

Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation 2024 - 2025



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Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements 2024 - 2025

7.3M



TOTAL POPULATION TO
BE ASSISTED IN 2024
(AFGHANS & HOST
COMMUNITY)

USD 620.4M

INTER-AGENCY FUNDING
REQUIREMENTS
IN 2024



TO SUPPORT **2**
HOST COUNTRIES:
IRAN (ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF) AND
PAKISTAN (ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF)

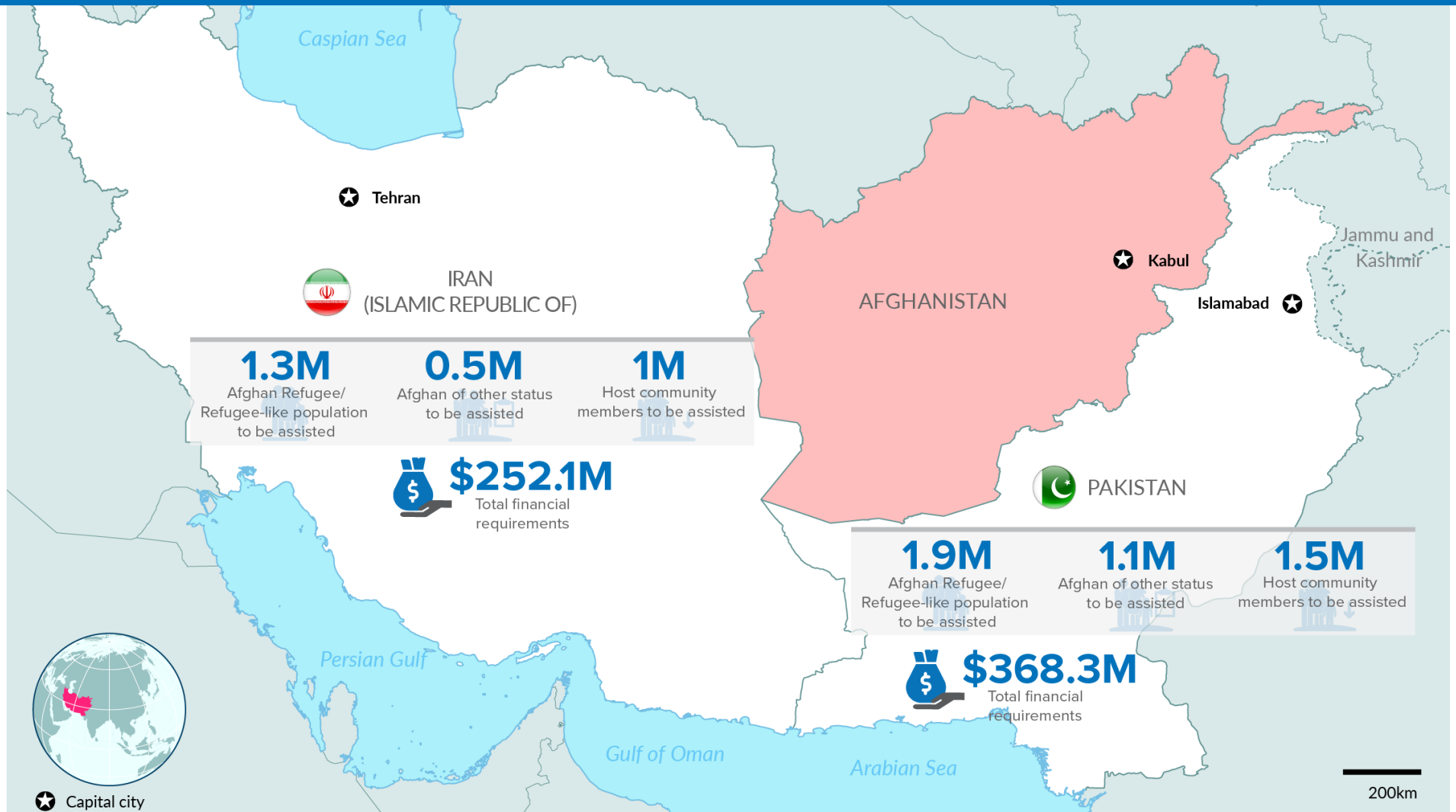
51

PARTNERS
ENGAGED IN
THE RESPONSE



REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Regional Overview



Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



2024 POPULATION FIGURES

7.7 Million	3.2 Million	1.6 Million	2.5 Million
Estimated Total Afghan Population	Afghan Refugee/ Refugee-like Population to be Assisted	Afghans of Other Status to be Assisted	Host Community Population to be Assisted

