

UNDP Statement
2021 High-Level Officials Meeting
Spotlight Session on the Support Platforms - Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees
14 December 2021 0800 - 0915

The deterioration in the socio-economic outlook in Afghanistan is triggering near universal national poverty. 3.8 million are internally displaced – existing in a state of persistent insecurity with regard to employment or income. 165,000 are returning to areas without basic services or work opportunities. The situation has serious implications for economies and peace in neighbouring countries.

Mandated by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries (SSAR) is a framework for the international community that already combines humanitarian, development and peacebuilding. The Platform is supported by a Core Group of governments and institutions.

Addressing displacement inside Afghanistan and to neighbouring countries requires delivery of immediate support but also basic services and livelihood opportunities to drive economic development, and enhance regional connectivity and prosperity. Humanitarian and development programmes however are critically underfunded.

Drawing on engagement with SSAR, UNDP is developing joint-humanitarian-development work with UNHCR for assistance that meet immediate needs, and provide pathways to stability, resilience, and recovery in Afghanistan, as well as contributing to sustainable solutions in neighbouring countries.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, UNDP's Area Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) complements and augments humanitarian action to safeguard progress achieved over the years, preserve basic service functioning capabilities, support basic needs and to prevent further humanitarian deterioration, recovery.

With UNHCR, the wider UN family and local partners, ABADEI is centred on addressing worsening poverty and vulnerability, supporting community resilience and social cohesion, and enabling the rehabilitation of small-scale critical infrastructure for essential needs, while creating immediate sources of income through cash-for-work, local markets, and livelihood opportunities.

Stabilization, resilience and development in neighbouring countries

UNDP are channelling support into the national public services in Iran and Pakistan (to education, healthcare, vocational skills development, and social protection) to mitigate the impact of the crisis on national systems and support the inclusive policies of the host governments, benefitting both host communities and refugees.

In Pakistan, UNDP and UNHCR will be working to revitalize local economies, expand access to justice for refugees, and promote peaceful coexistence in border provinces. This builds on the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme that previously reached 10 million people in the border provinces. In Iran, UNDP and UNHCR are supporting national systems to ensure access to basic services, supporting entrepreneurs and businesses, and are strengthening the resilience of refugees and host communities. UNDP is supporting self-reliance, livelihoods, job creation and the development of value chains, thus restoring livelihoods for the most vulnerable, including women headed households and cooperatives.

Cross-border

UNDP is implementing cross-border initiatives in the areas of trade, border markets and as well as dialogues for peace. Programming in economic inclusion and livelihoods will also support the displaced and refugee Afghan population as well as hosting and border communities in Iran and Pakistan.

As a Core Group Member of the SSAR, UNDP looks forward to expanding our collaboration with UNHCR and partners to meet basic human needs of IDPs and solutions for refugees and host communities.