

Pakistan

31 December 2019

***6,220** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 March – 30 November 2019

22,093 Afghan refugees whose births were registered between 1 January – 31 December 2019

31,231 Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019

146 schools supported by UNHCR for **56,000** refugee students

5,288 patients treated in **38** health facilities supported by UNHCR

2,145 persons (Afghan refugees and Pakistani nationals) received livelihood assistance



Carpet weaving has become more than a skill learning activity for Nijat in Quetta under safe from the start project. Not only she learns a livelihood skill but also has found good friends © UNHCR/Uzma Irum

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,416,078
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,006
Somalia (refugees)	181
Others (refugees)	341
Asylum-seekers	8,541

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

155 national staff

32 international staff

Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad

Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta

Presence in Haripur, Kohat, Karachi



Afghan and Pakistani children in the Government middle school in Utmanzai village, Charsadda (C) UNHCR/Uzma Irum

* The voluntary repatriation process stopped on 30 November 2019 for winter break and will resume from 1 March 2020. Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

Working with partners

- UNHCR collaborates closely with the Government of Pakistan. It works jointly with the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), as well as the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and the Commissionerates for Afghan Refugees at the federal and provincial levels, respectively. Of particular importance has also been continued collaboration with line ministries.
- UNHCR partners with a range of national and international non-governmental organizations to provide protection and humanitarian assistance, as well as collaborates with non-implementing partners, such as the World Bank, sister UN agencies and private sector partners.

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 and the communities that host them. It supports the pursuit of durable solutions, as well as youth empowerment through education, the development of vocational skills and livelihoods training. During the last quadripartite meeting held in June 2019 in Islamabad, all parties agreed to extend the SSAR to 2021. Aligned with the SSAR, a dedicated SSAR Support Platform was launched on 16 December 2019, one day prior to the Global Refugee Forum. The platform seeks to (i) enhance international solidarity and burden-sharing for the Afghan refugee situation, resulting in stronger political and financial commitments to achieve solutions; (ii) Additional investments and expanded partnerships for coherent humanitarian and development responses that increase absorption capacity for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan, while easing the burden on host communities in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan and (iii) Sustained visibility for the Afghan situation by linking the SSAR to the GCR and the Global Refugee Forum, enabling the sharing of regional good practices, prioritization of gaps and meeting the need to work towards enhanced international burden- and responsibility-sharing.

Protection and durable solutions

- **Voluntary repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan where refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan must deregister. Refugee returnees subsequently receive a cash grant of approximately \$200 per person upon arrival at one of three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.

- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee-hosting areas in four provinces. Eight of these centres are run by UNHCR partner SHARP. The remaining centre is run by UNHCR partner SEHER.
- Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modification, ACC information and asylum application process were the major areas requiring assistance during the reporting period. Out-of-court legal assistance was provided to 46 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 33 legal camps and shura meetings, reaching 756 participants (42 per cent of whom were women) in the reporting month. 55 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 partner staff informed refugees of available free legal aid and UNHCR helpline services.

In December:

- *2,481 individuals received legal assistance;*
- *37 individuals were arrested/detained and then released;*
- *4 individuals were provided with court representation;*
- *465 individuals received individual legal counselling; and*
- *1,141 people were assisted through ALAC helplines.*

Community-based protection

- UNHCR Pakistan organized various activities with the support of partners to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. In Peshawar, a one-day workshop was organized in collaboration with Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Ombudsman Office. The main topics included; the mandate of Ombudsman Office, discussion on the Government Bill on Harassment of Women in the Workplace and procedures for filing complaints. Similarly, a Puppet show was organized for children in different refugees' settlement in districts of Rawalpindi, Attock and Islamabad to raise awareness on SGBV.
- A survey was conducted in Quetta on existing complaint and feedback mechanisms to measure the efficiency of the processes and satisfaction of the refugees with the systems in place and to identify any areas for improvement or a need for a new mechanism. The Key findings revealed that Face-to-face communication, community leader & OVs and telephone hot-lines are the most preferred mechanism of submitting complaints and receiving feedback whereas complaint boxes and emails are the least preferred ones.
- A home-based Girls School (HBGS) for out-of-school girls has been established at the community center at Nishat Mill settlement in Peshawar. The initiative is envisaged to provide accelerated learning classes for girls out-of-school.
- An event was organized for outreach volunteers in Islamabad to recognize their contribution which they have been providing in their communities. The Outreach Volunteers from Attock, Islamabad and Rawalpindi shared their experiences and came up with recommendations for improvements in their communities.
- A consultative session (round table talk) with 38 key stakeholders including officials from the provincial government was organized by partner to review UNHCR initiatives for legal assistance, document key achievements and challenges. The meeting was

also used as an opportunity to network and foster collaboration with new partners including the provincial government line-departments with the view to enhance partnership and strengthen referrals mechanisms for refugees in need of legal assistance services currently not covered under UNHCR supported legal assistance programme.

- UNHCR team in Balochistan conducted four trainings on Child Protection in three RVs (Malgagai, Katwi and Zar Karez) for male and female teachers. The training was attended by 74 participants (24 female, 50 male teachers).
- Two SGBV trainings under “Safe from Start” (SFS) project were conducted for refugees in Ghaus Abad and Hazara Town in Balochistan. The trainings were attended by 52 men that include mullahs, students, elders and close relatives of female SFS training participants.

Education

- UNHCR continued to support access to education in refugee villages and encourage the inclusion of refugee children in the national structures. By improving public facilities near refugee villages, refugee children are welcomed in schools. This benefits host and refugee communities and contributes to social cohesion.
- There are 419 DAFI scholarship awardees being supported by UNHCR in 2019.

UNHCR supports:

- 146 schools;
- 30 satellite classes;
- 51 home-based schools;
- 419 DAFI scholars; and,
- Teacher student ratio 1:41.

Health

UNHCR supported the provision of maternal and child health services in refugee villages in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal and postnatal care. WHO, UNICEF and the Government of Pakistan’s health department, together with the support of UNHCR’s partners, conducted polio eradication campaigns in refugee villages. An Expanded Programme Immunization component of these campaigns has been officially transferred to the provincial health department. Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now have access to these services in public health facilities, in line with UNHCR’s health strategy.

In December, UNHCR supported:

- 39 health facilities;
- 6,310 patients treated;
- 1,509 antenatal care cases;
- 1,484 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants; and
- 1,355 postnatal care cases.

Livelihoods

- UNHCR is also supporting an additional 100 women, both Afghan refugees and Pakistanis, in learning carpet weaving skills in the province of Balochistan, which will improve their employability and income-generating capacity and will ultimately help them enhance their self-reliance and economic capacity.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme

- Since 2009, the Government of Pakistan has implemented the RAHA programme, an initiative which supports the implementation of the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees. Through RAHA, a wide variety of projects have been carried out in the sectors of education, health, livelihoods, infrastructure, water, sanitation and social protection. In 2019, UNHCR Pakistan is celebrating 10 years' achievements of RAHA. During this decade, RAHA has supported more than 4,250 projects which align with UNHCR's livelihoods, education and health strategies aiming to ensure that Afghan refugees are included in public systems and structures.
- *In total, 4,258 projects have been completed since 2009.*
 - *12.4 million beneficiaries in the projects implemented in 47 districts of Pakistan.*
 - *14 projects in 2019*

External / donors relations

Earmarked contributions to the UNHCR Pakistan in 2019¹

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Japan | Norway | Switzerland | United States of America | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | United Nations Development Programme | Miscellaneous private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019²

Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors

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LINKS

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1. Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
2. Unearmarked funding gives UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other persons of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

