

The 2015 Afghanistan Refugee and Returnee Overview



Mandated lead agency: UNHCR

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PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
<p>515,600 (Pakistani refugees, Afghan returnees and undocumented vulnerable returnees)</p>	<p>30,000 Pakistani refugee families</p> <p>245,600 Afghan refugee returnees</p> <p>45,000 Afghan undocumented vulnerable returnees</p>	<p>62.82 million</p>
<p># OF PARTNERS (NOTE: UNHCR lead refugee response working with 16 partners)</p>		

Key objectives

Provide 30,000 refugee families with protection and essential services in Khost and Paktika;
Facilitate informed, voluntary repatriation of refugees as a key humanitarian focus for Afghan refugees from Pakistan, Iran and other non-neighbouring countries;
Deliver humanitarian and return assistance to 45,000 vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan consisting of deportees and returnees including those displaced from North Waziristan Agency.

Chapter	Core Activities
Pakistani Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve or maintain quality of registration and profiling Ensure uniform treatment and standards of protection and services for all refugees Foster security from violence and exploitation: protection of children strengthened, risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved Provide food assistance to meet immediate food needs
Afghan refugee returnees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to immediate protection needs on return, with particular focus on cash grants to facilitate travel and short term integration needs, and referrals where appropriate Identify persons with specific needs Broaden scope of Returnee Monitoring to identify protection concerns in return areas and address gaps Promote peaceful coexistence between returnees and local communities by identifying tensions or scarce resources and advocating for interventions with relevant actors to mitigate potential repeated displacement
Afghan undocumented vulnerable returnees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide immediate protection services including screening, identification of Persons with Specific Needs and first hand humanitarian assistance. Provide transportation to final destination Support the most vulnerable groups with flexible short term reintegration support

Humanitarian Needs Overview: District vulnerability ranking matrix for refugees

Province	District	District ID	Refugee Population Vulnerability	Absorption Capacity Vulnerability	Unmet Needs Vulnerability	Access Vulnerability	Wash Vulnerability	Overall Ranking
Khost	Gurbuz	2607	1.00	1.00	0.73	0.21	1.00	0.79
	Spera	2611	0.52	0.56	0.94	0.95	0.76	0.74
	Tere Zayi (Alishir)	2608	0.27	0.16	0.22	0.74	0.84	0.44
	Shamal-Lakan	2610	0.26	0.50	0.14	0.21	0.87	0.39
	Mando Zayi	2605	0.21	0.10	0.09	0.53	0.84	0.35
	Sabari	2602	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.79	0.33
	Tani	2606	0.18	0.08	0.05	0.53	0.64	0.29
	Khost (Matun)	2601	0.37	0.07	0.35	-	0.57	0.27
	Nadir Shah Kot	2604	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.53	0.79	0.16
	Jaji Maydan	2613	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Musa Khel	2603	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Qalandar	2609	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Bak	2612	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
	Total Khost							
Paktika	Barmal	2515	0.85	0.64	1.00	1.00	0.79	0.86
	Urgoon	2510	0.02	0.01	0.04	1.00	0.79	0.37
	Wazakhwah	2513	0.00	0.01	0.01	1.00	0.79	0.36
	Surubi	2509	0.00	0.01	0.00	1.00	0.79	0.36
	Paktika Center (Sharan)	2501	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mata Khan	2502	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Yosuf Khel	2503	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Yahya Khel	2506	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sar Rawza	2504	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Omna	2507	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Zarghun Shahr	2505	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gomal	2508	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jani Khel	2512	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ziruk	2517	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nika	2511	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Giyani	2516	-	-	-	-	-	-
	DilaWa Khushamand	2518	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Wormamay	2514	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Turwo	2519	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Paktika								

Calculation of Coefficients

Families in Need = Refugee Families - Families that Received NFIs

Refugee Population Vulnerability = Refugee Population / Highest district Refugee Population;

Absorption Capacity Vulnerability = Refugee Population / Local Population

- (The coefficients thus obtained were normalized, so that they would all be in the range from 0 to 1)

Unmet Needs Vulnerability = Refugee Families / Highest district Refugee Families

Overall ranking = Unweighted average of specific rankings

Humanitarian Needs Overview: Provincial vulnerability ranking matrix for all returnees

