

A young girl wearing a brown headscarf with a diamond pattern and small gold-colored studs is looking out of a window. The window has a large, stylized 'M' shape in the center. The scene is backlit by bright sunlight, creating a warm, golden glow. The girl is sitting on a patterned surface, possibly a rug or blanket.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AFGHANISTAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

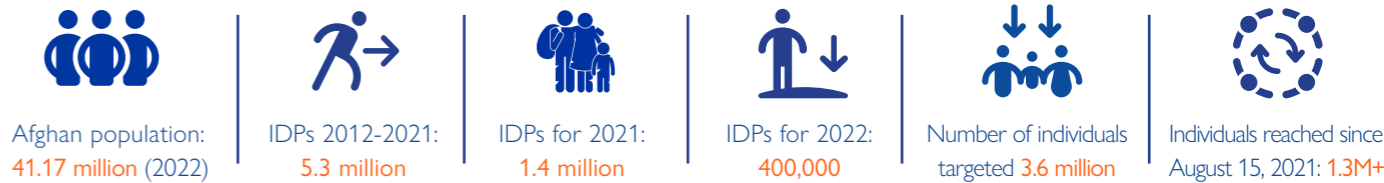


IOM
UN MIGRATION

AUGUST 2021 - AUGUST 2022

GENERAL OVERVIEW

KEY POPULATION DATA



The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Publisher: International Organization for Migration
17, route des Morillons
P.O. Box 17
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 717 9111
Fax: +41 22 798 6150
Email: hq@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int

This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Cover photo: © IOM 2021/Mohammed MUSE

Required citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2022. IOM, Geneva.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY

