

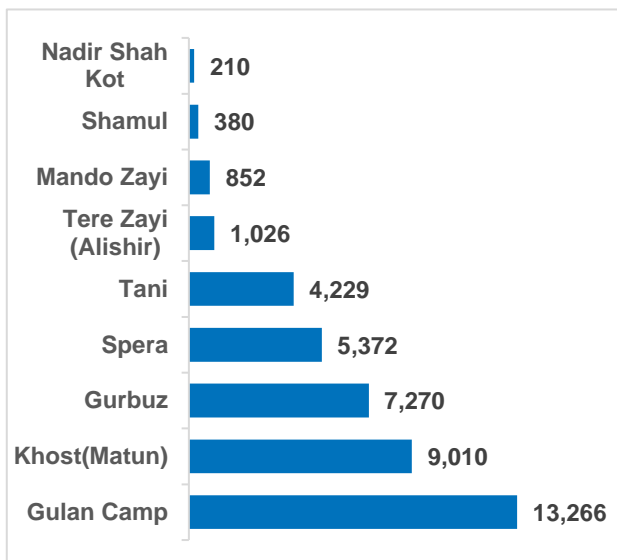
FIELD OFFICE KHOST (SOUTHEAST REGION)

March 2018

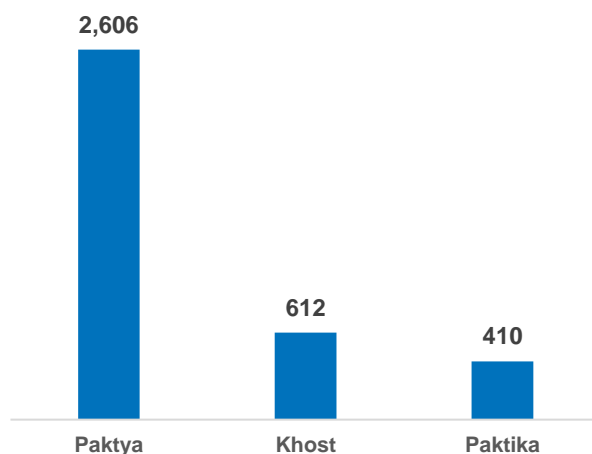
41,615 Pakistani refugees from North Waziristan Agency biometrically registered in Khost province as at 28 February.

35,241 Pakistani refugees from North Waziristan Agency non-biometrically verified in Paktika province.

REFUGEE POPULATION IN KHOST PROVINCE



AFGHAN REFUGEE RETURN BY SOUTHEAST SINCE JANUARY 2017

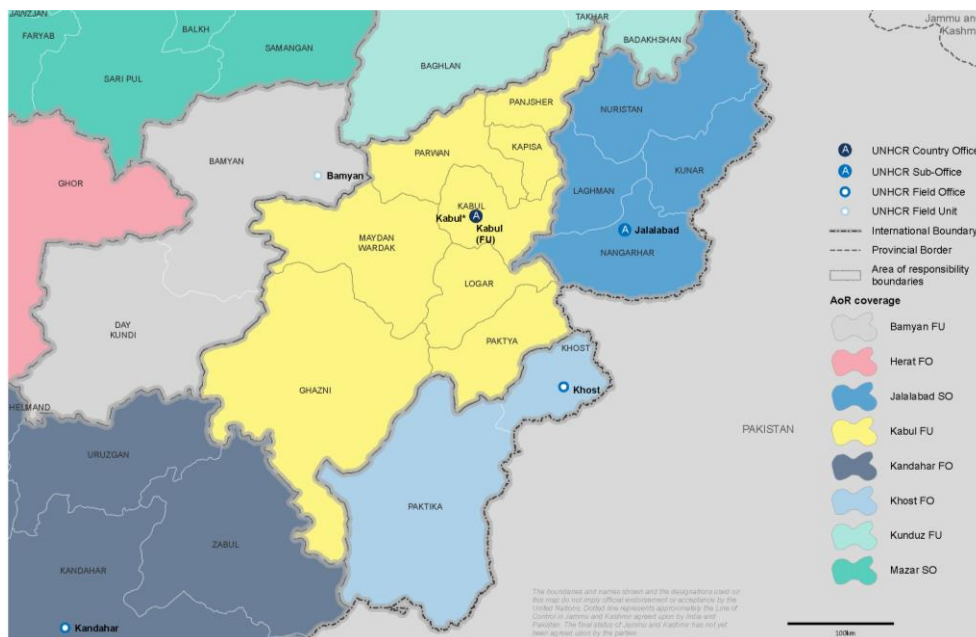


UNHCR PRESENCE

Field Office Khost area of responsibility covers Khost and Paktika provinces

Staff:

2 International staff
20 National staff
9% female / 91% male



Southeastern Region

Afghanistan is hosting Pakistani refugees who fled North Waziristan Agency in 2014 in Khost and Paktika. UNHCR completed biometric registration for 29,161 Pakistani refugees from 5,438 families in Khost province bringing a total of 41,615 active individuals registered as 5,499 cases were inactivated or closed as of the end of 2017. In Paktika close to 36,000 refugees from 7,546 families were non-biometrically re-verified in 2016; no further non-biometric verification took place in Paktika province in 2017, mainly due to access constraints. Some 76,000 Pakistani refugees are registered in Khost and verified in Paktika; while the total population is estimated to be approximately 100,000.

With the emergency phase of displacement over, UNHCR is transitioning to a protection strategy built on targeted assistance to persons with specific needs and designed to build capacity, self-reliance and resilience, while coordinating with partners and advocating with donors to ensure continuity of essential services for the refugee population; including basic health care, WASH, and education among others.

