

# RAHA

## Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme



Education

livelihoods

youth empowerment

Skills training

health



## 1. The World's Largest Protracted Refugee Situation

Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for nearly four decades, with the first wave of refugees arriving in 1979, followed by subsequent influxes of refugees in 1992 and 2001. More than 4.4 million Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan between 1979-2001, with over 3.2 million refugees in the country at the height of the displacement. As a result, Pakistan has ranked as the world's top refugee hosting country for 22 out of the past 37 years. 3.9 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002, following the largest ever voluntary repatriation programme in UNHCR's history. Despite this, about 1.5 million refugees remain in Pakistan to date and subsequently Pakistan continues to host the world's largest protracted refugee situation, which constitutes 10.5% of the global total refugee case-load. This large scale protracted displacement has had an inevitable humanitarian, socio-economic, and environmental impact on Pakistan, which extends to affect its infrastructure, over-strained public service delivery systems and society.



*"RAHA understands the needs of both Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities."  
- Village Head*

### Key Facts & Figures:

- 1.5 million** registered Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan
- More than 50%** are children (5-14 years old) and over 20% are youth (15-24 years old)
- 74%** are second or third generation born in Pakistan
- 66%** live outside of refugee villages in (semi-)urban settlements
- 67%** reside in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 21% in Balochistan and 12% in the Punjab province

**In Spotlight:** Pakistan ranks 147 out of 188 in the Human Development Index (2015). As of mid-2015, it continues to host 322 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

## 2. What is RAHA?

The Refugee-Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) Initiative was launched in 2009 by the Government of Pakistan (Ministry of States and Frontier Regions and the Economic Affairs Division) in close partnership with a consortium of UN agencies, to address the needs of refugees and redress the profound and multi-faceted impact of the protracted displacement on the local host communities.

The international donor community has been generously supporting the programme in the spirit of international responsibility-sharing and in recognition of Pakistan's continued hospitality to Afghan refugees and – by extension- its contribution to the global public good. As such, RAHA remains a principal responsibility sharing platform for maintaining temporary protection space, promoting social cohesion and enhancing community acceptance of

Afghans in Pakistan. Grounded in the outcomes of the 2005 Brussels Conference, RAHA has long recognized the need for coherent and synergized responses by both humanitarian and development stakeholders, based on their complementary mandates and capacities, in order to achieve transformational outcomes in the short, medium and long term. Today, the RAHA platform brings together 52 stakeholders, including federal and provincial authorities, the UN system, development actors and non-governmental organizations.

### 3. RAHA Areas of Intervention: Two Key Components

#### Refugee Affected Areas (RAA)

The RAA component aims to rehabilitate those areas that were historically heavily populated by Afghan refugees but from where the majority of refugees already repatriated to Afghanistan. RAA compensates the Pakistani communities for the economic, social and environmental impact of past displacement.

#### Refugee Hosting Areas (RHA)

The RHA component delivers programmes in rural and urban areas that continue to host Afghan refugees. It aims to maintain temporary protection space, improve living standards and promote peaceful co-existence and social cohesion among refugees and their Pakistani host communities.

RAHA provides vital assistance to both Afghan refugees and their Pakistani host communities through a set of integrated interventions in the sectors of education, health, water and sanitation, infrastructure, environmental rehabilitation and social protection. By enabling improved access to quality services and opportunities for all, RAHA protects the development outcomes of the host communities, promotes peaceful co-existence and ensures that no one is left behind, including those most vulnerable (i.e. the poorest individuals, youth, etc.)

RAHA is the cornerstone of the implementation of the regional multi-year Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees SSAR (2012-2017) in Pakistan, and an important element of the Government of Pakistan's strategies and policies on the management of Afghan refugees.

#### **The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR):**

The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) has been developed by the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and UNHCR to identify and implement lasting solutions for Afghan refugees. The SSAR provides a predictable roadmap for joint interventions by humanitarian and development actors aimed at facilitating voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees while simultaneously providing assistance to their host communities pending return.

#### **RAHA Key Messages: Addressing Challenges & Building Opportunities:**

Conceptualized as a unique long-term resilience-based humanitarian and development response to protracted forced displacement, RAHA:

- **Recognizes** the hospitality and generosity of the Government and people of Pakistan and seeks to turn the challenges of long-term protracted displacement into opportunities for inclusive growth and development;
- **Meets** the humanitarian needs and reduces inequalities and vulnerabilities to address the impact of protracted displacement while simultaneously contributing towards the achievement of mid to long term development goals, in line with the priorities of the Government and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



- **Invests** into national public service delivery systems and strengthens local institutions and capacities to ensure sustainability and cost-effectiveness of response initiatives, benefitting both refugees and their host communities;
- **Builds** resilience, productive capacities and social cohesion among communities towards stability and enhanced potential for lasting solutions;
- **Links life-saving and life-building efforts** to move away from prolonged dependence on open-ended humanitarian aid (“care and maintenance”) towards self-reliance and active contribution of beneficiaries to their communities.

