

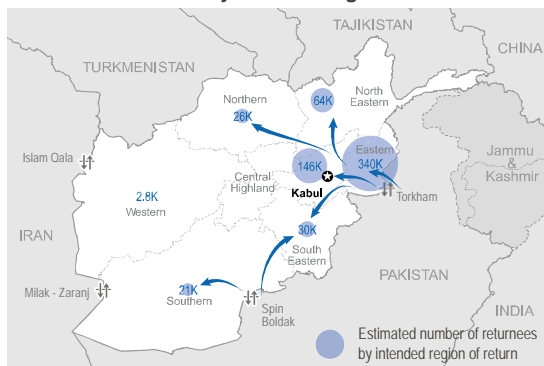


This report is produced by OCHA Afghanistan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 16 March to 22 March 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 6 April 2017.

Highlights

- So far in 2017, the total number of undocumented returnees who have arrived from Pakistan has now reached 9,928 exceeding – by 3% – the total figure (9,335) which returned in the first quarter of 2016. In the past month, numbers of undocumented returns slowed significantly following the closure of the Spin Boldak and Torkham borders between 16 February and 19 March owing to security concerns; the borders reopened on 20 March. Only 23 deported Afghans arrived in the country from 12 to 18 March.
- From 1 April, UNHCR’s voluntary repatriation programme will resume from the winter pause which took effect in mid-December last year. In preparation, UNHCR Encashment Center (JMEC) is equipped with health, drug awareness and overnight accommodation facilities to ensure adequate response capacity. Following consultations with donors and stakeholders, UNHCR will reduce the one off cash grant from US\$400 to US\$200 per registered refugee from 1 April. The cash grant is provided to Afghan refugees from Pakistan, as well as to refugees repatriating from other countries through the programme.
- According to the REACH Informal Settlement Food Security assessment – completed in late January – many returnees are food insecure in Kabul (46% severely and 30% moderately) as well as in Nangarhar (30% severely and 26% moderately), while 60% of returnee households in Nangarhar and 90% in Kabul have poor/borderline food consumption. Returnees in Nangarhar use a high number of coping strategies (50%) while those in Kabul use 31%. Some of the key priority needs for returnee households included food (89%) and employment (63%).
- A joint mission to the Kabul formal (PD21) and informal settlements (Hussain Khil) took place on 13 March led by Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG), UNHCR and UNICEF. Initial findings indicate that 4,000 returnee children of school going age do not have access to education – most of whom were enrolled in schools in Pakistan prior to returning to Afghanistan. These findings were linked to long distances to schools (up to 6km on average), lack of school tents, learning supplies, text books, incentive for teachers and education documentation. Despite the waiver of Tazkera and other education documents as a requirement for enrollment of returnee children, 80% of school aged children have been barred from schools due to lack of documentation.

Estimated returnees by intended region of return



Source: UNHCR (31 Dec 2016) & IOM (18 Mar 2017)
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Financial Update

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has received a total of US\$ 84.8 million (15.4% of the total requirement) since it was launched at the beginning of this year; US\$ 26.9 million are paid contributions while US\$ 57.9 million are commitments, leaving a gap of US\$ 465 million against the overall requirement of US\$ 550 million.

HRP 2017 Requirements



According to the latest official data on the Financial Tracking Service (FTS)¹, of the US\$ 84.8 million registered, US\$ 20 million has been earmarked for Food Security and Agriculture while the rest – US\$ 64.8 million – is still in the process of verification with donor organisations and recipient agencies to identify the appropriate clusters. The Refugee and Returnee Chapter requirements in 2017 total US\$240 million.

¹ <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/1/summary/2017>

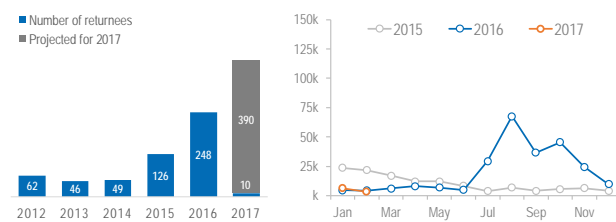
Situation Overview

More than a month after the two major international crossings were closed, the Pakistani Government issued an order, on the afternoon of 20 March, for the immediate reopening of its borders with Afghanistan. The Torkham and Spin Boldak borders were closed – on 16 February – indefinitely following a series of suicide attacks that took place on 13 and 16 February in Pakistan claiming the lives of over a hundred people. The month-long closure left over 50,000 commercial trucks carrying food and other goods (including humanitarian supplies) and thousands of people stranded, despite the temporary opening of borders for 48 hours – on 7-8 March – to allow stranded travelers with documents to cross.

