Pakistan

October 2025

In 2025, over **849,000** Afghans have returned to Afghanistan, including holders of PoR cards, ACC and undocumented people.

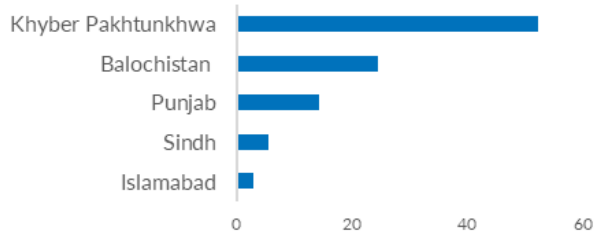
In the month of October 2025, over **99,000** Afghans left Pakistan

There are currently about **2 million** Afghans in Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan de-notified all **54 Refugee Villages** where over **397,000 Afghans** resided.

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

Per province



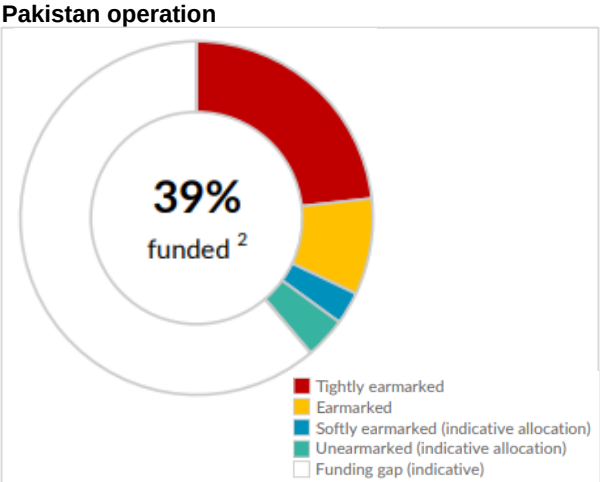
- **65%** of Afghan refugees live in urban/semi-urban localities
- **35%** reside in refugee villages

** Data source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal, Oct 2025*
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/pak

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2025)

USD 120.2 million

Pakistan operation



Afghans returning to Afghanistan through UNHCR's Repatriation Centre in Quetta, Balochistan. © UNHCR/B.Qurban

Key Highlights:

- In October, all 54 Refugee villages (RVs) in Pakistan were de-notified, presenting further challenges within the shrinking protection space for Afghans in Pakistan.
- Heightened tensions, security and border closures between Afghanistan and Pakistan seriously impacted trade, livelihood activities and disrupted repatriation operations.
- Large-scale raids, evictions, confiscation of documents, and detention of refugees were reported
- Protection concerns are increasing, with rising reports of mental health challenges among children and adults, heightened GBV risks—particularly for female-headed households—and livelihoods and shelter challenges.
- Afghans face blocked SIM cards, frozen bank accounts, and challenges in accessing education and healthcare.

Operational Context

UNHCR has worked in Pakistan for over 40 years, providing support and protection in one of the world's most protracted refugee situations. Over the years, the country has hosted over 3 million Afghan refugees and other undocumented Afghans.

In September 2023, the government introduced the *Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP)* which has driven large-scale returns of Afghans. The first and second phases of the plan, implemented in September 2023 and April 2025 respectively, targeted undocumented Afghans and holders of the Afghan Citizenship Cards (ACC). The implementation of these phases saw major returns of over 1.1 million Afghans from urban areas and refugee villages as of July 2025. The third phase, targeting holders of Proof of Registration Cards (PoR) commenced in September 2025 and has seen close to 166,000 PoR card holders returns. To date, over 1.65 million Afghans have returned to their country, with 141,000 of them deported. In addition, the government has de-notified all 54 refugee villages (RV) in Pakistan, across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Punjab provinces and continues to urge Afghans to return home, while arrests, harassment and deportations continue to be observed.

UNHCR has intensified its advocacy with the government to maintain protection safeguards, implement organized safe and dignified returns, and particularly to advocate for exemption categories for persons with heightened risk profiles (i.e. those who would be at imminent risk of harm upon return to Afghanistan) and for those with specific vulnerabilities as well as strong links to Pakistan, such as students in higher education and inter-marriages. Operational priorities in the current context include life-saving assistance, legal aid, and support for repatriations through the Voluntary Repatriation Centers (VRC).

