

AFGHANISTAN



Operational highlights

- Over 118,000 Afghan refugees returned home voluntarily with UNHCR assistance in 2010, double the 2009 figure. All received cash grants to support their initial reintegration.
- UNHCR constructed some 17,000 shelters for vulnerable returnee families and implemented more than 80 income generation and water projects to help over 138,000 beneficiaries.
- In view of the growing number of smaller-scale emergencies in the country, UNHCR maintained an

emergency preparedness and response capacity. Planning and coordination with partners was improved and contingency stocks for 60,000 families were maintained.

- Some 3,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned voluntarily to their areas of origin and received reintegration assistance.
- UNHCR worked closely with other UN agencies, NGOs and donors to maximize the use of available funding and coordinate relief assistance and reintegration initiatives.
- The finalization of the IDP strategy for Afghanistan in 2010 helped UNHCR improve identification of people of concern, needs assessments and assistance through

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	40	40	37	37
People in a refugee-like situation	Pakistan	6,400	6,400	50	58
Asylum-seekers	Various	30	30	30	20
IDPs	Afghanistan	351,900	351,900	50	58
Returnees (IDPs)	Afghanistan	3,400	3,400	50	58
Others of concern	Afghan returnees of concern to UNHCR	838,300	838,300	49	55
Returnees (refugees) ¹	Pakistan	109,400	109,400	50	58
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	8,500	8,500	50	58
	Various	160	120	50	58
Total		1,318,130	1,318,090		

¹ Demographic breakdown of returnees refers to the total 118,060 Afghan returning refugees.

This settlement near Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan is home to some 2,000 Hazara families who have returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2002.



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collaboration with key stakeholders, including government departments and NGOs.

| Working environment |

The political situation in Afghanistan remained unstable throughout the year. Moreover, deterioration in security hampered humanitarian agencies' access to the field and ability to identify and assist people of concern.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's main objectives in 2010 were to support the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs and their initial reintegration; maintain an emergency response capacity; and enhance protection monitoring. Other equally important goals were to improve coordination with government entities, donors and other agencies to assist reintegration and to help asylum-seekers gain access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

Favourable protection environment

- UNHCR worked closely with a number of partners to improve the protection environment. Partnership with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission helped in the resolution of land disputes, besides ensuring protection for the growing caseload of conflict-induced IDPs. UNHCR also contributed to the special fund for the elimination of violence against women administered by UNIFEM.

- Information, counselling and legal-assistance centres registered over 2,300 cases, of which 750 were resolved. Some 420 of these cases addressed property claims, land rights, ownership, inheritance and applications for the Afghan Government's Land Allocation Scheme. The remaining 330 legal claims concerned family law and water rights, among other issues.
- UNHCR, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF and ILO established a working group on the asylum-migration interface in Afghanistan. The group aimed to develop joint strategies to respond to challenges posed by the increasingly complex nature of population movements in and out of Afghanistan. It also helped to strengthen UNHCR's protection role in the context of mixed population flows.

Fair protection processes

- In 2010, UNHCR launched its strategy for IDPs, which included a range of possible durable solutions. Access to asylum procedures was ensured for cases screened and interviewed by UNHCR in Kabul and Herat. All registered asylum-seekers had unimpeded access to the RSD procedure. UNHCR was able to meet asylum-seekers in detention centres and establish a referral mechanism with ICRC.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Through its support for UNIFEM's special fund for the elimination of violence against women, UNHCR participated in a range of projects in areas such as awareness-raising, research, advocacy, capacity-building of women (including victims of sexual and gender-based violence), psychosocial and legal support, and access to justice.

Basic needs and services

- In line with the assessed needs of beneficiaries, the provision of shelter remained a major goal in Afghanistan. The construction of some 15,000 shelter units for returning refugees and over 1,500 units for IDPs helped ensure sustainable reintegration.
- Some 20,000 non-food item (NFI) winterization assistance packages were distributed to returnee families and over 14,000 NFI packages were provided to IDP families. Some 14,000 displaced families received core NFI assistance during the flood emergency response.

Community participation and self-management

- UNHCR conducted participatory needs assessments to identify returnees' requirements for shelter, water, income generation, assistance for persons with specific needs, and protection. This formed the basis for project design and the delivery of services and assistance.