Looking to 2024, the situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries will continue to be challenging. As highlighted by the [UN Security Council](#), the human rights situation in Afghanistan, especially related to the rights of women and girls and religious and ethnic minorities, remains dire as do the humanitarian needs – [23.7 million people \(over half of Afghanistan’s population\) require urgent humanitarian assistance](#) to survive. The situation has also been compounded by a devastating series of natural disasters and climate-induced emergencies, including deadly earthquakes in Afghanistan in 2023 as well as floods and earthquakes in Pakistan and Iran in 2022.

The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan host some [7.7 million Afghans](#), while around 1.6 million have arrived since 2021 alone, according to government estimates.

Pakistan hosts approximately 3.2 million Afghan refugees and Afghans of other statuses (76 per cent women and children), reflecting the long history of solidarity and support extended by the country. However, in recent years, the protection environment has become increasingly unpredictable. On 3 October 2023, Pakistan’s national Apex Committee endorsed the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) to return over a million foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans. Announcing the plan, Pakistan’s Minister of Interior said that an ultimatum has been issued to illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November.

While the Government of Pakistan has provided assurances safeguarding holders of Proof of Registration (PoR) Cards and Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) from the initial stages of the plan and made exemptions in respect of vulnerable groups and “individuals destined for third countries,” nonetheless, anxiety still remains.

As of 15 December, 438,361 Afghans returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan since 15 September although figures peaked in early November and have been steadily decreasing since then. Pakistan continues to grapple with the complexities of providing adequate support and ensuring the protection of a large Afghan population while balancing the needs of its own citizens, against the backdrop of a difficult [economic situation](#), with record inflation, and increasing insecurity. Recognizing the plight of Afghan refugees and those in refugee-like situations, including women and girls without documentation and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), there is a pressing need for sustainable solutions and comprehensive support systems. It is crucial to ensure access to education and healthcare for all, while also creating opportunities for livelihoods to alleviate poverty and promote self-reliance. The multifaceted challenges presented by the changing protection environment in Pakistan highlight the need to work collaboratively and proactively with authorities to ensure the continued safety and well-being of Afghan refugees and individuals of other statuses.

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Regional Overview (continued)



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Fostering an environment that upholds their rights and safeguards their dignity and addressing the concerns of the host community remains an urgent priority.

According to government estimates, Iran hosts at least 4.5 million Afghans (some 71 per cent women and children), including those who have arrived since 2021. This includes 3.4 million Afghan refugees and Afghans in a refugee-like situation (including some 750,000 *Amayesh* card holders and 2.6 million Afghans recorded in the 2022 headcount exercise). Many of the remaining Afghan individuals in Iran are without documentation due to a lack of available pathways to seek asylum or regularize their stay. Afghans continue to arrive in Iran daily, primarily via irregular routes. New arrivals join millions of other Afghans who have been generously hosted in Iran for decades, many of whom are third or fourth-generation refugees. Iran continues to grant access to education and health care to Afghan nationals, including those without documentation. However, for Afghans and Iranian host communities alike, limited livelihoods opportunities and poverty – exacerbated by the combined impact of high inflation and economic sanctions – continue to drive needs. According to data from Statistical Centre of Iran, the annual inflation rate was estimated to be at 45.5 per cent as of November 2023. However, [food price increases](#) continue to outpace overall inflation, disproportionately impacting the least well-off who spend a higher proportion of their income on food. Afghan refugees are increasingly forced to make difficult trade-offs or resort to harmful coping mechanisms to make ends meet.

In 2024, Afghans may face difficulties covering the costs related to school enrolment, healthcare, or documentation. Those without documentation face a particularly precarious situation due to persistent risks of deportation, various forms of exploitation, trafficking, and barriers to accessing services. At the same time, there is a significant strain on Iranians – who host over 99 per cent of Afghans in Iran – and the inclusive services extended to Afghans. This can undermine social cohesion and subsequently limit opportunities for self-reliance.

