

AFGHANISTAN

KHOST & PAKTIKA SITUATION UPDATE

1 April 2015

1. KHOST & PAKTIKA UPDATE



During a refugee situation, nutrition, particularly among children and pregnant or lactating women, is a serious concern as people often must rely on food distributions and may have limited access to markets or livestock due to a lack of livelihoods. Children are more susceptible to the effects of malnutrition, which can impact their development and resistance to infectious diseases.

HealthNet TPO and IMC are providing nutrition services in Khost and Paktika to refugee and host community children and women through the health facilities.

However, there are areas in both provinces that are underserved due to insecurity, which limits access by health and humanitarian workers. As of now, there has not been a baseline survey to specifically evaluate the nutrition needs and gaps of the refugee population, or the impact that the refugee influx is having on the host community as food resources are stretched and agriculture production may be limited. A rapid nutrition needs assessment will be conducted in Gulistan Camp in April, while a more thorough SMAT (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) Nutrition survey is planned for the provinces later in the spring.

Since the beginning of the refugee influx, shelter has been an urgent need as identified by both refugees and host communities. During December there was a significant increase in the Gulistan camp population as host communities could not support refugees as shelter and food were limited during the winter. In Gulistan camp, UNHCR is conducting a shelter assessment; approximately 700 tents have been damaged with 350 totally destroyed, which were mostly located near the river beds. At the same time, shelter in the communities is an urgent priority. When the refugee influx began, many men were sleeping outside or under makeshift shelter while the women and girls were sleeping inside. UNHCR and partner agencies distributed winterization supplies to help wind-proof and weatherize existing shelter, however as temperatures began to drop there was secondary displacement to the camp. In Paktika, this is a concern as UNHCR is currently the only agency distributing tents and emergency shelter materials. To date, agencies have distributed tents to 14,798 families and tool kits and shelter winterization materials to 8,378 families in both provinces.

2.1 PROTECTION CONCERNS

There have been reports of a number of spontaneous returns; however, we do not have an exact number. From discussions with elders and refugee representatives, it seems that the returns are often men returning for work. However, many of the refugees are concerned about the destruction of property and infrastructure as well as security. The first returns of IDPs in North Waziristan Agency, Pakistan began yesterday to a few safe locations in the agency. In coordination with

This situation update provides a snapshot of the inter-agency regional humanitarian response in full coordination with host Governments and partners across the region.

Photo: Repaired tents, Gulistan Camp, Khost Credit: UNHCR/J. Sobral

Government, UNHCR will be advocating for the refugees to be included in the return process when conditions for a safe and voluntary return are in place. UNHCR and partners aim to conduct a return intention survey in the coming weeks.

