



Tradesmen work to build a house in Tarakhil Daag, a suburb of Kabul city, Afghanistan. While the local community, returnees and IDPs live adjacently, the groups generally have limited interaction. UNHCR's community-based protection project aims, in part, to promote peaceful coexistence between different segments of the community, particularly as more returnees and IDPs are expected to settle here in the coming years.

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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

With the crisis in Afghanistan entering its fifth decade, Afghans are the second largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate globally.

Pakistan remains the world's second largest refugee-hosting country for refugees under UNHCR's mandate, and the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks sixth. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) provides the overarching policy and operational framework for strengthening support to host countries while creating the conditions for sustainable return and reintegration; augmented by a support platform under the Global Compact on Refugees launched in 2019 and focused on resilience and youth empowerment through education, health and skills. In addition, with more than 400,000 new conflict-induced IDPs recorded in 2019 in Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to co-lead the protection cluster and shelter and non-food items cluster, focusing on food, shelter and long-term integration of IDPs.

UNHCR's overall requirements for the Afghanistan situation in 2020 stand at \$273.5 million. As of 25 August 2020, \$86.6 million have been received. Flexible funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional \$25.4 million to the Afghanistan situation, raising the current funding level to 41%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR's operations in Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries to cut or reduce programmes across a range of sectors, including protection monitoring, health services, school construction and vocational skills training, with further reductions expected in the second half of 2020 should more funding not be received.

AFFECTED COUNTRIES



KEY POPULATION DATA (AS OF DECEMBER 2019)

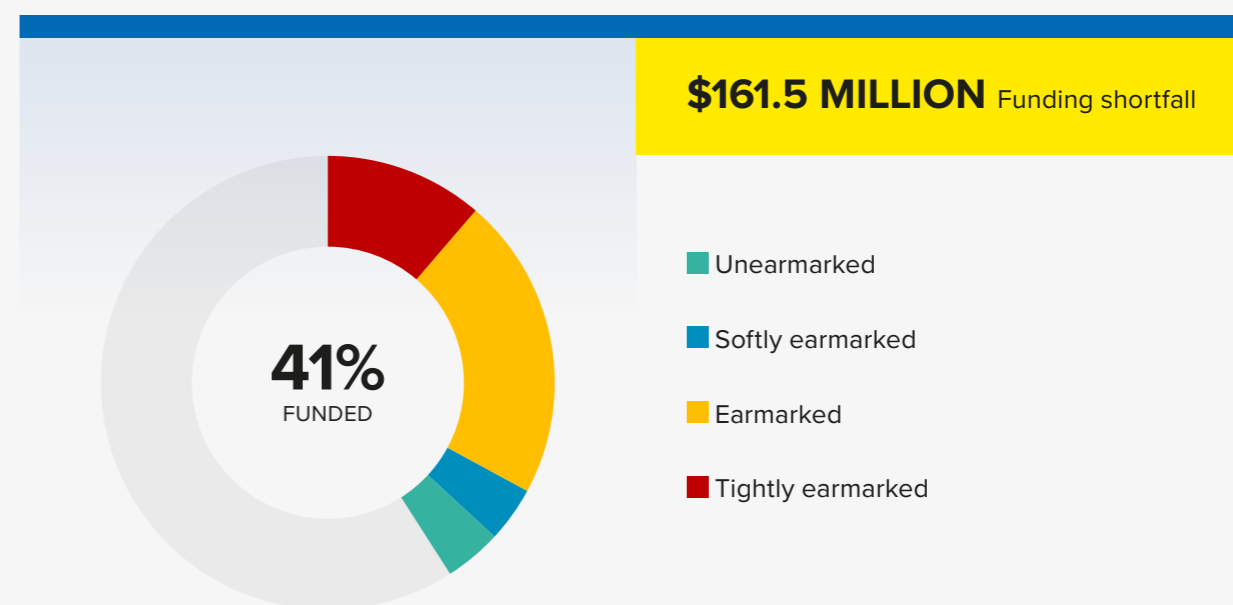
2.4 million
Registered Afghan refugees

2.6 million
Conflict-displaced IDPs in Afghanistan

5.3 million
Returnees (since 2002)

\$273.5 MILLION

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020, as of 25 August 2020



Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

Primary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran



UNHCR assists the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing inclusive and free primary health care services by supporting selected health posts in remote locations and highly populated refugee hosting areas. From January 2020, 23 health posts could not be supported due to a lack of funding. This negatively impacts the availability of free quality primary health care services for refugees, at a time when the Government is struggling to maintain the current level of service provision for refugees but has also generously extended free testing and treatment for COVID-19 to people of concern.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
57,500 refugees and host community members

Funding needed:
\$1 million

The purchase of tool kits for technical and vocational skill courses in Pakistan



UNHCR had planned to provide toolkits to 1,000 Afghan refugees and Pakistanis trained in a six-month technical and vocational skills course in institutes located throughout Pakistan. These could not be purchased as of March 2020 as originally planned due to lack of funding. This will impact the timely implementation of training activities and divert resources from implementation of other activities for refugees and host communities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
1,000 refugees and host community members

