

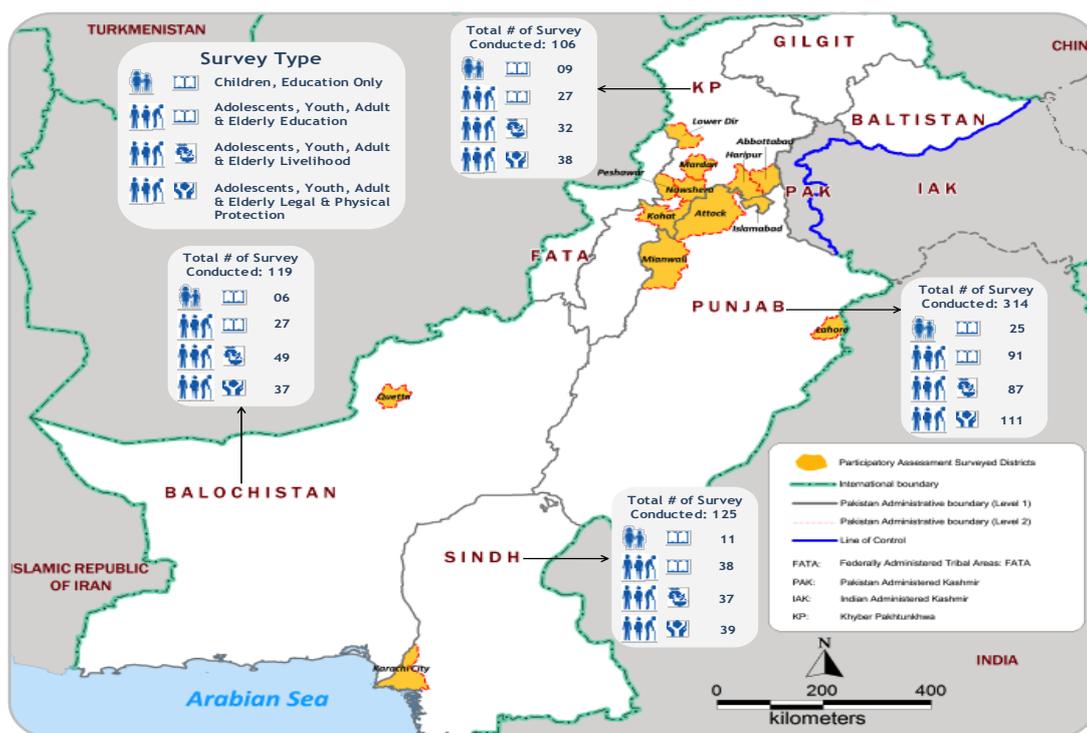
Report

2016 Participatory Assessment with Afghan Refugees (POR Cardholders) in Pakistan

**CBP, Protection Unit, Islamabad
UNHCR, Pakistan
February 2017**

1. Introduction

Purpose: This report presents the analysis and consolidated findings of the 2016 Participatory Assessment (PA). The purpose of the PA was to understand the protection concerns of Afghan refugee population (Proof of Registration – POR cardholders) and these communities’ resilience and capacities, which assist them to address these concerns. The field data collection process was initiated in October and was concluded in December 2016. The exercise was conducted in four provinces i.e. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh. It targeted Afghan POR cardholders living in urban and peri urban settings; only one Refugee Village (RV) was included in the PA. A Participatory Assessment of Afghan Refugees is carried out in UNHCR on annual basis in all locations of Pakistan with the primary aim to understand from the refugees’ perspective their protection concerns/needs and jointly find solutions to address these.



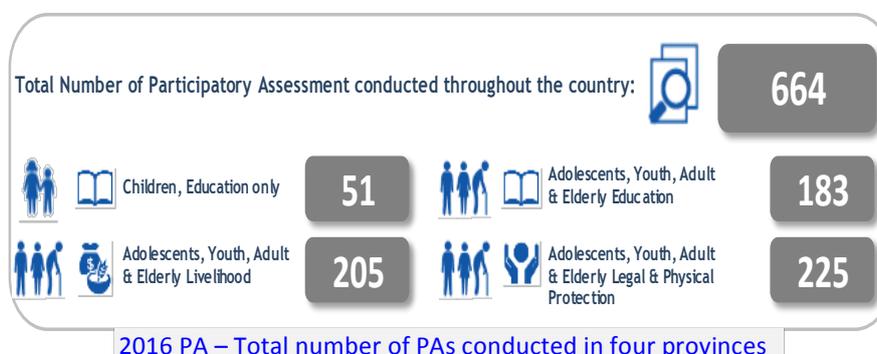
2016 PA coverage area & number of FDGs conducted in each Province

Thematic Scope: The 2016 PA thematic focus was on three main protection areas: Education and Livelihoods as two main solutions of protection risks, and lastly Legal & Physical Protection, based on the strategic priorities of the operation for 2015-17.

Methodology: Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) was used as the primary tool of data collection, supported by Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Observation. Age, Gender and Diversity approach was mainstreamed in the methodology by involving children (8-12 years old), adolescents (13-18 years), youth (19-25 years), adult (26-59 years) and elderly (above 60 years) women and men in separate discussions to gather their perceptions related with the protection risks/needs concerned with the above three thematic areas of enquiry and to understand the underlying causes and their capacities for solutions. The FGDs were designed to provide both quantitative data and qualitative information.

The Multi Functional Teams (MFTs), consisting of staff from UNHCR and partner organisations, including the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CAR) were engaged to pretest the FDG tool and based on their feedback, tools were revised. The same MFT teams later conducted fieldwork to collect data. While adolescents, youth and adults were consulted about each of the three themes of the 2016 PA, FGDs with the children were conducted only on education, whereas consultations with elderly people were only on legal and physical protection.

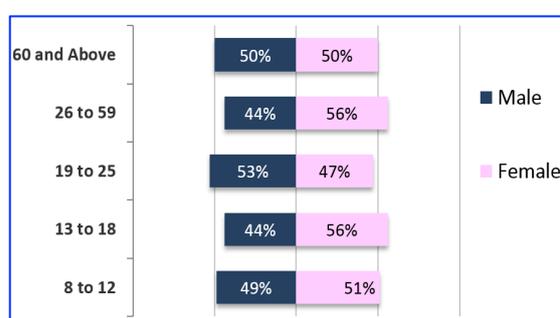
Sampling Size / Number of Participatory Assessments:



The province-wise breakdown of participatory assessments conducted for each of the three themes is presented below.

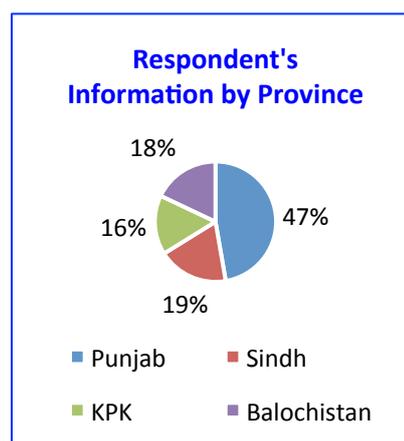
No	Thematic Area of PA & FDG Group	KP	Baluch istan	Punjab & ICT	Sind	Total per Theme
1	Education FDGs: Children	09	06	25	11	51
1.2	Education FDGs: Adolescents, Youth, Adults	27	27	91	38	183
2	Livelihoods FDGs: Adolescents, Youth, Adults	32	49	87	37	205
3	Physical & Legal Protection: Adolescents, Youth, Adults & Elderly	38	37	111	39	225
Total FDGs		106	119	314	125	664

Source: 2016 PA online data uploaded by provincial and field teams



Age & Gender Composition of Overall Respondents

A total of 664 FGDs were conducted across the country; each FGD consisted of 14.42 participants, on average (9,576 respondents in total), with a 53.12% female (5,087) and 46.88% male (4,489) respondents.



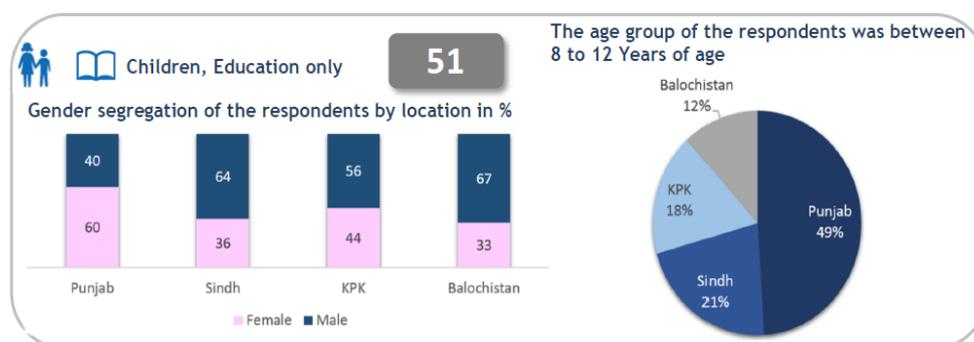
In addition, in urban Quetta, 6 KIIs were also conducted. In Punjab the PA was conducted in three urban districts (namely Lahore, Attock and Mianwali); in Sind only in urban Karachi (in Union Council 4 & 5); in KPK six urban districts urban (Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Dir, Abbottabad-Mansehra, Kohat); and in Baluchistan in one district i.e. Quetta urban. Given the number of respondents

and the FDGs conducted, which are not necessarily proportionate to the population of Afghan refugees (POR cardholders) residing in each province, the respective area teams may want to compliment evidence generated through the PA, through other means, for a robustly informed 2017-18 planning, in the said three thematic areas.

Format of the Report: To align the findings of 2016 PA with the Country Operation Plan (COP), the structure of this report is kept thematic, and within each theme a comparative analysis of data from all three provinces is presented.

2. Education PA – Key Findings & Analysis

The respondents on Education PA were divided into four groups: children (8-12 years), adolescents (13-18 years), youth (19-25 years), and adults (26-59 years). Each age group had two sub-groups; a female and a male. A total of 51 FDGs were conducted with children and 183 FDGs (49% Punjab, 21% Sind and 15% each in KPK & Baluchistan) with the second group of respondents. Responses from all children FDGs from all four provinces are consolidated at Annex 1; whereas Annex 2 provides consolidated responses of the second group of respondents on Education PA. Below chart gives gender and province-wise break down of 51 FDGs conducted with the children.



