



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

GLOBAL APPEAL 2015 UPDATE



Planned presence

Number of offices	5
Total personnel	125
International staff	11
National staff	104
JPOs	2
Others	8

2015 plan at a glance*

982,070	Registered refugees
USD 73 million	Overall funding requirements
20,000	Afghan refugees estimated to depart for voluntary repatriation
1,096	Afghan refugees estimated to depart for resettlement countries

* All PoC figures refer to projected 2015 end-year information at time of planning (mid-2014)

| Overview |

Working environment

- Despite the voluntary return of hundreds of thousands of Afghan and Iraqi refugees to their countries of origin during the past decade, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains host to one of the world's largest and most protracted refugee populations.
- Between January 2002 and June 2014, UNHCR assisted 918,263 Afghans in voluntarily returning home from the Islamic Republic of Iran. A total of 30,349 Iraqi refugees have been assisted to repatriate voluntarily since 2003. However, the number of people who have returned in 2013-2014 is lower than in previous years, so they require continued assistance.
- The global economic downturn, removal of subsidies, and intensified international sanctions have caused hyperinflation, affected the delivery of basic services, and resulted in a dramatic rise in living costs in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Some 24 per cent of registered refugees are considered vulnerable, a rate that is expected to increase due to the economic situation.
- Sanctions also continue to negatively impact UNHCR's ability to provide humanitarian assistance in an effective and timely manner. High inflation rates have substantial consequences for both the operation and partners.

- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran plays an active role in the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). This strategy promotes a holistic approach to enhancing prospects of sustainable returns and attaining a permanent solution for the protracted refugee situation.
- The Government is the primary contributor to the country's refugee programmes through its ministries. Additional support is provided through semi-governmental organizations and social charities.

People of concern

The main populations of concern to UNHCR in 2015 in the Islamic Republic of Iran include Afghan refugees, the majority of whom arrived before 2001 as *prima facie* refugees. About 97 per cent of the country's refugees live in rural and urban areas; only three per cent live in settlements. Following the comprehensive registration programme of refugees in 2001, all Afghan asylum-seekers are required to have their refugee status determined on an individual basis through the government refugee status determination (RSD) procedure.

Also of concern are Iraqi refugees, most of whom were registered in 2002 as *prima facie* refugees. New Iraqi asylum-seekers are now also required to have their refugee status determined individually through the government RSD procedure. The majority of newly arrived Iraqi refugees originate from central Iraq.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2015		Dec 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Afghanistan	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000
	Iraq	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
	Pakistan	10	10	10	10
	Various	60	60	60	60
Asylum-seekers	Afghanistan	40	40	40	40
	Pakistan	10	10	10	10
Total		982,120	982,120	982,120	982,120

| Response |

Needs and strategies

The organization will aim to bolster the country's asylum space by supporting the Government, and will support building refugees' human capital in preparation for a sustainable return to their country of origin or to a third country.

The programme focuses on health, education, livelihood generation and durable solutions. Hence, projects will empower refugees to contribute to reconstructing Afghanistan and facilitate their reintegration upon eventual return. The implementation of cross-border initiatives will help prioritize projects and initiatives to increase their impact.

UNHCR will enhance its interventions in urban areas, where most vulnerable refugees reside. Future interventions in settlements will take into account the urgency of assistance, cost-effectiveness, and protection concerns. Interventions in settlements will be streamlined to ensure assistance does not become a pull-factor increasing the population, but rather improves the standard of living of existing residents and promotes peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Main objectives and targets for 2015

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2015.

Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what - under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process - has been planned (**Planned activities**) for particular groups of people of concern (**People of concern**);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (**2015 comprehensive target**); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (**Potential gap**). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context,

strategic priorities and experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (priority area). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2015, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2015 comprehensive target	Potential gap
BASIC NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES			
Health status of the population improved			
The Ministry of Health will be UNHCR's main implementing partner in 2015 when providing primary health care to refugees. The organization will support the authorities to ensure refugees can continue to access free preventive care and are included in new policy programmes, such as the family physician programme.			
A health insurance scheme for refugees will continue to complement the Office's existing health interventions, alleviating the burden of expensive hospitalization costs on vulnerable refugees. Extremely vulnerable cases may be assisted by UNHCR directly or through NGOs.			
Number of people referred to secondary and tertiary medical care	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	124,763	74,763
Extent to which health insurance scheme is established to improve refugee access to health services	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	55%	42%
Population has optimal access to education			
The Ministry of Education will remain UNHCR's main counterpart to improve access of refugees to education, including through: the construction of educational units and schools, the provision of literacy classes and equipment for schools hosting large numbers of refugees, and other related projects.			
Number of educational facilities constructed or improved	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	8	priority area
Number of PoC enrolled in literacy classes	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	5,000	1,645

Planned activities	People of concern (PoC)	2015 comprehensive target	Potential gap
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE			
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved			
Refugees in both urban areas and settlements face the high cost of, and restricted access to vocational-skills training and tertiary education, low wages, as well as limited access to employment opportunities, and mandatory work permits.			
Market-driven technical and vocational education and training, loans, and income-generating tools, offer vital opportunities to enhance the refugee community's human capital, particularly of vulnerable people, and diversify their livelihood options ahead of their reintegration in their country of origin.			
UNHCR plans to continue addressing related needs through partnerships with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, and others.			
Number of PoC enrolled in formal national institutions for certified skills training	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,222	702
Number of small business associations formed / supported	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	200	39
DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Potential for voluntary return realized			
UNHCR will continue sharing information and improving verification that individual returns are voluntary, to ensure that all refugees can make informed return decisions and are assisted if they do return.			
Number of verifications of voluntary return	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	20,000	11,000
Number of people reached by mass information campaigns	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	120,000	2,619
Potential for resettlement realized			
An estimated 87,000 Afghan refugees need resettlement: UNHCR aims to process approximately 2,500 of them a year, as this will also significantly impact burden sharing and help maintain protection space.			
Number of resettlement registration forms submitted	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	2,495	0 gap
Number of people for whom UNHCR made interventions to facilitate their departures	Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers	1,096	0 gap

| Implementation |

Coordination

The Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs, which has the overall responsibility for coordinating refugee affairs in cooperation with other line ministries, remains UNHCR's main partner when implementing activities and coordinating with other actors.

