

Refugee Response in Afghanistan

Updated requirements

January - December 2015

SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL 2015



15 July 2015

Cover photograph:

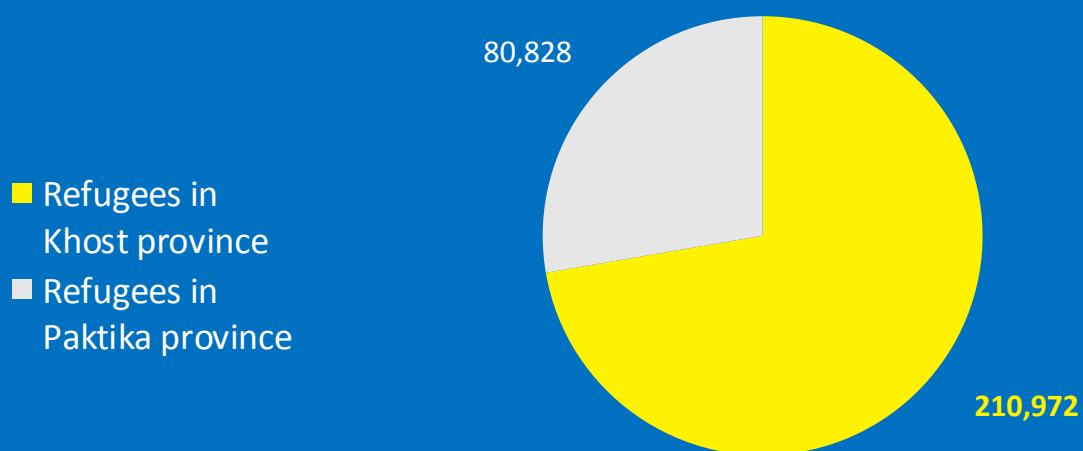
Pakistani refugees in Gulan camp awaiting assistance.

UNHCR / M. Haroon

AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE OF CONCERN

A total of 291,800 people of concern



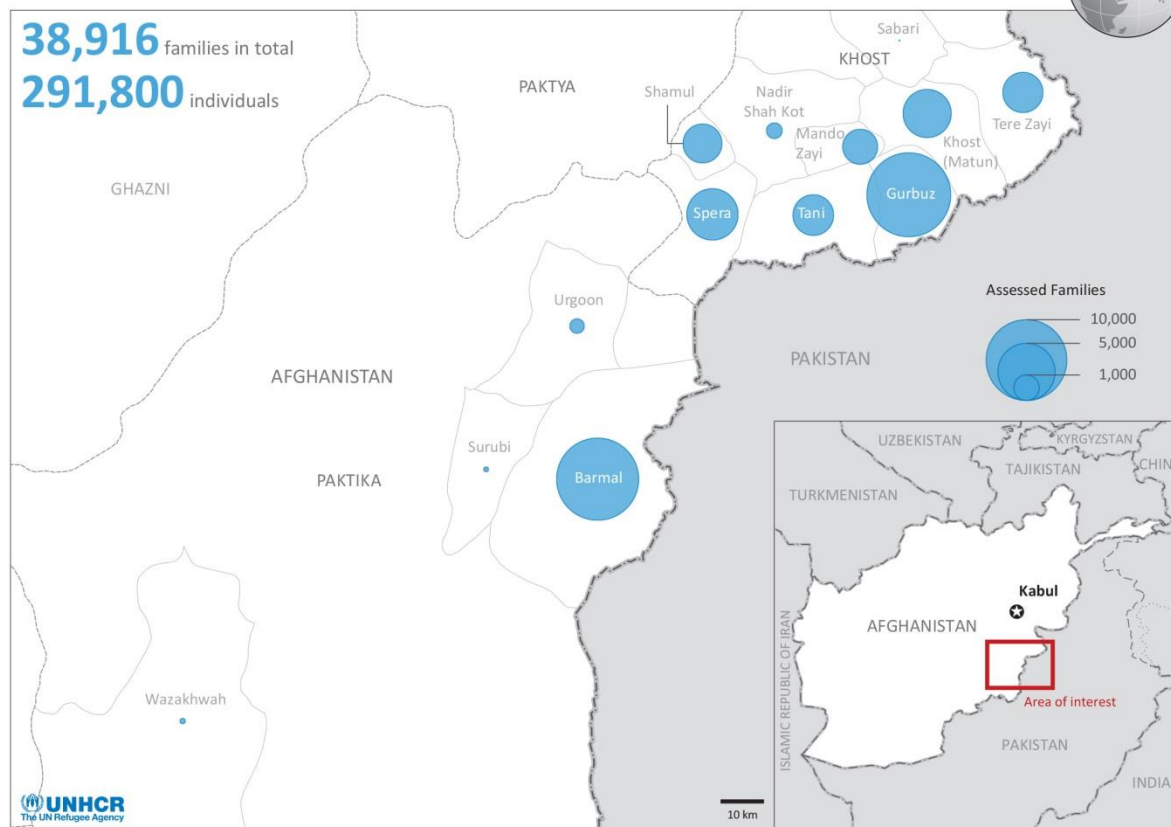
A total of **USD 17.1million** supplementary* requirements (see table on page 9).

