

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

*28 February 2019

***14,017** registered refugees (PoR cardholders) returned to Afghanistan 1 March – 30 November 2018.

1,723 Afghan refugee births registered 1 January – 28 February 2019.

4,803 have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019.

153 schools supported by UNHCR for **56,000** refugee students.

6,714 patients treated in **56** 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 refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,401,952
Afghan mandate refugees without PoR cards	3,134
Somalia (refugees)	177
Others (refugees)	321
Asylum seekers	6,015

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

160 national staff.
36 international staff.

Offices:

One country office in Islamabad.
Two sub-offices in



* Voluntary Repatriation is paused for the winter break (1 December 2018 - 28 February 2019). Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main counterparts for refugees within the Government of Pakistan are the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees at the federal level and the Commissionerates for Afghan Refugees, at the provincial level. In addition, UNHCR works with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).
- UNHCR implements activities through national and international non-governmental organisations.

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. The main goal of the SSAR is to identify and implement lasting solutions for refugees, while providing assistance to host communities. The SSAR prioritises the promotion of youth empowerment through inter-linked interventions in the areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods. The Government of Pakistan endorsed the extension of the SSAR framework for 2018-19.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that registered Afghan refugees will be allowed to open bank accounts in Pakistan. The step is expected to help Afghan refugees to participate in the formal economy.

Protection and Durable Solutions

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR operates two voluntary repatriation centres (VRCs) in Quetta, Balochistan and Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC, and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card (an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against refoulement) is cut in the corner. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately US\$200 per individual upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee hosting areas of four provinces and provide free legal support to persons of concerns. ALAC teams are proactive in advocacy, capacity building and sensitisation with law enforcement agencies to mitigate risk

In February:

2,837 people received legal assistance

47 people arrested/detained and then released

22 people receive court representation

658 provided individual legal counselling

608 people assisted through ALAC helplines.

of arrest and detention. Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modification and the registration exercise of undocumented Afghans were the issues of greatest concern observed during the reporting period.

- UNHCR and ALAC staff organised a total of 65 legal and shura meetings, reaching 1,390 participants (42 per cent were women) in the reporting month. 48 per cent of the legal sessions were held in refugee villages and the remaining sessions in urban areas of Pakistan. Through these legal sessions, refugees shared various issues affecting their communities.
- UNHCR provides support to four Proof of Registration Cards Modification (PCMs) centres operated by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) nationwide. The PCM centres support the modification/replacement of existing PoR cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, provision of PoR cards to registered children older than five years of age and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18. A total of 1,723 children were registered between 1 January to 28 February 2019.

Community-based protection

- Through advocacy and coordination, the CBP team in Peshawar was able to strengthen relationships with local officials who will extend emergency response services to refugees in the event of medical and fire emergencies. The CBP team facilitated three information sessions on first aid and emergency services targeting outreach volunteers and refugee leaders in district Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkwa.
- In Zar Karez Refugee village in Balochistan, outreach volunteers contributed and mobilised the community for financial contributions for major repair work of the local water system. A total of PKR 45,000 was collected that is being utilized for the repair of water bore submersible that will serve the entire community.
- A refresher training on the prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) was organised for both male and female out-reach volunteers and refugees leaders in Peshawar urban refugee settlements by UNHCR's protection team.
- A certificate distribution ceremony was held for 13 Non-Afghan refugee students who has completed basic Urdu Language Course. Course was offered by UNHCR with support from ICMC in order to continue accessing education after phasing-out of our direct support. Mainly Iranian and Yemeni refugees attended the course. An intermediate Urdu language course has been recommended and requested by the students to ensure continuity.

Education

UNHCR supports:

153 schools

30 satellite classes

60 home-based schools

235 DAFI scholars

UNHCR's education strategy aims to facilitate access of Afghan children into nearby public schools where these are available to avoid maintaining a parallel education system, maximise resources and encourage peaceful co-existence amongst refugees and local children. One of the strategies used by UNHCR to support this process is directing Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) resources towards improving

existing public sector educational facilities within accessible distances to refugee villages. This reinforces the absorption capacity of the institutions to benefit both host and refugee communities and contributes to social cohesion.

Health

- UNHCR continues to support the provision of basic health services in refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with assistance from UNHCR's partners.