Province	Returnees from Pakistan, Iran and other countries (Individuals)	Vulnerable Undocumented Migrant Returnees	Total returnee population (refugee and undocumented)	Resident Population	Returnees/ Resident Population	Returnees Population Vulnerability	Absorption capacity Vulnerability	Overall Ranking
	Last 3 years	Last 3 years	Total					
Badakhshan	279	1,409	1,688	935,327	0.0018	0.01	0.09	0.05
Badghis	180	972	1,152	487,838	0.0024	0.01	0.12	0.07
Baghlan	7,032	4,155	11,187	894,838	0.0125	0.25	0.66	0.45
Balkh	6,012	2,836	8,848	1,298,247	0.0068	0.21	0.36	0.28
Bamyan	513	670	1,183	439,899	0.0027	0.02	0.14	0.08
Daykundi	182	1,694	1,876	417,476	0.0045	0.01	0.24	0.12
Farah	1,835	4,853	6,688	498,951	0.0134	0.06	0.70	0.38
Faryab	1,636	2,799	4,435	981,197	0.0045	0.06	0.24	0.15
Ghazni	1,497	1,888	3,385	1,208,559	0.0028	0.05	0.15	0.10
Ghor	78	1,863	1,941	679,085	0.0029	0.00	0.15	0.08
Hilmand	4,762	1,532	6,294	909,395	0.0069	0.17	0.36	0.27
Hirat	7,599	5,356	12,955	1,852,790	0.0070	0.27	0.37	0.32
Jawzjan	2,718	1,014	3,732	530,751	0.0070	0.10	0.37	0.23
Kabul	24,397	4,971	29,368	4,227,261	0.0069	0.86	0.36	0.61
Kandahar	8,262	764	9,026	1,200,929	0.0075	0.29	0.39	0.34
Kapisa	655	1,224	1,879	433,867	0.0043	0.02	0.23	0.13
Khost	1,313	32	1,345	565,211	0.0024	0.05	0.12	0.09
Kunar	8,159	945	9,104	443,272	0.0205	0.29	1.08	0.68
Kunduz	15,024	6,703	21,727	990,937	0.0219	0.53	1.15	0.84
Laghman	5,357	1,967	7,324	438,346	0.0167	0.19	0.88	0.53
Logar	4,600	670	5,270	385,638	0.0137	0.16	0.72	0.44
Nangarhar	28,406	10,389	38,795	1,489,787	0.0260	1.00	1.37	1.18
Nimroz	180	20,842	21,022	162,135	0.1297	0.01	6.80	3.40
Nuristan	264	4	268	145,574	0.0018	0.01	0.10	0.05
Paktika	183	232	415	427,692	0.0010	0.01	0.05	0.03
Paktya	5,255	118	5,373	542,896	0.0099	0.18	0.52	0.35
Panjsher	276	98	374	151,004	0.0025	0.01	0.13	0.07
Parwan	2,241	1,205	3,446	653,362	0.0053	0.08	0.28	0.18
Samangan	645	378	1,023	381,459	0.0027	0.02	0.14	0.08
Sar-e-Pul	2,392	2,193	4,585	550,238	0.0083	0.08	0.44	0.26
Takhar	2,378	3,336	5,714	966,576	0.0059	0.08	0.31	0.20
Uruzgan	95	254	349	380,469	0.0009	0.00	0.05	0.03
Wardak	939	911	1,850	586,623	0.0032	0.03	0.17	0.10
Zabul	573	231	804	299,125	0.0027	0.02	0.14	0.08
Total	145,917	88,508	234,425					

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Refugees and undocumented vulnerable migrant returnees displaced to Khost and Paktika

I. MOST LIKELY SCENARIO

Keyassumptions:

- 1) Military operations and fighting in Pakistan (North and South Waziristan agencies) may cease but the population will probably gradually return to Pakistan after March/April due to destruction of infrastructure, winter and reduced opportunities for livelihood in the area of origin. If the fighting continues, it is expected that there will be limited population movements towards Afghanistan as it will be difficult to travel during the winter months. Thus, refugee population is expected to stabilize.
- 2) Absorption capacity of the host families will decrease during winter and as resources are exhausted, thus, the population figure in the camp may increase.

OperationalAssumptions:

- 1) Humanitarian access will continue to be limited, it is estimated that national and international organizations, including Government have 60% access in Khost and 20% access in Paktika.
- 2) Humanitarian community and local authorities will continue to receive sufficient resources from donors.

RefugeeResponsePlan

- 1) Planning Figure: 30,000 families (*planning figure is subject to verification**).
- 2) Area of Operation: Khost and Paktika (limited reach/access in Paktika)

OperationalPriorities

- 1) Registration and provision of international protection (*verification exercise is planned in the course of the 2014/15)
- 2) Provision of humanitarian assistance, with a focus on moving away from emergency towards stabilization, including sectors such as shelter, education and health/WASH
- 3) Humanitarian assistance to focus on supporting host communities to continue providing assistance to the influx
- 4) Assistance to the host communities is on a community-basis and not individual-basis, with a focus on integrating development actors as early as possible
- 5) Switch to durable solutions, with a focus on facilitation of voluntary return, in second half of the year (May to October)
- 6) Monitoring with specific focus on Protection issues

II. WORST CASE SCENARIO

KeyAssumptions:

- 1) Military Operations continue outside NW/SW and more refugees arrive in Afghanistan
- 2) Host communities lose all absorption capacity and large numbers of refugees need to be hosted in additional camps

Operationalassumptions:

- 1) Security worsens: No access to Paktika and more restricted access in Khost
- 2) Lack of donor interest

PopulationFigures:

- 1) 40,000 families: 30,000 families in Khost and 10,000 in Paktika, of which 15,000 in camps in Khost.

Afghan refugee returnees

While there are fewer returnees as compared to the peak years (2002-2008), Afghanistan is still the largest repatriation operation in the world. Refugees surveyed in Pakistan cited increased insecurity and economic concerns as the two biggest reasons for their continued stay in exile, in particular due to the uncertainty and heightened risk of tensions over the election period in 2014.

For 2015, and based on regional consultations, UNHCR anticipates that refugees will continue to return to Afghanistan from Pakistan, Iran and other countries, with a possible slight increase on 2014 election year figures. The validity of the Proof of Registration cards (PoR) for Afghans in Pakistan has been extended until December 2015 and it is unclear what status refugees in Pakistan will have after this date.

For 2015 planning purposes, UNHCR will use the figure of 172,000 Afghan refugee returnees. While there may be progress towards the planning figure of 172,000 returnees- during 2015, UNHCR Afghanistan shall channel prioritized operating level resources towards a more realistic figure of 50,000 refugees returning. However, of those returning the vulnerability figures are expected to be higher than previous years, with refugees repatriating who may be facing increasing intimidation, deteriorating economic opportunities or the possibility of camp closure in countries of asylum. Therefore an increase of people with specific needs is anticipated, identified on their return.

The total number of refugee returnees receiving UNHCR reintegration assistance in 2015 is estimated at 245,600, including both those arrivals in 2015, and those having returned during 2012-2014.

