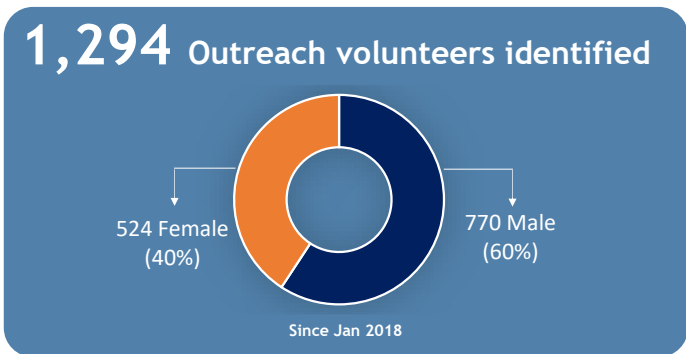




Distribution of Core relief Items to rain affected in Islamabad



Meeting with health partner in Hajizai camp, charsadda/ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Since 1 January 2020

- 353** Community visits and meetings conducted
- 801** Individual referrals to services
- 30** Community-led interventions

BACKGROUND

The aim of UNHCR Pakistan’s Community-based Protection (CBP) strategy is to empower Persons of Concern (POCs) to have an effective role as protection actors and meaningfully participate in the design, planning and implementation of activities that are most needed within their communities. CBP seeks to restore positive roles within a community and rebuild community-based support mechanisms and protection structures. UNHCR, in collaboration with its partners; International Catholic Migration Committee (ICMC), Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP), DANESH, Water, Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS) and Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CAR), continue its efforts to implement CBP interventions throughout the country.

The four key priorities of the strategy covers:

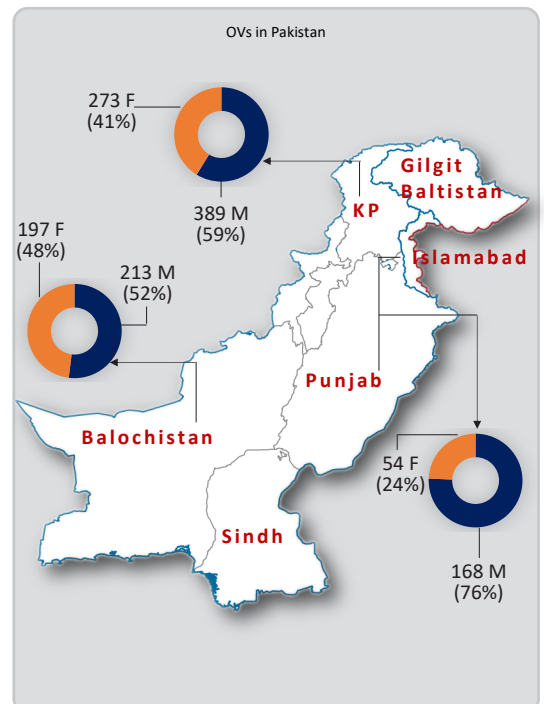
1. Enhance outreach and communication
2. Ensure access to needed services
3. Promote empowerment leading to self-reliance
4. Strengthen partnership and coordination

HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ The PSEA focal point in Islamabad remotely attended an IASC webinar on "Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) including challenges during COVID-19 response". During this webinar, experts from UNHCR (Senior Coordinator on PSEA and Sexual Harassment) and WHO (Mr. Andreas Mlitzke) briefed on increased protection risks that women and children face during emergencies, scaling up the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. An update on the initiatives and priorities of the IASC Champion on PSEA and sexual harassment, UNHCR, as well as IASC initiatives in support of field implementation was also presented.
- ⇒ Cash distribution exercise under the CBI programme commenced across Pakistan. The refugee community, Outreach Volunteers (OVs) and community focal points/ representatives were informed about the process. IEC material about the process also distributed.

OUTREACH VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- ⇒ The UNHCR team in Peshawar in collaboration with partners, distributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to OVs in Haji Camp, Sethi Town, Nishat Mill, Afghan Colony and Faisal Town. A similar distribution exercise took place in RVs and urban clusters in Kohat and Haripur districts. In addition, CBP staff provided training to Outreach volunteers on proper use of face masks. The awareness session on prevention and personal hygiene was also organized with small groups.



