



UPDATE ON RETURN OF AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM PAKISTAN

Update no. 6: 25 October - 5 November 2016

CONTEXT

- The scale and pace of Afghan refugee returns from Pakistan has reached unprecedented levels, leading UNHCR to revise its initial Supplementary Appeal¹ to include additional financial requirements to support the return of up to 365,000 refugees. The revised appeal also includes the needs of vulnerable returnees, IDPs and host communities over the winter months.
- The revised financial requirements total some \$181.2 million², up from the \$104 million presented in the initial Supplementary Appeal issued on 19 September 2016.
- In light of the exponential pace and volume of returns, UNHCR is critically short of the funding needed to provide repatriation grants to returnees. The Office is reallocating and reprioritizing accordingly.
- With the current level of resources, UNHCR is only able to assist up to 65,000 additional returns. The scheduling of refugee returns has ceased beyond those already scheduled and information to this effect has been disseminated through various media outlets as well as Afghan refugee shuras and other community networks.
- The winter months are likely to pose further strain on Afghanistan's already fragile absorption capacity. A tripartite conversation is taking place between Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR on the winter pause.

WINTER SUPPORT

- Subject to the financial response to the revised Supplementary Appeal, UNHCR is prepared to support up to 25,000 households—IDPs, returnees and vulnerable local residents—in Afghanistan with winterization through cash assistance (between \$100 and \$300 per household) and provision of non-food relief items.
- The Central, Northern, and North-eastern regions will be targeted, in areas which tend to experience the most extreme and lasting winter temperatures due to their relatively high altitude. Given the high levels of recent internal displacement in the Western region, support will also be targeted in overstretched host and IDP communities in and around Herat, Ghor and Baghdis throughout winter.

KEY FIGURES

(as of 5 November 2016)

340,371

Refugees already returned in 2016

- 338,056 (99.3%) from Pakistan
- 2,168 (0.6%) from the Islamic Republic of Iran
- 147 (0.05%) from other countries

59,297

refugees returned in the reporting period

More than

365,000

refugees expected to return in 2016

\$400

Repatriation cash grant per person as of 23 June

MOST URGENT FINANCIAL NEEDS

\$181.2 million

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

Key earmarked donors: Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, private donors in Japan, United States of America

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: United States of America, Sweden, Netherlands, private donors in Spain, Norway, Australia, Japan, Denmark, United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, private donors in the Republic of Korea private donors in Italy, France, Germany, private donors in Japan, private donors in USA, private donors in Sweden, Italy

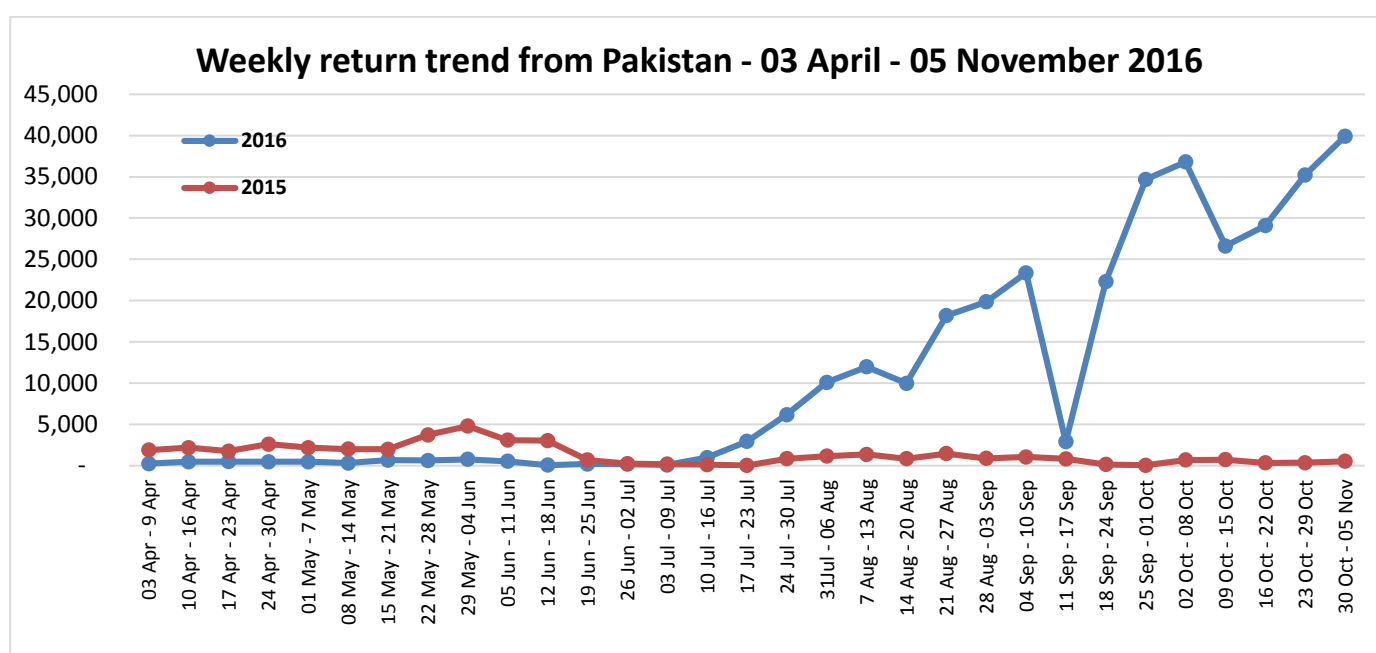
¹ Supplementary Appeal dated 28 October 2016 <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/15676>

² All dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars.

TRENDS

- An average of over 6,800 Afghan refugees departed from Pakistan daily during the reporting period, with some 148,692 returns recorded in October. Around 80% of the population are returning from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province followed by 10% from Punjab, mainly returning via the Torkham border crossing.
- Some 338,056 Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan since the start of 2016. This is nearly six times the number of returns recorded for the same period in 2015. Up to 74% of the returns are taking place to five provinces: Nangarhar, Kabul, Baghlan, Kunduz and Logar.
- The return trend through Spin Boldak/Jamal Mayna Encashment Centre in Kandahar³ increased significantly with nearly 19,000 returnees in October compared to 2,928 returnees in August and 6,211 returnees in September.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS



Weekly return trends from Pakistan in September & October 2016					
Date	Individuals	Weekly %	Date	Individuals	Weekly %
28 Aug – 03 Sep	19,850		02 Oct - 08 Oct	36,790	+ 6%
04 Sep – 10 Sep	23,362	+ 17.7%	09 Oct - 15 Oct	26,608	-27.7%
Sep - 17 Sep	2,901	-87.6%	16 Oct - 22 Oct	29,084	+ 9.3%
18 Sep -24 Sep	22,304	+ 668.8%	23 Oct - 29 Oct	35,226	+ 21.1%
25 Sep - 01 Oct	34,680	+ 55.5%	30 Oct - 05 Nov	39,903	+ 13.3%

³ Returnees from Baluchistan and parts of Sindh are mainly returning via Spin Boldak.

