



HIGHLIGHTS

13,289

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 3 April and 30 April 2017

81,329

Births registered between 1 January and 30 April 2017

3,427

Initial Screening Forms (ISF) were submitted between 1 January and 30 April 2017

667 families comprising of 3,427 individuals.

26,298

IDP families returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 30 April 2017

157,788 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.

Population of concern

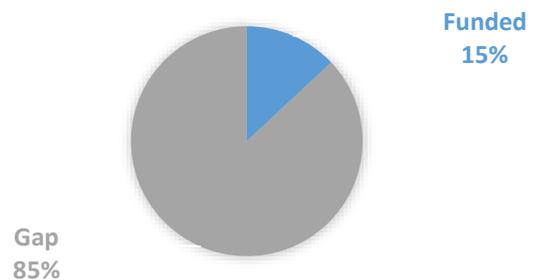
A total of **1.71 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,415,407
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	4,418
Somalia (Refugees)	226
Others (Refugees) Asylum seekers	201 3,869
Total out-of-camp IDPs	294,324

Funding

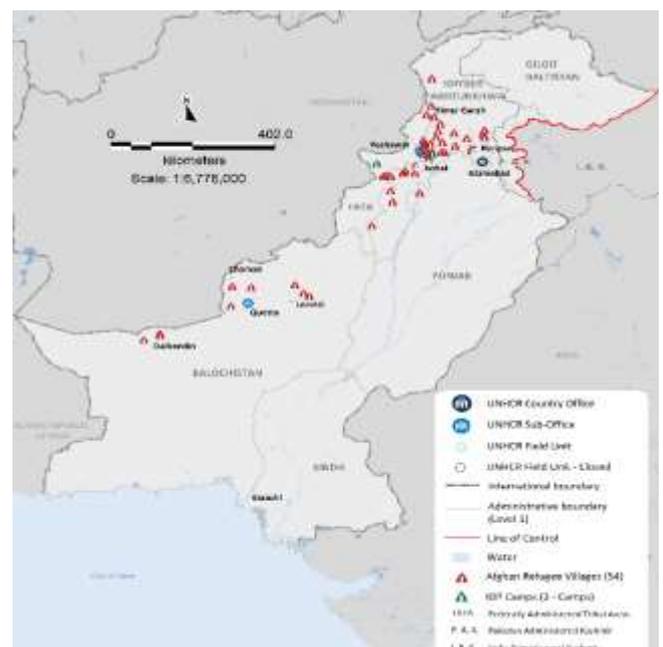
USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Offices	International Staff	National Staff	Affiliate Staff	Total Staff
Islamabad	23	72	15	110
Peshawar	9	68	27	104
Quetta	6	48	10	64
Total	38	188	52	278

**As of 30 April 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is FDMA while figures for IDP families are verified by NADRA*



MAIN UPDATES

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

- **The regional multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR, phase II 2015-2017)** provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to address the needs of Afghan refugees. The main goal of the SSAR is to identify and implement lasting solutions for refugees, while providing assistance to host communities. The SSAR prioritises the promotion of youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.
- **Study on socio-economic impact of Afghan refugees:** A team of researchers from the Fafo research institute from Norway convened a technical inception workshop with key stakeholders to initiate a study on socio-economic impact of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The study is funded by the Government of Germany as a joint endeavour with the Ministry of SAFRON, and in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and UNHCR. The findings of the study will help to gain a better understanding of the positive contribution of Afghan refugees to the Pakistani economy and social fabric, and also assess the impact of protracted refugee presence on the national public service delivery systems.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in Quetta and Peshawar for refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC, and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card (an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against *refoulement*) is cut in the corner. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately USD 200 per individual upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan. Repatriation was paused for the winter break and resumed on 3 April 2017.
- **Legal Assistance:** To ensure protection of refugees, UNHCR operates Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In April, UNHCR partner in Quetta initiated a new legal assistance program. This brings the total number of ALAC centres to 10. In April, 3,925 persons of concern were assisted through ALACs. This included ALAC interventions on behalf of 140 refugees at police stations upon arrest aimed at securing their release. The centres also provided court representations to 76 individuals charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In April, individual legal counselling was provided to 938 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices, as well as to 973 individuals who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 79 legal camps (awareness sessions on legal rights of refugees) staff reached out to 1,703 participants of which 47 per cent were women. 99 law enforcement personnel attended 03 sessions organized by UNHCR on refugee rights and their legal status in Pakistan. Other activities benefited some 95 persons of concern.
- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PCM) centres operated by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) nationwide. The PCM centres support the modification/replacement of existing PoR cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, provision of PoR cards to registered children older than five years of age and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18. A total of 81,329 children were registered and 39,633 children received birth certificates between January and April. In addition, up to three mobile registration vans (MRVs) operate in KP and Balochistan to deliver registration services in the field. .
- Throughout the country, Community Based Protection (CBP) teams have visited communities of concern to conduct physical and social mapping. The purpose of the mapping is to build relationships with communities and better understand community dynamics, demographic profiles and coping mechanisms as well as to discuss the Refugee Outreach Volunteer (ROV) concept. Four teams of Field Unit and partner staff, with the support of CBP COI, visited three informal settlements (I-12, Khayaban-e-Sar Sayyad and Sadiqabad) in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, interacting with men and women from 11 tribes of Hazara, Pashtun, Tajik, Pashai and Turkman ethnicities. Overall, the teams spoke to approximately 450 PoC. At SOP, six teams from CBP, REPID, SHARP and CDU conducted a total of 35 community visits (17 female and 18 male) in three selected informal urban settlements (Danishabad, Tajabad, Haji Camp) and Khishki RV in Nowshera, visiting PoC from Hazara, Pashtun, Tajik, and Turkman ethnicities. SOQ CBP and its partners Danesh, SEHER and WESS are in the process of conducting a similar social profiling exercise.

