



Afghan girl sitting near the Barmal earthquake response shelter ©Léo Torretton, IOM 2022

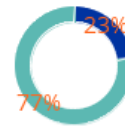
IOM VISION

UPDATED: JULY 28, 2023

IOM's strategic approach in Afghanistan will continue prioritizing life-saving multi-sectorial humanitarian and protection assistance across the country and in targeted border crossing points, while laying the foundation for durable solutions for return, recovery, and longer-term development efforts. IOM will prioritize gender-responsive programming, through gender analysis and interventions that focus on the inclusion and empowerment of women and girls.

\$450,000,000

Funding Required



■ Confirmed: \$102.36 M
■ Gap: \$347.64 M

IOM PROPOSED RESPONSE

7,300,000

People Targeted

1

Entities Targeted

OBJECTIVE	FUNDING REQUIRED	FUNDING CONFIRMED
Saving lives and protecting people on the move	312,800,000	76,974,022
Driving solutions to displacement	102,200,000	17,227,006
Strengthen preparedness and reduce disaster risk	22,000,000	7,221,205
Contribute to an evidence-based and efficient crisis response system	13,000,000	937,244

CONTACT INFORMATION

HQ Afghanistan
response:MECAfghanistanSupportTeam@iom.int

Donor Relations:drd@iom.int

PRIMARY TARGET GROUPS

1. Internal migrant
2. Internally displaced person
3. Local population / community

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (USD) 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITY AREAS	2023
Saving lives and protecting people on the move	
Shelter and settlements	137,800,000
Direct health support	49,500,000
Protection	72,000,000
Provision of water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies	46,000,000
Camp coordination and camp management	7,500,000
Driving solutions to displacement	
Community stabilization	7,000,000
Durable Solutions	95,200,000
Strengthen preparedness and reduce disaster risk	
Disaster Prevention	22,000,000
Contribute to an evidence-based and efficient crisis response system	
Displacement tracking - rename	13,000,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED	450,000,000

2023 - Afghanistan Crisis Response Plan 2023

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Following decades of conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent disasters linked to climate change (including floods, and drought like conditions), and earthquakes, Afghanistan is facing chronic poverty and economic instability and dangerously approaching systemic collapse. Following a turbulent transfer of power in August 2021, humanitarian and development needs continue to rise as Afghanistan enters its third consecutive year of drought and its second year of economic contraction, with families unable to recover from recurring disasters and decades of conflict-driven vulnerability. The change in government has led to the suspension of direct international development assistance to the country, creating economic instability that exacerbates humanitarian needs and creating a ripple effect on the social fabric of the country. With over 2.6 million Afghans driven into displacement since mid-August 2021, Afghans, and in particular women and girls, face increasing needs, risks and vulnerabilities in Afghanistan as well as in neighbouring countries. As a result, the humanitarian community foresees that 28.3 million people, two thirds of the population, will require urgent humanitarian assistance in 2023.

As the deteriorating economy has caused sharp declines in income, rising debt and high unemployment, in 2022 around 80 per cent of households across Afghanistan have experienced income reduction. (Source: [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Update, February 2023](#)) The functioning of essential public services, such as health infrastructure, has become widely dependent on the support of humanitarian agencies operating in country, and access to it continues decreasing. Combined with the economic decline, widespread severe water scarcity due to the persistent drought has left 17 million people facing acute hunger in the beginning of 2023, including 6 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions - one of the highest figures worldwide. (Source: [Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023](#)) The country is also prone to earthquakes, many of which happen in the mountainous Hindu Kush region that borders Pakistan; the resulting devastation exacerbates already dire humanitarian needs. Furthermore, high levels of disability exist among the population and exposure to violence, hardship and displacement have also resulted in half of the Afghan population suffering from psychological distress, and one in five people being functionally impaired due to mental illness.

Since August 2021 there has been a steady increase of restrictions imposed upon women and girls and a systematic removal of women from active participation in society, limiting their freedom of movement, access to protection services, employment, and basic rights such as education and participation in public spaces. As these restrictions fail to uphold the fundamental human rights of half of the country's population, causing direct social, physical and psychological consequences, they also negatively impact the country's political, social and economic infrastructure.

