

2025 WORKPLAN

of the Core Group
of the SSAR Support Platform

Under the Chairmanship of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands

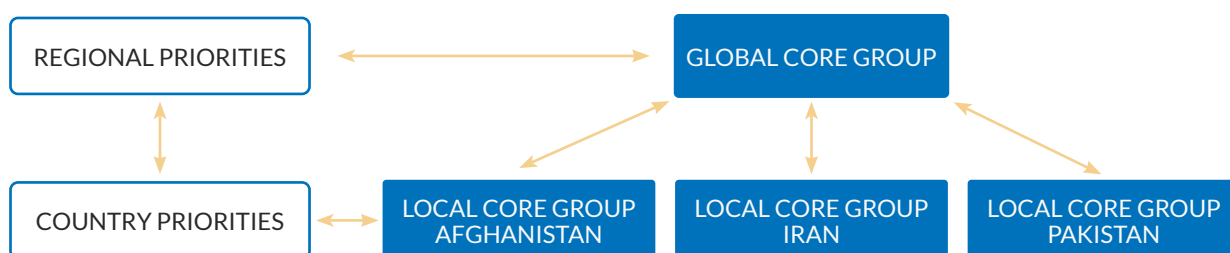
The objectives, scope of engagement and priorities of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) are detailed in the [Modalities of the SSAR Support Platform](#), [Terms of Reference of the Core Group](#) and in the [Chairperson's Summary](#) of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group with the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. This workplan builds on these agreed strategic directions, with a view to identifying specific areas of engagement for 2025.

Relevant information and documents can be found on the website of the Support Platform:
<https://ssar-platform.org/>

CORE GROUP ARCHITECTURE

In line with the deliberations of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group, the Core Group functions at two levels. The Secretariat of the SSAR Support Platform at the global level is provided by UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. At the country levels, the Secretariat is provided by the UNHCR Operations in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

1. The Global Core Group (GCG)
2. The Local Core Groups (LCG) at the country-level in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan



The Core Groups at both the global and local levels have been operational since 2021 and the Global Core Group is comprised of 15 Members.¹ In October 2024, the Kingdom of the Netherlands assumed the Chairmanship of the Core Group from the State of Qatar.

¹ Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Qatar, Switzerland, Türkiye, United States of America, the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, the World Bank and IOM.

² The role of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform are described in the 2022 Terms of Reference Chair of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

II. SSAR SUPPORT PLATFORM - PILLARS

The strategy advances a regional approach to solutions and promotes burden- and responsibility-sharing for refugees at regional and global level. Three main themes underscore the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and guide the efforts of the Support Platform:

- 1 Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return
- 2 Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return
- 3 Preserving asylum space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.

III. GLOBAL CORE GROUP OBJECTIVES³ IN 2025

General Objective: Galvanize structured regional coordination to increase political, financial, and technical support from existing and new partners for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in 2025, with a view to continue and expand the work of the Core Group.



Specific Objective 1 [Coordination for enhanced burden and responsibility-sharing]:

Continue to facilitate structured, regional exchange and cooperation among Core Group members in support of the objectives of the SSAR (enabling voluntary and sustainable return and reintegration while also supporting host countries).



Specific Objective 2 [Engagement with the countries of asylum and origin]:

Facilitate opportunities for engagement within the Quadripartite Steering Committee (Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, the de facto authorities in Afghanistan and UNHCR) within the framework of the SSAR, through a bilateral consultation between the Quadripartite Steering Committee and the Members of the Core Group.



Specific Objective 3 [Visibility for Displaced Afghans]:

Amidst competing crises globally, keep a spotlight on the situation of Afghan refugees, displaced persons, and other vulnerable people on the move within the region, and their host communities.



Specific Objective 4 [Partnerships]:

Mobilize new and diverse stakeholders - in particular, civil society and the private sector, international finance institutions - to support the multi-year priorities of the SSAR, including through implementation of the ReResolve Multi-Stakeholder Pledge, with a focus on building resilience, to advance protection, basic needs, self-reliance and third country solutions.

³ To be read along with the Terms of Reference of the Core Group and the Chairperson's Summary of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group with the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

IV. GLOBAL CORE GROUP ENGAGEMENTS IN 2025



Specific Objective 1

- **Global Core Group consultations and country-level field-missions of the Chair**

The Global Core Group is anticipated to convene in-person during the course of the year to discuss the prevailing Afghan displacement context in Southwestern Asia, and joint investments in solutions, in line with operational context, and the needs and priorities of Afghan refugees and returnees. These engagements will be complimented by three dedicated field missions of the Chair to Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, which will provide the context for dedicated consultations between the Local Core Groups and de-facto/national authorities. Invitations will be extended to other Members to join these missions.



