



HIGHLIGHTS

<p>48,267 Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 3 April and 31 August 2017.</p>	<p>93,134 Births registered between 1 January and 31 August 2017.</p>	<p>7,279 Initial Screening Forms were submitted between 1 January and 31 August 2017. <i>1,407 families comprising of 7,279 individuals.</i></p>	<p>1,046 Afghans and non-Afghans physically registered in UNHCR proGRES database between 1 January and 31 August 2017. <i>309 families comprising of 1,046 individuals.</i></p>	<p>189,264 IDP individuals returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 31 August 2017. <i>31,544 families using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.</i></p>
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Population of concern

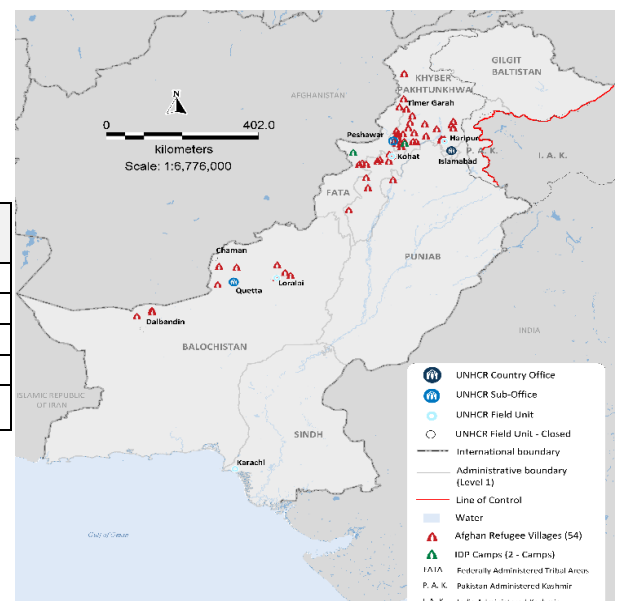
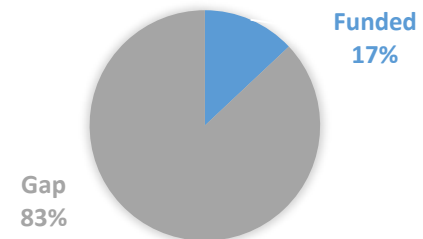
A total of **1.70 million** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,392,234
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	4,143
Somalia (refugees)	255
Others (refugees)	258
Asylum seekers	3,603
*Total out-of-camp IDPs	262,848

Funding

USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Offices	International staff		National staff		Total staff
	Regular	Affiliate	Regular	Affiliate	
Islamabad	23	1	73	10	107
Peshawar	7	3	68	9	87
Quetta	6	1	47	4	57
Total	36	5	188	23	251

*As of 31 August 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is Federal Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) while figures are on IDP families are verified by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

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 host communities. The SSAR prioritises the promotion of youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.
- The 6th meeting of the Friends of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (FOSSAR) was hosted by the Ambassador of Japan and attended by over 40 participants. The Secretary SAFRON briefed the FOSSAR group on the progress in the implementation of the Government of Pakistan's Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan Nationals, including the status of the country-wide registration of undocumented Afghans launched in August 2017. The Afghan Ambassador noted that voluntary repatriation of refugees was essential for political stability and national reconciliation; and was welcome by both the government and the public in Afghanistan. He further briefed the meeting about the recent refugee Jirga with President Ghani and the CEO which resulted in the formation of a committee tasked with developing a comprehensive plan that would address the urgent needs of returnees, including land, shelter and education. The Afghan Ambassador further joined Secretary SAFRON in strongly appealing for greater international support for both Pakistan and Afghanistan, including support for the voluntary repatriation cash grant, as well as important initiatives in the areas of education, health and livelihoods. The UNHCR Representative shared the preliminary findings of the revised refugee education mapping carried out jointly with the Government of Pakistan; briefed the meeting on UNHCR's cooperation with the World Bank, as well as the collaboration with the government to explore opportunities offered by the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRRF).

