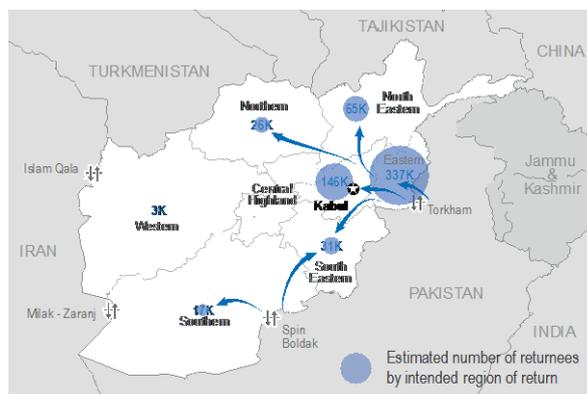




This report is produced by OCHA Afghanistan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 30 January to 28 February 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 16 March 2017.

Highlights

- The total number of undocumented returnees who have arrived in Afghanistan from Pakistan so far in 2017 has now risen to 9,607, exceeding the total figure which returned in the first quarter of 2016 (9,335). From 19 to 25 February, IOM reported 321 undocumented Afghans were deported from Pakistan. Numbers of undocumented returns and deportees have dramatically decreased in the last week following the closure of the Torkham and Spin Boldak borders on 16 February as a result of cross-border shelling.
- Following a winter pause in UNHCR's assisted repatriation programme, registered refugee returns are set to resume on 1 April. Consultations on the level of cash assistance to be provided to individual refugees are currently ongoing.
- An inter-agency durable solutions scoping mission to Jalalabad, Nangarhar province took place from 7 to 9 February. Led by UNHCR, team members – IOM, UNDP, and UNHABITAT – met with the Governor of Jalalabad and his ministerial counterparts as well as OCHA, REACH and the Eastern Region Reintegration Working Group. Two site visits, including a series of Focus Group Discussions with community and returnee elders, were completed in Marghundi village in Sukhrod district and Daman village in Behsud district. Initial findings demonstrated the presence of widespread shelter, livelihoods, WASH, education, health and food needs.
- A health facility survey conducted by WHO in November and December 2016 across 120 health facilities in the Southern and Eastern regions has found that one in every four (25%) lacks a safe water source within the compound and 41% do not have sufficient water to cover all needs (such as cleaning floors, equipment, toilets and maintaining basic hygiene). Likewise, only 46% of facilities have adequate toilets and more than two thirds lack handwashing points in the areas where health care services are provided. In the absence of basic WASH services to complement delivery of health services, these facilities are poorly equipped to handle existing caseloads, let alone additional pressure caused by returnee influxes and internal displacement.
- The Ministry of Education (MoE), in collaboration with Education in Emergency Working Group (EIEWG) partners, are currently planning a Back to Learning campaign for the end of March to coincide with the expected recommencement of UNHCR's repatriation programme and the resumption of the school year in the cold zones. The campaign will include distribution of IEC materials (posters, flyers, and billboards), awareness raising activities (door-to-door visits, community level meetings with Shura, teachers, religious institution and community) and awareness raising through Radio/TV messages.



Source: UNHCR & IOM
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Financial Update

Two months after the HRP became operational on 1 January, it has yet to receive any confirmed funds against overall requirements of US\$550 million, although commitments of US\$ 75.3 million have been registered.

Of these commitments, US\$ 20 million is earmarked for Food Security and Agriculture; US\$ 5.9 million for ES-NFI and US\$ 2.2 million for coordination. The remaining amount – US\$ 47.2 million – has yet to be allocated to specific sectors. Refugee and Returnee Chapter requirements in 2017 total US\$240 million.

HRP 2017 Requirements



Situation Overview

So far in 2017, the total number of undocumented returnees arriving from Pakistan has risen to 9,607. During the first two weeks of February between 700 and 1,200 undocumented Afghans returned each week, however none have spontaneously returned since the borders were closed on 16 February 2017 following intense cross border shelling and airstrikes in the wake of suicide bombings in Pakistan on 13 and 16 February.

