



Surge in returns of Refugees and undocumented Afghans continues through Torkham border. IOM © 2017

## Situation Overview

During 2017, the government has taken key policy decisions regarding registering the undocumented Afghans and institutionalizing measures to support Afghan refugees. IOM Pakistan is supporting the government through participation in the Provincial Taskforce on Documenting the Unregistered Afghan Nationals.

According to the IOM Weekly Flow Monitoring Snapshot 6th to 12th August, a total of 82,019 refugees and undocumented Afghans returned or were deported to Afghanistan since January 2017. As per current estimates, approximately 0.7 million undocumented Afghans continue to reside in Pakistan. In coordination with IOM Afghanistan, IOM Pakistan is supporting information collection, dissemination and in-kind assistance to returnees.

At the time of writing, 30,238 internally displaced families have returned to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in 2017 and the remaining 44,442 currently displaced families are set to return in the next year with facilitation from governmental and humanitarian stakeholders. IOM continues to provide critical and multi-sectoral life-saving information to Internally displaced people (IDPs) through a combination of formal and informal communication channels.

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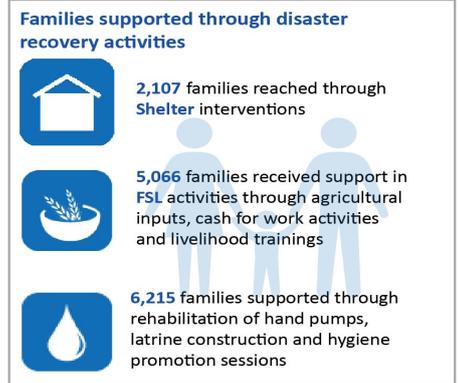
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## Multi-Year Humanitarian Programme for Natural Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery in Pakistan

The Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) continues to support at-risk and affected communities through its' multi-sector preparedness, response and recovery activities. In this quarter, the program continued to deliver customized recovery packages to communities affected by disasters and maintain preparedness stocks for potential disasters in 2017. The consortium has finalized recovery plans for 2017-18 and continues to explore opportunities for innovative pilots on climate smart villages, cash harmonization, resilience-building, and so on. The programme is a four year programme funded by DfID/UKAid.



### Research on Improved Shelters for Responding to Floods

During the quarter, physical testing of the wall panels at NED University in Karachi for rainwater test was completed while flood water tests are expected to be completed in August 2017. Relevant governmental and non-governmental counterparts, including the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the End User Group, are consulted regularly for their inputs to enhance the findings, final products, and dissemination strategies. ARUP has completed desk studies on topics related to costs, sustainability, building environments, daylighting and structures of differing typologies constructed in southern Pakistan during 2010-12 and this will feed into the Construction Guide and Final Research Report. ARUP International in consultation with IOM, continues to investigate similar, relatively user friendly ways to present the tool. The first draft of this construction guide is expected to be circulated by end of October, 2017.

### Undocumented Afghans

IOM Pakistan has completed the field work for the **Return Intentions Survey** to assist in the establishment of an evidence base for informing humanitarian actors' potential responses for Afghan returnees. This comprehensive Return Intentions Survey will be finalized in coming weeks and provide vital information to inform relevant stakeholders on the returnees' critical needs, return intentions and profiles including vulnerabilities. Additional monitors will be deployed on the Torkham and Chaman border crossing in addition to the ones already conducting **inflow and outflow monitoring** in order to inform weekly situation updates on return trends and vulnerabilities in 2017.

IOM has also finalized recruitment of Field Monitoring Associates to be deployed at NADRA documentation centers established to register undocumented Afghans, in order to carry out various monitoring and data collection activities. In addition, IOM is also supporting the documentation process through the Humanitarian Call Center that is currently providing vital information to Afghan callers from all over Pakistan regarding information on the documentation process and eligibility criteria as well as serving as a mechanism for conveying grievances of undocumented Afghans to relevant authorities. IOM is providing regular feedback to the Federal Task Force on Documentation of Unregistered Afghans, which has participation from both Government of Pakistan and Afghanistan, in order to improve and enhance effectiveness of the documentation exercise.

In order to maximize outreach and dissemination of time sensitive information about the documentation process, IOM is also leading a **media information campaign** to facilitate target population in informed decision making.



Cash for Work programme engages local labor in Chitral to improve access. IOM © 2017



Monitoring trips serve as a quality assurance measure in Shelter interventions. IOM ©

## Migration Health Services

IOM’s migration health clinics in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Mirpur continued provision of health assessment services with **17,881 prospective migrants** and refugees assisted during this quarter. The majority of health assessment services were provided for the United Kingdom’s pre-departure tuberculosis detection programme (8,697 individuals), followed by the immigration medical exam for Canada (4,890 individuals).

Other migration health services provided during this period include the immigration medical exam for Australia (3,498 individuals) and New Zealand (163 individuals). Pre-departure health check for Australia(150 individuals) and New Zealand (35) bound refugees were also provided. DNA samples for 448 individuals were also collected.

## Humanitarian Communications

IOM supports displaced and returning populations affected by complex crises in North-West Pakistan through its Humanitarian Communications programme (HComms). IOM, with the support of UNOCHA continues to provide support to the returning communities of North and South Waziristan in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) regarding the return timelines and assistance packages in general, with a particular focus on eligibility criteria and returns related cash assistance.

In coordination with the FATA Disaster Management Authorities (FDMA), information campaigns to support returns to North Waziristan and South Waziristan were finalized. Seven **Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** and five **newspaper advertisements** regarding return schedules, cash compensation, civil documentation and Mine Risk Education (MRE), for returnees were developed and disseminated.

## Migration Management and Counter-Trafficking

IOM organized three trainings aimed at building capacity of officials on monitoring post readmission situation of returnees and reintegration of former migrants, for Federal and provincial Government Officials and Civil Society Organizations, under the EU funded MONITOR project. Moreover, two capacity building workshops on Counter Trafficking and Counter Migrant Smuggling were held with the support of Australian Government, for officials of Federal Investigation Agency and Provincial Police Department and civil society representatives. IOM also organized a Study Visit to Tbilisi, Georgia for Government of Pakistan officials under the EURCAP funded Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) for Pakistan. During the visit the officials were introduced to the case management system in Georgia.



IOM Pakistan organized workshops on Counter Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling for government officials and civil society members. IOM © 2017

