



FACTSHEET PAKISTAN

May 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

6,044

Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan between 1st January and 31st May 2016

18,586

Births registered between 1st January and 31st May 2016

259

Individuals submitted for resettlement to a third country between 1st January and 31st May 2016

45,115

IDPs families returned to their areas of origin between 1st January and 31st May 2016

* 270,690 individuals using the multiplier 6 as the average family size

Population of concern

A total of **2.54 million** persons of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,568,553
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	5,080
Somalia (Refugees)	369
Others (Refugees)	203
Asylum seekers	8,904
Total IDPs In-Camp	1,362
Jalozai (Nowshera, KP)	1,362
Total IDPs off-camp	877,548
Total IDPs in and off camps	878,910

*As of 31st May 2016 – source of NWA and Khyber IDPs population: FDMA, figures are of families verified by NADRA

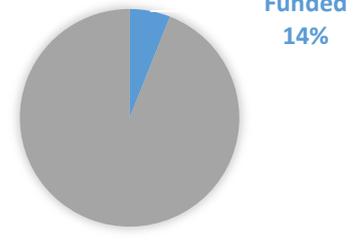
UNHCR Presence

Offices	International	National	Affiliate workforce	Total
BOI Islamabad	25	67	15	107
Sub-Office Peshawar	10	77	13	100
Sub-Office Quetta	06	50	03	59
Field unit Karachi	0	09	02	11
Total	41	203	33	277

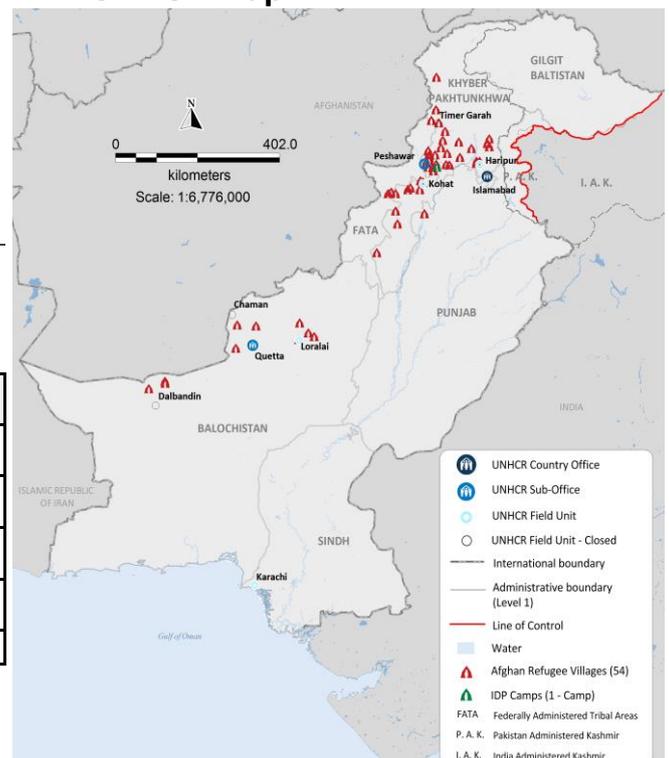
Offices located in: Representation Office Islamabad, Sub-Office Peshawar, Sub-Office Quetta, and Satellite Office Karachi

Funding

USD 127 million requested



UNHCR Map



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR's main governmental counterparts for refugees in Pakistan are the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) and provincial Commissioners for Afghan Refugees (CARs). In addition, UNHCR works with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).
- UNHCR continues to lead the Protection, Shelter / NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters and works in close coordination with the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, as well as SAFRON at federal level for the complex emergencies in KP.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international Non-Government Organizations at the national and provincial levels.

MAIN UPDATES

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

- **The regional multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR, phase II 2015-2017)** provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to address the needs of Afghan refugees. The main goal of the SSAR is to identify and implement lasting solutions for refugees, while providing assistance to the host communities. The cross-cutting thematic priority of the implementation of SSAR in Pakistan is youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.
- The temporary legal stay of Afghan refugees is guided by the national policy on repatriation and management of Afghan refugees. The Government of Pakistan's (GoP) draft *Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan nationals beyond 2015*, includes, inter alia: a) a proposal for the extension of the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation and the validity of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards until the end of 2017, b) temporary management arrangements depending on the profiles and needs of the remaining refugee population, and c) continued protection for those in need, in accordance with international standards and norms. The draft policy is pending Cabinet approval. In early January 2016, PoR cards were extended for 6 months by the Prime Minister's office as an interim decision pending the Cabinet's formal adoption.

Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary repatriation** remains the preferred solution for the majority of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Between January and May 2016, 6,044 Afghan PoR cardholders (representing 1,157 families) voluntarily returned to Afghanistan. Returnees chose to mainly settle in Kabul and Nangarhar and were supported by UNHCR through its two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Since 2002, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of 3.9 million Afghan refugees (including 58,211 in 2015) to their country of origin.
- **Protection Needs Assessment:** In the absence of a national refugee law, UNHCR continues to conduct Refugee Status Determination (RSD) under its mandate and ensures access to asylum for persons seeking international protection in Pakistan. The registration of new asylum seekers is preceded by a Protection Needs Assessment (PNA). Since January 2016, more than 1,583 asylum applications (mostly Afghans) have been processed through UNHCR's mandate RSD procedures and 687 asylum seekers were recognized as a refugee as of 31st May.
- **Legal assistance:** In order to maintain the protection of refugees, UNHCR through its 10 Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) conducted awareness-raising activities and provided legal assistance to over 15,700 refugees as of 31st May. Since January 2016, over 1,500 PoR cardholders have been arrested, mainly under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. However, through ALAC interventions at police stations and in court those arrested were released in a timely manner. The number of arrests and detentions reported by registered Afghan refugees in the first quarter of 2016 decreased by about 39 percent from the number of arrests/detentions reported in the same period last year, when the implementation of the Government's National Action Plan against Counter-Terrorism (NAP) had started.
- UNHCR provides continued support to six **Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) centres** run by NADRA across the country. A total of 18,586 children have been registered and 13,849 children received birth certificates since the January 2016. In recognition of the dispersed character of the refugee population in Pakistan, mobile registration teams will be deployed to remote locations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), supported by UNHCR, to improve access by refugee populations.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide access to free primary education through 175 schools, 48 satellites classes, and 13 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres. More than 72,000 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan receive quality education through these interventions. Pakistan is a pilot country for the roll-out of UNHCR's Global Education Strategy (2012-2016) and has developed its country-level education strategy which focuses on increasing access to primary education, providing safe learning environments, improving teacher training and providing non-formal education /vocational training opportunities in order to ensure the sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan upon return.
- UNHCR is working closely with the Federal and Provincial authorities as well as the SDG #4 leads, UNESCO and UNICEF to develop strategic ways forward for refugee education that guarantees refugee children's right to access quality and inclusive education. A provincial consultation workshop on the roll-out of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal- SDG #4 "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all" was organized in Quetta (18-19 May) led by UNESCO, UNICEF and Provincial Government's Education Department. A national workshop will be held mid-June in Islamabad to consolidate a national strategy document. UNHCR will continue to advocate to ensure that refugee children and youth are fully mainstreamed within all relevant initiatives and their needs are fully reflected in the new education sector plans and national development planning and processes at both federal and provincial levels.
- From 2nd to 5th May, 20 Afghan refugee youth and 5 Pakistani youth actively participated to the **Global Refugee Youth Consultations (GRYC)** in Islamabad. The GRYC are led by UNHCR and the Women's Refugee Commission, with support from the Youth and Adolescents in Emergencies Advocacy Group. The consultations have provided a platform for both Pakistani and Afghan youth to discuss and build a common understanding of issues that affect them both. Some of the key issues identified and analyzed by the group included access to and quality of education, legal documentation, durable solutions, inclusion of youth with disabilities, access to capacity building opportunities. The youth have demonstrated a strong desire to network with stakeholders to implement the solutions they have come up with.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009, Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative which is a government-led programme and an integral part of the SSAR. 10.6 million persons have benefited from RAHA projects of which only 11 per cent are Afghan refugees in refugee hosting areas across. Projects are implemented in the sectors of education, health, WASH, infrastructure and livelihood. In 2016, RAHA projects focus on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihoods support in line with the countrywide strategic priorities.
- In Balochistan, the Provincial Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) has committed to include refugee children in their annual plans and has issued vaccines to refugee village's staff for the first time, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the Department of Health.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

- As of 31st May, some 146,485 IDP families (878,910 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in camps and host communities in the KP province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). As part of the inter-agency response, UNHCR continues to lead the Protection, CCCM and Emergency Shelter/NFIs clusters. The UN Refugee Agency continues to support displaced persons and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in KP province. Since January 2016, over 1,621 grievances have been recorded and 78 percent of those cases have been resolved.
- Since January 2016, over 270,690 individuals have returned (a total of 947,328 individuals between 2015 and 2016) to de-notified areas. In May, the current phase of return of IDP families to Kurram and Orakzai agencies has been completed with 73,651 individuals who have returned. Returns to South Waziristan Agency (SWA) and North Waziristan Agency (NWA) agencies are still on-going, with an aim to return 30,000 families to SWA, 22,000 families to NWA. A cash grants of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) will be distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the Government of Pakistan. Standard Operating Procedures have been put in place by humanitarian actors to guarantee the voluntary, safe, dignified, and well-informed nature of returns. Return intention surveys have been conducted, together with inter-cluster assessment missions, whenever access is granted by local authorities. UNHCR supported the return and provided voluntary return forms (VRFs) to 45,115 IDP families, In addition, protection monitoring activities in displacement and return areas have been conducted.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Canada](#) | [Japan](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Educate A Child Programme](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [KfW](#) | [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Private donors](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) |

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