Undocumented vulnerable returnees

Afghanistan is expected to continue through a series of transitions: political, economic and security. The uncertainty associated with these transitions will continue to impact population movement in and surrounding Afghanistan. In addition, the flow of deportations and voluntary return is largely contingent on a combination of regional political dynamics between Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, which may impact their policies towards undocumented Afghans. As it is almost unpredictable to ascertain what could affect the migration trend and what would be the result, it is important to maintain the post-arrival assistance mechanism at the border points to be the base of collective response for possible mass return from Iran or Pakistan. The sudden displacement from North Waziristan Agency following military operations in Pakistan since June 2014 is a good example.

Since 2007, there were 200,000-300,000 Afghans deported per year from Iran and Pakistan. Every year since 2012, IOM has assisted between 30,000 and 40,000 identified vulnerable Afghan returnees who crossed through Islam Qala in Herat, Milak in Nimroz and Torkham in Nangarhar province. Since May 2014, IOM has also assisted over 500 identified Afghan undocumented families displaced from North Waziristan Agency in Pakistan to Khost and Paktika province. In 2015, based on above observations as well as previously assisted numbers, IOM predicts that the flow of movement from the three border crossing points with Iran and Pakistan will remain at a similar level as in 2014. Regarding the undocumented Afghan families from North Waziristan Agency arriving in Khost/Paktika, under the most likely scenario, the flow is expected to stabilize. However, in 2014 undocumented Afghan families are still leaving Pakistan due to ongoing insecurity and will require assistance in 2015.

1. IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Pakistani Refugees

Based on Focus Group Discussions conducted with both refugees and members of host communities, UNHCR has sought to identify the immediate needs and protection risks faced by Pakistani refugees, as well as the impact on host communities since the beginning of the displacement in June 2014. The most urgent need that has emerged is shelter: while the host communities have been very welcoming and have readily opened their homes to refugees, in some districts the number of refugees is very close to the local population. Available accommodation (as well as other resources) is therefore very limited, particularly as winter approaches and sleeping in open air is no longer possible. Other priority needs emerging from the focus group discussions included NFIs, health care, and water. Refugees also cited poverty, lack of job opportunities, and limited resources in Afghanistan as increasing existing vulnerabilities.

While the displaced population tends to share close family, tribal, and friendship ties amongst themselves and with the host community, there have nonetheless been identified cases of women, elderly, and children without support, though these are limited in number. UNHCR plans to conduct interventions for these and other vulnerable categories through the persons with specific needs (PSN) programming. Other planned protection interventions include camp management, mine clearance and mine risk education, emergency education, identifying and addressing gender based violence issues, identification and necessary interventions on behalf of unaccompanied and separated children, family tracing, and protection monitoring. It is also anticipated that the lack of resources and livelihood opportunities will make it difficult for refugees to return to Pakistan when the security situation stabilizes sufficiently to allow for voluntary repatriation. Therefore, it is anticipated that UNHCR will provide assistance when refugees decide that conditions have improved sufficiently to allow them to return home.

Returnees

The prioritised focus of UNHCR's operations in Afghanistan will remain the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees in cooperation with the Government. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to refugee returnees at all stages of the return process, including providing information in the countries of asylum and facilitation of joint 'go-and-see' visits, as specified in the quadripartite agreement. UNHCR will work to ensure that return is informed, voluntary, and sustainable.

The absorption capacity in Afghanistan remains challenging. Despite some progress in the health, education, construction, trade and agriculture sectors since 2001, Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The deteriorating security situation and withdrawal of international security forces, high levels of unemployment, landlessness, limited access to basic services (particularly in areas of high return and disputes over property rights will continue to present impediments to return and reintegration.

Reintegration of refugee returnees cannot be viewed as being facilitated solely by humanitarian interventions. Humanitarian assistance must be complemented with development interventions to ensure sustainability of interventions. Therefore building partnerships with development actors is a key priority for the operation, which must be closely monitored. In large urban settings and provincial capitals, development actors have been reluctant to engage despite the obvious need. The lack of development contributes to growing insecurity and the presence of insurgents. This cycle of poverty and insecurity in turn results in continuously increasing displacement both inside and outside these provinces. Returnees are particularly vulnerable to forced internal displacement.

The primary focus of all UNHCR interventions, both immediate humanitarian assistance and longer-term integration, is to advance protection principles. In some cases, this will involve addressing protection concerns directly, for instance, through SGBV support projects, or legal assistance programmes. In others, it may involve undertaking activities that will lead to a future protection dividend, for instance, livelihood projects that result in a reduced risk of secondary displacement. Assistance that is able to bring about a protection dividend shall be prioritized: for example, building a well in a location where it is likely to create a more harmonious relationship between IDPs and the host community. UNHCR will strengthen the capacity of communities to integrate and protect returnees and IDPs, as well as increase the incentives and reduce the cost for communities. At the same time, UNHCR will encourage returnees and IDPs to contribute to local communities through participation in local governance.

Reliable information on the numbers, location and condition of returnees – disaggregated by age, gender and other key indicators – is essential for improving the protection of returnees. Thus, Information Management forms a keystone of the protection strategy. In order to gather information and ensure that programmes are sensitive to the specific protection needs and capabilities of different groups, UNHCR aims to undertake regular rights-based, participatory assessments and monitoring visits to both IDPs and returnees, engaging Age, Gender and Diversity mainstreaming principles.

Secondly, UNHCR will reach out to government and development actors to encourage them to mainstream returnees into their existing programmes. The aim is to bridge the humanitarian / development divide, thus ensuring persons of concern continue to receive protection after the immediate “humanitarian” phase has passed and are ultimately able to achieve a durable solution. UNHCR recognizes that many returnees wish to live in urban areas, which poses specific challenges to both humanitarian and development responses. In light of this trend, UNHCR’s pursuit to the right to freedom of movement is essential, particularly to ensure that no returnee should be forced to return to their place of origin, or be resettled to another place where their lives or safety are threatened.

