



# South-West Asia

## Major Developments

For the first months of 2001, Afghanistan continued to experience the devastating effects of drought, human rights abuses, and continued conflict between the Taliban and Northern Alliance. Prior to September, attempts by the United Nations and donor governments to bring the warring Afghan factions to the negotiating table had failed. Despite this, some 21,000 refugees returned from Pakistan with UNHCR assistance. They were mostly Pashtuns who said they were going back to Afghanistan because they could no longer afford to live in Pakistan, where employment opportunities were becoming increasingly rare, and because they feared being deported. At the same time, more than 140,000 Afghans returned spontaneously from the Islamic Republic of Iran, without seeking assistance from UNHCR.

Others, however, continued to flee to neighbouring countries in search of assistance. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, meanwhile, adopted a closed border policy and deported Afghans who did not have the required travel documents.

Afghanistan  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Pakistan

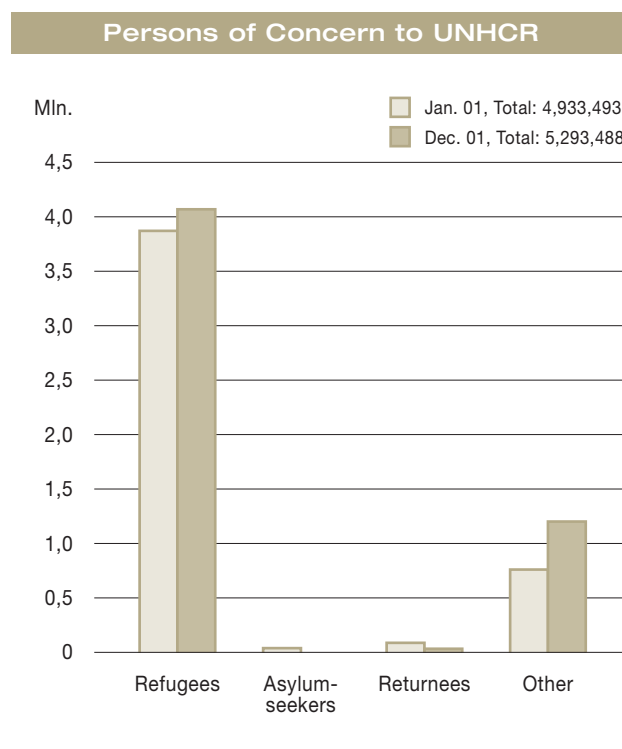


In the spring, in an apparent bid to deter Afghans from entering Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan stopped transferring newly arrived Afghans from a makeshift camp at Jalozi, where conditions were very bad, to more suitable locations. Following an intervention by the UN Secretary General, a visit by the High Commissioner, and a relentless international media campaign, the Government of Pakistan eventually agreed to allow UNHCR and NGO partners to provide assistance to the new arrivals in Jalozi.

After 11 September and the subsequent US-led coalition’s military intervention in Afghanistan, UNHCR and its partners prepared for an anticipated exodus of some 1.5 million refugees and vigorously advocated for an open border policy with all neighbouring States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to maintain its closed border policy and did not record any new Afghan arrivals after 11 September. After initial reluctance, the Government of Pakistan ultimately responded positively to requests to allow vulnera-

ble cases to enter the country, authorising UNHCR to establish a pre-registration camp near the border at Chaman, and to move new arrivals to new camps



in Baluchistan. It is estimated that some 250,000 people fled to Pakistan. At the end of the year, the Government also allowed the transfer of refugees from the Jalozai camp and from urban centres to new camps in North West Frontier Province.

## Challenges and Concerns

In the first part of the year, the military and political stalemate within Afghanistan, combined with drought and devastation of the country as a whole, continued to hamper efforts to find durable solutions to the plight of the Afghan refugees.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, UNHCR faced difficulties in upholding its protection mandate, particularly in attempting to persuade these Governments to relax their strict policy on new arrivals.