On 7 February, the Government of Pakistan announced new measures aimed at improving the management of the voluntary repatriation program and living situation for Afghans who decide to remain in Pakistan. The new measures include extension of the validity of Proof of Registration Cards (PoR) for some 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees until the end of 2017; a pledge to document Afghan nationals who currently have no identification; the establishment of a visa regime for different categories of Afghan nationals, and a commitment to adopt a national refugee law.

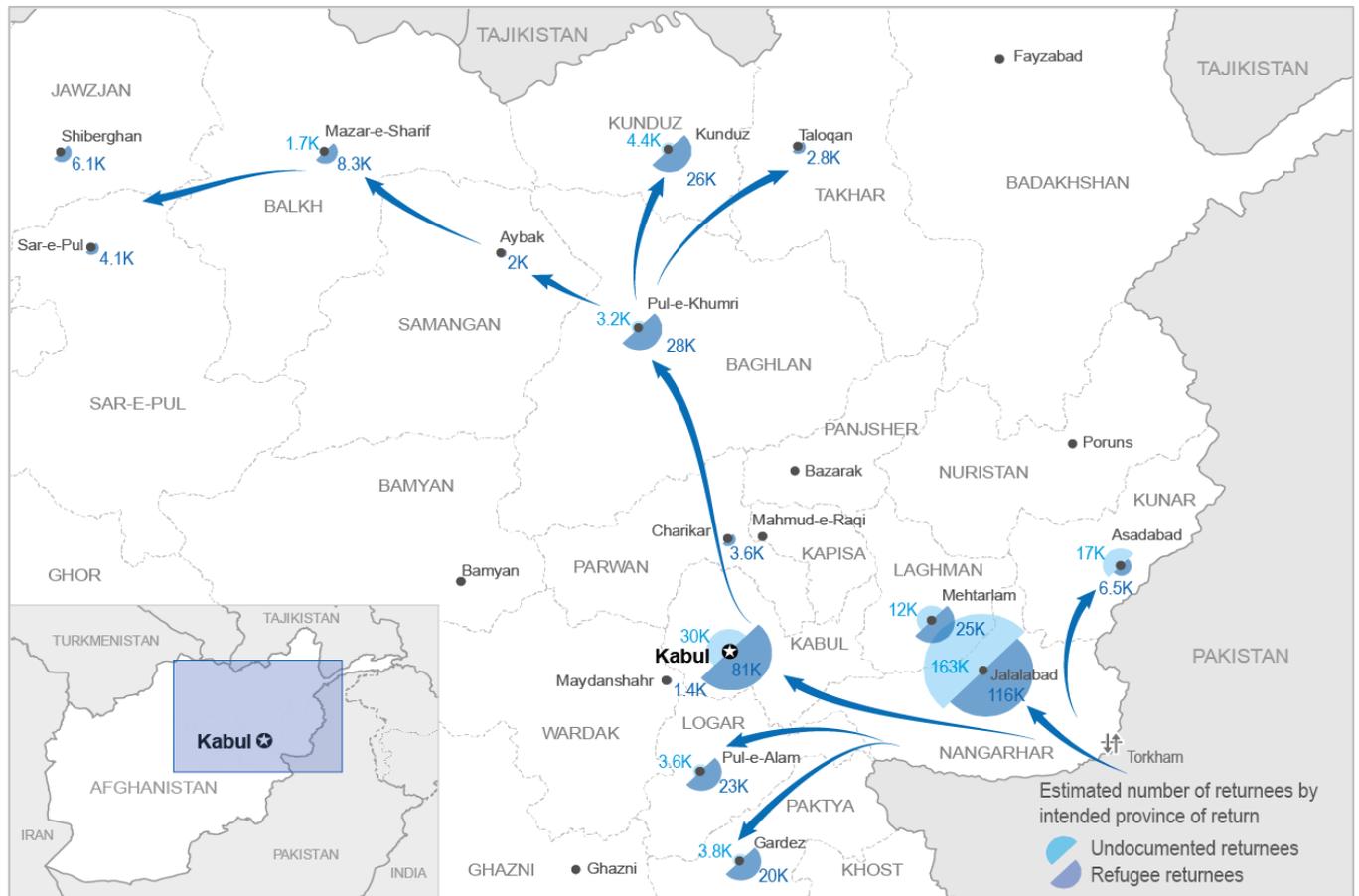
On 15 February, the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan together with UNHCR held the 28th Tripartite Commission Meeting in Islamabad. During this meeting it was agreed to delay commencement of the UNHCR repatriation programme until the level of the cash grant had been determined and clear messaging for refugee returnees developed.

