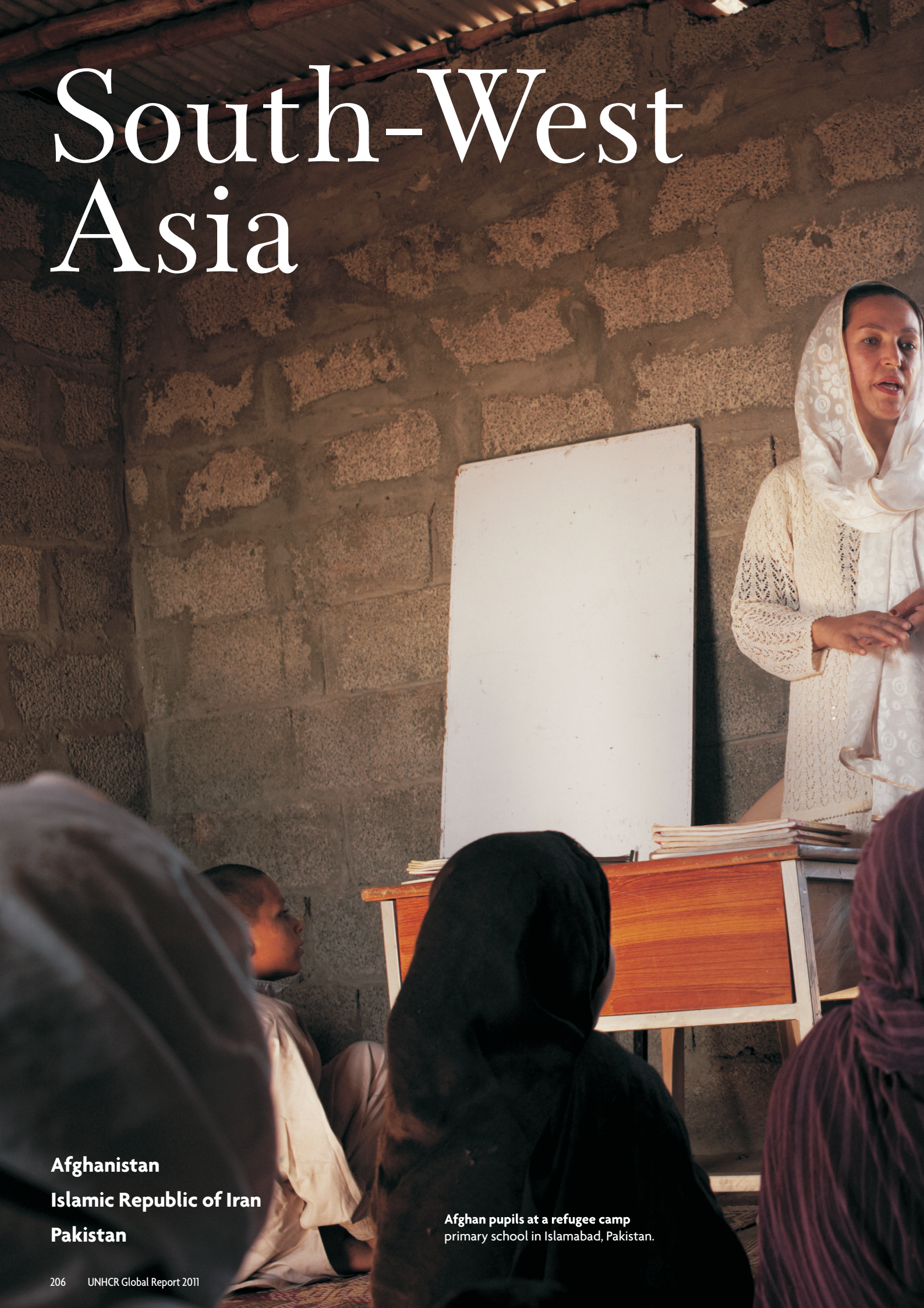


# South-West Asia



**Afghanistan**  
**Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**Pakistan**

Afghan pupils at a refugee camp  
primary school in Islamabad, Pakistan.





## | OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR engaged with the Governments of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan to prepare an international conference in the first half of 2012 on a comprehensive solutions strategy for Afghan refugees to support voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration and assistance to host countries.
- Over 68,200 refugees repatriated voluntarily to Afghanistan under the auspices of UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme: some 49,200 from Pakistan, some 18,900 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and 100 from other countries. UNHCR offered grants to cover their transport and meet initial return needs. Returning refugees were processed through voluntary repatriation centres in countries of asylum and upon arrival to ensure that their decisions to return were voluntary and well-informed. The returnees were also provided with access to health and social services and were offered mine-risk and legal counseling.
- Some 75,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan of the estimated 201,800 displaced in 2011 were able to find solutions, integrate locally, relocate or return to their homes. UNHCR coordinated the delivery of emergency packages of non-food items (NFIs), tracked population movements and identified IDP protection and assistance needs.
- In the Islamic Republic of Iran, prolonged stay was made possible for approximately 900,000 registered refugees, and some 350,000 refugees benefited from health insurance.
- In August 2011, a second wave of monsoon floods inundated vast areas of Pakistan's Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces, affecting more than 7.4 million people. UNHCR provided immediate life-saving assistance to some 1.7 million people affected by the floods.