2016 PA on Education – province & gender-wise breakdown of FDGs with children

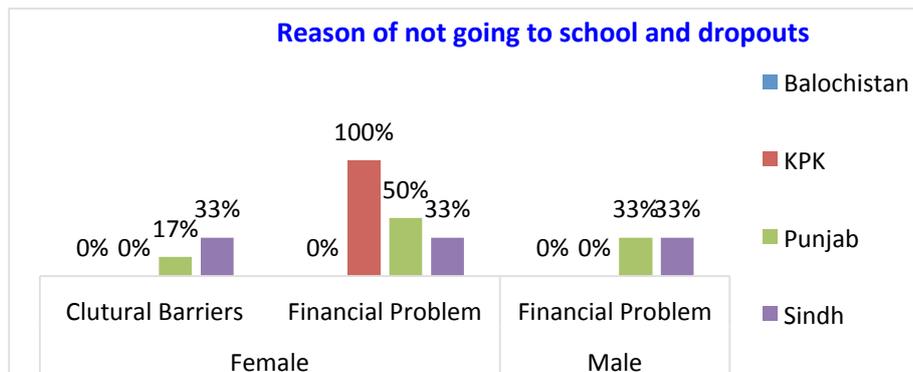
The responses from the majority of the participants, from across all gender and age groups, and from all provinces, despite the province-specific contexts effecting day-to-day realities of the Afghan refugees (POR cardholders), confirm that a much higher number of boys attend schools compared to the girls everywhere.

Of the child participants who were consulted in the education PA (51 FDGs – see Annex 1 for consolidated responses), overall 73% boys and 27% girls confirmed that they are enrolled in school or in a religious teaching institution (mosque or madrassa/seminary). The majority of girls said that they stop going to the seminary (run by women teachers) after completing the Quran reading unlike boys who continue their religious education in madrassa (run by male teachers) and attain either a certificate or a diploma.

The highest percentage of the girls (8-12 years old) attending either a school or madrassa, from among those who participated in the PA, was from Punjab (36%), followed by KPK & Baluchistan (33% each) and lowest in Sind (18% only). Whereas, among the boys of the same age group who participated in the PA, highest percentage attending school or a madrassa/mosque was from Baluchistan (67%), followed by KPK (56%), Sind (55%), and in Punjab only 24%.

More girls and boys from KPK (25% girls, 50% boys) and Punjab (40% girls and 20% boys) said they attend public schools compared to the children from other two provinces. The majority from Karachi/Sindh (25% girls & 38% boys) attend madrassa whereas most children (17% girls & 33% boys) from Baluchistan attend private schools as they consider private schools offer better quality of education than the public schools.

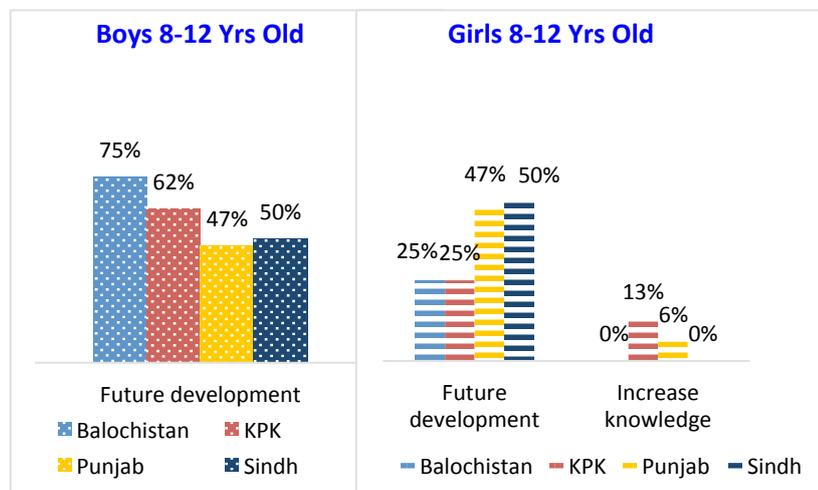
Majority of the children (both girls & boys) cited economic poverty (lack of secured income) followed by cultural barrier (early marriages, restricted mobility of girls, fear of social rebuke for sending girls to school with male teachers, distance of school from home) as the two most important obstacles to school enrolment and education attainment. Whereas, adolescent, youth and adult respondents in their FGDs on Education (see Annex 2) also identified uncertainty in Pakistan as the third important barrier.



2016 PA on Education – FGDs with Girls & Boys (8-12 Years Old)

Interestingly enough, compared to their compatriots in Punjab and Sindh, more male children respondents in KPK and Baluchistan were aware that it is mandatory for their school to have a Parents Teacher Committee (PTC) as well as a School Management Committee (SMC); however, they had no understanding of the mandate/scope of either PTC or SMC. On the girls' side, more respondents from Punjab & KPK were aware that the schools are required to have both PTC and SMC compared to girls consulted on this in KPK and Sindh.

Children – both girls and boys respondents – considered education the key to their future development and changing their life condition; girls added that education contributes in increasing their knowledge. The second group of respondents on Education PA (i.e. adolescents, youth, and adults) advocated for teaching vocational



2016 PA on Education – FGDs with Girls & Boys (8-12)

skills to their children; which they believe would equip both girls and boys to contribute in household income. However, while different

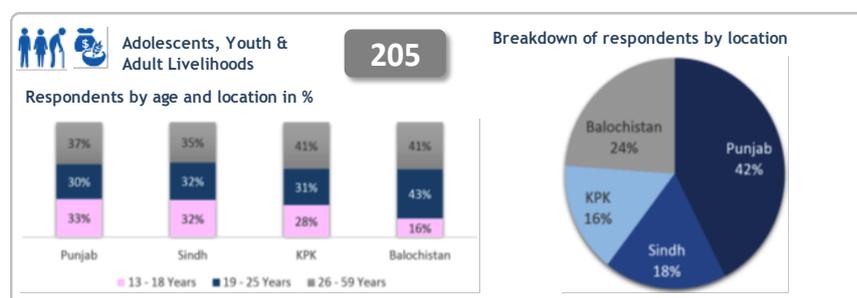
skills were mentioned as suitable for male adolescents & youth, most adults, particularly in KPK and Sind, singled out embroidery and stitching for their daughters as suitable skills.

The consolidated responses (see Annex 2 for details) from 183 FGDs conducted on education with adolescents, youth, and adults (separately with women and men of each of these age groups) regarding children education and schooling are somewhat different than the responses received in direct consultation with the children (girls & boys) and detailed in the preceding pages. One plausible reason could be that the children consulted on education PA were not from the same families as adolescents/youth/adults/elderly group.

Key findings from Education PA / FGDs with children as well as with adolescents, youth, and adults:

- i) A sustained effort through community advocacy campaigning is urgently needed to create awareness and sensitise the parents (and community leaders) about the value of education for children, especially for girls.
- ii) External financial assistance (which can be either in-cash or in-kind) will incentivise and motivate parents/families to stop child labour.
- iii) Women teachers and separate schools will encourage parents everywhere, particularly in the KPK and Karachi, to enrol and complete their schooling.
- iv) Better awareness needs to be created among school going children (and their parents) about the mandate of PTC and SMC and some basic training to engage effectively with these institutions with the aim to make school environment safe, improve children protection and overall wellbeing.
- v) Vocational skills trainings for both female and male needs to be strengthened and integrated into education to build their income earning capacity.
- vi) Parents (and community leaders), particularly in KPK and Sind, need to be sensitised to allow girls to attend schools, besides attending madrasa for Quran reading.
- vii) Access of Afghan refugee children to public schools needs to be strengthened through policy dialogue.

3. Livelihoods PA – Key Findings & Analysis

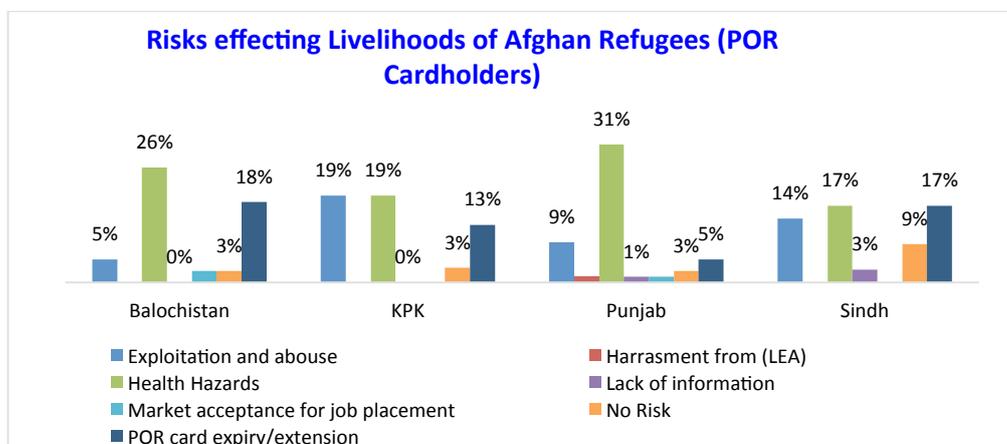


The respondents on Livelihoods PA were divided into three groups: adolescents (13-18 years), youth (19-25 years), and adults (26-59 years). A total of 205 FGDs were conducted in all four provinces, separate with women & men, on Livelihoods PA. The province-wise breakdown of the FGDs is: Punjab 42%, Baluchistan 24%, Sind 18% and KPK 16%. Responses from all the FGDs on Livelihoods are consolidated at Annex 3.

Secured and reliable livelihoods are considered a key to mitigate and respond to protection-related vulnerabilities and needs of the refugees. In order to understand

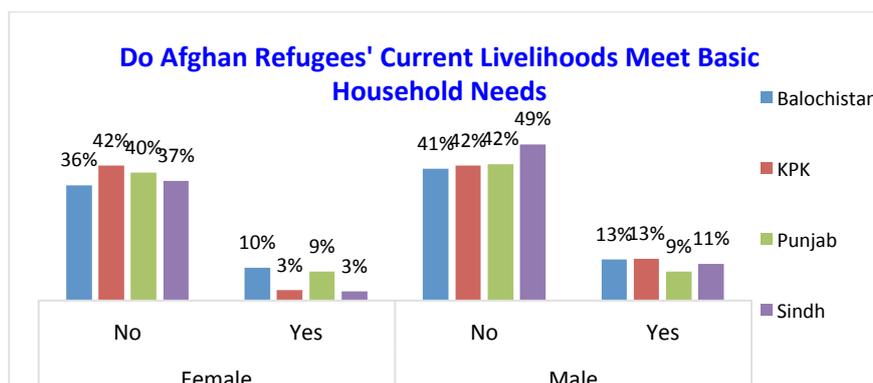
better household economies and livelihoods of Afghan refugees (POR cardholders), particularly those living in urban areas outside the RVs, a set of inter-related questions was designed.

