



HIGHLIGHTS

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>59,020 Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 3 April and 30 November 2017.</p> | <p>98,638 Births registered between 1 January and 30 November 2017.</p> | <p>8,423 Initial Screening Forms were submitted between 1 January and 30 November 2017. <i>1,585 families comprising of 8,423 individuals.</i></p> | <p>1,989 Afghans and non-Afghans registered in UNHCR proGres database between 1 January and 30 November 2017. <i>720 families comprising of 1,989 individuals.</i></p> | <p>279,918 IDP individuals returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 30 November 2017. <i>46,653 families using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.</i></p> |
|---|--|--|--|--|

Population of concern

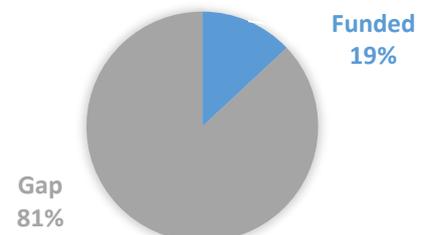
A total of **1.59 million** people of concern

By country of origin

| Country | Total persons of concern |
|--|--------------------------|
| Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders | 1,386,985 |
| Afghan refugees without PoR cards | 3,918 |
| Somalia (refugees) | 230 |
| Others (refugees) | 277 |
| Asylum seekers | 3,888 |
| <i>*Total out-of-camp IDPs</i> | <i>176,076</i> |

Funding

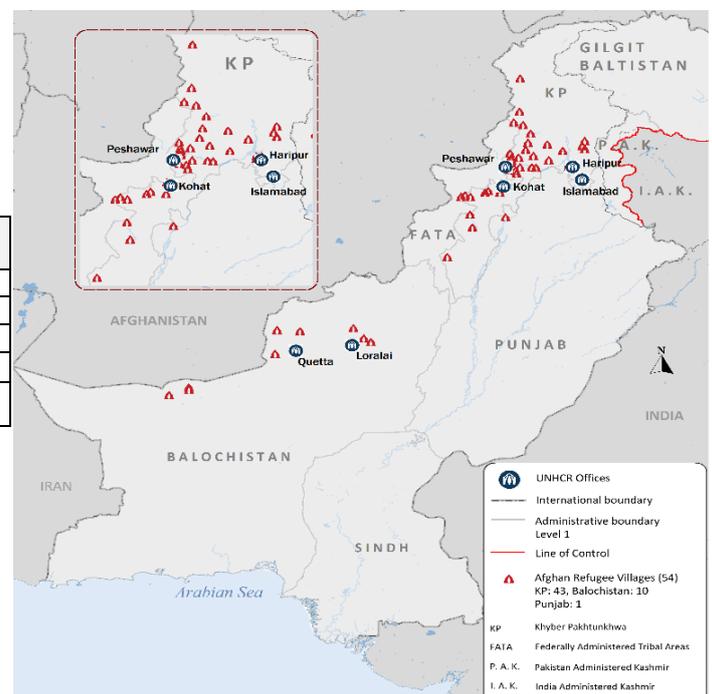
USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Presence

| Offices | International staff | | National staff | | Total staff |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Regular | Affiliate | Regular | Affiliate | |
| Islamabad | 23 | 1 | 73 | 9 | 106 |
| Peshawar | 7 | 3 | 68 | 9 | 87 |
| Quetta | 6 | 1 | 47 | 4 | 58 |
| Total | 36 | 5 | 188 | 22 | 251 |

**As of 30 November 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is Federal Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) while figures on IDP families are verified by National Database and Registration Authority (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.
- On 30 November 2017, the Government of Afghanistan hosted the **29th Tripartite Commission meeting** with the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR. The Conclusions of the meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all parties to voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity; and encouraged continued implementation of lasting solutions for Afghan refugees, preferably within a regional framework beyond December 2017. The parties encouraged the extension of the validity of PoR cards until December 2018 for continued protection of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, pending the review by the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan; and appreciated the leadership of the Government of Pakistan in documenting the undocumented Afghans in Pakistan. The parties further called for timely issuance of relevant documents, including passports by the Government of Afghanistan. All parties committed to seek continued support of the international community for refugees and their host communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan through more predictable and equitable international responsibility-sharing mechanisms.
- **The 2nd World Bank-UNHCR retreat** took place on 22 November 2017 to follow-up on recent developments, including World Bank's endorsement of Pakistan's eligibility to access the IDA18 Refugee Sub-Window, brainstorm about the potential future contours of the programme and agree on the way forward, including engagement of relevant stakeholders and identifying areas of future collaboration.