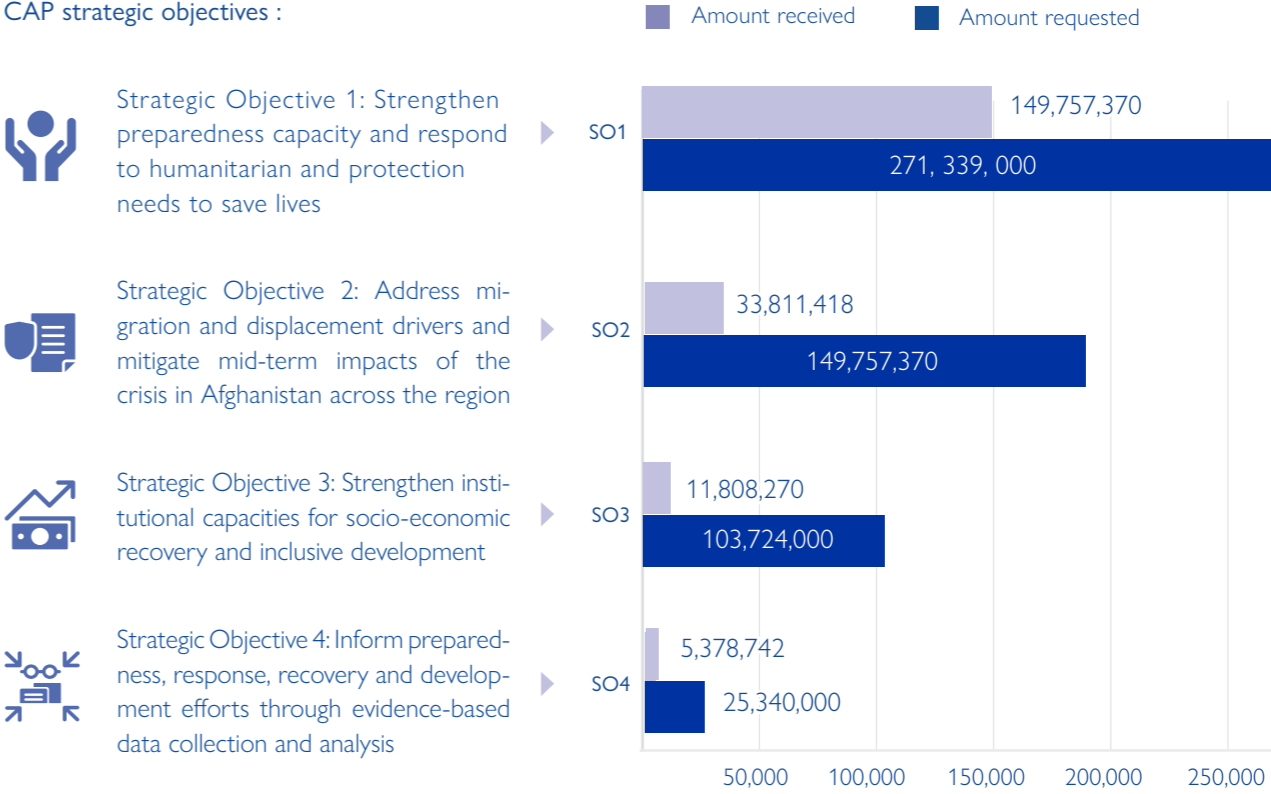


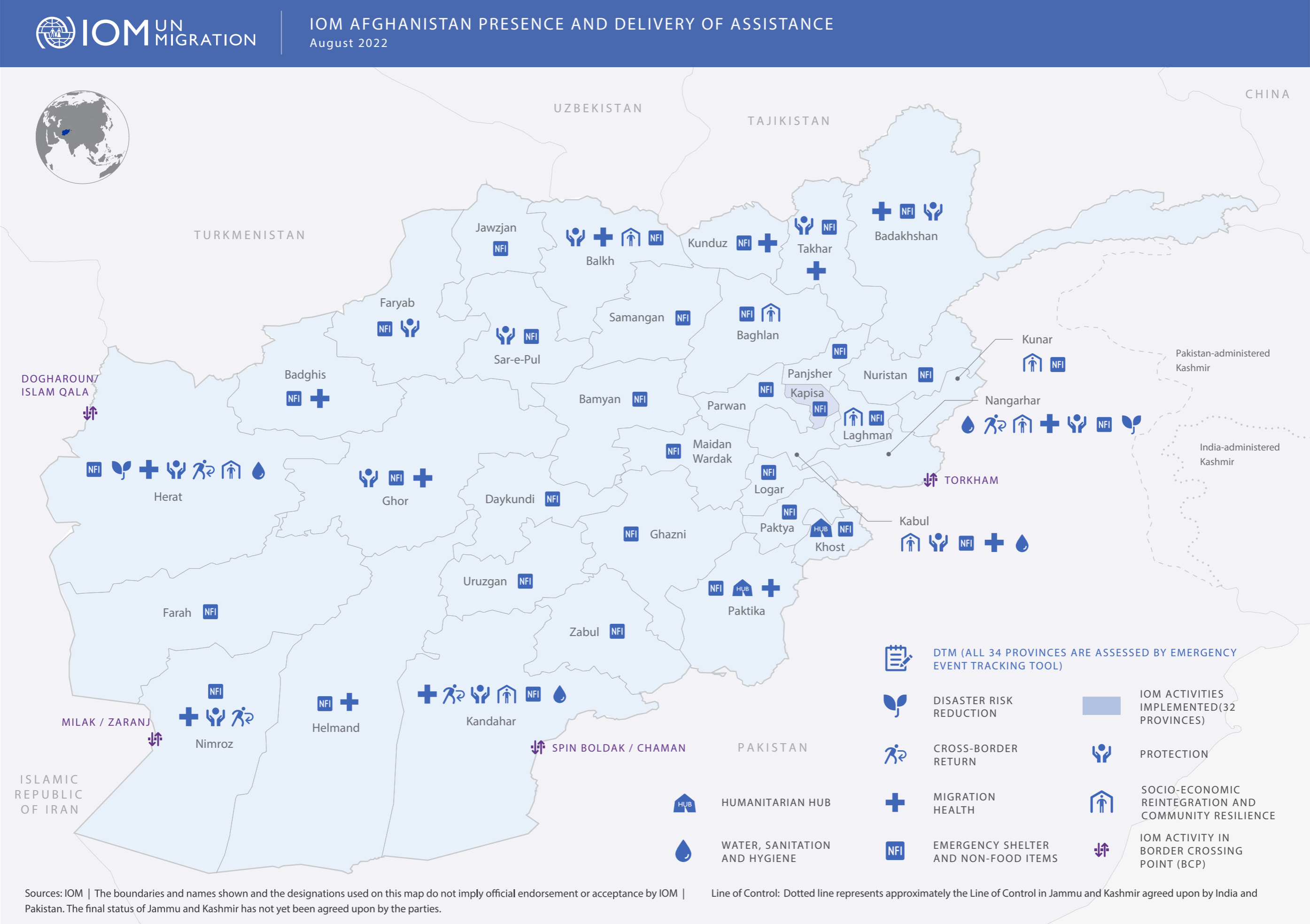
FUNDING

The IOM revised Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), released mid-February is funded at 34%. To date, IOM has mobilized a total of USD 202 mill against the USD 589 mill requested, including 172 for Afghanistan.



CAP strategic objectives :





ACHIEVEMENTS

August 2021 – August 2022



40% of the shelter assistance provided to Afghans was conducted by IOM



Rehabilitation of more than 60 water wells, directly benefitting 30,000 individuals



Direct assistance to more than 64,000 undocumented returnees and IDPs across 11 provinces, including post-arrival protection assistance, case management for persons with specific needs and cash assistance



121,000 beneficiaries assisted via the construction community disaster-resilient infrastructure interventions



IOM has expanded its health assistance and support from 4 to 12 provinces and supported 411,000 individuals with lifesaving health services, including consultations, disease surveillance, maternal or child health care services.



21 Mobile and Static Health Teams and 37 COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams deployed, covering 230 locations



In response to the 22 June earthquake, IOM has supported affected populations with 1200 emergency shelters and NFI kits, 8000 hygiene kits, 3000 jerry cans for water storage, 5 tons of medical supplies and has deployed 2 MHTs for emergency health response



216,000 Afghans were supported with stabilization and resilience support, including via technical and vocational education trainings, business grants and community development projects



More than 24,000 Afghan nationals were provided with international resettlement support to over 50 countries of destination (including Canada, the USA, Australia, Sweden and Germany which are the top five hosting countries)

INTRODUCTION

A year after the regime change of August 2021, an estimated 59% of 24.4 million people present increasingly urgent humanitarian needs, their day-to-day lives dependent on international aid and emergency support. UN data and analysis demonstrates that nearly all Afghans have plunged into poverty and the country now faces the real risk of systemic collapse and humanitarian catastrophe. This is largely driven by escalating food insecurity, dangerous levels of malnutrition, severely constrained livelihoods opportunities, as well as conflict-driven displacement and complex protection needs. Results from the 2022 Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework indicate that all 34 provinces of Afghanistan are in severe or critical need, with 82 per cent of all provinces considered to have critical multisectoral needs. Basic service delivery has been badly impacted and critical development programmes are suspended. These increasingly harsh realities are against a backdrop of ongoing economic shocks that have led to significant drops in income, shrinking remittance flows contrasting with surging prices for food and other commodities.