As widespread conflict in Afghanistan ended following the events of 15 August 2021, the country's economic decline, combined with the catastrophic effects of recurrent disasters on Afghans' livelihoods, constitute the primary driver of displacement in and out of the country. Since 2021, internal displacements in Afghanistan have drastically increased, mostly due to socio-economic factors, and are expected to further increase in 2023, according to [IOM DTM](#). Meanwhile between 2021 to 2022, 5.7 million individuals returned to Afghanistan from displacement in neighbouring countries, following the overall improvements of the security situation in places of origin (bringing the total number of returnees since 2012 to 11.1 million). Due to the dire political and economic situation in the country, both population groups have been in serious need of humanitarian assistance.

COORDINATION

This Plan is 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 Afghanistan's de facto authorities remains to be defined, IOM will continue to work with relevant counterparts at the technical level to ensure access and provision of humanitarian, protection and 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 will be closely coordinated at the inter-agency level and are in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (2022) as well as the UN's Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF).

IOM 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. 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 including a robust Shelter and non-food item (NFI) response to disasters, as well as the provision of comprehensive protection services. Further, IOM is implementing life-saving migration health interventions (including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services), a WASH programme including the provision of hygiene kits, large scale community stabilization, disaster risk reduction, and life-saving assistance to spontaneous returnees including support communities in places of high returns with basic human needs. IOM has been operationally present across Afghanistan since 1992, and has maintained an uninterrupted presence in the country, noting that the operating environment in Afghanistan remains increasingly complex. While physical access to people in need has largely improved, bureaucratic obstacles, threats and intimidation of humanitarian workers and restrictions on female humanitarian workers have increased significantly, hindering the delivery of critical assistance. IOM's mandate as well as presence throughout the country has allowed it to rapidly scale up to meet the needs of people in both urban and remote areas, namely IDPs, returnees and host communities, allowing for coordinated and targeted regional programming approaches in both life-saving assistance and towards more durable solutions. IOM is present in 34 provinces, has seven sub-offices, and manages 16 warehouses across the country with a workforce of one thousand people, 25 percent of whom are women.

SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Funding Required
\$312,800,000

People Targeted
5,220,000

People Targeted Description

IOM aims to deliver timely and effective multi-sectorial life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move and affected populations in coordination with the humanitarian country team and partners on the ground. The sectors of interventions include Shelter and Non-Food Items, Health, Protection including Cross-Border (CB) and Post-Arrival Assistance (PARA), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). IOM will also continue to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to disasters affected populations as well as provide winterization assistance to displaced populations and vulnerable communities in affected areas.



SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

As Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Co-Chair, IOM primarily responds to the victims of natural hazards while UNHCR covers conflict related displacement. However, due to the scale of displacement in recent months and limited stock capacity, IOM is also assessing and responding to conflict displacement, with needs continuing to mount.

- The compounding effects of conflict, drought, and winter will require strengthened coordination. IOM's warehousing capacity across the country will be maintained and strengthened where needed, secure and possible.
- Starting from October, cash for winterization is a priority to enable people to secure heating, clothing and shelter that will keep them sufficiently warm during the harsh cold months.
- In light of the recent developments and on the basis of recent post distribution monitoring findings, IOM will also expand its cash-based interventions through cash for NFIs, cash for rent and cash for shelter repair.

All distributions will take into account the local context, the ES/NFI Cluster standards, and the specific needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries especially women and girls, mainstreaming protection concerns and gender considerations, and will have COVID-19 mitigation measures in place. The ES/NFI Cluster is critical to ensuring timely responses, coordination, and cost-effectiveness in

Funding Required
\$137,800,000

Funding Confirmed
\$24,470,205

17% 83%



Afghanistan.

- Continuing the ES/NFI cluster coordination in the country will be necessary to allow appropriate and effective coordination with all UN Agencies, international and national NGOs, and local partners, appropriate advocacy on behalf of the affected population as well as produce relevant sector products such as 5Ws, 4Ws, situation reports, maps and response dashboards. IOM will continue to co-lead the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster, which also currently covers Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and to preposition, rapidly assess needs and respond with emergency shelter and non-food items wherever there is a need across all 34 provinces.