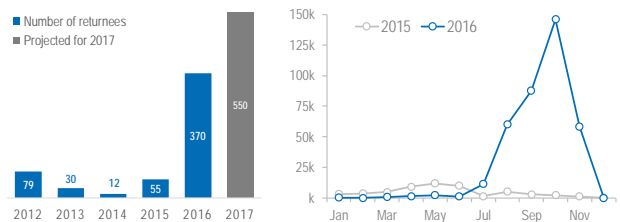
The sixth national population census exercise in Pakistan began on 15 March 2017. It marked the first census to take place since 1998 (after 19 years). Foreign nationals, including over 3 million Afghans residing in Pakistan – according to 2005 Afghan census conducted by the Pakistan Government with the assistance of UNHCR – will be counted. The 70-day door-to-door campaign will be carried out in two phases and should conclude by late June.

Returnee trends (2012-2016)

Undocumented Afghan returnees *

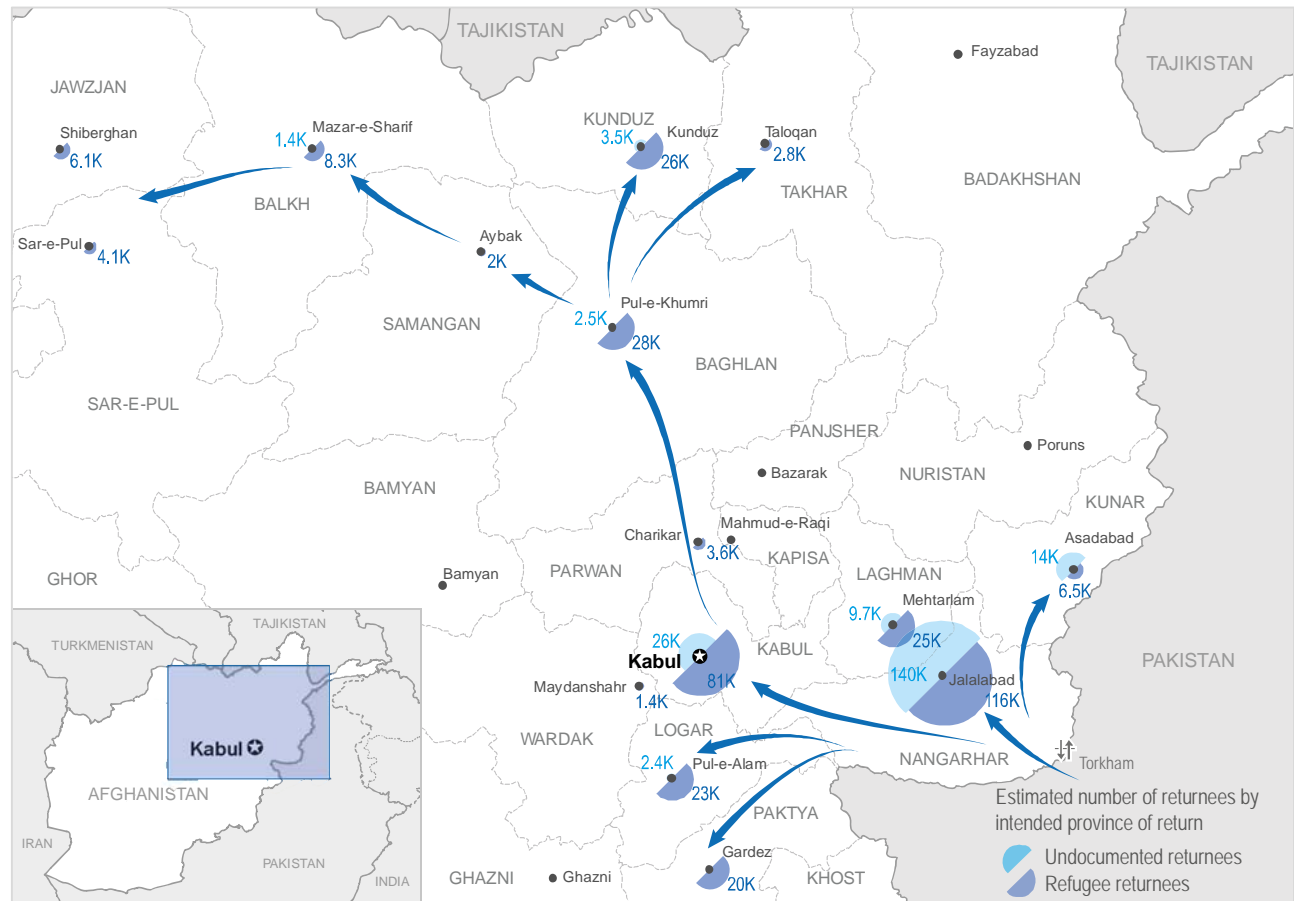


Registered Afghan refugee returnees



Source: IOM (undocumented returnees, as of 18 Mar 2017), UNHCR (registered refugee returnees, as of 31 Dec 2016)
 * Figures include deportees from Pakistan.

Estimated number of returnees by intended province of return



Source: IOM (undocumented returnees, as of 11 Feb 2017), UNHCR (registered refugee returnees, as of 31 Dec 2016). Figures do not include deportees from Pakistan.

Humanitarian Response: Reporting by Clusters



Needs:

- On 10 February, NRC assessed the needs of 4,000 refugee returnee families in Behsud, Surkhrod, Rodat, Kuz kunar and Khogiani districts of Nangarhar province, three districts in Kunar province (Asada abad, Chawkay, Narang) and Qarghayee, Mehtarlam districts of Laghman province. 1,384 returnee families (23% female headed households) were identified as the most vulnerable in need of NFIs and winterization assistance.
- On the first and second week of March, Cordaid conducted an assessment and identified 8,029 individuals in four districts – Rodat (1,022), Kuz Kunar (1,078), Surkhrod (3,339), Goshta (2,590) – to be in need of shelter, NFIs and food.

183,850
