

Khost & Paktika: 1 Year On Achievements & Gaps



BACKGROUND

Following military operations mid-June 2014 in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency, families began crossing into southeastern Afghanistan. Within the first ten days, an estimated 10,000 families arrived in Khost and Paktika provinces. Families left suddenly, with few belongings and settled spontaneously in Gulan Camp in Gurboz district of Khost province, or in host communities. UNHCR and partners have been on the ground since the beginning, conducting assessments, delivering assistance and coordinating response efforts with provincial officials and refugees.

At the initial stages of the emergency, immediate life-saving support was critical and organizations responding were focused on delivering food, water and sanitation, shelter, NFIs, and basic health services, including vaccines. Mine clearance activities were also prioritized, as it was realized that the self-settled camp was mined.

AN EVOLVING CONTEXT

As of December 2014, the number of displaced families crossing into Afghanistan in search of protection had almost increased fourfold, from approximately 10,000 families to more than 38,900 (291,800 individuals). With the onset of cold weather, a number of families moved out of remote mountainous communities in Spera and Tani and into Gulan Camp and the Khost provincial capital. The population of Gulan Camp grew from 4,000 families in October to over 6,000 at the end of December. By 30 May 2015 there were 32,576 families with over 205,000 individuals, with 23,006 families in Khost including 10,000 families in Gulan camp and 9,570 families in Paktika.

As the situation stabilized, response has shifted from emergency to community-based, solution-oriented interventions. It reflects the likelihood that refugees will remain in Afghanistan, in anticipation of the gradual voluntary repatriation to

start in 2016 aligned with the Government of Pakistan programme for the return of IDPs to North Waziristan.

A summary of the key sectors one year on:

Shelter: Initial response efforts focused on providing tents to quickly house and protect people from the elements. However as the situation stretched into winter, agencies had to respond with supplies to help winterize and weather-proof the tents during

THANK YOU

UNHCR appreciates the generous support of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), donors to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) the People of Japan, the Republic of South Korea, and the United States of America.

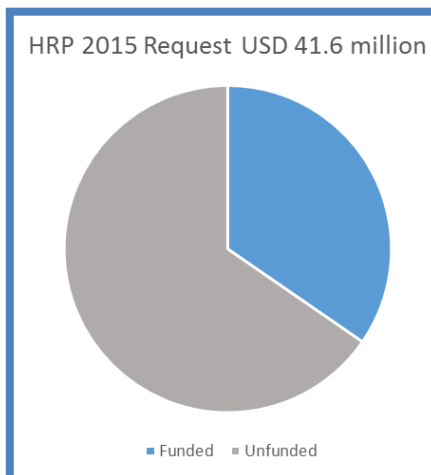
colder temperatures and some



tents needed to be replaced following harsh weather. Shelter interventions aim to support efforts, already underway in camps and host communities, to construct semi-durable temporary shelters of mud bricks and other locally-available materials to protect refugees and host families from elements in particular in the lead-up to winter.

Food: Since the onset of the refugee response, assessments have indicated food assistance to be a top priority. This has become more critical as many families and host communities supporting refugee families have exhausted their resources, and as the livestock that some refugees were able to bring have been used for food.

Health & Nutrition: The 2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview showed both Khost and Paktika provinces were among the 13 high-risk provinces for



The 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan requested USD 41.6 million for all of the agencies responding to the refugee response. As of 30 June 2015, it is funded at an estimated 34.6%.

malnutrition. As the situation progresses, the risk of malnutrition rises, especially as an additional burden for hosting communities may exacerbate already high malnutrition rates in the provinces. A survey was recently conducted and indicates

malnutrition could be a serious concern, results are being analyzed but will help identify where nutrition treatments and interventions are required.

Health: Health partners conducted extensive vaccination campaigns against polio and have started measles vaccination campaigns as the risk of rapid spreading of contagious but preventable diseases is high due to very low vaccination coverage of the refugee population. Although there were no major outbreaks, they continue to be a major concern for both the refugee population and hosting communities, mainly due to the water scarcity in the summer season, endemic prevalence of water-borne diseases and malaria, and poor hygiene practices. There is a dire need for additional support to meet the increased demand for already overstretched medical services.

