

# Pakistan

June 2022

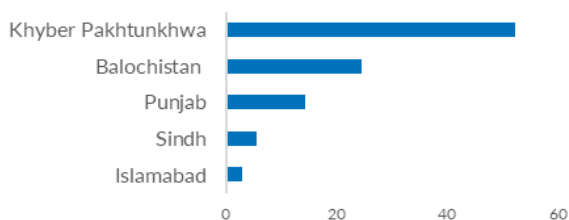
Pakistan continues to be **one of the world's largest refugee hosting** countries providing safety to some **1.3M people** forced to flee their countries

**UNHCR** supports efforts undertaken by the Government of Pakistan to provide **protection** and **assistance**, while strengthening cohesion in host communities

With a focus on global solidarity, the **Solution Strategy for the Afghan Refugees (SSAR)** guides the strategic direction of refugee programming in **Pakistan**

## REGISTERED REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN PAKISTAN: 1.3MILLION (99% AFGHANS, 1% OTHERS)

### Per province



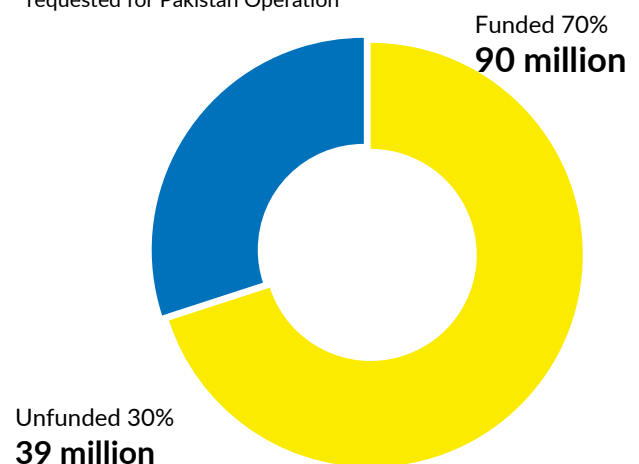
- **69 per cent** of Afghan refugees live in urban/semi-urban localities
- **31 per cent** continue to reside in the remaining 54 refugee villages

\* Data source : UNHCR Operational Data Portal, March 2022  
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/pak>

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY)

**USD 129 million**

requested for Pakistan Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

**332 Staff:**

**281 National Staff**

**51 International Staff**

**1 Country Office** in Islamabad

**2 Sub-Offices** in Peshawar and Quetta

**Presence** in Dalbandin, Haripur, Karachi, Kohat, Loralai, Chaman, Torkham



## Pakistan Impact Areas



### Attaining Favourable Protection Environments

Changes in the enjoyment of rights as a result of increasingly favourable conditions for protection



### Empowering communities & achieving Gender equality

Intended shifts in the protection and solutions of persons of concern as a result of advancements in community mechanisms, gender equality, health and livelihoods.



Securing solutions Changes in the enjoyment of durable and alternative pathways to solutions by Persons of Concern.

## Main Activities



### Protection

For more than 40 years, Pakistan has a long and commendable tradition of providing protection to refugees and asylum-seekers. An estimated 1.3 million displaced people with protection needs are living in Pakistan. These include mainly Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR), as well as a small number of non-Afghan refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries such as Myanmar, Yemen, Somalia and Syria.

Pakistan does not have a national asylum system in place nor is it signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. UNHCR continues to advocate for a better access by refugees and asylum seekers to basic rights in the country while enhancing self-reliance among refugees and their host communities for sustainable solutions.