* The requirements highlighted in this appeal document are in addition to those presented in UNHCR's Global Appeal 2015 Update. They are fully reflected in the 2015 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan.

CONTEXT

AFGHANISTAN: Refugee Response

as of 31 December 2014



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties

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Introduction

Since June 2014, more than 290,000 refugees from Pakistan have arrived in Afghanistan following military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency. The majority have settled in host communities across two provinces, Khost and Paktika, but a number of families settled in an open area of Gurboz district, known as Gulan, in Khost province. As winter approached and the ability of host families to accommodate refugees diminished, increasing numbers of refugees arrived in Gulan in need of protection and assistance and formed a large, makeshift camp. Approximately 10,000 families are currently accommodated in the camp.

By December 2014, the number of displaced families crossing into Afghanistan in search of protection had increased almost fourfold, from approximately 10,000 families to more than 38,900 (291,800 individuals). While limited spontaneous returns are likely to have occurred, either to areas of origin or to other parts of Pakistan, the majority of refugees are still observing the development of the situation in their places of origin before making a decision on return.

UNHCR launched an inter-agency Refugee Response Plan in July 2014, which covered requirements to respond to the most urgent needs for 13,000 families up to the end of 2014. The present document reflects UNHCR’s requirements for refugees from Pakistan for the period 1 January – 31 December 2015, which are also included in the Refugee and Returnee Chapter of the 2015 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). It highlights immediate emergency needs and community-based, solutions-oriented interventions for 30,000 vulnerable families (225,000 individuals) in 2015. It foresees that, after the initial emergency phase, refugees will remain in Afghanistan in anticipation of gradual voluntary repatriation starting in 2016, in alignment with the Government of Pakistan’s programme for the return of internally displaced people (IDPs) to North Waziristan. UNHCR’s planned response is based on an estimate of 225,000 individual beneficiaries, taking into account spontaneous returns during 2015.

Population data

	REFUGEE POPULATION as of 1 January 2015	PLANNED ASSISTED REFUGEE POPULATION by 31 December 2015
REFUGEES	291,800	225,000

PLANNED RESPONSE

Existing response

UNHCR's initial activities focused on the distribution of life-saving assistance and, as host family resources were depleted and refugees gravitated toward Gulan camp, on the establishment of camp services and management structures. Initial activities included basic registration of new arrivals, identification and support for people with specific needs, establishment of *shuras* (councils of elders), provision of shelter and sanitation facilities, distribution of core relief items, enhanced access to health services, and mine clearance. Jointly with partners, UNHCR assessed and assisted some 30,000 families in Gulan camp and in host communities, through the provision of core relief items, temporary shelter assistance and winterization support. Despite the expansion of Gulan camp, UNHCR's overall strategy was and remains to retain host community support as a viable and preferred option to the expansion of Gulan camp. Many of the activities, therefore, were also geared towards assistance for vulnerable host families.

UNHCR focused its initial protection response on working with partners to establish community-based protection mechanisms as the influx stabilized, including the creation of a "people with specific needs" (PSN) network to identify vulnerable households in Gulan camp and in host communities. Within local communities, UNHCR has also worked with a national NGO partner to establish joint refugee and host community *shuras* to enhance communication between the groups, and to encourage collective problem-solving and decision-making with regard to the sharing of limited resources.

The current context has posed special challenges to ensuring the protection of women and girls, particularly in terms of identifying and providing support to female-headed households, assuring access to vital services, and mitigating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices affecting women and girls. To this end, UNHCR deployed a technical SGBV expert, under the auspices of the *Safe from the Start* project, to help develop mechanisms and response strategies to protect women and girls. A women's committee, composed of representatives of all tribes, has been created in Gulan camp to ensure specific protection needs are addressed and mainstreamed. Working closely with the PSN network, the committee coordinates with local service providers and Government departments. The protection of women and girls is a priority in the current situation, as UNHCR and the PSN network have documented an increasing trend in male heads of household venturing out of the camp/host communities in search of livelihood opportunities, thereby increasing the protection risks faced by female members of the family who remain in displacement sites. This situation is similarly affecting children. The PSN network has documented a number of separated children, and an enhanced effort and mechanisms are needed to carry out best interest determination assessments.

