

IOM COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



August 2021 - December 2024
Updated in February 2022

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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.

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COVER:

An Afghan boy at a distribution activity organized by IOM in Kabul, Afghanistan. 2021 © IOM/ Safa Msehli

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I. ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

TARGETED POPULATIONS

Over **3,6 million crisis-affected persons** (IDPs, migrants, returnees, refugees, host communities, and other persons in vulnerable situations) and government counterparts

DURATION

August 2021 - December 2024

SO1 (Humanitarian): August 2021 - December 2022
SO2 (Transition): August 2021 - December 2023
SO3 (Development): August 2021 - December 2024
SO4 (Data/cross-cutting): August 2021 - December 2024

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (USD)

TOTAL USD 589,771,000
 (USD 411,328,025 against inter-agency plans)

SO1 - Humanitarian response, protection and preparedness

USD 271,339,000

SO2 - Impact Mitigation and Transition

USD 189,368,000

SO3 - Recovery and development

USD 103,724,000

SO4 - Data collection and analysis

USD 25,340,000

I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly six months after the August 2021 political upheaval and resulting political transition, more than half of the Afghan population are in humanitarian need. This is more than 30 percent higher than the number of people in need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance as compared to last year. The combined effects of decades of conflict, recurrent disasters and the impact of climate change, international sanctions and the resulting broad-based systemic collapse has seen Afghanistan's population reach near universal levels of poverty as of winter 2022. Without a comprehensive response that combines rapid humanitarian action with mid- to long-term development planning, economic and social conditions are expected to continue to spiral downwards and risk further wiping out development gains made over the past 20 years.

As projected when IOM's Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for Afghanistan and neighboring countries was initially launched in September 2021, these political, social and economic shocks have reverberated across the country and the region¹. More than 700,000 Afghans were driven into displacement in 2021, adding to an approximate 5.5 million already in protracted displacement by mid-August 2021. Afghans, and in particular women and girls, are facing increasing vulnerabilities and protection risks. In addition, a trend of increased cross-border mobility dynamics has been observed in the past year². The sheer level of internal displacement, coupled with increasing population movements across the region as well as the higher than usual rates of cross-border returns observed in the past few months, have required IOM to further strengthen its regional approach to the crisis and, alongside international partners, to review the scope of the response and related funding requirements for the coming years. Whilst the response strategy remains unchanged, in light of new information and an enhanced understanding of the evolving situation, the revised CAP builds on the assumptions and mobility projections laid out in the initial Plan. Taking into account regional mobility dynamics, the four Strategic Objectives of the Plan will continue to be complementary building blocks and will run simultaneously to respond to increasing needs, risks and vulnerabilities, to reinforce greater regional coordination and response strategies and to increase the resilience of communities both in Afghanistan and across the region.

In the months following the August 2021 events, IOM has continued to deliver live-saving humanitarian assistance to Afghan populations in need and provided support to Afghan communities through area-based programming. In addition, IOM has also scaled up its operational capacities both in country and in the region to enhance the regional understanding and response to the

crisis. In the past five months alone, more than 600,000 people in Afghanistan, including an increasing number of returnees, were reached with assistance provided by IOM. But as needs are growing, a failure to sustain and improve access to essential services and restore livelihoods, alongside the need to effectively address the vulnerabilities of populations affected by the crisis, will only increase displacement trends and population outflows within and across borders.

Therefore, IOM will further expand its operations based on a strong Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN) approach to address the humanitarian and protection needs of affected populations in Afghanistan and neighboring countries, whilst strengthening the resilience of Afghans and host communities to reduce displacement risks, and help people and communities to transition and recover better. In parallel, IOM recognizes the need to further upscale its response in neighboring 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.

As initially planned and against the backdrop of these staggering humanitarian and development needs, increasing protection risks and projections of displacement and cross-border movements, IOM has revised its CAP and now seeks to mobilize a total of **USD 589,771,000 million** to expand its efforts to reach more people with the multi-sectoral assistance they urgently require, to ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable are upheld, that the impact of the crisis in the region is contained, and that governments and societies are supported to achieve inclusive recovery and sustainable development³. All planned interventions will be closely coordinated at the inter-agency level and are in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (2022) in Afghanistan as well as the Regional Refugee Response Plan (2022) and the UN's Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF).

¹ *Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, IOM, September 2021.*

² *OCHA and IOM (DTM) data, 2021.*

³ *The total funding requirements of the revised CAP includes the initial funding requirements pledged for in September 2021 (corresponding to 158,900,000 USD).*

II. SITUATION OVERVIEW

Afghanistan

Four decades of conflict, recurrent disasters, chronic poverty and under-investment as well as drought and the COVID-19 pandemic have further escalated the already dire socio-economic situation in Afghanistan, which now faces a very real risk of systemic collapse and humanitarian catastrophe. Prior to the political shift in August 2021, increased fighting across the country had already forced nearly 700,000 people into internal displacement, of which 80% are women and children⁴. Although violence overall has reduced following the takeover, internal displacement, albeit at a lower scale, has continued and has been complemented by increased cross-border flows into neighboring countries, in particular in Pakistan and Iran, which already host over 2.2 million registered Afghan refugees and a further 4 million Afghans of varying status, including undocumented persons. 2021 was the highest ever return year on record for the return of undocumented Afghans from Iran and (to a lesser extent) Pakistan, with close to 800,000 Afghans having been forcibly returned from Iran and Pakistan. In addition, both inflows and outflows between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been increasing following the August 2021 political transition and were at their highest points in the last quarter of 2021.

While conflict and insecurity were the primary drivers of displacement and cross-border population movements in 2021, disasters and environmental risks are increasingly core drivers of underlying needs and vulnerabilities. As the worst drought in more than three decades was declared in June 2021, 80% of the country is now facing either severe or serious water scarcity with over 50% of water points drying up in some provinces. With more than 70% of the Afghan population living in rural areas and the vast majority

of livelihoods depending directly or indirectly on agriculture, the resulting crop failures, livestock losses and the collapse of rural incomes and remittance flows have driven significant increases in acute food insecurity levels throughout 2021. Whilst the drought, combined with the economic collapse, are projected to continue driving food insecurity in the coming year, Afghanistan already has the highest number of people in a state of emergency level of food insecurity in the world. In the absence of sustained and wide-scale support, acute hunger will increase and will physically, mentally and emotionally affect the more than 22 million people currently living in emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity.

In addition, the country's health care system is on the brink of collapse as it is struggling to overcome the numerous shocks brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the spikes across the country in waterborne and vector-borne diseases as well as the sudden halt of international support that had ensured its functioning. Still today, numerous healthcare facilities at all levels (from primary to provincial hospitals) are either partly or fully non-operational, have tremendous numbers of healthcare workers who have not been paid for months, and have a short supply of many medicines and medical supplies. Only approximately 13% of the Afghan population has to date been vaccinated against COVID-19 with inequitable access to vaccines for mobile and migrant populations who are most at risk due to their living standards. This represents an increased vulnerability for those crossing borders and an additional risk for host communities, and may further challenge the existing resources to mitigate the impact of the pandemic in Afghanistan and neighboring countries.



Displaced populations in Afghanistan are provided with NFI kits, October 2021. © IOM

⁴ OCHA, 2021.



IOM staff conduct vulnerability assessments in displacement-affected locations, October 2021. © IOM

