

Pakistan

September 2020

Overview

The Government of Pakistan announced a phased opening of educational institutions from 15 September. All were instructed to strictly adhere to safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease. The total number of cases as of 30 September was 312,263, with 6,479 deaths. There were 8,903 active cases. The average number of daily confirmed cases remained below 600. One new case was reported among the Afghan refugee community in the past month. Eighteen Afghan refugees have so far tested positive. Most of them have recovered, but regrettably, five have died.



The UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, Noriko Yoshida met with the Governor of Balochistan, Justice retired Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, to discuss issues related to Afghan refugees in Balochistan, including UNHCR's emergency response to COVID-19. ©UNHCR/H. Karim

Following the Government's announcement to open educational facilities, preparations were under way for the resumption of UNHCR supported vocational trainings in collaboration with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC). Also, most of UNHCR's regular activities, which were affected by the COVID-19, have recommenced. During the reporting period, UNHCR-supported schools and Mother and Child Health Centres in refugee villages, the Proof of Registration Cards Modification Centres, Advice and Legal Aid Centres and the Voluntary Repatriation Centres carried out their regular activities.

Social Protection

The second phase of cash distribution to refugee families was initiated on 21 September. In the first phase, more than 32,000 vulnerable refugee families received UNHCR's emergency cash assistance that mirrors the Government's *Ehsaas* emergency cash programme, where vulnerable families receive Rs.12,000 (approximately \$77) to cover a four-month period. \$2.4 million has been distributed so far. Cash assistance is being disbursed in 55 districts and 54 refugee villages across Pakistan through an innovative partnership with the Pakistan Post.



An elderly Afghan refugee received cash assistance from a post office in Quetta, Balochistan. ©UNHCR/H. Karim

32,000 vulnerable refugee families have so far received emergency cash assistance.

Communication with Communities

With the phased resumption of regular activities, UNHCR and partners' staff continued to disseminate key messages through outreach activities and social media. During in-person outreach activities, COVID-19 prevention standard operating procedures (SOPs) were strictly observed. The activities include sessions with refugee village communities through water management committees, health committees, community outreach sessions with refugee Outreach Volunteers, as well as meetings with health staff in the refugee villages.

16,300 refugee Outreach Volunteers, community committees and community leaders and 9,700 refugees helped UNHCR reach out to the Afghan refugee population.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNHCR helped train and strengthen water management committees in all refugee villages, which are responsible for the maintenance and management of WASH facilities. Over 40 such committees have been formed so far. In the course of September, 15 WASH activities were completed, focusing on the enhancement of WASH facilities in schools in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the drilling of boreholes and the provision of solar panels to power water supply systems in refugee villages in the province of Balochistan.



UNHCR, with the Hashoo Foundation, organized a training for Afghan refugee youth on hand sanitizer preparation. The activity was aimed at providing livelihood opportunities and promoting of hygiene. ©UNHCR/Z. Saleah

155 water, sanitation and hygiene projects have been completed by UNHCR and partners in the COVID-19 response.

Health

The distribution of internationally procured personal protective equipment (PPEs) has commenced after the arrival of further consignments. UNHCR, in collaboration with provincial health departments, carried out mobile health operations in refugee villages in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ease the burden on health facilities. The activity also ensured the provision of uninterrupted health services to Afghan refugees.

So far, more than 53,000 masks, 54,000 gloves and 4,000 gowns have been distributed.



A WASH awareness session was held in Oblon refugee village in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During such sessions, health and hygiene issues are discussed. ©UNHCR/A. Rehman

Funding

In line with the revised UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, UNHCR's global appeal amounts to \$745 million. UNHCR has so far received \$464 million, or 62 per cent of the requirements. In Pakistan, UNHCR's requirements amount to \$20.6 million. UNHCR has received generous contributions from the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, as well as from the European Union (Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development). UNHCR has also received in-kind donations of soap and disinfectants from the private sector partner, Unilever, and in-kind donations of hand sanitizer and reusable sanitary clothes from private sector donors from the Republic of Korea.

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