returnees are being assisted through ongoing ES/NFI activities

Response:

- NRC responded to 1,384 vulnerable returnee families. Of these 312 were female headed households, 294 were elderly headed households, 648 households had three or more children under five years. Cash for NFIs and winterization support was provided to 713 families in Behsud, Surkhrod, Kuz kunar and Khogiani districts of Nangarhar province, 390 families in Asada bad, Chawkay districts of Kunar province, and 281 families in Qarghayee district of Laghman province.
- Cordaid provided multi-purpose cash to cover shelter, NFIs and food needs of 1,147 households assessed between 1-13 March 2017.
- 1,650 vulnerable, undocumented returnee HHs in Nangarhar (1,200), Kabul (200), Laghman (200) were assessed by IOM in January 2017 and were subsequently assisted with shelter and winterization packages from 1-15 March 2017.
- From 14 February - 14 March, IRC assisted 1,340 families with NFIs and cash for winterization in Nangarhar and Khost provinces.

Gaps & Constraints:

- 460 families assessed on between 20 - 23 February in Shinwar district, Nangarhar Province are awaiting assistance from DRC – pending donor approval.



Food Security & Agriculture

Needs:

- Since early March, FSAC in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has been conducting detailed Food Security and Livelihood assessment in East region to identify both immediate and long term livelihood needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities. Overall, 59% of data collection has been completed. The final report will be available in April.
- NPO/RRAA reported that as many as 1,750 returnee individuals are in need of food assistance in Mahmand dara and Lalpura districts of Nangarhar province.

