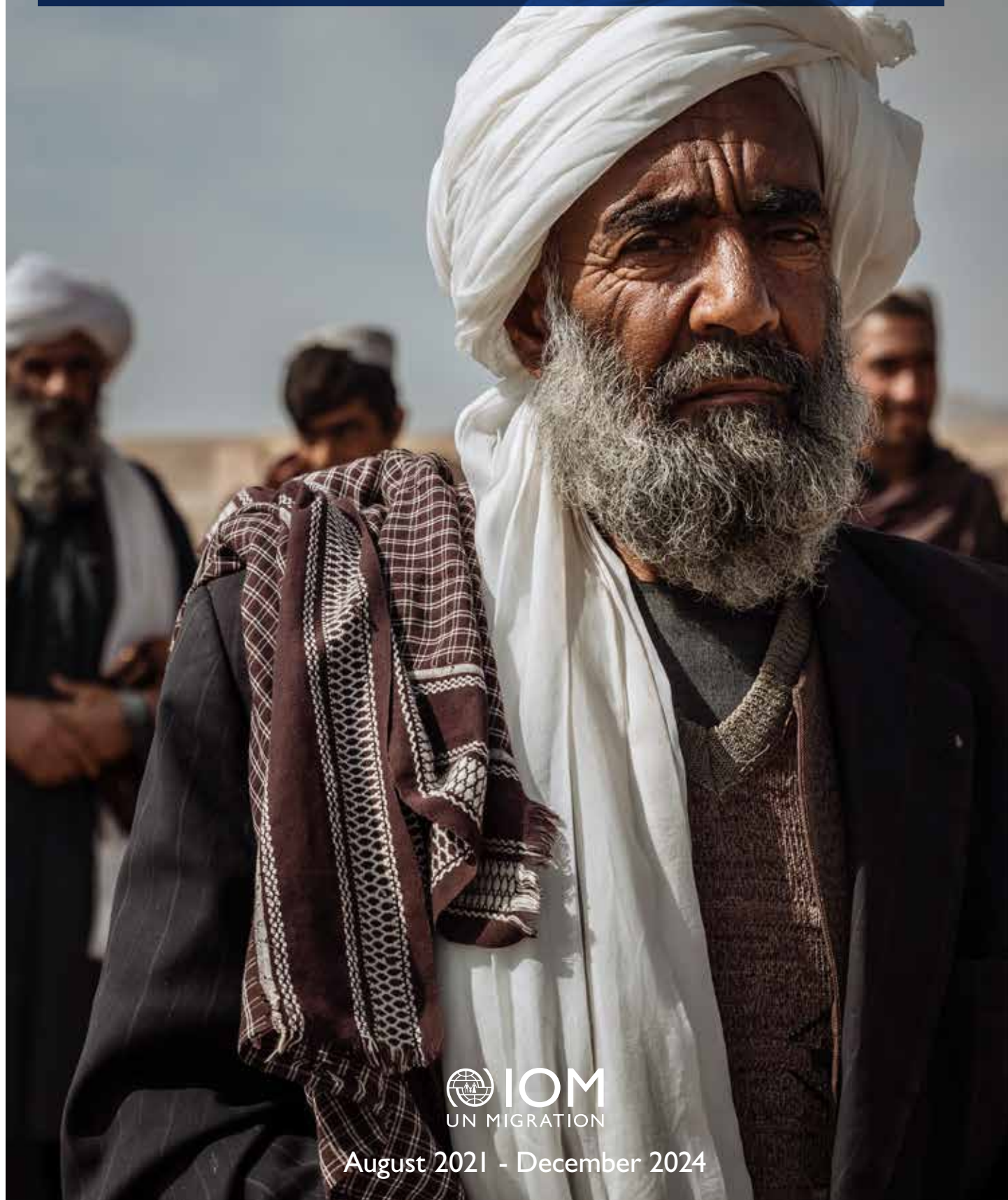


IOM COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



August 2021 - December 2024

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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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This publication has been issued without formal editing by Publications Unit.

COVER:

The Shahrak Sabz IDP settlement was established in 2018 by IDPs fleeing drought. Upwards of 30,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) now live in the area as of February 2021. Many are concerned the lack of snow and rain in the winter months may lead to another major drought and subsequent famine this year. Escalating conflict is also affecting many of the provinces where the IDPs originate, deterring many from returning home. © Muse Mohammed / International Organisation for Migration.

