

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

*31 March 2019

***288** registered refugees (PoR cardholders) returned to Afghanistan 1 March – 31 March 2019.

4,335 Afghan refugee births registered 1 January – 31 March 2019.

3,256 have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019.

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

13,637 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 refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,404,274
Afghan mandate refugees without PoR cards	3,138
Somalia (refugees)	177
Others (refugees)	321
Asylum seekers	6,492

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

160 national staff.
36 international staff.

Offices:

One country office in Islamabad.
Two sub-offices in Peshawar and Quetta.



* Voluntary Repatriation process resumed from 1 March 2019 at two voluntary repatriation centres (VRC). 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 of arrest and detention. Birth registration, police

In March:

3,256 people received legal assistance

150 people arrested/detained and then released

74 people receive court representation

784 provided individual legal counselling

575 people assisted through ALAC helplines.

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 61 legal and shura meetings, reaching 1,367 participants (42 per cent were women) in the reporting month. Some 57 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 and its legal partners organised three training sessions on refugee rights, UNHCR's mandate and international protection one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan where 18 public prosecutors participated along with 20 persons from civil society.
- 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 4,335 children were registered between 1 January to 31 March 2019.

Community-based protection

- The CBP team and Outreach volunteers (OVs) in Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa worked to organize different activities to mark International Women's Day. The activities include discussions, drawing competitions, role plays, fashion shows, and awareness sessions on women's rights. Such activities provided opportunities to women to express their views and showcase their achievements.
- Outreach volunteers in Chaghi, in collaboration with the forest department, organised a tree planting activity. The water committee initiated drilling a borehole as community initiative and the community is working to procure a submersible pump and solar panels to ensure sufficient water supply.
- The computer and tailoring centre initiated by the community in district Posti and Chagai in Baluchistan continues to operate successfully. 48 individuals are currently enrolled. The outreach volunteers of Posti refugee village collected 2,000 PKR from elders and refugee community members that will be used to purchase notebooks for the most vulnerable refugee students.
- UNHCR's CBP team conducted an SGBV session for the trainees of the "Safe from the Start" (SFS) project. A total of 36 participants attended the session. The main theme of the session was economic abuse. The session took an interactive approach and allowed the refugee women to share their personal and general experiences. The participants appreciated UNHCR and partner's efforts in raising their awareness on the issues that are common in the community yet they did not know that it was considered abuse.
- UNHCR's CBP partner in Baluchistan conducted seven refresher sessions for 87 male and 77 female outreach volunteers. The training sessions focused on the roles and responsibilities of OVs, confidentiality and informed consent, effective communication, protection monitoring, referral pathways, and the identification of Persons with Specific Needs (PWSN).

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.
- To established complaint mechanism in Frontier Primary Health Care (FPHC), monthly meetings were conducted with volunteer health workers (males and females) in all target RVs. Volunteers report their complaints and on the spot discussion is held to resolve the complaint. The complaint and feedback are recorded in the minutes of meeting. Members of Jirgas/health committees also meet regularly with the staff members in MCH centre, and discuss issues.

UNHCR supported:

45 health facilities

13,637 patients treated

3,362 antenatal care cases

2,878 deliveries conducted by
trained birth attendants

2,697 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 centre 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

Denmark | 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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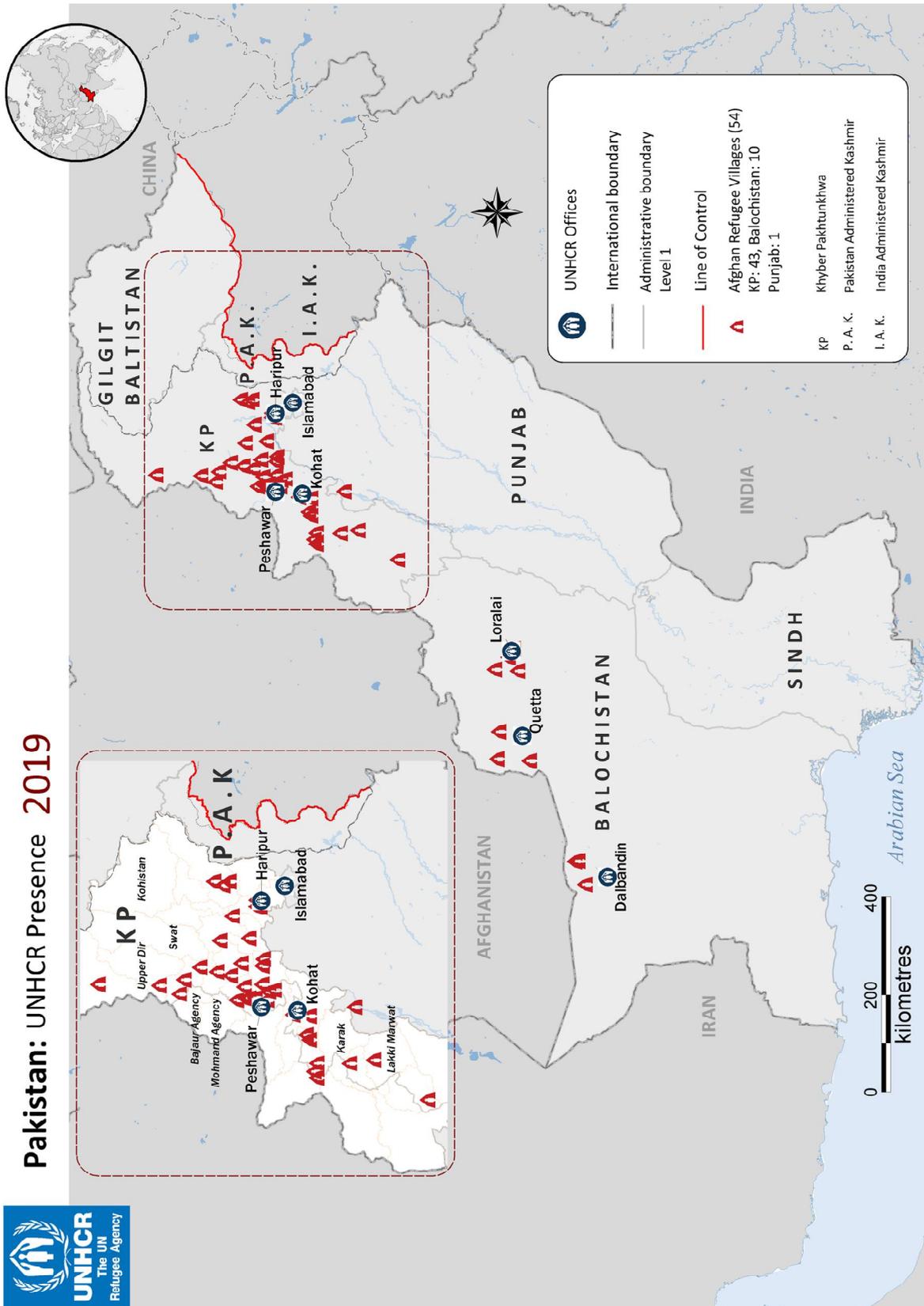
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and 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.