The Office will continue to coordinate with WFP to support vulnerable refugees in settlements with food.

With UNIDO, the Technical and Vocational Training Organization, Forest Range and Watershed Management Organization, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development and World Relief Foundation, UNHCR seeks to implement livelihood projects.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education will continue to be UNHCR's main partner concerning education; while activities will also be jointly implemented with UNICEF and NGOs.

The Ministry of Health will remain the key actor in providing health services; however, activities for people of concern with specific needs will continue to rely on other implementing partners such as the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, the State Welfare Organization of Iran, Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children, Society for Recovery Support, and Iraqi Refugee Aid Council.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (Ministry of the Interior), Forests Range and Watershed Management Organization (Ministry of Agriculture), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, State Welfare Organization of Iran, Technical and Vocational Training Organization

NGOs:

Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children, Chain of Hope, Iraqi Refugee Aid Council, Kowsar Scientific and Cultural Foundation, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Rebirth Charity Organization, Society for Recovery Support, Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer, World Relief Foundation

Others:

UNIDO, UNOPS

Operational partners

NGOs:

Association for Protection of Child Labourers, *Behnam Daheshpour* Charity Organisation, Danish Refugee Council, Humanitarian Ambassadors Organisation, International Consortium for Refugees in Iran, Norwegian Refugee Council, Relief International

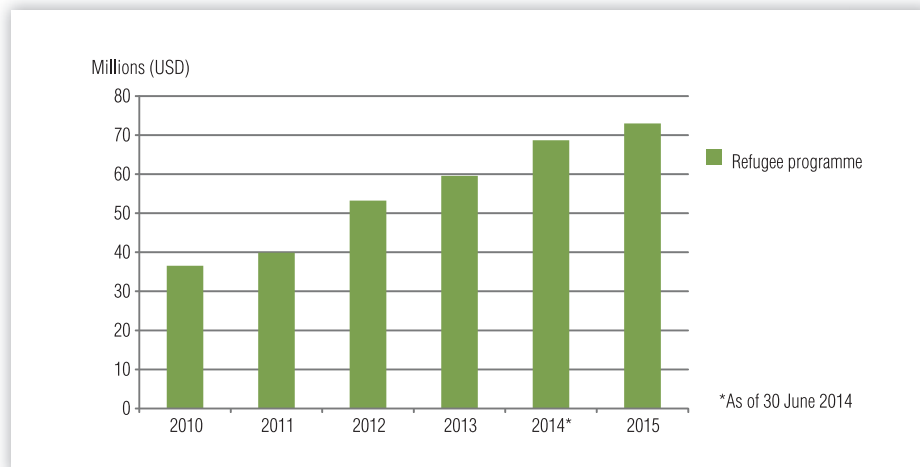
Others:

IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, WFP

| Financial information |

During the past five years, UNHCR's budget in the Islamic Republic of Iran has gradually increased to better address the needs of Afghan and Iraqi refugees. In 2015, the operation's budget totals USD 73 million, amounting to 6.3 per cent (USD 4.3 million) more than in 2014.

Budgets for the Islamic Republic of Iran | 2010–2015



2015 budget for the Islamic Republic of Iran | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
2014 revised budget (as of 30 June 2014)	68,669,442	68,669,442
Favourable protection environment		
Law and policy	258,813	258,813
Access to legal assistance and remedies	748,558	748,558
Public attitude towards people of concern	420,626	420,626
Subtotal	1,427,997	1,427,997
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Reception conditions	418,465	418,465
Registration and profiling	281,894	281,894
Status determination procedures	312,070	312,070
Subtotal	1,012,428	1,012,428
Security from violence and exploitation		
Prevention and response to SGBV	769,892	769,892
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	164,013	164,013
Protection of children	156,313	156,313
Subtotal	1,090,218	1,090,218
Basic needs and essential services		
Health	22,653,690	22,653,690
Water	1,618,963	1,618,963
Sanitation and hygiene	753,813	753,813
Shelter and infrastructure	3,236,388	3,236,388
Basic and domestic items	7,207,626	7,207,626
Services for people with specific needs	7,317,461	7,317,461
Education	10,668,244	10,668,244
Subtotal	53,456,186	53,456,186
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Coexistence with local communities	204,291	204,291
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	7,039,060	7,039,060
Subtotal	7,243,351	7,243,351
Durable solutions		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	923,557	923,557
Voluntary return	3,314,817	3,314,817
Resettlement	1,685,041	1,685,041
Subtotal	5,923,415	5,923,415
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Donor relations and resource mobilization	324,626	324,626
Subtotal	324,626	324,626
Logistics and operations support		
Logistics and supply	323,489	323,489
Operations management, coordination and support	2,200,072	2,200,072
Subtotal	2,523,560	2,523,560
2015 total budget	73,001,782	73,001,782