Returnee trends (2012-2016)



Source: IOM (undocumented returnees, as of 21 Jan 2017), UNHCR (registered refugee returnees, as of 31 Dec 2016)
 * Figures include deportees from Pakistan.

Estimated number of returnees by intended province of return



Humanitarian Response: Reporting by Clusters



Needs:

- On 7 February a joint assessment by CARE, DRC and ANDMA was conducted in Pule Shina and PD21 in Kabul city that identified 33 out of 87 returnee families as in need of NFI assistance. ANDMA will follow up with the response.
- On 8 February, DRC commenced a needs assessment of 1,246 undocumented returnee families in Mohmandara and Shinwar districts of Nangarhar province. The exercise will be finalised by 20 February and the findings shared in the coming weeks.
- Between 22 January-7 February DRC assessed 533 families in Kama district, Nangarhar province. Of these, 284 families were found to be in need of winterisation and NFIs.

179,000

returnees are being assisted through ongoing ES/NFI activities

Response:

- UNICEF has provided 301 NFI kits to undocumented returnees at the IOM Transit Centre.
- IRC provided cash for NFIs to 419 households in Nangarhar province - Surkhrod (55), Behsud (174) and Goshta (190) – along with cash for winterisation to 744 households - Goshta (250), Behsud (240), Surkhrod (55), Jalalabad (100) and Kama (99). Cash for rent was also provided to 25 households in Kama district.
- IRC has also provided cash for NFIs to 10 households in Mandozai in Khost province and 86 households in Pole Alam in Logar province. IRC has also assisted 27 households with winterisation packages in Pole Alam, Logar province. NRC has provided 33 winterisation kits to Surkhrod and Behsud districts. 30 households in Mehtarlam, Laghman province and 243 households in Behsud and Surkhrod districts of Nangarhar have been provided with transitional shelters. NRC has provided cash assistance to cover the winterisation and NFI needs of 271 households in Laghman (Qarghayi), 304 households in Kunar (Narang, Asadabad and Kuz Narang).
- DRC provided cash for NFIs and cash for winterisation to 219 families in Kama district that were assessed between 22 January and 7 February.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster is coordinating with partners operating in Kama district of Nangarhar province to identify a partner who can cover the remaining 65 families identified as in need of winterisation assistance following an assessment carried out by DRC between 22 January to 7 February.



Food Security & Agriculture

Needs:

- On 8 February, DRC commenced a food security assessment for 1,246 undocumented returnee families settled in Mohmandara and Shinwar (Ghani Khil) district of Nangarhar province as these two districts have not received any assistance since July 2016. The exercise will be finalised by 20 February.
- SI reported that 123 families are awaiting assessment in Nika district of Paktika province but are living in hard to access areas.

USD 54.4 mil

required to provide basic food assistance and livelihoods support to returnees in 2017

Response:

- RI have provided cash for food to 598 families in Behsud, Jalalabad and Rodat districts and 173 families in Khashkunar, Sarkani and Asadabad districts of Nangarhar province.
- DRC have provided cash to 934 families in Kama district of Nangarhar province.
- OHW have provided food to 95 families in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province.
- NPO/RRAA have provided cash for food to 95 families in Behsud district of Nangarhar province.
- NCRO have provided cash for food to 305 families in Behsud district, 202 families in Jalalabad district and 129 families in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province.
- SCI have provided cash for food to 1,120 families in Jalalabad, Behsud, Surkhrod, Kama and Rodat districts of Nangarhar province.
- IR have provided food to 201 families in PD8, 520 families in PD12 and 590 families in PD5 of Kabul province.
- SI have provided cash for food to 230 families in Khost and 17 families in Sharana district of Paktika province.

Gaps & Constraints:

- 42% of the total undocumented returnees reported to have arrived since 2016 have not received assistance from FSAC partners. FSAC has recommended continuing food assistance throughout the winter and peak hunger season.
- OHW reported that there are thousands of returnees who have not been assessed or assisted in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province.

