



HIGHLIGHTS

50,500

Afghan refugees have returned under the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme in 2015

221,400

refugees from NWA, Pakistan (35,781 families) assessed in Khost and Paktika provinces, south-eastern Afghanistan

20,000

people living in a refugee-like situation in eastern Afghanistan

948,000

people profiled as internally displaced due to conflict

Populations of concern

1.3 million inside Afghanistan

Returnees	200,300
Refugees	118
Refugees in SE	221,400
Asylum-seekers	102
Refugee-like sit.	20,000
Internally displaced	948,000
Total	1,389,920

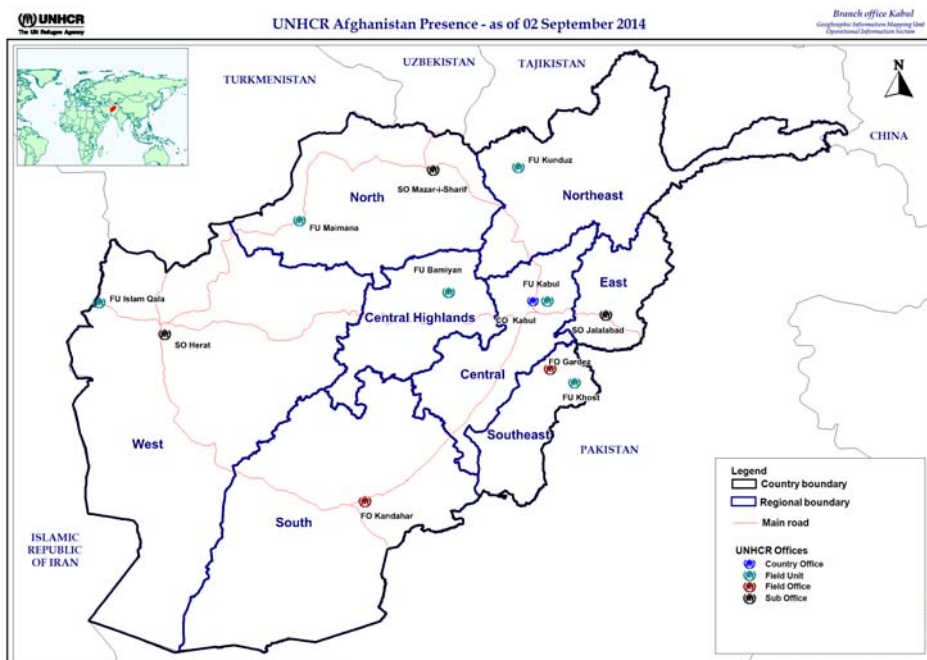
Funding

USD 150.6 Million requested

USD 20.3 Million contributions

13% funded

UNHCR presence: 239 national staff and **38** international staff



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 & Paktika), the Protection Cluster, the Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster; and co-chairing the national IDP Task Force with MoRR, as well as provincial IDP task forces with the Directorates of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR).
- Insecurity and armed conflict continue to hinder protection and assistance, leading to unreliable access to large parts of the country. However, through national implementing partners, UNHCR is still able to reach most of its persons of concern.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Promoting targeted community-based interventions in areas of high refugee return, including urban areas, where an increasing number of returnees are settling;
- Implementing activities in areas of high return to prevent violence against women and children. Women's groups have been established to enable women to participate in decisions that affect their lives;
- Leading the humanitarian response to the refugee influx in south-eastern Afghanistan. 205,500 refugees have settled in Khost and Paktika provinces, fleeing military operations in Pakistan;
- Supporting the adoption of national policies to address the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Addressing internal displacement through population tracking and data collection, coordinating protection and humanitarian assistance, and supporting the implementation of the National IDP Policy. The Policy seeks to prevent, respond to, and end internal displacement. Key elements are: supporting local communities, identifying communities at risk, and linking humanitarian assistance to development programmes and national priorities.

Livelihoods

- 22,064 returnees, 3,449 IDPs, and 1,351 local community members participated in livelihood programmes in 2014. With their family members included, the total number of individuals benefiting was around 161,000.

Water and sanitation

- In 2014, 170 wells were constructed for a total population of 47,013 (34,863 returnees, 10,950 IDPs, 1,200 local community members).