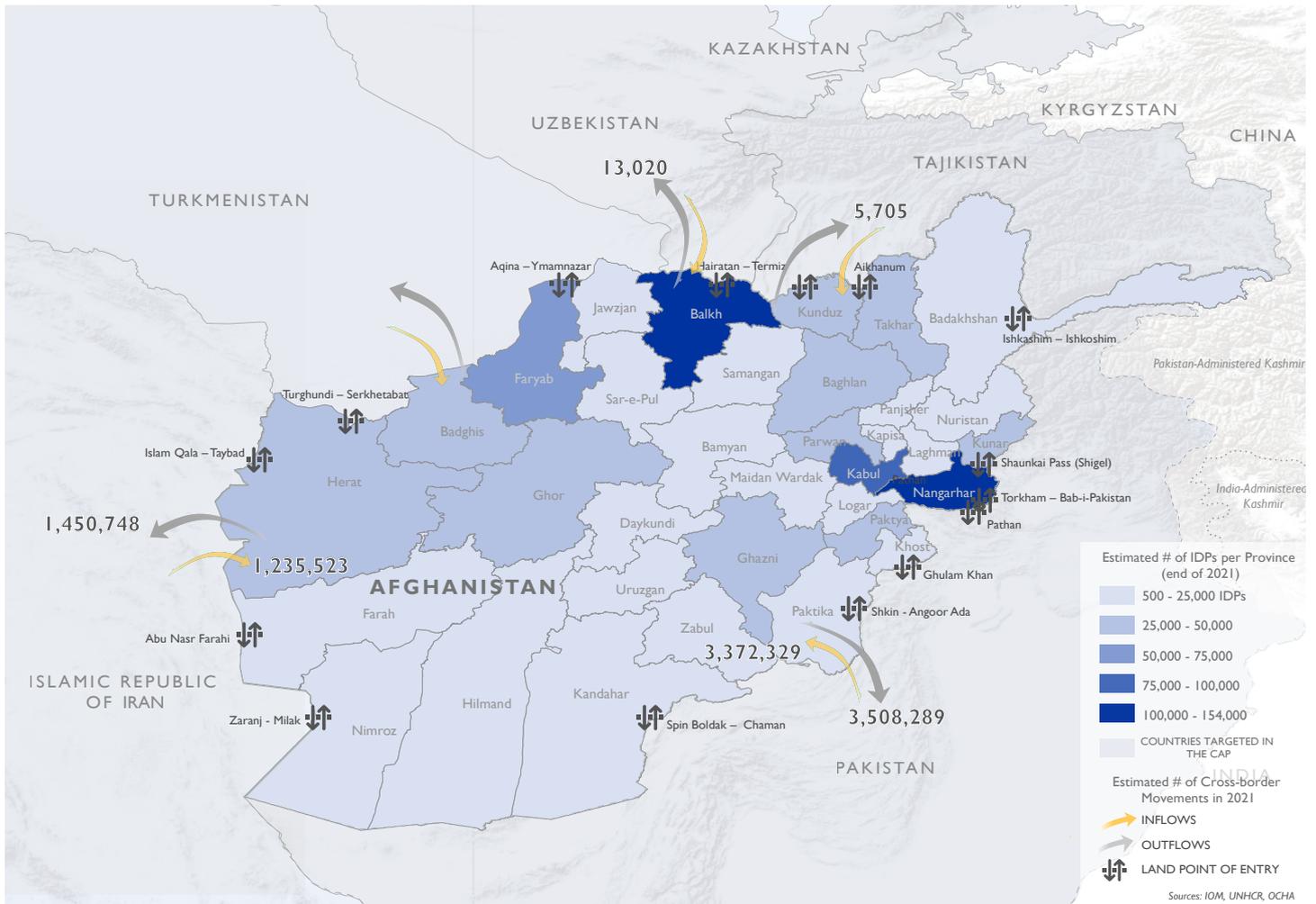
Faced with steadily increasing inflation, most Afghans have exhausted nearly all coping mechanisms and resorted to taking on unmanageable debt burdens. The disruption to markets, financial, and trade mechanisms, the freezing of central bank reserves, and the sudden drop in direct international development assistance have resulted in cash shortages, growing unemployment, a weakening banking sector, falling trade, and an estimated 40% contraction of the country's GDP. Continuing economic collapse will further incentivize large numbers of Afghans to seek better opportunities and safety for themselves and their families out of the country.

Amidst this escalating complex multi-dimensional crisis, Afghans, and in particular women and girls, are facing increasing vulnerabilities and protection risks. Women are excluded from the public sphere and exposed to serious human rights violations, including the curtailing of their freedom of movement, access to employment, protection, and education. The situation is extremely alarming with recurring reports of extra-judicial killings, reprisal attacks, disappearances, torture, and other grave human rights violations also affecting ethnic minorities.

⁵ Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2022.

Mobility dynamics

Given the risk of further deterioration of the socio-economic and security situation in Afghanistan, internal displacements and cross-border movements, mainly to Iran and Pakistan, are likely to continue in the coming months. Additional movements into Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan may also increase at any time. Over the course of 2022, an estimated 500,000 more people may become internally displaced by drought, insecurity and other shocks whilst the number of people seeking to cross borders into neighboring countries is also projected to rise. In fact, more than 1.4 million undocumented Afghans and Afghans of other status are targeted in the Regional Refugee Response Plan in 2022 - to which IOM is contributing⁵. In combination with the likely increase in internal displacement and outflows to neighboring countries, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2022 also projects that at least 785,000 Afghans will return in the coming year. Complementary to these mobility forecasts, through the expansion of data collection within the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) across Afghanistan and border areas, IOM anticipates that the predicted internal displacement and cross-border movements may be even higher than expected in the coming year.



Internal displacement data:

While acknowledging figures on conflict induced internal displacement in Afghanistan in 2021, as coordinated and reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, further IOM estimates indicate that close to one million Afghans have been displaced due to variety of factors (including conflict but also unfavourable climate conditions) after 15 August and were still displaced by the end of three consecutive rounds of community based assessments (the last round was finalized on 19 December 2021). The estimates on the number of IDPs portrayed in the map above are based on data collected through IOM's DTM Emergency Event Tracking (EET) mechanism, through assessments done in 10,129 communities in 368 districts across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan.



Cross-border movements data:

The estimate total number of Afghans crossing into neighbouring countries in 2021 is based on IOM's DTM flow monitoring (FM) activities conducted at key border crossing points where information is collected on the profiles, journeys, intentions and observed/reported vulnerabilities of populations on the move. Estimate numbers thus include different types of cross-border movements, including pendular movements, labour and education-related migration as well as crisis-induced⁶ flows.

For more comprehensive overviews of internal displacements in Afghanistan as well as migratory flows across the region, the latest DTM reports can be found on the following link: <https://dtm.iom.int/afghanistan>.

⁶According to UNHCR, the crisis has driven approximately 68,000 Afghans across the borders in search of international protection. The total number is difficult to verify as undocumented Afghans may resort to irregular land border crossing points. The overall number of Afghans in need of international protection is thus likely to be much higher.

Regional impacts

With over 2.2 million refugees and an estimated 4 million undocumented Afghan nationals currently hosted in neighboring countries, the prospect of receiving additional Afghan populations may increase pressure on host communities and governments' reception capacities.

As per current estimates, there are approximately 3 million Afghans living in Pakistan, at least 20 per cent of whom are assumed to be undocumented. Since the August 2021 events, the number of Afghan nationals trying to cross into Pakistan has increased with this trend projected to continue in the short- to medium-term. Whilst Pakistan has adopted an open border policy to the current crisis, there remain significant gaps in information about Afghans (in particular undocumented migrants and ACC holders) in Pakistan, which hinders the ability to provide safe, humane and dignified support for ACC holders, undocumented Afghan migrants and new arrivals. At least 50 per cent of the ACC holders and undocumented Afghan migrants are categorized as highly to extremely vulnerable and are in particular need of integrated support.

In 2020, 2.1 million undocumented Afghan nationals were estimated to live in Iran. Whilst this number fluctuates and precise arrival numbers and potential circularity of the cross-border flows are not known, since August 2021 Afghan nationals have continued to arrive on a daily basis to Iran, predominantly through irregular channels. The re-imposition of unilateral economic sanctions on Iran in 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic have further pressured the country's economy, increasing the challenges faced by Afghan nationals and other vulnerable populations in the country. The continuous influx of Afghan nationals into Iran is imposing an additional burden on existing services and resources, such as education, health services and access to water, overstressing the capacities of the national and local systems.

So far, population movements to the Central Asian countries have remained relatively small in scale. However, in addition to the needs of the current caseload, the risk of a complete economic collapse in Afghanistan and a further deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country may drive larger numbers of Afghans to seek refuge in the region and beyond. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have started offering support, both in terms of providing goods,

cross-border logistics for delivering aid into Afghanistan, and increasing preparedness capacities, in particular by setting up reception sites in case larger displacements take place. The Republic of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan currently host the largest number of refugees in Central Asia (12,000 and 13,000 refugees respectively), originating primarily from neighboring Afghanistan. In both countries, the Afghans are in large parts hosted in semi-urban settings already plagued by high rates of unemployment and declining income from remittances due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan both currently host between 500 and 1,000 Afghans who left their country following the events in August 2021.

The so far peaceful co-existence between the Afghan and host communities might be in jeopardy as displacement becomes protracted and competition over resources increases over time. Whilst Tajikistan is a party to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol with enacted national refugee legislation, the fact that Uzbekistan is not a signatory party will shrink the existing protection space for Afghans in the country. In addition, some central Asian governments recently raised the issue of national security and have subsequently imposed tight border control, thus restricting cross-border movements from Afghanistan. The securitization of borders, which is already the case in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, would impact cross-border mobility and trade, with a potential impact on the livelihoods and incomes of populations in the border areas.

