



FACTSHEET PAKISTAN FEBRUARY 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

370,283

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 1 January and 31 December 2016
*(*Repatriation is currently paused for the winter break)*

49,906

Births registered between 1 January and 28 February 2017

1,333

Initial Screening Forms (ISF) application were submitted between 1 January and 28 February 2017

** 296 families comprising of 1,333 individuals.*

7,780

IDP families returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 28 February 2017

** 46,680 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.*

Population of concern

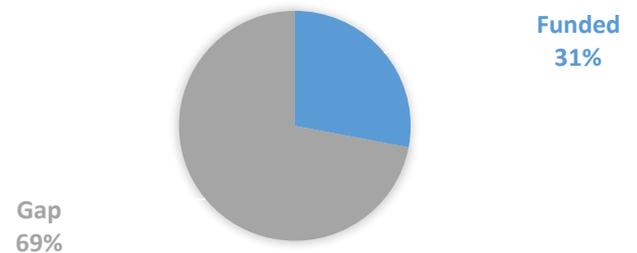
A total of **1.8 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

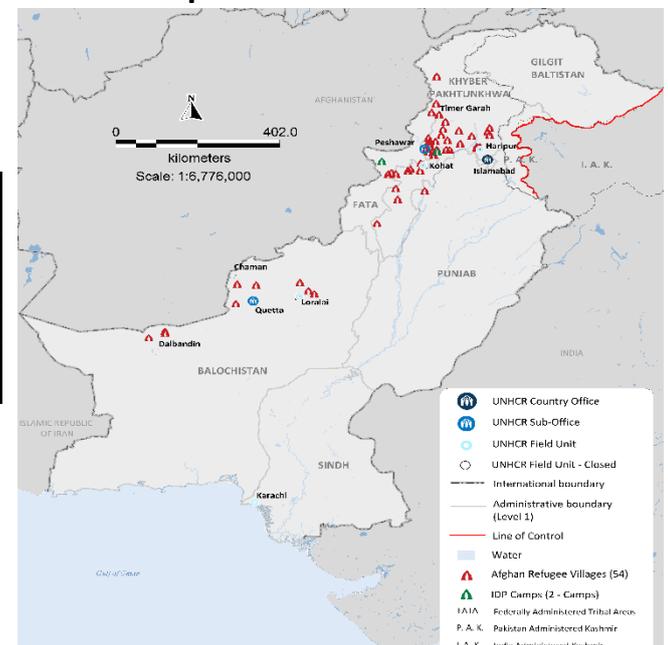
Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,397,273
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	4,537
Somalia (Refugees)	223
Others (Refugees)	193
Asylum seekers	4,261
Total IDPs off-camp	403,488

Funding

USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Map



UNHCR Presence

Offices	International Staff	National Staff	Affiliate Staff	Total Staff
Islamabad	23	72	15	110
Peshawar	9	68	27	104
Quetta	6	48	3	57
Total	38	188	45	271