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in Quetta and Peshawar for refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC, and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card (an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against *refoulement*) is cut in the corner. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately USD 200 per individual upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan for refugees returning from Pakistan. Repatriation was paused for winter and resumed on 3 April 2017.
- **Legal Assistance:** To maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR operates 10 Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In the month of August, 3,975 persons of concern were assisted by ALACs. ALACs intervened on behalf of 95 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 14 for those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In the month of August individual legal counselling was provided to 795 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices as well as 1,136 people who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 74 legal sessions, staff reached out to 1,935 participants during the reporting period (45 per cent were women). The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were regarding their PoR card, shelter, financial, medical needs and police harassment. Additionally, 124 law enforcement agencies and prosecution staff attended six sessions on protection of PoCs organised by UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PCM) centres operated by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) nationwide. The PCM centres support the modification/replacement of existing PoR cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, provision of PoR cards to registered children older than five years of age and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18. A total of 93,134 children were registered and 50,748 children received birth certificates between January and August.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide students access to free primary education (and secondary education in one refugee village in Balochistan) through 171 schools, 48 satellites classes, 45 home-based girls schools and 13 early childhood education centres in refugee villages. Around 56,000 refugee children living in 52 refugee villages across Pakistan receive education through these interventions. UNHCR also provides tertiary-level scholarships to Afghan refugee youth through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The beneficiaries are mostly between 19 to 30 years old. In 2017, 174 students are studying in different Pakistani universities on a DAFI scholarship. UNHCR Pakistan has developed a country-level education strategy (2016-18) that focuses on increasing access to and improving the quality of primary education, especially for girls. The strategy also emphasises the provision of safe learning environments, improved teacher training and the provision of non-formal education and vocational training opportunities for Afghan refugees.

Community-based Protection

Under the community-based protection and outreach strategy a key priority is to establish a system-wide referral network of protection services providers. To do so, the community-based protection team has built an online interagency service directory through a countrywide mapping exercise to get information on services provided by NGOs, UN agencies, the public and private sector.

The directory, which went online in August, is a living document with entries being continuously added and updated. It currently covers a wide range of services providers (339 across Pakistan), including health, education, livelihood, legal and protection services. Refugee outreach volunteers will be a key focal point in communities for information and guidance to refugees on services and assistance provided by UNHCR, its partners and other service providers included in the directory. A user-friendly version of the directory will be provided to outreach volunteers and they will be trained to use it properly to ensure communities are informed of the services available to them.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009 the Government of Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, which serves as a cornerstone for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and a principal burden-sharing platform for maintaining protection space for Afghan refugees. RAHA implements a wide variety of projects across the sectors of education, health, livelihood, infrastructure, water and sanitation and social protection. Since the launch of the programme, over 4,100 projects have been implemented across all provinces of Pakistan and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), benefitting over 10.94 million people. In 2016, nearly 430,000 people (of whom 26 per cent are registered Afghan refugees and 74 per cent are their Pakistani host communities) benefitted from 51 RAHA projects.
- In 2017 RAHA is benefitting 443,625 people – 31 per cent Afghan refugees. RAHA focuses on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihood support in line with the countrywide strategic priorities of UNHCR. At present there are 27 projects under RAHA in three provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. All three UNHCR offices are lining up further projects approved by the provincial task forces as well as the Ministry of SAFRON should funding be forthcoming. The skills development project that started in January came to a conclusion in April 2017. 755 youth from both the Afghan refugee and host communities benefitted from the project that provided training in eight trades for both men and women. Discussions are ongoing for a further phase of the Skills Development Project (SDP) taking into consideration the lessons learned.

Health

UNHCR continues to support the provision of basic health services in the refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. During the month of August, a total of 14,396 patients received treatment in these health facilities. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, perinatal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. In the reporting period, 1,621 women received antenatal care, 1,192 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 7,877 children received routine immunisation. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in the refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with the assistance from UNHCR's partners.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 31 August 2017 some 43,808 IDP families (262,848 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). UNHCR continues to lead the protection, Camp Coordination Camp Management and emergency shelter/Non Food Items clusters, as part of the inter-agency response. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced persons and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since 1 January 2017, 371 grievances have been recorded and 97 per cent of these cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January 189,264 individuals have returned to de-notified areas (areas declared safe for returns after military operations). A cash grant of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) is distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the Government of Pakistan. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring, with some targeted assistance to very vulnerable individuals. Protection monitoring activities in displacement and return areas have also been conducted.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND DONORS

- UNHCR's main counterparts for refugees within the Government of Pakistan is the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees and the Commissioners for Afghan Refugees, at the provincial level. 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 province, as well as SAFRON at the federal level for complex emergencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international non-government organisations.
- UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR along with those donors who have directly contributed to the operation. Donors include [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Educate A Child Programme](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Japan](#) | [KfW](#) | [Luxembourg](#) | [Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) | [Various private donors](#) |