Pakistan: Afghan Refugees Registration Update | As 31st of December, 2018









Overview

The Proof of Registration (PoR) card is an important protection tool that is issued by Government of Pakistan and provides temporary legal stay and freedom of movement for the 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The PoR cards expired at the end of 2015 have been extended through official notification until 30 June 2019*.

The four PoR Card Modification centres (PCM) are located in Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi and Rawalpindi. These centres are used for the modification and replacement of existing cards; the registration of infants and children up to the age of five years; the issuance of new cards for eligible children who are five years and older; and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18.

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

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 fewer Afghan PoR cardholders approached the PCM centre in the first half of the year then was expected. The target for the issuance of birth certificates has also been revised from 90,000 to 50,000 birth certificates. 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 3,232 applicants availed themselves of the PCM centre services in December 2018 compared to 2,885 applicants in November 2018, a slight increase (12%) in activities has been observed at all PCM centres countrywide. This is attributed to the extension of the MRV operations in far flung areas of Punjab province.

*PoR cards have been extended until the end of June 2019 by the Federal Cabinet in its meeting of 2 October 2018.



Jan-Dec, 2018

75,569

Refugees availed registration services (Cases processed + Birth registration)

> 24,775 (49.5%)

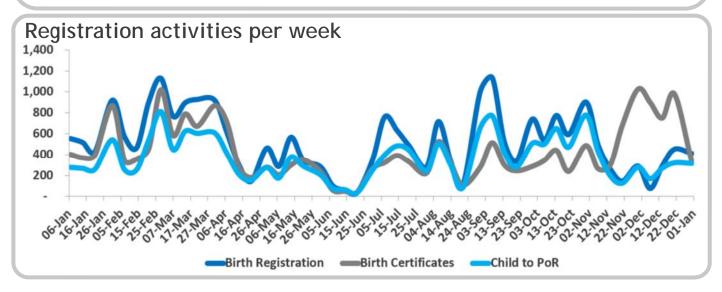
Birth registrations

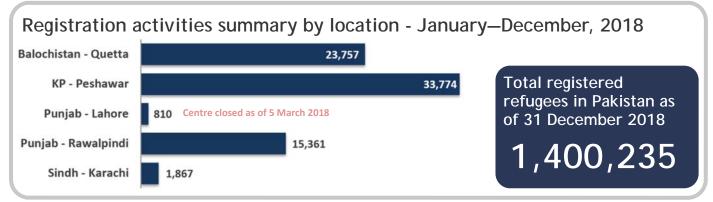
20,664 (41.3%)

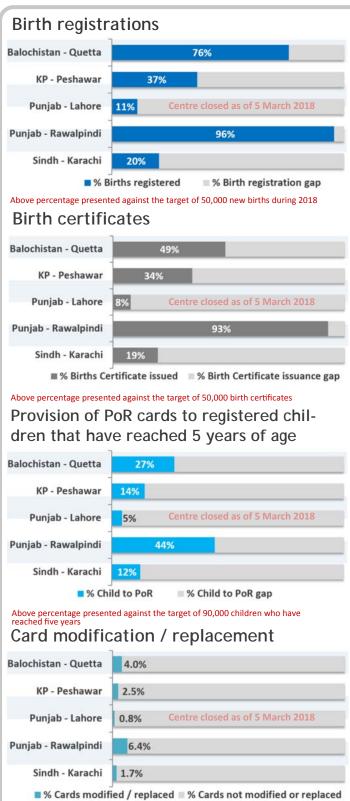
Birth certificates

17,635 (19.5%)

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 December, registration activities remained unchanged compared to those in November 2018 at all PCM centres and MRVs countrywide (a total of 1,225 children were registered in December 2018 at all the PCM centres countrywide and by one MRVs. This is compared to 1,186 in the month of November 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.

During December, MRV operations were extended for two weeks in Punjab province and were concluded on 28 December 2018. During the MRV deployment in Punjab, a total of 5,157 applicants were processed.

In 2018, Mobile Delivery Vans (MDV) have been deployed in KP, Balochistan and Punjab provinces for a period of one month in each location. The deployment of the Mobile Delivery Van was very successful and it has distributed a total of 9,690 modified cards in remote areas of KP, Balochistan and Punjab.

A total of 20,664 birth certificates were issued from 1 January to 31 December 2018 from all PCM centres and MRVs.

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

From 1 January to 31 December 2018, 6,034 lost or stolen cards were replaced. Deaths of refugees continue to be significantly under-reported. Only 29 deaths were registered/ reported between January to December 2018.