Outlook

Despite the grim outlook for Afghanistan, over the course of 2021, IOM and the humanitarian community at large have proven their capacity to scale-up the response to meet emerging needs. The reduction in the level of conflict since August 2021 has also allowed actors to regain access to areas of the country which were deprived of assistance in the last decade, though limitations on the participation of women in the response further complicates meaningful, equitable and safe access to assistance for this population group. Finally, the UN Security Council's adoption of resolution 2615 (2021) providing for a humanitarian exemption to the sanctions regime will further support the on-going scale up of humanitarian and development assistance across the country.

⁷ Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2022.

⁸ Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2022.

⁹ Government of Uzbekistan and UNHCR data.

2. IOM'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE CRISIS

IOM recognizes the urgency of continuing to address humanitarian needs and reducing protection risks for people on the move in parallel to anticipatory action to mitigate the crisis impact, save lives and livelihoods, and enable societies to transition and recover on a path towards sustainable development in line with IOM's commitment to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. IOM's revised Comprehensive Action Plan for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries therefore seeks to reinforce its support to the most vulnerable populations affected by the crisis, providing

life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services both in Afghanistan and the region, by ensuring that the neighbouring countries are prepared and equipped to respond to potential large population flows from Afghanistan. Simultaneously, IOM will continue to work with government institutions in the region and communities to address drivers of migration and displacement, mitigate the mid-term impact of the crisis on societies in the region, and support recovery and resilience for longer-term sustainable development.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen preparedness capacity and respond to humanitarian and protection needs to save lives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Address migration and displacement drivers and mitigate mid-term impacts of the crisis in Afghanistan across the region

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Strengthen institutional capacities for socio-economic recovery and inclusive development

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Inform preparedness, response, recovery and development efforts through evidence-based data collection and analysis

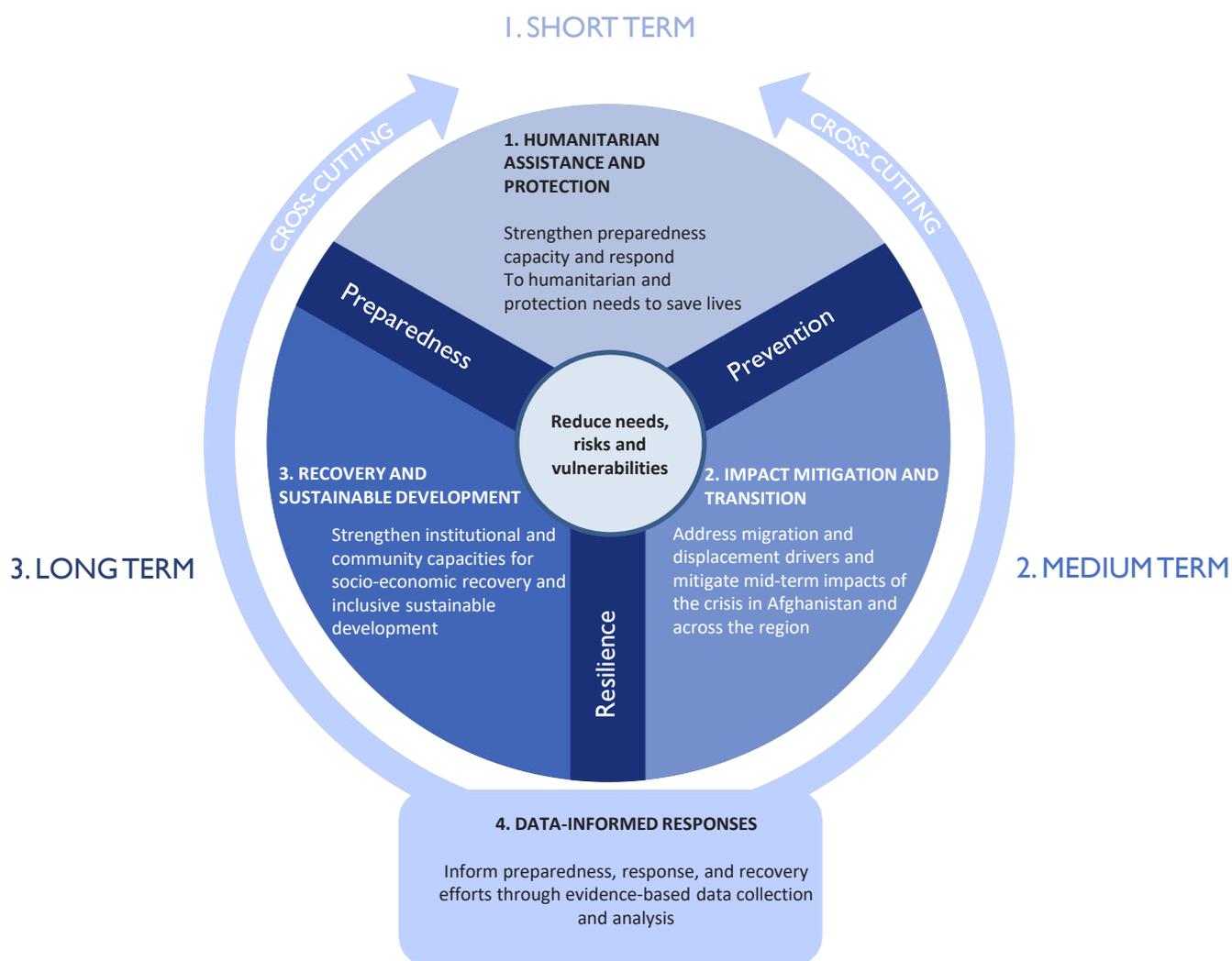


Children playing in an IDP settlement in Kandahar Afghanistan. 2021
© Muse Mohammed / IOM

The four Strategic Objectives of the Plan remain unchanged and continue to be complementary building blocks which are interlinked and will run simultaneously to contribute to reducing people's needs, risks and vulnerabilities. They allow for a comprehensive response to the crisis through a migration lens, taking into account regional mobility dynamics as well as risk-informed and gender-sensitive analysis of national and local contexts. In combining humanitarian, development and peace interventions, IOM aims

to prevent new humanitarian needs and displacement, support greater regional preparedness, and increase the resilience of communities both in Afghanistan and across the region. IOM will continue working closely with all key stakeholders in the region to enhance the sustainable development goals. The revised Plan's Strategic Objectives thereby serve as entry points and support joint analysis and collective outcomes across the HDPN.

IOM'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO AFGHANISTAN CRISIS



IOM's interventions build on its expertise in responding to migration and displacement crises and strengthening integrated approaches to migration management, governance and sustainable development as well as its operational presence in Afghanistan and in all neighbouring countries. Specifically, for developing the plan, IOM used its own Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) which allows for an analytical approach, recognising cross-border and mobility dynamics, to draw attention to aspects

of a crisis that have sometimes remained invisible. In recognition of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, IOM's approach to health is integrated into this plan and similarly follows the triple nexus - aiming to address the acute health needs of displaced populations and migrants in humanitarian contexts, while maintaining a long-term view that considers the importance of supporting global health security and health system recovery.

TIMELINE



Whilst IOM had anticipated the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and the resulting internal and cross-border population movements and their regional impacts, the further development of the situation remains difficult to predict. It is thus even more important to continue building on both humanitarian and development funding mechanisms and to provide flexible

multi-year funding that can respond to urgent humanitarian needs, and invest in preparedness and prevention, whilst preparing the ground for medium to longer term interventions. IOM will regularly update humanitarian funding needs under Strategic Objective I, in line with in-country humanitarian response planning cycles, whilst promoting longer-term programming under the remaining objectives.



Distribution of core relief items for flood-affected and displaced households in Kunar and Nangarhar, Afghanistan. 2021. ©IOM



IOM staff conduct vulnerability assessments in displacement-affected locations, October 2021.
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3. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

All interventions carried out through this plan are in line with and complementary to current inter-agency humanitarian and development efforts to respond to this crisis. As a member of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) and the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), IOM will continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure coordination during the implementation of the proposed activities, including with UN agencies, government counterparts in neighbouring countries, international and local organizations, civil-society and other relevant stakeholders with the goal of creating greater self-reliance at the country and regional levels.