In September, the focus of the international community was on Afghanistan, and donors responded positively to appeals for funds for the anticipated refugee exodus. Meanwhile, all international staff were withdrawn to offices in neighbouring countries, and national staff did their best to continue with the programme, security permitting.

The evacuated staff, backed up by emergency teams and with support from offices in neighbouring countries, worked to stockpile relief items and to identify and prepare camp sites. They also tried to establish temporary protection measures, by advocating open borders and negotiating with the authorities to ensure that people fleeing the war and persecution could find temporary refuge in the surrounding countries.

At the end of the year, all the old assumptions were jettisoned. The apparent collapse of the Taliban and the signing of the Bonn Agreement establishing the Interim Administration brought a new spirit of optimism, and generous international offers of help to set Afghanistan back on its feet.



Pakistan: Having fled the violence in their country, Afghan refugees are seen here at a camp in neighbouring Pakistan. *UNHCR*

UNHCR's focus shifted from preparing to receive and assist huge numbers of new arrivals in the neighbouring asylum countries, to preparation for a mass return into Afghanistan, and assistance for IDPs. While much attention was directed to Afghanistan, the situation in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to merit attention. In addition to the large numbers of refugees already hosted by these countries prior to the events of 11 September, UNHCR was assisting 250,000 Afghans believed to have fled into Pakistan during the military campaign.

## Progress Toward Solutions

While UNHCR continues to provide assistance to refugees who are living in refugee camps, towns and villages in countries of asylum, voluntary repatriation remains the most likely durable solution to the Afghan refugee situation. The neighbouring countries remain extremely reluctant to consider local integration despite evidence of a sizeable number of refugees having successfully integrated into the local population.

It is now anticipated that the hope of relative peace and stability in Afghanistan will pave the way for a major voluntary repatriation from neighbouring asylum countries as well as their reintegration back into their country of origin.



UNHCR's assistance in Afghanistan will focus on supporting the new Government in the establishment and implementation of a legal framework covering the rights of returnees, and in supporting initial reintegration via quick impact projects to ensure water supplies and shelter. UNHCR is relying on organisations with specific expertise in sectors such as health and education to meet returnees' needs, but has set aside funds to intervene in areas where no other agency comes forward.

## Operations

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

## Funding

For many years the protracted nature of the Afghan refugee crisis and the lack of progress towards any kind of solution prior to the fall of the Taliban and the signing of the Bonn agreement in December 2001, led to a mounting sense of frustration among many donors. This translated into reduced funding. Thus, UNHCR has repeatedly been forced to cut its budget for the Afghan refugees. The picture changed significantly during the latter months of 2001. Expecting a large refugee outflow from Afghanistan, as a result of the military strikes after 11 September, UNHCR issued a new appeal for funds. Many donors responded rapidly and generously to this emergency appeal.