**Health****Needs:**

- There is need of public awareness campaign on disease prevention and control in high returned settlements.
- Following the recent avalanche at Nuristan province, the provision of emergency health services to vulnerable and injured inhabitants of Afsay village, Bargematal

US\$2.2 million
required to meet the
immediate health needs of
returnee populations in
2017

Response:

- Between 26 January to 8 February, health partners provided 8,428 returnees with outpatient services in the Eastern region mostly for acute respiratory Infection (ARI), diarrheal diseases, psychological first aid, skin disease and referrals. In addition, 2,935 (1,974 OPV, 503 IPV, 458 Measles) children under 5 were vaccinated among returnees.
- WHO distributed pneumonia and a basic health kits to Nuristan Bargi Metal that has been used for management of casualties that resulted from the recent avalanche in the province. The kits should be able to cover around 1,330 patients for a period of around 3 months. In addition, IMC and ARCS also supplied the area with additional kits and medicine.
- Ten functional MHTs (6 run by PU-AMI, 4 by CWS, and 1 each by ARCS and AADA) are providing coordinated health services in high returnee and inaccessible areas in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

Gaps & Constraints:

- AADA and IMC have reported the closure of 6 health facilities in Achin (2), Dehbala (2) and Nazian (1) in Nangarhar province and 1 in Dawab DH of Nuristan due to insecurity and inaccessibility. As a result around 3,750 residents have no access to health.
- Further strengthening of coordination among health partners is required for better service delivery.
- There is need for additional funding to cover the anticipated returnee case load from March and onwards.

**Nutrition****Needs:**

- NSTR

Response:

- At the Zero Point, UNICEF and AADA have provided 3,482 children under 5 (including 914 from 1 January) with Vitamin A supplementation, 2,570 children between 2 and 5 (including 662 from 1 January) with deworming tablets and 1,049 PLW (including 263 from 1 January) with IYCF counselling. To date, 4,362 children have been screened for acute malnutrition. Of these, 181 were identified to be suffering from SAM (4.1%) and 320 children from MAM (7.3%) and referred for treatment. Supplies of RUTF have also been distributed to children identified with SAM.
- At the IOM TC, emergency nutrition assistance has been provided to a total of 3,139 children under 5 (including 513 from 1 January) with Vitamin A supplementation, 2,650 children (including 430 from 1 January) between 2 and 5 with deworming tablets. 2,242 children (including 534 from 1 January) were screened for acute malnutrition. Of these, 59 were identified with SAM (2.6%) and 104 with MAM (4.6%), and referred for treatment. Supplies of RUTF were also delivered for distribution to children identified with SAM.

48,615
children and women have
received emergency
nutrition assistance

Gaps & Constraints:

- NSTR



Needs:

- More community based and mobile child friendly spaces (CFS) are needed in high return areas and areas hosting IDPs in the Eastern region to be able to enhance outreach to children in need.
- Access to civil documentation remains a huge protection concern as many returnees and IDPs are not able to return to their place of origin to obtain the necessary documents due to insecurity and conflict. Denial of access to humanitarian assistance on the basis of lack of documentation has been reported.
- Relief International has conducted a rapid needs assessment of returnees and host communities in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces from 30 January to 4 February 2017. Overstretched communal services, high level of debt among returnees, lack of privacy within overcrowded accommodation where returnees have settled, civil documentation, especially for women and children and strong need for psychosocial support were identified as key issues.
- During the reporting period, PU-AMI's ECHO and CHF funded mobile health teams visited over 11 high return communities in Nangarhar province to assess the need for psychosocial support and counselling services among returnees. Each team has one or two trained psychosocial first aid providers. 214 people were found to be in need.