In Afghanistan, the Organization is working closely with other crisis response stakeholders in line with the Joint Operating Principles and access engagement strategy to which IOM is a party through the Humanitarian Access Group. As a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), IOM coordinates cross-border return assistance activities with relevant UN and NGO partners and is the lead agency providing assistance to undocumented returnees. While the precise nature of the relationship with the new authorities remains to be defined, IOM will continue to work

with relevant counterparts at the technical level to ensure access and the provision of humanitarian, protection, early recovery and reintegration assistance. Further, IOM's assessments inform the work of the UN to sustain essential services and preserve community systems. As co-lead of the M&E working group of the UNDP-led Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, IOM is providing data and spatial assessments for the identification of community-based interventions. For this, its DTM assessments are combined with district-level profiling, in order to identify structural drivers of migration and opportunities to facilitate local integration and sustainable development.

In addition, all activities proposed in Afghanistan under this revised plan will be closely coordinated at the inter-agency level and are in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (2022) as well as with the Regional Refugee Response Plan (2022) and the UN's Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF). At the regional level, IOM will ensure close coordination with UNHCR, with UNCTs, and relevant governments as well as other humanitarian and development key stakeholders.

4. IOM MANDATE AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

As the UN Migration Agency, IOM is committed to the core values and principles that are at the heart of its work, including the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, and upholding human rights for all. Respect for the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants remains paramount, with principled humanitarian action as an organization-wide commitment. As an organization adhering to the OECD DAC recommendations on the HDPN, IOM promotes joint analysis and programming across the nexus in order to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities with a long-term perspective. In recognition of the fact that well-managed migration can be both a development strategy and a development outcome, IOM is also seeking to foster sustainable development for migrants and their communities.

IOM has an operational presence in all target countries, supported by multi-thematic expertise including at regional and headquarters level, as well as pre-identified experts through rosters across the

HDPN, with a capacity to quickly respond and scale-up operations. In Afghanistan, IOM is the leading agency providing humanitarian assistance to undocumented Afghan returnees and to internally displaced populations affected by disasters. In response to the current situation, IOM is also a major responder to people displaced internally by conflict. IOM Afghanistan's programming portfolio over the past years has included a diverse range of interventions, including displacement tracking in more than 12,000 communities, emergency response and humanitarian assistance as well as the provision of protection services. Further, IOM is implementing migration health interventions, large scale community stabilization, disaster risk reduction, reintegration, and counter-trafficking programming, whilst engaging with Afghan diaspora. For the transitional phase in Afghanistan, IOM has developed a framework around an area-based approach called "300 Places."

OVERVIEW OF IOM MISSIONS IN THE REGION

AFGHANISTAN

- Mission established in 1992
- 15 offices across the country
- Over 760 staff (96% national)
- 8 border reception and transit centres at 4 major crossing points
- 16 warehouses for strategic prepositioning
- Main programmatic areas: multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance, reintegration, stabilization and resilience, migration management

IRAN

- Mission established in 1991
- 1 office (Tehran)
- 16 national staff
- Main programmatic areas: migrant protection and assistance (including AVRR and counter-trafficking initiatives), integrated border management, migration health, WASH, Shelter & NFI

PAKISTAN

- Mission established in 1981
- 5 offices across the country
- 335 staff (98% national)
- Main programmatic areas: response to displacement, migration management, migration health, community stabilization and social cohesion, Disaster Risk Reduction

KAZAKHSTAN

- Mission established in 1997
- 2 offices (Nur-Sultan and Almaty)
- 33 staff (99% national)
- Main programmatic areas: migrant protection and assistance, integrated border management, labour mobility and migration health

TURKMENISTAN

- Mission established in 1997
- 1 office (Ashgabat)
- 5 national staff
- Main programmatic areas: counter-trafficking initiatives, migration data, migration, environment and climate change initiatives

UZBEKISTAN

- Mission established in 2003
- 1 office (Tashkent)
- 6 national staff
- Main programmatic areas: migration health, integrated border management, labour mobility, migrant protection and assistance (including counter-trafficking initiatives)

TAJIKISTAN

- Mission established in 1992
- 1 office (Dushanbe)
- 27 staff
- Main programmatic areas: migrant protection and assistance, integrated border management, migration health

Along with IOM Headquarters, its two Regional Offices in Bangkok and Vienna will continue to provide technical support for implementation, and liaison with host governments and regional partners to ensure coordinated implementation of the plan at all levels. Building on its global capacity in migration and displacement

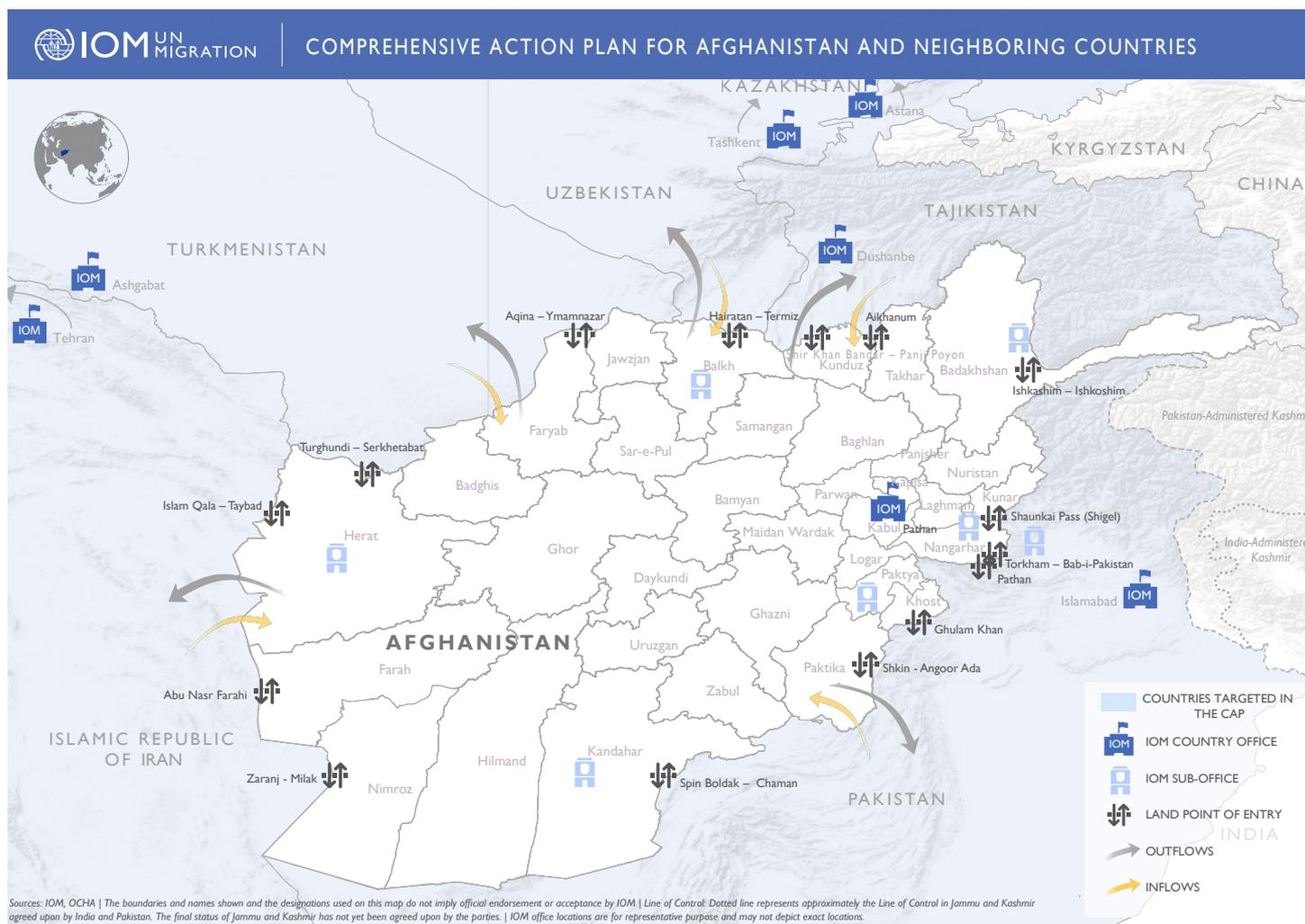
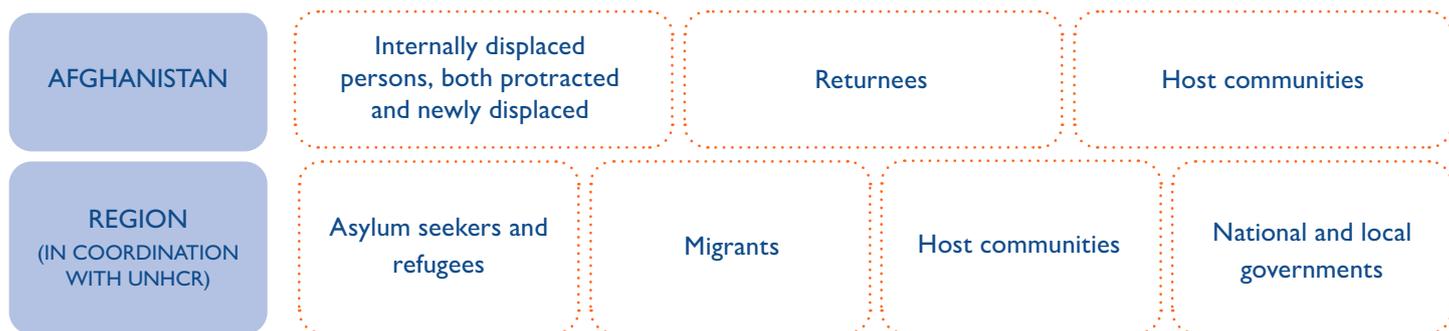
data collection and analysis, IOM will also continue to provide regular updates on regional mobility dynamics to governments and partners, in order to inform planning and implementation processes.