Undocumented vulnerable returnees

Many deportees and spontaneous returnees arrive in Afghanistan in a highly vulnerable physical and mental state and are unprepared for the process of reintegrating into their home communities. Humanitarian support continues to be required to prevent vulnerable undocumented returnee families and individuals from being at risk of death, secondary displacement, sexual abuse, kidnap and other kinds of violation of human rights upon their return. Recently conducted surveys confirm that short-term, post-arrival assistance continues to be a key need upon return as 73% of respondents from Herat, Nangarhar and Nimroz listed it as one of the top three concerns followed by shelter/housing (44%) and financial support (30%).

For Afghan families displaced from North Waziristan into Khost and Paktika, the largest need in 2015 will continue to be non-food items, food, tents and medical assistance. In addition, families have indicated the need for transport and reintegration assistance as many are not able to return back to Pakistan.

For many returning Afghan migrants, reintegration remains a challenge. In 2011, an IOM survey of returned migrants found that only 23.3% of respondents had been able to find paid employment. As described above for refugee returnees, for undocumented returnees there is also a need to integrate long term reintegration support within humanitarian assistance. In particular, IOM has identified an urgent need for direct reintegration support for specific, highly vulnerable PSN groups of non-refugee returnees with high protection risks, which includes unaccompanied minors and single female returnees.

Unaccompanied migrant children continue to be the largest single group of vulnerable non-refugee returnees assisted by IOM since 2009. Minors move primarily due to lack of employment opportunities in Afghanistan, and because the heads of their families had no form of income or were not producing sufficient income. While in the country of exile (Iran) and in the process of deportation, many report facing treatment which is concerning from a protection standpoint. There is an urgent need to intervene and avoid secondary displacement by providing minors and their families with means of generating income while providing minors primarily with education and a practical skill set.

Another vulnerable group are single female returnees who face particularly high protection risks and reintegration challenges. A majority of these women were in need of shelter and vocational training to resume their lives in Afghanistan. Other groups include non-refugee returnee families who were displaced from North Waziristan Agency due to military operations who are unable to return back to their homes as well as drug-addicted individuals.

2. RESPONSE STRATEGY

Registration

Given its centrality to understanding the refugee population, profile, and vulnerabilities, all of which are crucial to designing appropriate and effective interventions, registration is a priority activity for 2015. Due to significant logistical challenges, mostly linked to large numbers of new arrivals and a lack of access due to insecurity, assessments of refugee families have until now been conducted at the household level on the basis of emergency verification. These assessments are being conducted for the purpose of fixing population figures and assistance distribution, and are not intended for refugee status determination purposes or the issuance of documentation.

At this point in time, transitioning to individual registration will help to stabilize the numbers and facilitate planning further assistance targeting the most vulnerable among the population. The exact modalities of the registration exercise are being discussed with the Government of Afghanistan, and a mission from Geneva is planned to identify the feasible registration options for this context. The authorities may consider the issuance of documentation for refugees, while UNHCR will continue to maintain and update a database system for all refugees in Khost and Paktika.

The registration campaign will require significant resources, both in terms of human resources and logistics. It is estimated that it will be carried out in the first three months of 2015 in all districts of Khost and Paktika with refugee presence. The exercise will pave the way for the development of targeted longer-term strategies for durable solutions, facilitate voluntary repatriation when appropriate and help to identify vulnerable individuals.

Protection Interventions

In coordination with relevant partners, UNHCR will undertake core protection activities additional to registration in all districts, including assistance to vulnerable cases under the PSN programme (non-food items and cash assistance of up to USD 500 over one year for chronic and very vulnerable cases), legal assistance, child protection and gender/GBV interventions. The humanitarian community will also continue to carry out focus group discussions along an AGDM (Age, Gender and Disability Mainstreaming) approach with refugee men, women, and young people both in the communities and in the camp. The purpose of these discussions will be to highlight protection and assistance needs of refugees. Separate focus group discussions will be conducted with the host communities.

The entry point for child protection is primarily through the provision of educational services, which include psychosocial support. In Khost, emergency education is being implemented in a partnership between the provincial Department of Education, NRC and UNICEF, and includes both children in Gulan Camp and children living in communities. In Paktika, where the only implementing partner is the Department of Education, teachers in the refugee population have been hired by the DoE to run temporary learning centres, and will receive training and support to provide psychosocial services to children as part of the educational programme. Additional child protection activities will focus on the identification of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SC). Cases involving UAMs will be sent to the Best Interest Determination (BID) committee for identification of appropriate care arrangements, while SCs will be monitored and referred to the BID committee in cases in which neglect, abuse, or other problems in existing care arrangements are identified. Cases will be referred to ICRC for family tracing as appropriate.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) work will focus in identification of cases at risk through awareness-raising and establishment of effective communication networks through which GBV incidents or risk factors can be reported. Participation by refugee women in focus group discussions and recently-established women's *shuras* in Gulan Camp and host communities will help to give voice to protection risks and concerns, which can then be mitigated through appropriate interventions. UNHCR will also seek to establish an effective referral system, ensure coordination with relevant national authorities and provide vocational training and educational opportunities to vulnerable female and male groups.

The provision of services to the local population is essential to avoid the perception amongst host communities that the refugees constitute a burden on the community or existing local services. Accordingly, it is important to ensure that services and activities are provided for both the hosting communities and the refugees

Afghan Refugee Returnees

Afghanistan is the largest repatriation operation in the world, despite the fact that rates of return are much lower compared to the peak years between 2002 and 2008. In total, more than 5.8 million Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in the last 12 years; over 4.7 million returned with UNHCR and MoRR support. This figure represents over 20% of the current population in Afghanistan. This poses considerable challenges to the country's absorption capacity.

For 2015 planning purposes, this plan will use the conservative figure of 50,000 Afghan refugee returnees, in need of life-saving assistance to return to their place of origin/intended destination in Afghanistan.

