ensure smooth processing of departures. This is complemented by activities of IOM and Relief International aiming to facilitate coordinated return of qualified and skilled Afghans and their inclusion into the labour market in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, partners seek to strengthen return monitoring and cross-border coordination. Enhanced community outreach, mass information campaigns and “go-and-see” visits will serve to provide potential returnees with information on the conditions of return and available assistance. Placing particular emphasis on ensuring the sustainability of returns, a project carried out by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

¹¹ 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>.

will promote cross-border activities facilitating continued education and vocational training of Afghan students upon return, as well as provision of free legal assistance in housing, land, property and civil documentation cases.

Provision of return and reintegration assistance to returnees from the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan has been placed within the Afghanistan portfolio of projects which has correspondingly higher financial requirements under this Outcome than the host countries. Projects under Outcome 1 constitute the largest share of the total budgetary needs within Afghanistan’s country portfolio. Key activities include provision of return assistance, including through five Encashment Centres, provision of an initial reintegration grant of USD 1,000 to 20,000 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.

Outcome 2: Access to shelter and essential social services

Outcome 2 of the three country specific portfolios focuses on improved access to shelter and essential social services, including education, healthcare and water and sanitation, through community-driven projects. These are designed to benefit both Afghan refugees and returnees and their communities, thereby alleviating the pressure on host infrastructures and contributing to enhanced social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Improved access to quality education

A fundamental objective of refugee education is to meet the protection needs of refugee children and youth. In addition to offering continued learning opportunities and personal capacity development, schools provide the essential physical protection, help to prevent child labour and gender-based violence, and promote inclusion, social cohesion and confidence building. Quality education that builds relevant skills and knowledge enables refugees to live productive lives and equips them with skills for self-reliance. Provision of education is thus not a stand-alone service with one-ended objective, but a major driver of empowerment and a core component of durable solutions.

Projects in the country portfolios aim to improve the access of Afghan refugee, returnee and local children and youth to quality education at all levels, while increasing school enrolments and reducing dropouts. In pursuit of these objectives, some of the key activities include expansion and enhancement

of education facilities, opportunities for community-based education, provision of teaching and learning materials, as well as continuous training for teachers. Particular attention is paid to meeting the educational needs of girls, encouraging their enrollment, attendance and completion of schooling cycles. Additional projects seek to expand opportunities for early childhood learning, as well as language, literacy and numeracy training for over-aged students and adults, especially women.

Ensuring continued education is particularly challenging in the context of repatriation. Within the framework of the Solutions Strategy, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO and other partners seek to encourage close cooperation between the Ministries of Education in the three countries concerned in order to facilitate the setting of equivalency guidelines for certification of learning attainments, ensure rapid enrolment of returnee children in appropriate grades upon return and provide assistance to returning refugee teachers.

“Education is very important for refugees, because it is the only baggage that they can take back to their country. (Somoratne Ekanayke, refugee education expert)”

The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan have been selected as priority countries for the rollout of UNHCR's 2012-2016 Education Strategy and are as such working towards development of country-specific multi-year and multi-sectoral education strategies that prioritize inclusion of refugee learners into the national education systems.

Improved access to quality healthcare

Projects contained in the portfolios aim to enhance the access of refugees, returnees and local communities to quality healthcare at all levels, primarily by constructing and/or rehabilitating health facilities in selected areas and strengthening the capacity of health workers. Early detection and timely response to outbreaks of communicable diseases, provision of reproductive health services and improved nutritional well-being of infants are specific areas requiring targeted support. Additional projects undertaken by a wide variety of partners include provision of missing equipment for health facilities, creation of employment opportunities in the health sector and improvement of medical care delivery in remote areas.

Access to shelter and community infrastructure

Access to land and shelter remains a priority need and a key challenge to reintegration in Afghanistan. During the recent comprehensive needs assessment conducted by UNHCR and partners, returnees in more than half of the locations across the country identified shelter as their most urgent need. More than 75% of the respondents felt that they had less access to shelter than the local community. Construction of permanent shelter units and provision of support for land allocation to returnees through legal assistance and relevant advocacy and policy formulation thus constitute core interventions by stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Outcome 2 of the Afghanistan country portfolio of projects.