DIRECT HEALTH SUPPORT

Health has been identified as a key priority by all humanitarian actors, including access to lifesaving primary and secondary health care services, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), and especially in view of the withdrawal of World Bank managed funding of the health system. Weak health systems and disrupted access to health care have left millions of Afghans with mounting health needs in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the third wave of COVID-19 infections across the country and severely disrupted supply of essential medicines, medical supplies and nutritional supplements, health response is an urgent need. Provision of reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health will be of critical importance with potential significant disruption of access to and provision of health services for women and girls. In order to respond to the increasing health needs of IDPs and other mobile populations, working in close coordination with the health cluster and partners, IOM will sustain and strengthen delivery of essential health care to serve both IDPs and vulnerable returnees, as well as vulnerable members of the surrounding communities, including:

- Mobile health teams providing a comprehensive range of health services inclusive of primary healthcare consultations, emergency stabilization of critical cases, emergency reproductive, maternal, child and neonatal health care (see: MISP), MHPSS services, vaccinations (routine/EPI, alongside COVID-19 and outbreak) supporting the COVID-19 response, referrals for specialized cases and dispensing of free medicines and critical health supplies, including hygiene and menstrual hygiene management kits.
- Targeted health promotion activities and risk communication activities, adapted to the epidemiological situation.
- Supporting COVID-19 national vaccination roll-out through mass vaccination programming, logistical or operational support (e.g. non-cold-chain transport) secondment of staff, and/or management of any vaccine derived adverse effects through IOM's RRTs and MHTs, alongside facilitating demand generation activities to support COVID-19 vaccine education, and enhance up-take
- Facilitate tuberculosis (TB) programming through active case finding in hard-to-reach communities, testing and enrolment in treatment.

Funding Required
\$49,500,000

Funding Confirmed
\$8,412,183

16% 84%



PROTECTION

IOM Afghanistan works on the integration of protection mechanisms and support undocumented returnees with specific needs to return and reintegrate in safety and dignity. This is carried out through the provision of tailored assistance at border points and in provinces of return. IOM Protection intervention encompasses post-arrival protection assistance; sustained case management support in areas of return; and protection monitoring, documentation, reporting, and advocacy. These efforts complement and support broader durable solutions planning for IDPs and returnees in Afghanistan.

- IOM will expand the current protection case management and protection monitoring programme to support IDPs as well as returnees. Protection screeners at Herat and Nimroz border points will identify persons with specific needs (including women /children at risk, serious medical cases, persons with disabilities), and refer cases facing protection risks for post-arrival assistance – e.g. provision of information, referrals, and assistance including family tracing and reunification, emergency accommodation, and safe transportation to returnees' chosen final destination.
- In addition, IOM will continue to conduct protection case management for undocumented returnees and IDPs households with persons with specific needs. Particularly, households will

Funding Required
\$72,000,000

Funding Confirmed
\$5,958,670

8% 92%



continue to be supported via dissemination of key protection information, referral to local services including livelihood opportunities, and one-off assistance such as cash for protection to meet immediate needs and mitigate protection risks (e.g. resort to negative coping mechanisms such as begging, child labour, or child marriage). Regular protection monitoring (surveys, interviews and community discussions) will continue to be undertaken in coordination with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster to understand the protection environment for undocumented returnees.

Monitoring will take place across all locations to track protection trends, monitor human rights violations, and support analysis to inform evidence-based advocacy for an effective protection and wider humanitarian response across Afghanistan. They will also support protection mainstreaming, including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, across all units of IOM.

PROVISION OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN EMERGENCIES

Access to safe water continues to be most critical, particularly in the context of the severe water scarcity affecting most of the country. IOM's WASH unit will include both technical and public health expertise to ensure timely and appropriate WASH response and services where needed across the country, prioritizing activities that will mitigate the risk of transmittable disease outbreaks, including COVID-19 and acute watery diarrheal (AWD) diseases working in close cooperation with IOM Afghanistan's health teams. This includes:

- Assessment, rehabilitation and expansion of water schemes;
- Management of water schemes through the creation of gender-balanced community-led WASH committees;
- Hygiene promotion and awareness raising activities, focus on risk mitigation measures for transmittable diseases, including COVID-19 and AWD/cholera;
- Provision of basic hygiene kits inclusive of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) items.

