

Pakistan

31 July 2019

***3,186** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 March – 31 July 2019

12,450 Afghan refugee whose births were registered between 1 January – 31 July 2019

20,135 Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019

151 schools supported by UNHCR for **56,000** refugee students

6,678 patients treated in **45** health facilities supported by UNHCR

4,199 persons (Afghan refugees and Pakistani nationals) received livelihood assistance



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,409,475
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,155
Somalia (refugees)	177
Others (refugees)	322
Asylum-seekers	6,978

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

191 national staff
32 international staff

Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad
Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta



* The voluntary repatriation process resumed from 1 March 2019 at two Voluntary Repatriation Centres. Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

Working with partners

- UNHCR collaborates closely with the Government of Pakistan. It works jointly with the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), as well as the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and the Commissionerates for Afghan Refugees at the federal and provincial levels, respectively. Of particular importance has also been continued collaboration with line ministries.
- UNHCR partners with a range of national and international non-governmental organisations to provide protection and humanitarian assistance.

Main activities

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (2018-2019)

- The regional multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) provides a framework for cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to address the needs of Afghan refugees and the communities that host them. It supports the pursuit of durable solutions, as well as youth empowerment through education, the development of vocational skills and livelihood training.

Protection and durable solutions

- **Voluntary repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan where refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan must deregister. Refugee returnees subsequently receive a cash grant of approximately US\$ 200 per person upon arrival at one of three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.

- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee-hosting areas in four provinces. Eight of these centres are run by UNHCR's partner SHARP. The remaining centre is run by UNHCR's partner SEHER.

In July:

- **3,600 individuals received legal assistance;**
- **47 individuals were arrested/detained and then released;**
- **22 individuals were provided with court representation;**
- **1,000 individuals received individual legal counselling; and,**
- **740 people assisted through ALAC helpines.**

- In July 2019, some 3,600 persons of concern to UNHCR received some form of legal assistance.

UNHCR supports:

- **151 schools;**
- **30 satellite classes;**
- **58 home-based schools; and,**
- **147 DAFI scholars.**

UNHCR and its partners intervened in the cases of 47 individuals detained or arrested and secured their release. In most cases, those detained or arrested were released before they could be formally charged. In addition, ALAC partners represented 22 persons of concern to UNHCR who had been charged under the Foreigners Act or other laws, which allow preventive detention of individuals acting in a manner that is prejudicial to the integrity, security and defence of the country and public order. These interventions resulted in court ordered releases.

- Partners also provided legal counselling to 1,000 persons of concern to UNHCR who visited ALACs and legal advice to some 740 individuals through ALAC helplines. Some 120 persons of concern to UNHCR were also given legal assistance due to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 84 legal sessions and *shura* meetings, reaching some 1,700 participants (46 per cent of whom were women). Sixty-one per cent of these events were held in refugee villages and the remaining ones took place in urban areas of Pakistan. UNHCR also provided support to four Proof of Registration Cards Modification centres operated by the National Database and Registration Authority nationwide. A total of 12,500 children were registered between 1 January and 31 July 2019.

Community-based protection

- As a collaborative response to support the children who engage in garbage-picking, UNHCR collaborated with the National Child Protection Commission (NCPC) to develop a pilot project incorporating child protection mechanisms. One of the important component of the project has been to build the capacity of the NCPC, conducting trainings for NCPC staff.
- Community-based protection partner, INSPIRE Pakistan, organized a joint session with 22 community youth members to discuss DAFI scholarships. Participants were briefed on eligibility criteria, the application process and the deadline to apply.

Education

- UNHCR continued to support access to education in Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA). By improving existing public educational facilities near accessible refugee villages, refugee children are welcomed in schools. This benefits host and refugee communities and helps contribute to social cohesion.

Health

- UNHCR supported the provision of maternal and child health services in refugee villages in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal and postnatal care. WHO, UNICEF and the Government of Pakistan's health department, together with the support of UNHCR's partners, conducted polio eradication campaigns in refugee villages. An Expanded Programme Immunization component of these campaigns has been officially transferred to the provincial health department. Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now have access to these services in public health facilities, in line with UNHCR's health strategy.

UNHCR supported:

- **39 health facilities;**
- **6,678 patients treated;**
- **1,611 antenatal care cases;**
- **1,024 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants;**
- **1,200 postnatal care cases.**

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan is collaborating with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to assist 2,000 Afghan and host households through the “poverty graduation approach” to promote food security and sustainable livelihoods for Afghan refugees and host communities.
- Women at risk of violence were supported through a sustainable livelihoods development approach. They were given an opportunity to engage in livelihood activities, gender-based violence (GBV) education and services, basic literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, early childhood care activities, as well as market-led technical skills training. All of these efforts have helped women market their products.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Program

4,258 projects completed since 2009

- Since 2009, the Government of Pakistan has implemented the RAHA programme, an initiative which supports the implementation of the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees. Through RAHA, a wide variety of projects have been carried out in the sectors of education, health, livelihoods, infrastructure, water, sanitation and social protection. In the past 10 years, RAHA has supported more than 4,250 projects which align with UNHCR’s livelihoods, education and health strategies aiming to ensure that Afghan refugees are included in public systems and structures.

