

UPDATE ON RETURN OF AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN

19 September - 16 October 2016

TRENDS

KEY FIGURES

(as of 15 October 2016)

236,081

Refugees already returned in 2016

- 233,844 (99%) from Pakistan
- 2,107 (0.9%) from the Islamic Republic of Iran
- 130 (0.1%) from other countries

More than

360,000

refugees expected to return in 2016

\$400

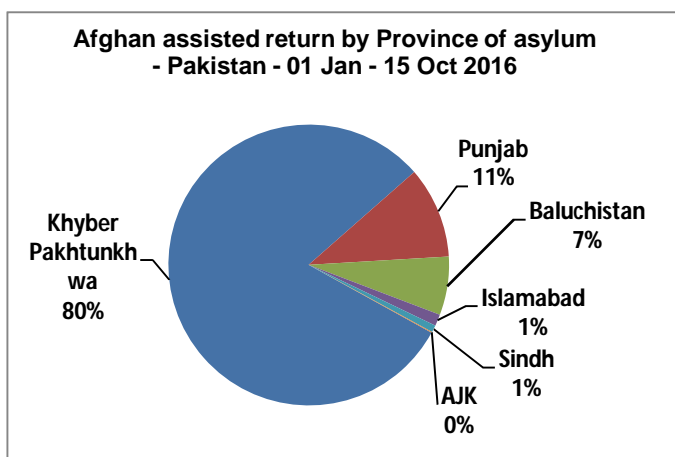
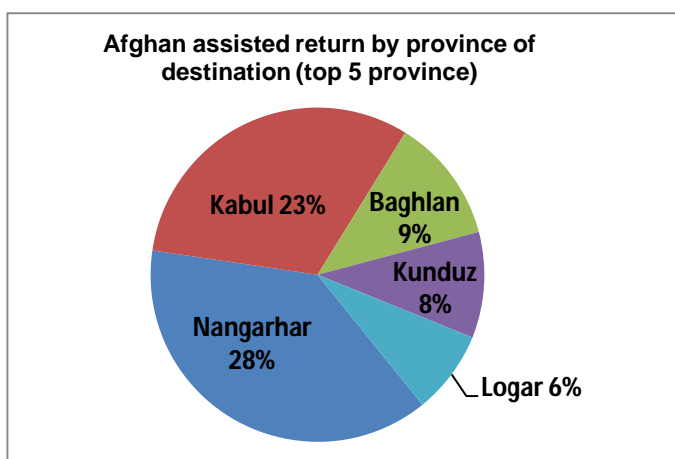
Repatriation cash grant per person as of 25 June

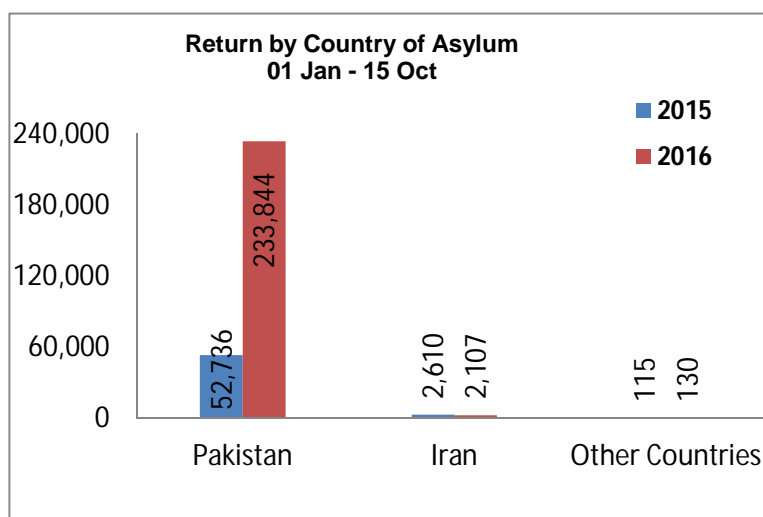
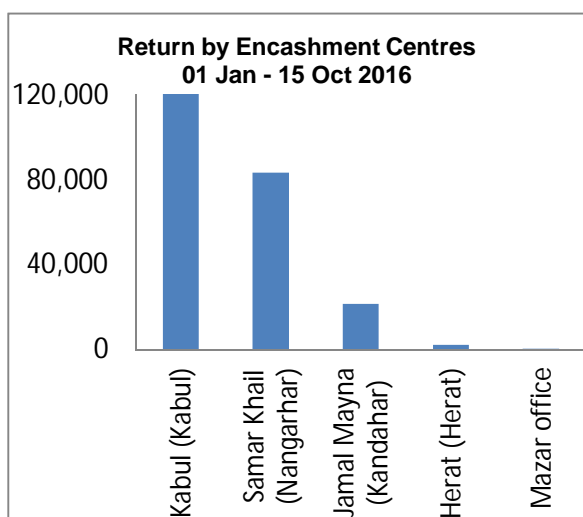
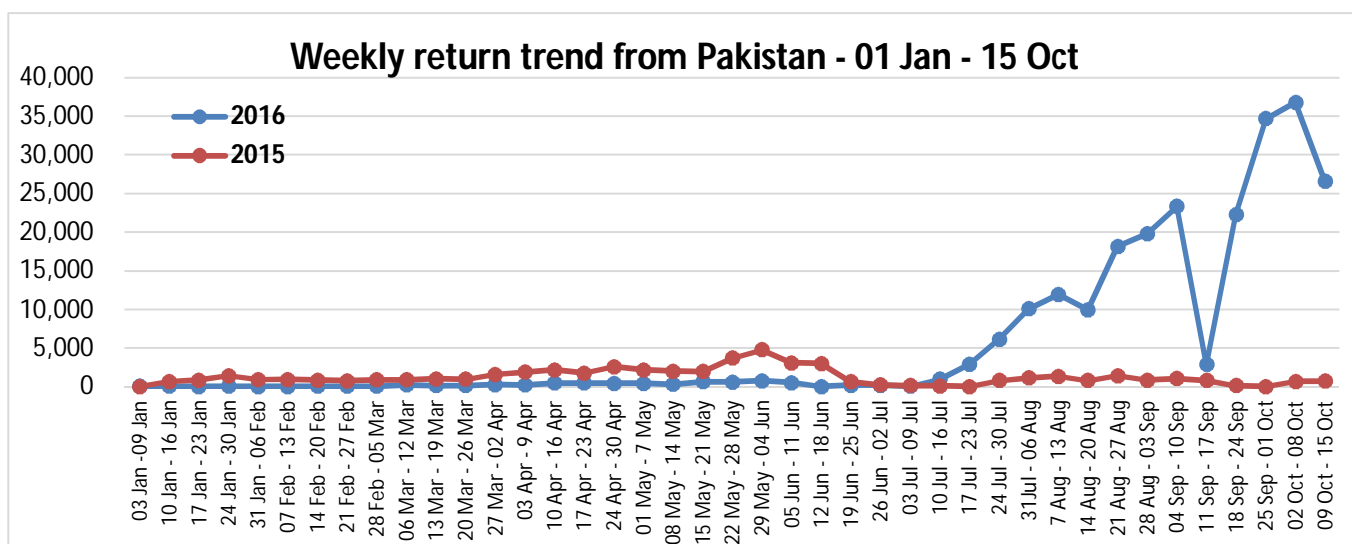
MOST URGENT FINANCIAL NEEDS

