



HIGHLIGHTS

2,054

Refugees repatriated in 2015

723

Refugees departed for resettlement in 2015

348,226*

Afghan and Iraqi students enrolled in the 2014-2015 academic year

828

Refugees enrolled in vocational training courses in 2015

Population of concern

A total of **979,410**** people

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	951,142
Iraq	28,268
Total	979,410

Funding

USD 72.8 Million requested

USD 10.2 Million contributions

14% funded

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

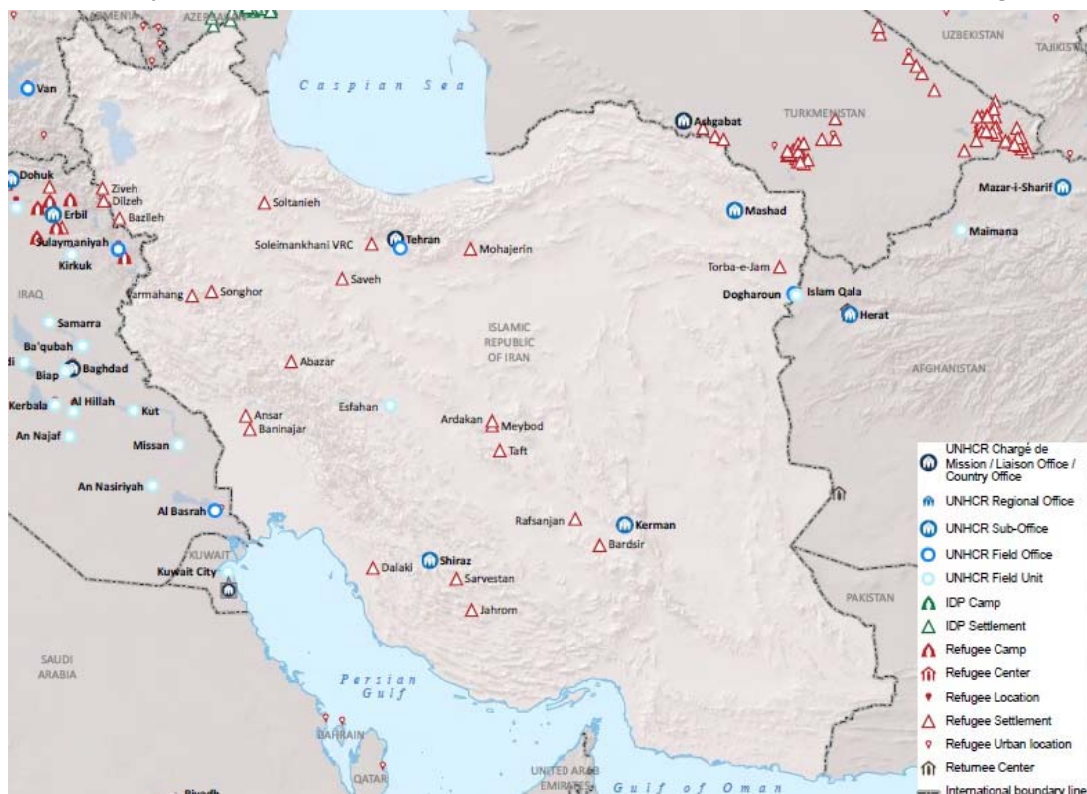
Regular: **100** national/**12** international

Affiliated-Project: **36** national/**2** international

Offices:

6 offices located in:

Tehran, Kerman, Mashhad, Shiraz, Esfahan, Dogharoun



* Not all Afghan and Iraqi students enrolled are Amayesh card holders.