**As of 28 February 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is FDMA while figures on 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 cross-cutting thematic priority of SSAR is promoting youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.
- **5th Meeting of the Friends of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (FOSSAR):** The 5th Meeting of the FOSSAR, hosted by the British High Commissioner and attended by over 40 participants, took place on 6 February 2017. Mr. Muhammad Shahzad Arbab, the Federal Secretary of SAFRON, presented the key elements of the Government of Pakistan's Policy on Repatriation and Management of Afghan Refugees. He acknowledged the challenging environment against which repatriation took place in the second half of 2016, noting the lessons learned and appealed to the international community to sustain the support for the voluntary repatriation and reintegration cash grant. The Secretary further referred to the Government's efforts to enhance access of Afghan refugees to education and skills training, particularly through the Skills Development Programme spearheaded by Minister SAFRON. H.E. Dr. Hazrat Omer Zakhilwal, Special Envoy of the President of Afghanistan and Ambassador Extraordinary to Pakistan, appreciated the close cooperation and coordination on issues relating to refugees and repatriation with both SAFRON and UNHCR. He strongly appealed to the international community to sustain the provision of the cash grant which has had a positive impact not only at an individual level but also more broadly for the Afghan economy. He noted that the majority of returnees expressed satisfaction with their decision to return despite the challenges and that this was welcomed by local communities who view the return of refugees as an incremental step towards peace and stability in Afghanistan. Zakhilwal called on the international community to see the repatriation in light of benefits it has had and will continue to have for reconciliation and development; and strongly appealed for support for the cash grant.
- **Adoption of the Government of Pakistan's Policy on Repatriation and Management of Afghan Refugees:** On 7 February the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan approved the Policy on Repatriation and Management of Afghan Refugees. The key elements of the policy include: i) extension of the validity of PoR cards for Afghan refugees and of the Tripartite Agreement; (ii) implementation of a flexible visa regime for different categories of Afghans, based on their profiles and needs; (iii) adoption of the national refugee law; (iv) registration of undocumented Afghans contingent upon mutual accountability between the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan; and (v) enhanced border management.
- **28th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission:** The 28th meeting of the Tripartite Commission, hosted by the Government of Pakistan, took place on 15 February in Islamabad. The Conclusions, adopted by the Governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR reaffirm the commitment to uphold the principles of voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity; and to continue implementing lasting solutions for Afghan refugees within the regional framework of the multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). The parties further committed to continue pro-active joint resource mobilisation to support the implementation of SSAR and appealed to the international community to support the provision of the voluntary repatriation and reintegration cash grant.
- On 9 February, the Minister SAFRON, accompanied by the Chief Commissioner Afghan Refugees and the SAFRON Joint Secretary met the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva and participated in a joint donor briefing aimed at soliciting the funding for the continued implementation of SSAR, in particular the provision of the voluntary repatriation and reintegration cash grant.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates three Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in Pakistan for refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan. Two of these VRCs are located in Peshawar while the third VRC is located in Quetta. 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 once they have reached one of three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan.
- One of the UNHCR Pakistan's project on youth empowerment has been selected for support under the 2017 Youth Initiative Fund by DIP this year. The project aims to provide opportunities to young people of concern to become protection actors within their own communities and will be implemented with the support of partners RAPID and refugee youth in KP. UNHCR led several important refugee youth initiatives in 2016 including co-leading the development of the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action at the World Humanitarian Summit direct consultations with almost 1,500 youth during the Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC) (UNHCR Pakistan held GRYC consultations in Islamabad in May 2016).
- **Legal Assistance:** In order to maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In February 2017, 5,411 persons of concern have been assisted by ALACs. ALAC intervened on the behalf of 823 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 206 for those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other laws. In February individual legal

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counselling was provided to 905 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices as well as 1,684 who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. 49 legal camps helped reached 1,437 participants during the month. The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were regarding their PoR card, shelter, financial, medical shelter issues and police harassment. 1,872 PoCs were detained in February alone which is the record high in last two years, owing to the intensified security operations initiated by the Government of Pakistan in wake of the recent wave of terrorist attacks in the country. Large number of nationals have also been arrested in these operations.

- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PCM centres), that are operated by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) nationwide. The PCM centres support the modification/replacement of existing cards, the registration of new born children up to age five, provision of PoR cards to registered children who have reached five years of age and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18. A total of 49,906 children have been registered and 23,525 children have received birth certificates in February. In addition, up to three mobile registration vans (MRVs) operate in KP and Baluchistan to facilitate refugee registrations.
- The Community-Based Protection (CBP) Unit in Islamabad was established in January 2017 to provide support and technical guidance on the Office's new strategic direction. The CBP & Outreach Strategy 2017 to 2019 has the overall goal of building resilience and outreach to maximise benefits and minimise protection risks to Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, with a special focus on children and youth. It focuses on the following four objectives: (1) developing organisational and communities capacities in community-based protection and refugee outreach; (2) putting Afghan refugee communities at the centre of action to prevent and respond to protection risks; (3) putting in place a system-wide network of protection services; (4) building efficient and effective referral pathways and a cadre of refugee outreach volunteers. It is currently being revised for finalisation. Clusters have been selected in urban areas (ICT, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta) and in one RV in Peshawar.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide students access to free primary (and secondary education in one RV in Balochistan) education through 170 schools, 48 satellites classes, 44 Home-based Girls Schools and 13 Early Childhood Education centres in refugee villages. Around 54,000 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan receive education through these interventions. Pakistan has developed a country-level education strategy (2016-18) that focuses on increasing access to and improving the quality of primary education, especially for girls. The strategy also emphasises the provision of safe learning environments, improved teacher training, non-formal education and vocational training opportunities for Afghan refugees.
- Youth empowerment through education and skills training remains UNHCR's main priority in 2017. Up to 70 percent of registered Afghan refugees live outside of refugee camps. Critical investment is needed to provide skills training to allow Afghan refugee youth to access employment opportunities. UNHCR and the Ministry for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) inaugurated a Skills Development Programme in February. As part of this programme, over 200 Afghan and Pakistani youth will be trained during the next three months in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Loralai and Killa Saifullah in Balochistan. Vocational training will be offered to young women and men as tailors, beauticians, plumbers, electricians, masons and fridge, mobile phone and solar panel repair technicians. This programme is part of the UNHCR's Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009, Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative. RAHA is a government-led programme that also 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. Since the launch of the programme in 2009, nearly **4,185 RAHA projects** have been implemented across all provinces of Pakistan and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). RAHA implements a wide variety of projects in the education, health, livelihood, infrastructure, water & sanitation and social protection sectors. It has benefitted over **10.94 million people**. In 2016 nearly **430,000 people** (of whom **26 percent** are registered Afghan refugees) 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.
- On 13 February the Australian High Commissioner accompanied by UNHCR, CCAR and CAR visited training institute "Prest-One" in Quetta. On 22 February an opening ceremony was held in Quetta in the presence of Minister SAFRON, CCAR, UNHCR Country Representative and other government officials from federal and Balochistan province under the RAHA's Skills Development Project. On the same day, a health project "Strengthening of Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology Quetta (BINUQ)" was also inaugurated by Minister SAFRON and UNHCR Country Representative. The project is supporting the hospital with the construction and provision of a dialysis centre.