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I. ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

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

TARGETED POPULATIONS

Over **1,610,000 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 - December 2021
 SO2 (Transition): August 2021 - December 2022
 SO3 (Development): August 2021 - December 2024
 SO4 (Data/cross-cutting): August 2021 - December 2024

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (USD)

TOTAL USD 158,900,000
 (USD 60,535,519 against inter-agency plans)

SO1 Humanitarian response, protection and preparedness
USD 46,500,000
 SO2 Impact mitigation and transition
USD 44,800,000
 SO3 Recovery and development
USD 49,600,000

SO4 Data collection analysis
USD 18,100,000

I. INTRODUCTION

The crisis unfolding in Afghanistan is intensifying humanitarian needs and increasing displacement risks both inside the country, as well as across borders to neighbouring countries. Applying a regional migration lens to this crisis, IOM's Comprehensive Action Plan seeks to mobilize USD 158.9 million to respond to

humanitarian needs, whilst simultaneously mitigating the impact of the crisis in the region and supporting mid- and long-term support to affected persons, governments and societies for recovery and sustainable development.

II. SITUATION OVERVIEW

More than 40 years of conflict have shaped Afghanistan as a country with one of the lowest scores on the Human Development Index, impacted by displacement, migration and return. The intensified armed conflict in 2021 and the resulting upheaval in August 2021 have resulted in further escalating humanitarian needs and a significant deterioration of the protection environment for civilians in the country. These factors exacerbate the vulnerabilities of a population already burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic, subsequent economic downturn, and a severe drought across the country which was officially declared in June 2021. All these factors are driving both internal displacement as well as cross-border flows into neighbouring countries, including Iran, Pakistan and beyond. Internal displacement inside Afghanistan is driven by both conflict and natural disaster. There is now an estimated number of 5.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country, including both protracted and the 634,000 newly displaced by conflict in 2021. In addition, significant annual returns of undocumented Afghans also continue as part of a cyclical migration, with over 868,000 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan between 1 January and 17 September 2021 alone.

With nearly half of the population in need of life-saving assistance in early 2021¹, it is estimated that almost one in three Afghan nationals are facing emergency levels of food insecurity. While all population groups across the country have been impacted, the consequences for women and girls have been most immediately felt. Protection risks, particularly for women, children and minorities, continue to increase across the country. Access to life-saving essential health care services remains particularly dire. This includes primary health care, such as access to vaccinations, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health care and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). The rapid spread of new COVID-19 variants is adding strain to an already fragile health care system. Additionally, the events of 15 August and their implications for access to basic services, financial systems and markets have led to a further deterioration of the situation for vulnerable people, already previously experiencing serious economic difficulties and high levels of debt due to the drought that affects a third of the country. The most recent political

transition and the increase of violence across the country have presented a deepening and increasingly complex crisis scenario for Afghanistan, with implications for its neighbouring countries as well.

Due to the economic crisis, food and fuel prices are rising week on week. The price of wheat, the main staple in the Afghan diet, increased by 70 per cent over the five-year average. The prices of imported goods are rising steeply as well, cooking oil for example has doubled in price. The terms of trade between wheat and casual labour have hit a record low, a national drop of 9 per cent in the last week alone. Daily labour opportunities are disappearing at an alarming pace, with a 20 per cent drop country-wide in the last week of August. In eight provinces including in many parts of Kabul, work availability has dropped to one day per week. The value of the local currency continues to depreciate, driving food and fuel prices upwards. The approaching winter season risks further limiting employment opportunities, impacting community livelihoods and creating additional humanitarian needs, especially for IDPs.

While current population movements to neighbouring countries appear to be moderate, the risk of a complete economic collapse and further deterioration of the socio-economic and security situation in Afghanistan cannot be excluded. This in turn might lead to additional internal displacement and larger population movements to Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, where over 2.2 million refugees and 3.5 million estimated undocumented Afghan nationals are already hosted. In the context of a challenging socio-economic outlook, not least due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the prospect of receiving additional Afghan populations may increase pressure on host communities and government institutions in host countries. While national governments in the neighbouring countries are currently working to identify and prepare suitable responses, support is needed to ensure that they are able to mitigate the regional impact of the crisis, that the humanitarian and protection needs of Afghans can be reached across borders, and the resilience of host communities is strengthened for inclusive and sustainable development.

