

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

 **2.9M**

Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 31 December 2020

 **667,832**

Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021¹



 **72,375**

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 17 October 2021

 **2.2M**

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

 **48,180**

Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021²

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR's emergency response in Afghanistan has been scaled up across the country. Over the last two weeks, UNHCR has assisted people with emergency shelters, blankets, solar panels, and cash for the most vulnerable. In total, UNHCR's emergency response reached nearly half a million displaced people with assistance so far this year and more than 60,000 in the reporting period, as highlighted below:

Emergency Assistance

provided in 2021 (as of 15 October)



64,100 | **446,900**
persons supported



25 | **34**
provinces reached



33,200 | **220,600**
persons benefited from core relief items



13,600 | **24,400**
persons benefited from cash assistance for Protection needs



4,300 | **4,300**
persons benefited from cash for shelter/rent



3,400 | **6,100**
persons benefited from solar panels distribution



2,100 | **45,900**
women and girls received sanitary kits



200 | **12,900**
family tents distributed

Legend: **XXX** assistance provided from 1 to 15 October 2021 | **XXX** assistance provided in 2021

- UNHCR has supported 660 internally displaced families to return home to their places of origin over the past two weeks, particularly to the northern parts of the country. UNHCR-supported returnees receive US\$200 per household to pay for transportation and another \$400 to help them reintegrate upon return. At least another 280 families will receive help to return to the central highlands before the end of October. In total, some 158,000 displaced people have returned home since fighting subsided, according to UNHCR sources, including nearly 77,000 IDP returnees to 21 priority areas of return and reintegration (PARRS), where UNHCR has significant numbers of ongoing community stabilization and support projects, including in the areas of health, livelihood, education, and infrastructure.
- UNHCR has established a logistics hub in Termez in neighbouring Uzbekistan to pre-position and rapidly deliver aid to Afghanistan. During the reporting period, three UNHCR aid flights landed in Termez, carrying essential shelter supplies which will then be trucked to Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan.
- In a collaboration between UNHCR and UPS, the flights carried 100 metric tonnes of relief supplies from UNHCR's warehouse in Dubai - mainly shelter items, kitchen sets, and plastic tarpaulins. The supplies will support over 125,000 internally displaced persons and their arrival at this time was crucial to ensure that UNHCR can get them to those who need them most before the harsh winter sets in.



UNHCR opens alternative route of aid to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan. On 15 October an emergency airlift by the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, landed in Termez, Uzbekistan. The flight is part of UNHCR's aid effort to Afghanistan and a massive operation to provide life-saving aid to the people of Afghanistan. © UNHCR/Elyor Nemat

- UNHCR Afghanistan continues to **operate a toll-free confidential Hotline and a Protection mailbox to receive queries and concerns**, totaling over **21,000 since the start of September and averaging at some 600 per day**. UNHCR Protection staff process and review queries, flagging vulnerable cases and either responding directly or providing referrals to appropriate services and/or assistance. UNHCR has also, in recent weeks, deployed emergency response staff to provide surge support in response to the high demand.
- Cases and queries include those from people with disabilities, the elderly, female headed households, widows, and sexual and gender minorities. An increase in the number of queries from minorities has been witnessed as well as queries from women who have not been able to return to work in certain professions and female students whose education has been halted.

REGIONAL

- UNHCR continues to **call on countries to keep their borders open to those seeking safety**, as well as draw to attention UNHCR's non-return advisory for Afghanistan, calling for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals in the current circumstances.
- UNHCR has to date recorded **some 48,000 newly arriving Afghans who may be in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since the start of the year**, though the overall number of Afghans in need of international protection are likely to be higher. The majority of those UNHCR has interviewed report leaving Afghanistan for security-related reasons. Basic needs cited by those newly arriving Afghans interviewed in neighboring countries include access to shelter, livelihoods, food, and documentation, with a large majority of those undocumented Afghans in Iran also citing concerns regarding detention and being returned to Afghanistan.
- **In Pakistan**, the Chaman-Spin Boldak land border-crossing point – one of the main official crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan – remained closed for the tenth consecutive day as of 15 October. Meetings of local authorities and concerned parties took place to discuss the situation. UNHCR has not been officially informed of the reasons for closure of the crossing point and continues to seek further information from relevant authorities on the situation. Despite the closure, several trucks carrying humanitarian aid from the Government of Pakistan were permitted entry into Afghanistan on 9 October.
- At the Torkham land border-crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan – the other main border crossing point – restrictions also continue to be in place. Some protests of local people and traders were reported during the last week as border and requests were made to simplify and lift entry permissions.
- **In Iran**, official borders between Afghanistan and Iran remain largely closed, except for those with Afghan passports and valid visas for Iran. At the same time, local media citing the Iranian authorities continue to estimate upwards of 4,000 – 5,000 newly arriving individuals per day into Iran, with some 1,200 reportedly entering daily through unofficial border points in Dogharoun. UNHCR does not have access to border crossing points in Iran to verify these estimates, however 81% of those interviewed by UNHCR report crossing into Iran through unofficial border points, an increase from 75% reported previously.