## 4. RAHA’S Sectors of Intervention

### Youth Empowerment



More than half of the Afghan refugee population in Pakistan is under the age of 15 and 64% are children between the ages of 5 to 14. Children and the youth thus constitute nearly 70% of the Afghan refugee population. With limited access to education and livelihood opportunities and with no guarantee of a durable solution, young people face uncertain futures. Given the right investment and support, however, they can become a tremendous source of human capital.

This reality necessitates robust investment in their resilience-building and empowerment with a view to enhancing prospects for solutions, avoiding marginalization and negative coping strategies, and promoting future stability, growth and prosperity in Afghanistan, Pakistan and beyond.

Supporting the future security and well-being of the youth – whether Pakistani or Afghan national – is intrinsically linked to the acquisition of transferrable skills and assets, and the knowledge and capacities developed through education.

**RAHA acts as a vehicle for youth empowerment** through a nexus of inter linked activities in the sectors of education, skills development and livelihoods support. Investment in Pakistani and Afghan youth improves resilience and contributes to the future prosperity of both countries, and is as such a strategic priority of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and the RAHA initiative.

The critical window of opportunity in 2016 is Pakistan’s commitment to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG # 4 (inclusive and equitable education for all – including refugees and displaced communities), which have been recently fully endorsed by the Parliament of Pakistan. This is further in full alignment with the 18th Constitutional Amendment (Article 25-A) which stipulates free and compulsory education as a constitutional right of all children on the territory of Pakistan.

## Education



*"Education is important to me because it makes me stronger in my community where very few girls go to school." - says 10 year old Maryam*

RAHA seeks to maximize the renewed impetus for opportunities, partnerships and synergies in support of Pakistan's achievement of SDG 4 & the 2030 Education Agenda. Through its education interventions, RAHA aims to ensure "inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long opportunities for all." RAHA interventions are designed to enhance access to quality education and improve the teaching and learning environment with a view to increasing school enrolment and reducing drop-out rates.

### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Construction and rehabilitation of education facilities and infrastructure
- Distribution of teaching and learning kits
- Teacher trainings
- Formation and strengthening of Parent Teachers Committees.



## Improved Livelihood & Skills Development



*Nazia, with her very own home grown tomatoes, learnt kitchen gardening skills under RAHA's livelihood project.*

In the context of protracted forced displacement, improved livelihoods and employment generation opportunities are the best alternatives to addressing prolonged aid dependency. Skills development is an essential tool in promoting employability and poverty-reduction efforts.

By investing in local community assets and capacities, RAHA diversifies livelihood opportunities and promotes self-reliance of the refugee and host communities to (i) improve their household income and socio-economic conditions and (ii) enhance potential for solutions, with long-term benefits for the local economies.

The RAHA interventions include women and vulnerable groups within communities and capitalize on local indigenous knowledge and market needs.

### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Skills, entrepreneurship and vocational trainings
- Business, agriculture and rural markets support
- Facilitating access to apprenticeships and job placement
- Rehabilitation of rural infrastructure and market and village roads
- Expanding the scope of rural income generating opportunities in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors



## Other Sectors

### Infrastructure



RAHA has implemented more than 1,300 infrastructure projects over the past 6 years.

#### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Construction/rehabilitation of street pavements and village/farm to market roads
- Construction/rehabilitation of bridges, irrigation and flood protection schemes and energy related infrastructure
- Construction/rehabilitation of waste management systems
- Provision of solar panels for communities that are off the national electrical grid

These types of projects facilitate socioeconomic growth for the most vulnerable and marginalised communities.



### Health



The programme focuses on strengthening Primary and Secondary Health Care services. Basic Health Units (BHUs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), and district and provincial hospitals are supported to provide direct health care to target communities. The health facilities and staff receive infrastructure support, equipment and tailored trainings.

#### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Construction/rehabilitation of health facilities
- Provision of medical and diagnostic equipment
- Provision of essential drugs at both primary and secondary levels
- Strengthening referral linkages and services
- Provision of health care kits (medicine and instruments) to communities in remote areas with no or limited access to health facilities. The kits can benefit up to 9,000 people for a period of three months.

## Other Sectors

### Social Protection



*91 year old Gulmeena now receives support and shelter from one of the many welfare centers funded under RAHA.*

Assisting the most vulnerable populations and safeguarding their rights is one of RAHA's key cross-cutting programme priorities. RAHA has implemented 125 social protection projects benefitting the most vulnerable, including those in extreme poverty. The programme capitalizes on traditional community structures and networks to strengthen community mobilization and build conflict resolution, leadership and management skills, with a specific focus on women and youth.

#### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Shelters for women at risk and unaccompanied minors
- Centers for disabled men, women and children
- Institutions for minors without support
- Creation/strengthening of Community-Based Organizations

### Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)



*Ali collects clean drinking water for his home from one of the tube wells installed as part of RAHA'S WASH projects.*

Poor water, sanitation and hygiene have a serious negative impact on the well-being, health and productive capacities of communities leading to impoverishment, exclusion and diminished opportunities. To help address some of these challenges, the RAHA initiative has implemented more than 1,100 WASH projects since 2009.

#### **Relevant Interventions:**

- Construction of dams, water supply schemes, irrigation channels, tube wells, hand pumps, sewage lines, water tanks and wash rooms
- Construction of latrines and hand washing facilities at more than 600 schools.





## 5. Main Achievements



More than **4,100** RAHA projects have been implemented since 2009 in 47 districts in all four of Pakistan's provinces and the FATA region. To date, the RAHA initiative has benefitted over **10.6 million people**, including 9.4 million Pakistani citizens and 1.2 million Afghan refugees.

### Education

- Over **590,400** children benefitted from RAHA education projects
- More than **700** schools were constructed or rehabilitated.



### Livelihood and Skills Development

- More than **364,300** persons benefitted from **569** livelihoods and skills development projects
- 65% of female training participants became self-employed (in occupations relating to tailoring, embroidery, beautician) and earn monthly incomes from **4,500-8,000 PKR**



### Infrastructure

- **1.5 million** people directly benefitted from more than **1300** infrastructure projects
- More than 150kms of farm-to-market roads built, benefiting **250,000** people



### Health

- Nearly **1,100,000** people benefitted from RAHA health projects
- Over **160,000** patients are treated each year under RAHA health projects



### Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

- **200,000** families (**1.8 million** people) benefitted from more than **1,700** WASH projects





## Main Achievements



*Water Channel in Loralai, Balochistan*



*Zar Karez 3—Flood Protection Walls*

## Social Protection & Community Mobilization

- **1.1 million** extremely vulnerable people received support
- Hundred's of individuals with disabilities received assistance
- **1600** Community-Based Organizations (including women organizations) were formed/strengthened and **520** Community Physical Infrastructure Schemes were facilitated based on prioritized needs to support social mobilization, participation and empowerment



## Environment



- **50,000** individuals benefited from the construction/rehabilitation of flood protection walls and other environment conservation projects



## 6. Unique Features & Value Added of RAHA

**Government-Owned and Government-Led:** From its conceptualization, through its re-adjustments, to operationalization, RAHA has been owned and driven by the Government of Pakistan. The ownership and contribution by the Government has helped in policy advocacy and in ensuring a contextually appropriate and sustained programme formulation and delivery, based on real needs and in alignment with national development goals and priorities.

The RAHA Secretariat was established to ensure overall coordination and to provide leadership and guidance on all matters pertaining to the smooth implementation of the RAHA Program. It acts as a bridge between GoP (SAFRON, EAD, etc.), UN agencies and donors and facilitates balanced decision making on inter-linked RAHA issues. With the help of the Secretariat, the federal and provincial level management and coordination is ensured by the Federal Task Force (FTF) and Provincial Task Forces (PTFS) respectively.



**Placing people at the center:** Refugees and their host communities have been involved in the identification, prioritization, design and implementation of activities, thereby ensuring a participatory bottom-up approach and effective delivery at the grass-roots level. Targeted community-based and community-led interventions, and utilization of the traditional community-level governance structures, allow RAHA to respond to real needs and deliver direct and tangible benefits to the people.

**Broad-based partnership and cooperation across the board:** RAHA capitalizes on engagement of a variety of development and humanitarian stakeholders with diverse mandates and complementary capacities to create synergies that minimize duplication of efforts and maximize outputs.

RAHA has been an integral component of the UN Delivering as One programme that supports national priorities in Pakistan and is a successful One UN pilot programme.

**Building on Knowledge, Responding to Change:** As the first ever large-scale host community support programme implemented by UNHCR, RAHA accumulated rich experience and lessons learned that serve as a basis for continuous improvements of its coordination and delivery structures and mechanisms, and potentially to inspire duplication of the RAHA initiative elsewhere in similar situations of protracted displacement.

In 2015 RAHA underwent a comprehensive evaluation process culminating in the adoption of a revised RAHA Program Document (Phase II, 2014-17). This revision allowed for (i) extension of the Program through to 2017, (ii) recalibration of strategic directions, procedures and processes so as to better respond to the changing realities on the ground and maximize the benefits for both Afghan refugees and their host communities; (iii) greater alignment with the SSAR and the United Nations One Program Phase II (OP-II) priorities.