2.2 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE - SINCE 18 JUNE 2014

- **Registration:** UNHCR maintains and manages the database of registered refugee families, including verifying records, cross-checking data and updating information to improve the accuracy of the population figure and assist with coordination of distributions. UNHCR is in the process of checking the current registration database against attendance figures to determine the active refugee population in Khost. As of this week, the re-verified total active caseload is 34,915 families (241,626 individuals) with 174,307 individuals in Khost and 67,319 individuals in Paktika.
- **Food Assistance & Nutrition:** WFP, UNHCR, SVA & partners distributed over 179,000¹ food packages and wheat rations to families in Khost & Paktika since June 2014; UNHCR distributed supplemental food to 62,351 families since 28 December; HNITPO & IMC have provided treatment for 11,658 children for severe malnutrition and 10,130 for moderate malnutrition; UNICEF supported 38 outpatient centres with supplies to address severe acute malnutrition; Tameer Millat Foundation provided nutrition support to 426 mothers and 1,227 children.
- **Health:** WHO, UNICEF, IMC & HNITPO supported polio vaccinations for over 126,000 children <10 in Khost and Paktika; UNICEF gave 4,000 new born kits to DoPH Khost and 1,900 to DoPH Paktika for safe deliveries; HNITPO set-up 2 mobile clinics in Khost serving 4,557 clients; IMC set-up two mobile clinics in Paktika; Tameer Millat Foundation provided basic health services to 12,983 people; ACTD is providing health services for Gulan camp, reaching 9,291 people since November and is planning a measles vaccination campaign.
- **Mine Risk Reduction:** MACCA/UNMAS partners Halo Trust and MDC have cleared 1,585,142 m² including 919,546 m² in Gulan camp and 665,596 m² around the camp; ARCS, OMAR and MDC have provided mine/ERW risk education to 68,058 individuals.
- **NFIs:** CARE, IOM, IRC, NRC, Oxfam/OHW, SVA and UNHCR distributed NFIs to 30,778 families.
- **Tents:** CARE, IOM, IRC and UNHCR distributed tents to 14,798 families.
- **Winterization:** UNHCR distributed winterization assistance to 27,146 families including 20,346 in Khost and 6,800 in Paktika. CARE distributed winterization assistance to 1,590 families in Gurboz and Matun; IRC distributed winterisation assistance to 1,000 families in Tani, Mandozai & Nadir Shah Kot; NRC distributed winterization kits to 130 families and is providing 176 bukharis to schools in Gulan Camp and communities; Oxfam/OHW distributed winterization kits to 310 families in Lakan/Shamal; UNICEF supplied 1,550 family kits and winterization assistance to Khost & Paktika; ARCS will distribute 500 kits in Paktika. WHO & partners distributed 15 acute respiratory infection kits to treat winter-related respiratory cases.
- **WASH:** 4 boreholes have been drilled by UNHCR and Solidarités, with 3 more almost complete in Gulan Camp; Solidarités is managing WASH activities, distributed 8,069 hygiene kits, 1,453 latrines and bathroom kits in Gulan camp and conducted 956 hygiene sessions for 6,304 participants; DAACAR provided 525 emergency latrines in host communities, distributed 3,012 hygiene kits, and provided 9.6 million litres of drinking water in communities; with funds from UNICEF completed 37 of 40 wells and 120 latrines and installed hand washing facilities; IRC distributed 671 emergency latrines & hygiene kits; NCA distributed 1,360 family & female hygiene kits in Khost and 400 in Paktika and conducted hygiene awareness; UNICEF funded MRRD for 50 wells for 1,350 families in Paktika; IMC is conducting WASH activities in Barmel and

¹ This figure includes food packages for 37,000 families, wheat rations for nearly 85,000 families and supplemental food for over 57,000 families collectively since 18 June 2014.