Amidst this complex, multi-dimensional crisis, and in line with IOM's commitment to support the most vulnerable and leave no one behind, the Organization continues to address humanitarian needs and reduce protection risks for people on the move while working towards mitigating the impact of ongoing and new crisis events like the major earthquake that struck on 22 June. Beyond saving lives and livelihoods, the organization strives to enable communities to transition and recover on a path towards sustainable development in line with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and IOM's own Progressive Resolution of Displacement framework.

Over the past 12 months, IOM has provided assistance to more than 1,300,000 Afghans, including access to protection, water, hygiene, health services and basic daily needs through the distribution of food, temporary shelter and other essentials. In parallel, IOM has also scaled-up its operational capacities and response in neighbouring countries in order to mitigate the impacts of the crisis in the region and support governments and host communities to achieve socio-economic recovery and inclusive sustainable development. Shelter capacities have been drastically expanded, reaching almost 1 out of 2 Afghans in need, while Health interventions grew over a larger area, from 4 provinces before August 2021 to 13 as of August 2022. A new WASH program was also launched to contribute to better access to water in regions severely affected by years of droughts.

In Afghanistan, IOM's country office has scaled-up its staffing capacity by 30% including by doubling the presence of international staff in the country, and with recruitments ongoing to a total number of 876 staff (including 66 international staff),

from 597 prior to the crisis. Procurement operations funding in the country have grown significantly to respond to the complex needs of the crisis, from \$22M to \$65M USD.

Beyond Afghanistan, IOM adapted its pre-existing operational capacity to provide support to population affected by the Afghanistan crisis, including cash-based interventions in Central Asia and Pakistan, food distribution for refugees in Tajikistan and enhanced access to direct assistance for Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Because of the current economic crisis hitting Afghanistan combined with the political and security instability as well as the environmental disasters regularly affecting the most vulnerable parts of the population, humanitarian needs continue to grow, and development gains have been halted, thus calling for enhanced support from the international community. Nearly a year after the start of the crisis, IOM's Comprehensive Action Plan to 2024 is only funded at 34%, for the most part in Afghanistan and under strategic objective 1 ("Strengthen preparedness capacity and respond to humanitarian and protection needs to save lives"), in response to the most fundamental humanitarian needs. IOM is urgently seeking additional funding for recovery programming inside Afghanistan in light of the continual degradation of living conditions associated with a rise in the cost of living, the implications of the Ukraine conflict on imported food items and fuel, a major rise in unemployment and an intensification of climate change. The progress made in support of the Afghan population must be amplified in the coming months and ahead of the winter season, through the continuation of life-saving humanitarian engagement but also greater investment in durable solutions.

IOM's operations are conducted in line and complementarity with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Afghanistan, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) as well as the UN's Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF).

Flexible financial support helps IOM kick-start an emergency response, continue programming in under-resourced crises, and implement lifesaving activities to their full extent. Flexible funds enable IOM to plan and manage received resources efficiently and effectively, to respond to the most severe areas of needs. IOM is grateful to donors who have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.

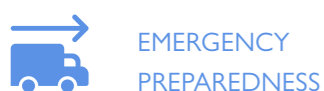
Additional financial and operational information is available on IOM's Global Crisis Response Platform at : <https://crisisresponse.iom.int/>

RESPONSE IN AFGHANISTAN

AUGUST 2021 – AUGUST 2022

IOM 2021/Mohammed Muse

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



HRP SO, specific objective 1.1

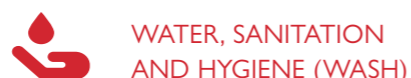
The provision of shelter and NFI responses guarantees the creation of critical assistance, making it possible to save lives and ensure better protection and risk prevention for these populations, in particular regarding the risks that could increase their vulnerability, particularly their health. Shelter and NFI interventions are deployed to ensure emergency safe shelter post emergency, to improve the short-term living conditions for vulnerable populations as well as to facilitate their transition improved shelter solutions over the medium to longer term.

IOM interventions in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries aim at preserving the immediate safety and well-being of vulnerable Afghan IDPs as well as returnees, refugees, migrants and host communities, through the provision of in-kind and cash-based modalities.

From August 2021 until August 2022, IOM has provided assistance to more than 560,000 individuals, including 250,000 persons supported with winterization efforts via an Afghanistan-wide network of 16 warehouses. Winterization support included cash, winter clothing, heating material, fuel and stoves.

IOM is one of the biggest Emergency Shelter / NFI actors in Afghanistan. Since the start of the crisis, approximately 40% of the total individuals reached within the framework of the shelter cluster were provided with assistance by IOM. To date, 25% of the 1.94 million persons in need of shelter / NFI assistance targeted by IOM's CAP have been reached.

In response to the 22 June earthquake, IOM provided direct emergency assistance to affected populations through the distribution of emergency shelters and NFI kits for 1,200 families. After achieving major parts of its humanitarian assistance in response to the disaster, IOM has moved to implementing long-term solutions for local populations, contracting with international partners to provide repairs and reconstruction for damaged and destroyed houses to ensure safe shelter ahead of winter.



HRP : SO 1, specific objectives 1.1 and 1.3

Years of droughts combined with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and outbreaks of cholera and other infectious diseases, the consequences of the current political and security situation in Afghanistan, large-scale cross-border population movements, and recurring disasters have severely impacted people's access to basic services including water, sanitation, and hygiene services with 66 per cent of the population reporting that they do not have enough water for handwashing. Forecasts indicate a potential second La Niña season ahead, causing a consecutive drought year and delivering a devastating blow to the population.

Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM has worked with populations to ensure safe access to potable water as well as hygiene sustainable infrastructures and services. Since August 2021, IOM has supported more than 88,000 individuals via hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of around 17,000 hygiene kits. Multiple technical assessments have also been conducted in over 2,500 sites in various districts across Kabul, Herat and Nangahar provinces, in order to build an evidence-based strategy for future WASH interventions. More than 60 water wells have been rehabilitated, directly benefiting 30,000 people.

By scaling-up efforts over the past year, IOM became a major actor emergency WASH response in Afghanistan, including for earthquake and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks and is setting up an emergency team to be deployed to any part of the country for initial assessments and emergency response.



HEALTHCARE PROVISION AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) IN EMERGENCIES

HRP : SO 1, specific objective 1.3

Health remains a high priority for humanitarian actors in Afghanistan, from provision of lifesaving primary and secondary health care services to support with mental health and psychosocial services.

According to the latest IOM DTM's Community-based Needs Assessment data (CBNA), access to healthcare remains a major challenge for most communities. On average, only 19% of all surveyed communities have a health clinic located within walking distance of their community, with significant disparities between provinces.

After August 2021, IOM rapidly scaled-up provision of life-saving health services targeting migrant, displaced, hard-to-reach populations and host communities in Afghanistan. To address the needs and vulnerabilities of Afghans affected by the crisis and its collateral consequences on access to basic services, IOM has deployed 21 Mobile and Static Health Teams (MHTs) and 37 COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), covering 13 provinces and over 230 locations, in coordination with the Provincial Public Health Directorates (PPHDs) and Health Cluster partners.

IOM implemented tuberculosis (TB) programming in 4 provinces, COVID-19 vaccinations in 12 provinces, and supported health system financing for four provincial COVID-19 referral hospitals. Over 1 million people were reached with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities related to COVID-19 prevention measures as well as sensitization on other diseases. More than 420,000 COVID-19 vaccines were administered with support from IOM.

IOM mobile teams travelled to remote communities, and provided primary health consultations, referrals, dispensed medicines, provided women and girls access to reproductive and child health services, and basic nutrition services. They provided routine vaccinations (e.g. measles, polio etc.) and basic trauma care, and context-specific health promotion activities, alongside MHPSS. IOM teams facilitated disease surveillance, contact tracing, ran targeted health promotion activities and ensured access to testing (and referral) services. Teams of vaccinators administered COVID-19 vaccines and facilitated demand generation activities, working with communities to address rumours and answer questions at the community level. IOM also supported disease surveillance at border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan in line with the International Health Regulation (IHR 2005).

Since August 2021, IOM has scaled up operations from 4 to 13 provinces and assisted more than 411,000 individuals with lifesaving health services, including providing consultations, disease surveillance, reproductive, maternal, neonatal (for 47,769 women and girls) and child health care services, among others. Following the earthquake on June 22 which affected Paktika and Khost provinces, 2 Mobile health teams with integrated MHPSS capacity were deployed, including 6 female MHPSS counsellors and 5 tons of medicines (including antibiotics, analgesics and medicine for a primary health care services).

IOM also provides mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), with interventions provided by IOM psychosocial support counsellors attached to the MHTs where more than 27,000 individuals received psychosocial services. Additionally, IOM carried out regular community sensitization to address stigma and increase awareness of warning signs of mental health conditions and provide information on available MHPSS services.

To support the Afghan National Health System, IOM supports three Comprehensive Health Centres, through the provision of health-care services in underserved or isolated areas lacking services. These actions are achieved in cooperation with the PPHD, the regional Health cluster and Sehatmandi/Humanitarian Emergency Response project implementers and partners.



IOM 2021/Mohammed Muse



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

HRP: SO 2, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2

IOM's protection programme provides direct support for the Afghan people, especially returnees and IDPs. This response focuses on strengthening protection monitoring and analysis in areas of high mobility and cross-border locations, identifying and providing targeted protection services and assistance for persons with specific needs, as well as enhancing community-based protection mechanisms and increasing protection actors' capacities to provide timely and quality protection services.

Since the onset of the crisis, the Afghan population has been severely afflicted by reduced access to basic services, increased levels of poverty and further restrictions on freedom and curtailed human rights. This situation is particularly affecting the most vulnerable parts of the population, including displaced populations, undocumented Afghan returnees, children, women and people with disabilities. Combined with the consequences of decades of protracted conflict, a large part of the population is facing extreme protection needs, - particularly with regard to accessing services - as well as threats for their safety and security, freedom of movements, and ongoing human rights violations and systematic discrimination, specifically, against women and girls. Against this backdrop, affected persons are resorting to more extreme coping mechanisms to survive or to fund journeys out of Afghanistan, including sending their children to work, reducing their food intake, selling assets, and in some cases, selling their children. Reduced access to formal routes, and the absence of safe and regular routes of migration, are pushing civilians to find informal routes, exposing them to myriad protection risks in the process. Aid interference has also been reported in multiple instances, disturbing selection of programme beneficiaries or implementing partners.

Answering these urgent needs, IOM has assisted more than 64,000 undocumented returnees and IDPs since August 2021, across 11 provinces, namely in Badakhshan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-E-Pul, and Takhar. IOM has undertaken a variety of programmatic engagements such as protection post-arrival protection assistance for undocumented returnees (Persons with Specific Needs- PSNs) (including emergency accommodation, family tracing and reunification and safe transportation to their provinces of choice); case management for households containing Persons with Specific Needs¹ and one-off cash assistance; and protection monitoring including consultations, household surveys and key informant interviews.