UNHCR established a field office in Khost to ensure protection and coordination of activities at field level. Sixteen partners were engaged in the response by reaching out to refugees, both in Gulan camp and host communities, identifying their needs and providing protection and assistance to the most vulnerable.

Strategy

In 2015, UNHCR's planned activities highlight the gradual shift from emergency response toward interventions for enhanced protection services, partnerships, coordination for effective use of resources, support for host communities, empowerment for livelihood opportunities, a better understanding of the profile of the refugee population and eventual durable solutions. The strategy is, thus, built upon four pillars: evidence-based interventions; community-based approach; solutions-orientation; and partnership.

Evidence-based interventions

A key component of the 2015 planned activities is to undertake an enhanced verification exercise of refugees in Gulan camp and in host communities to improve protection and assistance outreach, advocate with Government authorities, and enhance the credibility of the overall response based on sound population figures.

Within Gulan camp, UNHCR will re-verify the existing population to ascertain the total population living within camp boundaries and minimize potential fraud. Based on these figures, UNHCR will work, in cooperation with partners, to redefine the camp boundaries and infrastructure to ensure that the entire camp population can access water, health services, basic sanitation and educational activities.

For those refugees settled in host communities, more concise information on the location and composition of families will facilitate the provision of targeted assistance that allows them to remain in their chosen areas of settlement. Enhanced verification data will also enable UNHCR to make targeted protection interventions for vulnerable families, as well as providing more comprehensive information about the refugee population as a whole in order to better support eventual voluntary repatriation or other durable solutions.

Community-based approach

The community-based protection networks, women's committees, and integrated host community and refugee *shuras* established in 2014 will continue to facilitate the implementation of project activities and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable households in the assistance framework. The *shuras* will serve as the primary means to regularly receive feedback from the communities on existing programmes, to facilitate refugee and host community participation in project identification and design, and to ensure that implementing agencies are accountable to beneficiaries.

To support refugee-hosting communities and mitigate potential conflict over access to scarce resources, quick impact projects (QIPs) will be identified and implemented in partnership with local *shuras* to enhance water and sanitation capacity, support income-generating activities, expand educational facilities or other vital services, and promote peaceful coexistence. Shelter interventions will aim to support efforts, already underway in camps and host communities, to construct semi-durable temporary shelters of mud bricks and other locally-available materials to protect refugees and host families from the elements, in particular in the lead-up to winter. UNHCR will also provide winterization packages of non-food items to the most vulnerable refugees and host families.

Where possible, UNHCR and partners will support the integration of refugee assistance into public infrastructure and services, including for education, health, water and sanitation facilities, by reinforcing capacity and expanding existing services rather than creating parallel structures for refugees. This would also provide support to host communities in the longer-term.

Solutions-oriented approach

In addition to the data from the enhanced verification of the population, UNHCR Afghanistan and Pakistan are also closely coordinating on the monitoring of population movements and on eventual solutions for the refugee population. As the IDP return programme proceeds in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency, UNHCR will coordinate with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan on a voluntary repatriation programme for the refugees in 2016. In the meantime, for those who are unwilling or unable to return, self-reliance activities will be enhanced with community-based programmes.

Partnership

The Government of Afghanistan is at the forefront of the humanitarian response to the refugee situation and maintains oversight and overall coordination of the response efforts.

UNHCR is leading the overall refugee response in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and within the framework of the country-level humanitarian response led by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The Khost/Paktika task force in Kabul, established by UNHCR, will continue to serve as an important vehicle for the response strategy and coordination of activities by all partners engaged in the response. The task force includes UN agencies and international organizations such as the FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMAS, WFP, WHO and IOM. International NGOs including CARE International, DAACAR, IMC, IRC, NCA, NRC, Oxfam, and *Solidarités International* also participate. National NGOs and civil society will continue to play an important role, and among them are ACTD, Afghan Planning Agency, Health Net, ORCD, Tamer Millet Foundation, The Liaison Office and the Afghan Red Crescent Society. UNHCR also liaises with thematic clusters, in particular water and sanitation and shelter, to draw on the existing expertise and resources available in the country.

At the local level, UNHCR will continue to support the task forces in Khost and Paktika provinces in information-sharing and coordination of activities. At the provincial level, UNHCR continues working with the Provincial Disaster Management Committees. At the district level, UNHCR works closely with operational partners, refugee representatives, and local community leaders.

