WINTER SUSPENSION OF FACILITATED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION FROM PAKISTAN

- All registered Afghans in possession of valid Proof of Registration (PoR) cards are informed that UNHCR's facilitated repatriation process will be suspended during the winter months.
- During the winter suspension, UNHCR will not be facilitating repatriation from the Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) at Chamkani, Azakhel and Baleli and Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.
- During the winter suspension, the Proof of Registration card retains its validity and registered PoR cardholders will be accorded their full rights as refugees in Pakistan.
- Only registered refugees who are scheduled for return in November will continue to be processed for UNHCR cash assistance at the Chamkani and Azakhel Voluntary Repatriation Centres on their scheduled dates in November 2016.
- Registered refugees who are not able to formally deregister at the VRCs in Pakistan and who return without a Voluntary Repatriation Form will not be assisted with cash grants and will not have access to Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.
- The Voluntary Repatriation Centre in Baleli, Quetta closes on 7 November 2016.
- The Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Chamkani and Azakhel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Baleli in Quetta will reopen on 1 March 2017.
- The Encashment Centre in Kandahar will be closed from 21 November 2016 until 1 March 2017. In Kabul and Jalalabad the Encashment Centres will be closed from 15 December 2016 until 1 March 2017.
- UNHCR offices in Pakistan will continue to provide counselling, information and assistance to refugees during the winter break.
- Registered refugees (PoR cardholders) who face harassment, extortion or ill treatment should contact UNHCR for assistance or call the protection helpline numbers below.
- All services provided by UNHCR in Pakistan and Afghanistan are **free of cost.** If any person or party demands money or fees for these services, please report this immediately using the helpline numbers below.
- Khyber Pakhtunkwa helpline: 0300 858 5600; 03000544491-8
- Balochistan helpline: 0333 781 9601; 0333 780 4193; 0333 783 3834
- Sindh helpline: 0342 270 4888
- Islamabad/ Punjab/ Pakistan Administered Kashmir helpline: 0300 501 8568 For more information please visit <u>www.unhcrpk.org</u>