Since August 2021, protection post-arrival assistance was provided on the Iranian border by IOM female and male staff at reception and transit centres in Nimroz and Herat. More than 118,000 undocumented returnees were screened for protection concerns (including women/children at risk, serious medical cases, persons with disabilities) in coordination with the Department of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR) and IOM's Cross-Border Return and Reintegration (CBRR) and Migration Health team. Of these cases, a total of 4,632 undocumented returnees (2,314 male, 2,345 female) with specific needs received protection post-arrival assistance, such as information on how to access basic services, referrals, and in-kind assistance including family tracing and reunification, emergency accommodation, and safe transportation to province of choice.

Safe and dignified reintegration was provided for 4,066 cases in 11 provinces of return through protection case management for households with persons with specific needs. Households were supported via dissemination of key protection information, referral to local services, and one-off cash assistance for protection to meet immediate needs and mitigate protection risks (e.g., resort to negative coping mechanisms). The protection cash-based assistance facilitates beneficiaries access to services by covering the cost of transportation, food, housing or health-related needs. Since August 2021, cash assistance was provided to 27,287 at risk undocumented returnees (13,661 male, 13,626 female) and 2,202 IDPs.

Protection monitoring - in the form of household surveys and key informant interviews - is ongoing in these same provinces and actively involved 7590 (4599 male, 2991 female) undocumented returnees and IDPs during the reporting period. IOM continues to use findings and recommendations from protection monitoring reports to inform advocacy and contribute to diverse protection global and national briefs on the protection and respect of the rights of the Afghan population

“We are very thankful to IOM for their assistance. Now we have enough food to eat and some money to buy other basic items, I have already stopped sending my grandchild Shafiq to the market for work and I have stopped sending my other grandchild Wali for shepherding.”

- Abdullah, IOM beneficiary, Badakhshan March 2022

IN FOCUS: THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN

Since the political upheaval of August 2021, the fundamental rights and freedoms of women and girls have been regularly denied, limiting them from accessing basic services such as education, employment, and healthcare, turning them into one of the most at-risk groups in Afghanistan. Measures imposed by the de facto authorities (DFA) are also restricting women's and girls' freedom of movement, expression, and association, depriving many of regular income. Combined with high food prices - worsened by the consequences of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine -, and the current liquidity crisis, this situation is severely aggravating the vulnerability of women. Continued advocacy remains needed more than ever to ensure women can actively participate in society while meaningfully contributing to and benefiting from international partners' assistance.

Since August 2021, the DFA have mandated women to cover their faces in public and in some instances threatened to punish male family members should they fail to comply, precluded women from travelling without the presence of a male guardian, denied girls access to education at secondary school level, and insisted that women only leave home when absolutely necessary. Across seven provinces, shopkeepers have been observed not selling goods to women without a mahram, with Nimroz and Nangarhar the worst affected. Alongside this deteriorating situation, IOM and other agencies have noted a sharp increase in restrictions on female humanitarian workers, including incidents of intimidation, harassment, and request for proof of relation for their mahram at checkpoints. The situation is impacting equal humanitarian access, particularly in rural areas, and is impeding the provision of assistance to vulnerable and at-risk communities including women and girls. The closure of female and children services, especially safe shelters, have also severely impacted safe and dignified support to vulnerable women and girls. Lack of economic opportunities and conflict over resources were reported as the most dominant drivers of insecurity for women.

To ensure the safety of female beneficiaries, partners, and staff, IOM has adapted its project tools, has updated its protection and case management Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), and put in place a set of different measures to allow our female staff to continue their work in a safe environment. Women focal points have been designated in IOM's offices and a dedicated guidance on supporting women at work (including mahram allowances for staff and revision of transportation means, work from home means) was developed and is continually revised.

IOM has ensured that community mobilisers, case workers and support staff working in the different sectors of IOM's intervention areas include both male and female staff, enabling IOM teams to better identify, assess and respond to women and girls needs while mitigating the protection risks they face. Cooperation between IOM and UN agencies and protection actors will also continue, to guarantee safe and dignified delivery of aid with a right based approach and ensuring monitoring and advocacy against rights violations.

1. Returnees are deemed vulnerable based on the Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) criteria, which includes Single Females, Single Parents, Unaccompanied Elderly, Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMCs), Physically Disabled, Persons with Mental Health Concerns, Chronically Ill, Poor Families, Persons with Substance Abuse Concerns, Medical Cases, and Special cases. Based on this classification, IOM estimates that 100% of returnees from Pakistan and 100% of returnees from Iran are considered PSNs and thus eligible for assistance.

 **DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION**

HRP : SO 3, specific objectives 3.1 and 3.2

Disaster prevention efforts conducted by IOM are aimed at enhancing the population's capacity to better mitigate the negative consequences of disasters, especially the most vulnerable communities living in disaster-prone areas

Since the onset of the crisis, IOM has assisted more than 121,000 beneficiaries via the construction of community small scale disaster-mitigation infrastructure interventions, including protective infrastructure against seasonal floods through a community-led participatory process.

Community-based disaster reduction management (CB-DRM) trainings were also conducted across multiple provinces, to support communities' capacity to increase their knowledge of hazards and risks and empower them to identify strategies to limit damages and losses to community assets while saving lives.

Natural hazards will continue to affect local populations, further impeding national recovery and putting added stress on local services. According to IOM data, 39% of Internally Displaced Persons between January 2021 and April 2022 were displaced because of the consequences of disasters.