Water & Sanitation: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are critical to prevent outbreak of diseases, ensure access to basic life-saving measures and prevent potential conflict over limited water resources. WASH partners in both provinces have rehabilitated wells, drilled boreholes, laid pipe networks and trucked water to remote locations while conducting hygiene

awareness trainings. Although great progress has been made, there are still gaps in relation to the limited pre-existing sanitation infrastructure and the continued increasing demand for potable water.

NFIs & Winterization: Agencies across both provinces supported families during initial assessments with Non-Food Item kits that

included basic household and kitchen items as well as sanitary kits. In the lead-up to winter, there was an extensive effort across both provinces to get warm clothes, extra blankets, and safe heating materials out to families. With the coming winter, certain items, including jerry cans and sanitation materials, will need to be replaced.



Humanitarian Response in Khost and Paktika

June 2015

NFIs, Tents, Vaccinations and Food Packages

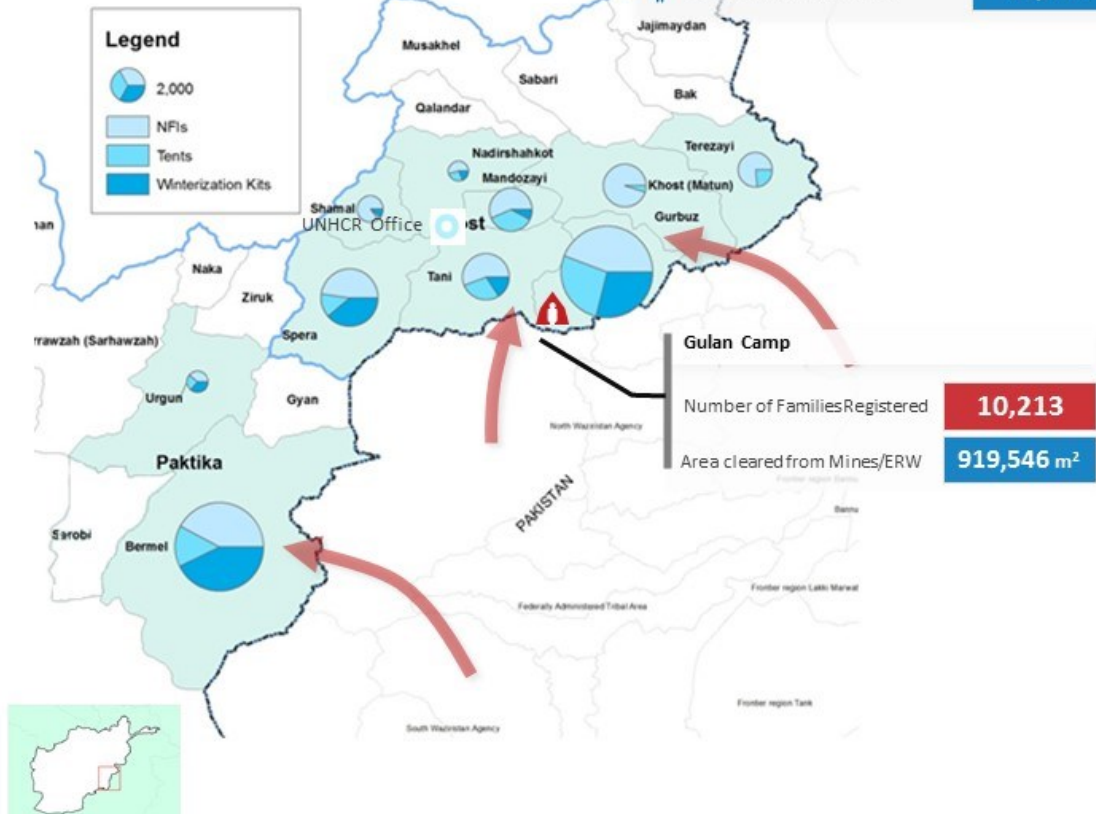
UNHCR Afghanistan

Total Number of Households **32,589**

Total Number of Refugees **205,434**

Assistance

Families received supplemental food since 28 December 2014	66,284
Families received wheat in May 2015	24,700
NFI Families received Non-Food Items	32,635
Families received tents	14,937
Families received winterization packages	27,146
Children vaccinated ²	104,657
Area cleared from Mines/ERW	3,137,858 m²
Individuals trained in MRE	80,700



¹ Includes 57,567 vaccinations carried out at the border

² Based on 7 individuals per household in Khost / 5.3 individuals in Paktika

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Mine Clearance: When refugees self-settled into Gulan camp, it was discovered that there were mines in the camp area. By mobilizing resources, mine clearance partners cleared the entire camp and provided mine risk awareness education to the community members near the camp and the camp population.

