

# Islamic Republic of Pakistan

\*31 December 2018

**\*\*14,017** Afghan registered refugees (PoR cardholders) repatriated to Afghanistan from 1 March – 30 November 2018.

**\*24,775** Afghan refugee births registered from 1 January – 31 December 2018.

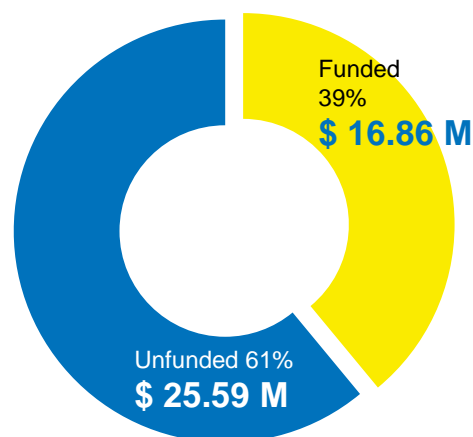
**83,454** IDP individuals (13,909 families) returned to their areas of origin in Pakistan since 1 January 2018.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,400,235
Afghan mandated refugees without PoR cards	3,286
Somalia (refugees)	181
Others (refugees)	317
Asylum seekers	5,181
Total out-of-camp IDPs	96,384

## FUNDING

USD 42.45 million



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

160 national staff.  
35 international staff.

### Offices:

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



\* Figures are updated as of 31 December. Please refer to data portal and UNHCR Pakistan website for latest updates.  
\*\* Repatriation has been paused since 1 December 2018 for winter break.

## 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 (MoI) 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.

### 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:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) which provide legal assistance to refugees and conduct awareness-raising activities. In the majority of cases, UNHCR and its partners managed to obtain the release of the arrested refugees by law enforcement agencies before the official lodging of charges against them which resulted in their release from detention within 24 hours. Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modification and the registration exercise of undocumented Afghans were the issues of greatest concern observed during the reporting

#### *In December:*

*2,534 people received legal assistance*

*60 people arrested/detained and then released*

*40 people receive court representation*

*541 provided individual legal counselling*

*522 people assisted through ALAC helplines.*

period. Out-of-court legal assistance was provided to 69 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.

- UNHCR and ALAC staff organised a total of 72 legal and shura meetings, reaching 1,260 participants (41 per cent were women) in the reporting month. Fifty 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 available free legal aid and UNHCR helpline services.
- UNHCR and its legal partner organized five training sessions on refugee rights, UNHCR's mandate and international protection for LEAs across operation in which 143 Police personnel and 22 Public Prosecutors participated.
- 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 24,775 children were registered and 20,664 children received birth certificates between 1 January to 31 December 2018. Some 29 deaths were also registered from PCM centres in 2018.

### **Community-based protection**

- UNHCR and its partners marked the 16 Days of Activism through various awareness raising activities across Pakistan. Over 3,600 people participated in events in refugee villages and urban settlements throughout Pakistan aimed at creating awareness about gender sensitivity and inclusiveness in the workplace.
- Community-based protection (CBP) team met with the officials of the Hamza Foundation in Peshawar to strengthen partnerships and develop referral pathways for the refugees suffering from Thalassemia. Details of services offered by the foundation was provided to the CBP team and an agreement was reached for the facilitation of UNHCR referred cases for blood transfusions.
- A meeting was held with the Association for Rehabilitation of the Physically Disabled (APRD) in Peshawar, an organisation that provides, low-cost, affordable and easily accessible services to physically disabled persons to overcome with their physical and economic challenges. This includes, vocational skills, equipment for feasible business and delivery of general family health training seminars, particularly for women from rural/sub urban settlements. APRD and UNHCR have entered into a referral partnership, increasing disabled refugees' access to supportive services.
- The office of the Commission for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and UNHCR's education partner distributed 511 sets of textbooks among primary school students in Khazana refugee village in Peshawar. A meeting was held with refugee elders, teachers and shura members who mobilised the community on the new curriculum in refugee schools. UNHCR will continue to sensitise refugee populations on its education policy with all relevant stakeholders.
- Through community led-initiatives, a library was established for women in Katwai refugee village and a computer lab and training centre was established in Posti refugee village in Baluchistan province, with 34 students currently enrolled. In addition, Male

refugee outreach volunteers in Qadriabad facilitated the national polio and measles campaign in their area.

## Education

*UNHCR supports:*

**153** schools

**48** satellite classes

**55** home-based schools

**57,000** refugee children

**235** DAFI scholars

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. Refugee women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal, postnatal care and routine immunisation services. Polio eradication campaigns were conducted in refugee villages by WHO, UNICEF and the health department, with assistance from UNHCR's partners.

*In December:*

**45** health facilities supported

**8,541** patients treated

**1,853** antenatal care cases

**1,487** deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants

**1,414** postnatal care cases

## Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan is collaborating with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to assist 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](http://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)

**4,100** projects completed since 2009

**10.94** million beneficiaries

**21** projects in 2018

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. 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) in Islamabad and four projects (education and health) in Balochistan.

