

Pakistan

Main Objectives

- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of up to 400,000 Afghan refugees.
- Provide vocational skills training in trades useful for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, targeting whenever feasible, refugees who plan to repatriate in 2002.
- Provide protection and assistance for up to 300,000 newly arrived refugees mostly in the new sites, but also in old refugee villages in Baluchistan.
- Provide protection and community-based assistance in the areas of education, health, water and community services in refugee villages, with special attention paid to vulnerable cases.
- Provide legal assistance, on a needs basis, to those refugees in urban areas.
- Provide support to local institutions involved in the delivery of basic health, water/sanitation and education services for refugees in urban areas.

PLANNING FIGURES ¹

Population	January 2002	December 2002
Afghan Refugees Repatriating	400,000	-
Afghan New Arrivals	300,000	-

¹The planning figure will be revised whenever necessary to reflect the rapidly changing situation. The above figure does not include refugees who are assisted through the Annual Programme nor urban refugees who will receive targeted assistance.

**TOTAL REQUIREMENTS:
USD 27,071,937**

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

The new political developments in Afghanistan have had an impact on the refugee situation in Pakistan. Many Afghan refugees will return in the next three to five years, if the peace process and the reconstruction of Afghanistan continue to evolve positively.

In an effort to promote returns, UNHCR will strengthen assistance measures to support vulnerable Afghan refugees in Pakistan, including refugees who arrived in Pakistan prior to September 11. UNHCR's access to these refugees, will allow the Office to collect information on women, children, youth, disabled people, on their level of skills and their educational background, to share with organisations involved in repatriation and reintegration activities in Afghanistan. By facilitating the return of Afghan refugees, the programme will reflect UNHCR's commitment to the Government of Pakistan, to ease the burden of having hosted so many Afghan refugees throughout the years.

Constraints

The Government of Pakistan has recently altered its policy towards refugees, considering new arrivals following the 11 September events as "externally displaced people." While this allows people of concern to UNHCR to remain in the country, the Government hopes that they will return to Afghanistan as soon as the situation permits. Furthermore, the volatile and unpredictable situation in Afghanistan, inevitably affects the operations in Pakistan, as well as inside Afghanistan. The security of UNHCR staff and of refugees inside Pakistan has been a cause for concern, due to the

location of the refugee settlements in remote border areas.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR will facilitate, but not yet promote, voluntary repatriation. UNHCR is finalising tri-partite agreements with the authorities of Afghanistan and with the Government of Pakistan to establish a legal framework for voluntary return. The Office is also providing protection and assistance to refugees in the new sites, and target increased assistance to old refugee villages and urban areas.

Activities are being developed to prepare individuals and families for their return to Afghanistan. Community organisations will disseminate information on conditions in Afghanistan including assistance activities and the repatriation programme. Information on the background of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan is being collected to better understand their needs, their level of education, as well as their level of skills to assist sustainable re-integration. Meetings are also being held with refugee women's committees, and from these discussions a list of the most pressing issues that slow down the repatriation process will be developed and shared with relevant agencies in Afghanistan.

New Advice and Legal Aid Centres for refugees will be established near major refugee concentrations (in refugee villages and in urban centres) to assist the refugees in general, especially women-at-risk. Advice will be provided on issues related to: guarantees and status upon return; intervention on behalf of refugees who might be faced with legal disputes that affect their decision and ability to return; interpretation and explanation of the content of the tri-partite agreement; as well as other legal issues of concern.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. A mass information campaign on repatriation is being implemented through the BBC and Radio Pakistan. UNHCR offices in Pakistan will design and seek to implement harmonised repatriation assistance, through the provision of cash grants, food and non-food items, including basic relief items and shelter materials.

In support of the repatriation operation, verification/holding centres will be constructed and equipped to facilitate the returnees' verification process. Water services and latrines will be constructed. Through mobile health clinics, basic health care will be provided, and urgent/specialised needs will be met. Special care will be taken to immunise all children against communicable diseases prior to their departure.

Equipment and supplies required for the processing of returnee families at verification/holding centres will also be purchased. Repatriation cells of the Government of Pakistan will be strengthened to ensure the deployment of staff at major border crossing points. UNHCR will also train relevant authorities on refugee law.

UNHCR will provide repatriation cash grants to returnees, estimated at USD 20 per person, or a maximum of USD 100 per family. For Afghan refugees that have to cover long distances up to the border points inside Pakistan, the Office will provide extra cash assistance. Transportation will be organised by the refugees themselves, since previous experience shows that they are in a better position to negotiate the most cost-effective arrangements.