For 2024 – 2025, the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan Situation will evolve into a two-year plan to deliver a more predictable response and opportunities for mid- to long-term solutions. Partners will provide a budget for 2024 and an indicative budget for 2025 to be reassessed at the end of 2024, based on the developing situation. More predictable funding has become even more important considering the pattern of decreasing funding in recent years, which has been exacerbated by a proliferation of emergencies. In view of this, RRP partners continue to advocate for multi-year funding in the spirit of the [Grand Bargain](#). As part of this transition, the RRP will focus on the two major Afghan refugee host countries – Iran and Pakistan – where 90 per cent of Afghan refugees worldwide reside. In the event of significant developments, including large-scale refugee movements to neighbouring countries or new largescale needs being identified beyond those foreseen in this plan, the RRP may be revised to better adapt to the developing situation.

RRP Summaries Over the Years [\(click on documents to follow hyperlinks\)](#)

Afghanistan Situation
Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan
Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements July-December 2021

11 INTER-AGENCY PARTNERS IN A COORDINATED REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE NEEDS OF **515,000** NEW ARRIVAL AS A HOST CARE SCENARIO TO SUPPORT ASSESS COORDINATED RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN WITH A TOTAL OF **\$299.2M** INTER-AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

2021

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP)
Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements January-December 2022

5.7M TOTAL TARGET POPULATION IN 2022 **USD 623M** INTER-AGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022 **TO SUPPORT 5** HOST COUNTRIES: IRAN, PAKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN **40** PARTNERS ENGAGED IN THE RESPONSE

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Ensure coordinated efforts and support towards durable solutions
- Support host governments to ensure access to asylum and protection
- Provide institutional humanitarian assistance to targeted populations
- Emergency preparedness and response to respond to potential new arrivals

2022

Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan Situation
2023

Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements
January-December 2023

7.90M TOTAL TARGET POPULATION IN 2023 **USD 613M** INTER-AGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023 **TO SUPPORT 5** HOST COUNTRIES: IRAN, PAKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN **65** PARTNERS ENGAGED IN THE RESPONSE

2023

Afghanistan Situation
Refugee Response Plan
2024 - 2025

Summary & Inter-Agency Funding Requirements
2024 - 2025

7.3M TOTAL POPULATION TO BE ASSISTED IN 2024 (AFGHANS & HOST COMMUNITY) **USD 620M** INTER-AGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024 **TO SUPPORT 2** HOST COUNTRIES: IRAN (IRANIC REPUBLIC OF) AND PAKISTAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) **51** PARTNERS ENGAGED IN THE RESPONSE