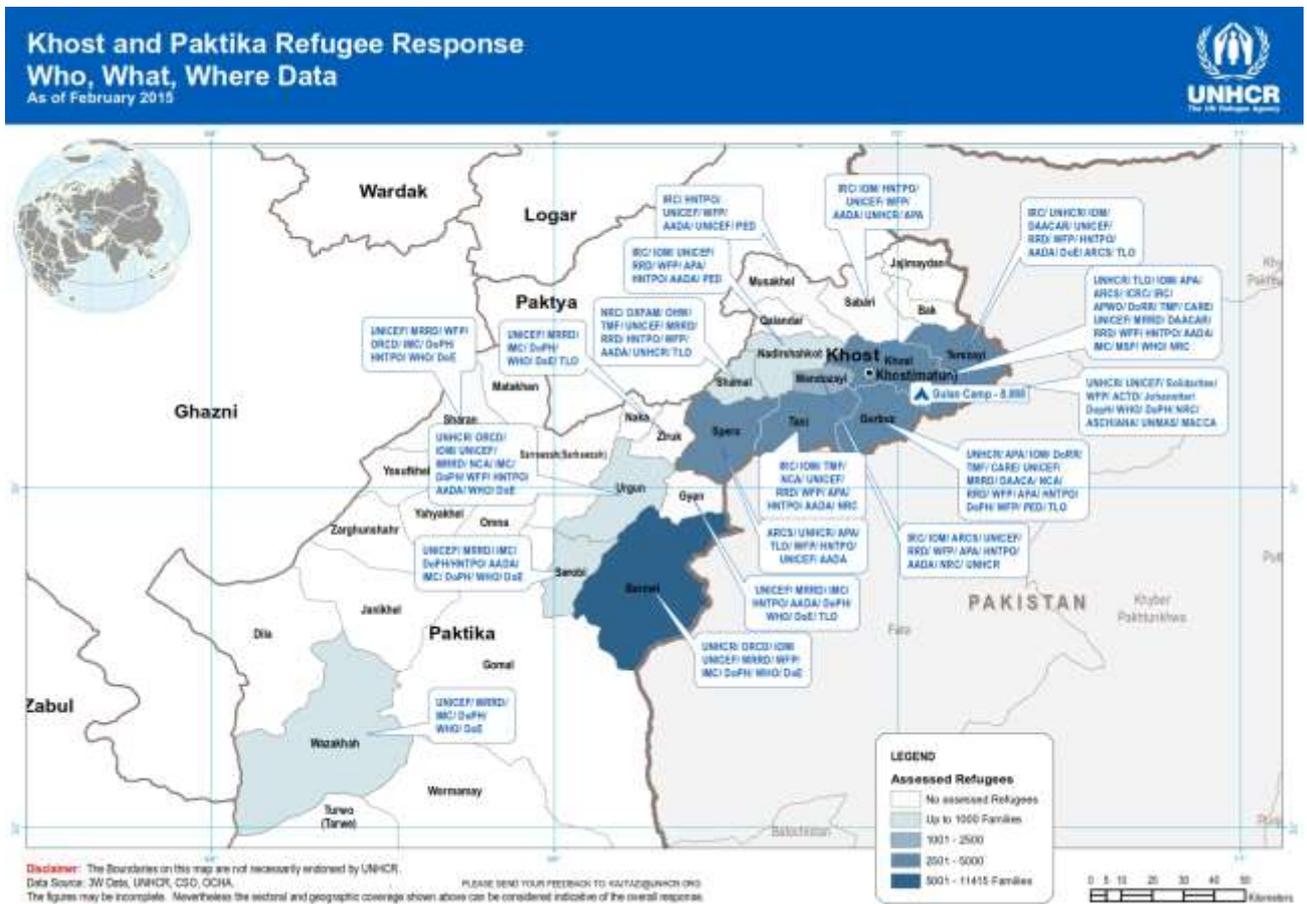
Urgun districts, including constructing 70 latrines in Urgun, conducting hygiene trainings, and distributing 1,000 jerry cans and soap.

- Education:** In Gulistan camp, NRC set-up 83 transitional classrooms and teachers for 2,100 children, including 900 girls; Aschiana is providing literacy, child friendly spaces, sports and theatre activities to children in the camp; NRC with UNICEF constructed 93 classrooms with 93 teachers for 2,924 students, including 993 girls in Gurboz, Tani, Mandozai and Khost (Matun); In Paktika, DoE hired 54 out of a planned 100 teachers from among the refugees to improve refugee children's access to education and UNICEF supported an additional 15 classes for 250 students. An education working group has also been established with key partners in Khost to coordinate activities and ensure access to education, particularly for girls.
- SGBV & Women's Health:** UNFPA distributed 850 dignity kits and delivered two reproductive health kits to clinics to support 10,000 people. UNHCR is working with partners to strengthen coordination and information among women, SGBV partners and government agencies.

3. NEXT STEPS

Wednesday 15 April 2015: Kabul Task Force Meeting, 14h00 UNHCR, Kabul

Agencies operating on the ground are encouraged to continue to provide updates regarding planned and completed activities to ensure information is accurate for coordination and reporting purposes.



Summary: In mid-June, following military operations in North Waziristan Agency, Pakistan, families began crossing into Khost and Paktika provinces, Afghanistan. Many families left suddenly, with few belongings and settled in host communities, or Gulistan camp, Gurboz district, Khost. UNHCR and partners have been on the ground since the situation began, conducting assessments, delivering assistance and coordinating response efforts. Food, water, sanitation, shelter, health and mine clearance continue to be urgent priorities.