While ensuring the entire camp population can have access to basic services is important, maintaining host community support including services, accommodation and adaptation is a priority to prevent secondary displacement.

Education: Safeguarding the right to education is an essential strategy to ensure the protection of children and adolescents in the emergency phase and beyond. An estimated 63% of the refugee population are children. Schools have been set-

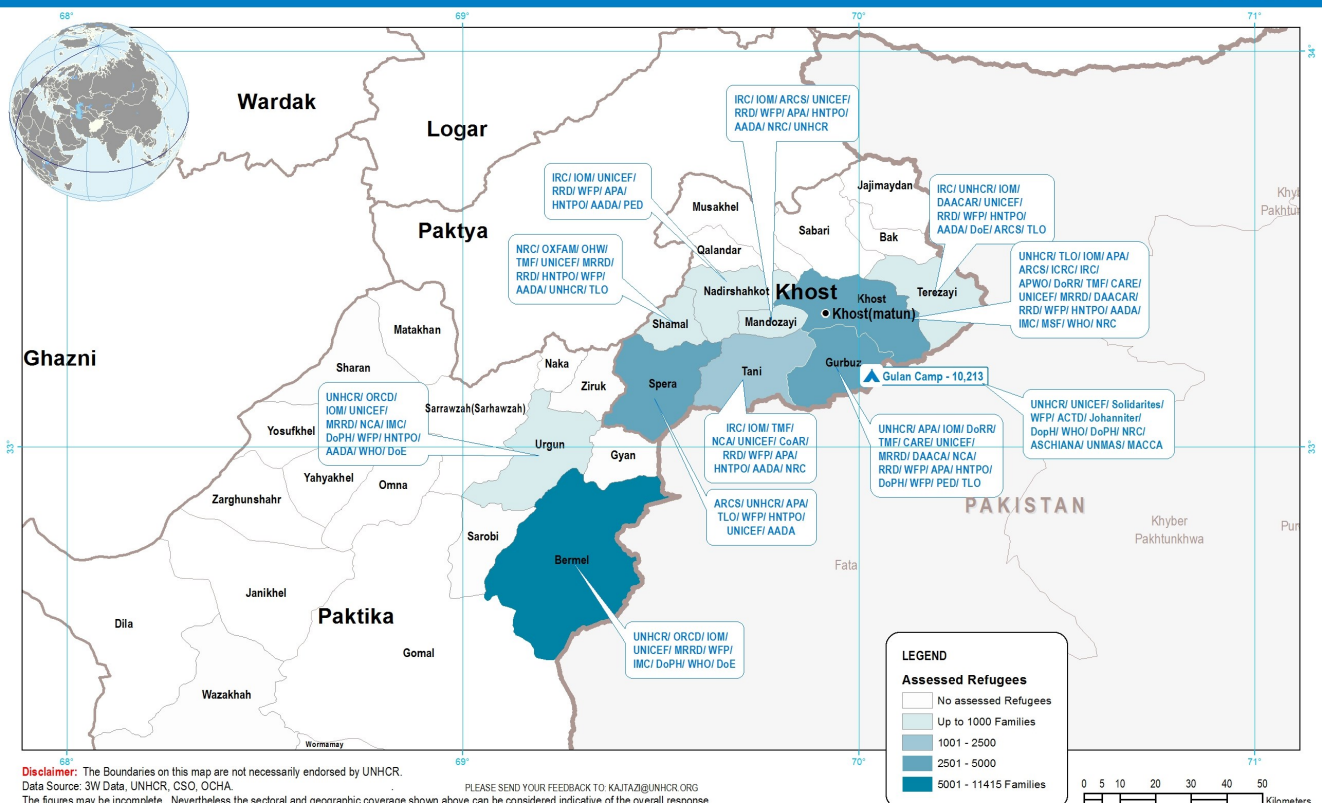
up in both provinces, however from focus group discussions and meetings with refugees, families indicated that educational activities are needed for adolescents and youth.