The number of actors involved in the response has increased to over 22 in 2015.

Planned activities

Fair protection processes and documentation

Registration and profiling

- Conduct enhanced verification of the population.

Security from violence and exploitation

Protection of children

- Strengthen protection of children through best interest determination assessment and identification of cases at risk.

Basic needs and essential services

Health

- Provide emergency medical referral for 1,000 people.

Water

- Provide WASH services to refugees in the camp and host communities.

Shelter and infrastructure

- Provide shelter materials for 2,500 refugee families.

Basic and domestic items

- Procure 11,000 kits of core relief items.

Services for people with specific needs

- Provide one-time assistance of non-food items to 2,000 people with special needs.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

Peaceful coexistence with local communities

- Implement 30 quick impact projects for peaceful coexistence and encourage the inclusion of refugees into development assistance of communities.
- Support and strengthen the capacity of 10 joint refugee/host community *shuras* in five locations. Separate *shuras* for men and women will be convened.
- Implement three refugee youth projects.

Leadership, coordination and partnership

Camp management and coordination

- Strengthen the capacity of the camp *shura* (traditional justice system) to ascertain and respond to community needs and issues as appropriate, as well as referrals to formal justice system.
- Engage female refugees in dialogue and activities to ensure their full participation in the design of all programme activities in the camp.
- Ensure display of information on services, entitlements and initiatives in the camp.
- Ensure regular mechanisms are in place to ensure the accountability of all partners working in the camp to people of concern (i.e. establishment of complaints mechanisms, inclusion in all planning processes).
- Provide comprehensive drainage system and access roads in the camp.
- Construct four community centres in the camp.
- Ensure security of the camp including through refugee participation in a community watch system.

Logistics and operations support

Logistics and supply

- Provide transportation and warehousing of non-food items and shelter materials

Financial requirements (USD)

To address the needs of the refugees in the Afghan provinces of Khost and Paktika, UNHCR has established a supplementary budget for the requirements presented above. This supplementary budget amounts to USD 17.1 million, as shown in the table below.

	UNHCR 2015 Executive Committee budget for Afghanistan excluding the emergency refugee response (USD)	Additional requirements (Jan - Dec 2015) (USD)	Total revised UNHCR requirements (Jan - Dec 2015) (USD)
Favourable protection environment			
Access to legal assistance and remedies improved	6,508,058	0	6,508,058
Law and policy developed or strengthened	659,828	0	659,828
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained	1,543,832	2,295,141	3,838,973
Reception conditions improved	610,729	0	610,729
Security from violence and exploitation			
Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved	5,730,607	0	5,730,607
Protection of children strengthened	518,033	172,136	690,169
Basic needs and essential services			
Population has sufficient basic and domestic items	15,411,546	4,031,553	19,443,099
Services for people with specific needs strengthened	2,111,708	1,457,415	3,569,123
Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained	28,621,751	3,442,712	32,064,463
Food security improved	940,729	0	940,729
Health status of the population improved	526,039	229,514	755,553
Supply of potable water increased or maintained	1,569,238	745,921	2,315,159
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted	16,625,977	1,721,356	18,347,333
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved	2,207,518	0	2,207,518
Durable solutions			
Potential for voluntary return realized	30,314,503	0	30,314,503
Reintegration made more sustainable	4,217,008	0	4,217,008
Potential for integration realized	4,299,944	0	4,299,944
Potential for resettlement realized	95,484	0	95,484
Leadership, coordination and partnership			
Coordination and partnerships strengthened	1,414,129	0	1,414,129
Camp management and coordination refined and improved	1,516,505	573,785	2,090,290
Logistics and operations support			
Logistics and supply	6,359,418	975,435	7,334,853
Operation management, coordination and support	3,031,459	355,032	3,386,491
Support costs (7 per cent)		1,120,000	1,120,000
TOTAL	134,834,043	17,120,000	151,954,043

Acronyms

ACTD	<i>Afghanistan Centre for Training and Development</i>
DAACAR	<i>Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees</i>
FAO	<i>UN Food and Agricultural Organization</i>
IMC	<i>International Medical Corps</i>
IOM	<i>International Organization for Migration</i>
IRC	<i>International Rescue Committee</i>
NCA	<i>Norwegian Church Aid</i>
NRC	<i>Norwegian Refugee Council</i>
ORCD	<i>Organization for Research and Community Development</i>
UNICEF	<i>UN Children's Rights and Emergency Organization</i>
UNFPA	<i>UN Population Fund</i>
UNMAS	<i>UN Mine Action Service</i>
WFP	<i>UN World Food Programme</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>

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