- **Registration:** Government of Pakistan - the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) - and UNHCR with a technical support of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) concluded the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE) in February 2022. The exercise aimed to verify and update records of the Proof of Registration (PoR) holders and to address the need for new identity documents of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. These smartcards provide faster and safer access to services such as health and education and banking. PoR holders can update their registration data on an ongoing basis through 11 dedicated centres across the country.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee-hosting areas run by two partners. These centres directly secure release of persons of concern who are arrested/detained, conduct legal awareness raising sessions with the community and capacity building activities with law enforcement agencies on the rights of refugees.
- **Community-based protection:** With the support of Outreach Volunteers (OVs), refugee elders and focal points in the community, UNHCR empowers refugees and their host communities to mitigate protection risks, mobilise behavioural change, and to identify community-led initiatives aimed at sustainable solutions. UNHCR also supports Social Cohesion Hubs to bring together the refugee and hosting communities and build existing capacities among its members.

- **Child Protection and Gender-based Violence:** UNHCR and partners implement programmes for child protection and gender-based violence survivors, including case management, psychosocial support, life skills programmes, safe houses and friendly spaces, alternative care, family tracing and reunification, in addition to community outreach and awareness programmes. Prevention, risk mitigation of and response to GBV are also part of the response, with women and girls' empowerment activities.



### Statelessness

UNHCR works in partnership to provide legal assistance to stateless Bengali, Bihari and Rohingya communities in Karachi. The legal assistance focuses on acquiring and unblocking of identity documentation, legal advice and awareness raising on importance of identity documentation, birth registration and help to access to basic services. UNHCR also raises awareness on the procedures for birth registration in Pakistan and the importance of basic civil documentation as a measure to prevent statelessness in a protracted situation.



### Durable Solutions

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** UNHCR supports refugees who expressed their intention to their country of origin. Two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkwa are available to support Afghan refugees who wish to return home.
- **Resettlement:** Recognising that conditions in Afghanistan continue to be challenging, UNHCR is scaling up case management systems to identify the most vulnerable people with heightened protection needs, for resettlement.



### Livelihoods and economic inclusion

UNHCR works to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees, supports them in becoming more resilient and achieving self-reliance. Projects are designed to provide livelihood options with a focus on strengthening social and economic capital in refugee and host communities. Assistance focuses on agriculture and artisanal skills alongside different vocational trainings adapted to the local market and refugees' interests. UNHCR also advocates to expand access to tertiary education opportunities, employment, and financial services. In recognition that voluntary return is the primary durable solution for most of the refugees, a cross-border dimension has been integrated through these efforts. The private sector equally features prominently as a partner to include refugees in supply chains and build new private sector partnerships.



### Education

UNHCR's education strategy aims to increase enrolment and improve student retention rate of Afghan and local children in nearby public schools by expanding their accessibility and absorption capacity with better equipped schools and trained teachers. Inclusion of refugees in public schools contributes to peaceful co-existence in host communities, maximises investment in public resources and infrastructure and avoids provision of a parallel education system. UNHCR also provides tertiary-level scholarships to Afghan refugees between 17 to 30 years old through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) and advocates at local level for the inclusion of refugees in undergraduate programs that would allow them to contribute to their host communities.



## Refugee-Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) Programme

RAHA is a government-led programme with financial support from donor countries and the United Nations. UNHCR, together with the Government of Pakistan, implement the RAHA programme, a humanitarian development nexus initiative which seeks to increase tolerance towards Afghan refugees and supports the overarching goals of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). RAHA constitutes an effort to move away from prolonged dependence on open-ended humanitarian aid by enhancing social cohesion and building empowerment, resilience and productive capacities of refugees and host communities through targeted investments into national public service delivery systems (health, education, social protection etc.) and infrastructure.



### Health & WASH

UNHCR is contributing to a scale-up of local and central government capacity on health along with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). UNHCR provides support that enables refugees to reach national services, when available, and to support host communities to have better access to public health services, including through the provision of medical equipment in public hospitals. With a focus on enabling factors for inclusion, UNHCR is transitioning from support to parallel refugee facilities towards harmonized area-based programmes covering both host communities and refugee villages.



