



Overview



From January—October 2017

Proof of Registration (PoR) cards are important identity documents that provide temporary legal stay and freedom of movement in Pakistan for the 1.38 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Proof of Registration (PoR) cards which have expired at the end of 2015 have been extended through official notification until 31 December 2017*.

Five PoR Card Modification (PCM) centres - located in Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi and four mobile registration vans deployed in Khyber Paktunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab support the modification/replacement of existing cards, the registration of new born children up to the age of five, the provision of PoR cards to registered children who have reached five years of age and who are now entitled to their own cards, as well as the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18 years old.

October witnessed a considerable increase in applicants for PCM centre services with 3,700 applicants availing themselves of registration services during the reporting period (representing a 32 percent increase compared to September 2017).

In 2017, UNHCR prioritised funds for the birth registration of 60,000 children. The target for 2017 has been increased to 120,000 as approximately 84,000 births had been registered at PCM centres and mobile registration vans by the end of April. The target for the issuance of birth certificates is 90,000. The target for the issuance of individual PoR cards is 150,000 children who have reached five years of age and are eligible to receive their individual cards from the PCM centres.**

There is a significant gap (44 percent) between number of birth registered and issuance of birth certificates, mainly because mobile registration vans do not have the facilities to issue birth certificate at the time of registration. Another reason for the gap is that PCM staff do not print birth certificates at the time of collection of modified cards by the applicants. UNHCR is following-up with NADRA to minimise this gap.

As per UNHCR's request to NADRA to deploy the mobile delivery vans for the delivery of cards to applicants living in far flung areas of Khyber Paktunkhwa and Balochistan, NADRA managed to deploy this facility during the reporting period. The mobile delivery vans were utilised for three months (2 months for Khyber Paktunkhwa and 1 month for Balochistan) and has allowed around 11,000 applicants to collect their cards at their homes in Khyber Paktunkhwa and Balochistan. In addition, there are around 5,000 modified cards that are pending for printing at NADRA head quarter since October 2017. UNHCR is in continuous follow-up with NADRA head quarter for the printing of these cards on an urgent basis.

*PoR cards have been extended until the end of 2017 by the Federal Cabinet in its meeting of 7 February 2017, as part of the recommendations of the comprehensive policy for Afghans in Pakistan. UNHCR will continue to advocate for the further extension of PoR cards with the Government of Pakistan (GoP).

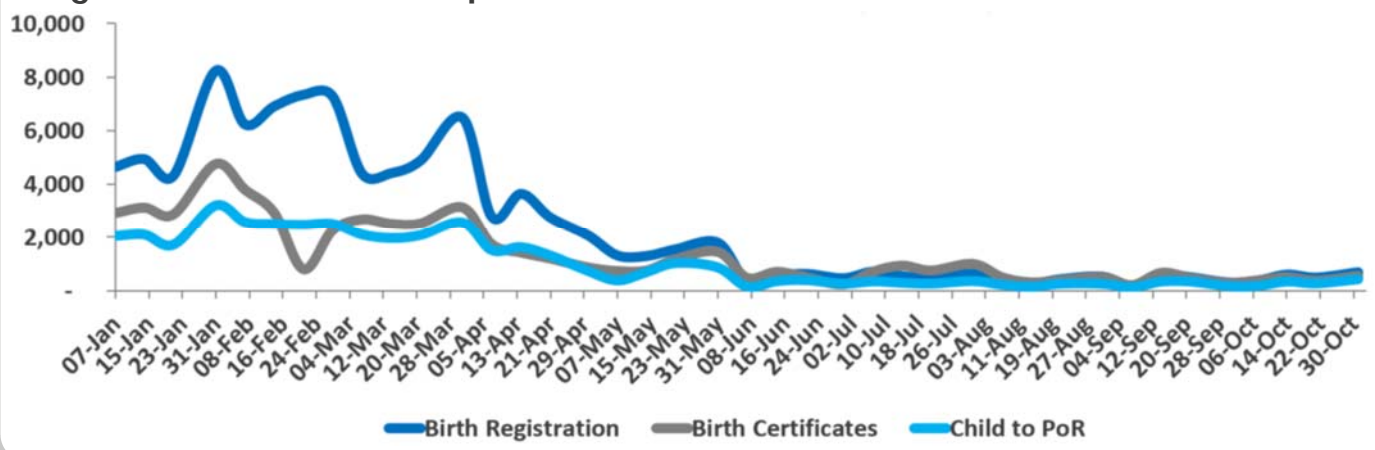
208,796
Refugees availed registration services (Cases processed + Birth registration)

96,751 (80.6%)
Birth registrations

54,196 (60.2%)
Birth certificates

41,358 (27.5%)
PoR cards for children reaching five years of age

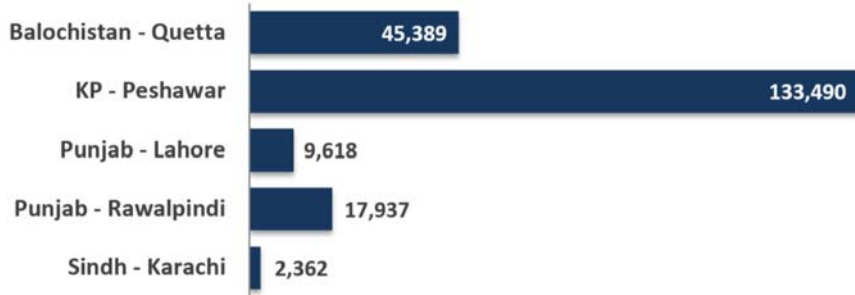
Registration activities per week



** Percentages are based on estimates of 120,000 new born children requiring registration and 150,000 children who have reached five years of age and are now entitled to their own PoR card (children below 5 are listed on the back of one of their parents' cards). 90,000 children require birth certificates.



