



HIGHLIGHTS

1,489

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan between 1st January and 31st March 2016

6,386

Births registered between 1st January and 31st March 2016

175

Individuals submitted for resettlement to a third country between 1st January and 31st March 2016

12,555

IDPs families returned to their areas of origin since January 2016

* 75,330 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size

Population of concern

A total of **2.64 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total Persons of Concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,560,087
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	5,777
Somalia (Refugees)	368
Others (Refugees)	199
Asylum seekers	7,938
Total IDPs In-Camp	5,994
Jalozai (Nowshera, KP)	1,362
New Durrani (Kurrum, FATA)	4,632
Total IDPs Off-Camp	1,064,772
Total IDPs in and off camps	1,070,766

*As of 31 March 2016 – source of NWA and Khyber IDPs population: FDMA, figures are of families verified by NADRA

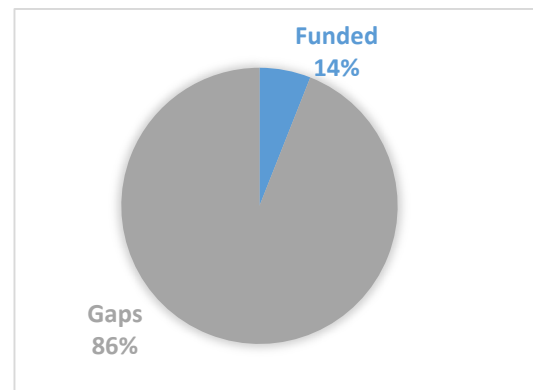
UNHCR Presence

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
Total	41	199	39	279

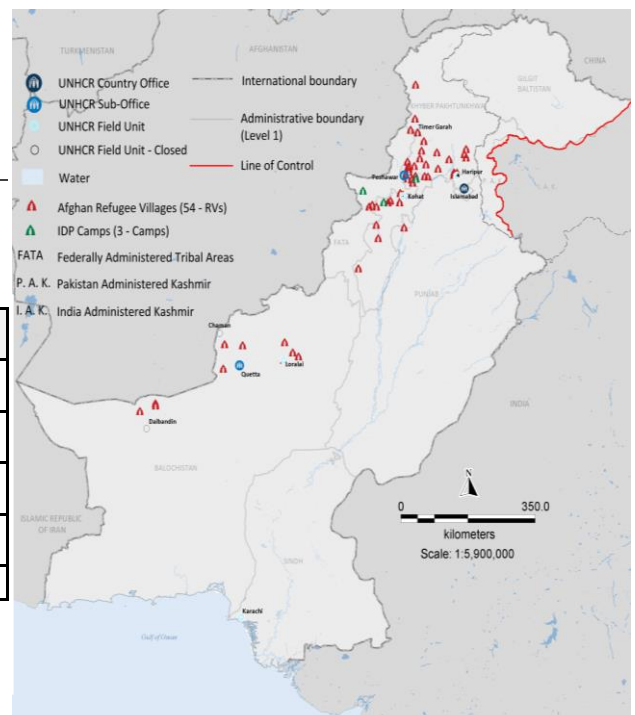
Offices located in: Representation Office Islamabad, Sub Office Peshawar, Sub Office Quetta, and Satellite Office Karachi

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 Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and the Commissionerates for Afghan Refugees (CARs) in the Provinces. In addition, UNHCR works with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior 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; and 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 support.
- 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, the PoR cards were provisionally extended for 6 months by the Prime Minister's office as an interim decision pending the Cabinet's formal decision.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation** remains the preferred solution for the majority of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Between January and March 2016, a total of 1,489 Afghan PoR cardholders (representing 304 families) voluntarily returned to Afghanistan with UNHCR support through its two voluntary repatriation centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Information about the voluntary repatriation process and reintegration conditions in Afghanistan are disseminated through mass information campaigns, Shura (consultative) meetings and the distribution of information leaflets and posters on UNHCR facilitated voluntary repatriation in order to help refugees make an informed decision on return. Since 2002, UNHCR has facilitated the return of 3.9 million Afghan refugees (including 58,211 in 2015) to voluntarily repatriate to Afghanistan.
- **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 Assessments (PNA). Since January 2016, more than 1,035 asylum applications (mostly Afghans) were processed through UNHCR's mandate refugee status determination procedures. A total of 625 asylum seekers were recognized as a refugee as of end of March.
- **Legal assistance:** In order to maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR with the 10 Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) conducted awareness-raising activities and provided legal assistance to over 9,300 refugees by end of March. Since January 2016, over 760 PoR cardholders have been arrested, mainly under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws, and consequently released through ALAC interventions at police stations and at court.
- UNHCR provides continued support to the six Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) centres run by NADRA across the country. More than 6,386 children have been registered since the beginning of the year 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 to 72,246 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan. 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 is focused on increasing access to primary education, providing safe learning environments, improving teacher training and providing non-formal education and vocational training opportunities to ensure a sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan.
- To support UNHCR's refugee education strategy and advocacy activities to improving access to the public education system, including for urban refugees, UNHCR has started a mapping exercise in Peshawar, Quetta, Punjab and Sindh. The exercise aims at collecting data of educational facilities (all categories of schools including public, Pakistani & Afghani private, non-formal schools, community schools and vocational institutes) operating within 5 kilometers radius to refugee villages and urban/ rural areas with high concentrations of refugee populations. The mapping exercise results 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.
- UNHCR is working with UN agencies and GoP to develop strategic ways forward for refugee education that guarantees refugee children's right to access quality and inclusive education. Two provincial consultation workshops on the roll-out of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal- SDG #4 "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all" were organized in Punjab (3-4 March) and Peshawar (15-16 March) led by UNESCO, UNICEF and Provincial Government's Education Department. Next provincial consultations will take place in Quetta on 18-19 May, followed by a national workshop in Islamabad mid-June. UNHCR will continue to advocate with the national and provincial education departments and partners to ensure that refugee education is part of the national and provincial education policies and sector plans under the SDG # 4 and the education 2030, framework for action, Incheon declaration.

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 initiative and an integral part of the SSAR. 10.6 million people have benefited from RAHA projects, of which, 11 per cent are Afghan refugees in refugee hosting areas across the country in the sectors of education, health, WASH, infrastructure and livelihood. 2016 RAHA projects focus on Youth Empowerment through education, skills training and livelihoods support and on Health in line with the countrywide strategic priorities.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- As of end of March, some 178,461 IDP families (1,070,766 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/NFI clusters. The agency continues to support displaced populations and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in t KP province. A total of 46,668 grievances have been recorded, out of these 91 percent cases have been resolved.
- The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has started implementation of large-scale return operations for IDPs from South Waziristan Agency (SWA), Bara in Khyber Agency and North Waziristan Agency (NWA) to de-notified areas in these three Agencies. Standard Operating Procedures have been put in place by humanitarian actors to guarantee the voluntary, safe, dignified, and well-informed character of returns. Return intention surveys have been conducted, together with inter-cluster assessment missions, whenever access is granted by local authorities, through the non-objections certificate (NoC) forms. A total of 755,000 individuals have returned (680,000 in 2015 and 75,000 in 2016). UNHCR supported the return and provided voluntary return forms (VRFs) to 12,555 IDP families (75,330 individuals) as well as organized five different embarkation points in FATA as of end March and conduct protection monitoring in displacement and return areas.

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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