US\$ 54.4 mil
required to provide basic food assistance and livelihoods support to returnees in 2017

Response:

- WFP provided a one-month food ration to 18,528 documented families in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces in East region.
- RI provided cash for food to 322 families in Behsud, 152 families in Jalalabad, 213 families in Rodat districts of Nangarhar province, 73 families in Asadabad, 106 families in Sarkani, 103 families in Khas Kunar and 114 families in Watapur districts of Kunar province.
- DRC provided cash to 75 families in Kama district of Nangarhar province.
- OHW/Cordaid provided food to 257 families in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province.
- NPO/RRAA provided cash for food to 660 families in Behsud district of Nangarhar province.
- SCI provided cash for food to 1,155 families in Jalalabad, Behsud, Surkhrod, Kama, Kuz Kunar and Rodat districts of Nangarhar province.
- SI provided cash for food to 13 families in Matun district of Khost province, 64 families in Maydan Shahr district of Wardak province and 74 families in center of Bamyan province.
- DACAAR distributed agriculture inputs to 550 families in Dehdadi, Balkh, Nahar-e-Shai and Sholgara districts of Balkh province.

Gaps & Constraints:

- 39% 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.

**Needs:**

- NSTR

Response:

- NSTR

Gaps & Constraints:

- NSTR

**Needs:**

- NSTR

Response:

- At the Zero Point, UNICEF and AADA provided 3,568 children under five (including 1,000 from 1 January) with Vitamin A supplementation, 2,616 children under two and under five (including 708 from 1 January) with deworming tablets and 1,069 women (including 283 from 1 January) with IYCF counselling. To date, 4,446 children have been screened for acute malnutrition, of these, 193 were identified as suffering from SAM (4.3%) and 326 from MAM (7.3%) and referred for treatment. Supplies of RUTF have also been distributed to children identified with SAM.

Gaps & Constraints:

- NSTR

**Needs:**

- There is an urgent need for psycho-social counselling centers for referral, temporary learning, child friendly and women safe spaces, access to basic services including civil documentation, shelter and employment opportunities in seven districts (Surkhod, Behsud, Kama, Mohmand Dara, Rodat, Kuz Kunar and Dara I Noor) in Nangarhar, four districts (Khas Kunar, Chawkay, Narang, Nurgal) in Kunar and two districts (Qaraghayi and Mihtarlam) in Laghman.

Response:

- Funded by ECHO and CHF, PU-AMI mobile health teams provided psychological first aid to 346 returnee individuals (54 males, 292 females) and community awareness sessions to 1,554 returnee individuals (637 males, 1,017 females) in Nangarhar province.
- NRC registered 15 HLP cases in Laghman, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. Of these, 13 cases were solved, 13 information sessions were organized and 14 persons were assisted to receive a Tazkera. The NRC hotline service was also contacted by 97 people during the reporting period who were advised on access to basic services, civil documentation and HLP.
- At the Torkham Border, 115 returnee individuals were assisted with food, temporary shelter, NFI, referral services, transportation grants and medical assistance by partners.
- In the Eastern region, mine/ERW risk education was provided to 10,740 returnees (5,541 females, 5,199 males) by DDG, OMAR, HALO and AREA.
- At the Spin Boldak Zero Point, Kandahar Transit Center and Nimroz transit centers, mine/ERW risk education was provided to 462 undocumented returnees (147 females, 315 males) by DDG and HT.