Health

- UNHCR continues to support provision of basic health services in 54 refugee villages in KP, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. In the month of February, a total of **41,833 patients** received treatment who were suffering from respiratory tract infections, diarrheal disease, skin infections and other common diseases received treatment from 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, **1,817 women** also received antenatal care, whereas **529 deliveries** conducted by a trained birth attendant while up to **2,628 children** received routine immunisation. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in the refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with assistance from UNHCR's partners.
- In Balochistan, UNHCR continues to provide health care services through maternal child health centres and mobile teams in ten refugee villages. The services include curative consultation through mobile units, maternal and child healthcare services, immunisation services and community health services as well as patient referrals. Around 197,498 benefitted from the 13 health facilities in ten refugee villages during the reporting period. In February, a total of 4,850 consultations were carried out. Out of the total consultations, 49 percent (2,360) comprised of respiratory tract infections, seven percent (346) of diarrheal disease and three percent (158) of skin infections. A total of 354 women had successful deliveries with four or more antenatal visits while postnatal care was provided to 329 women within three days of their delivery. 209 (49 percent) births were conducted by trained staff. 24 patients (five obstetric cases) were referred through UNHCR ambulances to tertiary hospitals in Quetta. Total number of fully immunised children was 541 (76 percent). Apart from routine immunisation, polio campaigns were also conducted in all the refugee villages by WHO, Department of Health and UNICEF. HIV prevention services continued in Quetta. Eight (PoR card holders) clients received detoxification services and all of them completed livelihood skills training. Thirteen (existing and new) HIV positive cases were followed up for family counselling and HIV treatment.
- UNHCR in Peshawar continues to provide health care services through its basic health units in 41 refugee villages. The catchment population of around 591,443 is benefited from the 41 health facilities in the refugee villages. During the reporting month, total number of 11,413 consultations were carried out. Out of the total consultations 37 percent (4,233) comprised of respiratory tract infections, 11 percent (1,282) diarrheal disease and three percent (351) of skin infections were reported. A total of 1,406 women delivered with four or more antenatal visits and postnatal care within six weeks of delivery was provided to a total of 1,194 women. A total number of 1,249 (78 percent) births were conducted by skilled personnel. Total number of fully immunised children was 1,081 apart from routine immunisation polio campaigns were conducted in all the refugee villages by WHO, Department of Health and UNICEF.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 28 February, 2017, some 67,248 IDP families (403,488 individuals) were registered as internally displaced persons in host communities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). As part of the inter-agency response, UNHCR continues to lead the Protection, CCCM and Emergency Shelter/NFIs clusters. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced persons and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since 1 January 2017, 254 grievances have been recorded and 84 percent of these grievance cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January 2017, 46,680 individuals have returned to de-notified areas. A cash grant of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) will be distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the Government of Pakistan. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs. 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 (SAFRON), the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and the Commissioners for Afghan Refugees (CARs) 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 (KP) province, as well as SAFRON at the federal level for complex emergencies in KP.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international non-government organisations that operate at the national and provincial level.
- 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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