



HIGHLIGHTS

<p>59,020 Afghan refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan between 3 April and 31 December 2017.</p>	<p>101,159 Births registered between 1 January and 31 December 2017.</p>	<p>8,715 Initial Refugee Screening Forms were submitted between 1 January and 31 December 2017. <i>1,574 families comprising of 8,715 individuals.</i></p>	<p>2,401 Afghans and non-Afghans registered in UNHCR's proGres database between 1 January and 31 December 2017. <i>816 families comprising of 2,401 individuals.</i></p>	<p>281,640 IDP individuals returned to their areas of origin between 1 January and 31 December 2017. <i>46,940 families using the multiplier of 6 as the average family size.</i></p>
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Population of concern

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

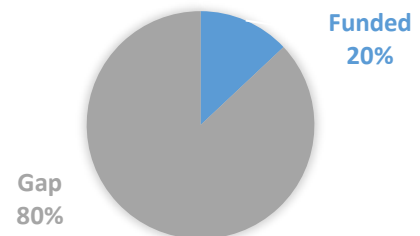
By country of origin

Country	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,389,506
Afghan refugees without PoR cards	3,104
Somalia (refugees)	232
Others (refugees) Asylum seekers	301 3,496
*Total out-of-camp IDPs	174,354

Funding

USD 127 million requested

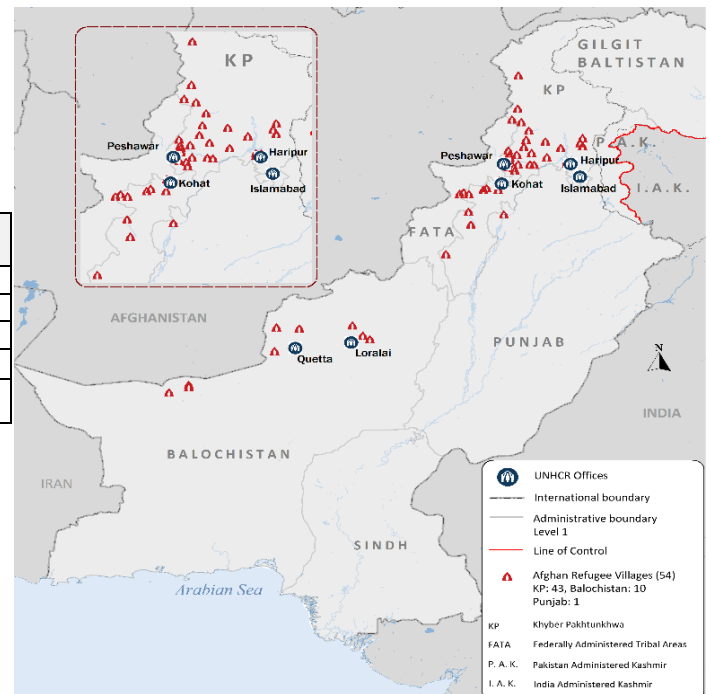
USD 24.9 million received



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
Total	36	5	188	22	251

*As of 31 December 2017 – source of North Waziristan Agency and Khyber IDPs population is Federal Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) while figures are 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.

5th Meeting of the Quadripartite Steering Committee on the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

The 5th meeting of the Quadripartite Steering Committee was hosted by the Government of Afghanistan on 1 December 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The parties of the Quadripartite Steering Committee reaffirmed their commitment to voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity and urged enhanced joint efforts to create an environment conducive for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan. The governments of Afghanistan and Iran and UNHCR agreed to the extension of the SSAR framework for 2018-19. The Government of Pakistan committed to present the proposed SSAR framework for 2018-19 to its Federal Cabinet for consideration. All parties underlined the importance of greater responsibility-sharing by the international community in supporting resilience-building measures and lasting solutions for Afghan refugees, returnees and their host communities. UNHCR suggested that the three Governments consider adoption of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

7th Meeting of the Friends of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (FOSSAR)

The 7th meeting of the FOSSAR was hosted by the Australian High Commissioner on 11 December 2017. The Ambassador of Afghanistan and Special Envoy of the President, H.E. Dr. Hazrat Omer Zakhilwal, highlighted the extraordinary relationship and cooperation that Afghanistan enjoys with both SAFRON and UNHCR. He appreciated the ongoing initiative of the government of Pakistan to register and document undocumented Afghan nationals on its territory; and provided an update on the efforts of the government of Afghanistan to ensure sustainable reintegration of returning refugees and bolster the absorption capacity. The Ambassador noted that access to quality healthcare and education is particularly challenging and called for support of the international community in this regard. The Federal Secretary SAFRON, Capt. (R) Jahanzeb Khan expressed gratitude to the international community for the support provided so far but noted that greater responsibility-sharing is needed to encourage the host countries, including Pakistan, to continue hosting refugees. The international community should support voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration as the cornerstone of SSAR and the most preferred solution for Afghan refugees; while providing support to the host communities pending return. The government of Pakistan will deliberate on the potential extension of the SSAR framework beyond 2017 but greater international responsibility-sharing (including for the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas programme) will be imperative. UNHCR's Representative, Ms. Ruven Menikdiwela briefed the FOSSAR members about the outcomes of the 29th Tripartite and 5th Quadripartite meetings; preliminary findings of the returnee and IDP monitoring survey in Afghanistan, the findings of UNHCR Pakistan's mapping of education facilities and enrolment of Afghan children; and the way forward in 2018.

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 December, 2,451 persons of concern were assisted by ALACs. ALACs intervened on behalf of 56 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 27 of those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In December, individual legal counselling was provided to 562 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices, as well as 786 people who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 45 legal sessions, staff reached out to 869 participants (41 per cent were women) during the reporting period. The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were the extension of 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 101,159 children were registered and 58,281 children received birth certificates between January and the end of December 2017.

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 17 to 30 years old. In 2017, 167 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.

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan has developed a country specific Livelihood Strategy 2018-2021 which will be launched in January 2018.
- UNHCR in partnership with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) has launched a Vocational Skill Development Project in Pakistan for 1,800 Afghan refugee and youth of host communities. The project will help Afghan and host youth to learn market-led skills.
- UNHCR Pakistan in partnership with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has completed the first phase of Poverty Graduation project. Through this project 2,000 households of Afghan refugees and host communities are targeted for sustainable livelihoods development in Pishin and Swabi, districts of Balochistan.

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.

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 December, 17,463 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 December, 2,203 women received antenatal care, 1,594 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 9,837 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 December 2017, 29,059 IDP families (174,354 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). UNHCR continues to lead emergency shelter/non-food items clusters, as part of the inter-agency response. UNHCR also providing technical support to FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) in protection cluster. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced people and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievance desks. Since 1 January 2017, 371 grievances have been recorded and 97 per cent of these cases have been resolved.
- Since 1 January, 281,640 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 in displacement and return areas and provision of targeted assistance to vulnerable individuals.

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](#)