Education

- UNHCR continues to ensure access to free primary education through 170 schools, 48 satellites classes, 44 home-based girls schools and 13 early childhood education centres in 54 refugee villages, as well as secondary education in one refugee village in Balochistan; benefitting some 56,000 refugee children. Pakistan's country-level education strategy (2016-18) focuses on increasing access to, and improving the quality of, primary education, especially for girls. The strategy also emphasises safe learning environments, improved teacher training, non-formal education and vocational training opportunities for Afghan refugees.
- UNHCR marked 25 years of the German-funded Albert Einstein Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) on 26 April 2017 through a ceremony which was attended by students and alumni as well as representatives from embassies, civil society and educational institutes. DAFI is the only global programme helping refugees access higher education. In Pakistan, DAFI provides the means for Afghan refugees to pursue a higher education. Since 1992, the programme has provided around 1,200 scholarships to refugee students

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to study at universities and colleges in Pakistan. There are currently some 167 DAFI scholarship holders studying at different universities across Pakistan. These students are enrolled in courses covering agriculture and forestry, social and behavioural sciences, commercial and business administration, computer science, medical science and healthcare, natural sciences, engineering, law and mass communication. The DAFI scholarships have made a substantial contribution to the education and development of many talented refugees enabling them to expand their horizons and explore their full potential.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009, the Government of Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, which serves as a cornerstone for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and a principal burden-sharing platform for maintaining temporary protection space for Afghan refugees. RAHA implements a wide variety of projects across the sectors of education, health, livelihood, infrastructure, water and sanitation and social protection. Since the launch of the programme, over **4,100 projects** have been implemented across all provinces of Pakistan and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), benefitting over **10.94 million people**. In 2016 nearly **430,000 people** (of whom **26 percent** are registered Afghan refugees and 74 per cent are their Pakistani host communities) benefitted from **51 RAHA projects**.
- In 2017 RAHA focuses on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihood support in line with the countrywide strategic priorities of UNHCR. At present there are 24 projects under RAHA in three provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. All three offices are lining up further projects approved by the provincial task force as well as the Ministry of SAFRON should funding be forthcoming. The skills development project that started in January came to a conclusion in April 2017. 755 youth from both the Afghan refugee and host communities benefitted from the project that provided training in eight trades for both men and women.

Health

UNHCR continues to support the provision of basic health services in 54 refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. During the month of April, a total of **16,489 patients** received treatment in these health facilities. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, perinatal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. In the reporting period, **1,925 women** received antenatal care, **1,566 deliveries** were conducted by a trained birth attendant and **3,729 children** received routine immunisation. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in the refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with the assistance from UNHCR's partners. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the district health officers agreed to provide Injunctive Polio Vaccine (IPV) for inclusion into routine immunisation in all the refugee villages.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 30 April 2017 some 49,054 IDP families (294,324 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in KP and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). UNHCR continues to lead the protection, CCCM and emergency shelter/NFIs clusters, as part of the inter-agency response. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced persons and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since 1 January 2017, 343 grievances have been recorded and 83 per cent of these cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January 157,788 individuals have returned to de-notified areas (areas declared safe for returns after military operations). A cash grant of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) is distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the Government of Pakistan. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring, with some targeted assistance to very vulnerable POCs. Protection monitoring activities in displacement and return areas have also been conducted.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS & DONORS

- UNHCR's main counterparts for refugees within the Government of Pakistan is the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees and the Commissioners for Afghan Refugees, at the provincial level. In addition, UNHCR works with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).
- UNHCR continues to lead the Protection, Shelter / NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters and works in close coordination with the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, as well as SAFRON at the federal level for complex emergencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international non-government organisations.
- UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR along with those donors who have directly contributed to the operation. Donors include [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Educate A Child Programme](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Japan](#) | [KfW](#) | [Luxembourg](#) | [Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) | [Various private donors](#) |

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