Shelter and NFIs

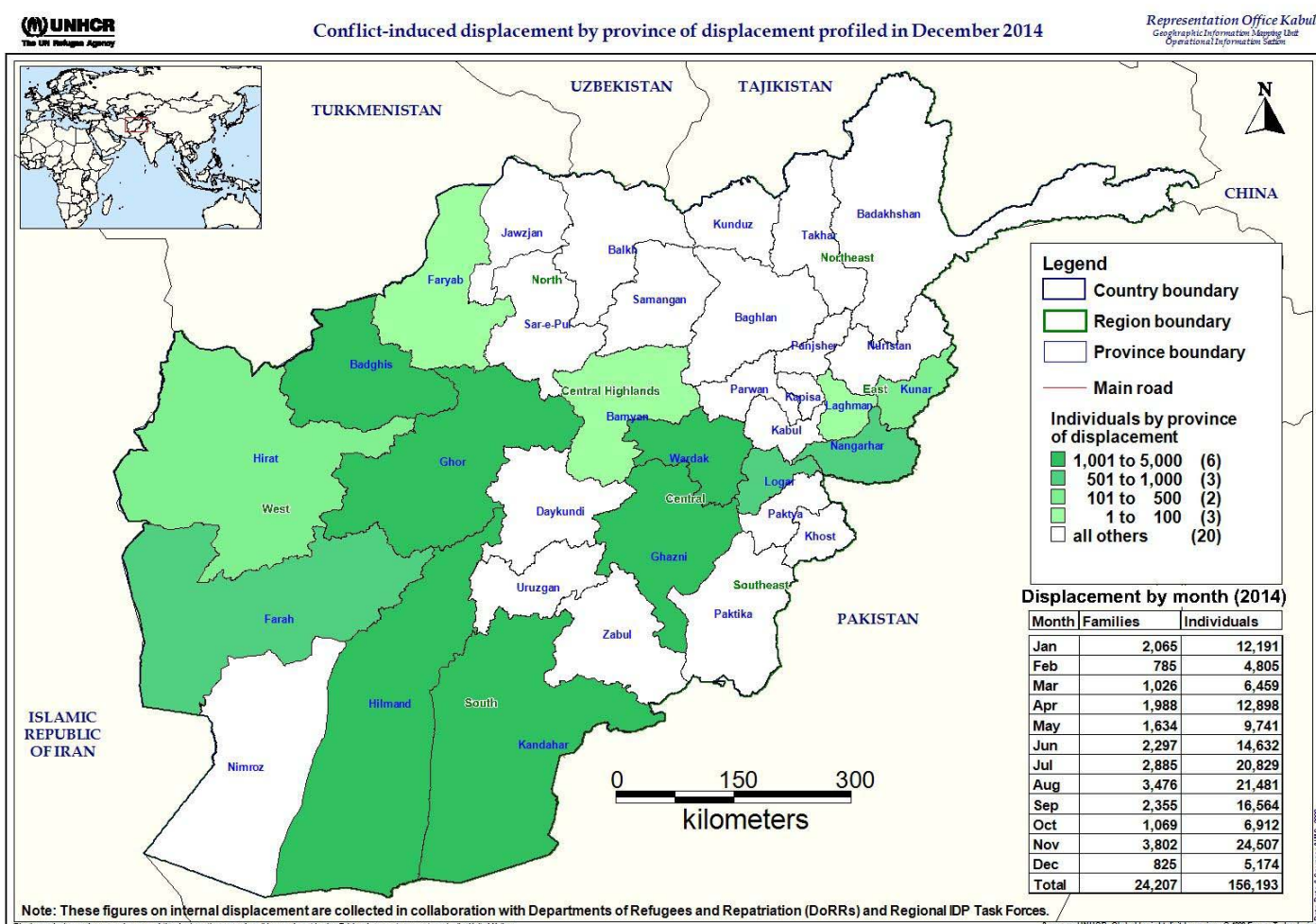
- 3,890 shelter units were constructed in 2014, of which 2,956 for returnees, 878 for IDPs, and 56 for the local population, benefiting altogether 23,340 individuals. This will ensure safe housing, a minimum standard of privacy, and a socio-economic livelihoods base.
- In 2014, 143,863 individuals benefited from non-food item packages. Of these, 7.6% were returnees, 90.6% IDPs, and 1.8% local community members. (This figure does not include refugees, see below.)
- As part of the refugee emergency response in Khost and Paktika, tents have been distributed to 15,269 refugee families, NFIs to 34,722 refugee families, and winterization kits to 27,146 refugee families.

Camp coordination and management

- There is one spontaneously settled refugee camp in Gulan, Khost province, accommodating 10,260 families. 84% of the refugee families are living in the host community.

Durable solutions

- The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to facilitate voluntary return of Afghan refugees and sustainable reintegration of returnees, while also providing assistance and support to the two main host countries (Iran and Pakistan). In Afghanistan, MoRR is the coordinator of the SSAR. A portfolio of projects highlighting the cross-cutting nature of needs and interventions was developed in late 2013 to advocate for the inclusion of refugee returnees in humanitarian and development planning and programming and is being updated in 2015. The inclusion of refugee returnees in Community Development Councils (CDCs) has enabled them to take part in the development of the communities they have settled in.
- Since 2002, 4.7 million refugees have returned under the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme. The numbers have decreased during the years. In 2014, the return figure was 16,769, 56% lower than in 2013. However, so far in 2015, the level of returns has drastically increased, reaching 50,503 by end August. 97% of the returnees are coming from Pakistan and give as reasons for their decision to return a deteriorating environment with decreasing tolerance of the presence of refugees.
- Upon return to Afghanistan, returnees are assisted at five 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.



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