**Keeping Pace with Evolving Global Thinking:** The RAHA concept, objectives and delivery mechanisms are fully aligned with the evolving global approaches to forced displacement, protracted crises and sustainable growth, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Wilton Park Guiding Principles, the deliberations of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and importantly the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees as outlined by the UN Secretary General.



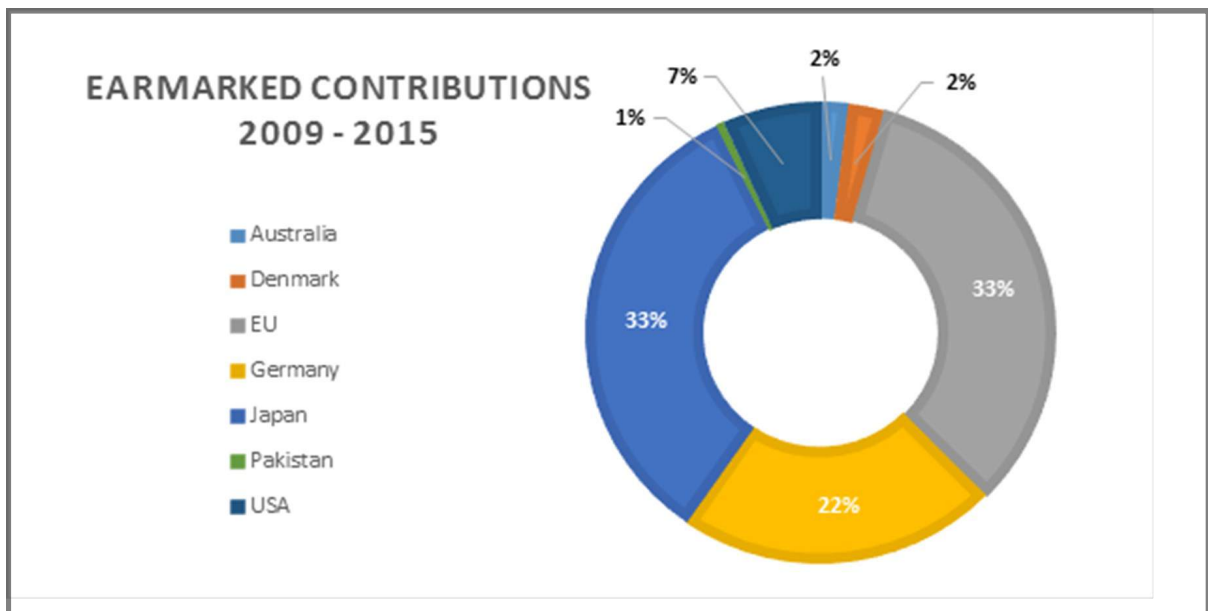
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals have put displacement for the first time squarely on the global development agenda. The SDGs underscore the importance of development investments in preventing and resolving protracted displacement and identifying joint solutions with humanitarian actors that strengthen resilience and minimize dependency.

**Evidence-Based programming:** RAHA interventions are developed on the basis of thorough data and joint comprehensive needs assessments and analysis by all stakeholders, including communities. In order to promote inter-communications within the RAHA program, a Management Information System (MIS) is maintained by the RAHA Cell, which provides a common platform to collect data, storage and information sharing. It also ensures better monitoring and evaluation of all kinds of RAHA interventions.



## 7. Who Funds RAHA?

RAHA relies almost entirely on voluntary contributions from governments, donors, UNHCR and UNDP un-earmarked and pooled funding mechanisms, and intergovernmental institutions. Support from the private sector also injects new and vital energy into the implementation of RAHA projects. Some of the world's leading organizations are already helping RAHA to maximize its impact and improve its capacity to enhance social cohesion and resilience and empower the youth of both host communities and refugees nationwide.



## 8. The Way Forward

Over the next two years (2016-2017), RAHA will additionally support:

- a. Adolescent refugees and their peers from host communities to address their unique psycho-social and developmental needs.
- b. Social inclusion and participation of the youth.
- c. Formal and informal education of the youth including relevant and market-driven vocational and skills training, and complemented by specific youth employment creation programs, to help build young people's confidence and enhance their protection.
- d. Urban refugees and their hosting communities, especially with quality education and health care.
- e. Areas which have not yet benefitted from RAHA interventions whether they are RHAs or RAAs.
- f. Up to 1.5 million registered ARs in Pakistan i.e. holding Proof of Registration (POR) Cards.
- g. Government staff in the four provinces and FATA, who will receive capacity building training to strengthen their skills to manage development initiatives after program assistance ceases.



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June 2016

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