According to various government estimates, 500,000-1,000,000 Afghans have newly fled to Iran since the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, many Afghans fled to Iran. UNHCR rapidly scaled up its operation in Iran to respond to the large number of new arrivals and their urgent needs for assistance.

**HEALTH**

UNHCR supports the Ministry of Health to include refugees in the national health system. Free primary health care, including vaccinations, essential medicines and maternal and child health services are available to all, regardless of documentation status. Refugees also have access to health insurance to cover secondary and tertiary health care, on par with nationals. For 2022, UNHCR covered the insurance premium for up to 120,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, while others can enroll by paying the premium themselves.

**EDUCATION**

All children in Iran have access to primary and secondary education regardless of their documentation status. Refugee, undocumented and other foreign children study side by side with Iranian school children, following the same national curriculum. In 2016, the Government of Iran removed ‘refugee-specific’ fees, ensuring primary and secondary education is affordable to all. Higher education can also be accessed by Afghans and Iraqis. UNHCR supports the government in constructing schools, providing literacy training to refugees, and scholarships for tertiary education.

**LIVELIHOOD**

UNHCR implements various livelihoods interventions for refugees, including certified technical and vocational training and other income generating projects. Supporting refugees to access livelihoods opportunities can prepare them to become more self-sufficient and better able to meet the basic needs of their families. Refugees can thus also increase their economic potential, enabling them to contribute to their host community and one day, their home country, when conditions become conducive for returns.

**FUNDING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>114.1 M</th>
<th>Unfunded 71%</th>
<th>81.3 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funded</td>
<td>32.8 M</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Refugee Response Plan 2023: Total USD 199 M (UNHCR USD 14 M), of which some 31% funded

**VOLREP**

As of end of August 2023, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 386 individuals to Afghanistan — 64 individuals only in the month of August 2023. This represents a 56% increase compared to the same period in 2022. Amongst the main reasons for return, returnees stated facing financial difficulties in Iran, and an improvement in the security situation in the country of origin.

**RESETTLEMENT**

While in 2021 UNHCR received no quota for the resettlement of Afghan refugees, in 2022, in collaboration with resettlement partners and the Government of Iran, UNHCR managed to submit 3,092 refugees to resettlement countries. Given the increasing protection needs of refugees in Iran and the ongoing volatile security situation in Afghanistan, UNHCR is advocating for more resettlement quotas.

IRAN AT A GLANCE

August 2023

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UNHCR Iran is grateful for the generous contributions of its main donors in 2023.