2024

REGIONAL PROTECTION RISKS AND NEEDS

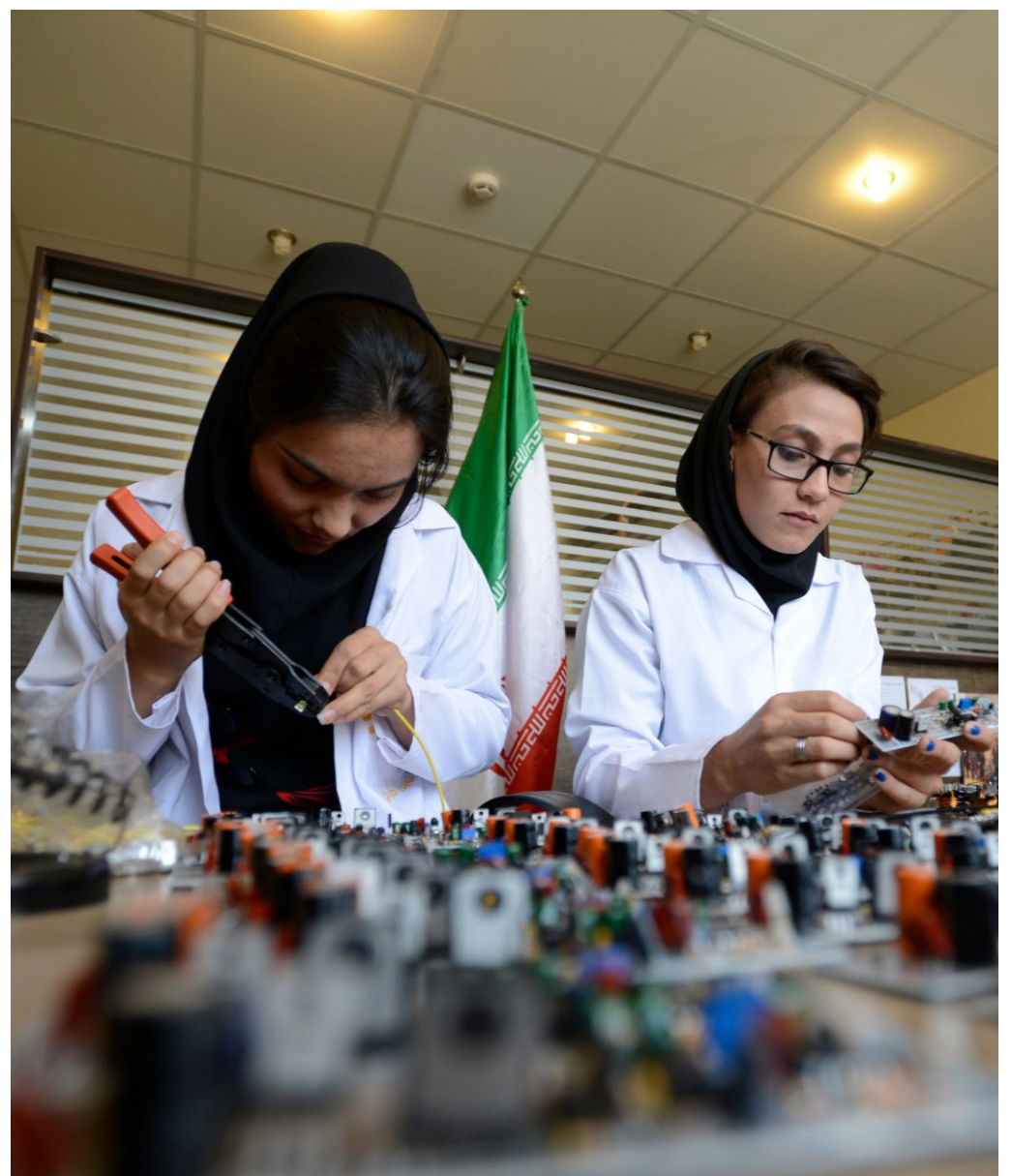
Since August 2021, UNHCR has maintained a non-return advisory for Afghan nationals in response to the overlapping human rights, security, and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan. The advisory was reaffirmed in the update of the [Guidance Note on International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan](#) in February 2023. The Guidance Note calls on States to grant access for Afghan nationals to their territories and to ensure – in situations where asylum systems would be overwhelmed by a large number of applications – the establishment of temporary protection or stay arrangements with protection safeguards for Afghans until the security, humanitarian, rule of law, and human rights situation in Afghanistan has meaningfully and objectively improved, enabling voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. It also highlights the worsening situation of women and girls in Afghanistan with increasingly restrictive measures being put in place by the de facto authorities. Due to their precarious protection situation, women and girls face a threat of, and exposure to, gender-based violence (GBV), exploitation and abuse, and trafficking, among other risks, which compounds challenges already faced by those fleeing for safety. Afghans who lack documentation are also at increased risk of exploitation and trafficking, worsened by a lack of clear, transparent, and fair access to asylum which increases the prevalence of irregular border-crossings and irregular onward movements.

While the primary driver of Afghan displacement to neighbouring countries is the need for international protection other factors including poverty, education, medical needs, family reasons, and access to livelihood opportunities often weigh in the individual decisions of Afghans to leave Afghanistan. However, these individual needs/considerations do not negate the broader international protection concerns linked to the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan, as reiterated in the Guidance Note. Individualized protection threats can only be adequately assessed through asylum procedures. The lack of access to an asylum system cannot lead to a conclusion that Afghans who are not registered and who may not have documentation do not have international protection needs.

