

# Pakistan

31 August 2019

**\*3,850** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 March – 31 August 2019

**13,794** Afghan refugee whose births were registered between 1 January – 31 August 2019

**22,277** Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019

**151** 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



A child is being registered at the Proof of Registration Card Modification Centre in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. © UNHCR/U. Irum

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,410,155
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,120
Somalia (refugees)	178
Others (refugees)	319
Asylum-seekers	7,163

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff

189 national staff  
32 international staff

### Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad  
Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta  
Presence in Haripur, Kohat, Karachi



An Afghan family is waiting for processing at the Voluntary Repatriation Centre in Azakhel in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. © UNHCR/A. Shahzad

\* The voluntary repatriation process resumed on 1 March 2019 at the two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan. 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.

### 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.
- In August 2019, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to a total of 2,142 individuals. During the month, they intervened at police stations for 43 arrested/detained individuals and secured their release. Additionally, ALAC partners represented to 11 persons of concern to UNHCR in courts who had been charged under the Foreigners Act (dealing with unauthorized stay of foreigners).
- Partners also provided legal counselling to 665 individuals who visited ALACs and gave legal advice to 366 through the ALAC helplines. Some 90 persons of concern to UNHCR were also given legal assistance due to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.

#### **In August, legal assistance was extended to:**

- **2,142 individuals received legal assistance;**
- **43 individuals were arrested/detained and then released;**
- **11 individuals were provided with court representation;**
- **665 individuals received individual legal counselling; and**
- **366 people assisted through ALAC helplines.**

- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 53 legal sessions and shura meetings, reaching approximately 949 participants (47 per cent of whom were women). Fifty-eight per cent of these events were held in refugee villages, and the remaining 42 per cent took place in urban areas of Pakistan. UNHCR and its partner further organized a capacity-building session at the Saeedabad Police School in the province of Sindh. Some 65 participants from law enforcement agencies attended this session. A total of 13,794 children were registered from 1 January through 31 August 2019.

### Community-based protection

- As a collaborative response to support the children who engage in garbage-picking, UNHCR collaborated with the National Child Protection Commission (NCPC) to develop a pilot project incorporating child protection mechanisms. One of the important component of the project has been to build the capacity of the NCPC, conducting trainings for NCPC staff.
- The education partner, Inspire Pakistan, organized a joint session with 22 community youth members to provide more information about the DAFI scholarships. Participants were briefed on eligibility criteria, the application process and the deadline to apply. They were also requested to disseminate this information in their own communities for a wider outreach.

### 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.
- During joint monitoring with a partner of the DAFI scholarship programme, UNHCR visited universities and met with academic coordinators, deans and students to discuss the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to institutionalize referral mechanisms and established a code of conduct for students.
- A training for DAFI students was also held in order to conduct a longitudinal study on the impact of secondary education on refugees. The training was successfully completed from 19 through 30 August in Peshawar.
- The mapping of all educational facilities supported by UNHCR in refugee villages was completed to identify gaps in service delivery. Following this activity, minimum standards in education service delivery were identified to ensure that UNHCR is providing education services at par with services delivered in public schools.

#### UNHCR supports:

- **151 schools;**
- **30 satellite classes;**
- **58 home-based schools;**
- **147 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.

### **Livelihoods**

- UNHCR Pakistan is providing vocational and artisanal skills training and tool kits, as well as kitchen gardening and poultry packages to 300 Afghan refugees in Balochistan, which helped them in earning income, ensure food security sustainable livelihoods development. This project is ongoing since January 2019.
- In the course of 2019, including in August, 120 Afghan refugee women at risk of violence are receiving UNHCR support in the province of Balochistan through a sustainable and integrated livelihoods development approach. They are given an opportunity to engage in livelihood activities, gender-based violence (GBV) education and services, basic literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, early childhood care activities, as well as market-led artisanal skills training. All of these efforts have helped women market their products, earn income and achieve economic empowerment.
- 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.
- UNHCR, in partnership with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), launched a skill development project in August 2019 in four provinces – Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Capital Territory Islamabad – to provide vocational and technical skills training and internships to 1,625 youth, both Afghan refugees and Pakistanis. A six-month certified training courses will be offered in pre-selected trades/skills. In particular, UNHCR aims to enable Afghan youth to acquire transferable skills and job training.