As in the case of education, while there were regional/provincial variations in the responses, most participants of the FGDs shared remarkably similar stories. Most respondents are engaged in hazardous livelihoods and almost exclusively in the informal sector of undocumented economy. While both women and men reported a long list of factors limiting their livelihoods opportunities; nevertheless, health hazards, exploitation and abuse, and POR card expiry/extension were repeatedly singled out as the most critical factors incapacitating large number of male members of the households to work, in all four provinces with a degree of difference. High uncertainty and unreliability, irregularity, low wages, low skilled base, insecurity, and lack of information were also identified negatively impacting economic survival of the Afghan refugees. Consequently, many families push young boys and children into labour, as adults are unable to find regular work. During the PA exercise, many young boys reported working in high-risk and unsafe work environment as they spend most of the day away from the protection of their home/family, either picking saleable items from the garbage (e.g. paper, glass bottles, tins, etc.) or are engaged in begging on streets and roads. Many boys who go to school also labour in the evenings. A partner organisation in Quetta informed of involvement of Afghan refugee children in commercial sex, alongside Pakistani male children.



2016 PA on Livelihoods – FGDs with Male Respondents

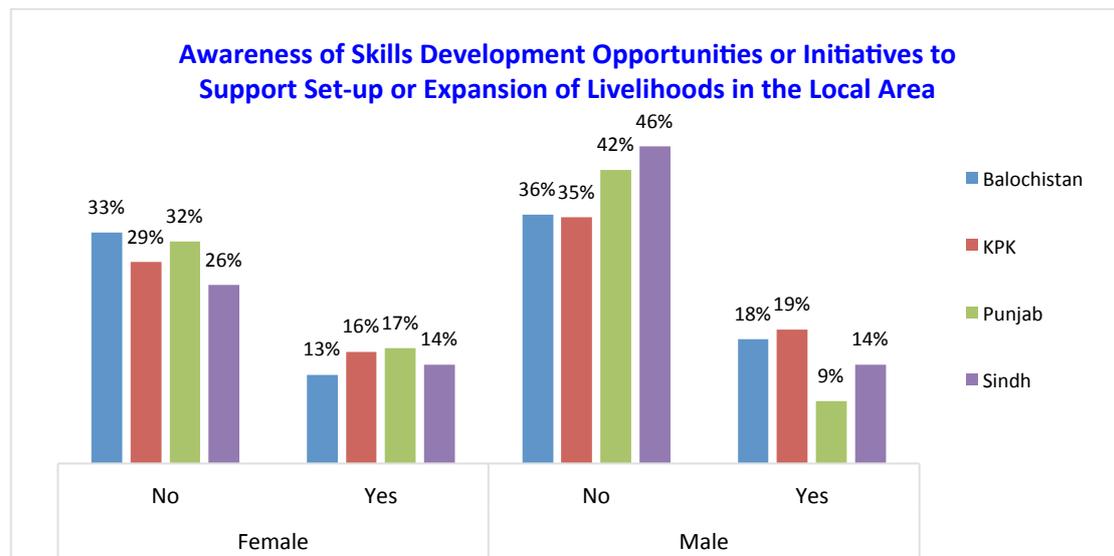
An overwhelming majority of female and male respondents reported not having adequate and regular income to meet the most basic needs of their household (food, medicine for the sick, rent and utilities, and clothing).



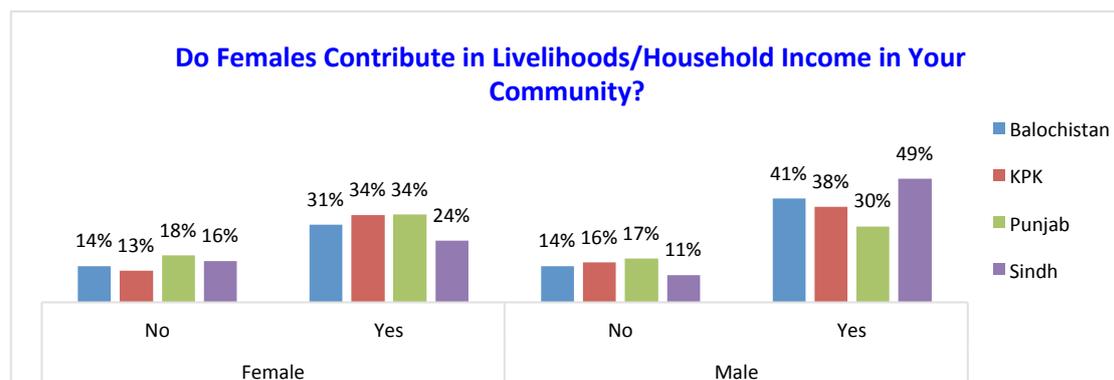
2016 PA on Livelihoods – FGDs with Female & Male Respondents

Most respondents (female and male) seem unaware of any development initiatives of the UN, government, private or non-for-profit sector assisting poor Afghan POR cardholders' communities to upgrade their skills or set-up a new livelihoods, or indeed similar initiatives inside Afghanistan for poor Afghans repatriating home. Some said that even when they learn of such initiatives they don't qualify to benefit from these due to their legal status as a refugee in Pakistan. Most women and men expressed high demand to have opportunities to develop new and upgrade existing skills. While both adult men and women talked of traditional skills for women; while youth indicated a much broader range of vocational and trade-related skills. Compatibility of personal skills with the Afghan labour market and recognition of the training certificates received in Pakistan did not seem to be much of a concern for the respondents.

Some respondents mentioned that many families use their social network of relationships with Pakistani and other Afghan communities to place their male children and youth as an apprentice to learn new technical skills e.g. telephone and motor repairing and work in their workshop, and later set up their own work.



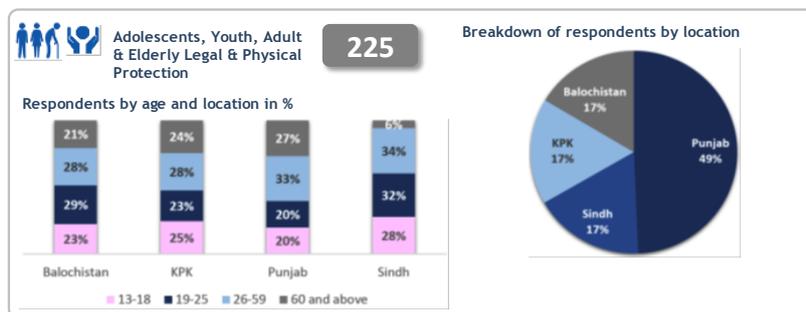
Interestingly enough, both the young and adult women shared that they produce embroidered and tailored products or spin carpet wool, and contribute in household economy; most male respondents also confirmed contribution of women in the family income.



Key findings from Livelihoods PA / FGDs with adolescents, youth and adults:

- i) There is a need for a robust livelihoods programme targeting Afghan refugee youth and women with multiple components: marketable trades related skills development (which must be relevant in the local markets in Pakistan where they live as refugees and in return areas as/when they repatriate to Afghanistan), fostering access to microfinance and other Business Development Services (BDS) so that they can set up / strengthen viable microenterprises or get reliable employment.
- ii) POR cards expiry/extension together with issues of extortion, harassment, abuse and insecurity is a repeated theme negatively impacting their access to regular income opportunities.
- iii) An overwhelming majority of respondents from all gender/age groups asked for stronger advocacy from UNHCR/CAR to have the right to work, right to open a bank account, and to register their own business at the chamber of commerce, to obtain a driver's license and to rent real estate without the landlord asking for local guarantors.
- iv) Better awareness raising is required through refresher courses targeting police and other members of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) on their role and responsibilities to protect POR cardholders against (sexual) abuse and exploitation at work and to address the issue of harassment and extortion by police.
- v) There is low level of awareness and knowledge about livelihoods schemes and programmes in areas with Afghan refugees population. Livelihoods thematic/sectoral coordination structure can be set up in all provinces (on the model of Baluchistan), with relevant stakeholders to map livelihoods and enterprise development initiatives, and through advocacy, Afghan refugees can be integrated in these as beneficiaries.

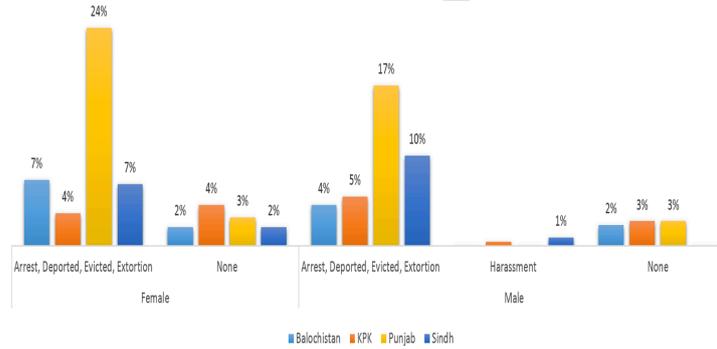
4. Legal & Physical Protection PA – Key Findings & Analysis



The respondents who participated in FGDs of the Legal & Physical Protection PA in all four provinces were divided into three groups: adolescents (13-18 years), youth (19-25 years), and adults (26-59 years). A total of 225 FGDs were conducted across the country, separate with women & men. The province-wise breakdown of the FGDs is: Punjab 49%, whereas 17% in the remaining three provinces i.e. Baluchistan, Sind and KPK. Responses from all the FGDs on Legal & Physical Protection are consolidated at Annex 4.

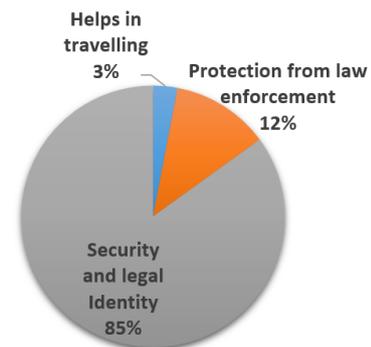
In all four provinces, similar concerns were reported in relation to legal protection. Most respondents (Punjab: 24% female & 17% male, Sind: female 7% & male 10%, and Baluchistan 7% female & 4% male) reported of regularly experiencing eviction

notices coupled with arrest, detention, threats of deportation and extortion.