Funding Required
\$46,000,000

Funding Confirmed
\$17,083,701

37% 63%



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Specific emphasis is needed on expanding site management (CCCM) coordination and operations capacity in the new displacement context, given the expansion of displacement sites and anticipated continuation of population movements. This will include:

- Coordination and operations capacity, such as site managers and emergency site improvements where needed
- Site improvement and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in informal settlements and collective centres. Activities will be done in coordination with WASH actors to ensure minimal standards are met to save lives and manage COVID-19 in displacement sites. IOM, alongside UNHCR, is working to ensure a coordinated response to managing displaced communities.

Funding Required
\$7,500,000

Funding Confirmed
\$1,041,576

13% 87%



Health Awareness session in Nagarhar for women groups ©IOM 2023

DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Funding Required

\$102,200,000

People Targeted

1,732,100

People Targeted Description

IOM uses an adaptive process, responsive to people on the move, that is relevant to displacement affected communities in Afghanistan, through a durable solutions approach, to support authorities and societies for inclusive integration and sustainable localized recovery planning. IOM's programming aims to enhance the resilience of individuals and communities through addressing the socioeconomic needs of returnees, IDPs, and vulnerable host populations in high-return provinces.



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

IOM will accelerate delivery social cohesion and peacebuilding programming across 150 displacement and conflict-affected communities. This will include:

- Provide MHPSS , including awareness raising on mental and psychosocial health, training community volunteers in psychosocial first aid, and establishing community-based support and referral structures to build capacity for community level response that strengthens social cohesion and resilience.
- Support capacity at community level on social cohesion and resilience through integrated MHPSS activities that including social, ritual and recreational activities that promote relationship-building, trust and problem solving; creation of intercommunal livelihood activities; establish intercommunity group sessions and dialogue sessions to prevent violence and analyse potential conflict.
- Provide capacity building to the selected communities on basic conflict mediation skills to expand their capacity to address interpersonal-relationship challenges and community-based conflict related issues.
- Partner with implementation partners that are connected to the area-based approach, and focus on addressing collective trauma, and promoting social cohesion through activities such as facilitating community dialogues, assessing and strengthening informal conflict resolution mechanisms and promoting community-led cultural events.

Funding Required

\$7,000,000

Funding Confirmed

\$947,596

13% 87%



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

In line with the Strategic Framework for Solutions to Internal Displacement in Afghanistan (2023 – 2024), IOM aims to lay down the foundations to sustainable solutions to internal displacement through three main pathways (voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement elsewhere), using area- and neighbourhood-based approaches and synergizing recovery initiatives and crisis prevention among humanitarian, development, and peace nexus (HDPN) actors. IOM recovery and transition interventions aim at addressing basic needs, while at the same time supporting individual resilience and community stabilization by promoting community infrastructure projects, economic revitalization and sustainable livelihoods, especially for women, access to essential basic services, including health and social services, community cohesion. IOM will accelerate delivery of area-based humanitarian, early recovery, reintegration and resilience projects across 150 displacement and conflict-affected communities. This will include:

- Develop District/Provincial Profiles to guide evidence-based strategic and essential infrastructure projects, to provide communities with basic services while building community resilience to withstand shocks, including those related to climate change and urbanization.
- Undertake participatory community development and action planning to increase civic engagement, strengthen local ownership and identify context-specific solutions for addressing the vulnerabilities of different social groups.
- Support active collaboration and exchange among local stakeholders and community

Funding Required

\$95,200,000

Funding Confirmed

\$16,279,410

17% 83%



members, particularly vulnerable, marginalised and oppressed groups, to enhance social cohesion and strengthen communities' response capacities to shocks and stresses.

- Provide emergency livelihood assistance in target communities, including through cash-for-work on construction sites, asset replacement and emergency business grants in support of economic recovery.
- Undertake community-based monitoring and evaluation to promote legitimacy and accountability at local level.
- Where possible and appropriate, referrals of vulnerable individuals from IOM's cross-border programmes, in particular protection, will be provided support upon their return to areas where stabilization or durable solutions activities are ongoing.