**US\$37.8
million**

required to provide protection assistance to returnee populations in 2017

Response:

- DDG and OMAR provided mine risk education (MRE) to 5,853 returnees (53% female) covering Nangarhar (3,781), Kandahar (1,178), Khost (494) and Ghazni (400) during the reporting period. The partners adopted community based approach targeting returnees, IDPs and host communities with MRE.
- 2,344 returnee boys and girls are receiving psychosocial support and other services in Child Friendly Spaces - at the IOM TC (443 boys and 406 girls); in Gamberi Islamdara (430 boys and 428 girls) and Gamberi Charbagh (311 boys and 326 girls). Furthermore, 40 girls and 10 boys have received group counselling while 2 boys and 4 girls have received individual counseling in Gamberi Islamdara and Gamberi Charbagh.
- DRC and TABISH provided legal and psychosocial counseling to new returnees and IDPs in Woch Tangy of Behsud and Wahdat Mena of Surkhrod districts in Nangarhar. During the reporting period, DRC provided legal assistance to 3 new returnees and referred 3 males and 3 females for psychosocial counseling to TABISH.
- NRC registered 20 HLP cases and 30 civil documentation cases. 5 HLP cases received legal assistance and were solved. NRC also registered 20 cases in need of basic rights and essential services and referred these to their WASH programme. 15 sessions on civil documentation were organised for affected communities, including returnees. NRC has activated a hotline service in the Eastern provinces to provide counselling to returnees and information on civil documentation, access to essential services, health and education. During the reporting period, 40 calls were received and referred. NRC ICLA staff are working on increasing access to returnees - through establishment of community centres to enhance outreach - in a 4 month pilot project targeting displaced people in urban areas of Jalalabad.
- PU-AMI's ECHO and CHF funded mobile health teams provided PFA to 214 people (61 male and 153 female) and conducted community awareness raising sessions on psychosocial support for 1,082 people (768 female and 314 male).

Gaps & Constraints:

- While the partners are focusing on covering priority high return districts including areas where IDPs have been displaced to, with services for children (particularly CFS) in several districts - Batikot, Chaparhar, Hesarak, Khogyani, Kot, Pachieragam and Shinwar in Nangarhar and Mehtarian in Laghman - remain uncovered.
- Lack of female staff among protection service providers continues to constrain access to women and girls, especially with huge needs for psychosocial support among women reported.
- Lack of GBV providers in the Eastern region is inhibiting GBV response to returnees and other affected populations.
- With increased number of partners working in the East, there is need for stronger intra and inter-sector coordination regarding needs assessments, prioritisation and assistance, as well as coherent response. Gap identification is limited by the lack of consistent reporting among partners.
- Lack of financial capacity - among returnees - to cover transportation costs is limiting their access to services available only in urban areas. Mobile outreach and new strategies need to be adopted to reach out to affected communities.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- NCA recently conducted a WASH and Health needs assessment in 11 districts of Laghman, Nangarhar and Kunar provinces and are currently analysing the data. Details of the findings will be shared in the coming weeks.

59,000
returnees

supported with WASH
emergency response since
October 2016

Response:

- UNICEF distributed 275 Hygiene Kits to 129 returnee families in IOM TC and 146 families in four returnee settlements in Nangarhar province. Overall, 5,860 returnee families have received hygiene kits so far.
- DACAAR, supported by UNICEF, is implementing durable solutions (solar pumping systems and hand pumps) for 72 families (965 people) in 4 villages of Surkhrod and Champaran districts of Nangarhar province. In addition, implementation of the same is ongoing in three returnee settlements (two in Kabul and one in Nangarhar) covering 850 returnee families (5,917 people).
- An NRC WASH project in Jalalabad, Behsud and Surkhrod is ongoing with 27 boreholes and 413 household latrines being installed covering 500 returnee families.
- NGO Shpool is installing 102 hand pumps in three high returnee districts (Jalalabad City, Behsud and Surkhrod) covering an estimated 2,000 returnee families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH Cluster partners require additional stockpiles - estimated at US\$900,000 (20,000 Hygiene Kits and 10 Water Kits) for 150,000 people - to cover the anticipated surge in returnees from 1 April since the current stock is expected to run out in May.
- As cluster partners move towards implementing durable solutions in a number of high return areas, the cluster needs additional resources - US\$1.2 million over the next 3 months - to continue supporting populations where needs have already been identified (for instance, IMC identified WASH needs for 550 families in Behsud district but has not been able to respond due to funding constraints).
- WASH in health facilities is critical in complementing the provision of health and nutrition services. The Cluster intends to target at least 15 health facilities in the Eastern region over the next 3 months with a financial requirement of US\$250,000.
- In order to harmonise the WASH response in terms of quality and quantity, the Cluster intends to develop a national guideline for WASH in Emergencies. Even though this is a critical preparedness activity for the cluster, no cluster partner has indicated funding availability for the exercise which will cost about US\$170,000.