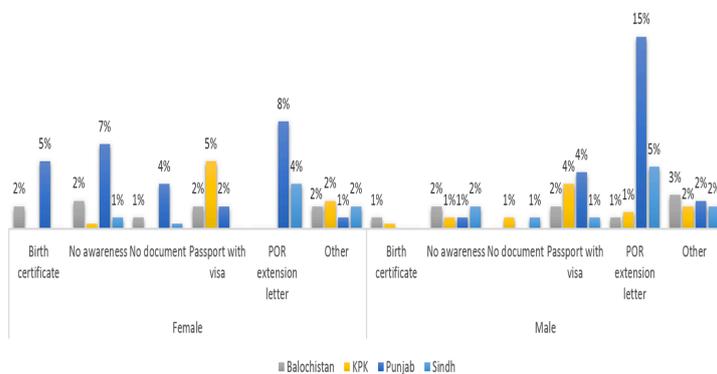


Types of Harassment experienced by POR Cardholders

All respondents, regardless of their gender and age or area of residence, noted that the POR card is their most important legal protection and security tool in Pakistan, besides serving as a travel document to cross the border into Afghanistan to visit family. Respondents reported that compared to non-POR cardholder Afghan persons living in their communities, POR cardholders face relatively less harassment, risk of eviction, extortion and arrests by the LEAs. Other benefits mentioned of having a POR card included freedom of movement, access to health and educational services of the public and private



Value of POR Card



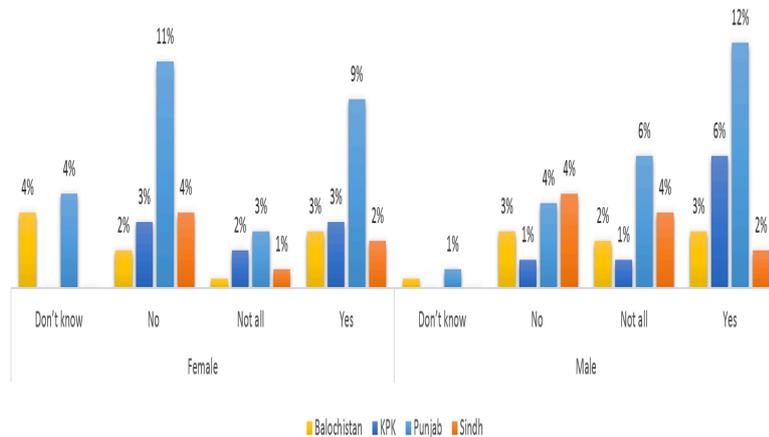
Other Documentation that is considered valuable by respondents

sector, eligibility to receive assistance from government and other actors e.g. for the disabled persons, availing work opportunities in the labour market, to receive remittances from family

members living abroad and to get a cell phone SIM card. When asked what other documentation can assist Afghan refugees' legal stay in Pakistan, most respondents noted birth certificates and passport with a valid visa.

Most respondents admitted that in the Afghan culture and society people do not give value to registering their children at birth or for that matter registration and certification to officially notify divorce, death and marriage. Nevertheless, the respondents did acknowledge the value of having a childbirth registration certificate in relation to eligibility for receiving a cash grant if and when they repatriate from Pakistan, accessing medical services, enrolling the child in school, establishing the child's national and legal identity, and free vaccination. Most respondents, male and female alike, didn't have much knowledge on documents other than passport, POR card and birth certificate that are of value to Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. They also seem not to be much aware of any information and referral pathways creating awareness or providing practical assistance with civil registration documentation (i.e. birth, death, marriage, divorce & custody).

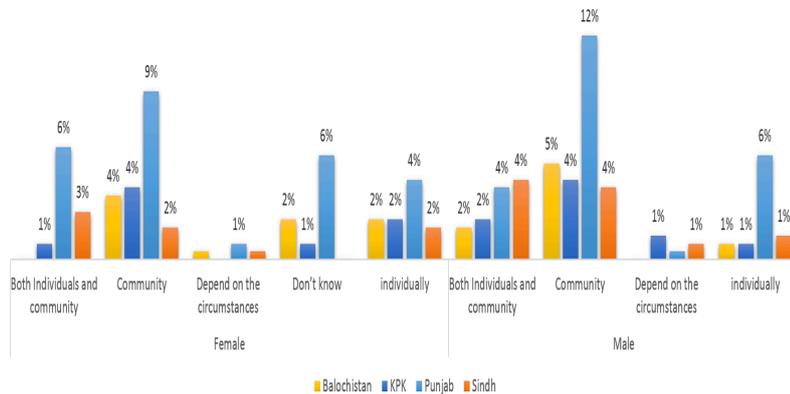
Most respondents (male and female) living in informal settlements in urban context, across the country, appear to have little awareness of the available procedures to access UNHCR directly. Of the total respondents consulted on Legal & Physical Protection PA, only 9%



female and 12% male respondents confirmed having some information.

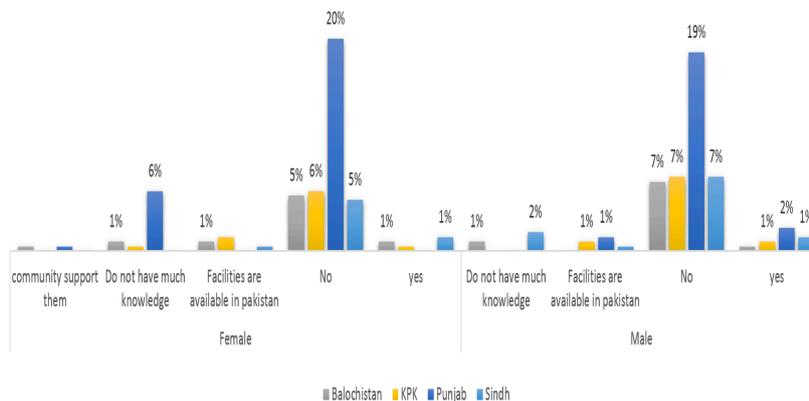
Level of awareness about available procedures to access UNHCR

When asked about how the Afghan refugees (POR cardholders) will like to access UNHCR, directly or through other means, most respondents preferred to have access through a combination of community-based and individual mechanisms (females 15% and male 18%).

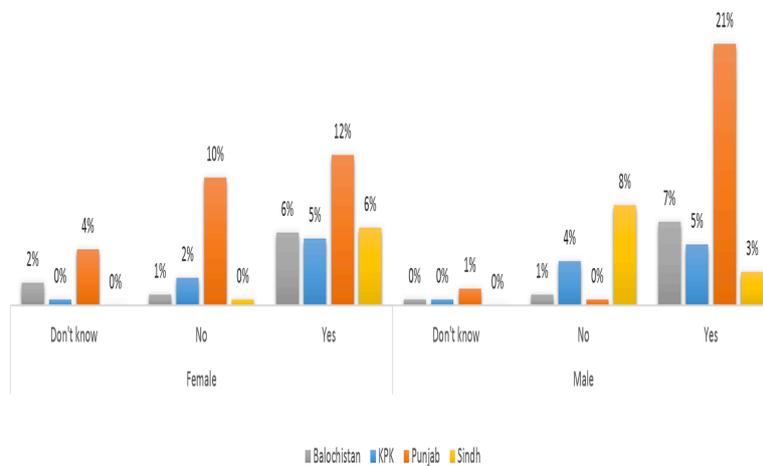


POR Cardholders preferred way of accessing UNHCR

Considering that the period during which 2016 PA was conducted saw a significant spike in numbers of POR cardholders (and undocumented Afghans too) returning to Afghanistan under Voluntary Repatriation, respondents were asked if they were aware of any support mechanisms for those who feared to return or could not return to Afghanistan. The overwhelming response was that there is no such mechanism.



Are there support mechanisms for those who fear and/or cannot return to Afghanistan?



Trends in Improvement in Protection Environment of POR Cardholders

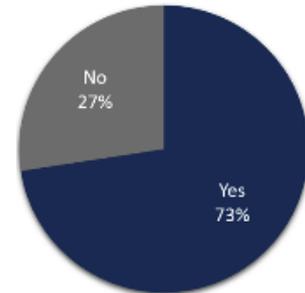
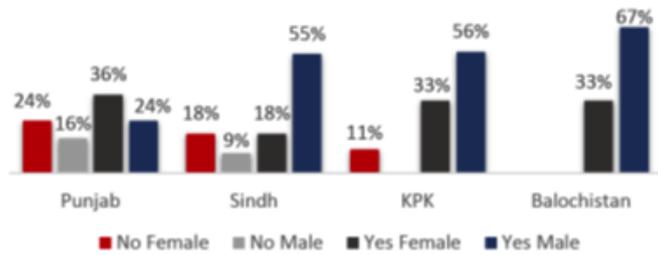
And, lastly, respondents from Punjab (12% female & 21% male), Sind (6% female & 3% male) and KPK (5% female & male each) noted improvements in the harassments and risks experienced by them, over time.

Key findings from Legal and Physical Protection PA / FGDs with adolescents, youth and adults:

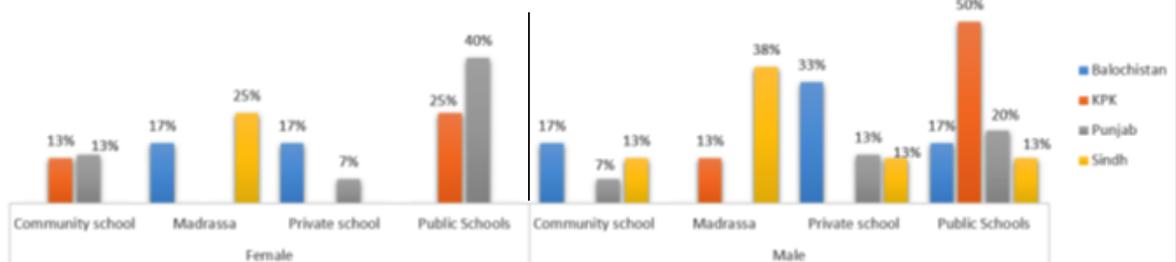
- i) Other than the birth certification, the POR cardholders appear to regard civil registration of no value. There is need for a sustained community-based information campaign to sensitise POR cardholders about the value of civil registration (death, marriage, divorce, custody). At the same time, oversight of the PCM & MRV workings is needed to weed out fears of corruption as shared by some respondents in Punjab.
- ii) Most respondents shared their concerns about the uncertainty over the extension of the validity of the POR cards, which has a knock on effect on their legal protection and physical security.
- iii) Sensitization of LEAs on a sustained basis is required, to create better respect and acceptance for the Afghan POR cardholders in Pakistan, and to protect their dignity and security.
- iv) Communities need support to organize better self-protection mechanisms, have access to information regarding referral pathways (e.g. SHARP network of lawyers and UNHCR hotline).