1 | Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 - available [here](#)

2. IOM'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE CRISIS

IOM recognizes the urgency of addressing 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 towards sustainable development in line with IOM's commitment to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. IOM's **Comprehensive Action Plan for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries** therefore seeks to support the most vulnerable populations affected by the crisis, providing life-saving humanitarian

assistance and protection services both in Afghanistan and the region, by ensuring the neighbouring countries are prepared and equipped to respond to potential large population flows from Afghanistan. Simultaneously, IOM aims to work with government institutions 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

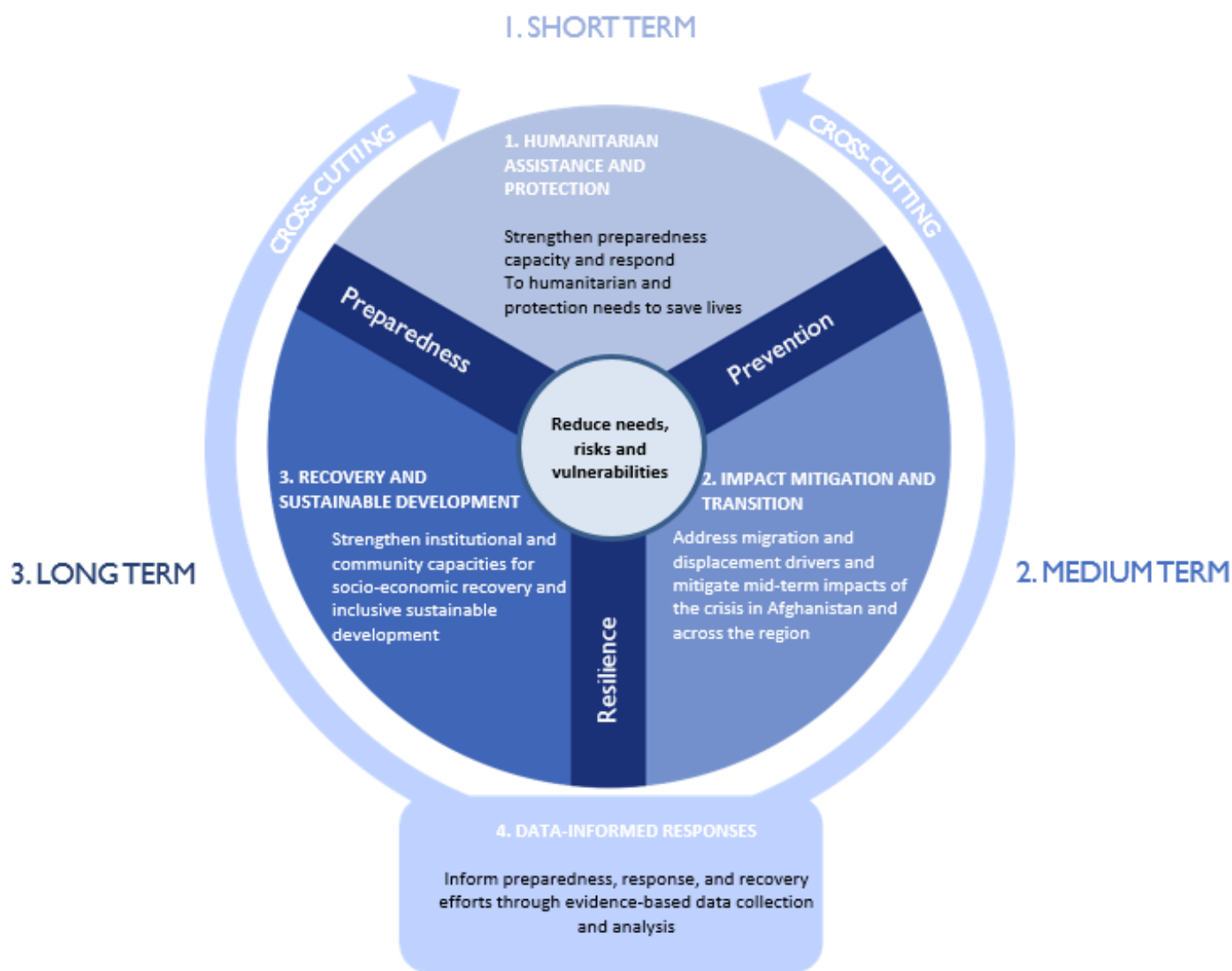


IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix team in Shadayee IDP settlement conduct regular consultations with community leaders in Herat, Afghanistan. 2021
© Muse Mohammed / IOM

The four Strategic Objectives of the Plan are 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. Working closely with all key stakeholders in the region to enhance the sustainable development goals while providing lifesaving humanitarian responds. The Plan's Strategic Objectives thereby serve as entry points and support joint analysis and collective outcomes across the Humanitarian-Development -Peace Nexus (HDPN).