Main Activities

BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION AND DATA

After level one registration in 2014 and 2015, UNHCR Field Office Khost conducted biometric registration of Pakistani refugees in 2016 when a total of 50,954 individuals from 10,297 families were biometrically registered. In 2017, 29,161 Pakistani refugees from 5,540 families were additionally biometrically registered in Khost province, while 5,499 cases were inactivated or closed, leaving a total of 41,615 active individuals registered. Harmonized data and strengthened information management informs vulnerabilities of UNHCR's persons of concern, for strategic direction and programming.

- In February 2018, the Office resumed biometric registration for the refugee population in Ghulan Camp and in Matun District in Khost. As of the end of February 2018, a total of 1,081 families have been registered biometrically.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) ASSISTANCE

UNHCR distributes WFP monthly food assistance to refugees and provides core relief items on a needs basis, including NFIs, tents and assistance to support the upgrading of shelter of the most vulnerable families.

PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS (PSN)

UNHCR Khost provides targeted assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSN), on an individual basis to refugees with acute vulnerabilities and protection risks. Extremely vulnerable individuals from the local communities are also considered as beneficiaries in the PSN programme to promote peaceful co-existence and address long-term economic and social impact. The main objective of the programme is to mitigate and respond to the individual emergency protection risks putting in place the self-reliance of each individual when designing a response.

On a case by case basis, assistance includes disbursement of cash for medical treatment, provision of shelter and NFIs, livestock assistance, livelihood and self-reliance, and referral to other agencies for specialized care and assistance. Most refugee hosting communities are in remote areas where high level of poverty prevails. UNHCR aims to link the PSN programme with Community based Protection Measures for enhanced, sustainable comprehensive assistance for PSNs.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

To address protection risks arising from a lack of potable water and sanitation, UNHCR and partners have implemented WASH projects in Khost and Paktika provinces, including the construction of wells and latrines for the refugee population. Through community based projects, UNHCR installs water wells, establishes WASH facilities, distributes hygiene kits and promotes hygiene awareness campaigns to bring desired change in attitudes and practices amongst the refugee community.



Pakistani refugee children collect water from a hand water pump well built by UNHCR and partner Coordination for Afghan Relief (CoAR) in Khost province. ©UNHCR/S. Rich

HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING

UNHCR and partners Health Net International provide emergency primary healthcare, nutrition, psycho-social and gender based violence related services to refugees settled in four districts of Khost province.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

UNHCR provides secondary education to refugee girls and boys in Gulan camp of Gurbuz district in Khost province. Community outreach schools serve to provide education at the door step of refugee communities.

PREVENTION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND PROMOTION OF SOCIAL COHESION

UNHCR contributes to mainstreaming GBV prevention into all its community awareness activities including dialogue with male shuras to encourage access to education for girls, identification of women and girls at risk through protection by presence, and consultations. Through female and male shuras, UNHCR opens dialogues and breaks social barriers between refugee and host communities.

COMMUNITY BASED PROTECTION MEASURES

In the context of limited funds and significant prospects for self-reliance among the refugee population, the assistance program has shifted to a needs-based and community level approach with a focus on self-reliance, and durable solutions. Through community based protection measures (informed by protection monitoring) – which include repair of shelters, construction of WASH facilities, employment as teachers and labourers in the distribution of food and NFIs – Field Office Khost creates labour and income opportunities for youth and adults of vulnerable refugee and host communities.

CAMP MANAGEMENT

UNHCR continues to carry out camp-management and camp-coordination functions in Gulan refugee camp – which hosts over 11,000 Pakistani refugees – including liaison with local authorities and communities, distributions and maintenance of the distribution centre, as well as camp security which is managed by the Afghan National Police. This direct interaction with the community strengthens communication within the camp population and facilitates coordination of activities while avoiding duplication of efforts.

WINTERIZATION ASSISTANCE

To cope with an unexpectedly harsh winter, Field Office Khost planned the distribution of unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance (approximately US\$100 for each family) for assessed/selected vulnerable refugees and host communities in Khost and Paktika provinces. This was also supplemented by in-kind assistance of winter blankets. From November 2017 until January 2018, Field Office Khost started distribution of winterization assistance and reached some 12,600 Pakistani refugee and Afghan households in Khost province. In Paktika province, some 5,500 families were reached with winterization assistance.

Working with Partners and Coordination

- Field Office Khost coordinates closely with the Government of Afghanistan, through the Department of Returnees and Refugees and other line departments in Khost.
- UNHCR coordinates through the Provincial Development Committee which is chaired by the Governor of Khost.
- UNHCR leads coordination of the Pakistani refugee response in Khost. Monthly meetings under the Humanitarian Agencies Coordination forum are hosted by Field Office Khost.
- Through monthly and adhoc based gatherings, UNHCR consults with and continues active coordination with refugee elders, the host community, implementing and operational partners, and line government departments.
- Field Office Khost works with three national and three international partners to implement programmes in seven refugee populated districts of Khost province – as well as two national and one international partners in Paktika province.

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds to refugees in Khost and Paktika (as at 31 December 2017).

Australia | Denmark | European Union | Japan | Luxembourg | Mexico | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom | United States of America
| Private Donors

CONTACTS

Donna Corcoran, External Relations Officer, Afghanistan
corcoran@unhcr.org, Tel: +93 202200381, Cell: +93 (0) 791990011

M. Nadir Farhad, Associate Public Information Officer, Afghanistan
farhadm@unhcr.org Tel: +93 202200381, Cell: + 93 (0) 791990018

Nicholas Gichubiri, Head of Field Office Khost, Afghanistan
gichubir@unhcr.org Cell: + 93 (0) 791990021

Operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/afg>