Annex 1: Consolidated Responses from PA on Education with Children 8-12 years old (FDGs held separately with girls & boys)

Do you go to school?



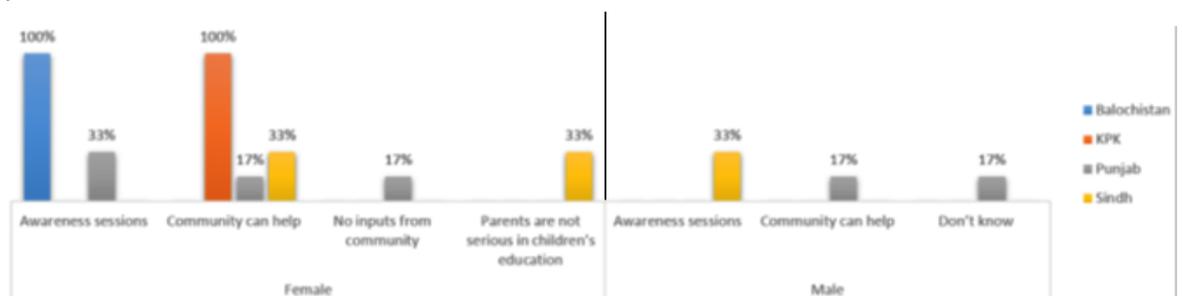
Type of School?



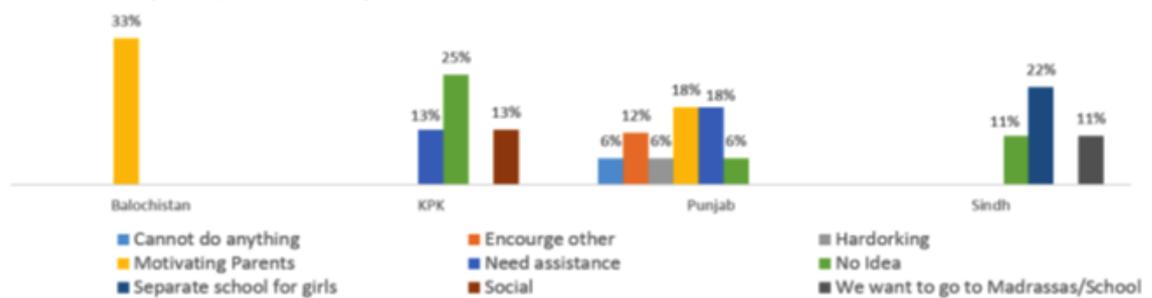
Reasons for not going to school?



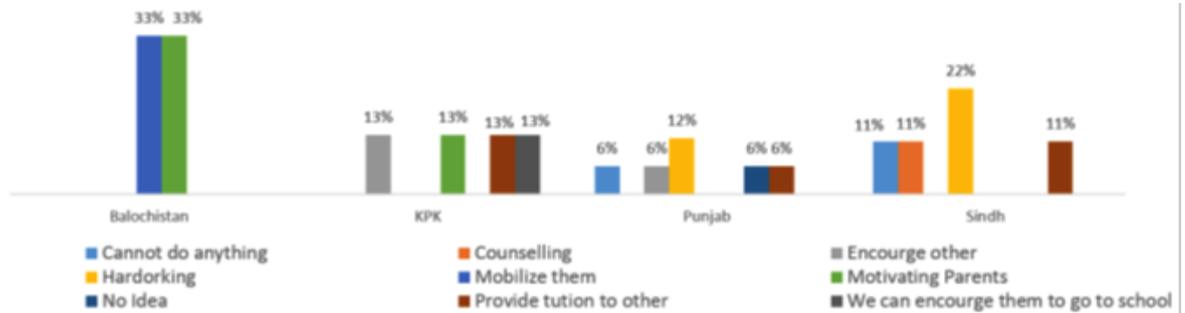
If not what your own family and larger community can do in order to get you into school and complete your education?



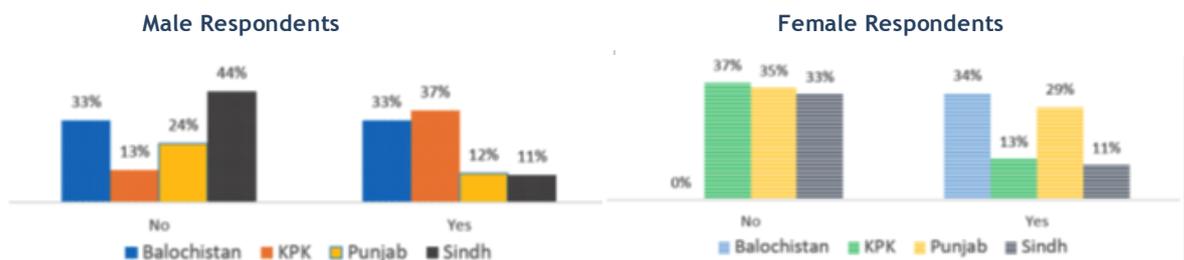
As Female children what can you do together with other children like you that may/will help you to attend and complete your schooling?



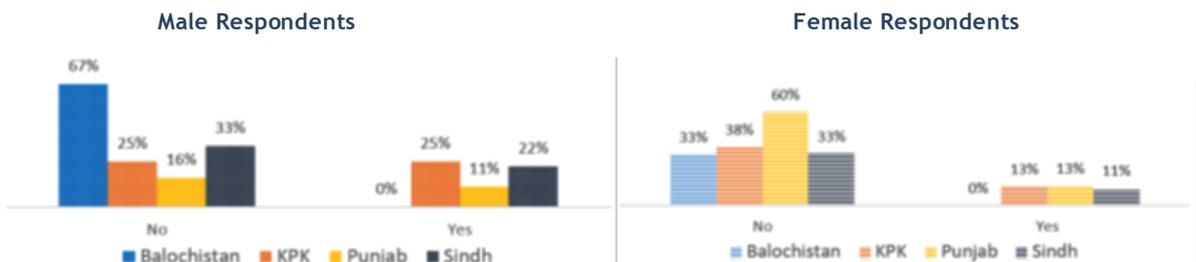
As Male children what can you do together with other children like you that may/will help you to attend and complete your schooling?



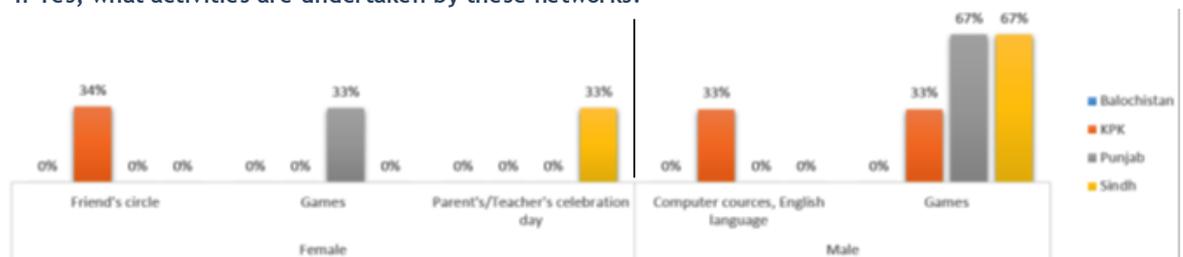
If you go to school, do you know that your school is required to have a Parents Teachers Committee (PTC) and a School Management Committee (SMC)?



Are there any informal or formal networks of school-going and out-of-school children in your neighborhood (Mohalla) to collaborate jointly on certain activities and meet regularly?



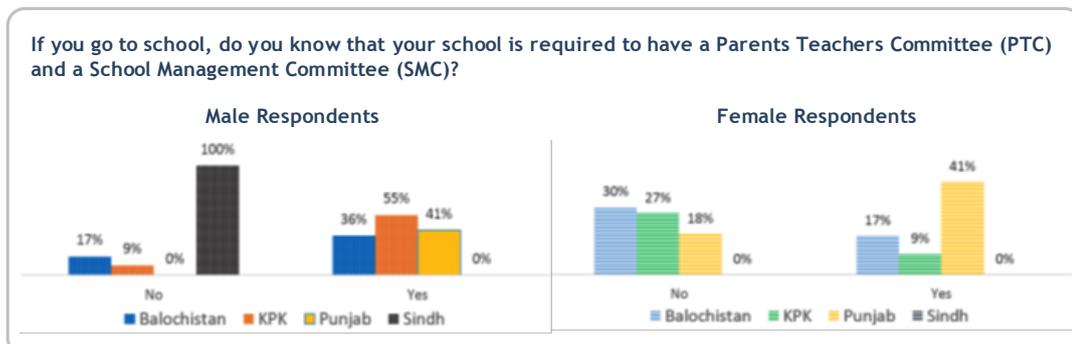
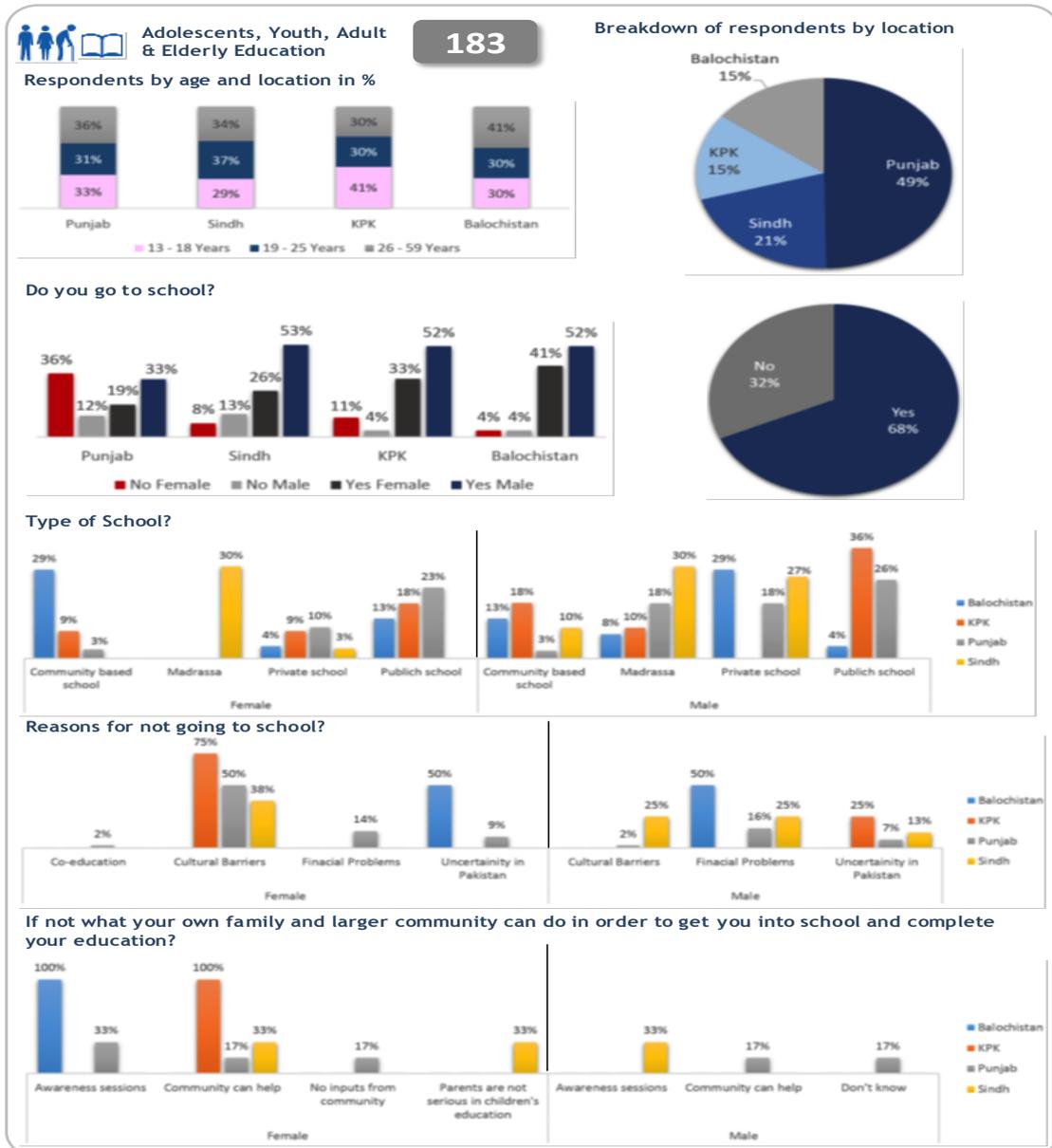
If Yes, what activities are undertaken by these networks?