Prioritized activities include immediate return assistance needs (cash grants, travel assistance, and short-term integration needs and shelter assistance), protection activities (including legal representation), and community-based interventions promoting peaceful co-existence. Activities include the following:

- Ensuring provision of immediate return assistance (repatriation cash grants, travel assistance, provision of non-food items and shelter assistance), protection and basic assistance at point of entry; supporting education registration, lifesaving healthcare, and essential vaccinations for children under 5 years of age; basic mine awareness and transit facilities;
- Cross-border monitoring, returnee tracking, profiling and an annual multi-functional comprehensive needs assessment;
- Providing legal assistance to help obtain security of land tenure to reduce the threat of forced evictions;
- Promoting targeted community-based interventions in areas of high return, including in urban settings where increasing numbers of returnees are settling;

Awareness-raising for the purpose of reducing the risk of GBV and strengthening reporting mechanisms; providing appropriate referrals and assistance to GBV victims; strengthening national capacity for sustainable reintegration through an integrated approach aimed at facilitating the transition from humanitarian assistance to long-term development.

The most vulnerable returnees, including female-headed households and unaccompanied minors will be prioritized for the provision of shelter and access to basic services on arriving at their place of return.

In 2015, UNHCR will conduct annual needs assessments through a multi-functional team involving both humanitarian and development actors to assess refugee returnee needs across Afghanistan, within all sectors. Focus group discussions will be conducted according to the principles of the AGDM/Gender Marking approach. The multi-functional team consists of Protection and Shelter Cluster regional coordinators in all regions, with Health, WASH and FSAC Cluster members in respective regions. Focus group discussions will be conducted separately for returnee women, girls, boys and men.

Housing, land and property disputes are problematic due to limited availability of land (including agricultural land, pasture, and 'high value' land in cities), water, firewood and fodder and aggravated by environmental degradation. Some of these disputes also result in displacement, which has historical social, environmental, economic and political contexts. Therefore, UNHCR and partners will ensure that all assessments, programming and advocacy efforts will adhere to a 'Do No Harm' framework and that conflict-sensitive solutions provided by UNHCR and other partners are grounded in environmental protection and sustainability.

Shelter and basic services assistance will be provided through a community-based approach, which will strengthen resilience through self-help programmes contributing to promoting peaceful coexistence within the communities. The community takes primary responsibility for identifying eligible beneficiaries to receive shelter assistance, while the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MORR), other local authorities, implementing partners, and multi-functional team members play advisory and coordination roles.

The shelter Beneficiary Selection Committee must include members of the Community Development Councils (CDCs) where present or the provincial, district, village shura, (committee of elders and trustees), or local authorities (district authorities, provincial representatives of MORR). Joint monitoring will be carried out through established communication channels with beneficiaries, including on land and property issues such as land disputes, ownership, women's access and control of land, engaging with government for relocation sites, social and housing issues. The shelter package includes one latrine per family, thereby increasing environmental hygiene in beneficiary communities. The shelter programme seeks to contribute to local economies wherever possible by using skilled and unskilled labour in the local market, and by local procurement of raw materials.

UNHCR will continue supporting the Afghan Government's efforts to develop the role of women and has a strong commitment to the participation of women in decision making and project implementation. Recognising the challenges of facilitating female participation, all interventions strive to involve women in selection, implementation, monitoring, and management to the greatest extent possible within regionally and culturally appropriate contexts.

Undocumented vulnerable returnees

The planned target group in 2015 are 45,000 of the most vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan including those families displaced from North Waziristan Agency who are in need of life-saving assistance and return assistance to their province of origin.

Under the framework of its post-arrival humanitarian assistance, IOM will provide a comprehensive set of services starting with initial screening and referral of identified vulnerable undocumented Afghan returnees according to its established vulnerability criteria in coordination with the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). This will be followed by provision of non-food item (NFI) kits, food packages for families in need, health screening and referral, and provision of overnight accommodation and services at a transit centre. If needed, family tracing will be carried out for vulnerable individuals including unaccompanied minors. Protection screening and psycho-social counselling will also be provided in light of observed trend of some beneficiaries suffering from experiences while in detention or deportation procedures. Legal counselling, including facilitating registration for E-Tazkira at transit centres will also be made available for returnees.

The above humanitarian actions will be complemented by direct reintegration support to specific highly vulnerable groups of non-refugee returnees with high protection risks. For these groups, IOM plans to respond to their needs by providing different forms of direct reintegration support through a flexible reintegration package. As an example, single female returnees will receive shelter and reintegration and educational training support at the transit centre in Herat. IOM will most importantly conduct a local market assessment of which income generating activities they could carry out in light of their vulnerable socio-economic status (e.g. home-based activities) after which they will be provided with literacy and other educational training. For UAMs, IOM plans to provide educational and skills training for the minors while providing vocational trainings/business development package to heads of households which are suited to labour market demands. These activities will involve DoRR as well as Directorate of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled in order to strengthen their capacity in return and reintegration assistance.

Provision of vocational training or educational assistance to these groups will not only support their sustainable reintegration but also support to mitigate various risks such as; becoming a victim of human trafficking or engaging in irregular migration, increasing their vulnerability to a host of other protection risks.

The following sectors are solely in response to the Pakistani Refugees

Protection

The provision of services to the local population is essential to avoid the perception amongst host communities that the refugees constitute a burden on the community, or on existing local services and the environment, potentially inflaming feelings of resentment. Accordingly, it is important to ensure that services and activities are provided for both the hosting communities and the refugees, such as maintaining or improving the local infrastructure (roads, hospitals, and schools) and ensuring access to resources including water.

Registration is a priority activity and will help UNHCR and partners to better understand the refugee population, profile and vulnerabilities. This exercise will pave the way for development of longer-term strategies, design effective interventions and facilitate voluntary repatriation and. Other protection concerns include access to social services, particularly health care; family separation, including unaccompanied or separated children; presence of single women and elderly without support within the population; access and mobility for disabled; the risk of human trafficking; access to assistance by all community members, particularly women and girls; and the risk of mines and unexploded ordnances both in the camp and in communities.

