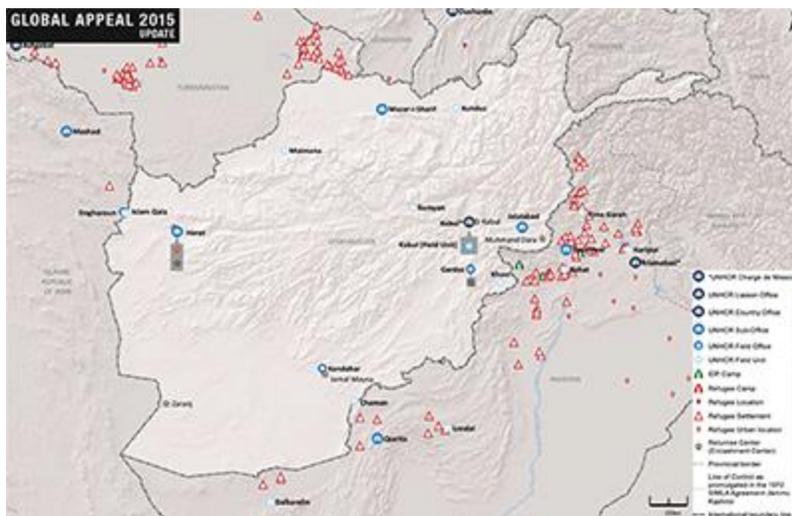


Afghanistan

2015 UNHCR country operations profile - Afghanistan

| Overview |

Working environment



- It is anticipated that the newly-formed national unity Government will demonstrate commitment to creating an enabling environment for sustainable returns. The withdrawal of international security forces, as well as a complex economic transition are, however, likely to affect peace, security and development in Afghanistan. Humanitarian needs are not expected to diminish in 2015. Support and assistance from the international community will be essential to ensure a transition towards more stable development.
- The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) remains the main policy framework for sustainable reintegration of those returning to Afghanistan. The National Steering Committee established in 2014 aims to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the SSAR's initiatives.
- Many returnees have migrated to towns and cities, contributing to the country's rapid urbanization. As rising poverty and unemployment in urban centres prevent them from reintegrating into society, many will need basic assistance.
- Currently, there is no national asylum and refugee legislation in Afghanistan, so UNHCR is conducting refugee status determination (RSD). A draft national

refugee and asylum law, prepared with UNHCR assistance, is awaiting inclusion in the 2015 legislation agenda.

- The Government of Afghanistan respects the principle of *non-refoulement* and host communities have provided generous support; however, refugees face protection concerns related to the volatile security situation, and difficulties in accessing basic services.
- Insurgency continues to spread from southern Afghanistan to large areas of the north and centre and is likely to remain a threat to stability in 2015. While violence may displace more people, insecurity is likely to continue restricting humanitarian access. Economic insecurity and the Government's limited capacity to provide basic services are also challenges.

People of concern

Since 2002, more than 5.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home, 4.7 million of whom were assisted by UNHCR. Representing 20 per cent of Afghanistan's population, returnees remain a key population of concern to UNHCR. Refugee returns have dwindled during the past five years and owing to insecurity and a difficult socio-economic situation, only around 10,000 refugees returned during the first seven months of 2014.

In June 2014, following military operations in North Waziristan Agency, Pakistan, more than 13,000 families (some 100,000 people) crossed into Khost and Paktika provinces in southeastern Afghanistan. Many of them settled within host communities, however approximately 3,300 families reside in Gulan camp, Khost province. A substantial number could remain in Afghanistan, despite expectations that an early return may be possible.

By mid-2014, 683,000 people were internally displaced by the conflict affecting 30 of the 34 Afghan provinces. More than half of Afghanistan's internally displaced people (IDPs) live in urban areas.

Type of population	Origin	January 2015		December 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Total		1,204,440	1,204,440	1,443,170	1,443,170
Refugees	Islamic Rep. of	40	40	40	40

UNHCR 2015 planning figures for Afghanistan

Type of population	Origin	January 2015		December 2015	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
	Iran				
	Pakistan	50	50	60	60
	Various	10	10	10	10
People in refugee-like situations	Pakistan	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
	Islamic Rep. of Iran	20	20	20	20
Asylum-seekers	Pakistan	40	40	50	50
	Various	10	10	10	10
Returnee arrivals during year (ex-refugees)	Afghanistan	172,000	172,000	172,000	172,000
Internally displaced	Afghanistan	765,000	765,000	900,000	900,000
Returnee arrivals during year (ex-IDPs)	Afghanistan	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Others of concern	Afghanistan	201,280	201,280	305,000	305,000