

Pakistan

30 September 2020

***621** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 January – 30 September 2020

8,789 Afghan refugees whose births were registered between 1 January – 30 September 2020

18,987 Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance between 1 January – 30 September 2020

Personal protective equipment (PPEs) was provided to the health workers in **54** refugee villages to protect themselves during the pandemic

2,295 individuals (Afghan refugees and Pakistanis) received livelihoods assistance



UNHCR concluded a six-day capacity building training session on youth civic engagement and conflict resolution. Certificates were awarded to the participants and a youth task force was established to meaningfully engage the community in social welfare and protection. © UNHCR

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,424,238
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,015
Somalia (refugees)	181
Others (refugees)	341
Asylum-seekers	9,735

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

****213** national staff

39 international staff

Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad

Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta

Presence in Dalbandin, Haripur, Karachi, Kohat and Loralai



UNHCR and partners provided training to refugee youth to unlock their true potential. Six-day training sessions were organized to build capacity of male and female refugee youth, enabling them to serve their communities. (C) UNHCR/A. Shahzad

* The voluntary repatriation process was suspended on 30 November 2019 for the winter break and resumed from 2 March 2020. It was suspended again on 17 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan and resumed on 17 August 2020. Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

** Affiliate workforce is included.

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 provincial level.
- 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

- 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. The SSAR was previously extended until 2021.
- Aligned with the SSAR, a dedicated Support Platform for SSAR was launched on 16 December 2019, one day prior to the Global Refugee Forum. The Support Platform seeks to achieve: (i) enhanced international solidarity and burden-sharing for the Afghan refugee situation, resulting in stronger political and financial commitments to achieve solutions; (ii) additional investments and expanded partnerships for coherent humanitarian and development responses that increase absorption capacity for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan, while easing the burden on host communities in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan; and (iii) sustained visibility for the Afghan situation by linking the SSAR to the Global Compact on Refugees, enabling the sharing of regional good practices and lessons learned, showcasing the positive contributions of refugees to their host country and community and advocating for the implementation in the subregion of unassigned pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum.

Protection and durable solutions

- **Voluntary repatriation:** UNHCR usually operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan where refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan must deregister. From November to the end of February, voluntary repatriation was temporarily suspended during the winter months. On 2 March 2020, UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme resumed, but it was suspended until further notice on 17 March due to the COVID-19 outbreak and resumed on 17 August 2020.
- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee-hosting areas. Eight of these centres are run by UNHCR's partner, SHARP. The remaining centre is run by another partner, SEHER.
- In September 2020, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to a total of 3,113 persons of concern. During the month, UNHCR and its partners intervened at police stations for 33 persons of concern arrested/detained and secured the release of all. In most cases, UNHCR and its partners managed to obtain the release of the arrested persons of concern before they were formally charged by law enforcement. Also, the majority were released within 24 hours. In addition, ALAC partners represented in court 26 persons of concern who had been charged under the Foreigners Act (dealing with the unauthorized stay of foreigners) and other preventive laws (allowing preventive detention of persons acting in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, security and defence of the country and public order). These interventions resulted in court-ordered releases.

- During the reporting period, partner staff provided individual legal counselling to 617 persons of concern who visited the ALACs, as well as legal advice to 904 persons of concern through the ALAC helplines. Birth registration, police harassment, information on repatriation, PoR card modification, Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) information and the asylum application process were the main issues addressed when providing assistance. Out-of-court legal assistance was also given to 388 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff organized 41 legal camps and *shura* meetings, reaching 1,119 people. Legal sessions were held in urban areas. Through these legal sessions, refugees shared various issues affecting their communities. UNHCR partner staff informed refugees of free legal aid available and UNHCR helpline services.
- On communicating with communities, ALAC teams have been calling refugee community representatives to keep them informed of the COVID-19 pandemic. ALAC teams made 531 calls to refugee communities during the month of September. Refugee communities were advised to comply with orders from the local and provincial administrations. ALAC teams have been encouraged to maintain a proactive approach throughout the situation and share daily situation reports.

In September:

- *A total of 3,113 individuals received legal assistance;*
- *33 individuals were arrested/detained and all were released;*
- *26 individuals were provided with court representation;*
- *617 individuals received individual legal counselling; and*
- *904 people were assisted through ALAC helplines.*

Community-based protection

- Countrywide, a total of 623 awareness sessions were conducted through UNHCR and partner staff in which 2,334 female and 3,318 male refugees, outreach volunteers, elders, focal persons, community committee members and youth were involved. The content of these sessions was access to basic services, health, child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, the renewal of refugee cards and asylum-seeker certificates, the identification and referral of persons with specific needs, community participation, mobilization and engagement.