In October, UNHCR provided critical protection assistance and community support to forcibly displaced persons amid rising humanitarian pressures. Evictions, loss of legal status, and fear of arrest had sharply increased among Afghans, particularly women and children. Afghans faced severe livelihood constraints, which contributed to heightened Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs, child protection concerns, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risks.

Security continues to be a concern in the country, largely contributing to a challenging protection space. Border closures remained a particular challenge, impacting trade, the social-economic context of the country, and repatriation operations during the reporting period. Border provinces remain under heightened alert, with potential escalation posing risks to civilians, refugees, and humanitarian operations.

United Nations Day 2025 Celebrations: UNHCR joined UN agencies nationwide in commemorating 80 years of the United Nations under the theme *"Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development, and Human Rights."* In Peshawar, the event co-hosted with the University of Agriculture featured panel discussions, exhibitions, and a tree planting drive highlighting inclusion, refugee protection, and climate action, with UNHCR leading media outreach that generated 24 national media mentions. In Quetta, UNHCR showcased refugee women's handicrafts through the Taraqee Foundation, emphasizing their contribution to Pakistan's economy. In Lahore, over 10,000 visitors attended the celebrations at the Alhamra Arts Center, where UNHCR's stall drew strong public and media interest, fostering dialogue on refugee resilience and challenges in Pakistan.

Sector responses

PROTECTION

Afghans in Pakistan continue to face a deteriorating protection environment marked by large-scale raids, forced deportations, extortion, document confiscation, and detentions, amid heightened border tensions with Afghanistan. Evictions by landlords due to lack of legal documentation have caused widespread homelessness, particularly affecting female-headed households, with some families taking refuge in parks and mosques. Refugees are also struggling with blocked SIM cards, frozen bank accounts, and limited access to education and healthcare, while child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risks continue to rise. Growing uncertainty has contributed to mental health distress and an increase in desperation-driven or aggressive behaviour among affected communities.

Throughout the month, the Torkham border remained closed, and no **deportations** were reported from Islamabad, Punjab, and Pakistan Administer Kashmir. In Sindh, particularly Karachi, large number of Afghan nationals, including PoR card, ACC holders, and undocumented, were deported from the Government Technical College (GTC) holding site to the Chaman border in Balochistan. Deportations from Sindh recorded an increase in comparison to previous weeks. Frequent raids by law enforcement agencies were reported in various areas across Karachi, including Sohrab Goth and Gulistan-e-Johar.

UNHCR Repatriation update: In October, the Proof of Registration [PoR] Card Modification (PCM) site in Lahore was converted into a Voluntary Repatriation Centre (VRC) to facilitate PoR cardholders residing in Lahore and nearby districts. Following the conversion, 44 families comprising 203 individuals were processed at the Lahore VRC during the last week of the month. In addition, a total of 7,979 families (34,404 individuals) were assisted with Voluntary Repatriation through the Azakhel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baleli, Balochistan. This brings the cumulative total of returnees assisted between 1 January and 31 October 2025 to 32,128 families (131,889 individuals). Compared to September 2025, the number of individuals assisted in October represents a 22% decrease in Voluntary Repatriation processing, primarily due to the closure of the Torkham border from 12 to 31 October 2025.

Legal Assistance: In October, UNHCR and its legal partners SHARP/ALAC and SEHER continued providing protection and legal aid to refugees and asylum-seekers across the country, amid ongoing repatriation pressures. Partners strengthened legal awareness, documentation support, and access to justice, contributing to protection of vulnerable Afghans amid heightened enforcement and repatriation activity.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): UNHCR and partners continued providing comprehensive GBV prevention, response, and awareness services across Pakistan. In Balochistan, DANESH and BRSP managed GBV cases, referring survivors for psychosocial counselling, health care, and emergency cash support, while conducting 25 awareness and Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) sessions reaching over 400 community members to promote gender equality and prevention. UNFPA proposed establishing a Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) at the VRC Baleli, and UNHCR Quetta organized a Girl Shine and

childcare training for staff to strengthen survivor support. In KP, IRC and SPADO delivered GBV case management, awareness sessions, and 16 Days of Activism planning in coordination with UN Women, reaching over 2,900 women, men, and youth through community and school-based initiatives. In Islamabad, the GBV Sub-Unit held trainings on Caring for Child Survivors (CCS) and the Girl Shine programme, enhancing staff capacity nationwide. Overall, GBV efforts focused on survivor support, capacity building, and promoting safe, inclusive spaces for women and girls across refugee-hosting areas.