Durable solutions

- Of the nearly 118,000 individuals (18,850 families) who returned to Afghanistan, over 104,300 were from Pakistan, 8,400 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 100 from other countries. While the number of returns was lower than initially expected, it was nevertheless double the 2009 figure (some 54,500 individuals).
- Five encashment centres provided various services to returnees, including distribution of cash grants, basic health care, legal advice and counselling. They also ran a "back-to-school" campaign and provided mine-awareness education. UNHCR helped the local authorities to monitor the border to guarantee safe and unhindered passage for returnees and manage the encashment centres.
- UNHCR was able to meet the most acute needs of people of concern by targeting vulnerable individuals to improve their standard of living and running community-based projects in areas of high return. Vocational training focused on developing skills such as tailoring and embroidery.

External relations

- Regular contact with donors through briefings, updates and progress reports helped to foster a clearer understanding of UNHCR's activities in Afghanistan and to strengthen donor support in Kabul.

Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR managed its stocks and transported goods from the central warehouse in Kabul to field locations. A workshop on vehicle maintenance benefited UNHCR and its partners.

| Constraints |

Conflict and insecurity hampered UNHCR's access to a number of areas in Afghanistan and its response to newly displaced populations. However, UNHCR was able to engage operational partners and community-based organizations to conduct field monitoring and implement activities.

Insecure conditions, limited absorption capacity, inadequate access to basic services and the lack of humanitarian assistance in some areas led to some secondary displacements.

| Financial information |

Although all key activities in Afghanistan were pursued, there are many unmet needs among populations of concern. The lack of resources created a backlog of eligible returnees waiting for reintegration assistance. Donor contributions over the last five years have increased steadily, reaching over USD 67 million in 2010.

| Organization and implementation |

Despite the precarious security environment, there was no reduction in the number of staff in Afghanistan.

| UNHCR's presence in 2010 |

□ Number of offices	12
□ Total staff	364
International	36
National	322
JPOs	0
UNVs	3
Others	3

| Working with others |

UNHCR worked with over 40 implementing partners, including government departments, international and national NGOs and UN agencies. Cooperation with operational partners, including government ministries, improved assistance to beneficiaries. UNHCR's leadership of the IDP Task Force resulted in harmonization of IDP data. The protection, emergency shelter and NFI clusters led by UNHCR improved the profiling of protection and assistance needs among people of concern within the inter-agency framework.

| Overall assessment |

The main goals of the operation in areas such as shelter support and winterization; income generation; and the building of emergency response capacity, were achieved through partnerships that maximized the delivery of assistance. The gaps that remain can be attributed to the deteriorating security environment, capacity shortfalls among government departments and resource shortages. UNHCR will continue to help the Government develop its capacity to manage populations of concern, conduct more extensive monitoring and deliver comprehensive reintegration assistance to ensure the sustainability of returns.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled, Public Health, Refugees and Repatriation, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Women's Affairs

NGOs: Afghan Agency for Integrated Development, Afghan Bureau for Reconstruction, Afghan Community Rehabilitation, Afghan General Help Coordination Office, Afghan Planning Agency, Afghan Public Welfare Organization, Care International, Cooperation Centre for Afghanistan, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan, Engineering and Rehabilitation Service for Afghanistan, Human Dignity Society, International Rescue Committee, Mediateck Afghanistan, National Consultancy and Relief Association, New Noor Rehabilitation Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, Reconstruction and Employment Unit for Afghan Refugees, Sina Association Rehabilitation Service, Voluntary Association for the Rehabilitation of Afghanistan, Watan's Social and Technical Services Association, *Zardozi*

Others: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, British Broadcasting Corporation, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, ICRC, United Nations Development Fund, UNV