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 for refugees returning from Pakistan. Repatriation was paused for winter and resumed on 3 April 2017.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In November, 2,948 persons of concern were assisted by ALACs. ALACs intervened on behalf of 49 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 14 of those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In November, individual legal counselling was provided to 647 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices, as well as 725 people who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 65 legal sessions, staff reached out to 1,458 participants (46 per cent were women) during the reporting period. The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were extension of PoR card, shelter, financial and medical needs and police harassment.
- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PoR) Cards Modification (PCM) centres operated by the 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 98,638 children were registered and 56,120 children received birth certificates between January and the end of November 2017.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide students access to free primary education (and secondary education in one refugee village in Balochistan) through 171 schools, 48 satellites classes, 45 home-based girls schools and 13 early childhood education centres in refugee villages. Around 56,000 refugee children living in 52 refugee villages across Pakistan receive education through these interventions. UNHCR also provides tertiary-level scholarships to Afghan refugee youth through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The beneficiaries are mostly between 17 to 30 years old. In 2017, 167 students are studying in different Pakistani universities on a DAFI scholarship. UNHCR 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 and the provision of non-formal education and vocational training opportunities for Afghan refugees.
- UNHCR concluded a mapping of education facilities and school enrolment of Afghan children in and around 45 refugee villages and major urban clusters in 25 districts with high concentration of Afghan refugees. This exercise was conducted with a view to better tailoring and targeting education interventions of UNHCR and partners. 72 per cent of mapped schools with Afghan enrolment in districts with a high density of Afghan population were public institutions. These findings confirm UNHCR's assertion that Afghan refugee children have access to the public education system in Pakistan. 544,102 (39 per cent) out of the 1,402,180 registered Afghans in Pakistan (as of 31 May 2017) are school-aged children between 5-18 years. Out of these 544,102 registered school going age children, only 22 per cent (119,403) children received formal education last year. Afghan refugee girls' enrolment in school remains

low at all levels of education and across all provinces. In the UNHCR funded 171 refugee village schools, only 18 per cent girls of school-going age were enrolled in school.

Community-based Protection (CBP)

- The 2017 National Participatory Assessment report was finalised. The results of the Participatory Assessment support the shift to community-based protection and increased urban outreach with communities wanting more inclusive community decision-making mechanisms, desiring an organised means, i.e. the network of Outreach Volunteers, to disseminate information and facilitate access to services and assistance and more community involvement to contribute to the prevention of violence and other protection risks.
- The PA results on reasons for repatriation support the results of the Exit Interviews and Encashment Center reports that the main factors influencing return this year have been: poverty and lack of employment opportunities in Pakistan, uncertainty of POR card extension, strict border crossing control between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the desire to join relatives and/or communities back in Afghanistan and, to a lesser degree, police harassment.
- 73 per cent of adults and 52 per cent of children interviewed were familiar with UNHCR and partners and the services offered which is a significant increase from last year's results (where the majority of respondents reported not to be aware of UNHCR or partners or the services offered).
- Also of note and supported by our Protection Trends Reports and monitoring activities, community members reported that security in Pakistan improved in 2017 with 56 per cent of respondents stating that no major security incident had affected them during the year.
- Country-wide activities were organized to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, which started on 25 November. The 2017 theme is, 'Leave No One Behind – Working Together to End Sexual and Gender Based Violence'.
- SGBV focal points conducted a mission to Karachi to assess long term shelter options for refugee survivors and conduct a training on SGBV and Community-based Protection to government and NGO counterparts.

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 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 per cent are registered Afghan refugees and 74 per cent are their Pakistani host communities) benefitted from 51 RAHA projects.
- In 2017 RAHA is benefitting 443,625 people – 31 per cent Afghan refugees. 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 27 projects under RAHA in three provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. All three UNHCR offices are lining up further projects approved by the provincial task forces 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. UNHCR has signed an agreement with National Vocational Training & Technical Council for providing six months skills training to 1,800 Pakistani and Afghan youth in all four provinces of Pakistan. Training will be provided in various institutes in 23 different trades that were identified through an ILO survey.
- Procurement processes were completed for health interventions under RAHA, including procurement of state of the art radiology equipment for the Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital in Peshawar, construction of a vaccination storage for KP/FATA in Peshawar, and procurement of a waste incinerator for a hospital in Rawalpindi.
- An Impact Assessment of RAHA from 2009 -2016 is being carried out by Ernst & Young. The final report of the assessment is expected in March 2018.

Health

UNHCR continues to support the provision of basic health services in refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. During the month of November, 9,856 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 November, 1,695 women received antenatal care, 1,494 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 8,018 children received routine immunisation. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with the assistance from UNHCR's partners.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 30 November 2017, 29,346 IDP families (176,076 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). UNHCR continues to lead the protection, camp coordination camp management and

emergency shelter/non-food items clusters, as part of the inter-agency response. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced people and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievance desks. Since 1 January 2017, 371 grievances have been recorded and 97 per cent of these cases have been resolved.

- Since 1 January, 279,918 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. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring in displacement and return areas and provision of targeted assistance to vulnerable individuals.

Working with partners and 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](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) | [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) | [Czech Republic](#) | [Various private donors](#)