### **Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas 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, infrastruc
- ture, water, sanitation and social protection. In the past 10 years, RAHA has supported more than 4,250 projects which align with UNHCR's livelihoods, education and health

### **In August, UNHCR supported:**

- **38 health facilities;**
- **5,288 patients treated;**
- **1,299 antenatal care cases;**
- **988 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants;**
- **959 postnatal care cases.**

***In total, 4,258 projects have been completed since 2009, benefitting 12.4 million people in Pakistan.***

strategies aiming to ensure that Afghan refugees are included in public systems and structures.

## External / donors relations

### Earmarked contributions to the UNHCR Pakistan in 2019<sup>1</sup>

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 2019<sup>2</sup>

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

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## LINKS

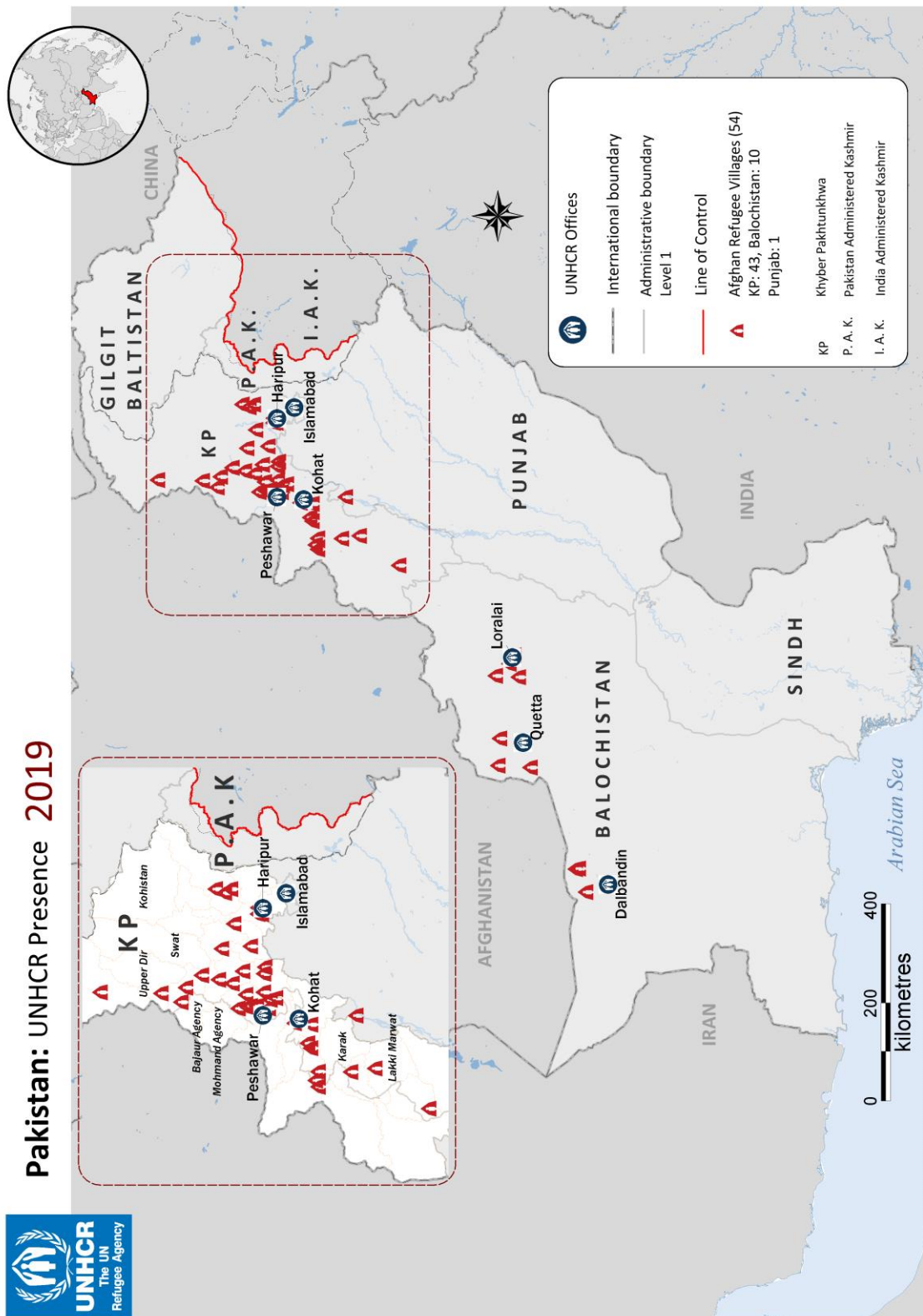
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding gives UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and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