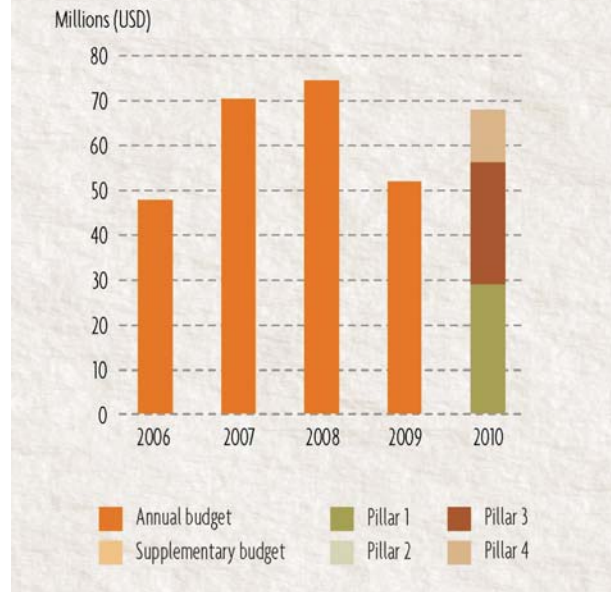
Operational partners

Government: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development

NGOs: Protection cluster members, emergency shelter and NFI cluster members, national and regional IDP task forces, the Housing, Land and Property Task Force

Others: IOM, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, World Bank

Expenditure in Afghanistan 2006 - 2010



Budget, income and expenditure in Afghanistan | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	51,093,485	46,829,610	11,812,591	109,735,686
Income from contributions ¹	44,383,315	19,112,875	3,912,467	67,408,657
Other funds available	(15,553,637)	8,526,188	7,660,123	632,674
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	28,829,678	27,639,064	11,572,590	68,041,332

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Favourable protection environment

International and regional instruments	205,048	0	0	205,048
National administrative framework	0	0	198,914	198,914
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	198,914	198,914
National and regional migration policy	303,570	0	0	303,570
Prevention of displacement	0	0	198,914	198,914
Co-operation with partners	475,136	0	198,914	674,051
Emergency management strengthened	205,048	0	198,914	403,962
Subtotal	1,188,802	0	994,572	2,183,373

Fair protection processes and documentation

Reception conditions	60,309	0	0	60,309
Registration and profiling	704,746	0	155,049	859,795
Access to asylum procedures	60,309	0	0	60,309
Fair and efficient status determination	60,309	0	0	60,309
Family reunification	233,601	0	0	233,601
Civil status documentation	0	0	155,049	155,049
Subtotal	1,119,273	0	310,098	1,429,371

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>				
Effects of armed conflict	173,986	0	134,584	308,570
Law enforcement	75,495	0	134,584	210,078
Gender-based violence	173,986	0	134,584	308,570
Non-arbitrary detention	75,495	0	0	75,495
Access to legal remedies	173,986	0	134,584	308,570
Subtotal	672,948	0	538,335	1,211,284
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>				
Food security	0	351,411	203,131	554,542
Water	0	431,327	303,051	734,377
Shelter and other infrastructure	-1	17,326,341	2,022,465	19,348,805
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,091,195	3,374,862	2,536,752	7,002,809
Primary health care	237,672	351,411	203,131	792,213
Education	0	351,411	0	351,411
Sanitation services	0	351,411	203,131	554,541
Services for groups with specific needs	877,640	0	0	877,640
Subtotal	2,206,506	22,538,172	5,471,660	30,216,338
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>				
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	366,501	0	0	366,501
Community self-management and equal representation	366,501	0	0	366,501
Self-reliance and livelihoods	366,501	0	304,914	671,415
Subtotal	1,099,502	0	304,914	1,404,416
<i>Durable solutions</i>				
Durable solutions strategy	75,495	0	331,990	407,484
Voluntary return	14,231,041	0	724,147	14,955,189
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	3,277,010	920,547	4,197,558
Resettlement	75,495	0	0	75,495
Subtotal	14,382,030	3,277,010	1,976,684	19,635,725
<i>External relations</i>				
Donor relations	131,908	144,468	198,904	475,279
Resource mobilisation	131,907	144,468	198,904	475,279
Partnership	131,908	144,468	198,904	475,279
Public information	143,032	144,468	198,904	486,403
Subtotal	538,754	577,870	795,616	1,912,241
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>				
Supply chain and logistics	2,318,702	0	0	2,318,702
Programme management, coordination and support	4,615,542	0	907,906	5,523,448
Subtotal	6,934,243	0	907,906	7,842,149
Instalments to implementing partners	687,618	1,246,011	272,804	2,206,434
Total	28,829,678	27,639,064	11,572,590	68,041,332

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.