### Access to Energy

In Pakistan, most of the rural population where Afghan refugees live, have no access to electricity and depend heavily on traditional fuels, increasing protection and health risks as well as environmental concerns. Addressing the energy needs of refugees and host communities by improving access to sustainable, clean and affordable energy sources is a priority activity. UNHCR has provided renewable energy appliances and vocational skills training on operation and maintenance of these tools, along with environmental education for Afghan refugee men and women. Such activities are aimed at improving communities' protection and wellbeing, while also reducing the environmental impact of energy generation and consumption.

## Working with Partners

UNHCR works in coordination with the Government of Pakistan, UN agencies, humanitarian and development organizations, and civil society to find solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other persons of concern to UNHCR:

- **Governmental:** Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), including the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees at provincial level is the main counterpart. At federal level, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Education and Professional training, National Health Regulation and Services, and the Planning Commission are key partners to continue strengthening services and support for refugees and host communities. UNHCR works jointly with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for registration of Afghan refugees. UNHCR also works in partnership with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) at the federal level and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTA) at the provincial level for the youth skill development. UNHCR collaborates with provincial department of health, education, social welfare, home, and tribal affairs along with other provincial and district level government line departments.

- **UN Agencies and NGOs:** UNHCR funds 16 national organizations, seven government partners and two international non-governmental organizations to provide protection and humanitarian assistance including:
  - **Government:** Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA), National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Frontier Primary Health Care, Pakistan (FPHC), Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences
  - **National:** Inspire Pakistan, Society for Humanitarian Rights & Prisoners (SHARP), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Imkaan Welfare Organization (IWO), Initiative For Development And Empowerment Axis (IDEA), Khwendo Kor, Hashoo Foundation, Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), Drugs And Narcotics Educational Services For Humanity (DANESH), Society For Empowering Human Resources (SEHR), Water, Environment & Sanitation Society, Pakistan (WESS), Peoples Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) Balochistan, Innovative Development Organization (IDO), Taraqee Foundation (TF), Society for Community Support to Primary Education (SCSPE), Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation (TKF)
  - **International:** International Rescue Committee, (IRC) and Pathfinder International
- UNHCR coordinates with UN partner agencies, NGOs and international organizations particularly through the Afghanistan Situation Regional Response Plan (RRP). Coordination forums such as the Pakistan Refugee Consultative Forum, which is co-chaired by UNHCR and the Ministry SAFRON/CCAR, are used for strategic and operational planning, resource mobilization and advocacy. In addition, UNHCR coordinates its work with a number of thematic working groups including education, health, food security, livelihoods and resilience, WASH while leading a protection working group. These are co-led by specialized UN agencies and relevant government counterparts and are a valuable coordination mechanism to enable a joint response.
- **National Goodwill Ambassador:** Actor Mahira Khan, uses her voice to raise awareness on the refugee situation.

#### Core Group of Support Platform for Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

- Committed to a comprehensive refugee response and greater burden- and responsibility-sharing, fourteen states and international organizations have become members of the Core Group of the Support Platform for Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) at a global level: Asian Development Bank, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, UNDP, United States of America, and World Bank. The current chair of this Group is the European Union.
- In Pakistan, the Local Core Group was established in 2021, duplicating the arrangement at the global level. The local Core Group regularly meets at the ambassadorial and working levels. Under the Local Core Group, two thematic groups (education and livelihood) were established at the working level.

# Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

## Country-level earmarked contributions

Canada | European Union | France | Germany | International Islamic Charitable Org | Italy | Japan | Kong Frederik den Syvendes Stiftelse paa Jaegerspris | Novo Nordisk Foundation | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Sweden for UNHCR | United Kingdom | Unites States | Other private donors

## Other softly earmarked contributions

Netherlands | Norway | Private donors

## Unearmarked contributions

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Private donors Spain | France | Switzerland | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Belgium | Ireland | Italy

Algeria | Armenia | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxemburg | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | Norway | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors of Spain | Private donors

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