IOM 2021/Léo Torretton

Earthquake in Paktika and Khost provinces – Afghanistan in the face of natural hazards

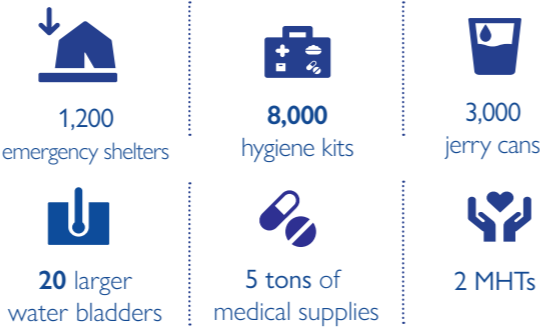
On 22 June 2022, a powerful 5.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in remote parts of southeastern Afghanistan, with the provinces of Paktika and Khost being most affected. More than five hundred people have been confirmed dead, close to 3,000 have sustained injuries while unknown numbers were buried in the rubble of ruined mud houses. Lifesaving needs for the affected population have included access to water, shelter, food as well as emergency health care, in areas already suffering from food insecurity and water born disease.

A few hours after the earthquake, IOM's teams were deployed on the ground to provide life-saving support and assess needs. 1,200 emergency shelters and NFI kits were provided to the local population as well as 8,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 jerry cans for households' water storage as well as 20 larger water bladders for community level water storage solutions and 5 tons of medical supplies. 2 MHTs were also deployed including MHPSS counselors.

IOM, in collaboration with WFP, has set up and is coordinating the running of three humanitarian hubs in Barmal (Paktika), Giyan (Paktika), and Spera (Khost). The earthquake-hit districts are extremely remote and have been underserved over the last two decades due to the conflict. These hubs will allow UN and NGO actors a safe location in close proximity to those in need from which to conduct their response more effectively and efficiently. IOM will ensure accommodation, office space, WASH facilities, food supplies as well as basic health facilities will be available in a secure location for the humanitarian community in these locations, with WFP providing connectivity, shared storage space and power. All three hubs are hosting up to 100 humanitarians from UN agencies and NGO involved in the response to the Paktika Earthquake.

Responses to disaster affected populations was already part of IOM's consolidated appeals process in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the earthquake preparedness planning at interagency level.

IOM is looking to expand its overall funding envelope for Afghanistan to ensure that our organization keeps offering necessary response to the earthquake, especially in support of access to shelter and WASH services for the affected populations



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

STABILIZATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE

Transition and recovery initiatives implemented in Afghanistan support communities and local actors with solutions aimed at fostering resilience, stabilization and enhanced access to livelihoods and services.

Since August 2021, IOM has implemented area-based interventions to promote community resilience and assist returning Afghans in 8 provinces, benefitting a total of 216,000 beneficiaries.

As part of this engagement, 21 Community Development Projects (CDPs) have been completed which identify and prioritize the needs of 29,537 households from the target communities. Community development projects are meant to provide mid to long-term solutions benefiting the most fragile segments of the population, further enhancing resilience of Afghans in the country. They include the construction of irrigation canals, protection walls, school buildings, hospital/clinic building and water supply system for the communities. 785 short-term construction jobs were also created.

In support of youth skill development and entrepreneurship, 368 individuals (151 male and 217 female) completed 9-month apprenticeship programs, allowing them to find long-term employment in local businesses. 239 individuals (134 male and 105 female) were also enrolled in Technical & Vocational Education and Training, providing opportunities to 93% of them to find direct employment or launch their own businesses.

Small and medium businesses were also supported as part of IOM's transitional efforts towards long-term recovery. 26 scale-up and 31 start-up enterprises were supported, employing a total of 330 individuals (290 men and 40 women), with a basic salary of 50,000 Afs per month (around \$55 USD). Permanent employment will then be offered, and salaries at least doubled once their traineeship is completed. 8,500 individuals were also supported as part of IOM's 'Job Retention Scheme', via the support of more than 400 businesses suffering from the economic crisis and with dire prospects of operating in the future, in different economic sectors including food and agriculture, garments, recycling and production, carpet weaving, bakery, cleaning, furniture making, and footwear production. These interventions have allowed the safeguarding of more than 4,200 jobs while creating over 1,700 new ones in the northern provinces of the country.

IOM has also successfully managed the first round of cash distribution to 5,923 existing and new employees in the northern provinces in the month of May 2022, who work for 184 businesses to provide them with a basic salary of USD 50 per month to improve their living conditions. This support enables the businesses to save money on salaries and reinvest it in their own businesses for raw materials, small tools and equipment, and enhances the overall working environment in the face of repeated shocks, including access to financing or banking support.



IOM 2021/Paula Bronstein

REZA

“Reza is a 22-year-old returnee living with a 12-member family, who lives to the west of Herat city - an area of high return according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix.

“Due to economic problems, I emigrated to Iran in 2016. I was working as a labourer to cover expenses for my family. After two years as a migrant and facing a lot of challenges in Iran, I returned to Afghanistan in 2018. After my return, I was jobless and faced many economic problems in my life. One year later, the Community Development Council introduced me to Herat Kosha Aluminium Company where I was able to get a stable job and learn a new skill,” Reza explained.

Working with Community Development Councils, IOM supports qualified Small and Medium Enterprises to create job opportunities for returnees in local businesses such as the Herat Kosha Aluminium Company where Reza has been working for over one year. In addition to learning new skills, Reza now earns about 8,000 AFG (USD 92) monthly, through which he is supporting his family.