### **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

UNHCR continues to the 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. UNHCR has supported the return of IDPs mostly through protection monitoring in return areas and the provision of targeted assistance to vulnerable individuals.

*In 2018:*

**96,384** (people) were registered as IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**83,454** people have returned to de-notified areas since 1 January 2018.

**33,000 PKR** is distributed to returnee families at the return embarkation points by government of Pakistan.

### **External / Donors Relations**

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

Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Italy | Japan | Norway | Switzerland | United States of America | Private Donors United States of America | Private Donors Japan | Private Donors Qatar (Education a Child Programme) | Private Donors Republic of Korea

#### **Softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2018<sup>2</sup>**

Canada | Czechia | Japan | Norway | Sweden | United States of America | Private Donors

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### **LINKS**

Website: <http://unhcrpk.org>

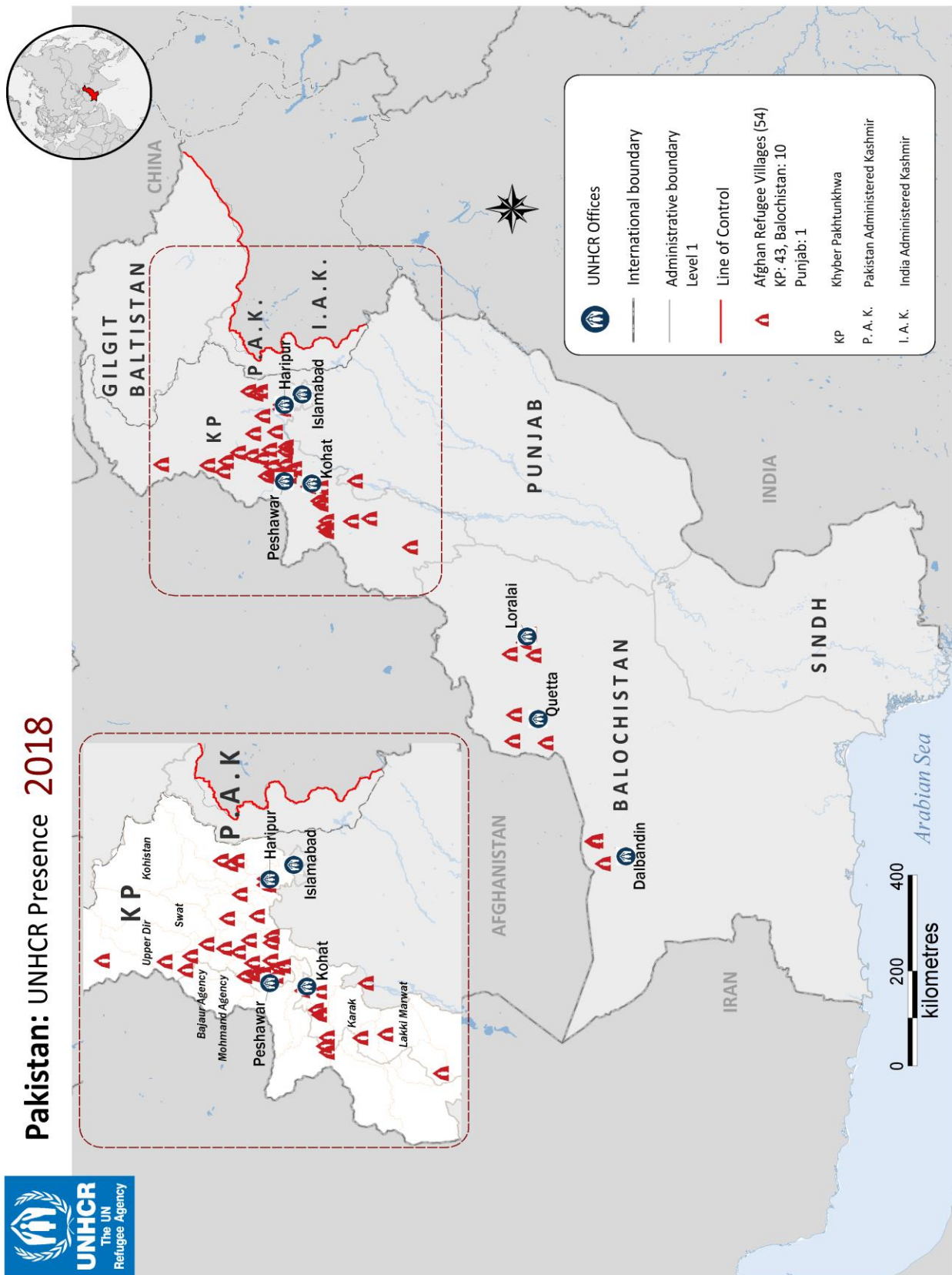
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Data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/pak>





- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Pakistan.