\$104.7 million

Required to support the repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees from Pakistan

- Over **236,081** refugees have returned to Afghanistan, mostly from Pakistan. This surpasses the total number of returnees from Pakistan initially projected in UNHCR's Supplementary Appeal of 19 September 2016, necessitating an urgent upward revision of the projected returnee figures and requirements in the coming days.
 - September saw the highest number** of monthly Afghan refugee returns so far this year with a total number of 87,500 persons.
 - More than 63,300 Afghan returns have been recorded in the first two weeks of October**, at an average rate of 5,000 people per day.
 - The majority of returnees are arriving from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in Pakistan, with some returns from Punjab Province.
 - The Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team estimates there will be more than **1 million people** on the move in 2016, including returning Afghans (both registered refugees and undocumented), and people recently displaced internally.
- The rapid pace of return of refugees and undocumented Afghans from Pakistan is straining absorption capacity in Afghanistan.
- UNHCR is preparing to assist vulnerable returnees, IDPs and local population in high-risk targeted areas to cope with the advent of winter conditions through the provision of tents, core relief items and cash assistance.





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- In Afghanistan, UNHCR manages four Encashment Centres (in Herat, Nangarhar, Kabul and Kandahar) that serve as the first point of contact with returnees. The Centres provide returnees with a cash grant of approximately \$400 per person to cover transport costs, expenses upon return and facilitate the initial stages of reintegration. Operational partners provide emergency health services, vaccines, mine risk awareness and legal advice. In addition, transit facilities for overnight stays are available and UNHCR staff conducts protection monitoring to determine specific needs for vulnerable individuals.
- UNHCR is scaling up the capacity of reception and processing at the Encashment Centres in Jalalabad and Kabul. Aside from the grant, the surge involves more staff, equipment and services through partners.
- On 6 October, the Chief Executive of Afghanistan, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, held a high-level briefing on the margins of the UNHCR Executive Committee on the outcome of the Brussels Conference and its implications to displacement and solutions. The Chief Executive and the High Commissioner also attended a quadripartite meeting between the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, and UNHCR. The surge in Afghan refugee returns from Pakistan was on the agenda of the meeting.
- UNHCR has opened a second voluntary repatriation centre in Azakhel in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. With this new centre, UNHCR now has the capacity to facilitate the return of up to 10,000 refugees every day

through the Torkham border crossing. In total, UNHCR operates three voluntary repatriation centres in Pakistan including two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one in Quetta, Balochistan. In Chamkani centre in Peshawar, sanitary facilities were upgraded and expanded, parking lots for trucks have been extended, further waiting areas constructed, and child friendly spaces provided.

- Legal assistance and support for Afghan refugees in Pakistan continues to be provided by UNHCR's partner, the Advice and Legal Aid Centre, including interventions at police stations and courts for Afghan refugees under arrest; awareness-raising sessions and training for law enforcement agencies and officials; legal counselling and advice through shuras; formal and informal advocacy with government and civil society.

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