5. TARGETED POPULATIONS

Through this revised plan, IOM aims to reach over 3,600,000 persons affected by the crisis. Additional support will be given to affected communities and host governments in the targeted neighbouring countries. The planning targets are estimated, based on available data on displacement and migration, and projections are being made through scenario and response planning exercises conducted by the humanitarian community in Afghanistan and the region in coordination with the Refugee Coordination Model

and the UN Country Teams in targeted countries. Due to the complexity of the crisis at different levels and across a variety of countries, IOM's approach will continue to be guided by regular updates on mobility dynamics and will be adjusted according to identified needs. As such, figures on targeted populations may change as the situation evolves and additional information on people's movements is available.

POPULATION GROUPS



A. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES - OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I

STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS CAPACITY AND RESPOND TO HUMANITARIAN AND PROTECTION NEEDS TO SAVE LIVES

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2022

In light of the increasing humanitarian needs, protection risks and vulnerabilities of affected populations in Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries across the region, IOM aims to sustain and reinforce its rapid life-saving interventions and protection services. The response will focus on life-saving and basic needs support whilst also engaging pertinent stakeholders in ensuring access to protection services and the strengthening of referral mechanisms.



AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SOI

IA. SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)s

IOM's shelter and NFI interventions will aim to preserve the immediate safety and well-being of vulnerable Afghan IDPs, returnees, refugees, migrants and their host communities and to gradually improve living standards. A combination of in-kind and cash-based modalities will be used depending on the context and

will be done in line with cluster standard approaches. Specific needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries (especially women and girls) as well as other protection concerns will be identified through sectoral assessments and will be considered in the shelter and NFI interventions.

- » **Emergency shelter and NFI assistance** will be provided to people directly impacted by new shocks. This will include the procurement, pre-positioning and distribution of essential items for IDPs that have been affected by conflict and disasters, for cross-border returnees and refugees, for people facing multiple shocks, as well as for those who are extremely vulnerable.
- » **Winterization support** (including through shelter repairs, the distribution of shelter materials and other essential items and ensuring access to fuel/heating) will be provided to vulnerable, affected populations in high altitude areas and priority locations that witness cold winters.
- » **Transitional shelter support** (through shelter construction, repairs/upgrade, rental subsidies) will be provided in areas of protracted displacement, in areas of return, and in newly accessible areas in order to enable safer and more dignified living standards and prevent recovering communities from slipping back into humanitarian need.
- » **IOM's warehousing capacity will be reinforced in key locations** (Termez, Uzbekistan) in order to increase its capacity to rapidly and effectively respond to large-scale emergency needs in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and to overcome market, currency and supply issues within Afghanistan itself. Coordination, co-location and cost-sharing with UN partner agencies will ensure a cost-effective approach.
- » Active participation and engagement in **country-level coordination mechanisms** (including the co-leadership of the ES-NFI cluster in Afghanistan) will be reinforced in order to ensure a timely, effective, context-specific and needs-based sectoral response.

IB. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The lagging effects of recent years' droughts and the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the impacts of an active conflict in Afghanistan, large-scale cross-border population movements, and recurring natural disasters have diminished people's access to essential services, including water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and services. Emphasis will be put on ensuring that people in areas of high mobility, return, and protracted displacement, in displacement sites and at key border crossing

- » Following the analysis of coordinated WASH assessments conducted in targeted areas, **construct, rehabilitate, extend and/or improve drinking water systems** (e.g. wells, handpumps, gravity-fed networks, solar-pumping, reverse osmosis water purification units) **and sanitation facilities** in coordination with pertinent stakeholders at the decentralized levels. To address and minimize protection risks and gender-based violence (GBV), the provision of WASH facilities will take into consideration gender parity, and will include consultations with vulnerable groups (including female-led focus group discussions where possible), as well as complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- » Conduct culturally appropriate safe hygiene messaging with emphasis on the utilisation of water-efficient handwashing systems and on ways

points, have safe access to potable water in sufficient quantities as well as sanitation and hygiene sustainable infrastructure and services. Hygiene promotion and the distribution of hygiene kits will be integrated into the sectoral response whilst efforts will be made to ensure that gender and protection concerns are taken into consideration. Across all targeted locations, delivering a WASH minimum package of services will be the response priority and will include the following activities:

- to mitigate the risks of water-borne disease outbreaks and COVID-19 transmission. Depending on the context and the needs in targeted locations, **hygiene promotion activities** will be complemented with the distribution of hygiene kits.
- » **Establish and train gender-balanced community-led committees** in order to ensure the proper maintenance of WASH infrastructure and contribute to their sustainability.
- » **Procure and pre-position core pipeline supplies** including soap, hygiene kits, hand washing devices, chlorine powder, water kits, water purification sachets and tablets to ensure timely and effective response to needs.



IDP settlement in Kandahar, Afghanistan. 2021
© Muse Mohammed / IOM



IOM's mobile health clinics contributing to the national COVID-19 pandemic response in Herat, Afghanistan
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IC. HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) IN EMERGENCIES

Health has been identified as a key priority area by all humanitarian actors, including access to lifesaving primary and secondary health care services, and mental health and psychosocial support services. Weak health systems and disrupted access to health care have left millions of Afghans, both in Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries, with mounting health needs, compounded further by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, due to past conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent political turmoil and economic

hardships, many Afghans have experienced different forms of violence, displacement and other potentially traumatic events and must cope with these experiences as well as the psychosocial impact on their lives. Ensuring the availability and accessibility to the basic package of health services as well as emergency health care remains essential for meeting the needs of IDPs, returnees, migrants, refugees and other mobile populations, including for women and girls, and host communities.

- » **Establish and deploy mobile medical teams** who will provide a comprehensive range of health services, inclusive of primary healthcare consultations, screening and management of communicable diseases, screening for malnutrition, emergency stabilization of critical cases, emergency reproductive, maternal, child and neonatal health care, routine and mass vaccinations, including support to COVID-19 vaccination efforts, and referrals to specialized health care facilities to displaced and access-constrained populations.
- » Expansion of health interventions specifically in border areas including increased **disease surveillance capacity** in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR), **general health screenings, screenings for COVID-19 and Tuberculosis (TB)** and **routine vaccinations**.
- » Provision of **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services** for vulnerable migrants, displaced populations and affected communities, including the deployment of trained psychosocial mobile teams linguistically and culturally capable of serving vulnerable populations. Emphasis will be put on reinforcing non-specialized services and community-based support groups, including through the establishment of peer-support systems and self-care routines to facilitate positive coping mechanisms, virtual counselling and psychological first aid.
- » Preparedness actions such as the **procurement and distribution of critical medical equipment**, medical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health facilities in targeted locations, training of health staff, improvement and rehabilitation of health facilities.
- » Conduct **health and hygiene promotion** (in close coordination with WASH teams) as well as **Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)** activities to ensure that mobility-considerations are properly integrated into public health and hygiene messaging, and that migrants and mobile populations have access to timely, context-specific and correct information. This will be done through communication with communities, cross-border community-level awareness raising and feedback along mobility corridors, points of entry, displacement sites, Afghan hosting communities, and among existing migrant and mobile population networks.