Funding needed:
\$100,000

JANUARY

MARCH

Access to secondary and tertiary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran



From January 2020, UNHCR has only been able to cover universal public health insurance fees for a third of the 300,000 most vulnerable refugees. While refugees may also enroll by themselves without UNHCR's support, the cost of insurance premiums is not affordable for many, who are already amongst the most vulnerable in society and impacted still further by dwindling employment opportunities due to COVID-19. This can result in either going without necessary treatment or the accumulation of debts and subsequent negative coping mechanisms to make ends meet.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
200,000 vulnerable refugees

Funding needed:
\$17.2 million

The purchase of medical equipment in Pakistan



Since 2015, UNHCR has supported Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, by providing medical equipment related to cancer treatment, which benefits both Afghan refugees and members of the host community. As of March 2020, UNHCR has been unable to provide this support in line with its agreement due to lack of funds, impacting access to tertiary health services in an area of Pakistan which is densely populated by Afghan refugees.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
300 patients a month (3,600 in 2020)

Funding needed:
\$900,000

Protection monitoring in Afghanistan



In a context of ongoing conflict, combined with the health and economic impact of COVID-19, protection monitoring is vital to ensure urgent protection needs are identified and addressed as early as possible through appropriate response mechanisms. Protection monitoring also provides data to support programme design and implementation. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR ceased conducting focus group discussions from April 2020 and changed the primary modality of protection monitoring to household-level interviews. This requires more resources to maintain the scope and reach of monitoring.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:

11,600 people

Funding needed:

\$500,000



Afghan children play in the streets of Sector I-12 settlement in Islamabad, Pakistan, home to about 3,000 Afghan refugees.

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MARCH

APRIL

AUGUST

Registration in Pakistan



In 2020, UNHCR planned to improve the registration of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders by collecting a standard minimum set of data for all individuals. However, due to limited resources, as of March 2020 UNHCR was only able to update or modify the data for a small number of POR card holders. With the current registration data set, UNHCR is unable to effectively identify POR card holders with specific needs, including those with urgent or emergency protection concerns or who are in critical need of resettlement.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:

1.4 million POR card holders

Funding needed:

\$7.3 million

School construction in the Islamic Republic of Iran



In the first half of 2020, UNHCR has had to progressively decrease the number of schools that it will be able to support in building, due to a lack of funding worsened by a general increase in construction prices. As of August 2020, UNHCR has only been able to co-fund the construction of seven prioritized schools in areas hosting Afghan refugees. The Government had assessed the need to construct 85 twelve-classroom schools in 2020 alone to ensure the inclusion of Afghan children in the public education system. The Islamic Republic of Iran has accommodated some 500,000 refugee students (including undocumented Afghan children) during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:

12,960 refugee and host community children

Funding needed:

\$7.8 million

Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Cash assistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran



In the second half of 2020, a significant increase in needs due to the economic situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, amplified by COVID-19, coupled with insufficient funding will result in many vulnerable Afghan refugees not receiving needed multi-purpose cash assistance. In June 2020, 95% of Afghan households that UNHCR interviewed reported a decrease in the breadwinner's income which they attributed to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. One in three respondents also reported that the main breadwinner in their household was unemployed.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
3,000 vulnerable Afghan refugees

Funding needed:
\$900,000

Primary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran



As of mid-2020, UNHCR may be unable to support the provision of necessary medical supplies and medicines to 134 primary health-care centres due to underfunding, impacting access to primary health care for refugees and host communities. This is particularly crucial in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has heightened pre-existing vulnerabilities, with some refugees reporting difficulties in accessing basic health services and treatment.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
335,000 refugees and host community members

Funding needed:
\$1.2 million

Emergency preparedness and response in Afghanistan



In Afghanistan's rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape, it is crucial to be able to rapidly mobilize a response to sudden-onset crises by avoiding lengthy procurement and transport lead times, notably through adequate warehouse capacity. The absence of dedicated funding will impact UNHCR's ability to maintain needed warehousing capacity, and in the long term one or more warehouses may have to be closed. The absence of dedicated funding for this important activity will also result in diversion of unearmarked funding to cover the cost of warehousing, which impacts other activities in Afghanistan.

Funding needed:
\$200,000

Support to persons with specific needs in Afghanistan



In the context of conflict-induced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic, many government and community safety networks have broken down or are no longer accessible. UNHCR provides targeted support through cash and in-kind assistance or referral to specialized services to individuals with acute vulnerabilities and protection risks, including through established networks. Insufficient funding in the second half of 2020 will impact UNHCR's ability to continue to provide this support, including for women at risk, survivors of SGBV, those with medical or legal needs and children. This heightens the susceptibility of vulnerable individuals to abuse and exploitation, and may place them at risk of irreversible and lasting harm.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
2,434 individuals

Funding needed:
\$1.2 million