In the same 150 communities targeted with area-based responses for community stabilization, activities supporting durable solutions will also be delivered. This includes:

- Implementing activities that benefit both displaced or returned and host community, while being responsive to the specific (re)integration needs of people on the move, including IDPs, returnees, refugees and rural-urban migrants.
- Implementing activities that aim at reducing the root causes of displacement and migration, by strengthening social, economic and psychosocial resilience of displacement affected communities, considering vulnerabilities specific to gender, age, and ability, among others.
- Revitalising local economic conditions by supporting the business eco-system and increasing human capital, thereby safeguarding existing jobs and creating new ones. • (Re)constructing productive and basic social service infrastructure, including health clinics and schools.
- Engaging with diaspora communities to foster ongoing linkages and exchange of knowledge, skills, resources and support, connecting groups of Afghans across the world with each other.

STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS AND REDUCE DISASTER RISK

Funding Required
\$22,000,000

People Targeted
352,000

People Targeted Description

Aligning with the Sendai Framework, IOM Afghanistan works towards preventing the worst impacts on vulnerable populations living in disaster-prone areas through: small-scale disaster risk management (DRM) infrastructures (such as gabion walls or irrigation systems); implementing Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) through the development of Community Disaster Management Action Plans, community hazard maps and early warning systems. IOM Afghanistan will primarily target local communities, to enhance the resilience and preparedness of communities at risk of natural disasters in Afghanistan. These communities will directly benefit from the intervention in different areas such as early warning systems, community-based disaster risk management, and capacity building. NGOs and implementing partners working in the field of disaster management and humanitarian assistance will also be supported. Finally, attention will be given to vulnerable and marginalized groups within Afghan society, such as women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities.



DISASTER PREVENTION

As part of preparedness efforts in communities that face a high-risk of disaster and displacement, IOM supports hazard and vulnerability analysis, community-based disaster risk management, livelihoods' diversification strategies and the set-up of community early warning and preparedness systems to mitigate risk and enable a more effective response

- Aligning with the Sendai Framework, IOM will work towards preventing the worst impacts on vulnerable populations living in disaster-prone areas through:
- Constructing 25 small-scale disaster risk management (DRM) infrastructures (such as gabion walls or irrigation systems) in 10 Provinces
- Implementing Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in 40 communities across 10 Provinces. With women, men, boys and girls involved, communities will build and be

Funding Required
\$22,000,000

Funding Confirmed
\$7,221,205



equipped for Community Disaster Management Action Plans, community hazard maps and early warning systems.

- Pilot hazard mapping in three sites



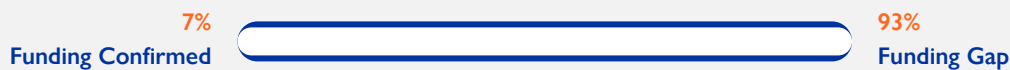
CONTRIBUTE TO AN EVIDENCE-BASED AND EFFICIENT CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Funding Required

\$13,000,000

People Targeted Description

IOM interventions are founded on evidence-based data collected through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and partners and implemented through a participatory approach involving the affected populations in all steps of program cycles to overall promote a needs-based and inclusive response.



DISPLACEMENT TRACKING - RENAME

Through its DTM, IOM regularly tracks and monitors cross-border and in country population mobility, as well as trends, vulnerabilities and needs associated to it, to inform the humanitarian response on the ground.

- AMNA (Afghanistan Mobility and Needs Assessment) assess population mobility trends and determine numbers and locations of displaced and vulnerable population, reasons for displacement, as well as needs and gaps in access to services and facilities. (It was previously called the Baseline Mobility and Community Based needs Assessments, or BMA and CBNA.)
- Flow Monitoring at four major border crossing points, counting the number of movements daily as well as provinces or origin, countries of destination, and reasons for movement.
- Rapid assessments will be conducted in locations affected by instances of displacement or disaster immediately after such an incident has occurred in order to assess needs and impact. In cases of eviction, as there is sometimes knowledge in advance that one will take place, DTM will conduct a pre-return assessment.
- IDP Data Harmonization Exercise: This joint IOM-UNHCR Data collection Exercise will produce harmonized IDP and IDP returnee figures endorsed by all stakeholders.
- Post-return Monitoring: DTM has been Monitoring the return of families in Badghis province after a UNHCR-led pilot initiative which facilitated the return of these families. DTM surveys the families to monitor perceptions, Needs, and intentions in order to measure the durability of return and learn for future projects.

Funding Required

\$13,000,000

Funding Confirmed

\$937,244