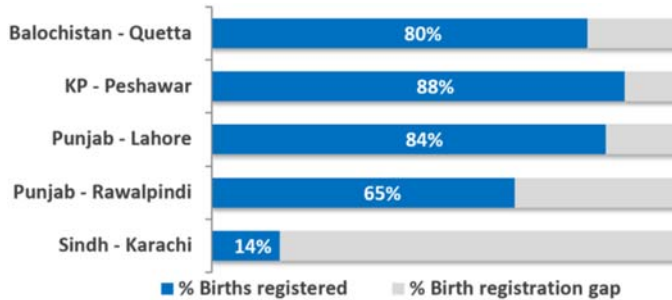
Registration activities summary by location - January – October 2017



Total registered refugees in Pakistan as of 31 October 2017

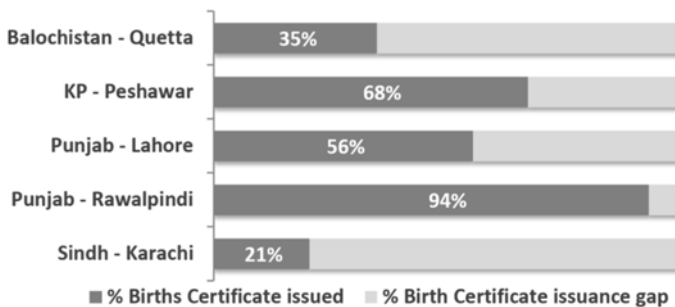
1,387,605

Birth registrations



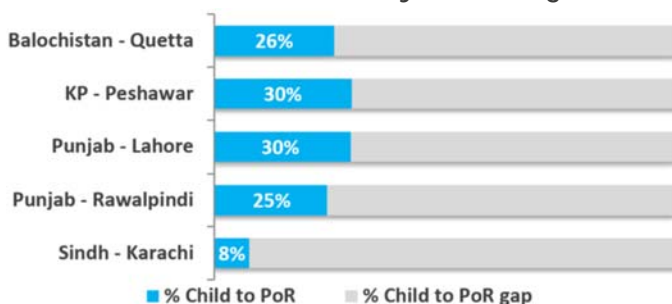
Above percentage presented against the target of 120,000 new births during 2017

Birth certificates



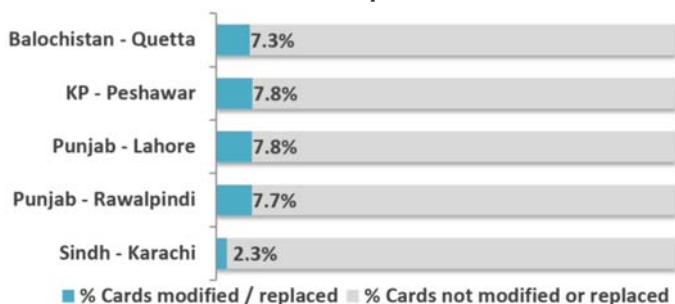
Above percentage presented against the target of 90,000 birth certificates

Provision of PoR cards to registered children that have reached 5 years of age



Above percentage presented against the target of 150,000 children who have reached five years

Card modification / replacement



UNHCR Pakistan's overall country outputs against the targets of birth registration, birth certificate issuance and provision of PoR cards to registered children that have reached five years of age are running well and will be fully achieved by the end of the year. These overall targets have been apportioned to each centre based on the size of the Afghan refugee population for which the centre provides services.

During the month of October, the trend in registration activities increased significantly compared to those in September 2017 at all PCM centres countrywide (around 2,100 children were registered in October 2017 at all the PCM centres countrywide compared to 1,500 in the month of September 2017). The increase is attributed to an increased awareness among the refugee community regarding the importance of the documentation.

54,196 birth certificates were issued between January and October 2017.

In 2017 mobile registration van operations were conducted for six months in Khyber Paktunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab province. The only challenge to the MRVs is the fact that birth certificates were not able to be issued due to operational/technical reasons. NADRA assured UNHCR that all those children who are registered through mobile registration vans will receive their birth certificate when their parents collect their modified PoR cards from the nearest PCM centre. Efforts are being made by UNHCR and NADRA to ensure delivery of the birth certificates to the families visiting the PCM centres.

In order to facilitate applicants living in remote areas of Khyber Paktunkhwa and Balochistan, NADRA has deployed a mobile delivery van as per UNHCR's request. The facility was utilised for three months (2 months for Khyber Paktunkhwa and 1 month for Balochistan). Some 3,300 applicants in Balochistan and 8,000 applicants in Khyber Paktunkhwa benefit from the mobile delivery van services and were delivered their modified cards.

From 1 January to 31 October 2017, 5,837 lost or stolen cards were replaced. Deaths of refugees continue to be significantly underreported. Only 205 deaths were registered/ reported between January and October 2017.