Voluntary Contributions - Restricted (USD)					
Donor	Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Annual Programme Budget		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
Action Réfugiés (FRA)	South-West Asia	750	750	382,906	382,906
Individual Donor (UK)	South-West Asia	0	0	250,000	250,000
Individual Donor (SWI)	South-West Asia	0	0	500,000	500,000
Argentina con ACNUR (ARG)	South-West Asia	0	0	4,509	4,509
Australia	South-West Asia	1,284,027	1,284,027	1,951,220	1,951,220
Australia for UNHCR (AUL)	South-West Asia	0	0	43,663	43,663
Canada	Pakistan	400,000	400,000	1,915,174	1,915,174
Chile	South-West Asia	0	0	20,000	20,000
China	Pakistan	0	0	62,700	62,700
Czech Republic	South-West Asia	0	0	107,325	107,325
Denmark	South-West Asia	1,438,849	1,438,849	3,983,689	3,983,689
Deutsche Stiftung (GFR)	Islamic Republic of Iran	57,873	57,873	0	0
	Pakistan	46,994	46,994	601,398	601,398
	South-West Asia	0	0	245,871	245,871
Egyptian Fed. for Construction and Building Contractors (ARE)	Pakistan	0	0	7,475	7,475
El-Eslah Society of Bahrain (BAH)	Pakistan	13,000	13,000	15,000	15,000
España con ACNUR (SPA)	South-West Asia	0	0	203,835	432,895
European Commission	Afghanistan	680,272	680,272	0	0
	Islamic Republic of Iran	1,740,812	1,740,812	0	0
	Pakistan	2,625,010	2,625,075	1,836,545	1,836,547
Finland	Afghanistan	462,478	462,478	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	772,213	772,213
Finnish Ref. Council (FIN)	South-West Asia	0	0	15,290	15,290
France	Islamic Republic of Iran	469,822	469,822	0	0
	Pakistan	469,822	469,822	0	0
Germany	Afghanistan	328,957	328,957	2,324,057	2,324,057
	Islamic Republic of Iran	234,753	234,753	0	0
	Pakistan	1,626,794	1,626,794	4,195,229	4,195,229
	South-West Asia	0	0	4,460,303	4,460,303
Giorgio Armani (ITA)	South-West Asia	0	0	164,327	164,327
Greece	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0	0	7,500	7,500
	Pakistan	0	0	14,050	14,050
	South-West Asia	0	0	500,000	500,000
Husain Afsar, Mr. & Mrs. (PAK)	Afghanistan	100,000	100,000	0	0
Indonesia	Pakistan	0	0	20,000	20,000
Int. Islamic Relief (SAU)	Pakistan	10,000	10,000	0	0
Ireland	South-West Asia	0	0	349,789	349,789
Islamic Association of Bahrain (BAH)	Pakistan	10,000	10,000	0	0
Italy	Afghanistan	0	0	84,599	84,599
	Islamic Republic of Iran	5,137,606	5,137,606	0	0
	Pakistan	442,550	442,550	134,838	134,838
	South-West Asia	0	0	7,113,725	7,113,725
Japan	Afghanistan	2,780,000	2,780,000	0	0
	Islamic Republic of Iran	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0
	Pakistan	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,135,010	2,135,010
	South-West Asia	450,000	450,000	4,411,312	4,411,312

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Japan Association for UNHCR (JPN)	South-West Asia	0	0	684,759	684,759
Jordanian Hashemite Charity Org. (JOR)	Pakistan	0	0	171,430	171,430
Kuwait	Pakistan	0	0	246,445	246,445
Latvia	South-West Asia	0	0	18,022	18,022
Liechtenstein	South-West Asia	0	0	62,112	62,112
Lithuania	South-West Asia	0	0	12,500	12,500
Luxembourg	Pakistan	212,419	212,419	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	341,451	341,451
Malaysia	Pakistan	0	0	66,255	66,255
Monaco	South-West Asia	0	0	91,827	91,827
Morocco	Pakistan	0	0	117,608	117,608
Myochikai Arigatou Found. (JPN)	South-West Asia	0	0	83,333	83,333
Netherlands	South-West Asia	0	0	5,000,333	5,000,333
Norway	Pakistan	449,438	449,438	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	5,444,452	5,444,452
Onnuri Church (KOR)	South-West Asia	0	0	15,500	15,500
OPEC Fund	Pakistan	200,000	200,000	0	0
“Pavarotti and Friends” (ITA)	Pakistan	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	4,599	4,599
Private Donors Australia	South-West Asia	0	0	494	494
Private Donors Austria	South-West Asia	0	0	7,049	7,049
Private Donors Canada	South-West Asia	0	0	15,390	15,390
Private Donors China	South-West Asia	0	0	500	500
Private Donors Cyprus	Afghanistan	0	0	1,465	1,465
Private Donors France	South-West Asia	0	0	243	243
Private Donors Germany	South-West Asia	0	0	511	511
Private Donors Greece	South-West Asia	0	0	33,768	33,768
Private Donors Hong Kong SAR, China	South-West Asia	0	0	513	513
Private Donors Islamic Rep. of Iran	South-West Asia	0	0	251	251
Private Donors Italy	Afghanistan	9,340	9,340	0	0
	Pakistan	665,749	665,749	0	0
	South-West Asia	810,545	810,545	1,832,537	1,832,537
Private Donors Japan	South-West Asia	6,103	6,103	0	0
Private Donors Korea	South-West Asia	0	0	501	501
Private Donors Luxembourg	South-West Asia	0	0	1,399	1,399
Private Donors Malaysia	South-West Asia	0	0	5,000	5,000
Private Donors Mexico	South-West Asia	0	0	1,222	1,222
Private Donors Netherlands	South-West Asia	0	0	27,777	27,777
Private Donors Pakistan	South-West Asia	0	0	1,816	1,816
Private Donors Portugal	South-West Asia	0	0	2,226	2,226
Private Donors Singapore	South-West Asia	0	0	1,648	1,648
Private Donors Sweden	South-West Asia	0	0	2,796	2,796
Private Donors Switzerland	South-West Asia	0	0	56,480	56,480
Private Donors United Kingdom	South-West Asia	0	0	3,042	3,042
Private Donors United States of America	South-West Asia	0	0	16,615	16,615
Republic of Korea	South-West Asia	0	0	516,146	516,146
Save the Children Sweden	Pakistan	20,849	20,849	0	0
Singapore	South-West Asia	0	0	35,000	35,000
Slovakia	South-West Asia	0	0	131,658	131,658

