



FACTSHEET PAKISTAN MARCH 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 and will resume from 3 April 2017)*

70,093

Births registered between 1 January and 31 March 2017

2,209

Initial Screening Forms (ISF) were submitted between 1 January and 31 March 2017

479 families comprising of 2,209 individuals.

15,409

IDP families (approx. 46,680 individuals) returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 31 March 2017

92,454 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.

Population of concern

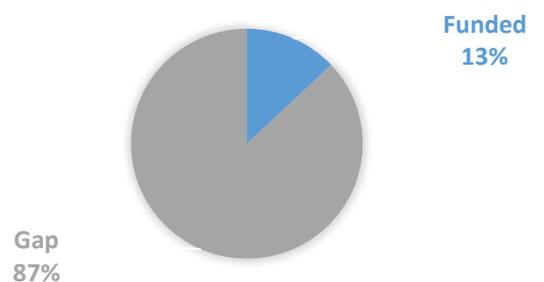
A total of **1.78 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,417,460
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	4,418
Somalia (Refugees)	226
Others (Refugees) Asylum seekers	200
Total out-of-camp IDPs	4,213
	359,658

Funding

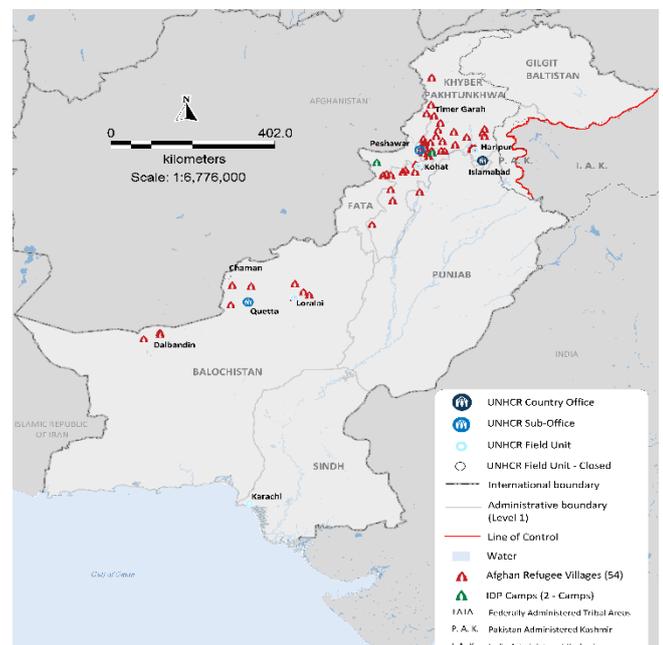
USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Offices	International Staff	National Staff	Affiliate Staff	Total Staff
Islamabad	23	72	15	110
Peshawar	9	68	38	115
Quetta	6	48	10	64
Total	38	188	63	289

**As of 31 March 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is FDMA while figures are 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 SSAR prioritises the promotion of youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates 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 upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan. Repatriation was paused for the winter break and will resume from 3 April 2017.
- In 2016, UNHCR led several important refugee youth initiatives, including co-leading the development of the Compact on Young People in Humanitarian Action at the World Humanitarian Summit with almost 1,500 youth during the Global Refugee Youth Consultations. In 2017, UNHCR will implement a project on youth empowerment, which aims to provide opportunities to young people of concern in Pakistan to become protection actors within their own communities and will be implemented with the support of partners RAPID and refugee youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- **Legal Assistance:** To maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR operates Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In March Catholic Relief Service merged its two ALAC centres in Quetta into one, bringing the total number of ALACs to nine. In March, 5,243 persons of concern were assisted. This included ALAC interventions on behalf of 337 refugees at police stations upon arrest and securing the release of 346 PoR card holders. The centres also provided court representations to 182 for those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In March individual legal counselling was provided to 1,146 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices as well as 1,414 who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 76 legal camps (awareness session on legal rights of refugees) staff reached out to 2,004 participants in which 44 per cent were women. Some 32 law enforcement personnel attended a session organized by UNHCR of refugee rights and their legal status in Pakistan. Other activities benefited some 128 persons of concern.
- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PCM centres) nationwide, that are operated by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). 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 70,093 children have been registered and 34,411 children have received birth certificates from January to March. In addition, up to three mobile registration vans (MRVs) operate in KP and Balochistan to facilitate refugee registrations.
- The community-based protection unit conducted two national trainings on 'Developing Understanding and Application of Community-Based Protection and Outreach for Afghan Refugees' organised in Islamabad and Peshawar where 38 interlocutors participated. UNHCR Pakistan is implementing a six-month project designed to build on youth development and empowerment work, an initiative from the 2016 Global Youth Consultations. The primary aim of the project is to strengthen participation and access of youth to community-level decision making structures on matters that are important for themselves and their families.

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 the province of 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.
- To inform UNHCR's refugee education strategy and overall programming with a view to enabling enhanced access to quality education for Afghan children in Pakistan, UNHCR is in the process of collating disaggregated information about the number, type and level of education institutions in and outside of refugee villages, map the enrolment of Afghan children in selected education institutions and collect information on critical needs in mapped schools (lack of infrastructure, classrooms, equipment). The results of this exercise will also inform UNHCR's resource mobilisation strategies and efforts to strengthen synergies with development actors to minimise duplication and maximise impact of development investments in the education sector, within the framework of SDG # 4.

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) 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. In March, the provincial task force in Quetta endorsed 11 projects for future coordination.

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 March, a total of **15,467 patients** 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, **1,758 women** also received antenatal care, whereas **1,477 deliveries** conducted by a trained birth attendant while up to **2,383 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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the district health officers have agreed to provide Injective Polio Vaccine (IPV) for inclusion into routine immunisation in all the refugee villages.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 31 March, 2017, some 59,943 IDP families (359,658 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, 304 grievances have been recorded and 84 per cent of these cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January 92,454 individuals have returned to de-notified (area declared safe for returns after military operations) 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 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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