

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **2.9M**

Estimated internally displaced persons within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2020

 **550,780**

Estimated total conflict induced internal displacement within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021¹



 **72,375**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 16 August 2021

 **2.2M**

Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries as of 31 December 2020

 **7,306**

Estimated newly arrived Afghan refugees who approached UNHCR and Partners in neighboring countries since 1 January 2021²

TIMELINE IN KEY EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

- While the implications of recent political developments on the Afghan people and humanitarian community are not yet clear, **UNHCR echoes the UN Secretary-General's calls for protection of all civilians and unimpeded humanitarian access. Urgent humanitarian support is also needed to address the increasing human suffering.**
- UNHCR – as part of the UN country team – remains committed to delivering protection and assistance to the Afghan people for as long as our staff are safe.** The security of our staff remains a priority and UNHCR has put measures in place to ensure this.
- UNHCR currently has some 200 staff in Afghanistan, working together with 18 partners consisting of some 900 staff through the country.** While the security situation remains fluid, UNHCR and partners currently have access to all provinces and are operating in some two-thirds of all districts in the country. UNHCR has established contingencies to work through partners and remote arrangements should we be unable to reach locations of those in need.
- In recent days in Kabul, **UNHCR teams have been reviewing makeshift shelter arrangements for IDPs, including with a view to providing cash assistance, as well as providing support to a temporary health clinic and mobile health teams for IDPs, among other essential activities.** UNHCR also continues its protection monitoring, which cover nearly all provinces in the country.
- UNHCR has this year now provided food, shelter, cash, hygiene and sanitary kits and other lifesaving assistance, together with partners, to more than 230,000 people.**
- In recent days, **UNHCR has been doing its utmost to respond to significant numbers of inquiries to our offices, either from people within Afghanistan or their relatives and friends.** UNHCR Afghanistan's [Help](#) page for refugees and asylum seekers has been launched in response. UNHCR has, or is in the process of, also setting up HELP sites for other countries affected and these will be on the global HELP Platform, once available.
- UNHCR's Supplementary [appeal](#) for the Afghanistan situation has been released and highlights nearly US\$63 million as urgent needs to support the response for internally displaced people in the country, as well as preparedness in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.** These requirements are part of the US\$351 million requirements for UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan situation in 2021, which is currently underfunded at some 43 per cent.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

- Some 550,000 Afghans have now been internally displaced this year, 80 percent of whom are women and children** Some 120,000 Afghans have fled from rural areas and provincial towns to Kabul province. In recent days, indications suggest that some IDPs from Kabul have started to return to their places of origin, including to the northern region. Some IDPs residing in informal settlements in Kandahar have also reportedly begun returning. Precise figures are not currently available.
- UNHCR continues to closely monitor the situation at the borders of countries neighboring Afghanistan, calling on authorities to keep border crossings open for those who may need to seek safety.** UNHCR is urgently working to further strengthen information collection on new arrivals at border areas, particularly considering recent developments.
- Most Afghans are not currently able to leave the country through regular channels and UNHCR has not yet observed large-scale movements of refugees across land borders to any of the countries neighbouring Afghanistan.**
- Afghanistan's land border points with Iran and Pakistan have only been open on a sporadic basis.** When open, this has largely been for commercial and trade purposes. In recent days, regular levels of movements for crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan have, however, been observed, though these movements have not been considered higher-than-normal levels. UNHCR has also observed some Afghans returning to Afghanistan in recent days, albeit in limited numbers.
- UNHCR continues to work with authorities in some of the countries neighboring Afghanistan to plan and prepare for potential future movements of Afghan refugees.** UNHCR is continuing to preposition essential stocks and items for potential movements, including tents and other core-relief items.