Despite their own political and socio-economic challenges, Iran and Pakistan maintain inclusive policies, notably access to national education and healthcare, as well as human capital development and economic opportunities. However, a notable shrinking of protection space has manifested itself in 2023. Pakistan's IFRP has resulted in large scale Afghan returns in challenging conditions in recent months. As highlighted in a [joint statement by UNHCR and IOM](#), this may have “serious implications for all who have been forced to leave the country [Afghanistan] and may face serious protection risks upon return.” The Government of Pakistan provided assurances safeguarding PoR card holders and ACC holders from the initial stages of the plan although Afghans [reported intimidation and harassment](#). In early

November, PoR cards – which expired on 30 June 2023 – were retroactively extended for six months by authorities until 31 December 2023. However, a lack of clarity going into 2024 has caused anxiety among Afghans, who continue to experience harassment and risk arrest and detention.

In Iran, most Afghan new arrivals cross the border irregularly and the ability or inability of populations to access asylum and regularize their stay, primarily through acquiring or renewing documentation, is a key determinant of vulnerability. The provision of a form of documentation to 2.6 million Afghans who participated in the 2022 headcount exercise was a significant development. However, there remains a considerable undocumented population in Iran in need of international protection and at particular risk of detention and deportation. [UNHCR border monitoring in Afghanistan](#) indicates that a lack of documentation was the principal factor for being subjected to deportation from Iran in most cases in 2023. The fear of arrest, detention, and deportation among undocumented Afghans and Afghans with expired documentation also impacts their physical and mental wellbeing, leading them to limit their movements or refrain from using public services and lead to dependence on humanitarian assistance. In addition, a lack of clarity on eligibility for and linkages with asylum procedures for those who engaged in the headcount exercise as well as entitlements, combined with the costs associated with documentation, may prevent refugees, including new arrivals, from enjoying their fundamental rights.



Two young women working in an electronic company in Shiraz, Iran.
©UNHCR/Sebastien Rich

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Strategic Objectives and Partnership

REGIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Acknowledging the huge contribution of host countries, the 2024 – 2025 RRP reaffirms the regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach aimed at strengthening the humanitarian and development response in support of host governments. The RRP will deliver concrete actions with a focus on community-based interventions incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, cross-border collaboration, and pathways towards durable solutions within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and linked to the [SSAR Support Platform](#).

RRP 2024-2025 will seek to:

SSAR

SO1: Ensure coordinated efforts towards solutions in line with the objectives of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)*.



SO2: Take a humanitarian-development nexus approach to build resilient communities, anchored in government systems wherever possible, reinforce the local and national systems of host countries which have supported Afghans for decades, in the spirit of international responsibility-sharing and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. Priorities include national education and healthcare infrastructure and supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities.



SO3: Support host governments to ensure access to territory and asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, reception, individual registration, and documentation.



SO4: Respond to the basic needs of the most at risk, including via sustained support to government-led emergency preparedness efforts and multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral support to swiftly respond to those newly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises, as well as to existing populations who have seen their situation deteriorate due to the rising cost of living.

PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION

In support of national humanitarian response mechanisms and in line with the Refugee Coordination Model in the host countries and the Global Compact on Refugees, RRP partners will continue to support the concerned governments to respond to the situation of Afghans and their host communities in neighbouring countries in 2024-2025. Initially launched in 2021 with 11 partners, the RRP expanded to 40 partners for 2022, 65 partners across the five countries in 2023, and will have 51 partners for 2024-2025: 13 UN agencies, 19 INGOs, 19 local NGOs. Four of these INGOs are also faith-based organizations (FBOs) and two local NGOs are also women-led organizations (WLOs).

Part of the increase in 2023 was due to the large scale up of national actors in Pakistan in response to the devastating floods in 2022. Some of these actors do not ordinarily participate in the Afghan response and were only present in RRP 2023 due to cross-cutting flood response activities, hence a reduction in the number of partners in 2024. Nonetheless, a five-fold increase in partners between 2021 and 2024 demonstrates the continued importance of the RRP to coordinate the response, facilitate a joined-up approach, promote synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and provide opportunities for unified strategic advocacy with host governments and the international community. Building on the capacities and expertise of affected populations to act as first responders, the plan will respond to the needs of Afghans and host communities – in line with the SSAR and the [ReSolve Pledge](#) at the Global Refugee Forum.

