



AUGUST 2021

A UNITED RESPONSE FOR REFUGEES

Refugee Response Guide

For organisations responding to the needs of those newly-arrived in the UK, seeking refuge from the Afghanistan crisis.

ADDRESS:

Muslim Charities Forum,
6 White Horse Mews,
London SE1 7QD

WEB:

www.muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk

Key points for consideration

Over 5000 refugee families are expected to arrive in the UK in the next few months, including pregnant women and young children.

01

Responding in a **collaborative approach** is imperative to ensure a timely response for those in need and best use of resources.

Contact your local Council to find out they are supporting refugees in your area and the needs - housing, food, clothing, translation services. Visit: www.gov.uk/help-refugees

02

People are currently arriving at various airports including **Birmingham, Heathrow, and Manchester**. Refugees are currently being placed in 10 day hotel isolation due to Covid19 prevention measures, before moving into temporary accommodation. Work with providers to establish what is needed and how you can respond.

03

Establish the needs YOU can meet swiftly. Do you have access to **storage and transport for food and clothing**? Do you have enough staff or volunteers? Can you provide translation services or know people who do? The two main languages spoken will be **Pashto and Dari (Persian/Farsi)**. Urdu speakers may also be helpful.

04

Consider if you are able to provide **long-term support**. Whilst basic needs are urgent, supplies will continue to be needed and those seeking refuge may not be able to access other public services immediately. Support with housing, education, healthcare, mental health support, internet access and ongoing financial aid.

Check immediate and exact needs to prevent waste and reduce strain on emergency response.

01

Food and essentials:

- Halal food items
- Milk
- Non-perishable goods
- Sanitary products
- Shampoo and toothpaste

02

Clothing:

- Long clothing for women including scarves
- Men trousers
- Shoes (waterproof) including children's shoes
- Coats
- Underwear and nightwear
- Please note: all clothing must be in good condition, clean, sorted and separated by size.

03

Pregnant women, mothers and babies:

- Baby food
- Baby bottles
- Nappies and wipes
- Blankets and baby clothing
- Please note: this group may need immediate healthcare response.

04

Other:

- Translation services
- Support with Covid19 testing
- Accommodation (connect with your local Council)
- Mental health support
- Spiritual needs - prayer mats, copies of Holy Qur'an, access to mosque services
- Internet / mobile phone access
- Hardship grants (Zakat applicable)

Avoid organising open-ended and general donation drives as you may be inundated with unsuitable donations. Check exact needs and be specific about the type and conditions of items when advertising and collecting.

4 stage response:



CONNECT

Reach out to discover local response, particularly in high traffic areas. Speak to Afghan community diaspora organisations in the UK for their insight and support.



COLLABORATE

Work with your Local Authority and other responders for a joined-up approach, establish exact needs and plug gaps through a network of support.



COMMUNICATE

Maintain communication - needs will be ongoing and new needs may arise.



RESPOND

Ensure you have the means to deliver resources. From storage, to manpower, transport and understanding.

**If you need support in contacting
your local Council or partners,
please get in touch and we will aim
to connect you.**

**Contact:
info@muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk**

#TogetherWeCan

WWW.MUSLIMCHARITIESFORUM.ORG.UK