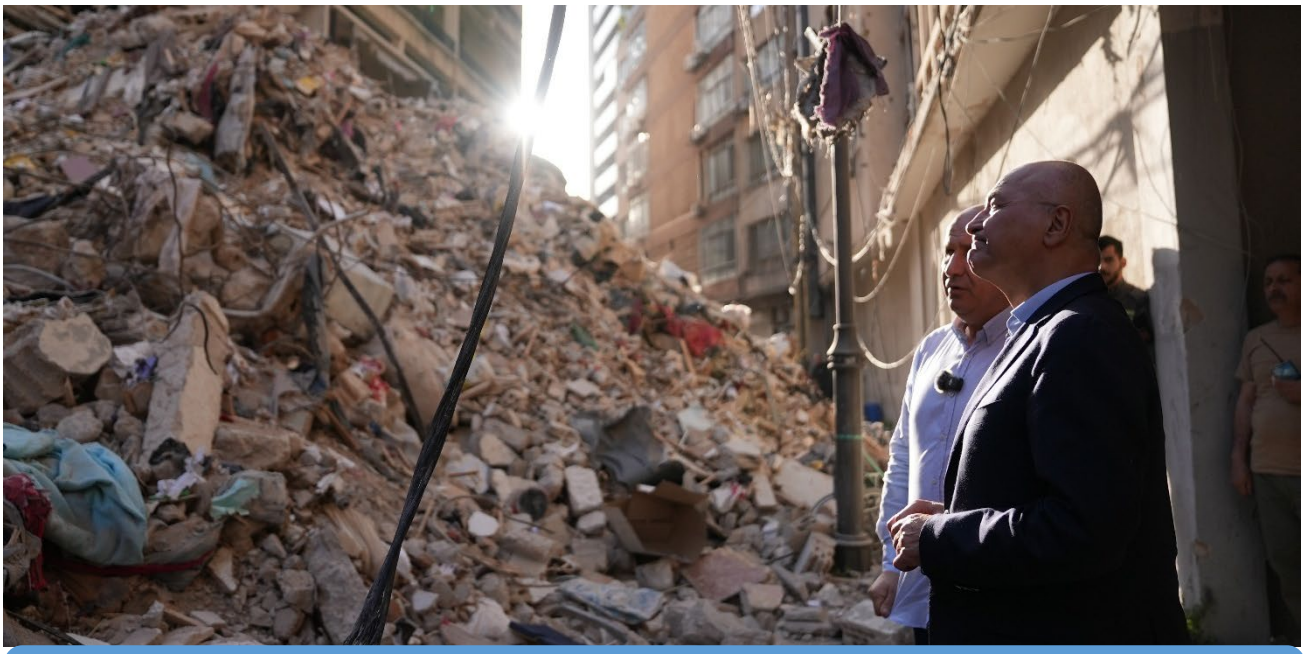
# Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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|---|---|
| **Bilagsnr.:** | **1752** |
| Land: | Afghanistan |
| Kilde: | UNHCR |
| Titel: | Emergency Flash Update # 12: Middle East Situation |
| Udgivet: | 14. april 2026 |
| Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet: | 31. juli 2026 |

# Middle East Situation

14 April 2026



*UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih visits conflict affected areas in Beirut – 13 April 2026, Houssam Hariri © UNHCR*

## Key Highlights

- Since the onset of the military escalation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reported that around **3.2** million people (**800,000** households) have internally relocated. **75%** of the relocated population is in Tehran, followed by Hormozgan (**8%**), Bushehr (5%**),** and Khuzestan (**3%**). In some locations, nearly **17%** of the population lacks access to clean water due to overcrowding. Iran continues to host **1.65** million refugees and others in need of international protection. Based on UNHCR helpline data from March, the top three priority needs reported by Afghan refugees in Iran are financial assistance for basic needs and relocation, safe shelter and physical safety from attacks, and access to healthcare.
- Since 28 February 2026, some **110,400** Iranian nationals have crossed into neighbouring countries (**105,000** to Türkiye, **5,400** to **Pakistan,** as per IOM and UNHCR joint border monitoring between 1 March and 9 April mainly via Taftan). Around **87,600** have returned from Türkiye to Iran between 3 March and 13 April. Movement volumes remain below pre-conflict levels, with crossings largely reflecting routine mobility, family travel, and precautionary movement rather than large-scale displacement. **52%** of Iranians crossing into Türkiye are families; in Iran, **60%** of IDPs are women and children.
- In Lebanon, more than **1.05 million** people remain internally displaced — **35%** of them children — with over **140,700** staying in **684** government-designated collective shelters.

- ~**236,800** Syrians and **43,900** Lebanese have crossed from Lebanon into Syria since the start of the crisis; **68,084** Syrians reported an intention to return permanently.
- Over **134,100** Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan since the start of the crisis (**65,800** from Iran, **68,300** from Pakistan). **76%** of UNHCR-assisted returnees were women and children. Top provinces of intended return are Kabul (**11%**) and Nangarhar (**10%**). In Afghanistan, **115,000** people are internally displaced, **73%** of whom are women and children. Protection concerns have arisen in displacement sites, with authorities ordering IDPs in seven sites to return to their areas of origin; two sites have already been fully vacated.