**12.4 million beneficiaries
21 projects in 2018**

External / donors relations

Earmarked contributions to the UNHCR Pakistan in 2019¹

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Japan | Norway | United States of America | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | United Nations Development Programme | Private donors from the Republic of Korea

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019²

Denmark | Germany | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors

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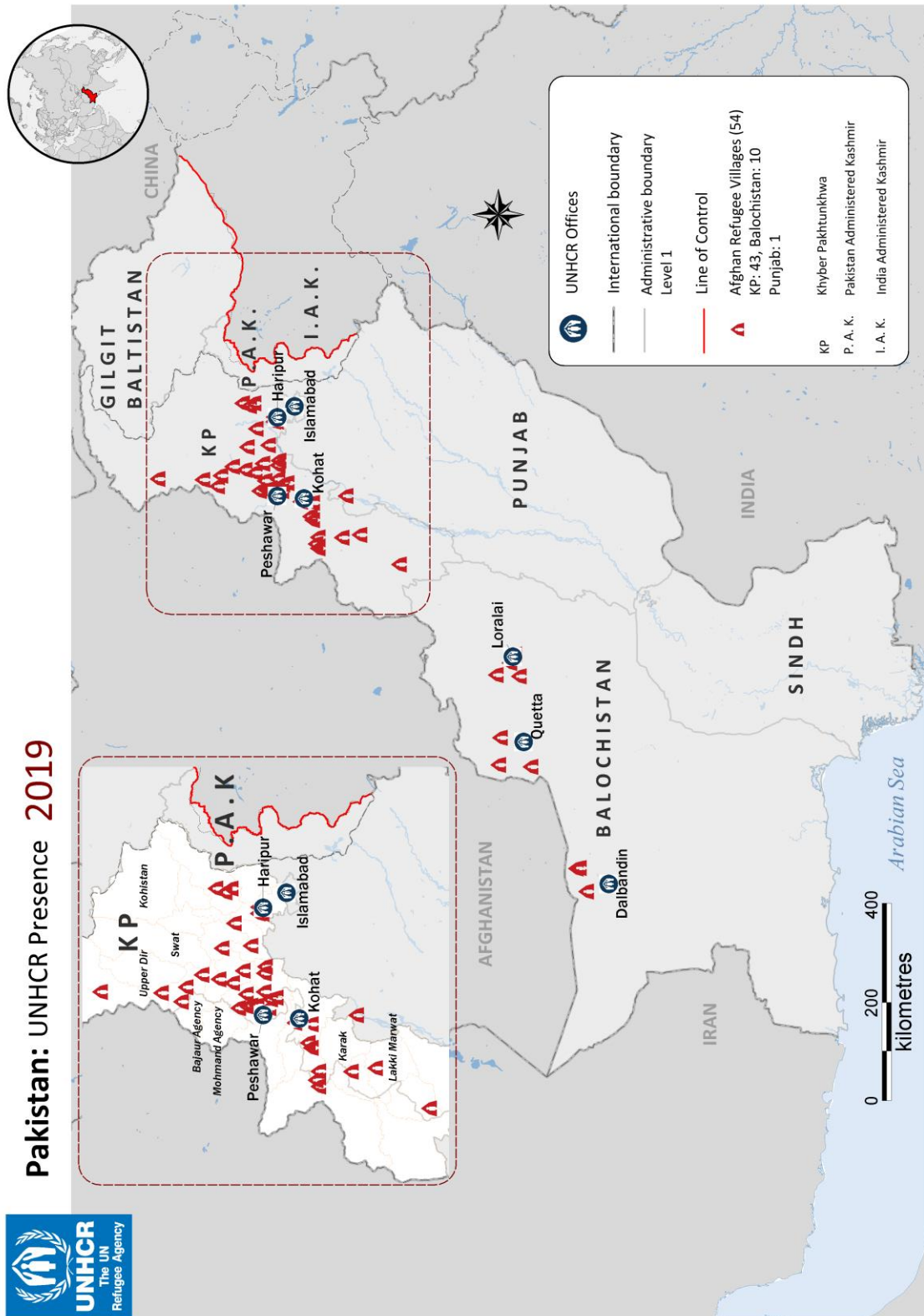
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding gives UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other persons of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.