“My husband was blind. I built 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 9 children, Charikar Par, Parwan province)

Since a large number of refugee settlements in the Islamic Republic of Iran date back to the 1980s, the Government prioritizes projects aimed at repairing and rehabilitating residential shelter, community facilities and infrastructure in these settlements. Given the remoteness of many refugee villages and

refugee-populated rural settlements across Pakistan, the Pakistan portfolio puts particular emphasis on construction of roads and bridges that would enhance connectivity with remote areas and thereby improve access to services, particularly healthcare and education.

“The nearest health clinic is only 11 kilometers far away from our home. However, there is no road and [they] could not send an ambulance. We had to walk and my wife gave birth to our child on the way. I was afraid I would lose them both.”
(Afghan refugee in Pakistan)

Access to water and sanitation

Access to scarce water sources presents a major challenge in the region and has particularly grave implications in the displacement context when competition over natural resources negatively impacts co-existence between refugees, returnees and their host communities. Returnees participating in UNHCR's comprehensive needs assessment in Afghanistan identified water as their second most urgent priority need. In order to address these concerns, the proposed interventions in all three country portfolios seek to meet the water and sanitation needs of communities affected by refugee and returnee presence, including by rehabilitating or constructing irrigation and water supply and distribution systems. To ensure the long-term sustainability of investments into enhanced water supply, specific projects are carried out to train communities in maintaining and managing these systems. In addition to meeting the urgent and immediate needs in relation to access to drinking water and sanitation systems, these projects will have a considerable long-term impact on enhanced agricultural productivity, reduced water-related conflicts and flood risks.

Outcome 3: Livelihoods and food security

Access to vocational and skills training and enhanced livelihood opportunities allows refugees to meet their basic needs and enjoy their social and economic rights in a sustainable manner and with dignity. By allowing refugees to become self-reliant, these initiatives further help to alleviate the burden on host communities and enable refugees to contribute to the development of their host countries and country of origin upon return through their inclusion into the labour market. Continued efforts to build self-reliance, particularly in the context of protracted situations, are thus crucial at all stages of displacement, and constitute a critical component in accelerating the achievement of durable solutions.

Skills and knowledge are the best marketable and relevant assets that a refugee can take back home

Against this background, the Solutions Strategy offers a comprehensive and systemic approach that links poverty reduction, sustainability and empowerment objectives. Activities included under Outcome 3 of the respective country portfolios are designed to provide both direct services aimed at enhancing refugees' financial, human and social capital and indirect support by influencing policies in order to foster an environment in which the most vulnerable members of communities can achieve greater self-reliance. In order to meet the overarching objective of the Solutions Strategy – to facilitate voluntary return and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan - particular emphasis is on enabling Afghan refugees to acquire transferrable assets and skills, based on livelihood and employment opportunities in Afghanistan. Targeted and marketable vocational training and skills-based literacy courses, as well as provision of start-up kits to ensure initial support with establishing livelihoods will help to maximize the reintegration potential of Afghan refugees and returnees, and bolster their ability to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts upon return. Emphasis will be placed on building the human and financial capital of vulnerable persons including women and female headed households.

The Population Profiling, Verification and Response (PPVR) survey¹² conducted in 2011 revealed that around 83% of the Afghan workforce in Pakistan is involved in elementary occupations, sales, services and craft and related trades. The vast majority are either self-employed or daily labourers. To address this situation, UNHCR Pakistan is initiating a Sustainable Livelihood Strategy with the objective of enhancing self-reliance opportunities for both refugees and host communities. Steps will be taken to identify those financial services, vocational training and business development services that will inform and guide the designing of pragmatic and effective interventions to enhance the livelihoods of the targeted population, stressing the need for vocational skills/employment potential as a key pre-requisite for successful re-integration upon return. UNHCR will advocate and liaise with provincial Labour and Social Security departments to include Afghan refugees with Proof of Registration cards in their programmes.