Camp Management

Currently, there is only one camp and it is located in Gurboz District, Khost Province. No provision is being made for additional camps, however if the Government decides to open more refugee camps, additional funding will be required. Approximately 3,500 families live in Gulan Camp and it is expected to reach at least 4,000 by January, climbing to 5,000 families by spring. The overall objectives are to provide life-saving assistance and support refugees in organizing themselves to better their conditions in the camp and provide a safe and secure environment where refugees can exercise their rights. In particular, UNHCR will continue to undertake basic site planning and infrastructure work in the camp, security measures in coordination with the authorities, as well as shelter.

Camp Governance: UNHCR foresees the following community services as essential in order to promote representation and good governance in Gulan Camp:

- i) In order to allow community feedback, weekly meetings are held with the camp *shura*, a structure of elders, each representing an average number of 50 families;
- ii) Dialogue with refugee *Jirga* and linkage to local *Jirga* system as appropriate, as well as referrals to formal justice system;
- iii) Dialogue and activities with female refugees, within a very traditional and conservative context that generally prevents women from moving outside the confines of the family compound;
- iv) Display of information on services and announcements

Siteplanningandinfrastructure: The importance of preserving and promoting a sense of community within the camp is paramount, and will reflect existing community structures. Camp planning is ongoing and should see further developments once the number of refugees is stabilized (with the possibility of a harsh winter, it may be expected that the refugee population currently in the mountainous areas south and south-east of Gulan, in Gurboz district, may decide to settle in Gulan camp). Some of the activities that will take place in the first half of 2015 include: comprehensive drainage system, access roads, construction of four community centres, improvement of warehousing and distribution facilities and construction of basic support services. In parallel, each extended family will be assigned a plot, in a way that preserves the existing settlement pattern in the camp (extended families, sub-tribes, tribes). Site planning will take into consideration possible

further extension of the camp to the south and west. Site planning and basic infrastructure will be done to the extent possible using refugees and local communities, thus providing Cash-for-Work opportunities.

Shelter: Winterization of tents is likely to be largely finished by January 2015. Given the average life expectancy of a tent, the humanitarian community expects to have to replace tents or provide alternative shelter for 5,000 families in the camp in the second quarter of 2015. Decisions on shelter strategy (tents or emergency to transitional shelter) will be taken towards the end of the first quarter based on assessments of refugees' intentions of returning to Pakistan.

Security: The humanitarian community will continue to support the local authorities, who are planning to deploy an additional 53 ANP to provide security surrounding the perimeter of Gulan Camp on a 24-hour basis. Within the camp, support is also required for the deployment of local guards on a 24-hour basis, as well as helping refugees to organize a community watch system.

Shelter and infrastructure/NFIs for hosted communities

With the exception of protection activities, Quick Impact Projects (QIPS) for peaceful co-existence and shelter, the humanitarian community does not plan to have large-scale interventions for refugees in host communities, but instead encourages an approach that incorporates refugees into development assistance of the communities. As part of the transitional strategy, advocacy efforts will ensure that the local government includes refugees in service delivery and development plans.

In coordination with other partners with a strong track record in shelter as a durable solution, the shelter operational organisations will develop a strategy to begin in the second half of 2015, after a re-assessment of the situation in the spring. The strategy will be influenced by refugees' intentions regarding return and will support local communities hosting large number of refugees. In the first half of 2015, shelter will continue to be handled within the emergency response framework, taking into account the need for additional protection against the elements during the first months of the year.

The humanitarian community will continue to provide basic non-food items for all new arrivals as well as replacing part of the non-food items package (plastic sheets, jerry cans and blankets) on a needs basis for up to 4,000 families in Khost and Paktika; as well as on an emergency basis for persons with specific needs. A total of 2,500 tents will be distributed also on a needs basis. Operational partners are revising distribution modalities in order to make them more effective in ensuring predictable and equitable distribution in all communities, as well as Gulan Camp.

Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2015, the WASH partners will continue to support both refugees and host communities in Khost and Paktika. Emergency WASH response will continue to focus on life-saving activities including rehabilitation/disinfection of water points (WP), rehabilitation of pipe schemes, water disinfection, distribution of hygiene kits and provision of sanitation infrastructure. The construction of new WPs and sustainable sanitation infrastructures will also be considered as an option in the districts that are under-covered.

Based on refugee's figures and results of the assessments conducted in 2014, nine districts were identified as priority targets for WASH. In Khost province, in order of priority: (1) Gurboz, (2) Khost Center/Lakan, (3) Mandozayi, (4) Terezayi, (5) Spera, (6) Tani and (7) Matoon Shamal. In Paktika province, the priorities are Barmal and Urgun districts. Barmal is poorly accessible for security reasons. In Khost province, the needs of 128,137 individuals were assessed (29,200 refugees and 98,937 individuals in the host community), using a Rapid Assessment Form to collect quantitative

data at village/community level. In Paktika province, the survey was carried out in two districts (Barmal and Urgun) using qualitative data collection methods (key informant interview and FGD).

Based on the assessments results, the partners in Khost and Paktika have started to respond to acute needs in 2014 and will pursue their efforts in 2015 to reach the selected targets. The activities foreseen in 2015 are detailed in the annex and will cover the acute WASH needs of the affected population where accessibility is granted.

