



HIGHLIGHTS

4.8 million

Afghans repatriated with UNHCR's assistance since 2002 – so far in 2016, **7,200** have returned, the lowest figure on record

60%

of refugee returnees choose to settle in urban areas with Kabul, Nangarhar and Kunduz as top returnee destinations

125,000

refugees from NWA, Pakistan, assessed in Khost and Paktika provinces, south-eastern Afghanistan

1,200,000

people profiled as internally displaced due to conflict – **134,000** so far in 2016

Populations of concern

1.5 million inside Afghanistan

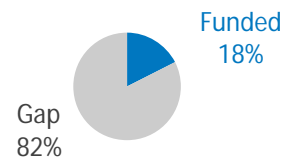
By category

Returnees (cumulative)	200,000
Refugees from NWA	125,000
Refugees and asylum-seekers	182
IDPs	1,200,000
Total	1,525,182

Funding

USD 137 million requested

24 million received, funding gap 108 million



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Within the Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR is working with government counterparts, UN agencies, and international and national NGOs to coordinate the assistance to vulnerable populations, including returnees, refugees, IDPs, and local/host communities.
- UNHCR's direct counterpart in the Government is the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR). UNHCR is also collaborating with nine other line ministries.
- UNHCR is leading the refugee response in south-eastern Afghanistan (Khost and Paktika provinces) in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan.
- In March 2016, UNHCR transferred the overall coordination of the response to conflict-induced displacement to OCHA, but UNHCR remains engaged as lead agency of the Protection Cluster and the Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster.
- Insecurity and armed conflict restrict UNHCR's access to large parts of the country; however, through national implementing partners, UNHCR assistance can still reach vulnerable populations in insecure areas.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Promoting targeted community-based interventions in areas of high refugee return, including urban and semi-urban areas, where an increasing number of returnees are settling;
- Leading the humanitarian response to the refugee influx in south-eastern Afghanistan, where some 125,000 refugees have settled in Khost and Paktika provinces, fleeing military operations in Pakistan;
- Supporting the adoption and implementation of national policies to address the situation of refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs (draft Law on Refugees and Asylum, the National IDP Policy);
- Addressing internal displacement within the overall humanitarian architecture of Afghanistan through leading the Protection and NFI/Shelter Clusters;
- Assisting Persons with Specific Needs (PSN): In 2015, UNHCR assisted 2,238 PSN cases among returnees, IDPs, and other vulnerable persons of concern, in January – April 2016, 920 cases.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Supporting the reintegration of refugee returnees through livelihoods and skills-development training, such as tailoring and agriculture;
- Empowering women through establishing and strengthening women's shuras in areas of high return;
- Implementing rights-awareness activities for women and girls to contribute to self-reliance and enhance the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.

Peaceful coexistence

- Promoting peaceful coexistence between returnees, IDPs, and local/host communities through targeted infrastructure interventions. For example, in 2015, 87 wells were constructed in high return areas to mitigate competition over access to water.

Shelter and NFIs

- Ensuring safe housing, a minimum standard of privacy, and a socio-economic livelihoods base for persons of concern: In 2015, 499 shelter units were constructed, benefiting altogether 3,240 individuals;
- Assisting vulnerable returnees and IDPs with non-food items (NFIs): In 2015, 28,593 individuals benefited from NFI packages, 673 of them returnees and 27,920 IDPs. During the first quarter of 2016, 5,700 NFI packages were distributed to families (92% IDPs). During the winter of 2015-2016, more than 41,000 families were assisted through a cash grant (USD 100) for winterization of whom 44% refugees, 18% returnees, 38% conflict-induced IDPs;
- Assisting refugees in Khost and Paktika: In February 2016 12,938 families were provided with blankets and firewood, 3,000 families with cash assistance, 7,655 families with vouchers to purchase shelter materials, while 6,837 families received tool kits.

Return, reintegration and durable solutions

- Supporting returnees with initial assistance at four Encashment Centres where they receive a cash grant and can benefit from transit facilities and basic health services. Returnees are given mine-awareness training and are also briefed on how to enroll children in school, and access legal aid. Interviews are conducted in order to identify return trends, push/pull factors and check on what kind of information returnees relied on when making the decision to return.
- Working with the Government and development partners to mainstream returnees and IDPs into national development planning and programs. The regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) provides the framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to facilitate voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration.

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