

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

*30 September 2018

***12,162** Afghan registered refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan from 1 March – 30 September 2018.

***19,560** Afghan refugee births registered from 1 January – 30 September 2018.

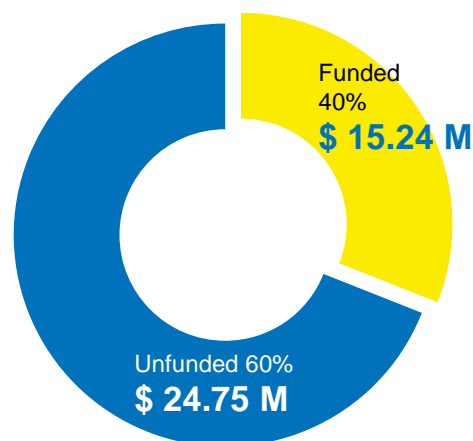
****83,328** IDP individuals (13,888 families) returned to their areas of origin in Pakistan since 1 January 2018.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,396,904
Afghan mandated refugees without PoR cards	3,282
Somalia (refugees)	183
Others (refugees)	305
Asylum seekers	4,813
Total out-of-camp IDPs	95,040

FUNDING

USD 39.99 million



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

161 national staff.
36 international staff.

Offices:

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



* Figures are updated as of 30 September. Please refer to data portal and UNHCR Pakistan website for latest updates.

**Figures include 13,603 IDP families from Orakzai, South Waziristan, Kurram & FR Tank are marked de-registered as returnees for data harmonisation with the tribal districts, formally known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

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 (Mol) 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.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, along with the Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, visited Pakistan from 6 – 9 September. During their mission, the High Commissioner met various dignitaries including the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan and Pakistan's foreign minister, Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi. The delegation also visited field locations and interacted with refugees. Pakistan celebrity, Ms. Mahira Khan accompanied the delegation at the voluntary repatriation centre and Shaukat Khanam Memorial Cancer hospital in Peshawar.
- On 16 September, prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan pledged to implement existing Pakistani laws that would grant citizenship to all Afghans and Bangladeshis who were born in the country. UNHCR Pakistan welcomed the statement.
- On 30 September, the federal cabinet announced the extension in the validity of the proof of registration (PoR) cards until 30 June 2019. The cabinet decided to devise a comprehensive policy on Afghan refugees before the next extension of their stay in Pakistan.

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 USD 200 per individual upon arrival at one of the three UNHCR encashment centres in Afghanistan.
- **Legal Assistance:** Nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) are operational in the main refugee-hosting areas of in all four provinces and provide free legal support to persons of

concern: four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one in Sindh and three in Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory through partnership agreements with Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid (SHARP) and one in Balochistan run by Society for Empowering Human Rights (SEHER).

- In September 2018, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to 2,612 persons of concern. During the month, UNHCR and its partners intervened at police stations for 90 arrested/detained persons of concern and secured the release of all. In the majority of cases, UNHCR and its partners managed to obtain the release of arrested refugees by law enforcement agencies before the official lodging of charges against them which resulted in their release from detention within 24 hours. Additionally, ALAC partners provided court representations to 24 persons of concern charged under the Foreigners Act and other preventive laws subsequently resulting in their release by orders from a court. Partner staff provided individual legal counselling to 660 persons of concern who visited ALACs as well as legal advice to a total of 671 persons of concern through ALAC helplines. Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modifications and the registration exercise of undocumented Afghans were the issues of greatest concern observed during September. Out-of-court legal assistance was provided to 79 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff organised a total of 66 legal and shura meetings, reaching 1,064 participants (33 per cent of whom were women) in the reporting period. Forty-nine 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 the available free legal aid and UNHCR's helpline services.
- UNHCR and its legal partner organised seven training sessions on refugee rights, UNHCR's mandate and international protection for 203 police officers. One training session was organised for 30 outreach volunteers and the paralegal network in Quetta.
- UNHCR provides support to four Proof of Registration Cards Modification (PCM) 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 19,560 children were registered and 13,919 children received birth certificates between 1 January to 30 September 2018.

Community-based protection

- The Community-Based Protection and Urban Outreach Strategy (2017-2019) for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan aims to help Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to be empowered, their resilience capacity strengthened, enabling them to minimise their exposure to protection risks and improve their overall protection environment, with a special focus on the most vulnerable.
- Outreach volunteers from five locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in a roundtable discussion with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and delegation. In total, 10 outreach volunteers (3 female and 7 male) presented the major challenges their community faces and the work they are doing to address such concerns. Outreach volunteers (12 female and 12 male) and four Afghan youth in Peshawar met the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and delegation at the voluntary repatriation centre in Azakhel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Outreach volunteers shared information on their activities, achievements and challenges.

- The outreach volunteers in Loralai district of Balochistan province, pooled funds together to purchase a three-wheeled motorbike for an individual paralysed from the waist down. The motorbike enables the individual to access to nearby markets, local services, social gatherings and vocational training classes at the technical training centre in Loralai.
- With the support of outreach volunteers in Khwajabad cluster in Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, household level profiling was completed in a community comprised of 66 Afghan and 10 Pakistani families. Segregated data was collected for children, youth, adults and the elderly. The data include details of PoR cardholders, ACC holders, and undocumented Afghans.
- With the support of outreach volunteers in Arbab Arif quarter in Peshawar, the community-based protection team conducted an information needs assessment exercise with 16 female youth between ages of 18-25 years. They prioritised three information sources 1) social media (Facebook), 2) newspapers and 3) television. The targeted group selected the mosque as a most common place for finding information, while they also receive information from educational institutions (schools and universities). Another information needs assessment was conducted with youth and adults, including 25 female participants from Pindi road refugee cluster in Kohat.