*For the latest information on population movements, see the latest UNHCR CORE Update and newly launched Operational Data Portal page on the Middle East situation.*

## Country Updates

### Iran

- From 1 March to 13 April, the UNHCR Helpline received around 37,400 calls, including more than 8,000 between 6–12 April. During the same period, 996 people approached UNHCR offices in person. Urgent cases were identified and referred for appropriate support. Financial and basic needs assistance remains the most urgent need, with Afghan communities affected by a sharp deterioration in livelihoods and purchasing power — daily wage work reduced and costs of food, rent, and basic necessities rising steeply.
- Since the start of the crisis, UNHCR Iran has assisted some 64,200 Afghan refugees through helplines, in-person counselling, registration, legal aid, multipurpose cash assistance, and psychosocial support.
- Partners continue to engage in inter-agency resource mobilisation efforts to sustain and scale up the response in line with identified needs.

### Lebanon

- On 12 April, Israeli airstrikes across Lebanon killed at least 303 people and injured 1,150, marking a sharp intensification of Operation Eternal Darkness, which Israel launched in early April as part of its campaign against Hezbollah. On the same day, Hezbollah reportedly carried out 56 offensives against Israeli forces in Lebanon and Israel.
- Among the more than one million people self-registered with the Government as displaced, 140,700 are staying in 684 collective shelters operating at or near full capacity. Repeated displacement, overcrowding, and limited access to hard-to-reach areas continue to drive acute protection risks, including GBV, child protection concerns, and psychological distress.
- UNHCR and protection partners have reached over 93,000 displaced people, nearly half of whom are children, through awareness activities, community engagement, and psychosocial support.
- UNHCR and shelter partners are scaling up shelter repairs and assistance across 448 sites, with work underway in 134 sites — approximately 31 per cent of which are supported by UNHCR — and completed in 83 sites. Interventions emphasise basic repairs, WASH improvements, and measures to enhance privacy, safety, and accessibility. Core relief items have been delivered to 38,100 households across 647 collective shelters and 9,100 households living outside collective shelters; 41 per cent of those were directly supported by UNHCR.

- UNHCR has officially launched the cash for shelter programme, with capacity to support around 8,200 households and further expansion expected as partners secure funding.
- Despite ongoing insecurity and damaged infrastructure, humanitarian convoys remain critical, particularly for people in hard-to-reach areas under evacuation orders and attacks. On 10 April, UNHCR contributed to a humanitarian convoy to Tyre, providing shelter repair kits and clothing to approximately 1,200 displaced families (around 4,000 individuals), and initiated repairs in three damaged shelters. UNHCR also supported an inter-agency convoy that reached Nabatiyeh with core relief items.

## Syria

- As of 14 April, all three Syria–Lebanon border crossings — Jdeidet Yabous, Joussieh, and Arida — remain open and fully operational, with no significant spike in arrivals recorded. Since 2 March, a total of 280,600 people have crossed the Syria–Lebanon border, including 236,700 Syrians — of whom 68,100 reported an intention to return permanently — and 43,900 Lebanese nationals. Lebanese arrivals engaged by UNHCR at Jdeidet Yabous indicated a general understanding that entry into Syria is restricted to those with relatives in the country who meet Syria's entry requirements, which may be affecting crossings by Lebanese nationals.
- Movements remain largely family-based, with most staying with relatives, while others rely on their own homes, rental arrangements, or temporary shelter. Key needs include livelihood opportunities, support for repairing damaged homes, and basic NFIs such as blankets, mattresses, and plastic sheeting.
- UNHCR and partners continue to provide targeted assistance across all three crossings. At Jdeidet Yabous, UNHCR provides water distribution and legal counselling. At Joussieh, UNHCR provides transportation and relief items. At Arida, returnee interviews, psychological first aid, and PSEA key messages are delivered.

## Afghanistan-Pakistan

- Since the start of the crisis on 28 February, some 134,100 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan — 65,800 from Iran and 68,300 from Pakistan — bringing total Afghan returns in 2026 to 409,800, in addition to the 2.9 million recorded in 2025.
- Returns to Afghanistan from Pakistan increased over the past week, with some 43,000 Afghans arriving between 7 and 13 April, in part due to a decrease in border skirmishes as peace talks continue.
- Returns from Iran remained at a consistent level, with some 12,300 Afghans arriving in the past week. UNHCR protection monitoring indicates that movements from Iran to Afghanistan are largely deportation-driven. Returnees interviewed at the Milak/Zaranj border crossing reported arrests during routine document checks and detention, with issues including extortion, poor sanitation, insufficient food and water, and lack of medical care.
- Cross-border movements between Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to be concentrated at the Torkham and Chaman–Spin Boldak crossings, which remain intermittently open for the return and deportation of Afghan nationals amid ongoing security-related disruptions. Both UNHCR-supported Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan are now operational, following the reopening of Azakhel on 13 April after its closure in early 2026 and the earlier resumption of operations at Baleli in late March.
- Over 4,000 Afghan returnees are currently sheltering in temporary accommodation — including mosques, madrasas, and temporary tents — at the Landi Kotal crossing in Pakistan while awaiting processing to return to Afghanistan. Local organisations are providing food

assistance; however, critical WASH and shelter needs remain unmet. The immigration facility at Torkham remains non-operational; its urgent activation is needed to reduce congestion at Landi Kotal and support a more efficient and dignified return process.
- In Balochistan, Pakistan, provincial disaster management authorities led contingency planning for possible outflows from Iran, in coordination with humanitarian partners.