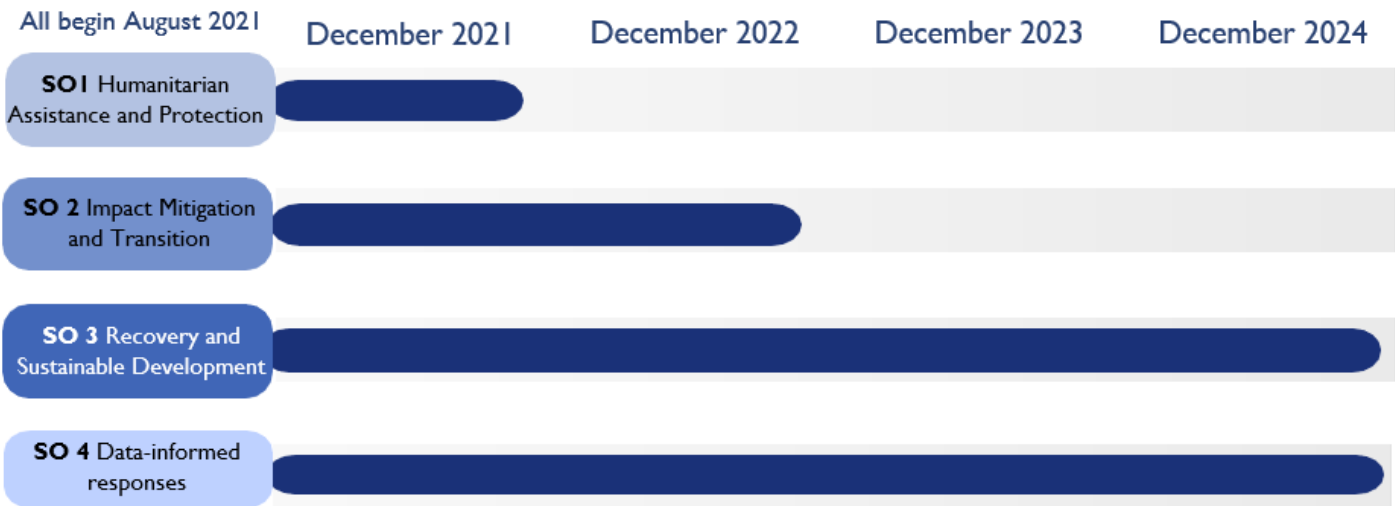
IOM'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO AFGHANISTAN CRISIS



IOM's interventions will build on IOM's expertise on 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 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



As a complex multidimensional crisis, the further development of the situation is unpredictable. It is for this reason even more important to build on both humanitarian and development funding mechanisms and provide flexible multi-year funding to respond to urgent humanitarian needs, 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 1, whilst promoting longer-term programming under the remaining objectives.



Loading food in IOM's Afghanistan Transit Centre in Kandahar serves hundreds of Afghan returnees each month who have returned from neighbouring Pakistan. 2021 © Muse Mohammed / IOM



3. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

All interventions carried out through this plan are in line 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 provision of humanitarian, protection and early recovery and reintegration assistance. IOM is also a member of the UNSG Executive Committee Working Group for Local Socio-Economic Recovery and Community Resilience in Afghanistan to contribute to a joint UN approach to addressing mid to longer term development needs.

In addition, all activities proposed in Afghanistan under this plan will be closely coordinated at the inter-agency level and are in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (2021) in the country and the Afghanistan Flash Appeal to meet new and emerging needs on the ground. At the regional level, IOM will ensure close coordination with UNHCR, with UNCTs, relevant governments as well as other humanitarian and development key stakeholders.

4. IOM MANDATE, CAPACITY AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

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 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 has 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 includes a diverse range of interventions, including displacement tracking in more than 13,000 communities, emergency response and humanitarian assistance and protection case management. Further, IOM is implementing migration health interventions, large scale community stabilization, disaster risk reduction and reintegration programming, also engaging with Afghan diaspora and countering trafficking in persons. For the

transitional phase in Afghanistan, IOM has developed a framework around an area-based approach called 300 places.

