UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

PAKISTAN - SNAPSHOT

2023 Response

January - December 2023

31
Active Partners

$176M
Funds Requested

56%
Funded

Pakistan Response

Thanks to the support of the international community and partners, and in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, multi-sectoral services and support continued throughout 2023, reaching both refugee families and their host communities in the areas of protection, education, livelihoods, health and energy.

UNHCR's response was bolstered in collaboration with 56 national and international partners under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), and continued to be guided by the Core Group for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), demonstrating sustained engagement and solidarity by the international community.

Pakistan's long-standing tradition of hospitality was tested during the final quarter of 2023 with the implementation of the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP) which saw some 491,000 Afghans return to Afghanistan from 15 September onwards, the vast majority under duress. Owing to acute socioeconomic challenges and the commencement of the IFRP, facilitated returns through UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation programme also increased by 502% compared to 2022, with over 36,000 during the year, some 70% from mid-September.

By the end of 2023, Pakistan hosted approximately 3.1 million Afghans of various legal statuses, including some 1.37 million Proof of Registration (POR) card holders, 143,000 Unregistered Members of PoR Card holders (UMRFs), 803,000 Afghan Citizen Holders (ACC) and 822,000 undocumented Afghans. including 26,000(*) persons who arrived and were registered by UNHCR in 2023.

Key Achievements

36,500
Registered refugees elected to return to Afghanistan following counselling at Baleli and Azakeil Voluntary Repatriation Centres

4,200
Individuals were submitted to 10 resettlement countries and 590 persons departed to 8 countries

77,000
Refugees and asylum seekers were provided with legal aid, including advice and support for court interventions

1.23 million
Indiviuals were supported through cash interventions including 100K+ vulnerable individuals with total amount of USD 19 million

130,100
Pupils were enrolled in school, including 56,331 in 142 UNHCR-supported refugee village schools and 73,733 in national schools

142
Refugee village schools successfully transitioned to the national curriculum of Pakistan

62
Refugee village schools damaged by the 2022 floods were rehabilitated, improving learning for over 16,000 students

654
Refugee students were supported to access third-level education, marking an increase of 15% between 2021 and 2023

137
Public and community facilities were solarized, including schools, hospitals, training and community centres

10,500
Households without access to electricity were provided with portable solar kits to power three lights, a fan, and charge a mobile phone

25
Remote refugee villages saw the installation of solar streetlights, transforming security and social interactions among refugees of all age groups, especially women and girls

17
Public hospitals were provided with medical equipment, improving capacity and quality of trauma, gynecological and neonatal care

1,300
People with disabilities were provided with assistive devices and referrals to protection services

8,700
Individuals were supported with skills development, vocational training, internships, financial literacy and start-up grants

74,300
New trees were planted as part of UNHCR's commitment to environmental sustainability

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors to the Pakistan response in 2023

Austria | Canada | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | UK for UNHCR | United States of America | Private donors France | Private donors Netherlands | Private donors Saudi Arabia | Private donors United Arab Emirates | Private donors United States of America | Other private donors

Click here for more details

Creation date: Aug 2024 | Source: Annual Results Report (2023), ActivityInfo, and COMPASS | Feedback: Information Management Unit: pakisim@unhcr.org

(*): Refers to new arrivals who approached UNHCR for registration in 2023. A total of 476,000 Afghans have approached UNHCR for registration since August 2021.

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.