

## Information for New Arrivals from Afghanistan

Please note that UNHCR Iran does not conduct registration, decide whether someone is a refugee or issue documentation – this is the responsibility of the Government of Iran.

Please note that UNHCR Iran does not have an active resettlement programme at this time.

Please remember that UNHCR does NOT make referrals to the programmes recently announced by governments to relocate or evacuate Afghan nationals. If you have been given this information, it is incorrect. All information for and applications to them must be done through their relevant contact details and procedures.

The Iranian Government, through the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA), is responsible for registering asylum-seekers and determining refugee status. Procedures for new arrivals are still being determined by the Government of Iran.

If you have recently arrived in Iran, you may wish to approach your local BAFIA office for further information.

Please **visit our Announcements page** for updated information as it becomes available.

## What should I do if I have just arrived in Iran and want to stay here?

The Government of Iran is still deciding on what steps new arrivals from Afghanistan will have to take and UNHCR does not have details on this yet. The Iranian Government, through the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA), is responsible for registering asylum-seekers and deciding if they are refugees.

Please visit this site or the UNHCR Iran website <https://www.unhcr.org/ir/> for updated information as it becomes available.

I have heard about special programs set up by other countries to help Afghans who worked with or for those countries to travel to those countries. Can UNHCR Iran help me access these programs

Some countries have recently announced opportunities for Afghan nationals who have worked or been affiliated with those countries to apply for permission to travel to those countries. These programs are established by those countries and ***UNHCR does not refer people to the programs or process applications.***

There may be more programs that are now or soon to be available to support Afghan people in or outside of Afghanistan. UNHCR will try to keep up to date with announcements as we become aware of these State-sponsored programs. Details of them can be found on the websites set up by the particular state. Please check information on our [Afghanistan page](#) for the latest information and links to those government websites.

Some programmes include the following:

#### **United States of America**

The United States recently announced opportunities for Afghan nationals who have worked or been affiliated with the US government, military, NGOs, or media. Please visit the following sites from the US State Department for details:

- [Special Immigrant Visa \(SIV\) for Afghans employed by or on behalf of the US Government](#)
- [Special Immigrant Visa \(SIV\) for Afghans who worked as translators/interpreters for US military forces](#)
- [US Refugee Assistance Program \(USRAP\) Priority 2 Program](#)

#### **Canada**

The Canadian program is available for Afghan nationals whose “employment involved a significant and/or enduring relationship with the Government of Canada”, including interpreters for the Canadian military and local staff who work or worked for the Canadian Embassy. Please visit the following site for details:

- [Special Program for Afghans who Assisted Canada](#)

#### **United Kingdom**

The UK has established two programs for current and former locally employed staff in Afghanistan. Please visit the following sites for details:

- [Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy \(ARAP\)](#)
- [Ex-Gratia Scheme](#)

Can UNHCR help me move to a different country?

You may have seen information about resettlement opportunities for Afghan refugees. UNHCR is currently focused on ensuring the immediate safety and protection of people who have just arrived in Iran. Resettlement may be considered in the future for some individuals.

## Related information

- [\*\*Contact UNHCR Iran\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Family Reunification\*\*](#)

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