

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

30 June 2019

***2,280** registered refugees (PoR cardholders) returned to Afghanistan 1 March – 30 June 2019.

9,093 Afghan refugee births registered 1 January – 30 June 2019.

16,322 have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019.

153 schools supported by UNHCR for **56,000** refugee students.

5,867 patients treated in **45** health facilities supported by UNHCR.

4,199 persons (Afghan refugees and Pakistani nationals) received livelihood assistance.



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,407,033
Afghan mandate refugees without PoR cards	3,155
Somalia (refugees)	177
Others (refugees)	322
Asylum seekers	6,978

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

173 national staff.
36 international staff.

Offices:

One country office in Islamabad.
Two sub-offices in Peshawar and Quetta.
Presence at Haripur, Kohat, Karachi.



* Voluntary Repatriation process resumed from 1 March 2019 at two voluntary repatriation centres (VRC).
Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

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 US\$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) in the main refugee hosting areas of four provinces and provide free legal support to persons of concern. Eight of these centers are run by UNHCR's partner, SHARP, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), while one is run by SEHER in Balochistan, another UNHCR partner.
- In June 2019, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to a total of 1,936 persons of concern. During the month, UNHCR and its partners intervened at police stations for 118 arrested/detained persons of concern and secured the release of all. In the majority of all cases, UNHCR and its partners

In June:

1,936 people received legal assistance

118 people arrested/detained and then released

22 people receive court representation

401 provided individual legal counselling

608 people assisted through ALAC helplines.

managed to obtain the release of the arrested persons of concern before they were formally charged by the law enforcement agencies. Most were released within 24 hours. In addition, ALAC partners represented 52 persons of concern in the courts who had been charged under the Foreigners Act (dealing with the unauthorized stay of foreigners) and other preventive laws (allowing preventive detention of person acting in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, security and defense of the country and public order). These interventions resulted in court ordered releases.

- Partner's staff provided individual legal counselling to 401 persons of concern who visited the Advice and Legal Aid Centres as well as legal advice to a total of 401 persons of concern through ALAC helplines. Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modification, ACC information and asylum application process were the major areas requiring assistance during the reporting period. Out-of-court legal assistance was provided to 37 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 42 legal camps and shura meetings, reaching 873 participants (45% of whom were women) in the reporting month. 69% 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 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 9,093 children were registered between 1 January to 30 June 2019.

Community-based protection

- The SAFRON minister visited a refugee village in Kohat district on the last day of Eid and addressed a refugee gathering. The refugees expressed appreciation to the Minister for his gesture and requested him to advocate with the federal government on a number of issues, including: the PoR card extension (which has since then been extended); easing the processes and procedures required for the granting of Pakistani visas to Afghans; expansion of electricity lines; and the enhancement of health and education services to refugees. The Minister also visited an Afghan refugee settlement in Islamabad on the World Refugee Day where he heard about general issues from the refugee community. The Minister shared the contact details of his public office for inquiries and complaints regarding any protection issue.
- 147 community outreach sessions were held throughout the country in CBP focused areas, where 2,380 refugees (1,389 male and 991 females), were involved in group discussion sessions. The discussion was mainly focused on UNHCR health and education strategies, voluntary repatriation, legal assistance, skills development and livelihood programs.

Education

UNHCR supports:

153 schools

30 satellite classes

60 home-based schools

147 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.
- To established complaint mechanism in Frontier Primary Health Care (FPHC), monthly meetings were conducted with volunteer health workers (males and females) in all target RVs. Volunteers report their complaints and on the spot discussion is held to resolve the complaint. The complaint and feedback are recorded in the minutes of meeting. Members of Jirgas/health committees also meet regularly with the staff members in MCH centre, and discuss issues.

UNHCR supported:

45 health facilities

5,876 patients treated

1,631 antenatal care cases

1,140 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants

1,133 postnatal care cases

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan is collaborating with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to assist 2,000 Afghan and host households through Poverty Graduation Approach to build food security and sustainable livelihoods of Afghan refugees and host community in district Pishin, Boluchistan and Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. The refugees and host families have been provided assets with relevant skillset and tool kits to start an economic activity.
- Women at risk of violence have been supported through sustainable livelihoods development approach by involving them in safe livelihood activities, GBV education and services, basic literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, early childhood care activities, market-led technical skills training, provision of start-up tool kits and linked them with main markets through e-commerce website and a display centre established in Quetta, which helped the artisans women in marketing the products.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme (RAHA)

4,258 projects completed since 2009

12.4 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. UNHCR along with the Government of Pakistan is in the process to revise the RAHA programme document, which will be applicable till December 2020. RAHA is key function for UNHCR livelihoods, education and health strategies which intends to mainstream the Afghan refugees in public facilities.