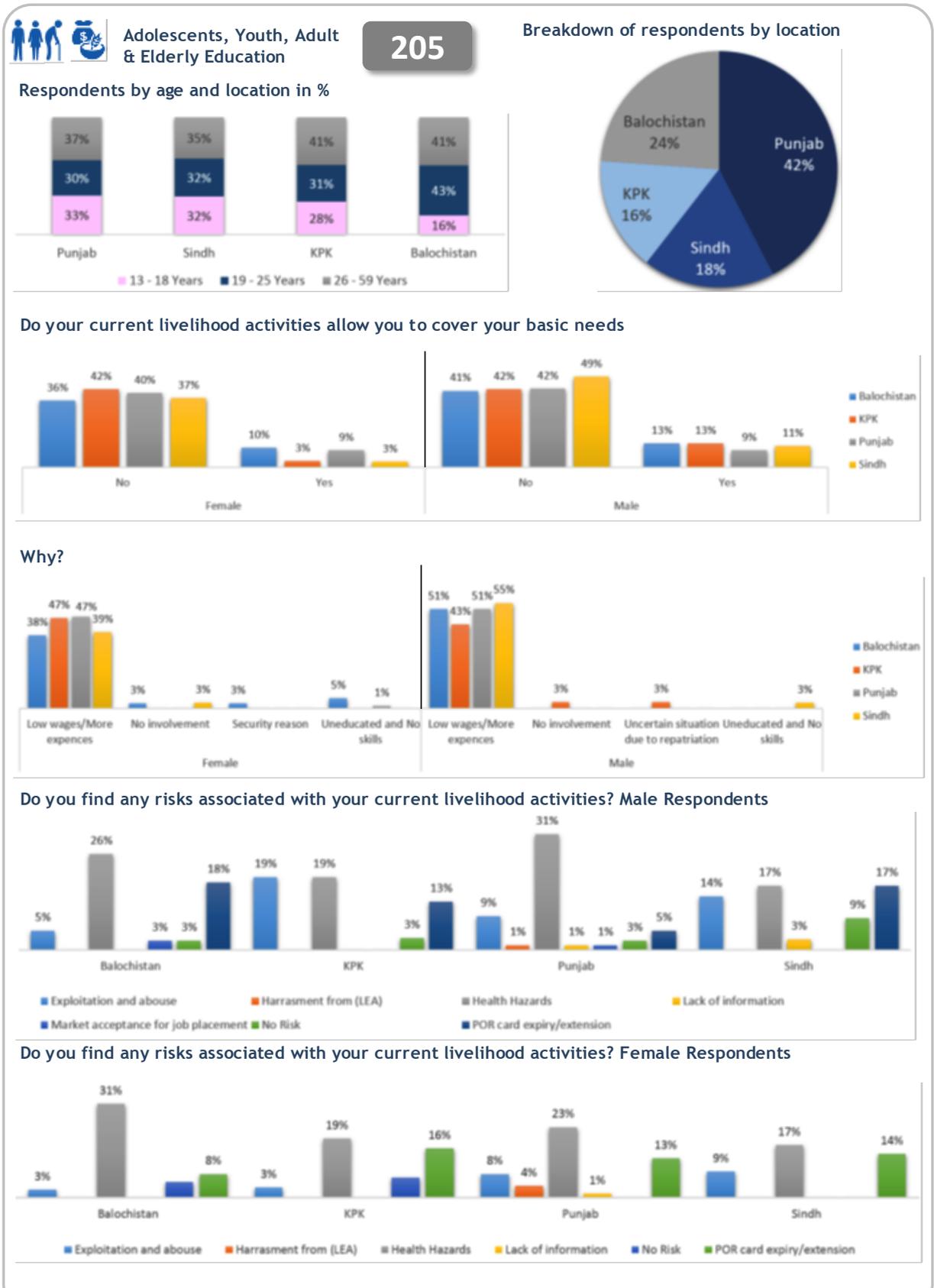
Do you think education can help/give better livelihood opportunities?



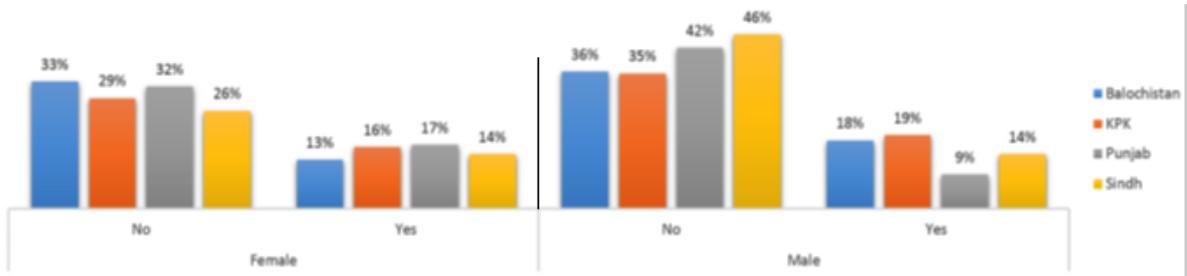
Annex 2: Consolidated Responses from PA on Education with Adolescents (13-18 years), Youth (19-25 years), and Adults (26-59 years) – FGDs held separately with female and male of each of these groups



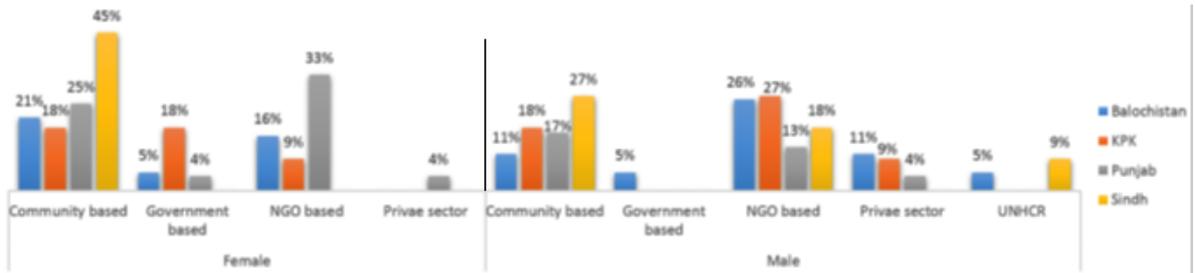
Annex 3: Consolidated Responses from PA on Livelihoods with Adolescents (13-18 years), Youth (19-25 years), and Adults (26-59 years) – FGDs held separately with female and male of each of these groups



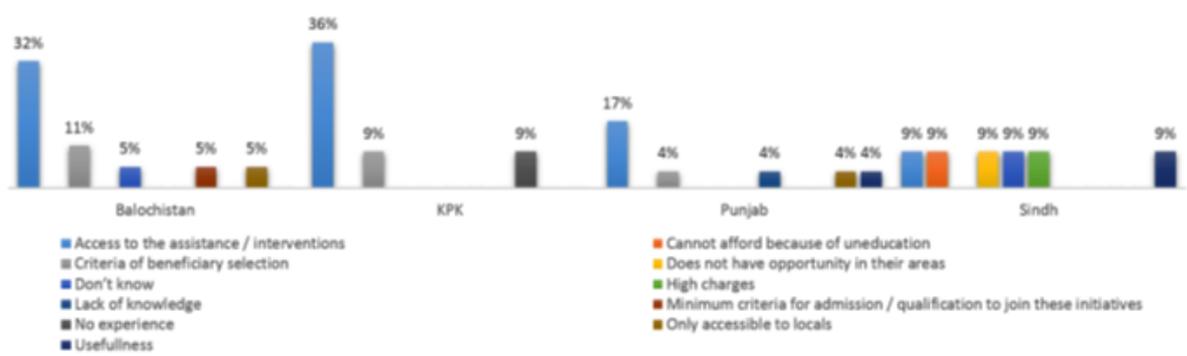
Are you aware of any kind of support to setting up / expanding livelihoods and/or about vocational/trade related skills development opportunities in your community/area?