Refugee & Returnee

Needs:

- Multiple HEAT, cluster and agency specific assessments demonstrate that over 620,000 Afghans who returned from Pakistan in 2016 have widespread needs, including access to land, transitional and permanent shelter, food, livelihood opportunities, and civil documentation for access to basic services including enrolment in schools (grade seven and up).

07 FEB

Government of Pakistan
extended PoR cards for
registered refugees in
Pakistan until 31 Dec 2017

Response:

- UNHCR provided unconditional winterisation cash grants (US\$100 per family) to 4,458 refugee families in Barmal and 180 families Urgoon districts in Paktika province. In addition, 1,355 families in these two districts received blankets.
- UNHCR is conducting PDM - through phone interviews (male and female interviewers) - of its winterisation programme which targeted returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host community families. Nearly 300 interviews have been carried out with assisted beneficiaries in Kandahar, Helmand, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjsher, Kabul, Logar and Wardak provinces. The monitoring exercise will continue until 22 February and the initial report shared by the end of February.
- UNFPA and AADA provided health services to 343 undocumented returnees at Torkham Zero Point health facility and distributed 15 clean delivery kits.
- On 17 January, the Afghan Returnee Information System (ARIS) was formally launched in Kabul by IOM and MoRR. Since going online at the Torkham border in November 2016, ARIS has registered 26,937 persons.

- The first round of data collection - which began in late January - of IOM's DTM is now completed in all districts in Nangarhar, Kunar, and Laghman provinces. The second round of village level assessments will be completed in March and a formal report released in April.
- On 12 February, IOM completed a shelter beneficiary identification assessment for 1,582 families in Nangarhar (463 families in Jalalabad, 500 in Behsud, 387 in Rodat and Kuz Kunar, and 232 in Sukhrod districts), 275 families in Kunar (Asadabad, Sawky, Narang, Khas Kunar and Noorgal), 231 families in Laghman (Mehtarlam and Qarghayee) and 350 families in Kabul provinces (Paghman, Guldara, PD5, PD6, PD7, PD8, PD19, and PD21). The total number of families assessed stands at 2,438. Of these, 1,925 will receive shelter units and winter support in the coming weeks.
- Funded by the CHF, Afghanistan provided cash assistance (US\$180 per family) to 577 undocumented returnees in Sukhrod, Behsud and Jalalabad districts in Nangarhar to address winter needs.
- Afghanistan provided SIM cards and a phone to 923 undocumented returnee families in Sukhrod, Behsud and Jalalabad districts in Nangarhar province. The distribution of SIM cards is aimed at facilitating cash based programming as well as enhancing contact with returnee communities for delivery of alternative modes of assistance and to carry out monitoring. Afghanistan also assessed 503 individuals in Behsud district for cash distributions.
- DRC conducted a needs assessment in Kama district, Nangarhar province to identify vulnerable undocumented returnees in need of assistance. On 12 February, 221 families received a combination of cash for food, NFIs and winterisation packages.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health services - including reproductive health services - are required at Torkham Zero point for returnees and their settlements, particularly in Nangarhar province. The R&R chapter recommends the establishment of a fully functional health facility at Torkham Zero point in case the number of returns increase after the winter months.

Education

Needs:

- 80% of returnees crossing from Pakistan through Torkham border are settling in Nangarhar province, with the education system unable to absorb the large number of returnee children. As it stands, the already stretched education system has to provide education for an additional 31,322 returnee students resulting in high student/teacher ratios, overcrowded classes and double/triple teaching shifts, which results in a decrease in the quality of learning. The Nangarhar Provincial Education Department (PED) is requesting for the deployment of 380 teachers, the provision of 1,000 floor mats, 500 black boards and 250-300 tents to scale up education services for returning children. The supplies will allow the provision of education to 31,000 returnee children
- In the previous couple of weeks, Nomad Concepts conducted an assessment of 500 families at Khogyani Camp and Township in Nangarhar province. Initial findings indicate that access to education for returnee children from Khogyani Camp is limited, school capacity is very low and the availability of teaching and learning materials is also very limited. Children able to attend school –the majority of whom are boys - have to travel long distances.
- An Education focal point is required in the TC or Zero Point to provide information on education and to collect information on returnee students.
- In the Southern region the Provincial Education Department (PED) is lacking supplies and logistics capacity to provide education, teaching and learning materials to all children (including returnee children) in the region.