Statelessness: During the reporting period, UNHCR's partner, Imkaan provided advocacy and direct support to stateless individuals. On 1 October, Imkaan's legal team held a Training of Trainers (TOT) session with five community members at the Imkaan Legal Aid Center in Machar Colony. This was followed by four youth awareness sessions at different locations with 89 students. These sessions aimed to raise awareness on ID documentation, birth registration, and related legal procedures, empowering youth and community members to guide others through these processes. Despite challenges linked to the ongoing repatriation plan, UNHCR continued its community-based child protection activities.

Resettlement: In October, 31 cases (94 individuals) were submitted for resettlement, bringing the 2025 total to 339 cases (1,247 individuals). nine refugees departed to resettlement countries, mainly Australia, Canada, Italy, the USA, and the UK. Under complementary pathways (CPW), programmes offering safe, legal migration options beyond traditional resettlement, two individuals departed for The United States of America in October, bringing the total of departures under this program to 81 persons. UNHCR also finalized terms of reference for the digital innovation fund project, established a referral mechanism with IOM for Germany's family assistance programme, and supported Australia's community sponsorship programme.

EDUCATION

In Balochistan, the IFRP phase 3 significantly disrupted education in RVs. During the reporting period, student enrolment dropped from 19,324 to 10,801 (6,000 boys, 4,801 girls), with eight schools closed in Malgagai and Saranan following RV de-notifications. Despite the departure of some teaching staff, education services continue across 27 RV schools. In KP, education activities led by partners Khwendo Kor (KK) and IDEA maintained 84% student attendance and 94% teacher attendance. Over 600 new students were enrolled through community-based initiatives (CBIs). Some 66 teachers received training on lesson planning and child-friendly discipline, while 7,041 shawls were distributed to support pupils' retention. However, repatriation-related uncertainty and blocked mobile SIMs ofor Afghan teachers continued to affect communication and staffing stability. UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for inclusion services in education systems in ensuring the right to education for all children.

HEALTH

The IFRP has increased the demand for health services as many Afghan families sought care before departure to Afghanistan. In Balochistan, the mobile health clinic provided outpatient services to 2,077 patients and reached over 2,700 individuals through 509 health promotion sessions on tuberculosis (TB), HIV awareness, and general health. 346 women received antenatal (ANC) and postnatal (PNC) care, while 6,399 vaccine doses were administered, including full immunization for 389 children under one year.

In KP, 26 health facilities supported by UNHCR and partners assisted 8,920 patients, with women as the majority beneficiaries. Services included 543 safe deliveries, 2,103 ANC/PNC consultations, and 582 referrals to advanced care. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities engaged 453 participants through 103 awareness sessions, and 363 follow-up instances. Health services that reach host-communities will continue to be supported.

WATER AND SANITATION

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) asset assessment and inventory were finalized, leading to the successful handover of all WASH infrastructure and equipment to district authorities through the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), Balochistan. The process was completed for all RVs except Muhammad Khail, where movement restrictions delayed the handover.

During the month of October, the housing partner, Integrated Regional Support Programme (IRSP) in KP completed plumbing, water quality testing, and treatment of three water sources at the VRC Azakhel, along with the rehabilitation of the solar system at the Peshawar Shelter Home. Flood mitigation works, including concrete pavements and drainage in the Hajizai RV, are 95% complete, and construction at Government Girls Primary School Seni Gumbat (Kohat) has also reached 95% completion, and is scheduled to be finalized by 10 November.
The housing partner completed the procurement process for rehabilitation works in three public schools. Physical work is planned to commence in November 2025, with completion expected by 15 December 2025. Procurement for the rehabilitation of three public schools is complete, with physical work set to begin in November.

Under **Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)** sector in Balochistan, planned construction in RV schools reached 98% completion, while security enhancement and borehole installation at Muhammad Khail RV were finalized, with final cleaning, verification, and payment processing underway.