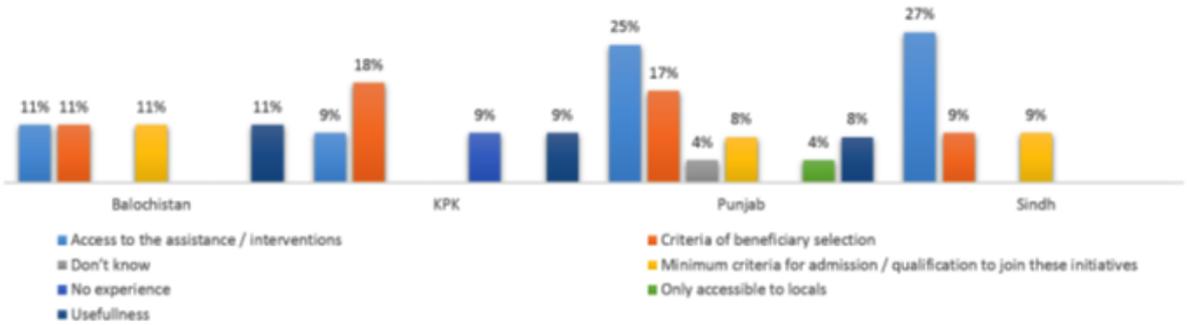
If yes provided by whom?



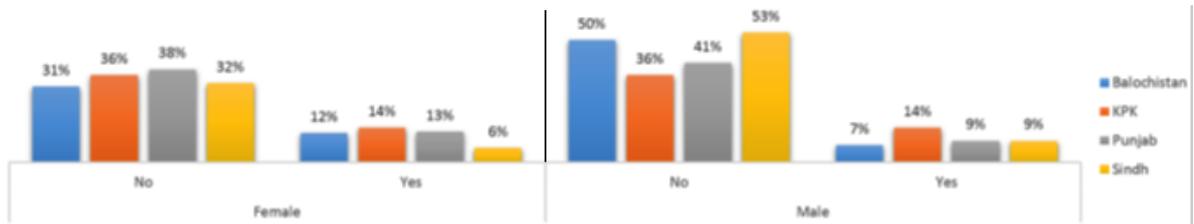
Views and experiences - Male Respondents



Views and experiences - Female Respondents



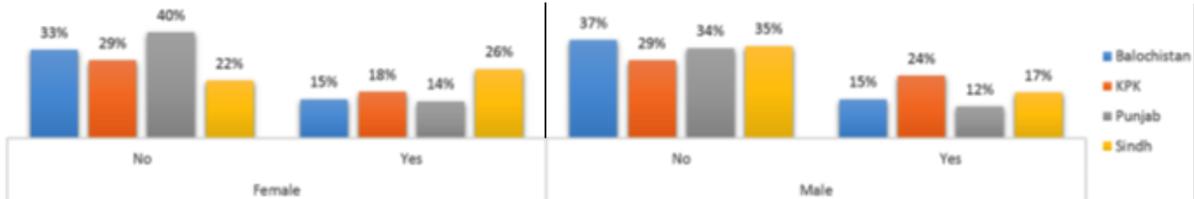
Are you satisfied with your income which is related to your skills?



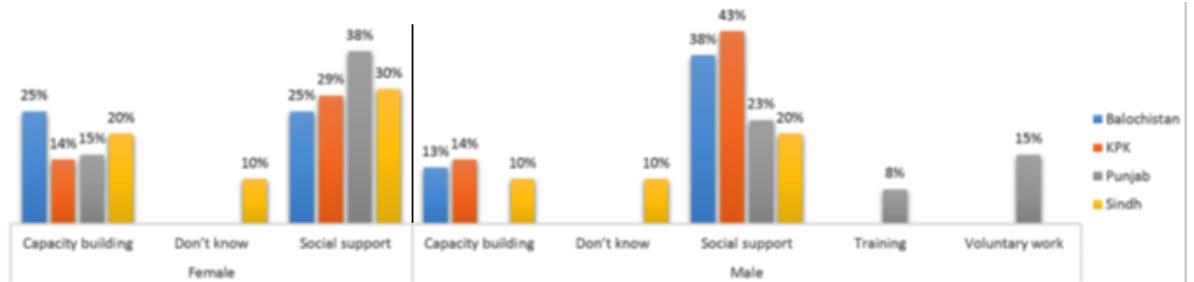
Are you aware about livelihood skills and trades that have high demand?



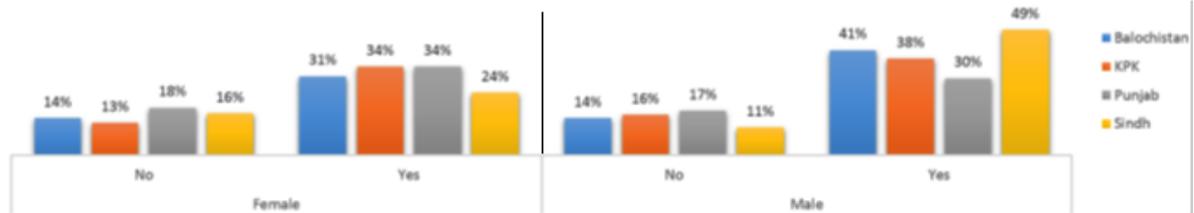
Are there any self-initiatives in your community?



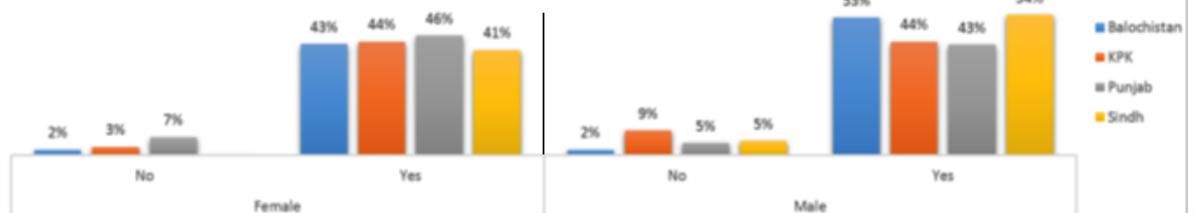
If yes, what kind of support do self-initiatives receive from your community?



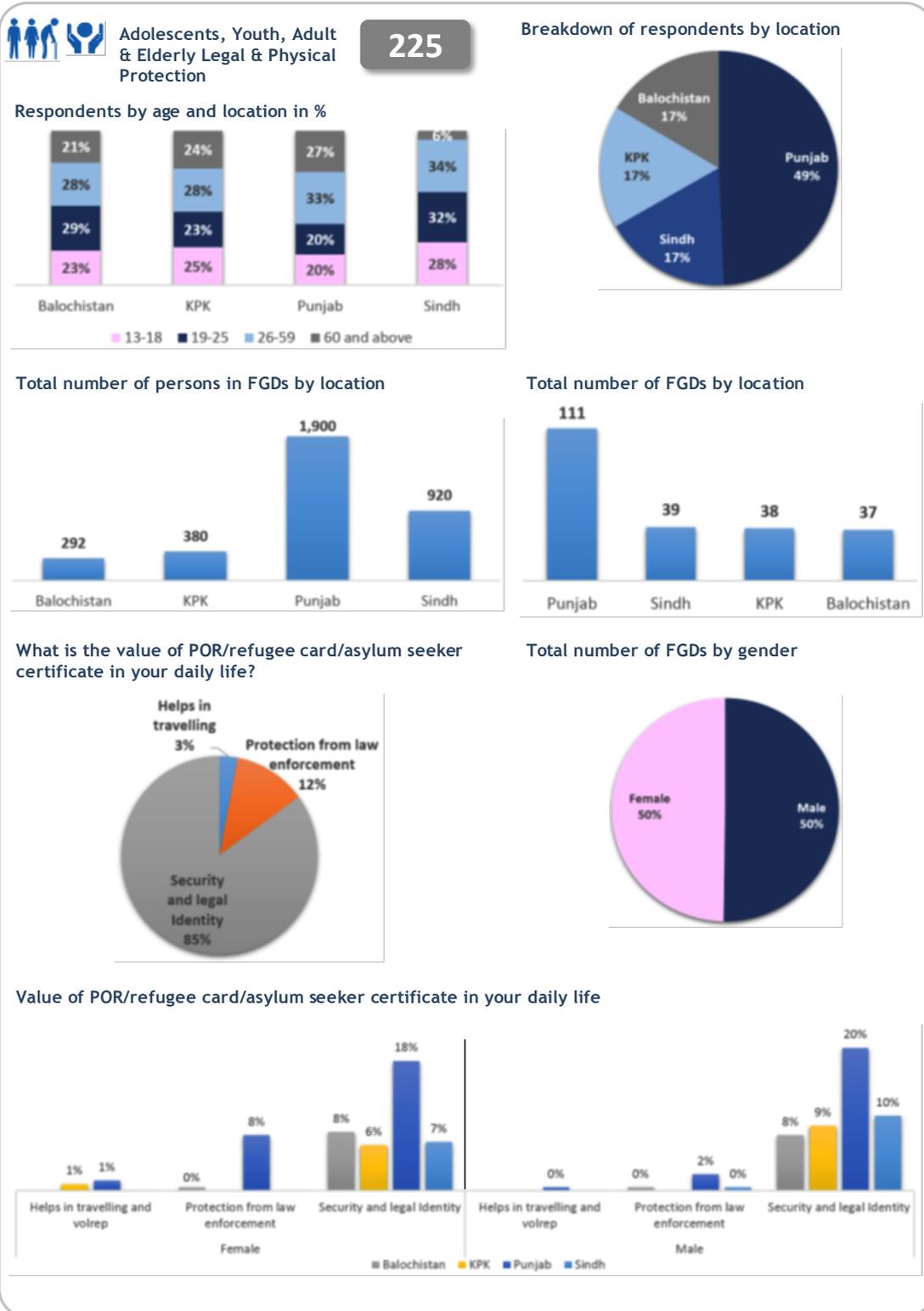
Do females contributed in livelihoods/income generation activities in your community?



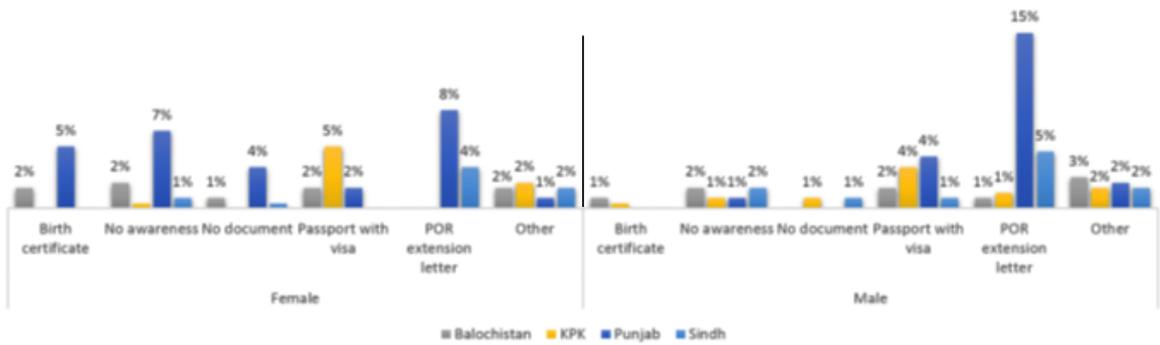
Do females in your community need support in terms of their skill development?