To prepare for a possible additional refugee crisis in 2015, the WASH cluster will reinforce its operational capacity, among others in developing standard assessment forms, strengthening its contingency plan and training key resources at decentralized levels. Under the oversight of the WASH cluster, partners will be supported in conducting Rapid Assessment and data processing within two weeks following onset of a crisis. Additional decision-making tools will be made available such as a standard WASH Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT) and technical guidelines to implement rapid life saving activities

Emergency Health and Nutrition

The 2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview shows both provinces were among the 13 high-risk provinces identified, to which additional resources from the Common Humanitarian Fund are being used. There was no allocation for emergency primary healthcare services in inaccessible areas, nor treatment of malnutrition in 2014 but it is estimated that the refugees will require substantial nutrition services in 2015. Khost also ranked high with regard to the prevalence of malnutrition with 18.2%; well above the emergency threshold of 15%. In Paktika, the overall malnutrition rates stand at 8.7%. The targets for the Nutrition cluster are calculated using the overall need for the refugees and assuming 50% coverage due to insecurity in many parts of Paktika as well as partner capacity to scale up in the two provinces.

Utilizing existing resources, the Nutrition cluster is currently working on a modality to conduct nutrition surveys in the area in order to assess the nutritional status of the refugee population. It will also determine whether the additional burden for hosting communities may further exacerbate the already high malnutrition rates, particularly in Khost. If the situation worsens, additional funds will be required in order to adequately respond to the need.

The spread of contagious but preventable diseases, such as measles, polio and Pertussis are high due to very low vaccination coverage of the refugee population. Outbreak of diarrhoeal disease, including cholera is a major concern for both the refugee population and hosting communities, due to the water scarcity in the summer season, endemic prevalence of such diseases and increased population with poor hygiene practices. The health system in both provinces has no capacity to handle a major cholera outbreak, thus cholera treatment centres are urgently required.

In addition to communicable diseases, the situation merits scaling up of routine primary healthcare services, particularly with regard to maternal and child health and mental health care. It is known that refugee populations in a camp or among host community suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. The large influx has overburdened the health service providers; as such there is a dire need for additional support to meet the increased demand.

Food Security

Since the onset of refugees entering Khost and Paktika in mid-2014, assessments have indicated food assistance to be a top priority. WFP began its emergency food assistance to Pakistani refugees with an initial caseload of 1,500 households. The total number of families supported by WFP has now reached nearly 23,000 households, with an expectation that this may increase to at least 30,000 households in the coming months, based on the current, most-likely scenario. Food distributions will

at all times focus on most vulnerable populations, who are scattered in 12 districts in Khost and Paktika provinces. The majority are concentrated in Khost centre, Matun, Gulan camp in Gurboz and Bermal district in Paktika. To date, WFP has distributed a total of 4,100 metric tons of mixed food.

At the field level, WFP has worked closely with the local authorities, UNHCR and other UN agencies, as well as NGO partners. WFP currently has agreements with two NGOs (MEHR & ORCD) for food distribution, and out-sourced monitors who are able to verify that distributions have been completed according to agreed protocols, and help identify any gaps and challenges. An agreement under which UNHCR takes over responsibility for secondary transport and distribution, as per corporate protocols, is due to be in place by November.

Host communities have played an important role in helping refugees meet their basic needs, mainly achieved through depletion of food stocks, selling and consumption of poultry products, and selling of crop seeds set aside for plantation. This had a negative impact on the food security and livelihoods of host communities. In order to address this, the local communities require support with agriculture inputs, certified wheat, maize, mung bean, vegetable seeds, small-scale poultry production, as well as training in livelihood protection. This will bolster their capacity to continue hosting refugees and help compensate for their depleted food and seed stocks.

Education

Safeguarding the right to education is an essential strategy to ensure the protection of children and adolescents and to fulfil its commitment towards the Education for All Framework. Children and adolescents should have access to child-friendly spaces, where recreational and learning activities, as well as psycho-social support, will be provided. Educational activities should be safe enough to provide effective protection to refugee children, adolescents, boys and girls. Prevention and response mechanisms to violence in school should also be established.

As per initial estimates, 58% of the refugee population are children. Initial educational services and psychosocial support are being provided for 2,800 refugee children in grades 1-6 in Khost in a partnership between DoE, NRC and UNICEF. This needs to be expanded to cover all children, including older children, and children need to be provided with Pakistani text books (while both the Pakistani refugees and the host population speak Pashto, the Pakistani children are taught in Urdu and English, and generally do not read Afghan Pashto). In addition, DoE and UNICEF are establishing 100 temporary learning places in Paktika. DoE is providing funding for additional teachers while UNICEF is providing teaching and learning materials as well as tents. UNICEF will provide capacity building support to DoE in Paktika as well as continuing to provide TLM supplies.

Partnership and Coordination

At the national level, issues with regard to the displacement are dealt with under the National Security Council (NSC). Under the leadership of the NSC, and chaired by the Deputy National Security Advisor, a task force monitors ongoing humanitarian activities in Khost and Paktika and provides support to the provincial committees. Members of this task force include representatives from key ministries and the Afghan Red Crescent Society. UNHCR, as the mandated UN agency for refugee response, is represented at the NSC Taskforce meetings. The purpose of the taskforce is to provide regular reports to the President and the National Security Advisor via the task force Chair.

On the basis of recommendations made by this task force, the GoIRA – in coordination with UNHCR – will lead the refugee response as part of the overall humanitarian response under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. A Task Force has been set up in Kabul by UNHCR to facilitate the coordination of the response to the refugee and displaced families in Khost and Paktika. The task force includes humanitarian partners directly involved in responding to the arrivals and with current experience from the region. The members include the following UN agencies: FAO, IOM,

UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMAS, WFP and WHO, as well as national and international NGOs: CARE International, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Health Net International (HNI-TPO), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Solidarites International, and The Liaison Office (TLO), as well as the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS).

A task force has also been established in Khost, co-chaired by the Governor of Khost and UNHCR. The Governor of Khost has also set up eleven committees in districts affected by the refugee influx. These committees are headed by various active heads of departments and are aimed at helping with registration, coordination of humanitarian organisations and the facilitation of distribution of humanitarian assistance. These 11 committees report to a central secretariat at the provincial level. This secretariat is responsible for ensuring coherence, setting priorities and monitoring performance to mitigate corruption and enhance transparency and receives direct support from UNHCR. The secretariat reports directly to the Governor of Khost.