51



Partners
Involved

13



UN
Agencies

19



International
NGOs

19



National
NGOs

* The Objectives of the SSAR are: i) creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; ii) building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and iii) preserving protection space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.

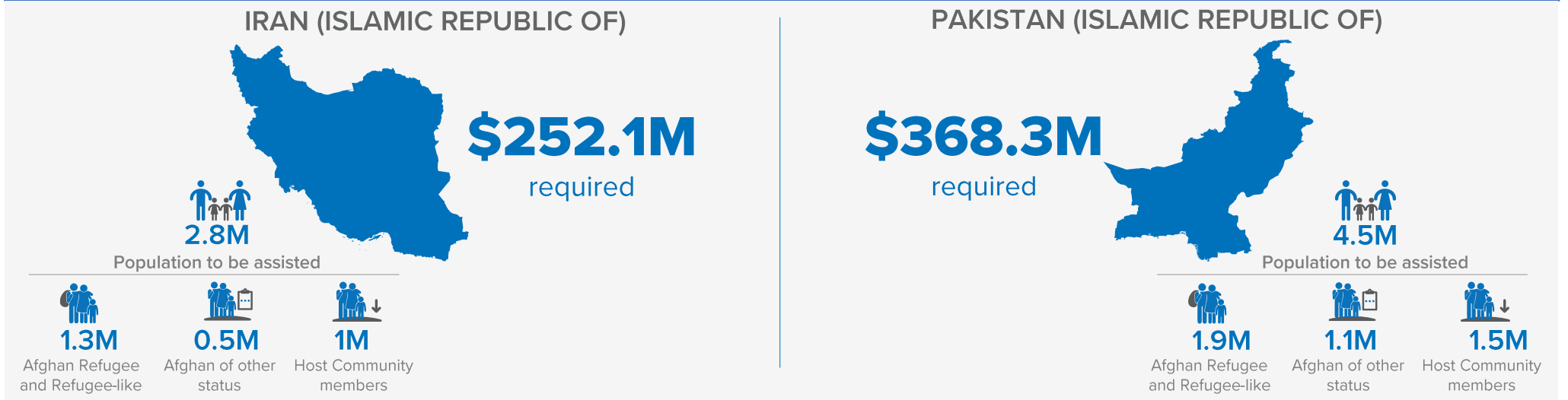
For more information, please visit [SSAR Support Platform](#)

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

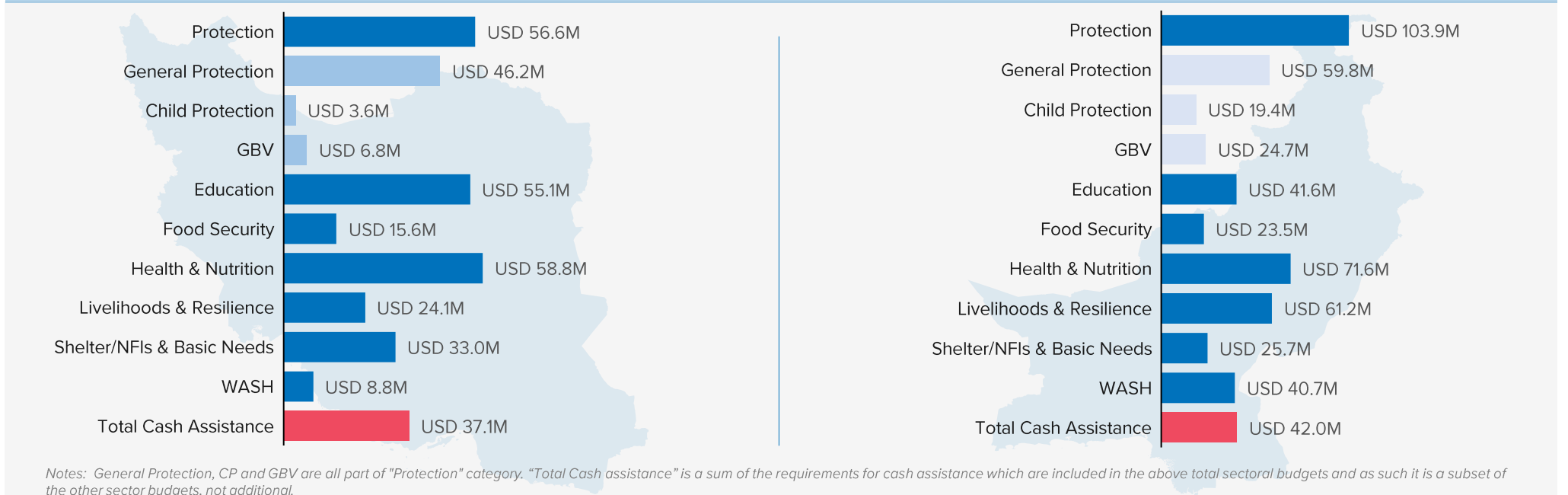
Financial Requirements 2024 (page 7 also contains an indicative breakdown by agency of 2024 and 2025 requirements)