“Life has improved recently for us all in this village (Shashpool) with more work possibilities. But more needs to be done, if other refugees are to join us here in the Central Highlands (Afghanistan) from Pakistan and Iran.”
 (Syed Jafar, Shura, community elder and a returnee from Pakistan's Parachinar to Bamiyam, Central Highlands, Afghanistan)

Food security and assistance are strategically linked to protection and livelihoods of refugees. Activities under this outcome will thus include, inter alia, “food-for-work” and “food for education” schemes. A good practice example in this regard is for instance the WFP project implemented in refugee settlements in the Islamic Republic in Iran which aims to provide additional food assistance to families that send their daughters to school.

Outcome 4: Social and environmental protection and resettlement

Activities proposed under Outcome 4 of the country portfolios of projects have three broad goals:

First, they aim to ensure legal, social and physical protection of refugees and returnees, inter alia, through provision of legal assistance and civil documentation, targeted responses to persons with specific needs, or by strengthening the overall legal and policy frameworks. Within the broader objective of strengthening child protection, specific measures will be taken to build the capacity of relevant Government institutions and other first-contact service providers in communication and provision of targeted assistance to child victims of violence, exploitation and abuse; as well as other vulnerable groups including child labourers, orphans or street children. Further efforts are taken to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence and to enhance the quality of assistance provided to victims, including through awareness-raising, capacity building of response officers and provision of safe spaces and psycho-social counselling.

Second, the proposed interventions seek to realize the potential for resettlement, including by increasing the number of countries that consider Afghan refugees with urgent and emergency resettlement needs, such as female-headed households or refugees with chronic medical conditions. To achieve this, UNHCR will continue to utilize established platforms, such as the Contact Group on Afghan Refugees in Pakistan and in the Islamic Republic of Iran, to mobilize international support for resettlement on a more predictable, multi-year basis.

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 and burden-sharing on the part of the international community with the two principal host countries.

Third, projects included under Outcome 4 of respective country portfolios will promote peaceful temporary co-existence between refugees, returnees and their host communities.

¹² UNHCR Population Profiling, Verification and Response Survey of Afghans in Pakistan, 2012.



Photo: UNDP

Given the importance of environmental considerations for the well-being of the entire communities, activities aimed at enhancing environmental protection and rehabilitating of degraded sites form an integral component of these efforts.

“Not only are the participants [of a livelihood programme] increasing their earning ability, we also see an important opportunity for cross-cultural skill transfer and better communication between the two communities.”
 (Inam-Ul-Haq, Chief Executive Officer, Innovative Development Organization, local NGO in Balochistan, Pakistan)

Good practice example: RAHA

The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme is a key component of the implementation of the Solutions Strategy in Pakistan. Launched in 2009 under the leadership of the Government and with participation of ten UN agencies, this initiative seeks to increase tolerance towards Afghan refugees in Pakistan and promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence, by providing Afghan refugees and their host communities with development and humanitarian assistance. A variety of projects carried out under the umbrella of RAHA help to reduce the strain on Government-provided public services, in particular in areas where refugees and Pakistani nationals compete for access to limited services and resources. In doing so, RAHA, inter alia, builds on the positive contribution of Afghan refugees to the local economies through income generation and bolstering specific industries. It further aims to reduce social and economic vulnerabilities of the most disadvantaged groups and to integrate relevant interventions into the Government's national programmes.

“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 a monthly meeting at my place 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)

Outcome 5: Capacity Development

Activities under Outcome 5 seek to enhance the overall implementation of the Solutions Strategy through strengthened coordination mechanisms, pro-active fundraising and increased ownership and capacity building of participating stakeholders, including national authorities and organizations and communities concerned with refugees, returnees and host communities.



Photo: link road and drains implemented by two community organizations of village "Panian" through Male Community Organization "Mohallah Shamsabad" & Women Community Organization "Hamdard Tanzeem" of district Haripur, Pakistan. UNDP

5. Unique features of the Solutions Strategy

Government-owned and Government-led: Throughout its formulation, adoption and operationalization, the Solutions Strategy 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.