Education

- All UNHCR-supported schools in refugee villages were reopened by the end of September with strict adherence to COVID-19-related standard operating procedures.
- UNHCR together with education partners conducted training and sensitization session to teachers and parents on COVID-19 preventive measures in addition to the ongoing work to improve the WASH facilities in refugee village schools and the provision of hygiene materials.
- Four hundred thirteen DAFI scholars continued to be supported by UNHCR for their academic studies.

Livelihoods

- As of 30 September 2020, 53,500 vulnerable Afghan refugee families were identified to receive UNHCR's emergency cash assistance through Urgent Money Orders (UMOs). Of this number, 32,000 households already collected their cash. UNHCR Pakistan plans to target a total of 70,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families.
- UNHCR, in partnership with NAVTTC, has launched its Vocational and Technical Skills Training for 1,510 registered refugees and Pakistani youth. The six-month trainings will be provided in UNHCR's priority districts in private and public sector vocational and technical institutions.

Health

- **Risk communication and community engagement:** During the month of September in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the community health workers conducted 1,768 health education sessions with 9,947 participants on the prevention of COVID-19, acute and chronic diseases, including dengue fever, as well as referrals. Similarly, as part of the community engagement, 891 meetings were conducted by field supervisors with the *Shura* and religious leaders with 4,300 participants. Religious leaders (Pesh Imams) have continued delivering messages on the prevention of COVID-19 from their respective mosques.
- **People with disabilities assessment:** A total of 90 cases with disabilities identified out of whom six persons of concern to UNHCR with visual impairment were referred for advanced eye management to Shifa Eye Hospital in Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Sanitary cloth:** During the month, a total of 190 sanitary cloth bundle have been provided to UNHCR health partners, FPHC and ICMC. Girls and women of reproductive age (12-49 years) visiting health facilities for any health problem and any accompanying females of that age group received 8 pieces of 1.5 square meter cloth.
- **Polio national immunization day campaign:** A polio campaign was carried out in all refugee villages where the community health workers assisted the mobile teams in the health facilities and community. A total of 29,549 children of less than five years old received polio drops.
- **Balochistan:** Social mobilization activities to create awareness among the refugee community about the prevention of tuberculosis and COVID-19 continued during the reporting period. Tuberculosis prevention champions conducted 60 awareness sessions in three targeted refugee villages, Zar Karez (Loralai district), and Posti and Chaghi (Chaghi district). These sessions were attended by 162 refugees. COVID-19 prevention protocols of distancing protocols were respected during these sessions. In addition, 115 households were visited to collect information regarding tuberculosis cases.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) programme

- Since 2009, UNHCR, together with 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, infrastructure, water, sanitation and social protection. In 2019, the RAHA programme marked 10 years. During this decade, RAHA supported more than 4,250 projects which aligned with UNHCR's livelihoods, education and health strategies, all aiming to ensure greater inclusion of Afghan refugees in public systems and structures.
 - *In total, 4,273 projects have been completed since 2009.*
 - *12.4 million beneficiaries in the projects implemented in 47 districts of Pakistan.*
 - *14 projects in 2019.*
 - *15 projects in 2020.*
- All the necessary groundwork has been completed for the implementation of the 15 projects in 2020, but a delay in implementation was expected due to COVID-19.

External/donor relations

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2020 (as at 29 September 2020)¹

Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | IRTHI-NAMA Women Advancement Establishment | Japan | Lam Kin Chung Morning Sun Charity Fund | Norway | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United Nations Development Programme | United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS | United States of America | Miscellaneous private donors, including The Big Heart Foundation

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2020 (as at 29 September 2020)²

Denmark | France | Germany | Italy | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors in Italy | Private donors in Japan | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Private donors in Spain | Private donors in Sweden

CONTACTS

Marie-Claude Poirier, External Relations Officer

poirier@unhcr.org, Tel: +92 51-2600860, Mobile : +92 300-0540320

Uzma Irum, External Relations Associate

irum@unhcr.org, Tel: +92 51-2600860, Mobile: +92 322-5088668

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

¹ Contributions to Pakistan are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.

² Contributed without restrictions on its use, 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. Only donors who have contributed \$10 million or more are indicated.