There are a limited number of humanitarian actors in Khost who were able to cover the most essential needs during the emergency phase. The number of actors is slowly increasing and GoIRA, in collaboration with UNHCR, is coordinating the assistance and repartition of coverage by sectors. Assistance in areas of WASH, health, shelter and food security is being dealt with by the partners already on the ground, while the Cluster Coordinators are kept informed in Kabul, in order to utilize existing expertise and resources available in-country. Once the emergency phase moves into a more stable response, UNHCR will remain responsible for all protection issues, in coordination with relevant partners.

In Paktika, assistance and support will be coordinated by the Governor's office – in cooperation with UNHCR – from Bermal district centre. Remote support to the provincial and district governing authorities will be provided. Regular coordination meetings, co-chaired by the Governor's office and UNHCR, and national non-governmental organizations on the ground take place and have facilitated the coordination of distribution of assistance to refugee families residing mainly in Bermal and Urgun districts of Paktika. Coordination and liaison between the Governor's office, UNHCR and national and international organizations also takes place at the Kabul level.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY THREE: TIMELY RESPONSE TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

OUTCOME THREE: 3.3 TIMELY PROVISION OF LIFESAVING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, AFGHAN REFUGEE RETURNEES AND UNDOCUMENTED VULNERABLE RETURNEES

Objective 1: Provision of protection to Pakistani refugees

OUTPUTS	Locations	Indicators	Target
Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained	Khost and Paktika (including Gulan camp)	% of persons of concern registered on an individual basis	80-100% of refugees
Security from Violence and Exploitation: protection of children strengthened, risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved	Khost and Paktika (including Gulan camp)	Extent children of concern have non-discriminatory access to national child protection and social services	12,000 children
		school-age children have access to educational and psychosocial services	12,000 children
Services for persons with specific needs strengthened	Khost and Paktika (including Gulan camp)	# of elderly persons of concern who receive services for their specific needs	2,000 families
Community-based approach, including participatory assessments, in the emergency operation to ensure that the follow-up phase supports communities to regain control of their lives as quickly as possible	Khost and Paktika (including Gulan camp)	Extent persons of concern are represented in leadership management structures	20,000 vulnerable families
Camp management and coordination refined and improved	Gulan camp	Extent camp coordination mechanisms working effectively	5,000 families
Mine and ERW risk education	Gulan camp	% of camp population who received M/ERW	100%

Objective 2: Essential services to Pakistani refugees, while pursuing durable solutions

Activities	Locations	Indicator	Target
Uniform treatment and standards of protection and services for all refugees	Gulan Camp	Proportion of household with access to a functioning toilet	5,000 families
		Proportion of household possessing soap	5,000 families
		Proportion of household with emergency tents	5,000 families
		Preventative and life-saving health care services provided	5,000 families
		Supply of potable water increased or maintained	5,000 families
		Perimeter of the refugee camp secured	5,000 families

Activities	Locations	Indicator	Target
Ensure Refugees have adequate protection from the weather in order to create the necessary privacy, psychological comfort, and emotional safety through provision of emergency shelter and NFI's	Khost and Paktika	To re-assess post-spring the emergency shelter situation on the ground in order to revise the approach and develop a transitional solutions according	Comprehensive needs assessment
		Procurement and distribution of emergency tents	2,500 tents/families
		Population has sufficient basic and domestic items	3,000 NFI kits/families
WASH services are provided to refugees and the host communities	Khost and Paktika	Proportion of households within intervention areas with access to safe drinking water	80% of refugees hosted
		Number of jerry cans distributed	1,142 jerry cans
		Proportion of households within intervention areas with soap available at hand washing area	80% of refugees hosted
		Proportion of households within intervention areas with access to a functioning toilet	80% of refugees hosted
Reduce incidence of maternal and child mortality and morbidity in targeted areas	Khost and Paktika	Case fatality rate during epidemics are maintained within internationally agreed standards	Measles CFR <5% Cholera <1%
		Case fatality rate during epidemics are maintained within internationally agreed standards	Measles CFR <5% Cholera <1%
		# of children vaccinated	136,221 vaccinated
		% of new unforeseen emergencies responded to with adequate supplies	100%
To provide Food assistance to meet their immediate food needs	Khost and Paktika	# of families supplied with adequate and nutritional food	30,000 most vulnerable refugee families

Objective 3: Immediate humanitarian needs for refugee returnees and undocumented vulnerable migrant returnees, are met

Activities	Locations	Indicator	Target
Voluntary repatriation: protection and basic assistance upon arrival, supporting education registration, lifesaving healthcare, and essential vaccinations for children under 5 years of age, as well as basic mine/ERW awareness, transit facilities and how to access legal aid	UNHCR and DoRR Encashment/ reception centres in Nangarhar, Paktya, Kandahar, Kabul and Herat provinces	# of Afghan refugee returnees receiving assistance upon arrival	50,000 refugee returnees
		# of returnee families covered under UNHCR Protection returnee monitoring (through H/H surveys and tracking interviews, follow up, physical visit of families in their places of return	5,000 refugee returnees
Undocumented vulnerable returnees: provision of humanitarian assistance and return assistance upon arrival.	Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Khost and Paktika	# of PSNs assisted	45,000 Undocumented migrant returnees
The most vulnerable returnees will be prioritized for the provision of shelter, access to basic services and reintegration assistance	Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Kabul, Nimroz, Gardez, Khost and Paktika	# of returnees identified as People with Specific Needs provided assistance	1,360 returnees (refugee and undocumented)
	Areas of highest return with most vulnerable	# of returnees assisted at place of return	245,600 refugee returnees