## Türkiye

- UNHCR continues to monitor the situation along the border in close coordination with authorities and partners, with the Kapıköy (Van), Gürbulak (Ağrı), and Esendere (Hakkari) border crossings remaining generally operational. Following a brief post-Eid and Nowruz stabilisation phase, recent figures indicate a renewed increase in entries into Türkiye reaching pre-conflict levels, suggesting movement dynamics remain fluid and subject to rapid change. Non-conflict related reasons remain dominant for crossing the border, though some individuals have cited recent developments in Iran as their reason for leaving. Iranian nationals are largely returning to Iran within one week of entering Türkiye, underscoring the temporary nature of current mobility trends, with no indications of a shift toward large-scale displacement.
- National preparedness plans are being coordinated by the Ministry of Interior's Presidency of Migration Management, while UNHCR is reinforcing coordination with UN agencies and partners in both Ankara and the border regions to enhance preparedness and strengthen information management. Response capacities are being mapped and data coordination consolidated in preparation for potential contingency plan activation.

## Iraq

- UNHCR and partners have finalised the draft six-month inter-agency contingency plan to respond to potential refugee movements from Iran, which will subsequently be shared with the Government for validation.
- Relative calm has persisted in Iraq as the ceasefire continues to prevent a resumption of drone and missile attacks. Iraqi airspace is open, and airlines are progressively restoring international and domestic flights.

## Armenia

- Between 9–14 April, UNHCR and partners' observations and triangulated estimates indicate that total daily movements of Iranian nationals across the Agarak crossing are approximately 400–650 entries and a comparable number of exits, some of whom may have international protection needs. Cross-border movements remained moderate, with similar levels of entries and exits indicating sustained two-way mobility. The profile of individuals crossing remains unchanged — predominantly adult males, primarily truck-based, with no observable increase in families or vulnerable groups — indicating commercial and routine mobility rather than displacement-driven flows.

- Since 28 February, 225 individuals have approached UNHCR in Armenia, mostly in person (78 per cent), with 69 per cent male and 31 per cent female. Of these, 60 per cent had newly arrived, 27 per cent were already in the country, and 14 per cent had unknown arrival status. Most entered via the Agarak land border, followed by Zvartnots airport. Reported needs focused primarily on asylum procedures (84 per cent), alongside legal counselling and financial

assistance (18 per cent each) and accommodation (16 per cent), often with multiple needs per individual. UNHCR's response has been largely information and referral-based: information provided in 98 per cent of cases, referrals to the Migration and Citizenship Service (71 per cent) and partners or hotlines (72 per cent), and counselling in 22 per cent of cases, with direct assistance remaining limited.

### Turkmenistan

- All four border crossings with Iran remain open to all nationalities.

## Financial Information

The Iran Flash Refugee Response Plan (Flash RRP), launched on 26 March 2026, requests **USD 80 million** to support **2.8 million people in need, including 1.65 million refugees and 1 million host community** in need in Iran. Nine inter-agency partners are participating in the coordinated response, with UNHCR as the lead agency (USD 36.2 million), alongside IOM, UNDP, WFP, NRC, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and INTERSOS.

The Lebanon Flash Appeal, issued on 13 March 2026, calls for **USD 308.3 million** for partners to deliver lifesaving assistance and protection to **1 million people** — including vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon, Palestinian Refugees from Syria, and migrants — over the same three-month period.

UNHCR operations across the affected regions remain critically underfunded at a time when humanitarian needs and operational risks are increasing. In South-West Asia, UNHCR requires USD **454** million in 2026 to support forcibly displaced populations under the Afghanistan situation; as of end-March, only **19** per cent had been received. Funding for Iran is **11**% covered out of a USD 140 million requirement. In the Middle East, significant funding gaps persist: Lebanon stands at only **19** per cent funded against a UNHCR requirement of USD **472 million**, while Iraq is at **38** per cent against USD **61** million. In Europe, funding levels currently stand at **43** per cent for Türkiye (USD **210** million requirement) and **51**% for Armenia (USD 9 million requirement).

Severe funding shortfalls risk creating a 'crisis within a crisis' at a time when needs across the affected regions are rapidly increasing. Without additional resources, UNHCR's ability to scale up preparedness, protection and response will be critically constrained.

## Contact

For further information on the situation or UNHCR's response across affected countries, please contact the Regional Bureaux: rbapext@unhcr.org (Asia and the Pacific) and menareporting@unhcr.org (Middle East and North Africa). For more information on UNHCR and partners' response across affected countries, please visit the Operational Data Portal and UNHCR website.