ACCESS TO ENERGY

In Balochistan, the 47-site solarization project is progressing steadily: installations at Sheikh Zayed Hospital are complete, and the 685-kilowatt solar system at Bolan Medical College and Hospital has entered the commissioning phase, already providing solar power ahead of its formal handover.

LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

Across KP and Balochistan, livelihood initiatives focused on skills development, entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient income generation for Afghan refugees and host communities. In KP, 20 refugees received start-up assistance to launch small businesses, while 40 participants completed short-term vocational training sessions and 45 others began courses in tailoring, embroidery, and computer literacy. In Balochistan, 756 trainees (528 women, 228 men) completed vocational, agriculture, and livestock trainings, each receiving toolkits to apply their new skills. The livestock component saw the highest female participation with 463 women, and 400 women continued with the training under the *Safe from the Start* (SFS) project across three centers in Quetta. At the National Incubation Center (NIC) Quetta, 39 entrepreneurs, including 24 refugees, were selected for seed funding under the “Meri Shinakht, Mera Karo Baar” project, strengthening self-reliance and local economic participation.

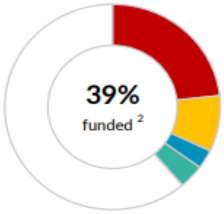
Financial Information – as of 31 October 2025

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.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

FUNDING UPDATE | 2025

$120.2 million
UNHCR's financial requirements 2025 [1]



PAKISTAN
as of 31 October 2025

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

CONTRIBUTIONS [3] | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	1,941,020	4,900,000	269,717	7,110,737
European Union	-	-	-	6,185,095	6,185,095
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	-	-	-	6,003,727	6,003,727
Japan	-	-	-	3,213,278	3,213,278
Australia	-	-	2,572,347	625,782	3,198,130
Denmark	-	-	-	2,132,196	2,132,196
Private donors in the United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	1,477,155	1,477,155
Switzerland	-	-	-	1,459,009	1,459,009
Canada	-	-	1,444,043	-	1,444,043
Republic of Korea	-	-	1,108,000	-	1,108,000
Private donors in Luxembourg	-	-	-	438,116	438,116
Germany	-	126,946	-	-	126,946
Private donors in China	-	-	-	103,200	103,200
Other private donors	-	-	24,908	2,023	26,931
Sub-total	**-**	**2,067,966**	**10,049,299**	**21,909,299**	**34,026,564**
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	4,542,580	1,508,675	534,865	6,003,827	12,589,946
Total	**4,542,580**	**3,576,641**	**10,584,164**	**27,913,126**	**46,616,510**

Methodology: Flexible funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Pakistan shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to indirect support costs and carry-over.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS [4] | USD

Australia for UNHCR 8.3 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 8.2 million | **Norway** 4.8 million | **Denmark** 3.8 million | **UK for UNHCR** 2.7 million | **Private donors in China** 2.4 million

Australia | Austria | Spain | Ireland | Finland | Malta | Germany | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS [5] | USD

Sweden 74.1 million | **España con ACNUR** 57.3 million | **Norway** 56.9 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 41.6 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 38.6 million | **Denmark** 37.8 million | **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** 36.3 million | **Germany** 25.1 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 24.4 million | **Switzerland** 20.4 million | **Private donors in Italy** 19 million | **Republic of Korea** 16.8 million | **Australia** 14.3 million | **France** 13.9 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Private donors in the Netherlands** 12.7 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 12.4 million | **Belgium** 10.7 million

Algeria | Armenia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kazakhstan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Spain | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:
1. The financial requirements for Pakistan include requirements for the 0.
2. The percentage funded (39%) and total funding amount ($46,616,510) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $73,562,990 representing 61% of the financial requirements.
3. Contributions to Pakistan are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
4. Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Pakistan. Where a donor has contributed $2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
5. Contributed without restrictions on its use, 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 contributed $10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

For more information: http://reporting.unhcr.org

Follow us on @UNHCRgov

For more information, please contact:

Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi, Senior External Relations Officer: munyao@unhcr.org
Uzma Irum, External Relations Associate: irum@unhcr.org

LINKS

Click following links to access
UNHCR Pakistan Website
UNHCR Pakistan X
UNHCR Pakistan Facebook
UNHCR Pakistan Instagram
Data portal