External / Donors Relations

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019¹

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Norway | Japan | United States of America | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | United Nations Development Programme | Private Donors Republic of Korea

Un-earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019²

Denmark | Germany | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private Donors

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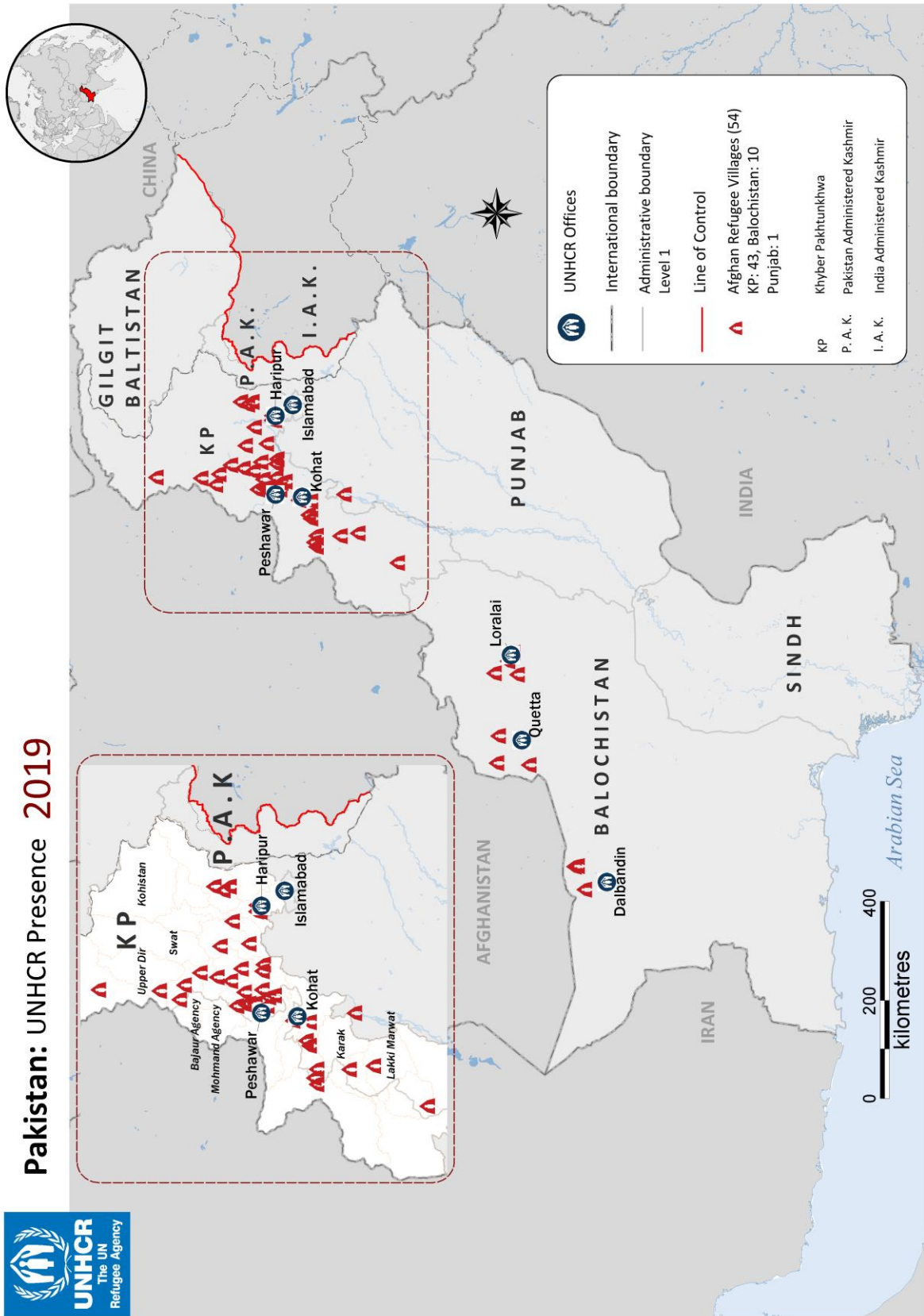
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.