

# Islamic Republic of Pakistan

\*30 April 2018

**\*4,769** Afghan registered refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan from 1 March – 30 April 2018.

**\*10,504** Afghan refugee births registered from 1 January – 30 April 2018.

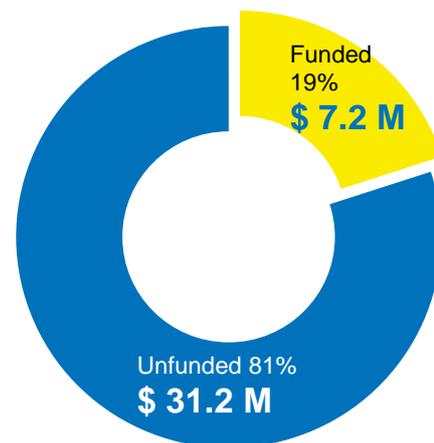
**\*1,002** IDP individuals (167 families) returned to their areas of origin in Pakistan since 1 January 2018.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,395,241
Afghan mandated refugees without PoR cards	3,500
Somalia (refugees)	232
Others (refugees)	300
Asylum seekers	4,101
Total out-of-camp IDPs	176,814

## FUNDING

USD 38.4 million



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

163 national staff.  
34 international staff.

### Offices:

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



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

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main counterparts for refugees within the government of Pakistan is 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 (MoI) and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).
- UNHCR continues to lead the Shelter / NFI cluster and works in close coordination with the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, as well as SAFRON at the federal level in complex emergencies.
- 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.

### 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. The voluntary repatriation programme re-started on 1 March 2018 after a break due to the winter.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In April, 3,088 persons of concern were assisted by ALACs. ALACs intervened on behalf of 62 refugees at police stations upon arrest, securing the release of all, and provided court representations to 38 of those charged under the 1946 Foreigners Act and other preventive laws. In April, individual legal counselling was provided to 788 persons of concern who visited ALAC offices, as well as 740 people who sought legal advice through the ALAC helplines. Through 61 legal sessions, staff reached out to 1,332 participants (46 per cent were women) during April. The issues of greatest concern for persons of concern seeking legal advice/assistance were the extension of PoR cards, shelter, financial, medical needs and police harassment.

- UNHCR provides support to four Proof of Registration Cards Modification (PCMs) 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 10,504 children were registered and 8,574 children received birth certificates between 1 January to 30 April 2018.

**Community-based Protection:** The community-based protection and urban outreach strategy (2017-2019) for Afghan refugees in Pakistan was endorsed in July 2017. The overall goal is for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to be empowered and their resilient 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 of Khesghi refugee village referred six refugee student cases to advice and legal aid centre (ALAC) team. Through joint visits by outreach volunteers and the ALAC team, the school principal was briefed about the legal status of proof of registration (PoR) cards and was provided with the updated PoR validity extension notification. All six refugee students were admitted to the school.
- A visit to the urban community of Nothia, Peshawar identified that female refugee youth require skills and vocational training to enable them to support their families. Courses related to tailoring, stitching and embroidery are preferred by the youth group. UNHCR partner SHARP is currently looking into possibilities of identifying a provider for these services.

### 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 between 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 training 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 April, 14,055 people in refugee villages

received health services from 59 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 1,889 women received antenatal care, 405 deliveries were conducted by a trained birth attendant and 1, 638 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.

### **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, project partnership agreements for eight projects (education, livelihoods and water) are under review. 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 April 2018, 29,469 IDP families (176,814 individuals) were registered as internally displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (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 FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) in the protection cluster. In addition, UNHCR continues to support displaced people and returnees through mobile protection teams and grievance desks.
- Since 1 January, 1,002 individuals have returned to de-notified area (areas declared safe for returns after military operations). 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.

## External / Donors Relations

### Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2018<sup>1</sup>

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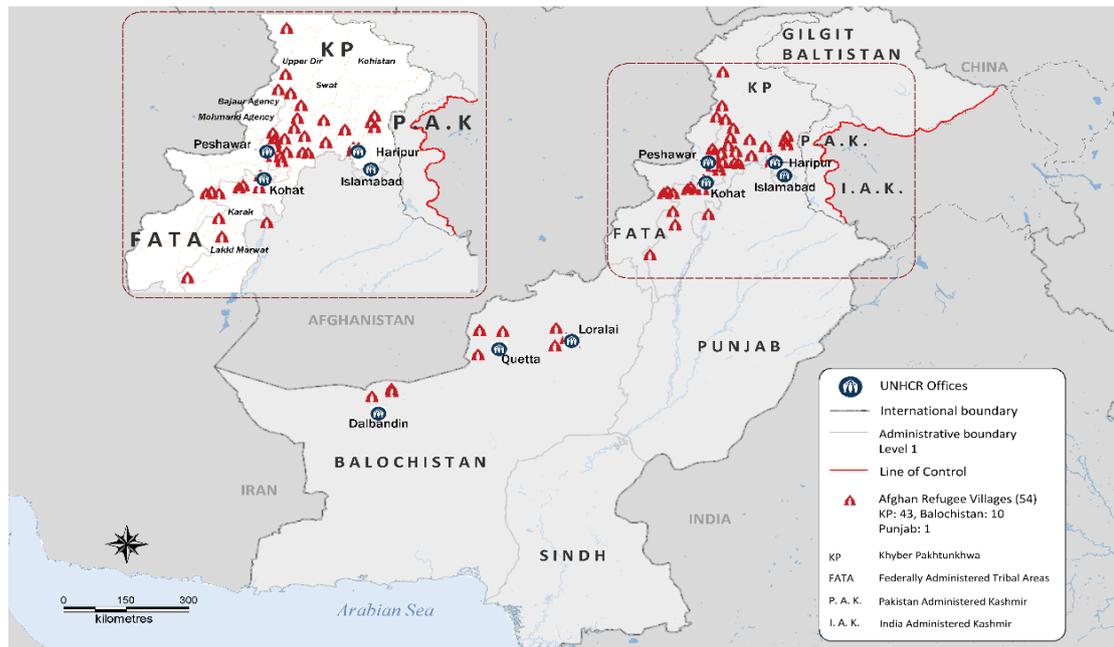
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- The broadly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Pakistan due to their earmarking to a related situation, region, sub-region or theme. The total amount of the contributions is shown for donors who have contributed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