Specific Objective 2

- **Quadripartite Steering Committee and Core Group Strategic Dialogue**

A Quadripartite Steering Committee Meeting between Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR, which was postponed in 2024, is schedule to take place this year, and will inform SSAR coordination, collaboration, and strategic dialogue throughout 2025. In addition, an in-person strategic dialogue between the Quadripartite Steering Committee and the Global Core Group serves as a platform for multi-partner dialogue, to be informed by the three dedicated Pillar consultations that took place between the Global Core Group members in 2024 and resulting common recommendations.



Specific Objective 3

- **SSAR External Presence**

To ensure continued visibility for displaced Afghans, but also for the Support Platform as a supporting mechanism, the official website will continue to serve as a central hub of information on the work of SSAR, including updates on activities, publications and events, as well as linking with other website such as the Global Data Portal. Moreover, the production of more targeted communications products can be explored, such as infographics, videos or success stories, to highlight the impact of collective efforts under the SSAR.



Specific Objective 4

- **ReSolve Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Forum**

Developed by the SSAR Support Platform, the 'ReSolve' Multistakeholder Pledge for Resilience and Solutions for the Afghanistan Situation was introduced in the context of the second GRF in 2023. The associated Engagement Forum serves as a space for continued dialogue, stocktaking, and collaboration among stakeholders working towards the objective of the ReSolve pledge. Following a first session in November 2024 with a focus on women and girls in displacement, a second session is planned ahead of the second High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) that will convene in December 2025.

- **Membership of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform**

Opportunities will be explored to diversify the membership base of the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform, to include additional governmental partners and international financial institutions. In addition, consultations will also be held among existing members to identify the next Chair. Finally, while Membership of the Platform is drawn from governmental, financial and development partners, opportunities will also be explored to engage UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, academia and the private sector, on a needs basis to inform consultations between the Core Group Members.

V. COUNTRY-SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR 2025 - LOCAL CORE GROUPS

This section articulates the country-specific structure of the Local Core Groups in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, and related background information. Specific engagements, to be developed at the country-level between Members may include a focus on engagement with humanitarian and development actors to explore opportunities to support socio-economic inclusion, social protection, self-reliance and linkages with national development plans and responses; the sharing of information on, and coordinating as appropriate, the relevant aspects of programming of the respective Core Group members; and capitalizing, where appropriate, on existing forms of consultation and dialogue, to inform existing and new programmes as well as advocacy on protection, inclusion, and solutions. All Local Core Groups will develop country-specific work plans in due course.

AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, a Local Core Group for the Support Platform was first convened in March 2021 jointly by the EU (as the former Chair) and Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR). The group's priorities include promoting socio-economic empowerment and enhancing protection measures, such as monitoring at border points and facilitating civil documentation for displaced persons and returnees. While these areas remain key focuses, the level of the group's engagement may vary as efforts adapt to the evolving context and emerging needs. In addition, the Local Core Group also intends to increase its engagement with civil society and serve as forum for dialogue with CSOs. In January 2025, the Local Core Group was relaunched, under Chairmanship of the Netherlands.

IRAN

In Iran, in line with the deliberations of the Inaugural Meeting of the Core Group with the Governments of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, a Local Core Group for the SSAR Support Platform was established in April 2021. At the end of 2022, Iran hosted the 8th meeting of the SSAR Quadripartite Steering Committee to discuss progress, challenges, and the way forward in the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, highlighting Iran's generous and inclusive hospitality towards Afghan nationals over the years, and informing the collaboration with the Local Core Group. In 2025, the Group is focusing its efforts on maintaining and expanding the protection and asylum space for all Afghans in Iran, as well as further strengthening the inclusive policies and promoting self-reliance and durable solutions.

PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, the Local Core Group was established in April 2021, with the EU Ambassador to Pakistan initially serving as Chair. The Group's work is organized around working level and ambassadorial-level meetings. While retaining a strong focus on addressing the ongoing protracted refugee population, the Local Core Group is attentive to potential new needs. Two thematic working groups at the working level were created in 2021 focusing on education and livelihoods and continue to engage in these issues to date. In 2025, the Group is prioritizing advocacy to attain a more favourable protection environment in Pakistan, promote inclusion into national/provincial systems and securing more durable solutions for Afghan refugees.

GLOBAL CORE GROUP ENGAGEMENTS IN 2025*

No.	Engagement	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.	In-person meeting of the Global Core Group: 2025 inception meeting to discuss annual workplan, and prevailing regional displacement context and political developments, as well as preparations for Q4/CG meeting.				
2.	Field missions of the Netherlands as Chair of the SSAR Support Platform to Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Invitations will be extended to other Members to join these missions. To include consultations with Local Core Group and MFAs.				
3.	Tripartite/ Quadripartite Steering Committee Meetings In-person sessions between parties to the SSAR, facilitated by UNHCR in Doha.				
4.	Quadripartite Steering Committee and Core Group Strategic Dialogue In-person consultation on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).				
5.	ReSolve Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Forum (virtual) The second session of the Engagement Forum to raise visibility on the Afghanistan Situation.				

*Modest adjustments to scheduling are anticipated throughout the year.