ID. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Four decades of conflict, recent measures curtailing population's freedom and human rights, increasing hunger, limited access to basic services, rising poverty and resulting population movements have severely impacted the humanitarian and protection situation across the region. The most vulnerable include, among others, those exposed to forced, multiple and often extended periods of displacement, undocumented Afghan returnees, children, the elderly, households headed by women and people with disabilities. Increasing protection concerns (including population safety and security, freedom of movement, denial of and inability to access services, lack of civil documentation, human rights violations

and systematic discrimination against civilians, including against women and girls) have pushed many to adopt harmful coping mechanisms. IOM's response will thus focus on strengthening protection monitoring and analysis in areas of high mobility and cross-border locations, on 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. Overall, IOM will also work with other sectors to ensure that protection mainstreaming across all sectors and activities is strengthened.

- » Strengthen **protection monitoring** (assessments, surveys, focus group discussions), including border monitoring and analysis of the protection environment to identify trends, vulnerabilities and emerging needs amongst the mobile populations to inform evidence-based advocacy and response.
- » **Strengthen referral mechanisms** and support (through capacity-building, small grants) national and local NGOs (including women NGOs / CSOs and organizations that work with people with disabilities), government officials and other key protection actors to **deliver timely and needs-based protection services**. Focus will be put on enhancing their protection knowledge and skills, including on protection mainstreaming, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), psychological first aid, GBV, child protection, legal assistance and counselling on civil documentation, counter-trafficking principles and best practices.
- » Strengthen the **provision of Individual Protection Assistance and case management to persons with specific needs** identified through protection monitoring and other assessments (individual interviews, vulnerability screening) in order to address protection risks that

are time-sensitive and require immediate action. In-kind and cash assistance will be provided depending on the context, whilst follow-up through case management will enable these beneficiaries to better adapt to future shocks.

- » Enhance **community-based protection activities** through fostering positive and accepting relationships with local leaders and community members in order to overcome some of the barriers to the delivery of assistance (for GBV survivors and victims of trafficking for example). Communities will be empowered to protect themselves by identifying, preventing and addressing existing and/or emerging protection risks.
- » Strengthen **access to information for vulnerable populations**, including through the development of comprehensive protection-focused information, education and communications (IEC) materials and through establishing community-based "migrant resource centres" which will serve as points of reference where people in need will have access to responsible local authorities as well as community leaders and relevant humanitarian partners, to receive information on the services available to them and ways to regularize migratory status, including seeking asylum where applicable.



Women provided with protection assistance at a transit centre in Kandahar, Afghanistan. 2021.
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IE. CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Protracted internal displacements and cross-border movements have led to the creation of significant numbers of informal settlements across Afghanistan. As these informal settlements are often last-resort options for those who have lost property, lived through traumatic events, and are suddenly stranded outside the safeguards of their own homes and communities, displaced populations living in these sites are usually in dire need of humanitarian assistance and face heightened protection risks.

It is estimated that there are currently more than 12,000 informal settlements hosting IDPs and returnees across the 34 provinces of Afghanistan with the latest data indicating no more than 60 per cent having access to humanitarian assistance. Given the

likely deterioration of the economic and humanitarian situation in the country in the coming months, there is an urgent need to start working with these communities. As such, the CCCM Working Group has recently been established in Afghanistan to ensure that the provision of humanitarian assistance within these sites is coordinated, that sectoral gaps in terms of assistance and protection are identified, and that information on the number and profile of displaced populations in the sites is updated and shared with the humanitarian community on a regular basis. As co-lead of the global CCCM Cluster, IOM aims to reinforce its support to the coordination of the working group as well as its operational presence at site-level:

- » **Build community participation mechanisms** (i.e. camp committees composed of displaced populations and host community representative, women's, elderly and youth groups, etc.), linking displaced populations to the relevant local governmental counterparts, and strengthening access to basic services through site development and mitigation activities.
- » Conduct **systematic information management, protection monitoring and advocacy** to inform and mobilize local actors and humanitarian partners adequately.
- » **Conduct site planning**, focusing primarily on rationalizing shelter alignments and spacing within the sites, improving drainage and lighting, creating WASH corridors, improving accessibility with a view to reducing exposure to public health and GBV risks as well as fire hazards, and constructing or rehabilitating essential infrastructure.
- » Support the **identification of durable solutions** and facilitate, local integration, relocation/resettlement or return and reintegration as relevant.

IF. MULTI-SECTORAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN BORDER AREAS

In 2021, on average, more than 100,000 Afghans returned from Iran every month. According to the Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR), out of the total 1,235,523 Afghan returnees from Iran last year, 62 per cent were forced returns and the remaining 38 per cent consisted of spontaneous returns of Afghan nationals. As these flows are expected to continue in the coming months, returnees will remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance. As a response, IOM manages

- » Continue and expand the **provision of multi-sectoral assistance at the reception and transit centers**, including the provision of meals, health services through dedicated clinic spaces, overnight accommodation for up to 72 hours, non-food items and multi-purpose cash grants for transportation and a range of partner services including protection screening, GBV counseling and other supportive interventions.
- » Continue and expand **health interventions at the reception**, including health screening inclusive of routine vaccinations and the provision of essential medicines, TB and COVID-19 screening. Referrals and services such as family tracing will also be provided through these facilities, which provide a strategic entry point to reach vulnerable individuals.

IG. DISASTER PREVENTION

Aligning with the Sendai Framework, IOM will work towards preventing the worst impacts on vulnerable populations living in disaster-prone areas through:

- » Constructing **small-scale disaster risk management (DRM) infrastructures** (such as gabion walls or irrigation systems) in targeted areas.
- » Implementing inclusive **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)** in targeted communities through the development of Community Disaster Management Action Plans, community hazard maps and early warning systems, and the equipping of communities with essential tools and skills (e.g search and rescue tools, first aid, etc.).
- » **Pilot hazard mapping** in targeted locations



Beneficiaries provided with health care services at an IOM clinic in Herat, Afghanistan. 2021
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE II

ADDRESS MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT DRIVERS AND MITIGATE MID-TERM IMPACTS OF THE CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN AND ACROSS THE REGION

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2023

IOM will support governments across the region - in full alignment with active sanctions regimes - and communities to develop and strengthen community-based efforts aimed at fostering resilience, addressing evolving stabilization needs and supporting enhanced access to services and livelihoods. IOM's interventions will focus on promoting social cohesion through the use of conflict-sensitive approaches and empowering communities to recover better. Further, IOM will support safe and regular mobility and counter migrant smuggling through cross-border coordination, humanitarian border management and providing access to information. Transition and recovery initiatives in Afghanistan will be implemented in line with the UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF) for Afghanistan through flexible and localized area-based approaches and in close partnership with UN agencies under the Strategic Trust Fund for Afghanistan.



AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO2

2A. EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS

Displaced communities as well as Afghan nationals and their host communities in neighboring countries will be supported through a range of income generating interventions aimed at strengthening

their capacity to respond to future shocks with adverse impacts and contributing to sustainable recovery.

- » Using an area-based approach, carry out **labour market or value chain assessments** that identify key markets that could provide economic opportunities for vulnerable Afghans and host community members. Consultations with women and women's groups will be conducted to ensure that women's needs, and potential risks, are accounted for in the broader assessments. These will provide an overview of the economic activities the targeted populations are engaged in and guide the design of pragmatic and effective livelihood interventions.
- » Based on labour market or value chain assessments, deliver **community-based, business development (BD) trainings** for vulnerable Afghans and host community members (with a focus on women and youth) to build capacity required for the set-up and management of micro-enterprises including vocational training in locations assessed to be in high demand, on-the-job training opportunities and apprenticeships.
- » Provision of an **in-kind livelihood start up kit or a small grant** to participants of the BD trainings. Beneficiaries for this programme will be selected on the basis of vulnerability as well as an analysis of skills and potential for success as entrepreneurs.

2B. SOCIAL COHESION, COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND PEACEBUILDING

Community engagement is core to enabling affected people to be directly involved in their own recovery process and support local decision making and advocacy. IOM will work with the local authorities, local host communities, displaced populations and local civil society organizations in areas of return and areas of protracted displacement to promote stability at the local level as a step out of crisis or fragility, thus paving the way for

more sustainable development approaches. IOM's community stabilization approach combines addressing multi-sectoral early recovery needs with a specific focus on addressing the factors that destabilized communities, whilst restoring horizontal cohesion across communities as well as vertical social contracts with local leadership to build more resilient communities, and support durable solutions for displaced populations.