600,000

returnee and IDP children are in need of education in emergencies in 2017

Response:

- In the Eastern region NRC continues to support 60 ALP classes - 40 in Behsud District in Nangarhar Province and 20 in Sawki and Khas Kunar Districts in Kunar Province - and has distributed 20 classroom kits and stationary for 700 girls and boys.
- UNICEF is supporting 2,217 students including 998 girls in 53 CBS in Nangarhar province. UNICEF distributed leaflets/brochures in HRA settlement, TC, Zero Point and among the stakeholders for their further distribution.
- SC distributed story books in 130 formal schools, 53 CBEs, 80 ECCDs and 270 families in high returnee areas of Nangarhar province.
- In the Southern Region, UNICEF established 52 Temporary Learning Spaces - 42 in Kandahar Province and 10 in Helmand Province - targeting 1,500 children. The Temporary Learning Spaces will allow returnee (as well as displaced) children to access education. UNICEF additionally provided 420 School in a Box containing supplies and materials for a teacher and up to 40 students (including as exercise books, pencils, erasers and scissors for all students).

- UNICEF prepositioned 200 tents for the establishment of Temporary Learning Spaces, 100 tents will be dispatched to Nangarhar and 100 to Kandahar. UNICEF is expecting additional 150 tents in April.
- The MoE in collaboration with EiEWG partners finalised a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Flyer for returning parents. The FAQ answers questions on the Afghan education system and how to enroll children into educational institutions. The flyers will be distributed at border posts and in communities with a high population of returnees.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In the Eastern Region it is still unclear if returnee students will be allowed to participate in Mid-Year exams.
- Data on returnee students is not specifically recorded in the Ministry of Education (MoE) Education Management Information System (EMIS) making it difficult to get accurate enrolment figures for returnee children.
- EiEWG noted that the MoE guidance note on the enrolment of returnee children who lack documentation is not fully implemented in the Southern and Western regions. Teachers and PED officials alike are not aware of the issued guidance. After three months, children who cannot access education documents have to complete a placement test administered in Kabul posing an obstacle for many returnee families settled elsewhere.

Background on the crisis

More than 9,600 Afghans have returned from Pakistan in 2017 following continued pressure by Pakistani authorities through new visa requirements, shorter extension of proof of registration cards, increased police raids, detentions and deportations, restricted access to livelihoods, health care and education as well as lack of employment opportunities. While the flow of both registered refugees and undocumented returnees has stemmed in recent months, the rate of returns is anticipated to increase from April 2017 onwards with as many as 1.1 million Afghans anticipated to return by the end of 2017.

Registered returning refugees hold a Proof of Registration (PoR) card valid until 31 December 2017 which guarantees rights in line with international refugee law. Since March 2002, the return of Afghan refugees is facilitated by UNHCR through the Voluntary Repatriation Centers in Pakistan. Assistance and a cash grant is provided at four Encashment Centres in Afghanistan (Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Herat), while operational partners including UNICEF, WHO, MoRR and Ministry of Education provide emergency health services, vaccines, mine risk awareness and information on land, civil documentation and education.

Undocumented returnees are Afghans residing in Pakistan without a formal registration card (PoR) denoting refugee status. This may be either due to their non-participation in registration exercises, failure to keep their registration status updated or arrival after registration processes have concluded. Many Afghan returnee families are a mixture of both refugees (i.e. heads of households) and undocumented (women and children). Undocumented returnees are registered by MoRR and assisted by IOM and other humanitarian partners at the IOM-managed transit sites in Torkham and Kandahar where they receive post arrival assistance according to their assessed vulnerability.

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