UNHCR supported:
56 health facilities
6,714 patients treated
1,587 antenatal care cases
1,031 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants
1,425 postnatal care cases

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan is collaborating with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to assist 2,000 Afghan and host households through Poverty Graduation Approach to build food security and sustainable livelihoods of Afghan refugees and host community in district Pishin, Boluchistan and Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. The refugees and host families have been provided assets with relevant skillset and tool kits to start an economic activity.
- Women at risk of violence have been supported through sustainable livelihoods development approach by involving them in safe livelihood activities, GBV education and services, basic literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, early childhood care activities, market-led technical skills training, provision of start-up tool kits and linked them with main markets through e-commerce website and a display center established in Quetta, which helped the artisans women in marketing the products.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

4,258 projects completed since 2009
12.4 million beneficiaries
21 projects in 2018

Since 2009, the government of Pakistan has been implementing the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative, which serves as a cornerstone for the implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and a principal responsibility-sharing platform for maintaining protection space for Afghan refugees. RAHA implements a wide variety of projects across the sectors of education, health, livelihoods, infrastructure, water, sanitation and social protection. UNHCR along with the Government of Pakistan is in the process to revise the RAHA programme document, which will be applicable till December 2020. RAHA is key function for UNHCR livelihoods, education and health strategies which intends to mainstream the Afghan refugees in public facilities.

External / Donors Relations

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019¹

European Union | Japan | United States of America | UN programme on HIV/AIDS |
United Nations Development Programme | Private Donors Republic of Korea

Un-earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019²

Denmark | Germany | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom |
Private Donors

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LINKS

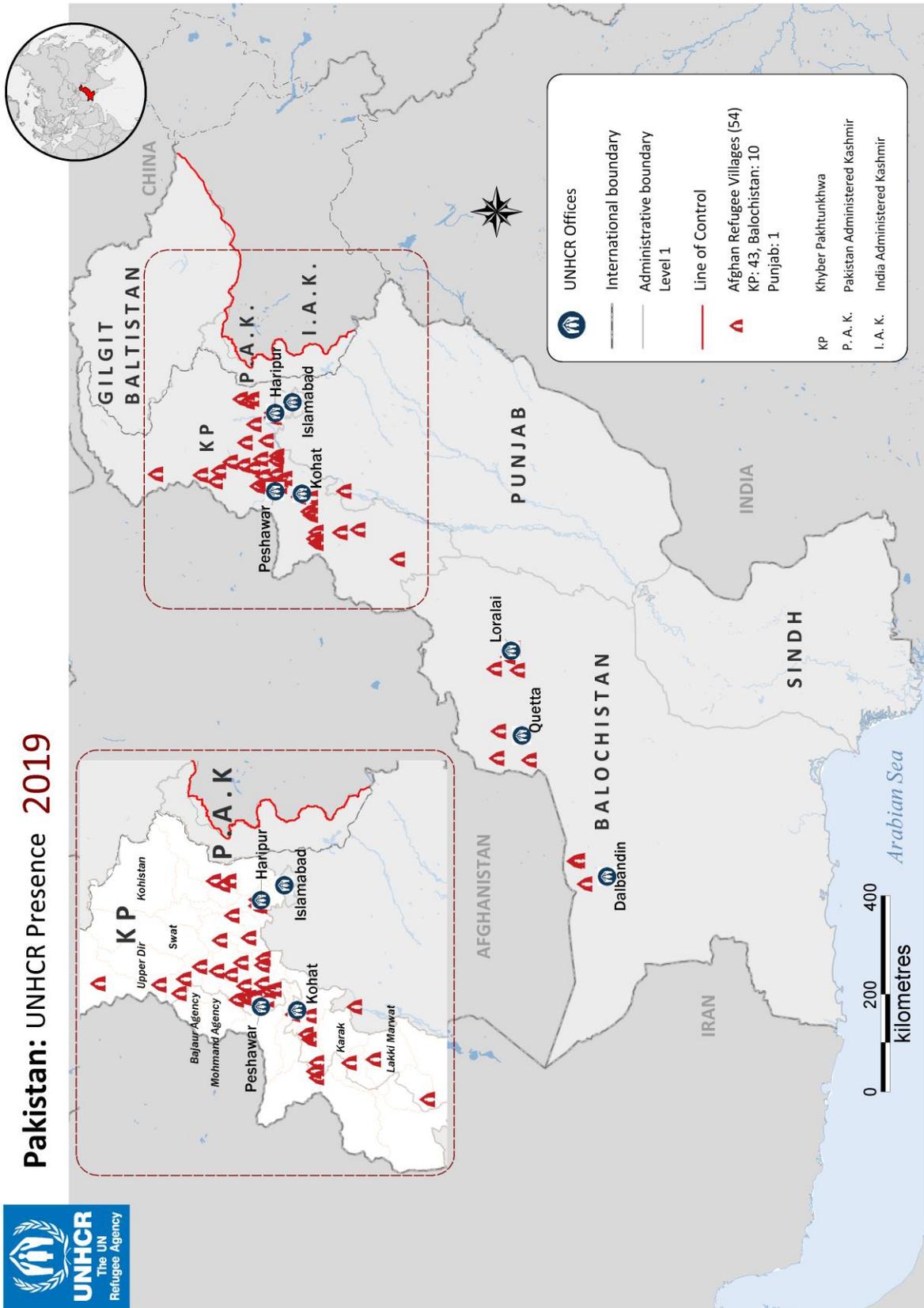
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.