



## HIGHLIGHTS

<p><b>56,513</b> Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 3 April and 31 October 2017.</p>	<p><b>96,751</b> Births registered between 1 January and 31 October 2017.</p>	<p><b>8,081</b> Initial Screening Forms were submitted between 1 January and 31 October 2017.  <i>1,563 families comprising of 8,081 individuals.</i></p>	<p><b>1,661</b> Afghans and non-Afghans registered in UNHCR proGres database between 1 January and 31 October 2017.  <i>623 families comprising of 1,661 individuals.</i></p>	<p><b>261,180</b> IDP individuals returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 31 October 2017.  <i>43,530 families using the multiplier 6 as the average family size.</i></p>
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### Population of concern

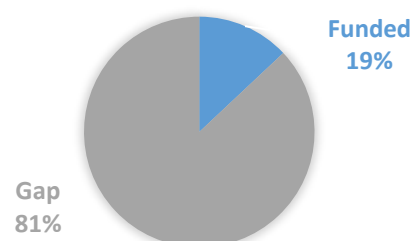
A total of **1.59 million** people of concern

#### By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,387,605
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	3,904
Somalia (refugees)	281
Others (refugees)	264
Asylum seekers	4,151
<b>*Total out-of-camp IDPs</b>	<b>194,814</b>

### Funding

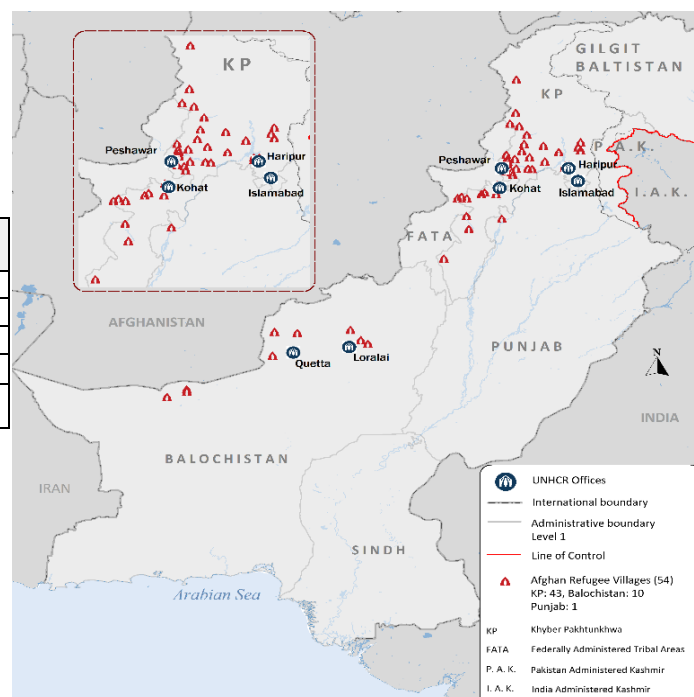
**USD 127 million** requested



### UNHCR Presence

Offices	International staff		National staff		Total staff
	Regular	Affiliate	Regular	Affiliate	
Islamabad	23	1	73	9	106
Peshawar	7	3	68	9	87
Quetta	6	1	47	4	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>251</b>

*\*As of 31 October 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is Federal Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) while figures on IDP families are verified by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).*



## 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 host communities. The SSAR prioritises the promotion of youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods.

### Durable Solutions and Protection

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in Quetta and Peshawar for refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC, and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card (an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against *refoulement*) is cut in the corner. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately USD 200 per individual upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan for refugees returning from Pakistan. Repatriation was paused for winter and resumed on 3 April 2017.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In October, 3,724 persons of concern were assisted by ALACs. ALACs intervened on behalf of 75 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 19 for those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In October, individual legal counselling was provided to 898 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices, as well as 921 people who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 122 legal sessions, staff reached out to 1,698 participants during the reporting period (42 per cent were women). The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were regarding their PoR card, shelter, financial, medical needs and police harassment.
- UNHCR provides support to five Proof of Registration (PoR) Cards Modification (PCM) centres operated by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) nationwide. The PCM centres support the modification/replacement of existing PoR cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, provision of PoR cards to registered children older than five years of age and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18. A total of 96,751 children were registered and 54,196 children received birth certificates between January and the end of October.

### Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide students access to free primary education (and secondary education in one refugee village in Balochistan) through 171 schools, 48 satellites classes, 45 home-based girls schools and 13 early childhood education centres in refugee villages. Around 56,000 refugee children living in 52 refugee villages across Pakistan receive education through these interventions. UNHCR also provides tertiary-level scholarships to Afghan refugee youth through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The beneficiaries are mostly between 19 to 30 years old. In 2017, 174 students are studying in different Pakistani universities on a DAFI scholarship. UNHCR Pakistan has developed a country-level education strategy (2016-18) that focuses on increasing access to and improving the quality of primary education, especially for girls. The strategy also emphasises the provision of safe learning environments, improved teacher training and the provision of non-formal education and vocational training opportunities for Afghan refugees.

### Community-based Protection

- A three-day training on Cash-based Initiatives (CBI) for people with disabilities was held in Islamabad. The training covered topics such as needs assessments, market assessments, risk analysis, financial controls, post-distribution monitoring, as well as the review and planning of CBI interventions in Pakistan.
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) staff conducted missions to Punjab and Sindh to visit shelters to check services for refugee survivors, visit relevant government and non-government organisations, and provide training on community based protection and SGBV.
- Interviews were conducted with refugee youth to select of a Global Youth Advisory Council nominee to participate in the Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations and the High Commissioner's Protection Dialogue in Geneva.
- Six out of fourteen outreach volunteer training manuals for community based protection have been completed and shared with community-based protection focal points in field offices. Manual will be translated into Urdu, Pashto and Dari languages.

### Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- Since 2009 the Government of Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, which serves as a cornerstone for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and a principal burden-sharing platform for maintaining protection space for Afghan refugees. RAHA implements a wide variety of projects across the sectors of education, health, livelihood, infrastructure, water and sanitation and social protection. Since the launch of the programme, over 4,100 projects have been implemented across all provinces of Pakistan and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas

(FATA), benefitting over 10.94 million people. In 2016, nearly 430,000 people (of whom 26 per cent are registered Afghan refugees and 74 per cent are their Pakistani host communities) benefitted from 51 RAHA projects.

- In 2017 RAHA is benefitting 443,625 people – 31 per cent Afghan refugees. RAHA focuses on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihood support in line with the countrywide strategic priorities of UNHCR. At present there are 27 projects under RAHA in three provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. All three UNHCR offices are lining up further projects approved by the provincial task forces as well as the Ministry of SAFRON should funding be forthcoming. The skills development project that started in January came to a conclusion in April 2017. 755 youth from both the Afghan refugee and host communities benefitted from the project that provided training in eight trades for both men and women. UNHCR is now in final stages of negotiations with the National Vocational Training & Technical Council on enrolment of approximately 2,000 Afghan refugees and Pakistani youth in skills development institutes.
- Major health related projects were identified where UNHCR will assist hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab in the procurement of equipment for mother and child care units and for cancer treatment.

## Health

UNHCR continues to support the provision of basic health services in refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. During the month of October, 14,195 patients received treatment in these health facilities. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, perinatal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. In October, 1,969 women received antenatal care, 1,457 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 9,919 children received routine immunisation. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with the assistance from UNHCR's partners.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 31 October 2017, some 32,469 IDP families (194,814 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). UNHCR continues to lead the protection, camp coordination camp management and emergency shelter/non-food items clusters, as part of the inter-agency response. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced people and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievances desks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since 1 January 2017, 371 grievances have been recorded and 97 per cent of these cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January 261,180 individuals have returned to de-notified areas (areas declared safe for returns after military operations). A cash grant of PKR 35,000 (USD 350) is distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the government. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring, with some targeted assistance to very vulnerable individuals. Protection monitoring activities in displacement and return areas have also been conducted.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND DONORS

- UNHCR's main counterparts for refugees within the Government of Pakistan is the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees and the Commissioners for Afghan Refugees, at the provincial level. 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 province, as well as SAFRON at the federal level for complex emergencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international non-government organisations.
- UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR along with those donors who have directly contributed to the operation. Donors include [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Educate A Child Programme](#) | [European Union](#) | [Germany](#) | [IKEA Foundation](#) | [Japan](#) | [KfW](#) | [Luxembourg](#) | [Norway](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [UN Programme on HIV/AIDS](#) | [United States](#) | [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) | [Czech Republic](#) | [Various private donors](#)