REGIONAL RESPONSE



IOM 2021/Mohammed Muse

Pakistan

IOM has established three operational and logistical hubs in Peshawar (covering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Quetta (covering Balochistan) and the city of Karachi. From August 2021 until December 2021, IOM Pakistan has also actively supported close to 3,500 Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders with multi-purpose cash assistance in selected districts of the country. Individual Livelihoods Assistance (ILA) activities were also implemented in collaboration with the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR). As part of these operations, 70 beneficiaries have completed business development service (BDS) trainings and received a business support package (BSP) through cash assistance which allowed the beneficiaries to purchase supplies and equipment to open/improve their business.

To assist in the Government of Pakistan's sensitization efforts to push for enhanced vaccination for registered Afghan refugees and extend it to ACC holders, IOM – together with its partner HANDS has conducted social and community mobilization activities in Quetta, Karachi, and Peshawar. IOM and HANDS have been disseminating public service messages through the

installation of 450 banners at selected locations, displaying posters on public transport, mobile broadcasts, and announcements in selected neighborhoods, as well as posting video messages on social media. Furthermore, three provincial-level seminars and nine community dialogue sessions have been conducted for advocacy and stakeholder coordination purposes.

Quotes:

“Farida Bibi is the primary caregiver of her family. She single-handedly takes care of her paralyzed husband, covers the cost of his treatment, and manages the household. Farida was earning a small profit from her home-based tailoring business. She could not meet demand or expand her business since she did not have sufficient funds to purchase raw materials or machinery. IOM's Individual Livelihoods Assistance empowered Farida to purchase machines and raw materials to expand her tailoring business.

TAJIKISTAN :

In Tajikistan, IOM provided targeted food aid to 1,200 Afghan refugee families and 850 vulnerable families among the local host communities, in coordination with UNHCR, the national Migration Service and Departments for Women and Family Affairs, as well as Heads of local mahalla. Assistance was provided throughout 5 cities and regions of Tajikistan, including the cities of Dushanbe, Vakhdat, Bokhtar, Kushoniyen, Rudaki, Gissar districts and Jabbor Rasulov district of Sugd region.

In Tajikistan, IOM is in the process of contracting local NGOs in order to facilitate the provision of food assistance to Afghan nationals and their vulnerable host communities in jointly identified

target locations. The beneficiary selection criteria have been finalized in coordination with local stakeholders in order to ensure the buy-in and participation of key stakeholders in the process.

IRAN :

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, IOM has made significant progress in strengthening access to Afghans settled in the country. In cooperation with national and local authorities, the country office has assisted newly arrived Afghan refugees in vulnerable situations by providing NFIs, hygiene and dignity kits in and around areas where they live.

Resettlement activities



Since August 2021, more than 24,000 Afghan nationals were provided with international resettlement support to over 50 countries of destination (including Canada, the USA, Australia, Sweden and Germany which are the top five hosting countries), traveling mostly from Pakistan, Qatar, Tajikistan, Albania and India. Resettlement activities are not funded through the CAP as these are coordinated bilaterally with concerned governments.



At the processing site established by the US government in Doha, Qatar, IOM has been supporting the evacuation of Afghan nationals to the USA. In the framework of the United States Refugees Admissions Program (USRAP), since September 2021, more than 8,000 individuals were provided with organized transportation from Doha to the USA.



Currently, close to 4,000 Afghan nationals are being hosted at the Qatar Transit Centre and provided with protection assistance (including MHPSS), NFIs and medical referrals. Finally, under the Operations Allies Welcome (OAW) interagency response, IOM has successfully closed out Phase 1, where more than 58,000 Afghan evacuees were provided with organized transportation from 8 bases in the USA, to their final destinations



IOM 2021/Mohammed Muse

WAY FORWARD

AFGHANISTAN

Within the coming year, IOM Afghanistan will work to expand WASH and CCCM programming while continuing its earthquake response activities in Paktika and Khost as well as responding to other ongoing natural disasters – such as the current flooding in Nangahar province. IOM has become a core pipeline partner for the WASH cluster and is growing the programme quickly. Given the success of IOM WASH project implementation, the WASH programme portfolio has significantly increased since its inception in November 2021, thanks to IOM's trusted actor status. Since January 2021, IOM's emergency programming portfolio across the board has increased in funding more than 37 per cent.

In the second half of 2022, IOM's Camp Coordination and Camp Coordination programme (CCCM) will support the translation of key CCCM materials and work on establishing a CCCM footprint to support with ongoing evictions of IDPs as well as ensuring durable solutions (returns, reintegration and relocation) are looked at holistically. IOM is working to link development-oriented solutions for IDPs by ensuring that Cross-Border Returns and Reintegration in complementarity with SRR work to ensure continuity of care. The earthquake response will continue until the end of 2022, inclusive of the provision of temporary shelter, while leading on intervention assessments and provision of information management through DTM. IOM is also responsible for the coordination and operational running of three humanitarian hubs to support access to and accommodation in the earthquake area as well as MHPSS provision and WASH core pipeline support to partners on ground.



IOM 2021/Mohammed Muse



Given the ongoing multiple crises affecting Afghanistan, the humanitarian community will need to continue pursue its efforts on preparedness and life-saving responses. Longer-term funding from donors, including through unearmarked contributions are required to complement and progressively transition from emergency response towards more holistic and development-oriented interventions.