Along with IOM Headquarters, its two Regional Offices in Bangkok and Vienna will provide technical support for implementation, liaison with host governments, and regional partners to ensure a coordinated implementation of the plan at all levels. Building on its global capacity in migration and displacement data collection and analysis, IOM will also provide regular updates on regional mobility dynamics to governments and partners, in order to inform planning and implementation processes.



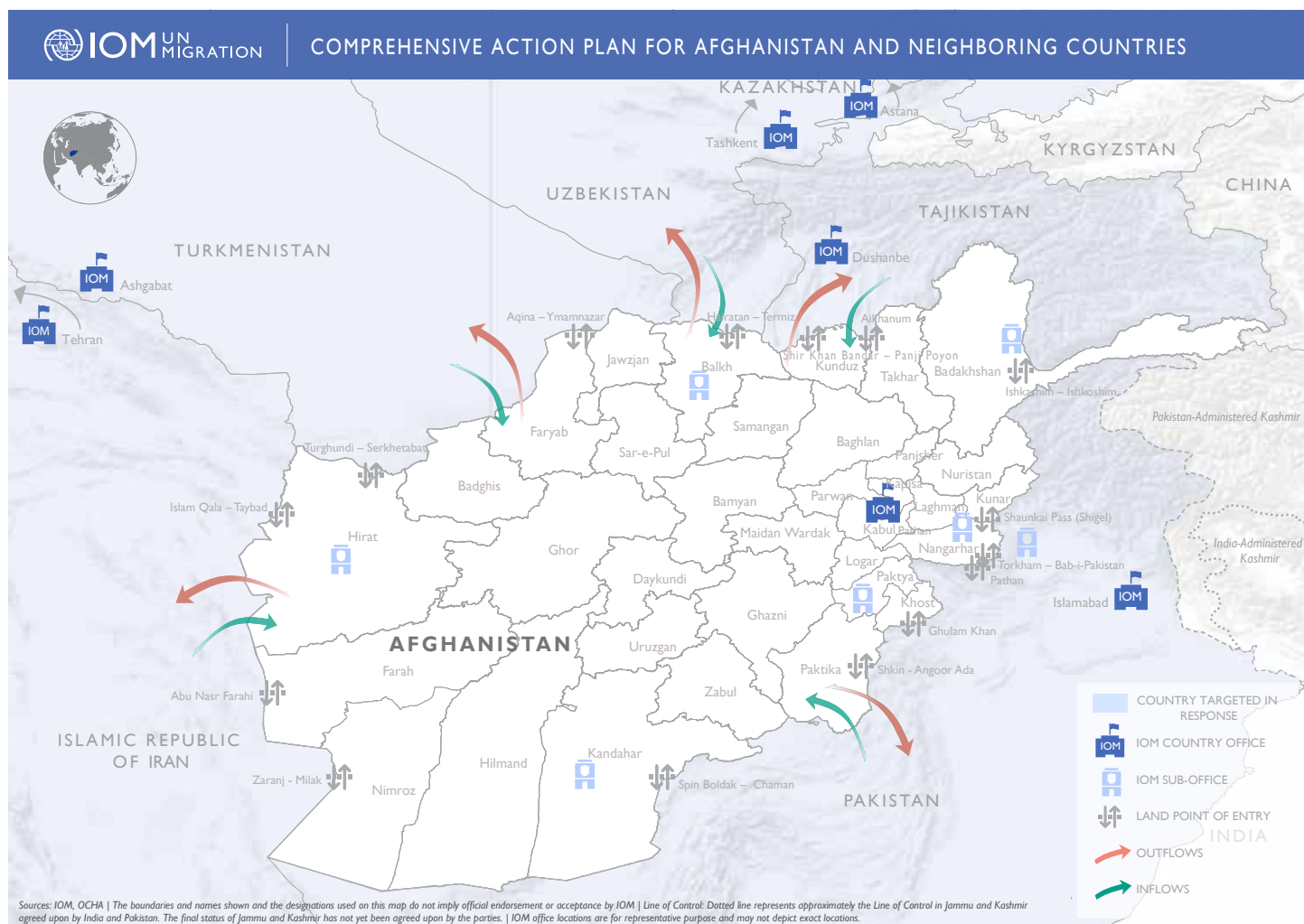
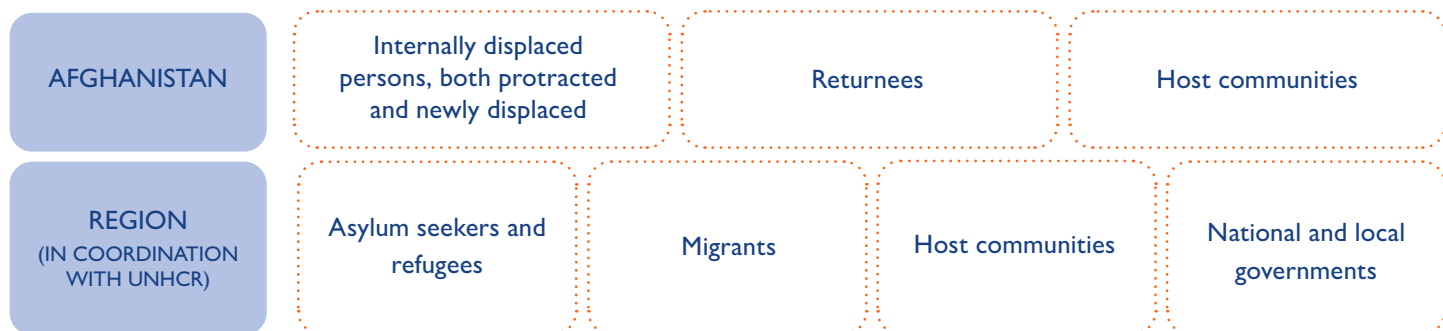
In Dand IDP settlement, women on IOM's mobile health team provide maternal and child health care, mental health and psychosocial support and health education to displaced women in Kabul, Afghanistan. © IOM 2021