⇒ In Balochistan, the Outreach Volunteers (OV) and Community Committee (CC) members were actively involved in awareness raising on collection and utilization of safe water in the RVs. A total of 42 hand pumps were repaired in three RVs of district Chaghi. Furthermore, OV and Community committee members in RVS conducted 16 awareness sessions on COVID-19. These sessions were attended by 486 refugees that include 275 men and 211 women. Male CCs members in Hazara Town took initiative of providing Iftaar boxes to 70 vulnerable families for 4 days considering that COVID-19 has affected their livelihood.

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES



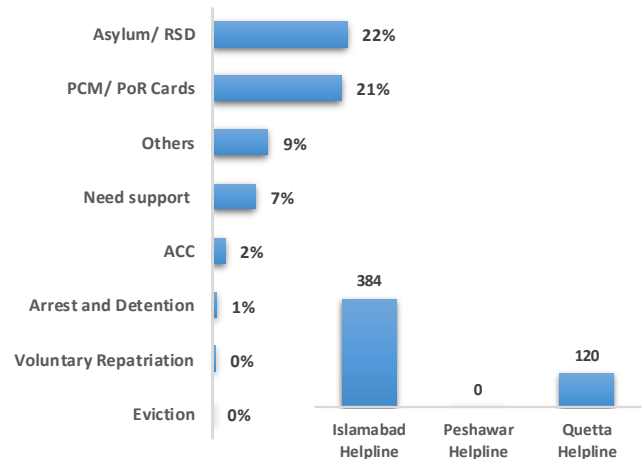
⇒ The CBP team in Islamabad conducted field visits in district Attock, Mianwali and Federal Capital Islamabad where meetings were held with refugee focal points and outreach volunteers to finalize the assessment for Cash-based Incentive (CBI) Program. During the visit, the message on social/physical distancing and other preventive measures also shared. In Mianwali refugee village, discussion was also held about gender and child issues, with a female group comprised of mothers and schoolteachers.

⇒ A UNHCR Multifunctional team (MFT) in Peshawar comprised of protection and program colleagues, visited four Refugee villages; Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, and Hangu districts.

PROTECTION HELPLINE



⇒ During the reporting month, the majority of calls received in Islamabad / Punjab were in regards to Asylum, RSD and Need Support. So far in 2020, 2,709 calls have been attended through the protection helpline.



COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH MECHANISM



Outreach Volunteers



Radio and TV



E-mail Accounts (UNHCR & Partners)



Complaint & Feedback Boxes



Helplines (UNHCR & Partners)



Community and Shura Meetings



Mass Information Materials



Social Media (Facebook, Twitter)



In-Person Inquiries

-war, Mardan, Swabi, and Hangu districts. The purpose of these visits aimed at showing solidarity with the refugees, interacting with refugees and partners to have a better understanding of emerging protection risks and trends and monitor implementation of UNHCR supported programs. Besides, staff distributed IEC materials on CBI assistance to refugees across different RVs.

⇒ As part of regular communication with communities, UNHCR team in Balochistan continue to reach out to refugees, both physical and virtual to convey messages on the importance of observing set preventive/precautionary protocols in combating COVID-19. In addition, UNHCR involved religious scholars in RVs for dissemination of key information on COVID-19 prevention and social distancing during the Eid prayers. Overall, 47 different gatherings of male community members took place that were attended by 2,780 POCs.

LINKAGES WITH OTHER SECTORS



⇒ Two Best Interest Assessment (BIA) interviews were conducted; one in Islamabad and one in Peshawar. Actions were recommended for specific medical and other needs.

⇒ A UNHCR protection team, along with the CBP partner, facilitated four families in shifting to their rented accommodation in Rawalpindi, Punjab. The families were counselled to maintain low profile and follow personal hygiene and social distancing in the wake of COVID-19. UNHCR and partners will monitor the situation regularly.

⇒ UNHCR Islamabad supported one refugee family with CRI kit who was affected after a fire incident in district Attock. The incident occurred while children were playing with firecrackers. Fortunately, no injury/causality reported however, the family lost their belongings and some cash.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



⇒ The CBI team in Islamabad conducted two Psychological First Aid (PFA) sessions at Kot Chandna Refugee Village Mianwali where 16 participants (8 females, 8 male) were trained, including 12 CAR Punjab staff and four outreach volunteers. These sessions were focused on GBV and other psychological issues reported during COVID-19.

UNHCR'S COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION PARTNERS



Society for Human Rights and Prisoners' Aid (SHARP)



Water, Environment & Sanitation Society (WESS)



Drugs and Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity (DANESH)



International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)



Commissionerate of Afghan Refugee Punjab (CAR/CDU)