Education

- UNHCR Pakistan continues to provide students access to free primary and (in some areas) secondary education through 153 schools, 48 satellites classes, 55 home-based girls schools and 13 early childhood education centres in refugee villages. Around 57,000 refugee children living in 54 refugee villages across Pakistan receive education through these interventions. UNHCR also provides tertiary-level scholarships to Afghan refugee youth through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI). The beneficiaries are mostly 17 to 30 years old. In 2018, 400 students are currently studying in different Pakistani universities on a DAFI scholarship.
- 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. In September, 8,605 people in refugee villages received health services from 58 health facilities. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. Some 1,886 women received antenatal care, 1,401 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 1,667 women received postnatal care. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with assistance from UNHCR's partners.

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan has signed an agreement with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for the second phase of the poverty graduation project in 2018. Through this project, UNHCR is helping 2,000 vulnerable families to graduate from extreme poverty and achieve economic self-reliance in Pishin, Balochistan and Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- UNHCR Pakistan is assisting Afghan refugees and host populations to learn artisanal skills; male and female trainees are currently producing 43 different types of crafts. The artisans have been assisted in creating linkages with national and international markets by developing an e-commerce website (www.artisanshoponline.com). The website is helping various groups of artisans from refugees and hosting communities particularly marginalised women to market their products and earn a decent income.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

- 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. Since the launch of the programme, over 4,100 projects have been implemented across all provinces of Pakistan and five agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), benefitting over 10.94 million people. In 2017, nearly 623,000 people (of whom 35 per cent are registered Afghan refugees and 65 per cent are their Pakistani host communities) benefitted from 36 RAHA projects. In 2018, projects are implemented through government line departments, NGOs and through UNHCR direct implementation. A total of 21 projects are being implemented throughout Pakistan, out of which 14 projects (education, health, water and community infrastructure) are implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three projects (livelihoods and health) by the country office in Islamabad and four projects (education and health) implemented in Balochistan. UNHCR continues to line up further projects approved by the provincial task forces, as well as the Ministry of SAFRON, should further funding become available.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- As of 30 September 2018, 15,840 IDP families (95,040 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Ex-Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Ex-FATA). UNHCR continues to lead emergency shelter/ non-food items cluster, as part of the inter-agency response. UNHCR is also providing technical support to the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) in the protection cluster.
- Since 1 January, 83,328 individuals have returned to de-notified area (areas declared safe for returns after military operations) out of them, 1,710 were returned through voluntary return forms and 81,618 were marked as returnees for data harmonisation with the Government of Pakistan (FDMA). A cash grant of PKR 35,000 (approx. USD 300) is distributed to returnees at the return embarkation points by the government. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring in return areas and the provision of targeted assistance to vulnerable individuals.

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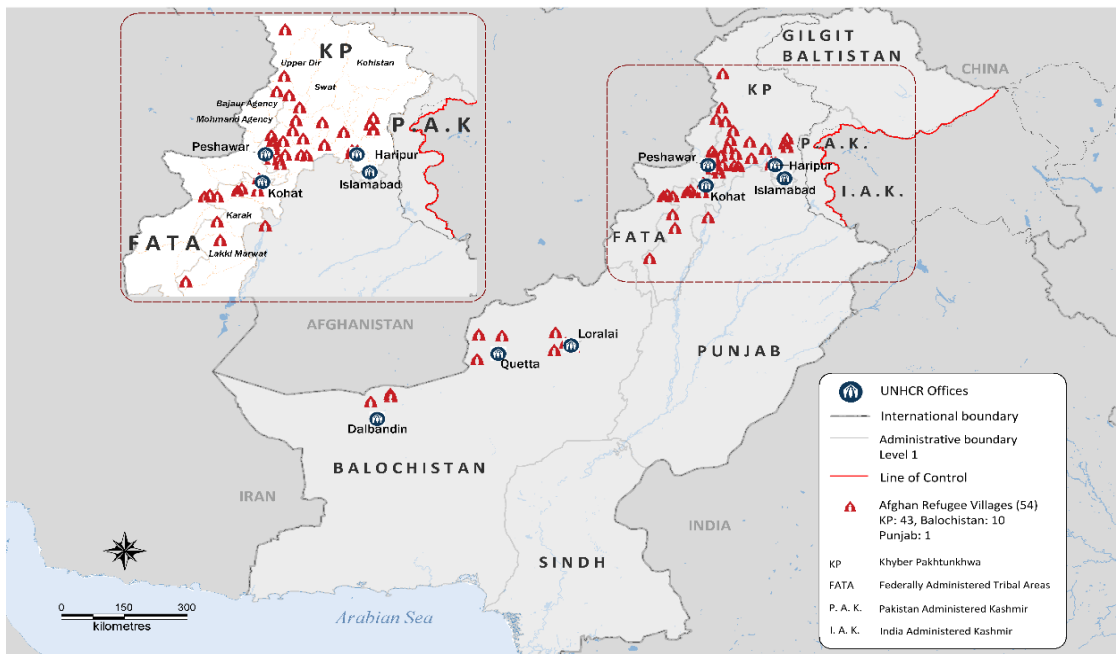
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- The broadly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Pakistan due to their earmarking to a related situation, region, sub-region or theme. The total amount of the contributions is shown for donors who have contributed \$2 million and more.