## Working environment

The working environment in South-West Asia continued to be volatile in 2011, characterized by shrinking humanitarian access, cross-border movements, increasing internal displacement and an unprecedented increase in security incidents in Afghanistan. This was further exacerbated by economic pressure in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the severe flooding in Pakistan.

Some 2.7 million Afghan refugees continued to live in exile in neighbouring countries, but the number of refugee returnees to Afghanistan in 2011 was the second-lowest on record since 2002. The decline in the number of returning refugees is a cause for concern.

UNHCR conducted a community snapshot survey in Afghanistan, interviewing community and returnee leaders representing more than 1.4 million returning refugees in high-return areas. The survey concluded that returnees lived in significantly worse conditions than other community members in terms of basic services, livelihoods, protection and access to land and shelter. More than 15 per cent of all refugee returnees have undergone secondary displacement, usually from rural to urban areas, in search of food, livelihoods and security.

## Achievements and impact

UNHCR's 2011 objectives in Afghanistan included facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees, pursuing sustainable reintegration through improved collaboration with the Government, and promoting IDP coordination, including through leadership of the clusters for protection, emergency shelter and NFI. Nearly 68,000 refugees were

assisted to repatriate voluntarily to Afghanistan through the provision of voluntary repatriation cash grants, which were provided through five encashment centres.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the strain of international sanctions had an impact on the direct subsidies provided by the Government to Afghan refugees. However, efforts to solicit support from donors, coupled with continued advocacy and collaboration with the Government, helped UNHCR gain greater access to refugees and focus on finding durable solutions for them. At the same time, and with the assistance of the Iran Contact Group, UNHCR advocated with the Government to create an environment to help support refugees during their temporary stay in the country and to boost their earning capacity. UNHCR also successfully piloted the Health Insurance Scheme for Afghan refugees.

UNHCR continued to pursue its policy of improving access to services for registered refugees for the duration of their stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran while searching for durable solutions. Considerable investments were made in the interrelated sectors of health, education and livelihoods. Access to the Government's education facilities was maintained, resulting in a 10 per cent increase in number of refugee children enrolled in schools. All refugees continued to benefit from primary health care at almost no cost, through continued collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Education. Moreover, living conditions were improved in five of the six most populated refugee settlements in the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the year, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of some 18,700 Afghan refugees and 1,700 Iraqis.

In Pakistan, UNHCR helped the Government to develop a management strategy for Afghans in the country. It also

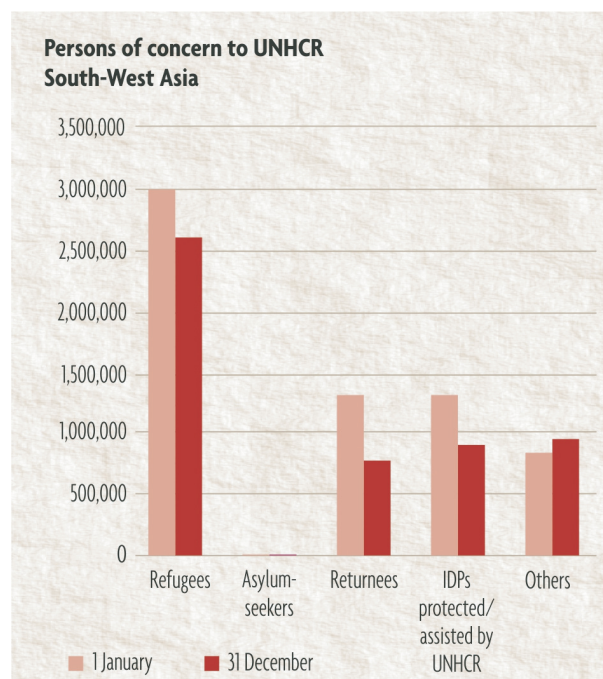
advocated successfully for the inclusion of the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) project and Afghan refugee populations in the national development agenda, as well as in development programmes supported by other UN agencies and the Delivering as One initiative. These achievements paved the way for a more comprehensive approach to durable solutions for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

UNHCR worked closely with the Government of Pakistan to advance the implementation of the Afghan Management and Repatriation Strategy. In 2011, the Office facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 52,100 registered Afghan refugees from Pakistan and participated in cross-border coordination for enhanced reintegration in Afghanistan and greater outreach of mass information for refugees in Pakistan.