“Refugee situations are almost always regional by nature. In search of durable solutions it is important to keep this aspect in mind, especially when speaking of return and reintegration. Norway thus highly appreciates the effort to bring states of origin and host states together in a joint strategy. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees is a prime example of this.”

(Mr. Thomas Bruusgard Høgseth, Embassy of Norway in the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Comprehensive conceptual and operational framework: The Solutions Strategy 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 2011, the Solutions Strategy 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 country specific portfolios of projects in 2014. 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. Created synergies help to ensure complementarity of approaches, avoid duplication of efforts and maximize outputs.

Strong civil society engagement: The Solutions Strategy 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. The Danish and Norwegian Refugee Councils carry out activities in all three countries in the region. 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 Solutions Strategy at national and regional levels.

The portfolio of projects for the Islamic Republic of Iran is a result of exemplary cooperation of 27 partners, half of which are international and national NGOs, under the leadership of the Government.

“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)

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 has been conducted, inter alia, based on the results of a baseline survey conducted in the areas of high return and findings of a comprehensive needs assessment conducted in 2013.

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 Solutions Strategy 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.

“It is important that solutions are found at the regional level in a collaborative manner. Solutions must be sustainable and to enable this, humanitarian assistance must be linked with development programs...”

(Mark Bowden, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator, Afghanistan)

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 empowerment and 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 otherwise unattainable in Afghanistan.¹³ 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.

“ 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)

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.

¹³ 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.



Photo: Trained by RAHA - Yasir and Imtial running their own wood work business. UNDP



▲ Photo: water long awaited. S.S.Esmaili

6. Joint Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

Years of generous international support for humanitarian and development interventions in Afghanistan have effected important changes on the ground. Long term commitment of the international community is however needed to build on the hard won gains and ensure sustainability of the investments already made. Redoubled support is particularly important in the context of the complex 2014 transitions which bring their own challenges, but also opportunities to intensify the pursuit of solutions for Afghan refugees. The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan have upheld a generous tradition of asylum for over thirty years and continue to honour their commitments to provide protection space for Afghan refugees despite the dwindling resources. These valuable efforts need to be matched by commensurate invigorated support and burden sharing by the international community.

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 the resilience of refugees
- Fund activities of all partners implementing the Solutions Strategy

Overshadowed by a number of newly emerging global refugee and humanitarian crises, the longstanding Afghan refugee situation is at risk of diminishing international engagement and support, just when Afghanistan goes through a moment of historic transition. The growing donor and media fatigue

demands new ways to respond to this protracted situation and new strategies to keep the interest high on Afghanistan and refugees hosted by its neighbours. The Solutions Strategy, 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 at both regional and country levels. Key elements of the strategy include ensuring predictable multi-year funding in support of the outcomes of the Solutions Strategy, as well as developing partnerships with non-traditional donors and development actors. Joint efforts of all stakeholders are needed to secure funds for all activities contained in the portfolios of projects.

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 critical juncture, not only in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, but also as a joint investment in stability and security in Afghanistan and beyond.

In an effort to reach out to non-traditional donors, UNHCR, together with selected Governments, makes particular efforts to develop relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. This will include joint high-level UNHCR and Government missions to the GCC countries and liaison with the embassies.

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.

“ It is my sincere hope that our collective efforts will ultimately continue to make a difference in the lives and aspirations of the people we care for—the millions of Afghan refugees hoping for a better future! ”

(António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)



Summary Financial Requirements

Summary Requirements per Outcome (in USD)				
SSAR Outcome	Afghanistan	Islamic Republic of Iran	Pakistan	Total (USD)
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	72,077,558	7,619,901	6,043,481	85,740,940
Outcome 2: Access to Essential Social Services and Shelter	66,728,576	102,694,176	215,763,767	385,186,519
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	19,927,076	22,540,207	58,657,750	101,125,033
Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection, Resettlement	24,361,625	16,764,203	82,180,898	123,306,726
Outcome 5: Capacity Development	6,479,578	474,974	4,754,906	11,709,458
Grand Total (USD)	189,574,413	150,093,461	367,400,802	707,068,676

