

Afghans. Child-headed households were also found engaging in unsafe employment at higher rates than adult headed households (11% of all child-headed households reported they had engaged in unsafe work versus an average of 6% amongst all households surveyed)²³. Smuggling and human trafficking are issues that have particular consequences for Afghan youth, while girls specifically face the risk of early and/or forced marriage.

The main responsible governmental body (duty-bearer) dealing with refugee matters in Iran is the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) under the Ministry of Interior (MoI). It undertakes the periodic renewal of refugee residency cards (Amayesh cards) to access basic services, facilitates the issuance of work permits, determines the total refugee population in Iran and is responsible for issuing and renewing licenses to international organisations and international NGOs working in the area of migration and forced displacement. MoI has authority over policing refugees and migrants as well as authority to fight trafficking of humans and smuggling of migrants. Other government bodies such as the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare hold remits over health, education and employment, respectively.

UNHCR is the internationally mandated authority that also leads on the ad-hoc mechanism “Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees²⁴”. It is active on the issues of registration, advocacy and protection. UNHCR implements a complementary project at regional level (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran). The EUR 50 million second phase of this project is proposed under the 2021-2027 Asia-Pacific Regional Indicative Programme. In general, complementarity and synergies will be ensured with ongoing and future actions addressing Afghan displacement situation.

The international NGOs active in the field are the Norwegian Refugee Council, Relief International, and Doctors Without Borders. Together with UNHCR, these are indispensable as regards addressing status and living conditions of refugees in Iran. The number of international NGOs in Iran is declining as they face increasingly limited operational space and weak interest of donors. Although international NGOs have lower absorption capacity due to their size, it is believed that they have increased field access.

An increasingly important group of stakeholders are the local CSOs/NGOs. International organisations and NGOs implementing projects in the area of migration/forced displacement are mandated by the MoI to work alongside or through local CSOs/NGOs. This has the effect of higher transaction cost, lower implementation efficiency, but also allows to indirectly or directly build their capacity.

The most important stakeholders of the Action are rights-holders, i.e. vulnerable Afghans and their host communities.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** of this action is to enhance resilience and self-reliance of vulnerable Afghans and their host communities in Iran.

The **Specific Objectives (Outcomes)** of this action are to

1. Increase access to rights, protection and essential services, including education and health, for vulnerable Afghans and host communities in Iran
2. Improve livelihoods and access to sustainable income
3. Enhance contribution of key national and international stakeholders in provision of assistance to vulnerable Afghans in Iran

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Increased access to equal and quality education in enhanced learning environments
- 1.2 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Improved capacity of health infrastructure
- 1.3 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Enhanced access to protection resources for vulnerable households and persons with specific needs

²³ Assessment of the Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Afghan Refugee Households in Iran, Relief International - June 2020. (7,612 households were interviewed using RI's Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment in 7 provinces).

²⁴ SSAR is a mechanism established by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR. UNHCR is the coordinator. EU and certain EU MS are members of the Core group of the Support Platform of the SSAR.