

Update on assisted voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan

UNHCR's voluntary repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan resumed on **3 April**, following a winter pause.

28th meeting of the Tripartite Commission in Islamabad on 15 February reaffirmed the **key principles of voluntary return** in a **gradual & sustained** manner.

Federal Cabinet of Pakistan approved the **"Afghan Management Strategy"**, including the extension of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until 31 December 2017.

SITUATION MAP



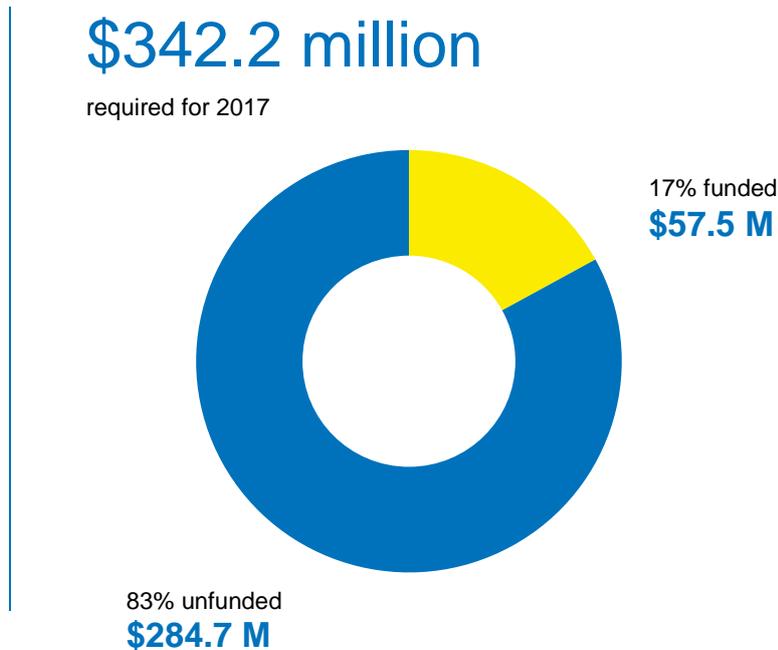
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties

2016 saw a surge in refugee returns to Afghanistan, with 372,577 Afghans returning from Pakistan (99.3%), Iran (0.6%) and other countries. As per the practice in previous years, repatriation was suspended in December for winter, and winterisation assistance was provided inside Afghanistan. UNHCR used this time to consult broadly with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, NGO, donors and other stakeholders. This resulted in a range of adjustments, including a reduction of the cash grant to \$200, which also requires more robust and tangible development support for sustainable reintegration.

UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme resumed on 3 April 2017. At this early stage return figures are similar to last year's at the same time. However, the complexity of the operational context does not allow for the prediction of any clear return trends in 2017.

FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 4 APRIL 2017)

The graph below reflects the funding situation for Afghan refugees and returnees, as well as affected host communities, in Afghanistan and the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds: United States of America (\$95 M) | Sweden (\$76 M) | Netherlands (\$52 M) | Norway (\$41 M) | Denmark (\$23 M) | Australia (\$19 M) | Switzerland (\$15 M) | Germany (\$12 M)

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