US\$ 2.2 million

required to meet the immediate health needs of returnee populations in 2017

48,719

children and women have received emergency nutrition assistance

US\$ 37.8 million

required to provide protection assistance to returnee populations in 2017

- In Kunduz, mine/ERW risk education was provided to 9,714 returnees and refugees (4,445 females, 5,269 males) by DDG, MDC and OMAR. During the reporting period, a total of 75 unexploded ordnances were destroyed by MDC.
- In Kabul, mine/ERW risk education was provided to 73 returnees (16 females, 57 males) by OMAR.
- At the Spin Boldak border, 133 returnee individuals were assisted with NFI, food assistance and MRE training by WFP, IOM and DDG.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of contextualised cultural sensitive response, and female protection staff remains a challenge in reaching women and girls with the required assistance. There is also a limited number of aid agencies to respond to issues related to gender based violence and lack of psycho social counsellors particularly female psychological first aid providers to provide services in areas of high return.
- According to CPIE, in Batikot, Chaparhar, Hesarak, Khogyani, Kot, Pachieragam and Shinwar in Nangarhar province and Mehtarian in Laghman province there is lack of child friendly spaces and psychosocial support for children who have been exposed to trauma.
- Current limited civil documentation services cannot respond to large scale needs. So far, only one protection partner – countrywide – operating in the Eastern region is providing civil documentation services. This capacity is therefore insufficient in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable returnees and IDPs in areas of high return.
- Lack of privacy as result of overcrowded accommodations (rented or shared compound with other families) is well documented from the onset of the returnee influx according to Rapid, HEAT and Community Protection assessments in Eastern region. At the same time, delays in land allocation and provision of less sustainable shelter solutions exacerbate returnee's exposure to additional risks.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- As per the needs assessment survey conducted by NCRO in February covering 16,492 individuals in Nangarhar province (five different locations). Of these, 7,000 returnee individuals were identified (4,200 undocumented and 2,800 documented) to be in need of WASH services.
- In January, ZOA carried out a needs assessments survey in Nangarhar province covering 14,000 individuals, of these 40% were returnee. 11,200 returnee and host community individuals were identified to be in need of improved water supply which consists of the rehabilitation of 35 wells and 45 (wells and hand pumps) new installations.
- CRDS conducted a needs assessment between January and February in Tara Khail, Qazi Aabad, Safi Kot, Muslim Abad, and Tangi Qaru area of Kabul for 9,300 undocumented returnees. All the 9,300 were found to be in need of urgent water supply and 1,400 individuals also need emergency sanitation facilities to reduce the practice of open defecation.
- A WASH needs assessment is urgently required in informal settlements across several provinces experiencing higher returns and conflict displacement. This includes Kabul, Kapisa, Logar provinces in Central region; Paktya, Khost and Paktika provinces in South Eastern region; and Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman provinces in Eastern region. Majority of these settlements have only been provided with one-time assistance and durable solutions have yet to be implemented due to land disputes amongst other factors. In addition, the influx of returnees in already crowded and ill-served informal settlements increased the burden on the existing limited WASH facilities.

68,500
returnees

supported with WASH
emergency response since
October 2016

Response:

- 4,100 returnees were provided with 583 family hygiene kits, 199 kits were distributed by UNICEF at the IOM TC and 384 kits were distributed by NRC in three returnee settlements in Nangarhar province.
- UNICEF supported DACAAR to implement durable solutions with solar pumping systems and hand pumps for 198 families in four villages (Gillani, Saisang, Sabawoon and Surkh Dewar) of Nangarhar province.
- Funded by UNICEF, DACAAR has completed the installation of 10 boreholes with hand pumps and 70 emergency latrines with bathing facility in Khosa Cheena in Nangrahar benefiting 1,233 undocumented returnees.
- The NRC WASH project in Jalalabad, Behsud and Surkhrod completed installing 15 water points benefiting 2,100 returnees, majority of whom are undocumented.
- IMC is implementing the second phase of their WASH project at the Zero Point and IOM TC in Torkham with UNICEF funding support. The Project has been benefiting 2,500 returnees per month on average, since January.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The need for national WASH in Emergency (WinE) guidelines and standards was identified (through a capacity gap analysis and the CCPM survey) as a key tool in supporting national WASH capacity building and the Cluster leadership transition process. Therefore, WASH cluster partner WHO has submitted – under the current CHF first standard allocation – a proposal to support the compilation of a national WinE Guidelines.
- In anticipation of a possible surge in returnees from 1 April, two WASH Cluster partners have submitted proposals under the current CHF first standard allocation to replenish stockpiles estimated to cover around 100,000 people as current stocks are expected to run out by end of May. Four cluster partners have also submitted proposals to accelerate the implementation of durable solutions in high return areas covering about 50,000 returnees and host communities. The Cluster estimates a resource gap of US\$ 2.5 million for the next 3 months.

**Refugee & Returnee****Needs:**

- On 6 March, COAR conducted a WASH needs assessment of 34 families in Khost (Matun), Tani and Tari Zay for Pakistan Refugees, IDPs and host communities. Insufficient access to potable water and sanitation was identified to. The findings will be presented to the WASH cluster for planning in the coming weeks.