5. TARGETED POPULATIONS

Through this plan, IOM aims to reach over 1,610,000 affected persons by the crisis. Additional support will be given to affected communities and host governments in the targeted countries. The planning targets are estimated, based on available data on displacement and migration and projections are being made during scenario and response planning exercises conducted by the humanitarian community in Afghanistan and the regional response 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 be guided by regular updates of mobility dynamics and 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 2021

By providing life-saving assistance and protection support to displaced populations, migrants and affected communities in Afghanistan and in the receiving countries across the region, IOM aims to respond to the most urgent needs while reducing and mitigating underlying vulnerabilities and risks. Combined with life-saving interventions, including distribution of shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) kits and access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, IOM will continue to meet the protection needs of the vulnerable and sustain and strengthen the delivery of essential health care, including for COVID-19, to serve both IDPs and vulnerable migrants, as well as vulnerable members of the surrounding communities while preparing the ground for early recovery processes through strengthening preparedness capacity.

AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SOI

- » Shelter and Non-Food Items
- » Health, including MHPSS in emergencies
- » Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- » Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)
- » Protection to vulnerable populations (including counter-trafficking in crisis, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, mitigation and response, child protection, support to cross border movements, travel health assistance, among others)
- » Multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in border areas (*Afghanistan*)

\$ 46,471,750

IOM'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SOI

including:

\$ 38,420,000

AFGHANISTAN

\$ 8,051,750

REGIONAL

In 2018, Sakina was employed by a soap production company that partners with IOM on business scale-up under the RADA programme in Kandahar, AfghaniAstan. 2021 © Muse Mohammed / IOM



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

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

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2022

Simultaneously, IOM will support governments and communities to address drivers of migration and displacement and mitigate mid-term impacts of the crisis in Afghanistan and across the region. IOM will support transition initiatives and ensure that migrants and displaced populations are empowered to participate in recovery processes, including through area-based approaches for social cohesion and community stabilization as well as through leveraging the role of migrants as essential workers in key sectors, including health. Further, IOM will support safe and regular mobility and counter migrant smuggling through cross-border coordination, humanitarian border management and providing access to information.

AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO2

- » Early Recovery and livelihoods, including community-based reintegration
- » Social cohesion, community stabilization and peacebuilding
- » Bolster National Health Capacity and Resilience
- » Access to safe and regular mobility

\$ 44,784,750
IOM'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SO2
including:

\$ 33,000,000
AFGHANISTAN

\$ 11,784,750
REGIONAL



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

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

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2024

IOM will work towards strengthening institutional and community capacities for socioeconomic recovery and inclusive sustainable development, seeking to advance durable solutions for displaced populations. When possible, this will include sustainable reintegration of returnees from abroad, as well as assistance for internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Further, IOM will work closely with host countries to strengthen migration governance and support inclusive integration and sustainable development planning. Leveraging local and regional partnerships, IOM will promote community-based development that fosters sustainable reintegration, securing a higher standard of living for the whole-of-society, and contributing to sustainable peace through inclusive and resilience-oriented development strategies.

AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO3

- » Durable solutions, including safe return and sustainable reintegration
- » Inclusive national and local integration and development strategies
- » Access to decent work and skills recognition
- » Strengthen Health Systems to Promote Access and Inclusion

\$ 49,578,750
IOM'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SO3
including:

\$ 25,000,000
AFGHANISTAN

\$ 24,578,750
REGIONAL



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

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

AUGUST 2021 - DECEMBER 2024

» <https://displacement.iom.int/afghanistan>

Evidence-based data is critical to informing effective response and recovery. In this regard, IOM will continue to tap into its global footprint and capacities in humanitarian and migration data collection, as well as broader migration data analysis in order to provide a regional picture of mobility, displacement and onward movement, and inform its own operations, governments and partners. This will include collaboration for joint UN and government assessment and planning processes. This will enable complementarity and coordinated work across humanitarian, development, and peace sectors and ultimately contribute to migrants, communities and societies' resilience.

AREAS OF RESPONSE UNDER SO4

- » Immediate emergency data collection on internal displacement, return and cross border movements
- » Rebuilding baseline data and information on displacement and population mobility to support addressing mid-term impact
- » Building comprehensive knowledge base to support self-reliance, socio-economic recovery, as well as inclusive development planning.

\$ 18,064,750
IOM'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SO4
including:

\$ 10,925,000
AFGHANISTAN

\$ 7,139,750
REGIONAL

B. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The IOM's funding requirements will cover Afghanistan, as well as its neighbouring countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Funding will also support regional and global activities, in particular with regards to the coordination of activities regarding data

collection, analysis and response to cross-border mobility flows. Activities and funding requirements for neighbouring countries are based on their unique contexts and take into account the emerging needs of populations that IOM is mandated to support in coordination with respective Member States and UNHCR.

B.1. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY COUNTRY

Country	Total Requirement (USD)
Afghanistan	\$107,345,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$2,680,000
Kazakhstan	\$1,175,000
Pakistan	\$35,677,000
Tajikistan	\$5,400,000
Turkmenistan	\$720,000
Uzbekistan	\$3,550,000
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$2,353,000
TOTAL	\$158,900,000

B.2. 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	\$107,345,000	HRP 2021; Inter-Agency Flash Appeal	\$46,000,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$2,680,000	-	-
Kazakhstan	\$1,175,000	-	-
Pakistan	\$35,677,000	HRP Pakistan 2021	\$14,125,339
Tajikistan	\$5,400,000	RRP 2021	\$310,180
Turkmenistan	\$720,000	-	-
Uzbekistan	\$3,550,000	RRP 2021	\$100,000
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$2,353,000		
TOTAL	\$158,900,000		\$60,535,519

*Some of the funding requirements included in this plan are also part of IOM's funding requirements under inter-agency plans already published. The above table shows this overlap between IOM's plan and inter-agency ones for the period August - December 2021.

B.3. 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	\$38.420.000	\$38.420.000	\$25.000.000	\$10.925.000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	\$790.000	\$790.000	\$80.000	\$530.000
Kazakhstan	\$0	\$0	\$1.075.000	\$100.000
Pakistan	\$5.502.000	\$5.502.000	\$19.200.000	\$5.650.000
Tajikistan	\$400.000	\$3.500.000	\$1.500.000	\$0
Turkmenistan	\$0	\$0	\$400.000	\$0
Uzbekistan	\$1.150.000	\$1.150.000	\$1.400.000	\$0
Regional and Global Coordination and Technical Support	\$209.750	\$209.750	\$923.750	\$859.750
TOTAL	\$46.471.750	\$44.784.750	\$49.578.750	\$18.064.750 \$158.900.000



IOM Afghanistan five COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in Herat province offer COVID-19 awareness sessions and screening to thousands of underserved people in community centres and mosques around Herat. 2021 © Muse Mohammed / IOM