- » **Build trust among communities, displaced populations and local stakeholders** through communication, messaging and reconciliation platforms (including informal conflict resolution mechanisms) in areas where this type of intervention may be required to mitigate potential inter-community tensions triggered by the arrival of additional displaced populations (or Afghan nationals in neighboring countries), putting an increased pressure on shared resources.
- » **Support local NGOs and community leaders** to respond more appropriately to the unique needs of Afghan nationals in affected countries. This approach will not only support the needs of Afghans but will also be community-driven and will enhance peaceful coexistence through increased engagement and exchange.
- » Support social cohesion at the community-level through **integrated MHPSS activities** which include social, ritual and recreational activities which promote relationship-building, trust and problem-solving.
- » Implement **Quick Impact Projects** to support community-based recovery processes, infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihoods assistance. Programming will be community-driven to support the identification of initiatives, and IOM will provide a mix of cash grants, tools and resources, cash for work, and training to support communities to implement local small-scale projects that kick start recovery of livelihoods, markets as well as the rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure.

Beneficiary of IOM's livelihood and resilience programming in Herat, Afghanistan. 2021
© Paula Bronstein / IOM



2C. BOLSTER NATIONAL HEALTH CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE

There is a significant need to improve and strengthen the coordination and delivery of existing health services in vulnerable communities, particularly at border areas and areas of high

- » Provide acutely needed **health system financing support to health facilities** (including COVID-19 specialist facilities) in targeted locations in order to prevent the collapse of the health care system. Support the financing and running of health facilities through partnerships with local partners, as well as capacity building efforts for medical personnel (including through surge and deployment of staff).
- » **Strengthen access to health care services**, including COVID-19 services and enhanced disease surveillance for other epidemic prone diseases in line with the International Health Regulations (2005), through **rapid response modalities**. Teams will provide screening and early referral of suspected cases, will facilitate sample collection from

mobility, to help address the complex health needs of returnees, alongside IDPs, and host communities.

- presumptive COVID-19 cases, support transportation of samples to provincial laboratories, undertake targeted risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), and encourage and inform persons about COVID-19 vaccination.
- » **Provide essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment**, including reproductive health and family planning commodities to functioning primary health facilities
- » **Support to tertiary healthcare facilities** to ensure the provision of tailored health care assistance for vulnerable cases.

2D. ACCESS TO SAFE AND REGULAR MOBILITY

2021 was a record year for returns of undocumented Afghan nationals with an increase in cross-border movements of persons in need of humanitarian assistance. These trends are expected to continue throughout 2022. In addition to addressing the adverse drivers of migration and displacement in Afghanistan, IOM recognizes the need to establish adequate response mechanisms and strengthen an integrated approach to border management to ultimately facilitate, assist and protect Afghans crossing borders and ensure that safe and regular pathways are guaranteed by rights-

based policies and procedures. National border management agencies including immigration, police, customs and armed forces will need to be equipped with both policy and operational solutions that are designed to best respond and adapt to rapidly changing movement patterns. Simultaneously, IOM will increase its capacity to assist migrants with a variety of vulnerabilities and protection needs when they are moving in large numbers across these regional borders.

- » Conduct and/or build on assessments of national **Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) capacities** to identify priority areas of intervention, including the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergency situations, the establishment of referral systems to assist migrants, the registration of new entries of Afghan nationals in neighbouring countries, and the creation of interagency cooperation mechanisms, among others.
- » Building on the Integrated Border Management principles, **ensure effective coordination among relevant border authorities**, including public health authorities, through the development of SOPs that address both border management concerns as well as health considerations, in line with the International Health Regulations (2005). This will be complemented with **comprehensive training and related capacity-building** initiatives to ensure sustainable, safe as well as rights-based and inclusive cross-border mobility.
- » **Enhance the knowledge and skills of relevant border officials** in various humanitarian border management topics, including on international humanitarian law, data protection, data security and privacy, verification of identity documents as well as training on the proper use of equipment provided to relevant border authorities
- » **Rehabilitate infrastructure** at key border posts, including through the **procurement and installation of necessary equipment** to support effective operations (including mobile registration kits and communications equipment) to border posts and other relevant border facilities.
- » Conduct tailored **information campaigns regarding safe and regular migration and legal pathways**, as well as the risks related to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. Campaigns will target Afghan refugees and migrants and migration-prone host communities, and a participatory approach will be utilized in content creation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE III

STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITIES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2024

IOM will use an adaptive process, responsive to people on the move, that is relevant in both displacement affected communities in Afghanistan (through a durable solutions approach) and hosting communities in neighboring countries, to support host governments and societies for inclusive integration and sustainable localized development planning across the region. Supporting skills-based labour mobility schemes and cooperation at national and decentralized levels as well as strengthening inclusive health systems will also contribute to more inclusive sustainable development.



AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO3

3A. DURABLE SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING SAFE RETURN AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION

In line with the IASC Framework on durable solutions for IDPs and returning Afghan refugees and IOM's own Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations (PRDS) Strategy, IOM will work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders as well as the displaced

populations, to establish conditions and to provide the means that would allow IDPs and refugees to return voluntarily, in safety and dignity, to their homes, to integrate into the local community, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country.

- » Participate and engage in the **development of a joint strategy and planning for sustainable responses** in support of Afghan IDPs and returning refugees.
- » Contribute to the **implementation of the Durable Solutions Strategy** in targeted locations. Building on its comparative advantage, IOM will

provide assistance (including multi-sectoral reintegration assistance) to IDPs and returning refugees who have expressed their informed wish to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence.



Beneficiaries are provided with core relief items during a distribution activity, Kabul, 2021. © Muse Mohammed / IOM

3B. INCLUSIVE NATIONAL AND LOCAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Recognizing the challenges of host countries to receive Afghan populations, in addition to addressing existing development priorities, IOM will support national and local governments in neighboring countries to advance inclusive and integrated policy approaches that address the needs of Afghans and host communities. IOM will strengthen institutional and community

capacities for socioeconomic recovery and inclusive sustainable development, seeking to advance durable solutions for displaced populations in line with governments' development priorities. Further, IOM will support dialogue with governments to advance regional approaches to the mobility crisis.

- » Strengthen national and local government capacities on **migration governance and advance policy solutions** for integrated sustainable development planning from a mobility perspective, including through support for **counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling** strategies and the integration and inclusion of Afghans.
- » Support the formulation of **Community Action Plans** and connect them to local and national development strategies across development sectors to improve access to basic services for Afghans and host communities and reduce disaster risks.
- » Support **policy formulation to expand Afghans' contributions to sustainable development** in host countries and societies.

3C. ACCESS TO DECENT WORK AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

To further mitigate the socio-economic impact of the Afghan crisis in the country and across the region, IOM will support transition initiatives and increase the ability of migrants and host communities to improve labour skills and access to employment. IOM's interventions will respond to both protracted and emerging needs in communities hosting high volumes of Afghan migrants, including new arrivals, by seeking to enhance and foster sustainable

economic opportunities for all. Working with national and local government institutions responsible for employment, training, and labour market development, IOM will facilitate the recognition of skills and access to the labour market, and promote decent work for Afghans and host communities as part of national and local employment strategies..

- » Strengthen linkages between pre- and post-arrival migrant orientation and training services; advocacy and support for the **development of long-term policy solutions and cooperation mechanisms for labour migration and skills mobility arrangements** for socio-economic recovery, ensuring respect for international human and labour rights standards and the principles of ethical recruitment.
- » Provide **policy support and capacity development to national/ local governments** to ensure migrants are part of recovery planning and implementation, including policy solutions for upskilling and reskilling of migrants and the promotion of multistakeholder engagement on inclusive recovery policies.
- » Support **diaspora engagement** and mobilization for recovery, in cooperation with governments and other partners.
- » Support **entrepreneurship and youth empowerment** through mentorship and small grants.
- » Support national policies to keep **remittances** flowing and ensure migrants' access to financial and digital services



Beneficiaries of IOM's livelihood and resilience programming in Herat, Afghanistan. 2021
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IOM Afghanistan's Mobile Health Clinic in Shahrak Sabz IDP settlement offers health services in Herat, Afghanistan. 2021
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3D. STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS AND INCLUSION

IOM will contribute to mitigating the impact of the crisis by strengthening national health systems, including through enhancing the integration of health and border management systems to

- » Support the recovery and strengthening of resilient health systems, with the aim to move from the provision of essential services to comprehensive health services, including MHPSS services, through the **improvement and rehabilitation of key health facility infrastructure, the increase of health system capacity** through capacity building and the **development of policy and pilot schemes** that ensure an inclusive health system recovery.
- » **Strengthen health workforce mobility and engage the diaspora** to secure additional human resources for health, including via health worker training/retraining, virtual consultations and transfer of knowledge.
- » Contribute to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through **enhancing existing disease surveillance systems** (health screenings, referrals, data collection, capacity development for health and immigration/border officials, improvement of infrastructure) among border communities, points of entry, migrant dense areas and displacement sites.
- » Promote **equitable access to vaccines** (including COVID-19 vaccinations) for vulnerable populations. Support the implementation of vaccine delivery through the expansion of mass vaccination campaigns and routine vaccinations; enhance vaccination data management and quality, and assist with the vaccine supply chain management
- » Advocate for the development and implementation of **migrant-sensitive national health policies and strategies**.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE IV

INFORM PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2024

The systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of baseline data on internal displacement, returns and cross-border movements as well as data on the evolving needs of the population groups on the move enables IOM, governments and partners to have a better understanding of the complex mobility dynamics across the region and contribute to more effective, evidence-based responses. IOM will continue to work in collaboration with UN agencies and other key stakeholders on assessments and other data collection activities to inform strategic planning processes and ensure complementarity and coordinated work across humanitarian, development and peace sectors.



AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO4

4A. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY DATA COLLECTION ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT, RETURN AND CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

Several components of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) will be implemented in targeted locations in Afghanistan and neighboring countries depending on the context and the information needs of partners. The data will be collected through a significant and well-established network of community focal

points and DTM enumerators in coordination with relevant actors in the field in order to provide multi layered analysis on Afghan mobility and vulnerabilities of the people on the move as well as of host communities.

- » In case of sudden and significant internal population movements, **emergency data collection mechanisms – such as the Event Tracking Tool (ETT)** – shall be deployed to collect and share close to real-time information on the location, the number of affected populations and their immediate priority needs.
- » Complementary to the alert mechanism cited above, **mobility tracking (baseline mobility and community-based needs) assessments** will provide a comprehensive overview of the displacement situation country-wide, allowing stakeholders to prioritize resources and humanitarian response activities within defined locations. These assessments will be implemented with the objective of providing estimates on the presence and numbers of affected population groups, reasons for displacement, length of displacement and specific needs of the displaced population and host communities.
- » **Data on cross-border flows** at key transit and border crossing points will be collected, regularly shared with partners such as UN agencies, national authorities, and clusters/sectors and inter-cluster/ inter-sector coordination mechanisms, facilitating better data exchange and evidence-based response and assistance, and will include information on the profiles, mobility intentions and observed/reported vulnerabilities of populations on the move.



4B. STRENGTHENING BASELINE DATA AND INFORMATION ON DISPLACEMENT AND POPULATION MOBILITY TO SUPPORT ADDRESSING MID-TERM AND BROADER REGION IMPACT

Data on displacement trends and patterns, migration drivers, and needs and vulnerabilities of people on the move will be systematically collected and analyzed in order to provide partners

with a periodic analysis of regional mobility trends, patterns and projections over time.

- » Conduct **inflow and outflow monitoring** using DTM's existing flow monitoring operations to provide a better understanding of the impact of the crisis on mobility dynamics within the region.
- » Conduct **context-specific surveys, assessments and studies** (particularly on the situation of migrants, displaced populations and other vulnerable groups) **to leverage human mobility for transition and inclusive and sustainable recovery**, including through data disaggregated by age and gender and administrative level locations.

4C. BUILDING COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE BASE TO SUPPORT SELF-RELIANCE, SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY AS WELL AS INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

IOM will continue to conduct and support data production and research which will contribute to strengthen joint UN mid- and longer-term planning in Afghanistan and neighboring countries and

- » Conduct **research and assessments on host government capacities for migration management**, as well as the impact of the crisis on migrant protection and assistance, including return and reintegration, migration patterns, organized crime, cost for services, incidents of violence, and exploitation and abuse, to inform preparedness and response programming.
- » Increase **the understanding of the impact of the Afghan crisis on host communities and societies**, as well as **opportunities and challenges for sustainable development priorities** through data- and research-related initiatives to support national and local planning mechanisms and policies in response to evolving mobility dynamics. For example, understanding will be enhanced through migration profiles, research on diaspora and remittances, labour market needs and skills mapping

inform governments' approaches to migration management and sustainable development policies for longer-term recovery.

- of the existing migrant workforce in the country as well as assessments on social cohesion/tensions within different communities and across different demographics within communities.
- » **Strengthen migration data gathering systems** to ensure continuity of data collection, enhancement of analysis and forecasting capacities of governments and other partners for preparedness and inclusive development planning.
- » **Identify structural drivers** that increase displacement risks and unsafe, irregular migration and inform opportunities to prevent future displacement.

Simulation drill for Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) teams in Qala, Afghanistan. 2021
© Muse Mohammed / IOM



B. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The revised CAP, first launched in September 2021, now appeals for 589,771,000 USD¹⁰. The 300% increase in funding requirements reflect changing operational realities and needs on the ground and will enable IOM to expand its efforts to reach more people with the multi-sectoral assistance they urgently require, to ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable are upheld, that the impact of the crisis in the region is contained, and that governments and societies are supported to achieve inclusive recovery and sustainable development.

IOM's funding requirements cover Afghanistan, as well as its neighboring countries, including Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Funding requirements are broken down by country and Specific Objective and take into account the unique country contexts as well as the needs of populations that IOM is mandated to support in coordination with respective governments and other stakeholders. IOM regional and global coordination and technical support costs will support,

among other initiatives, the coordination of regional activities regarding data collection, analysis and response to cross-border mobility flows. Specific funding requirements for resettlement activities have not been included in this Plan as these are coordinated bilaterally with concerned governments.

All funding requirements outlined in this plan are aligned with national and regional inter-agency plans, such as the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Regional Refugee Response Plan. It also incorporates IOM's additional funding needs not covered by the before-mentioned inter-agency plans in order to ensure that needs of Afghans and host communities are addressed holistically.

Given the complexity of the crisis at different levels and across a variety of countries, flexible funding will be crucial to adapting IOM's response to local contexts and ensure implementation models can remain responsive to changing dynamics within the overall response framework.



¹⁰ The initial CAP launched in September 2021 appealed for 158,900,000 USD.

B1. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY COUNTRY

Country	Total Requirement (USD)
Afghanistan	\$480.720.000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$23.790.000
Kazakhstan	\$1.455.000
Pakistan	\$51.314.000
Tajikistan	\$10.681.000
Turkmenistan	\$1.045.000
Uzbekistan	\$11.030.000
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$9.736.000
TOTAL	\$589.771.000

B2. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS OF IOM PLAN VS. INTER-AGENCY PLANS*

Country	Total Requirement in IOM's plan (USD)	Inter-Agency Level	
		Inter-Agency Plan	Inter-Agency Plan Funding requirement (USD)
Afghanistan	\$480.720.000	HRP 2022; Inter-Agency Flash Appeal	\$380.920.000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$23.790.000	Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022	\$4.090.000
Kazakhstan	\$1.455.000	-	
Pakistan	\$51.314.000	Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022	\$21.304.000
Tajikistan	\$10.681.000	Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022	\$4.714.025
Turkmenistan	\$1.045.000	COVID Prevention and Response Plan (CPRP)	\$300.000
Uzbekistan	\$11.030.000		
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$9.736.000		
TOTAL	\$589.771.000		\$411.328.025



Distribution of NFI kits
Kabul, Afghanistan. 2021
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B3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Country	Strategic Objective 1 - Strengthen preparedness capacity and respond to humanitarian and protection needs to save lives	Strategic Objective 2 - Address migration and displacement drivers and mitigate mid-term impacts of the crisis in Afghanistan and across the region	Strategic Objective 3 - Strengthen institutional and community capacities for socio-economic recovery and inclusive sustainable development	Strategic Objective 4 - Inform preparedness, response and recovery efforts through evidence-based data
Afghanistan	\$237,920,000	\$150,125,000	\$76,750,000	\$15,925,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$7,590,000	\$14,780,000	\$80,000	\$1,340,000
Kazakhstan	\$155,000	\$125,000	\$1,075,000	\$100,000
Pakistan	\$12,339,000	\$13,575,000	\$19,750,000	\$5,650,000
Tajikistan	\$4,833,000	\$4,198,000	\$1,500,000	\$150,000
Turkmenistan	\$325,000	\$320,000	\$400,000	\$0
Uzbekistan	\$4,415,000	\$4,115,000	\$2,500,000	\$0
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$3,762,000	\$2,130,000	\$1,669,000	\$2,175,000
TOTAL	\$271,339,000	\$189,368,000	\$103,724,000	\$25,340,000
				\$589,771,000



Construction of a gabion wall in Herat for the Disaster Risk Reduction activities, Afghanistan, 2021
© IOM