01 April

Scheduled start of
Voluntary Repatriation for
Afghan Refugees from
Pakistan

Response:

- IOM continued its distribution of shelter kits to vulnerable returnee families reaching 766 families in Nangarhar's Behsud (344 families), Surkhord (131 families) and Jalalabad (291 families) districts. A further 600 families received assistance in Kabul, Laghman and Kunar during the reporting week.
- The first round of district level assessments completed on 08 February – by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix – is being followed up with village level assessments to be completed in 1,313 villages in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces. The formal report will be issued in early April. Plans are in place to expand the pilot to Kabul, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Paktya and Balkh provinces in March and April.
- UNHCR biometric registration of Pakistani refugees in Tani district commenced on 19 February with more than 8,700 refugees registered as of 9 March.
- In Barmal district of Paktika, UNICEF supported Mobile Health Teams to provide health care services to refugees while 109 children with SAM from also from the refugee and host community received Nutrition services.
- NFIs, blankets and hygiene kits were provided to 48 undocumented returnees and IDP families in Matun, Ismail Khel, Zazi Maidan and Nader Shah Kot and Tani with support from UNICEF.
- UNHCR assisted 98 refugee families that moved from Laman (Paktika) to Gulan camp. 30 families received tents and 60 families received NFI assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- NRC is currently facilitating 100 primary education classes for refugee children in Khost. The project is set to end 2018 leaving a significant gap. The R&R chapter is requesting concerned stakeholders to plan for this anticipated gap.
- Owing to an AGEs ban between 27 February and 3 March aid agencies were unable to vaccinate refugee children in Barmal district.

**Education****Needs:**

- In March, ACTED conducted a needs assessment in Jalalabad, Rodat, Kamar, Kuz Kunar and Behsud districts in Nangarhar province. The assessment found that 62% of surveyed school aged children are not enrolled in schools because of security concerns, overcrowded classes, and long distance to schools. Textbooks and language classes in Dari were identified as necessary in aiding children's return to school.
- Early in March, NRC carried out a needs assessment in Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Kandahar provinces. The findings indicated that majority of returnee and displaced children have no access to formal schools due to long distances, overcrowded classrooms, poor economic conditions, early marriages (specially for girls), lack of education documentation and fear of violence. To improve access to education, the following was

600,000

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

recommended; provision of learning and teaching materials, hygiene kits, provision of WASH facilities, establishment of CBE and ECE centers, classroom kits, provision and establishment of temporary learning spaces, renovation of schools, recruitment of teachers, and student enrollment support to schools.

- A Joint Visit (UNCHR, IOM and EiEWG) to the Encashment Centre in Kandahar found that education and recreation activities are non-existence in the centre.

Response:

- In Eastern Region, Save the Children distributed textbooks to 31 CBS and 22 ECD in high returnee areas in Jalalabad.
- UNICEF provided 115 tents in Jalalabad for immediate EiE response. 2,217 returnee children in 53 CBSs benefited from teaching and learning materials, tents and training of teachers in Momandara, Khewa, Behsood, Kama, Rodat, Surkhroad, Behsood and Jalalabad districts.
- NRC continue to support 120 teachers with stipends and training benefiting 5,946 students in Nangarhar province. 120 classrooms and learning kits have been distributed in JAA, Behsood, Kama, Kuz Kunar and Surkhroad districts and provided School Improvement Plan materials for 12 schools. NRC has also supported students who need a national ID card for the school enrolment.
- Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) is supporting 232 CBS in Nangarhar province (Kama, Behsood, Surkhroad and Rodat districts) with teaching and learning materials, incentives for 110 teachers, and operational costs.
- In Kandahar, UNICEF distributed 24 School in Box (11 in Panjwai and 13 in Kandahar City) to 960 students. 28 students have been enrolled in the reporting period in the different schools in Hilmand province. UNICEF also supplied recreational supplies to Encashment Centers.

Gaps & Constraints:

- EIE preparedness and response capacity is low at PED, DED and school level, which calls for immediate training. In response to this UNICEF has planned to organize training at the beginning of the second quarter.

Background on the crisis

More than 9,900 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan in 2017. While the flow of undocumented returnees has stemmed in recent months, the rate of returns is anticipated to increase from April 2017 when the repatriation of registered refugees recommences on 1 April 2017, with around 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 legalises their stay in Pakistan. 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). Operational partners include UNICEF, WHO, MoRR and MoE 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 means of registration. 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.

For further information, please contact:

Dominic Parker, Head of Office, OCHA Afghanistan, parker@un.org, Cell +93 790 3001 101
Charlotte Ashley, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Afghanistan, ashley@un.org, Cell +93 793 001 128
For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int