Contacts:

Yumiko Takashima, UNHCR Afghanistan takashim@unhcr.org
 Indrika Ratwatte, UNHCR Pakistan ratwatte@unhcr.org

Afghanistan - Humanitarian Response in Khost and Paktika

NFIs, Tents, Vaccinations and Food Packages

30 March 2015

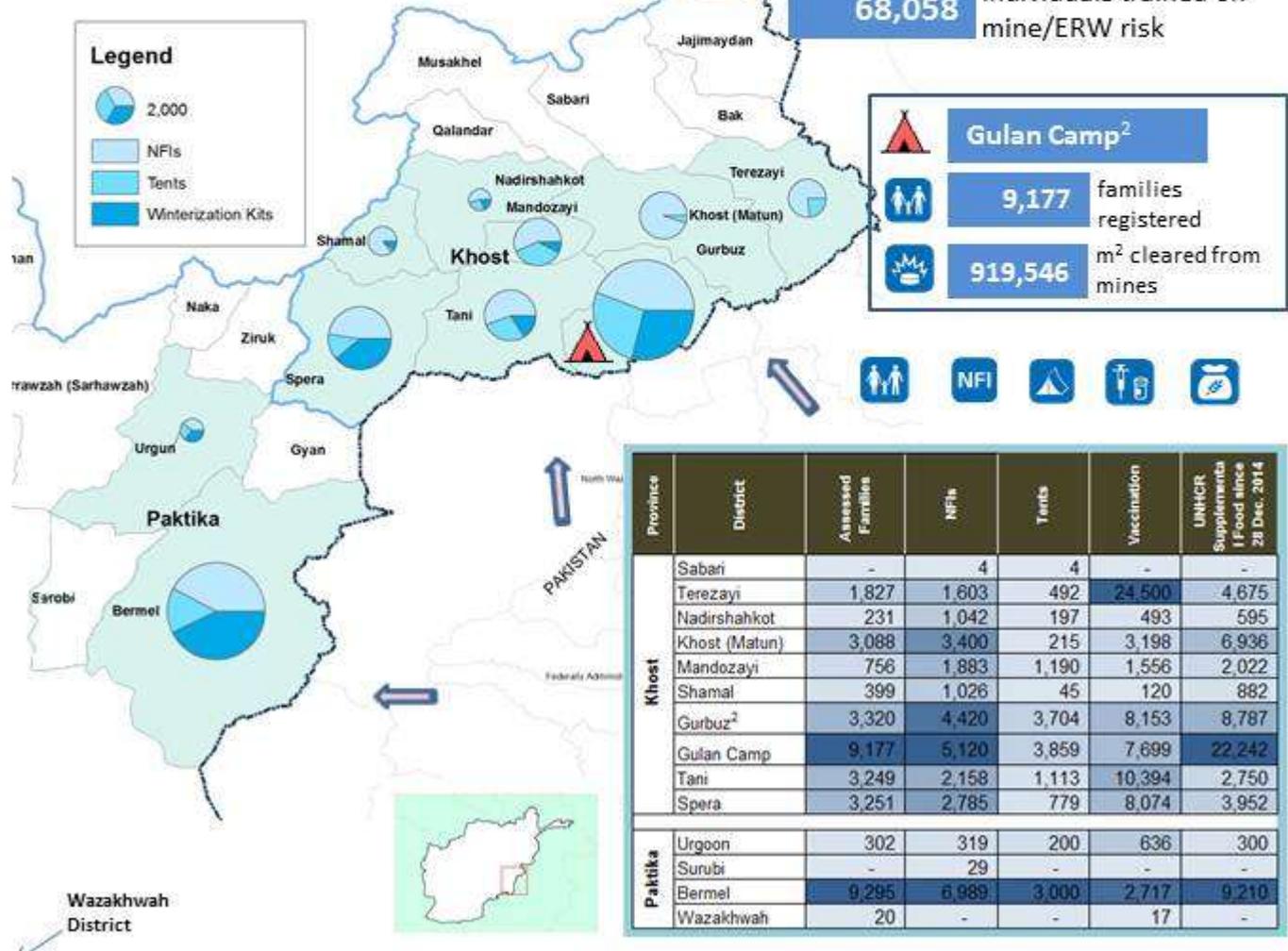


Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan

34,915 families
241,626 individuals

62,351 families received supplemental food since 28 December 2014
18,762 families received wheat in March 2015

30,778 families received Non Food Items
 27,146 families received winterization packages
 14,798 families received tents
 67,557 children vaccinated¹
 1,965,095 m² cleared from mines
 68,058 individuals trained on mine/ERW risk



¹ In addition to this number, 57,567 vaccinations were carried out at the border.
² Gulan Camp's data are specified in the table, separated from the rest of Gurbuz district.