## Pakistan: Afghan Refugees Registration Update | As 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2018









## Overview

Proof of Registration (PoR) card is an important protection tool that provides temporary legal stay and freedom of movement for the 1.39 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. PoR cards which have expired at the end of 2015 have been extended through official notification until 30 September 2018\*.

Four PoR Card Modification (PCM) centres - located in Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi and Rawalpindi support the modification/replacement of existing cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, the provision of PoR cards to registered children who have reached five years of age and who are now entitled to their own cards, as well as the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18.

As of March, 2018 Lahore PCM centre has suspended its activities and the centre has been closed effective from 5 March 2018.

In 2018, the target for UNHCR's prioritized funds for the registration of 90,000 new births has been revised to 50,000 births as a low trend of Afghan approaching PCM centre was observed during first half of the year. This may be attributed to the improved protection space for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The target for the issuance of birth certificates has also been revised from 90,000 to 50,000 birth certificates whereas the target for the issuance of individuals with PoR cards has been revised from 130,000 children to 90,000 children who have reached five years of age and are eligible to receive their individual cards from the PCM centres.\*

A total of 4,460 applicants availed themselves of the PCM centre services in August 2018 compared to 4,360 applicants in July 2018, a slight increase (2%) in activities has been observed at all PCM centres countrywide. This is attributed to the ongoing MRV operations in far flung areas of Pakistan.

\*PoR cards have been extended until the end of September 2018 by the Federal Cabinet in its meeting of 30 June 2018, pending SAFRON submission of a Repatriation plan at which time a further extension will also be considered.



Jan-Aug, 2018

49,704

Refugees availed registration services (Cases processed + Birth registration)

> 16,835 (33.6%)

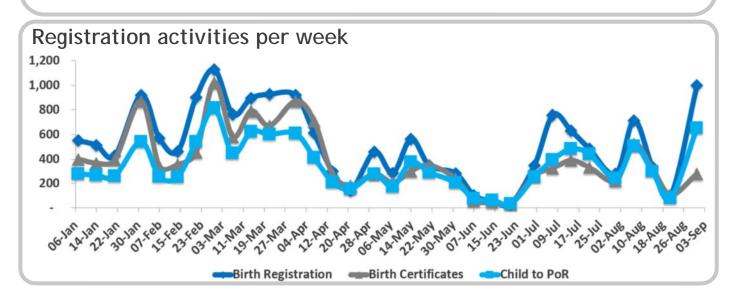
Birth registrations

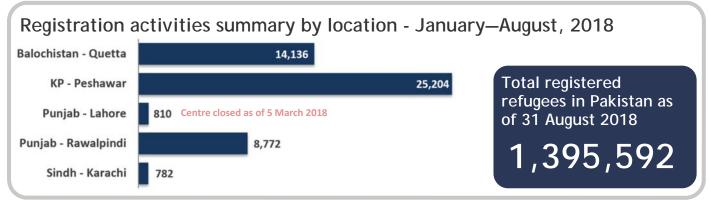
12,576 (25.1%)

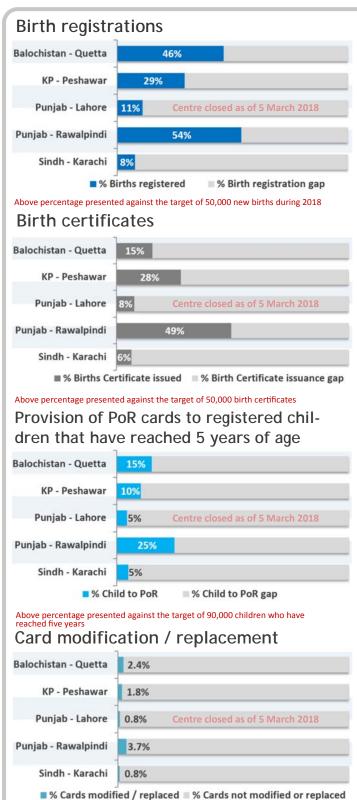
Birth certificates

11,140 (12.3%)

PoR cards for children reaching five years of age







The following charts summarise the progress towards these targets and the remaining gaps.

The percentages for birth registrations, birth certificate issuance and provision of PoR cards to registered children that have reached five years of age are based on the estimates noted on page 1. These overall targets have been apportioned to each centre based on the size of the Afghan refugee population for which the centre provides services.

During August, the trend in registration activities remained same compared to those in July 2018 at all PCM centres and MRVs countrywide (a total of 2,113 children were registered in August 2018 at all the PCM centres countrywide and three MRVs compared to 2,127 in the month of July 2018).

After the closure of PCM centre Lahore, PCM Rawalpindi is providing services to the applicants residing in Lahore and its surroundings. Access for the applicants residing in these areas will also be facilitated with an MRV deployment for a specific period of time in 2018.

UNHCR will continue to deploy 3 MRVs countrywide. Each MRV will be deployed for four months in KP, Balochistan and in Punjab.

During the reporting month, MRV operations continued in KP (Lakki Marwat and Upper Dir), Balochistan (Pishin) and Punjab (Sialkot) province. The three MRVs in KP, Balochistan and Punjab managed to process a total of 2,822 applicants during the month of August. A total of 667 birth certificates were also issued through the MRVs. MRV operations was suspended for one week during August due to the celebration of Eid Festival.

A total of 12,576 birth certificates were issued from 1 January to 31 August 2018 from all PCM centres and MRVs.

Note that the trend for PoR card modifications will naturally follow that of birth registrations and the provision of PoR cards to children over age of five. This is because children are added or removed from their parents' cards depending on their age. Therefore, their parents' cards will also need to be modified.

From 1 January to 31 August 2018, 4,035 lost or stolen cards were replaced. Deaths of refugees continue to be significantly under-reported. Only 22 deaths were registered/reported between January to August 2018.