Over the coming months, IOM's resilience and recovery programming will continue to grow and build greater synergies with ongoing humanitarian operations to ensure appropriate development gains. Durable solutions need to be made available now to alleviate and reduce humanitarian needs – particularly in relation to those who are displaced or returning and in areas impacted by harsh winter weather. This requires that appropriate legal documentation can be obtained, and access to protection and basic services is improved.

If this combined action between humanitarian response, resilience programming and investment in durable solutions for affected population does not take pace, Afghanistan's systems will erode, and humanitarian needs will continue to increase. IOM is well-placed as an actor providing assistance across the humanitarian, peace and development nexus while also leading on evidence-based responses to support and broker this type of outcome and ensure continuity of care from humanitarian assistance through to durable solutions.

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Pakistan

In Pakistan, IOM will continue to support the Government in enhancing its verification of Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders and register the undocumented, to clarify their status, including rights and obligations associated with it. As Afghans without refugee status are still prevented to access some basic services in the country, this exercise will be used as an opportunity to advocate for an improvement in access to services for Afghan migrants in Pakistan and will allow for enhanced assistance and overall support to Afghans in the country. Access to basic services for undocumented or recently arrived Afghan nationals will continue, specifically through the provision of emergency health care via IOM's health units as well as multipurpose cash-based interventions to vulnerable households.

Support to livelihoods and social cohesion will be enhanced, with the provision of business grants to Afghan nationals and financing of community projects with an objective to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Afghans.



Iran

In continuation of progress achieved in supporting Afghans in vulnerable situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, IOM will further invest in humanitarian and transitional efforts to ensure sustainable solutions for vulnerable Afghan and safe and regular migration pathways, in cooperation with national authorities. Social cohesion between Afghan population and host communities will be promoted via vocational trainings to support labour market integration, especially for women and youth as well as other highly vulnerable groups. Micro, small, and medium businesses will also be supported to further ensure job creation for Afghan and host communities. Local NGOs and community leaders working with Afghans in need will be capacitated, especially to respond to demands related to forced displacement, including via legal assistance, finance literacy and general information.

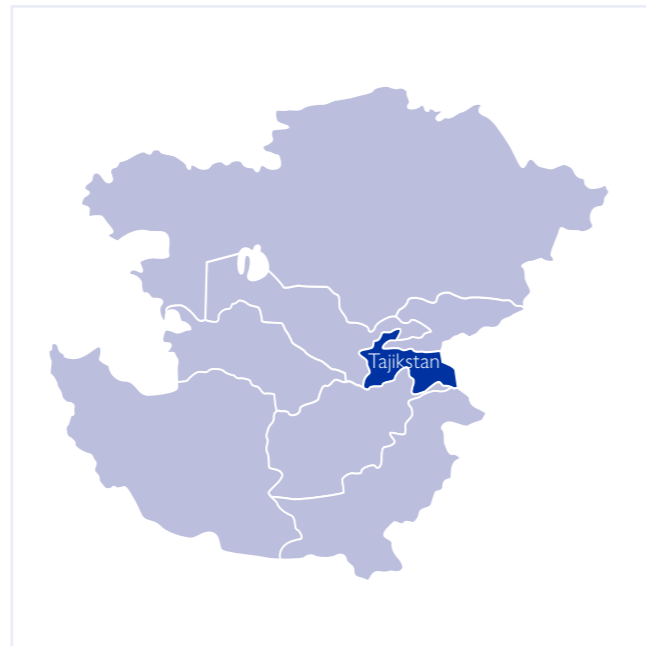
IOM Iran will also continue its engagement alongside governmental partners, to support national capacities to promote safe, orderly and regular migration. Investments will be pursued via the provision of trainings, infrastructure development as well as technical capacity building with an aim to enhance humanitarian border management and promote better identification, registration, referral and assistance for migrants and refugees.



Tajikistan

In line with IOM's regional ambition to support Governments with preparedness and emergency response to the Afghanistan crisis, IOM Tajikistan will continue his close collaboration with the Tajik Border Forces, notably to enhance border health programming, including via technical support and capacity building. Points of entry and health facilities will be supported in border areas, in order to reinforce authorities' capacities to provide proper medical screenings of individuals crossing the border.

Direct assistance and systemic support to Afghan nationals living in Tajikistan will continue, by reinforcing humanitarian emergency response while supporting and creating long-term integration solutions for Afghans. IOM Tajikistan will also continue its support to Afghans and host communities, especially around the Balkhi settlement centre, by scaling-up and modernize services available for host communities, with an aim to ensure good relations and social cohesion between newly arrived refugees and the local population. By fostering access to jobs, education and other basic services but also by ensuring that Tajik in vulnerable situations also benefit from better employment and access to services, IOM will contribute to the development of local economies as well as support durable solutions for Afghans.



Central Asia

Efforts in Central Asia are dedicated to enhancing the level of preparedness of the region, from border crossing points to community settlements. IOM will concentrate actions on offering assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants, including via the provision of multipurpose cash-based interventions, screening and monitoring of individuals in need of special medical care as well direct protection assistance with the strengthening of referral pathways. Capacity building of national and local authorities will also constitute a priority. Reinforcing the emergency coordination capacity of national and local authorities combined with support to border management strategies will be essential to guarantee safe, regular and organized migration flows, especially to protect the most vulnerable migrants living or transiting to the region. Sustainable access to basic services, particularly education of young people through partnerships with UN sister agencies, provision of skills training and livelihoods creation will also constitute a priority of IOM especially in and around areas with Afghan populations. Moreover, IOM will pursue a series of research projects and assessments about the implication of the Ukraine crisis on Central Asia and the broader Afghanistan crisis response.