REGIONAL INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Total Financial Requirements for 2024 in USD **\$ 620.4M**



Total Sector Funding Requirements in Million USD



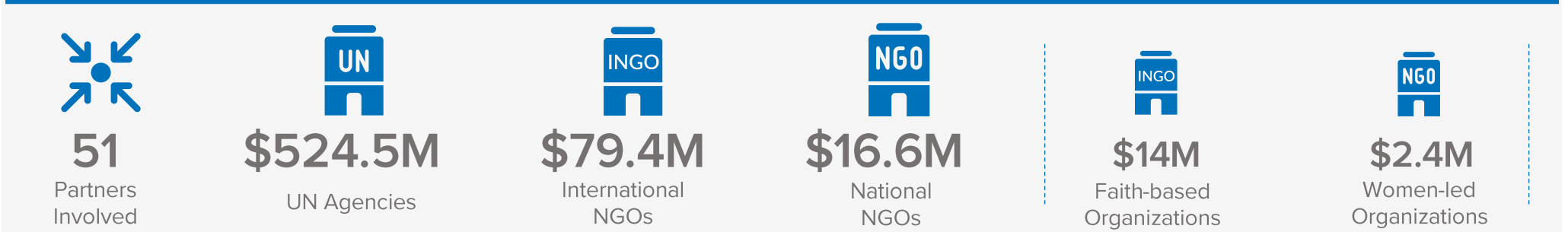
Total Inter-Agency Funding Requirements Breakdown in USD



Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. WLOs and FBOs list overlaps with INGOs and NNGOs.

Total Inter-Agency Financial Requirements in USD*

*FBO budget is a subset of the INGO budget as the four FBOs are also INGOs. WLO budget is a subset of the NNGO budget as the two local NGOs are also WLOs.



REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Financial Requirements (continued) * Below are confirmed partner budgets for 2024 and an indicative budget for 2025 which will be reassessed at the end of 2024, based on the developing situation.

REGIONAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ORGANIZATION

UN = United Nations, INGO = International NGO, NNGO = National NGO, FBO = Faith-Based Organization, WLO = Women-Led Organization, N/A = Not Applicable