Photo: UNDP

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Summary Requirements per Outcome (USD)					
SSAR Outcome	Lead Agency*	Budget	Total Budget per Outcome		
		USD	USD		
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	AfghanAid	271,429	72,077,558		
	DRC	1,200,000			
	UN-HABITAT	11,000,000			
	UNHCR	59,606,129			
Outcome 2: Access to Shelter and Essential Social Services	MRRD	1,850,000	66,728,576		
	AfghanAid	100,000			
	DACAAR	80,000			
	DRC	2,533,000			
	Relief International	630,703			
	UNESCO	15,000,000			
	UN-HABITAT	3,000,000			
	UNHCR	41,652,148			
	UNICEF	112,725			
	WHH	1,770,000			
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	MRRD	8,631,616	19,927,076		
	AfghanAid	400,000			
	DRC	2,000,000			
	FAO	2,279,030			
	IOM	1,035,500			
	MADERA	459,650			
	Relief International	185,885			
	UN-HABITAT	1,000,000			
	UNHCR	2,895,395			
	UNODC	40,000			
	WHH	100,000			
	ZOA	900,000			
	Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection	DRC		400,000	24,361,625
		FAO		791,633	
ILO		1,600,000			
NRC		5,000,000			
UN-HABITAT		750,000			
UNHCR		15,418,592			
Outcome 5: Capacity Development	UNMAS	401,400	6,479,578		
	DRC	2,552,000			
	FAO	589,578			
	NRC	538,000			
	UNHABITAT	1,000,000			
ZOA	1,800,000				
Grand Total			189,574,413		

*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

Summary Requirements per Outcome			
SSAR Outcome	Participating Agency	Budget	Total Budget per Outcome
		USD	USD
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	BAFIA	536,411	7,619,901
	IOM	3,000,122	
	Relief International	1,035,710	
	UNHCR and Partners	3,047,659	
Outcome 2: Access to Essential Services and Shelter	BAFIA	16,822,421	102,694,176
	BDCO	81,681	
	Chain of Hope	1,462,939	
	HAMI	1,378,238	
	IRAC	1,136,740	
	MAHAK	179,210	
	MoE	20,646,847	
	MoH	5,340,605	
	NRC	1,500,000	
	UNFPA	660,960	
	UNHCR and Partners	50,406,982	
	WFP	3,077,554	
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	BAFIA	1,135,403	22,540,207
	DRC	592,685	
	HAMI	207,254	
	IRAC	208,232	
	NRC	300,000	
	Rebirth Society	52,422	
	Relief International	724,001	
	SWO	926,010	
	TVTO	6,089,614	
	UNDP	467,833	
	UNHCR and Partners	8,063,462	
	UNIDO	2,763,610	
	WRF	1,009,681	
	Outcome 4: Social and Environmental Protection and Resettlement	BAFIA	
APCL		762,644	
DRC		287,711	
FRWO		1,597,042	
HAMI		414,508	
HA		387,679	
NRC		210,000	
ODVV		575,145	
Relief International		1,964,009	
SWO		1,871,342	
UNESCO		200,000	
UNHCR and Partners		7,482,340	
Outcome 5: Coordination and Supporting Role	ICRI (NGO support)	75,006	474,974
	National Secretariat (BAFIA-UNHCR)	399,967	
Grand Total			150,093,461