Protection: Agencies operating on the ground have helped establish Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) networks to assess and provide support to vulnerable refugee women and girls, men and boys. Given limited resources these networks need strengthening while the main point of contact to reach children is through the schools and educational activities. More attention is needed on SGBV, responding to protection concerns and having networks in place to respond to core needs. Refugee representative groups including for women and a Women's Coordination meeting, which includes service providers targeting women have been

established. This has enabled to have a direct line of communication with the refugee population to discuss needs, help identify potential PSN cases, determine methods to increase access to women and get buy-in on key interventions. Focus Group Discussions were also conducted to better understand the context and needs faced by both host communities and refugees.

Registration: Initially, basic registration of the refugee population was undertaken to ensure immediate targeted assistance can be provided, in particular for the most vulnerable. As the situation stabilizes, an enhanced verification of the refugee population in the camp and in host communities will be undertaken to strengthen protection and assistance outreach as well as prepare for

Khost and Paktika Refugee Response Who, What, Where Data As of June 2015





MOVING FORWARD

While limited spontaneous returns are likely to have occurred, either to areas of origin or other parts of Pakistan, the majority of refugees are still observing the development of the situation in their places of origin before making a decision on return.

UNHCR is currently conducting a return intentions survey together with Post Distribution

the refugees in 2016. For those who may be unable or unwilling to return, community-based programmes with self-reliance activities will be enhanced.

In the meantime, interventions will aim to enhance protection services, empower for livelihoods opportunities and to support host communities. Partnerships and coordination will be further strengthened. To date, 25 agencies are engaged in the response.

Agencies are currently beginning to implement cash-for-work projects and quick impact projects to support communities continue supporting refugee families while also building the self-sufficiency of the population.

and support voluntary repatriation and other durable solutions.

CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS

Despite the extensive assistance delivered, many organizations engaged in response still face challenges in regards to access in remote areas and reaching women. Partners are working with provincial authorities and refugee elders to expand access, while also identifying operational issues that can be a barrier to the relief efforts. The population, particularly living with the host families, is dispersed, which can make it difficult for humanitarian actors to reach them.

Competing priorities within the country that demand humanitarian response and resources including increased internal displacement has also put additional pressures on agencies responding to the situation. Funding remains a concern.

Monitoring of tents and NFIs to determine families' shelter needs and intention to return. Although the study is ongoing, preliminary results suggest that families will consider security, the cultivation cycle, when they can rebuild their homes, and the start of the school year in determining when to return.

The IDP return programme to North Waziristan is taking place in Pakistan. UNHCR will coordinate with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan on the voluntary repatriation programme for





SNAPSHOT: MAKING A HOME IN GULAN CAMP

Ujun* fled his home in Spin Wam, North Waziristan Agency, last year with his family including his brother's family and their parents following the beginning of military activities in Pakistan. He, along with many other families, came to the self-settled Gulan camp, just 16 km from the border. "We had left all our belongings. We came here with just our *shawal camis* (shirts)."

Ujun explained his family's intention to return. "We are eagerly waiting to return, but we need to see the situation on the ground..." In the camp, families

are building temporary shelters by constructing walls out of mud bricks to protect from elements in particular in the lead up to winter.

As Ujun's family was constructing walls around their tents, two families were arriving from Mada Khel. Daud explained that it took them eight hours by truck to reach Gulan camp and they left because "there were heavy bombardments in the area for the last three or four days." Samar further elaborated "The situation is not clear" and said that they came to Gulan because they had cousins and other relatives who had fled three to four months ago due to the same military operation.

AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN THE REFUGEE RESPONSE

- Afghan Planning Agency (APA)
- Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
- CARE International
- Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)
- Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)
- Halo Trust
- Health Net International (HNI-TPO)
- International Medical Corps (IMC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC),
- Johanniter International with ACTD and ASCHIANA
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Organization for Research & Community Development (ORCD)
- Oxfam
- Solidarités International
- The Liaison Office (TLO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)