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Voluntary Contributions – Restricted (USD)					
Donor	Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
Sokka Gakkai Youth Peace Conf. (JPN)	South-West Asia	0	0	100,000	100,000
Spain	Afghanistan	0	0	160,556	160,556
	South-West Asia	0	0	321,111	321,111
<i>Stichting Hartekreet</i> (NET)	South-West Asia	0	0	20,000	20,000
Sweden	Afghanistan	0	0	463,822	463,822
	South-West Asia	0	0	934,579	934,579
Switzerland	Islamic Republic of Iran	581,395	581,395	0	0
	Pakistan	290,698	290,698	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	952,597	952,597
The Qaddafi Internat. Found. For Charity Association (LYB)	Pakistan	0	0	752,030	752,030
Tunisian Red Crescent Society	South-West Asia	0	0	50,000	50,000
United Kingdom	South-West Asia	0	0	4,181,295	4,181,295
UK for UNHCR (GBR)	Afghanistan	0	0	2,854	2,854
	Islamic Republic of Iran	9,709	9,709	0	0
	South-West Asia	0	0	163,437	163,437
UN Women's Guild, Vienna (AUS)	Pakistan	8,289	8,289	0	0
UNFPA	Pakistan	33,781	33,781	0	0
United States of America	Islamic Republic of Iran	400,000	400,000	0	0
	Pakistan	1,150,000	1,150,000	141,592	141,592
	South-West Asia	12,361,700	12,361,700	14,000,000	14,000,000
USA for UNHCR (USA)	Pakistan	30,990	30,990	1,383,200	1,383,200
Venezuela	South-West Asia	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
World Conf. on Religion (JPN)	Afghanistan	56,323	56,323	0	0
<b>TOTAL<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>43,607,697</b>	<b>43,607,762</b>	<b>78,517,298</b>	<b>78,746,360</b>

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

<sup>2</sup> Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unrestricted voluntary contributions, lightly restricted contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

Budget and Expenditure (USD)						
Country	Revised Budget			Expenditure		
	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total
Afghanistan	8,777,878	8,083,898	16,861,776	7,337,774	5,669,434	13,007,208
Islamic Republic of Iran	15,961,971	2,628,250	18,590,221	12,962,894	1,388,056	14,350,950
Pakistan	21,078,681	14,124,628	35,203,309	16,952,370	10,603,078	27,555,448
Regional Projects <sup>1</sup>	434,500	23,058,644	23,493,144	285,000	20,858,343	21,143,343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,253,030</b>	<b>47,895,420</b>	<b>94,148,450</b>	<b>37,538,038</b>	<b>38,518,911</b>	<b>76,056,949</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes scholarships for refugee students (Annual Programme Budget) and international procurement of non-food items for the Afghan Situation (Supplementary Programme Budget).