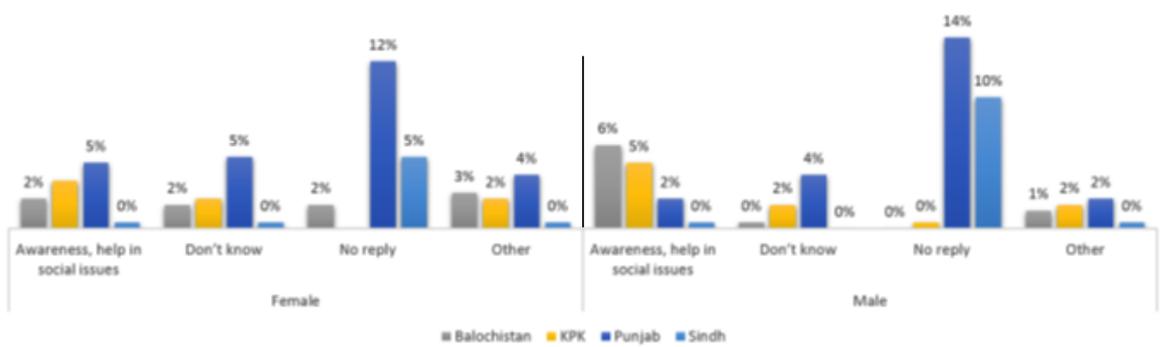
Annex 4: Consolidated Responses from PA on Legal & Physical Protection with Adolescents (13-18 years), Youth (19-25 years), and Adults (26-59 years) – FGDs held separately with female and male of each of these groups



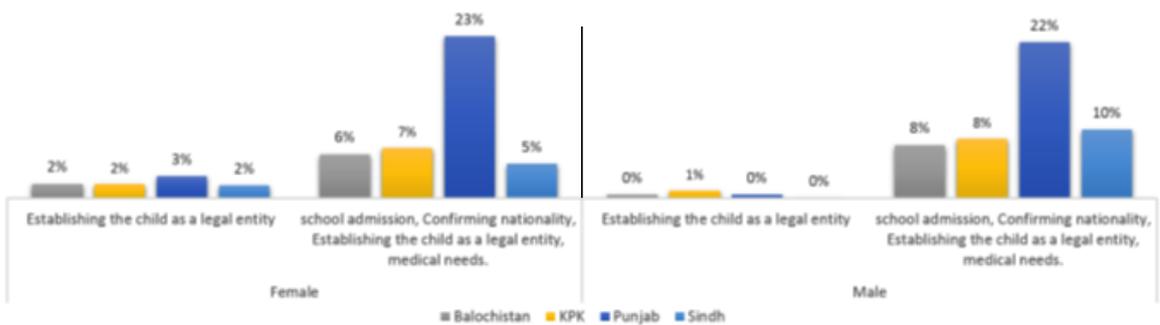
Other than the POR card, what other form of documentation can assist your stay in Pakistan?



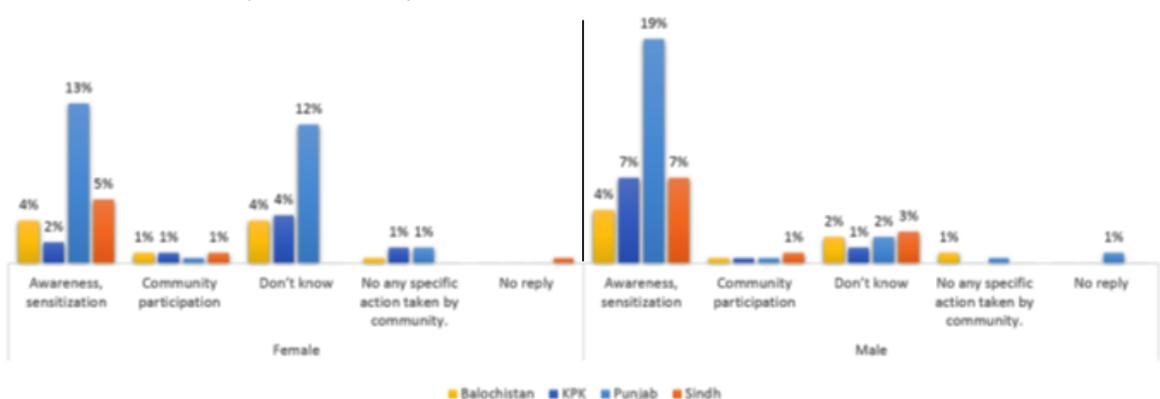
How can your community and hosting communities can contribute in this regards?



What are the benefits of obtaining the birth certificate for your new born baby



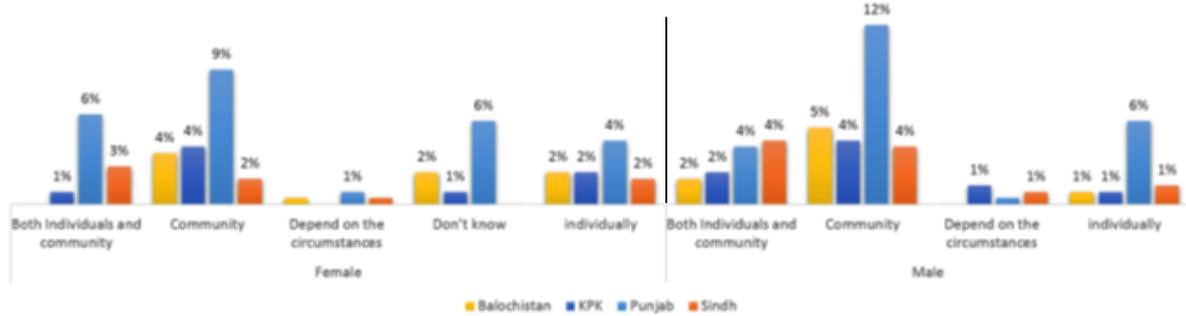
Are there any specific actions / measures, which your community can take together to help everyone register their children in your community



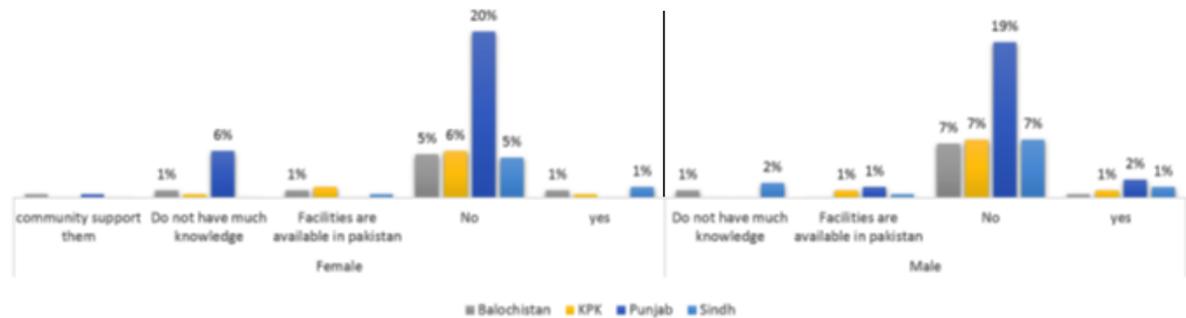
Do you/community have information about available procedures to access UNHCR



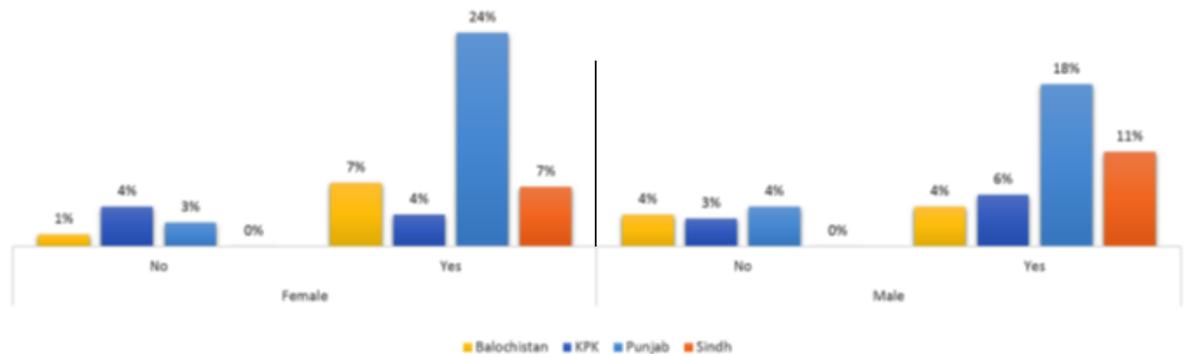
Should access to UNHCR be facilitated by the community or should this be managed individually



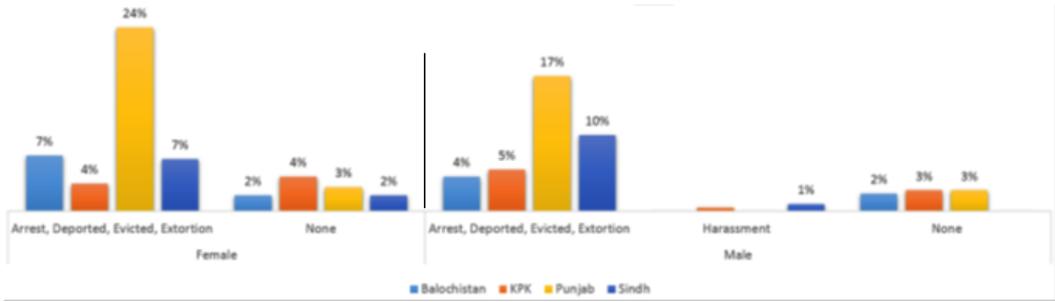
Is there any support mechanism in place for those who fear to return or who cannot return to their Country of origin?



Have you experienced any harassment, evictions, arrest, detention and deportation in the last one year



Types of harassment



Have you seen any improvement / deterioration in situation in last 3 months?