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Summary Requirements per Outcome			
SSAR Outcome	Lead Agency	Budget	Total Budget per Outcome
		USD	USD
Outcome 1: Voluntary Repatriation	DRC	50,000	6,043,481
	NRC	1,500,000	
	UNHCR	4,493,481	
Outcome 2: Access to Essential Social Services and Shelter	Government of Pakistan	135,474,649	215,763,767
	UNDP	9,510,919	
	UN-Habitat	1,996,100	
	UNHCR	65,134,342	
	UNOPS	2,341,006	
	WHO	1,306,750	
Outcome 3: Livelihoods and Food Security	Government of Pakistan	19,558,626	58,657,750
	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	Government of Pakistan	40,731,037	82,180,898
	FAO	3,300,000	
	UNDP	9,308,070	
	UNESCO	1,936,700	
	UN-Habitat	2,800,000	
	UNHCR	22,457,091	
Outcome 5: Capacity Development	UNDP	485,738	4,754,906
	UNESCO	400,000	
	UNHCR	3,869,168	
Grand Total			367,400,802

**Outcome 1:
Voluntary repatriation**

(USD 72,077,558)

Key Elements and Partners

- Afghan refugees are able to return voluntarily, in safety and dignity, and receive initial reintegration assistance
UNHCR · DRC · UN-Habitat · AfghanAid
MORR · MRRD · MOE · MOPH · MOUPD · ANDMA · MAIL · MOLSAMD · IDLG · UNMAS · UNICEF · KM

**Outcome 2:
Access to essential services and shelter**

(USD 66,728,576)

Key Elements and Partners

- Returnees and host communities enjoy access to quality healthcare
UN-Habitat · UNHCR · WHH · MOUPD · IDLG · KM · MORR · MRRD · MOPH
- Education is provided to returnees and host communities
UNHCR · UNICEF · UNESCO · UN-Habitat · AfghanAid · RI · WHH · MOE · MORR · MOUPD · IDLG · MRRD · GIZ · KM
- Access to shelter, water and sanitation and infrastructure is enhanced
MRRD · UNHCR · DACAAR · RI · WHH · MORR · ANDMA · MOUPD · MOEW · IDLG · KM
- Returnees receive core relief items
UNHCR · DRC · MORR · ANDMA
- Co-existence between returnees and host communities improves
UNESCO · UNHCR · MOE · MOPH · MOUPD · IDLG · MORR · MOEW · MRRD · UNICEF · GIZ

**Outcome 3:
Livelihoods and food security**

(USD 19,927,076)

Key Elements and Partners

- Livelihood opportunities are expanded, including through targeted vocational and skills trainings
UNHCR · FAO · UN-Habitat · IOM · AfghanAid · RI · WHH · DRC · ZOA · DRC · MORR · MOEW · MRRD · MOUPD · IDLG · MOJ · ARAZI · MOWA · MOE · MOLSAMD · KM
- Level of food security improves
FAO · MADERA · DRC · MORR · MRRD · MAIL · ANDMA · MOUPD · UNHCR · MOLSAMD
- High return areas enjoy new infrastructure and rural development
MRRD · ZOA
- Returnees receive drug related HIV prevention and treatment services
UNODC · MOPH

**Outcome 4:
Social and environmental protection, resettlement**

(USD 24,361,625)

Key Elements and Partners

- Sustainability of return and reintegration is enhanced through monitoring and promotion of human rights
UNHCR · DRC · MORR · MRRD · MOEW · MOUPD · IDLG · KM · MOE · MOPH · UNICEF · UNDP
- Financial education, savings and remittance products are available to returnees
ILO
- Social and environmental conditions improve for returnees and host communities
FAO · DRC · MAIL · MORR · MOE
- Risk of gender-based violence is reduced, victims receive adequate protection and assistance
UNHCR · MORR · MOWA
- Documentation lends proper legal status to returnees, access to land, property and housing is enhanced
UNHCR · NRC · UN-Habitat · MORR · MOWA · DOJ · OHW · AIHRC · MOUPD · IDLG · MOEW · MRRD · MOJ · ARAZI · MOWA · MOE · KM
- Risks related to mines and other explosive remnants of war are reduced
UNMAS · ANDMA

**Outcome 5:
Capacity development**

(USD 6,479,578)

