



South-West Asia

Major developments

In 2004, the third year of assisted return to Afghanistan, approximately 761,000 people repatriated to the country. The return of more than 3.4 million Afghan refugees since 2002, more than three million of them with UNHCR's assistance, was the outcome of a successful partnership between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the international community. Factors favouring the successful implementation of the repatriation and reintegration programmes included the presidential elections, the formation of the national army and the police, accelerated demobilization and disarmament as well as the strengthening of regional trade relationships.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR reoriented its assistance programmes towards repatriation: the preferred solution for most Afghan refugees. This has involved adjustments to UNHCR's assistance programmes in the health and education sectors. In view of insecurity in Iraq, relatively few Iraqi refugees opted for voluntary repatriation.

In Pakistan, the emergency camps established after September 2001 were successfully closed in

Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Pakistan

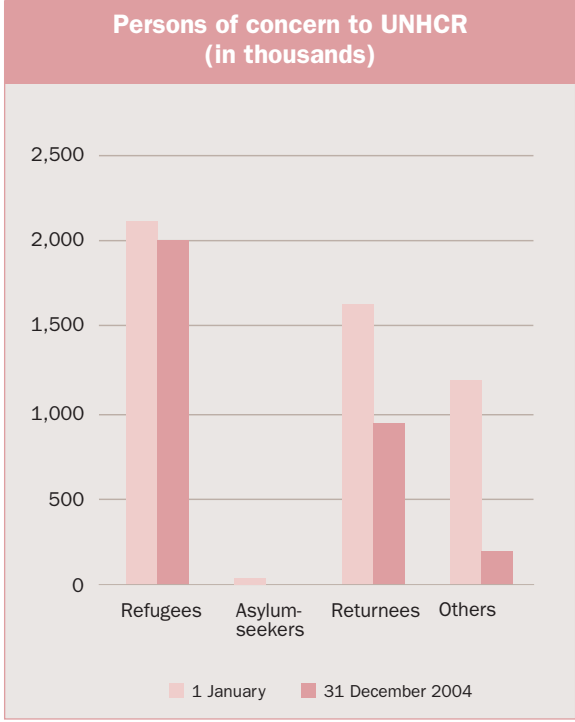


mid-2004 despite security problems: 44 per cent of the residents chose to return to Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a planned census of all Afghans who arrived in Pakistan after 1 December 1979.

Within the framework of the Tripartite Agreements, UNHCR continued to work with all Governments involved to ensure respect for the principle of 'gradualism and voluntariness' of return. However, in the

Challenges and concerns

Although Afghanistan has recovered significantly, economic and social conditions inside the country remained difficult. As a consequence, building adequate incentives for the voluntary repatriation of the remaining Afghan population remains a daunting task. More focused and additional efforts will need to be directed at some key sectors, such as housing and job creation, to ensure sustainable reintegration. The threat from extremist elements persisted and much of the country remained insecure. In the absence of effective public institutions, it has been almost impossible to combat lawlessness and human rights abuses, or increase the reach and impact of public services.



Pakistan: A family packing up to leave Dara 2 camp, Chaman, near the border with Afghanistan. *UNHCR/J. Redden*

Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government adopted a series of measures to accelerate the pace of return, including a more stringent enforcement of employment legislation and stricter requirements for access to health and education. In Pakistan, security concerns disrupted repatriation operations and limited access to refugees.

Progress towards solutions

With the Tripartite Agreements for voluntary repatriation from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan currently due to expire in March 2005 and 2006 respectively, UNHCR has been seeking alternative solutions for Afghans who will remain in their countries of asylum after these dates. Afghanistan Plus is an initiative launched by UNHCR in 2003 to develop a comprehensive policy framework and innovative measures for the future management of population movements to and from Afghanistan. In 2004, the Office continued to engage the Governments of the

region, donors, NGOs and technical assistance agencies in Tripartite Commission meetings, bilateral exchanges and international consultations. The relevant Governments have participated cautiously in the Afghanistan Plus process, maintaining that voluntary repatriation should be the preferred solution. Nevertheless, they do acknowledge that the nature of population movements has changed and that other approaches will become necessary for those who do not choose to repatriate. Cooperation with ILO and IOM and with local research institutes in the region yielded sharper insights into population movements, migration related livelihoods and trans-national networks.

Operations

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

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
Afghanistan			
	<i>Amitié sans frontières</i>	39,788	0
	<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR</i>	51,090	0
	Australia	3,514,329	0
	Australia for UNHCR	426,970	0
	Austria	663,130	0
	Denmark	940,171	0
	European Commission	10,760,568	0
	Finland	497,512	0
	France	397,878	0
	Germany	2,003,702	0
	Greece	156,000	0
	Italy	612,745	0
	Japan	2,411,440	0
	Japan Association for UNHCR	446,217	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Canada	131,698	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Greece	73,290	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Italy	239,767	0
	Netherlands	4,443,000	0
	Norway	1,756,129	0
	Sheikha Fatima Fund for Refugee Women-Children	107,600	0
	Spain	171,907	0
	Switzerland	2,190,634	0
	UK for UNHCR	114,296	0
	United Kingdom	1,127,618	0
	United States of America	350,000	0
	USA for UNHCR	19,566	0
Sub-total		33,647,044	0
Islamic Republic of Iran			
	<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR</i>	45	0

Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe E.V (DEU)</i>	0	160,099
	European Commission	1,960,106	0
	Germany	592,417	0
	Italy	245,098	0
	Japan	2,500,000	0
	Japan Association for UNHCR	16,622	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	150	0
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling (NED)</i>	624,306	0
	Switzerland	396,825	0
	United States of America	150,000	0
Sub-total		6,485,568	160,099
Pakistan			
	<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR</i>	16,791	0
	Eli Lilly Export S.A.	16,000	0
	European Commission	3,662,950	0
	Germany	612,745	0
	Japan Association for UNHCR	20,863	0
	Spain	310,928	0
	United States of America	786,649	0
Sub-total		5,426,925	0
South-West Asia			
	Canada	3,816,794	0
	Denmark	1,647,446	0
	European Commission	16,783	301,925
	Japan	9,000,000	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	7,086	0
	Sweden	5,219,780	0
	United Kingdom	4,528,985	0
	United States of America	35,300,000	0
Sub-total		59,610,604	301,925
Total		105,170,141	462,024

¹ For more information on earmarking, please refer to the donor profiles.

Budget and expenditure (USD)

Country	Revised budget			Expenditure		
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total
Afghanistan	77,927,929	0	77,927,929	77,788,777	0	77,788,777
Islamic Republic of Iran	21,721,247	7,297,254	29,018,501	21,641,647	3,061,188	24,702,835
Pakistan	28,880,479	0	28,880,479	28,794,130	0	28,794,130
Regional projects ²	545,500	301,925	847,425	448,131	155,532	603,663
Total	129,075,155	7,599,179	136,674,334	128,672,685	3,216,720	131,889,405

¹ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Iraq Operation.
Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes scholarships for refugee students and repatriation of Afghan refugees from various countries (Annual budget) and comprehensive solutions for Afghan displacement (Supplementary budget).