## Constraints

The volatile security situation continued to hinder access to areas in South-West Asia, affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and contributing to secondary displacement. In Afghanistan, in particular, serious constraints remained with regard to UNHCR's ability to identify new conflict-induced displacements, especially in non-accessible areas, and to track the changing nature of IDP populations across the country.

Development initiatives have not yet fully realized expectations that they would improve economic conditions in rural and urban areas and enhance food security and general community health. Returning refugees continue to be among the most marginalized, unable as yet to achieve parity with other community members.



## Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Afghanistan**, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Pakistan** are covered in separate chapters.

## Financial information

Donor support for the South-West Asia subregion remained strong. The overall funding level was at 89 per cent, mostly through earmarked contributions at the subregional and country levels.

## Budget and expenditure in South-West Asia | USD

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Afghanistan	Budget	32,108,113	0	45,070,681	23,326,335	100,505,129
	Expenditure	26,548,972	0	40,656,679	13,479,878	80,685,529
Islamic Republic of Iran	Budget	39,882,139	0	0	0	39,882,139
	Expenditure	30,878,132	0	0	0	30,878,132
Pakistan	Budget	57,877,611	815,199	22,373,910	152,286,455	233,353,175
	Expenditure	41,091,909	559,758	12,518,293	108,988,977	163,158,937
Total budget		129,867,863	815,199	67,444,591	175,612,790	373,740,443
Total expenditure		98,519,013	559,758	53,174,972	122,468,855	274,722,598

## Voluntary contributions to South-West Asia | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
SOUTH-WEST ASIA SUBREGION					
Finland				1,373,626	1,373,626
United States of America				49,200,000	49,200,000
<b>South-West Asia subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,573,626</b>	<b>50,573,626</b>
AFGHANISTAN					
Australia		404,903		802,139	1,207,042
Canada				3,007,136	3,007,136
Denmark		4,039,250	466,459	252,000	4,757,709
European Union	2,205,200	6,202,331	1,135,270	381,078	9,923,878
Iceland				100,000	100,000
Japan	7,684,100	9,136,500	979,400	3,500,000	21,300,000
Netherlands				3,750,000	3,750,000
Norway				2,146,691	2,146,691
Romania			68,399		68,399
Sweden				2,362,205	2,362,205
Switzerland			430,108		430,108
United States of America			1,000,000		1,000,000
USA for UNHCR		160,000		175,423	335,423
<b>Afghanistan subtotal</b>	<b>9,889,300</b>	<b>19,942,984</b>	<b>4,079,636</b>	<b>16,476,670</b>	<b>50,388,590</b>
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN					
Australia	611,975				611,975
Brazil	550,000				550,000
CERF	1,492,648				1,492,648
Czech Republic	63,397				63,397
European Union	4,110,501				4,110,501
France	412,088				412,088
Germany	1,424,501				1,424,501
Japan	6,000,000				6,000,000
Norway	436,019			1,705,902	2,141,922
<b>Islamic Republic of Iran subtotal</b>	<b>15,101,130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,705,902</b>	<b>16,807,032</b>
PAKISTAN					
Australia	759,440			802,139	1,561,579
Australia for UNHCR			8,490	31,292	39,782
Belgium	2,046,385		682,128		2,728,513
Brazil	350,000				350,000
Canada				4,077,472	4,077,472
CERF			7,758,002		7,758,002
Charities Aid Foundation				12,245	12,245
Espana con ACNUR				26,821	26,821
European Union	2,912,176		4,075,515		6,987,691
Lebara Foundation	141,443				141,443
Germany		10,387,782	2,985,661		13,373,443
HQ online donations				4,205	4,205
Japan	6,286,250		53,737,500		60,023,750
Japan Association for UNHCR				26,139	26,139
Norway				1,431,127	1,431,127
Private donors in Canada				1,052	1,052
Private donors in China				1,765	1,765
Private donors in Italy				129,761	129,761
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	5,826		608	2,148	8,582
Private donors in Pakistan				65,562	65,562
Private donors in Switzerland			231	4,559	4,790
Spain	107,296				107,296
Switzerland	268,817		53,763		322,581
United States of America			30,500,000		30,500,000
Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe			400,000		400,000
USA for UNHCR	15,000			20,000	35,000
<b>Pakistan subtotal</b>	<b>12,892,633</b>	<b>10,387,782</b>	<b>100,201,898</b>	<b>6,636,287</b>	<b>130,118,601</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,883,063</b>	<b>30,330,766</b>	<b>104,281,534</b>	<b>75,392,486</b>	<b>247,887,850</b>