** Based on the Amayesh 9 re-registration exercise in 2013.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR is collaborating with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) as UNHCR's main Government counterpart in addition to cooperation with other partners: Governmental: the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO), Ministry of Education (MoE), Literacy Movement Organization (LMO), Ministry of Health (MoH), State Welfare Organization of Iran (SWO), Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO); National NGOs: Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMI), Chain of Hope (CoH), Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK), Society for Recovery Support (SRS), Rebirth Charity Organization (Rebirth), World Relief Foundation (WRF), Kowsar Scientific and Cultural Foundations (Kowsar); International NGOs: Iraqi Refugee Aid Council (IRAC), Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO); UN Agencies: UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). UNHCR also coordinates with a number sister UN agencies, as well as NGOs and international organizations directly under the umbrella of the SSAR.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

- The SSAR is a regional, multi-year strategy for voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries endorsed by the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Five outcomes guide the Strategy in Iran: 1. Voluntary repatriation; 2. Essential Services and Shelter; 3. Livelihood and Food Security; 4. Protection and Resettlement; and, 5. Coordination and Support.
- National Steering Committee endorsed the 2015-16 Portfolio of Projects on 26 August with recommended revisions. It will be presented alongside the Afghanistan and Pakistan portfolio at the High Level Segment on the Afghan refugee situation during the 2015 Executive Committee annual meeting.

Protection

- Registration* – The Government of Iran is responsible for refugee registration and status determination, it undertakes annual re-registration of refugees under the Amayesh Scheme, through which refugees are provided with Amayesh cards. The cards enable refugees to access basic services, and facilitate the issuance of work permits to refugees.
- Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep)* – UNHCR maintains two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in the country and a Field Unit in Dogharoun near the border with Afghanistan, to assist with the return of Afghan refugees. Due to continued instability and insecurity, lack of basic services and limited sustainable livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan, VolRep numbers are low.
- Resettlement* – For 2015, UNHCR has a quota to resettle 500 refugees. Resettlement in Iran addresses mainly the needs of only the most vulnerable refugees with serious protection concerns.

Education

- In 2015, UNHCR has committed to support the Government with the construction of three schools to benefit the refugee and host communities. Additionally, UNHCR, through partnership with Literacy Movement Organization (LMO), is providing literacy classes for 3,000 adults and over-aged children.
- In line with the UNHCR's Global Education Strategy and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR supports access to primary and secondary education, and addresses the needs of the most vulnerable refugees.
- Through DAFI program and as per previous years' practice, UNHCR is financially supporting students at tertiary level. In 2015, there are 182 on-going students and based on the budget allocated and possibility of addition of budget, a certain number of DAFI students might be added to the list this year.

Health

- Primary Health Care (PHC)* – UNHCR complements efforts of Ministry of Health in providing PHC services to all refugees, including vaccinations, antenatal care, maternal and child health, and family planning.
- Other UNHCR joint interventions with partners include medical referral, harm reduction, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR).
- Health Insurance Scheme (HISE)* – Further to signing of the MOU by the three ministers of Health, Interior and Labor, UNHCR is currently in the process of final discussions, on the modalities and implementation mechanisms, for the inclusion of the documented refugees within the Universal Public Health Insurance scheme in collaboration with BAFIA, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the Iran Health Insurance Organization, the Management and Planning Organization, and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In recent years there has been a positive shift in the Government's view towards the introduction of livelihood and vocational training programmes. The Government has recognized the importance of ensuring that refugees have the education and skills to earn a living upon returning to their country of origin, while also enabling them to contribute to society during their stay in Iran.
- UNHCR in joint collaboration with the Government and partners such as TVTO, FRWO, Kowsar, NICCO, and BAFIA continues implementation of diverse livelihood interventions, which include technical and vocational training on more than 40 occupations (such as welding, plumbing and tailoring), the establishment of home-based enterprises, access to revolving and micro credit loans, and the provision of equipment for income-generating activities while looking into possible cross border initiatives and interventions.
- UNHCR supports direct and joint interventions with partners at three different levels (policy, organisation, and individual/community) to enhance self-reliance and economic conditions of persons of concern to potentially facilitate the achievement of durable solutions.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous global contributions of donors in 2015 as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the Iran operation: [Denmark](#) | [European Union \(DG DEVCO and DG ECHO\)](#) | [Japan](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Russian Federation](#)