Under a UNHCR and BAFIA project, the Ministry of Health is training Afghan refugee volunteers on preventive health care in Shiraz; each refugee volunteer will work with 20 Afghans in their community to provide training and support of hygiene and basic medical needs. *UNHCR/T. Leposky*

**HIGHLIGHTS** (as of 31 October)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees repatriated in 2014</td>
<td>4,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees departed for resettlement in 2014</td>
<td>1,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan and Iraqi students enrolled in the 2013-2014 academic year</td>
<td>349,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees enrolled in vocational training courses</td>
<td>1,689</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population of concern**

A total of **882,659** people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total PoC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>840,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>42,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>882,659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funding**

USD **68,519,442 million** requested

Funded: **21%**

**UNHCR Presence**

Staff:

Regular: **104** national/12 international

Affiliated-Project: **47** national/8 international

Offices:

5 offices located in:

- Tehran
- Kerman
- Mashhad
- Shiraz
- Dogharoun

*The latest official Government figures were provided in October 2011. In June 2014 the Government announced that there are some 982,000 refugees in Iran, but has yet to provide the new figures in writing.
**WORKING WITH PARTNERS**

UNHCR has partnership agreements with the following partners in coordination with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants’ Affairs (BAFIA), UNHCR’s main Government counterpart. **Governmental:** the Forests Range and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Health (MoH), State Welfare Organization of Iran (SWO), Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO); **National NGOs:** Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMI), Chain of Hope (CoH), Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), Society to Protect Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK), Society for Recovery Support (SRS), Rebirth Charity Organization, World Relief Foundation (WRF); **International NGOs:** Iraqi Refugee Aid Council (IRAC), Kowsar Scientific and Cultural Foundations (Kowasar), NICCO; **UN Agencies:** UNIDO, UNOPS. UNHCR also coordinates with a number sister UN agencies, as well as NGOs and international organizations directly as well as under the umbrella of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

**MAIN ACTIVITIES**

Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

The SSAR is a regional, multi-year strategy supporting voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration while also supporting the efforts of host countries to assist refugees between the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Five outcomes guide the Strategy in Iran: 1. Voluntary repatriation; 2. Access to Essential Services and Shelter; 3. Livelihood and Food Security; 4. Social and Environment Protection and Resettlement; and, 5. Coordination and Supporting Role. For 2014, the SSAR portfolio of projects in Iran involves 27 agencies, with a total financial requirement of 150m USD.

**Protection**

- Registration – The Government of Iran is responsible for refugee registration and status determination, and undertakes annual re-registration of refugees under the Amayesh Scheme, which began in 2003, through which refugees are provided with Amayesh cards. The cards enable refugees to access basic services, and facilitate the issuance of work permits to refugees.
- Voluntary Repatriation – UNHCR maintains two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in the country and a Field Office in Dogharoun near the border with Afghanistan to assist with the return of Afghan refugees. Due to continued instability and insecurity, lack of basic services and limited sustainable livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan, the numbers of refugees choosing this option has been on the decline.
- Resettlement – For 2014, UNHCR’s aim has been to resettle 2,500 refugees. However, due to the low quota provided by recipient countries (1,000 persons for 2014), resettlement in Iran addresses the needs of only the most vulnerable refugees.

**Education**

- In 2014, UNHCR has committed to support the Government with the construction of 5 schools and rehabilitation of a further 2 schools to benefit the refugee and host communities. Additionally, UNHCR is providing literacy classes for 3,355 adults and over-aged children who have been deprived of schooling in 11 provinces.
- In line with the UNHCR’s Global Education Strategy and in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Kowsar international, UNHCR supports access to primary and secondary education, and addresses the needs of the most vulnerable refugees.

**Health**

- Primary Health Care (PHC) – UNHCR complements efforts of Ministry of Health in providing PHC services to all refugees, including vaccinations, antenatal care, maternal and child health, and family planning. UNHCR joint interventions with partners include medical referral, harm reduction, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and community-based rehabilitation.
- Health Insurance Scheme (HISE) – Under HISE, UNHCR covers the annual premiums for 220,200 vulnerable refugees allowing them to have access to secondary and tertiary health care.

**Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- Despite the limitation of access for refugees to formal employment activities, the Government has recognized the importance of ensuring that refugees have access to vocational training and livelihood activities. This has also resulted in the increase of the number of professions that refugees are authorized to work under the temporary work permit scheme: from 51 to 87.
- UNHCR and partners have been providing vocational training on more than 40 occupations (such as welding, plumbing, tailoring, etc.). UNHCR and BAFIA also set up a revolving fund in 2013 initially planned to run for 4 years to provide refugees with small business loans in Esfahan; however, the scheme is currently under revision in order to cover refugees countrywide.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous global contributions of donors in 2014 as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the Iran operation:

**Australia | Denmark | ECHO | EU | Germany | Japan | Netherlands | Russia**

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