Partner	Type	Requirements in USD	
		2024	2025*
Action Against Hunger	INGO	\$ 5,762,123	\$ 3,662,122
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	INGO	\$ 9,033,351	\$ 10,193,633
Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee - ARC)	INGO	\$ 2,854,721	\$ 2,854,721
Association for Gender Awareness & Human Empowerment	NNGO	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 240,000
Bright Star Development Society Balochistan	NNGO	\$ 400,000	\$ 774,996
Catholic Relief Services	INGO/FBO	\$ 201,046	\$ 1,353,580
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	INGO	\$ 14,440	\$ 170,758
Drugs & Narcotics Educational Services For Humanity	NNGO	\$ 917,400	\$ 1,101,600
Global Educational, Economic and Social Empowerment	NNGO	\$ 533,000	\$ 44,000
Health And Nutrition Development Society	NNGO	\$ 54,000	\$ 150,000
Help In Need	NNGO	\$ 180,000	\$ 163,200
Human Appeal	INGO	\$ 1,995,625	\$ 1,424,700
Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment	INGO	\$ 522,400	\$ 522,400
Initiative for Development and Empowerment Axis	NNGO	\$ 515,500	\$ 2,000
Integrated Regional Support Program	NNGO	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
International Medical Corps	INGO	\$ 820,113	\$ 1,268,870
International Rescue Committee	INGO	\$ 3,495,666	\$ 854,244
INTERSOS	INGO	\$ 1,217,500	\$ 1,513,000
Islamic Relief Pakistan	INGO/FBO	\$ 8,759,468	\$ 9,720,068
Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK) Japan	INGO	\$ 537,500	\$ 305,000
Mercy Corps	INGO	\$ 1,506,406	\$ 237,248
Muslim Hands	INGO/FBO	\$ 1,413,214	\$ 1,745,214
Norwegian Refugee Council	INGO	\$ 21,506,583	\$ 19,700,064
Pak Mission Society	NNGO	\$ 117,000	\$ 78,000
Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education	NNGO/WLO	\$ 324,240	\$ 324,240
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund	NNGO	\$ 3,168,600	N/A
Pakistan Village Development Program	NNGO	\$ 26,205	N/A
Relief International	INGO	\$ 4,535,825	\$ 5,981,688
Rural Support Programmes Network	NNGO	\$ 1,158,534	\$ 572,778
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	NNGO	\$ 2,275,902	\$ 1,277,978
Save the Children	INGO	\$ 7,754,850	\$ 8,698,710
Secours Islamique France	INGO/FBO	\$ 3,607,306	\$ 3,971,620
Society for Empowering Human Resource	NNGO	\$ 860,657	\$ 876,000
Tameere Khalaq Foundation	NNGO	\$ 504,800	\$ 57,200
Taraqee Foundation	NNGO	\$ 256,453	\$ 256,453
Terre des hommes Foundation	INGO	\$ 3,815,606	\$ 755,606
UN - Food and Agriculture Organization	UN	\$ 11,918,780	N/A
UN - International Organization for Migration	UN	\$ 99,673,920	\$ 95,644,360
UN - International Trade Center	UN	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,665,000
UN - United Nation Children's Fund	UN	\$ 51,765,334	\$ 52,688,856
UN - United National Population Fund	UN	\$ 36,896,828	\$ 43,200,721
UN - United Nations Development Program	UN	\$ 360,000	\$ 200,000
UN - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UN	\$ 3,747,000	\$ 3,904,000
UN - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN	\$ 259,260,817	\$ 280,074,115
UN - United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN	\$ 5,531,160	\$ 18,611,400
UN - United Nations Industrial Development Organization	UN	\$ 1,862,500	\$ 2,687,500
UN - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UN	\$ 508,100	\$ 610,000
UN - United Nations World Food Programme	UN	\$ 35,237,957	\$ 27,648,937
UN - World Health Organization	UN	\$ 16,195,141	\$ 14,279,747
Women Empowerment Organization	NNGO/WLO	\$ 2,048,563	\$ 2,005,397
Youth Organization	NNGO	\$ 182,500	\$ 182,500
Total		\$ 620,384,634	\$ 624,504,223

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

Donor Acknowledgement

The work of RRP partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of donors. Since the onset of the emergency in 2021, when the response was 58 per cent funded, funding has steadily dropped to 52 per cent in 2022 and now to its lowest figure of 32 per cent in 2023 (USD 196 million received of USD 613 million requirements). Competing global emergencies and donor fatigue is likely to remain a challenge in 2024. As is clear from this plan, the needs across the region are huge and the situation of vulnerable Afghan populations has worsened due to external regional and global factors. Their host communities, who have welcomed Afghans for four decades, also require significant support, particularly to bolster the public infrastructure which serves Afghans and host communities alike.

RRP partners reiterate the message on the importance of flexible funding, which allows partners to prioritize the most pressing needs across the region, as well as multi-year funding, which facilitates a more predictable response. Both were important commitments by donors as part of the Grand Bargain and remain integral to the humanitarian response across the Afghanistan Situation.

Further information on the funding levels of the response is available on the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) which has tracked interagency funding for the Afghan RRP response since 2021 and as such contains a repository of historical funding data.

RRP Partners thank private donors, charities, and other organizations for their contributions, as well as other government donors whose flexible funding at a global, regional, or sub-regional level has contributed to the response.

RRP 2021-2023 donors: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | CERF | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Poland | Private Donors | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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for Afghanistan Situation
2024 - 2025