



## HIGHLIGHTS

**3,437**

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30 April 2016

**12,710**

Births registered between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30 April 2016

**184**

Individuals submitted for resettlement to a third country between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30 April 2016

**30,260**

IDPs families returned to their areas of origin since January 2016

\* 181,560 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size

### Population of concern

A total of **2.54 million** persons of concern

### By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
<b>Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders</b>	<b>1,564,848</b>
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	5,727
Somalia (Refugees)	369
Others (Refugees)	199
Asylum seekers	8,596
<b>Total IDPs In-Camp</b>	<b>2,082</b>
Jalozai (Nowshera, KP)	1,362
New Durrani (Kurram, FATA)	720
<b>Total IDPs off-camp</b>	<b>964,404</b>
<b>Total IDPs in and off camps</b>	<b>966,486</b>

\*As of 30 April 2016 – source of NWA and Khyber IDPs population: FDMA, figures are of families verified by NADRA

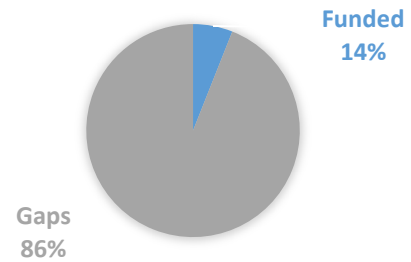
### UNHCR Presence

Offices	International	National	Affiliate workforce	Total
BOI Islamabad	25	66	20	111
Sub-Office Peshawar	10	75	13	98
Sub-Office Quetta	06	49	04	59
Field unit Karachi	0	09	02	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>279</b>

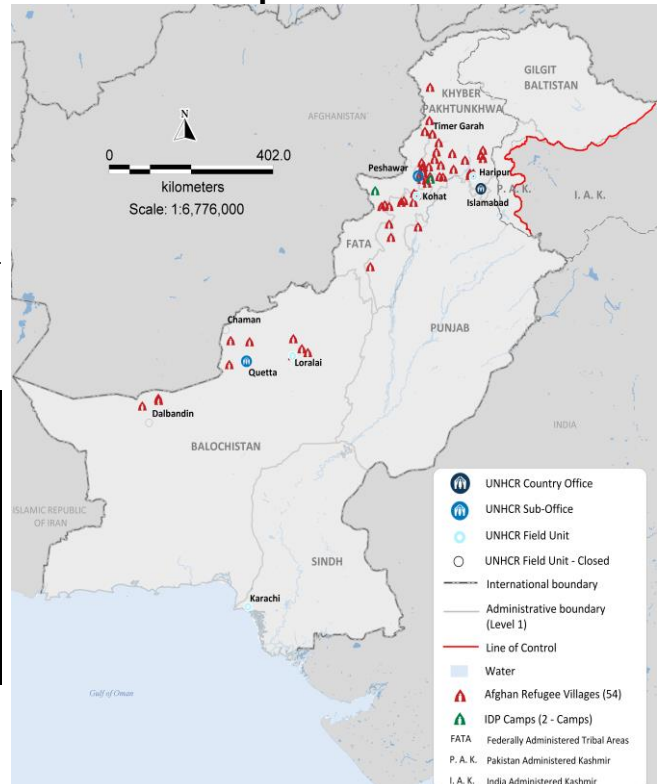
*Offices located in:* Representation Office Islamabad, Sub-Office Peshawar, Sub-Office Quetta, and Satellite Office Karachi

### Funding

**USD 127 million** requested



### UNHCR Map



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR's main governmental counterparts for refugees in Pakistan are the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and provincial Commissioners for Afghan Refugees (CARs). 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 federal level for the complex emergencies in KP.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international Non-Government Organizations at the national and provincial levels.

## 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 the host communities. The cross-cutting thematic priority of the implementation of SSAR in Pakistan is youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.
- The temporary legal stay of Afghan refugees is guided by the national policy on repatriation and management of Afghan refugees. The Government of Pakistan's (GoP) draft *Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan nationals beyond 2015*, includes, inter alia: a) a proposal for the extension of the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation and the validity of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until the end of 2017, b) temporary management arrangements depending on the profiles and needs of the remaining refugee population, and c) continued protection for those in need, in accordance with international standards and norms. The draft policy is pending Cabinet approval. In early January, PoR cards were extended for 6 months by the Prime Minister's office as an interim decision pending the Cabinet's formal resolution.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> April, one-day national seminar on "*Seeking Solutions and Managing Afghan Refugees in Pakistan*" was held at the National Defence University (NDU) and attended by the SAFRON Minister, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ambassador and Special Envoy of Afghanistan to Pakistan, UNHCR, UN agencies and donors. The seminar highlighted the importance of developing a practical set of policies regarding lasting solutions for the management of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and initiated a national dialogue for seeking effective management of refugee issue. During the seminar, speakers urged upon the Government of Pakistan to adopt a comprehensive national policy on the management of Afghans in the country. In his closing remarks, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister highlighted that there is a need to enhance investment for youth empowerment as this will assist efforts to stabilize populations.

### Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation** remains the preferred solution for the majority of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Between January and April 2016, 3,437 Afghan PoR cardholders (representing 781 families) voluntarily returned to Afghanistan. Returnees chose to mainly settle in Kabul and Nangarhar and were supported by UNHCR through its two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Since 2002, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of 3.9 million Afghan refugees (including 58,211 in 2015) to their country of origin.
- **Protection Needs Assessment:** In the absence of a national refugee law, UNHCR continues to conduct Refugee Status Determination (RSD) under its mandate and ensures access to asylum for persons seeking international protection in Pakistan. The registration of new asylum seekers is preceded by a Protection Needs Assessment (PNA). Since January 2016, more than 1,395 asylum applications (mostly Afghans) have been processed through UNHCR's mandate RSD procedures and 674 asylum seekers were recognized as a refugee by the end of April.
- **Legal assistance:** In order to maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR through its 10 Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) conducted awareness-raising activities and provided legal assistance to over 9,300 refugees by the end of April. Since January 2016, over 1,250 PoR cardholders have been arrested, mainly under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. However, through ALAC interventions at police stations and in court those arrested were released in a timely manner. The number of arrests and detentions reported by registered Afghan refugees in the first quarter of 2016 decreased by about 61 percent from the number of arrests/detentions reported in the same period last year, when the implementation of the Government's National Action Plan against Counter-Terrorism (NAP) had started.
- UNHCR provides continued support to the six Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) centres run by NADRA across the country. More than 12,710 children have been registered and 9,200 children received birth certificates since the beginning of 2016.

## Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide access to free primary education through 175 schools, 48 satellites classes, and 13 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres. More than 72,000 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan receive quality education through these interventions. Pakistan is a pilot country for the roll-out of UNHCR's Global Education Strategy (2012-2016) and has developed its country-level education strategy which focuses on increasing access to primary education, providing safe learning environments, improving teacher training and providing non-formal education /vocational training opportunities in order to ensure the sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan upon return.
- In order to support UNHCR's refugee education strategy and advocacy activities which aim to improve access to the public education system, including for urban refugees, UNHCR has started a mapping exercise in Peshawar, Quetta, Punjab and Sindh. Through this exercise, UNHCR will collect data of educational facilities (all categories of schools including public, Pakistani & Afghani private, non-formal schools, community schools and vocational institutes) operating close to refugee villages and in urban/ rural areas with high concentrations of refugee populations. This exercise will provide a better understanding of the situation of refugee children enrolled in Pakistani public, private, non-formal and community schools as well as Afghani private schools and will guide UNHCR's further interventions in the education sector.

## Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009, Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative which is a government-led programme and an integral part of the SSAR. 10.6 million persons have benefited from RAHA projects of which only 11 per cent are Afghan refugees in refugee hosting areas across. Projects are implemented in the sectors of education, health, WASH, infrastructure and livelihood. In April 2016, the RAHA programme received the Social Responsibility Award from Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust as a result of UNHCR contribution to the Shaukat Khanum hospital in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the construction of an "Emergency Unit" for the treatment of both Pakistani and Afghan cancer patients. In 2016, RAHA projects focus on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihoods support in line with the countrywide strategic priorities.
- Under the RAHA initiative, UNHCR together with the Secretary of Ministry of States and Frontiers Regions (SAFRON); the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; the Provincial Education Minister, and the German Ambassador to Pakistan, inaugurated a newly-constructed Government Primary School in Hayatabad, Peshawar. The project was funded by the Federal Republic of Germany through the KfW Development Bank and has resulted in an overall increase of school enrolment ratio by creating space for additional 5,000 children. In addition, learning conditions for over 10,000 children already attending schools have been improved.
- UNHCR and Balochistan's Provincial Ministry of Health jointly attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the extension of the Balochistan's Institute of Nephro-Urology in Quetta. Nearly 300,000 patients will benefit from the upgraded health facility for which the construction work will be completed by August 2016.
- UNHCR through its partner Aik Hunar Aik Nagar (AHAN) launched a Skill Enhancement and Livelihood Initiative (SELI) in the districts of Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda and Mardan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in order to support skills development and income generation of the most vulnerable people. Nearly 1,000 individuals were trained as part of UNHCR's youth empowerment interventions under the RAHA programme. AHAN together with the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and UNHCR organized a handmade product exhibition on 27-28 April 2016 at the Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad.

## Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- As of the end of April, some 161,081 IDP families (966,486 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in camps and host communities in the KP province 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. The UN Refugee Agency continues to support displaced persons and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in KP province. Since January 2016, over 1,400 grievances have been recorded and 79 percent of those cases have been resolved.
- Since January 2016, over 181,500 individuals have returned (a total of 861,560 individuals between 2015 and 2016) to de-notified areas. In April, the return of IDP families to South Waziristan Agency (SWA), North Waziristan Agency (NWA), Kurram and Orakzai agencies started, with an aim to return 30,000 families to SWA, 22,000 families to NWA, 12,000 families to Kurram Agency and 15,000 families to Orakzai Agency. A cash grants of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) will be distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the Government of Pakistan. Standard Operating Procedures have been put in place by humanitarian actors to guarantee the voluntary, safe, dignified, and well-informed nature of returns. Return intention surveys have been conducted, together with inter-cluster assessment missions, whenever access is granted by local authorities. UNHCR supported the return and provided voluntary return forms (VRFs) to 30,260 IDP families, In addition, protection monitoring activities in displacement and return areas have been conducted.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [Japan](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Educate A Child Programme](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [KfW](#) | [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Private donors](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) |

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