Key Elements and Partners

- Improve contingency planning, build resilience and reduce disaster risks by enhancing the capacity of institutions to develop policy and response strategies
UN-Habitat · MORR · MOUPD · IDLG · MOJ · ARAZI · KM
- Strengthen the reintegration monitoring system and enhance data collection and exchange
DRC · NRC · MORR · UNHCR
- Enhance local capacity to assist victims of gender-based violence
DRC · MOUPD · MORR · MOEW · MOJ · ARAZI · MOWA
- Mobilise the community towards the goals of reintegration, build confidence and resolve conflicts
ZOA · SDO
- Enhance the capacities of Government entities, non-governmental actors and farming communities to support farming initiatives
FAO · MAIL · MRRD

- AIHRC:** Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
- ANDMA:** Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
- ARAZI:** Afghanistan Land Authority
- DACAAR:** Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
- DOJ:** Department of Justice
- DRC:** Danish Refugee Council
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization
- GIZ:** Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- IDLG:** Independent Directorate of Local Governance
- ILO:** International Labour Organization
- IOM:** International Organization for Migration
- KM:** Kabul Municipality
- MADERA:** Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan
- MAIL:** Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
- MOE:** Ministry of Education
- MOEW:** Ministry of Energy and Water
- MOJ:** Ministry of Justice
- MOLSAMD:** Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled
- MOPH:** Ministry of Public Health
- MORR:** Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
- MOUPD:** Ministry of Urban Planning and Development
- MOWA:** Ministry of Women's Affairs
- MRRD:** Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
- NRC:** Norwegian Refugee Council
- OHW:** Organisation for Human Welfare
- RI:** Relief International
- SDO:** Sanayee Development Organization
- 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
- UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund
- UNMAS:** United Nations Mine Action Service
- UNODC:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- WHH:** Welthungerhilfe
- ZOA:** Relief, Hope Recovery (Dutch non-governmental organization)

Legend

- Lead Agency
- Partners

**Outcome 1:
Voluntary repatriation**

(USD 7,619,901)

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
RI

**Outcome 2:
Access to essential services and shelter**

(USD 102,694,176)

Key Elements and Partners

- Quality healthcare is extended to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · MOH · BDCO · COH · HAMI · IRAC · MAHAK · UNFPA · UNHCR
- Education is provided to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · MOE · HAMI · IRAC · NRC · UNHCR · WFP
- Shelter, water and sanitation, and infrastructure are available to refugees and host communities
BAFIA · UNHCR · NRC
- Refugees receive basic domestic and food items
IRAC · NRC · UNHCR · WFP

**Outcome 3:
Livelihoods and food security**

(USD 22,540,207)

Key Elements and Partners

- Diversified livelihood opportunities are available to both refugees and host communities
BAFIA · FRWO · SWO · TVTO · DRC · IRAC · NRC · UNDP · UNIDO · UNHCR · WRF
- Refugees and host communities receive targeted vocational and skills development trainings
BAFIA · SWO · TVTO · DRC · HAMI · NRC · RI · RS · UNDP · UNIDO · WRF
- Food security improves
BAFIA · UNHCR

**Outcome 4:
Social and environmental protection, resettlement**

(USD 16,764,203)

Key Elements and Partners

- Refugees have access to individual documentation and legal assistance; registration, profiling and reception conditions are improved
BAFIA · UNHCR · NRC
- 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 · SWO · APCL · DRC · HA · NRC · ODVV · RI · UNHCR
- 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 · FRWO · HAMI · UNESCO · UNHCR

**Outcome 5:
Capacity development**

(USD 474,974)

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
Secretariat of the National Steering Committee (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

Legend



**Outcome 1:
Voluntary repatriation**

(USD 6,043,481)

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 215,763,767)

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 58,657,750)

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

**Outcome 4:
Social and environmental protection, resettlement**

(USD 82,180,898)

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
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province · FAO · UNDP · UNESCO · UN-Habitat · UNHCR · WHO

**Outcome 5:
Capacity development**

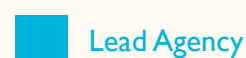
(USD 4,754,906)

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

Legend



Lead Agency

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



Photo: UNDP

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees working for :

Education livelihoods
youth empowerment
skills training **health**

Published by UNHCR
UNHCR © 2014