



HIGHLIGHTS

56,453

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan between 1st January and 31st October 2015

69,040

Births registered between 1st January and 31st October 2015

1,810

Individuals submitted for resettlement in a third country between 1st January and 31st October 2015

87,457

IDPs families supported with voluntary return form (VRFs) since January 2015

*524,562 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size

Population of concern

A total of **2.7 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total Persons of Concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,543,556
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	5,034
Somalia (Refugees)	376
Others (Refugees)	195
Asylum seekers	6,175
Total IDPs In-Camp	10,350
Jalozai (Nowshera, KP)	3,540
Togh Sarai (Hangu, KP)	2,178
New Durrani (Kurram, FATA)	4,632
Total IDPs Off-Camp	1,164,438
Total IDPs in and off camps	1,174,788

*As of 31st October 2015 – source of NWA and Khyber IDPs population: FDMA, figures are of families verified by NADRA 2015

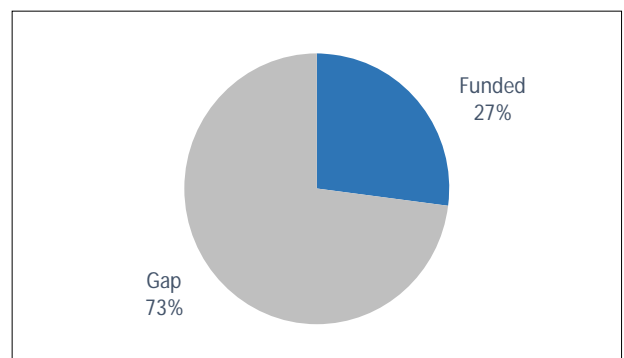
UNHCR Presence

Offices	International	National	Affiliate workforce	Total
BOI Islamabad	26	67	21	114
Sub-office Peshawar	10	80	12	102
Sub-office Quetta	7	51	6	64
Field unit Karachi	0	11	0	11
Total	43	209	39	291

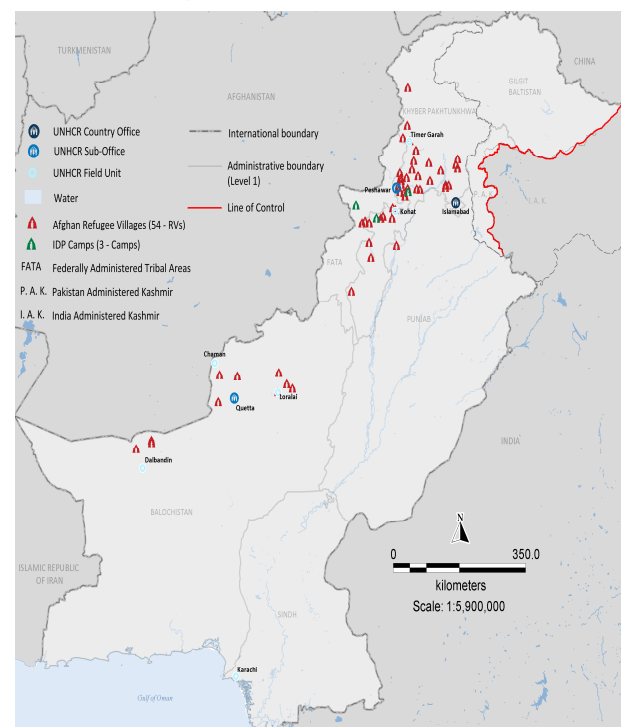
Offices located in: Representation Office Islamabad, Sub Office Peshawar, Sub Office Quetta, and Satellite Office Karachi