To ensure a sustainable re-integration, UNHCR will train Afghan refugees and returnees on community-building activities. The creation of community-based

organisations in Afghanistan will help returnee groups to address the challenge of rehabilitating their villages/areas of return; promote their self-reliance; and provide the appropriate human resources needed for agencies which will be engaged in rehabilitation/re-integration activities. In co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and environmental NGOs, UNHCR is working on a project to rehabilitate refugee-impacted areas.

The Office will also promote mine awareness, as well as peace education programmes to advocate reconciliation between persons in communities who may have had differences in the past. UNHCR will train refugees, planning to repatriate in 2002, in the new sites and in the old refugee villages in trades, such as masonry, carpentry and welding. This is designed to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Special vocational training courses will also be given to female heads of households and women at risk in the most appropriate trades.

To ensure access to health care for returnees in their areas of origin, training will be provided to returning female and male community health workers. Each community health worker will be given a medical kit consisting of basic medicines, clean delivery kits, and emergency supplies, to be used in the area of origin for an initial period of three months. Clean delivery kits will also be provided to returning pregnant women.

In order to provide returnee children with access to education, UNHCR will continue to co-ordinate and discuss issues related to education with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), as well as other lead agencies. Returning groups will be provided with box libraries to give children access to reference material, during their formal or informal schooling in Afghanistan.

In anticipation of a massive influx of Afghan refugees, UNHCR, the Government of Pakistan and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have developed new refugee sites: 12 in the North-West Frontier Province and five in Baluchistan with a capacity to accommodate over 200,000 refugees. Most of the sites have already received refugees, either new arrivals, or urban refugees who have sought UNHCR's assistance. The former population of the make-shift Jalozai camp has also been relocated to the new sites. UNHCR and its implementing partner have registered and documented all new arrivals. In the urban areas, alternative means of protection and assistance will be explored for minority groups and female heads of households with no male support, and for whom relocation to new sites would not be feasible due to security reasons.

Emergency assistance will continue to be provided (including food, shelter, domestic items, health care, education and community services). To provide support to UNHCR's operation in Afghanistan, UNHCR, the Government of Pakistan and an implementing partner will undertake border monitoring, and a level of 300,000 rations of non-food items will be maintained. These rations will be used either in Pakistan or across the border, depending on the most pressing needs.

In the old refugee villages, food, health, sanitation and education services will continue to be provided. Existing community organisations will continue to provide targeted assistance and supplementary feeding to the most vulnerable groups in the community, such as women, children, adolescents, the aged, the disabled, as well as newly arrived refugees who may not want to move to the new sites.

In the urban areas, UNHCR in consultation with the Government of Pakistan plans to develop/rehabilitate water systems in areas with major refugee populations, which will

also benefit the local population. The Office will also support the institutions working towards improving the sanitation facilities (drainage systems and garbage disposals) in these areas. Arrangements will also be made with international or national NGOs, currently working in the poor areas of Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad/Rawalpindi, to extend their basic health care and education services to the refugee areas. If needed, counselling and legal advice will be provided to refugees in Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad/Rawalpindi through existing NGO and governmental networks.

In both the new sites, old refugee villages and urban areas, support will be provided to local host communities as much as possible, to lessen the possibilities of tensions between the refugees and the local population.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

The Regional Co-ordinator will co-ordinate the repatriation programme, while the Representative for Pakistan is responsible for the operations in the country.

Co-ordination

UNHCR activities are implemented in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, UN agencies and with the support of international and national NGOs. The World Food Programme's (WFP) support is crucial to assist new arrivals and repatriating refugees. Close links will be made with other UN agencies working both in Afghanistan and Pakistan to ensure a comprehensive understanding and response to the situation. Through regular meetings at the provincial and country level, information will be shared on a regular basis with the UN sister agencies and other concerned actors. In Pakistan, UNHCR will also continue to be

responsible for repatriation and resettlement activities.

OFFICES

Islamabad
Peshawar
Quetta

PARTNERS

To be determined

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Supplementary Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	7,919,687
Community Services	669,698
Crop Production	0
Domestic Needs	2,172,498
Education	0
Food	517,056
Forestry	0
Health / Nutrition	0
Income Generation	0
Legal Assistance / Protection	2,962,803
Operational Support (to Agencies)	4,392,051
Sanitation	471,542
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	1,828,495
Transport / Logistics	2,425,295
Water	2,910,677
Total Operations	26,269,802
Programme Support	802,135
TOTAL	27,071,937