Funding

USD 136.7 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, the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and the Ministry of Interior.
- UNHCR continues to lead the Protection, Shelter / NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters and provides assistance to IDPs. UNHCR 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 Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR)** provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to address the needs of Afghan refugees and their host communities and to advance durable solutions. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees (SSAR) provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to address the needs of Afghan refugees and their host communities and to advance durable solutions. To support the dialogue and policy agreements shaped by the SSAR, a High Level Segment on the Afghan Refugee Situation was held at the 66th Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in Geneva. The Executive Committee adopted a statement in support of the following key objectives: refocus international attention on Afghanistan and renew efforts to find solutions, garner support to the implementation of the SSAR and country project portfolios, seek commitments to support sustainable return and reintegration in Afghanistan, identify opportunities for strengthening the resilience of host communities and structures in particular through education, skills training and vocational training.
- A **panel discussion** was held by UNHCR for the 70th Anniversary of the United Nation's formation on 27 October in Islamabad, with dialogue held on the challenges, opportunities and ways forward for the protracted Afghan Refugee situation in Pakistan.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation** remains the most preferred solution for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Between January and October 2015, a total of 56,453 Afghan PoR cardholders have voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to Afghanistan with UNHCR support through its two voluntary repatriation centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar.
- **Protection needs assessment and resettlement update:** UNHCR ensures access to asylum persons seeking international protection in Pakistan. The registration of new asylum seekers is preceded by protection needs assessments (PNA). Between January and October 2015, 5,488 asylum applications (mostly Afghans) were processed through UNHCR's mandate refugee status determination procedures at the first and second instance and a total of 2,036 were recognized as refugees under UNHCR's mandate. Since April 2015, UNHCR has launched and rolled-out a merged refugee status determination and resettlement (RSD-RST) process for Afghan PoR cardholders who are considered prima facie refugees by UNHCR. This simplified process has resulted in a significant decrease in case processing time and enable UNHCR to improve identification of cases with specific protection needs through enhanced- community outreach and strengthened partnerships. By the end of October, 82 percent (representing 570 cases/ 1,810 individuals) of the target of 2,200 individuals have been submitted to a resettlement country.
- **Birth registration:** Between January and October, a total of 69,040 children have been registered and 33,785 birth certificates were issued. No mobile registration vans were deployed during October; activities will restart in November in KP.
- UNHCR through its 10 Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) provided legal assistance to over 14,900 Afghan refugees. Between January and October 2015, over 3,600 PoR cardholders were arrested or detained. The situation has since improved with interventions by ALAC and UNHCR to advocate for the continued protection of refugees. UNHCR through its ALAC supported arrested or detained PoR cardholders with court representations, provided legal counselling to individuals, legal group session and the provision of basic information and referral through helpline system. UNHCR in collaboration with its implementing partners carried out capacity-building, awareness-raising activities and trainings session for police and law enforcement officials, implementing and operational partner staffs and media.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide access to free primary education through 174 conventional schools, 48 satellites classes, and 13 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres to approximately 77,000 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan. UNHCR has developed a monitoring and evaluation plan on education to complement its Education strategy at country-level and started a mapping of public and private learning facilities nearby refugee villages. To increase the quality of education and enrolment of students (especially girls), an additional 40 teachers out of the 200 teachers already identified for the two-year diploma course have been selected and have started the course.
- 2015 Nansen Refugee Award: Ms. Aqeela Asifi is the 2015 winner of UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award, recognised for her tireless efforts to provide education to hundreds of Afghan refugee girls in Pakistan. She has helped more than 1,000 refugee girls complete their primary education since she fled Afghanistan two decades ago.
- A brainstorming session with potential education partners including UNICEF, UNESCO, WFP, ILO, ARC, USAID, Embassy of Sweden, ECHO, GiZ on "building synergies between UNHCR's education and partners' programmes with focus on youth empowerment" provided an opportunity to UNHCR to further engage these partners in strategic discussion on the critical areas of mutual interest. Other partners were also familiarized with UNHCR's education strategy and key priority areas that UNHCR plans to focus following the recently adopted Sustainable.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance / Livelihood

- UNHCR aims at improving access of Afghan refugees to vocational and skills development opportunities, with a view to enhancing livelihoods in Pakistan and prospects for reintegration in Afghanistan. In partnership with "Aik Hunar Aik Nagar" (AHAN), UNHCR through its RAHA programme is funding and supporting 50 skill enhancement training centres in Peshawar, Charsadda, Mardan and Nowshera. These centres provide livelihood skill development trainings to 1,000 beneficiaries; both male and female. 275 of these beneficiaries are Afghan refugees. The trainings range from handloom based weaving to hand leather embroidery, threadworks, hand printing and knitting. A few females have also started their own training centres in their homes, thus further benefitting the community at large. The programme also aims to develop industrial and market linkages for the trainees to establish contacts within the market and sell their products. Furthermore, each beneficiary will be provided with a starter tool kit after the completion of the training.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009, Pakistan implements the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative who is a government-led initiative and an integral part of the SSAR. Between January and September 2015, some 62 RAHA humanitarian projects are being implemented (for around USD 13 million) in the sectors of education (39 percent), health (31 percent), WASH (13 percent), infrastructure and livelihood (8 percent each) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces. The projects aimed at improving the living conditions of nearly 1 million people including 23 percent of Afghan refugees. In September and October, the revision of the RAHA programme document was accomplished and the revised RAHA programme document was endorsed by the Ministry of SAFRON. The final approval from the Ministry of SAFRON is expected by end of 2015. During the reporting month, EU Evaluation consultants visited the RAHA projects in Baluchistan and held meetings with UNHCR RAHA teams in Baluchistan and Islamabad.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- As of end of October, some 195,798 IDPs registered families (1,174,788 individuals) are internally displaced in and off camps in the KP province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). That includes a total of 10,350 IDPs individuals living in the three IDPs camps, namely Jalozai, Togh Sarai and New Durrani. Assisting the Government of Pakistan and FATA authorities in facilitating the return of IDPs, total North Waziristan returns now include 20,583 IDP families from five de-notified Tehsils of North Waziristan (Dosali, Garyum, Razmak, Shewa, and Spinwam). These are marked as spontaneous returnees after verification by the authorities (FDMA). By the end of October, out of the total return 108,010 families, only 87,427 families have received VRFs.

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](#) | [CERF](#) | [Denmark](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [Japan](#) | [Luxembourg](#) | [KfW](#) | [Norway](#) | [Private donors](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [USA](#) |

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