

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

*31 May 2019

***1,663** registered refugees (PoR cardholders) returned to Afghanistan
 1 March – 31 May 2019.

7,156 Afghan refugee births registered
 1 January – 31 May 2019.

1,966 have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019.



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugee Proof of registration (PoR) cardholders	1,405,715
Afghan mandate refugees without PoR cards	3,160
Somalia (refugees)	177
Others (refugees)	319
Asylum seekers	6,979

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 concerns. ALAC teams are proactive in advocacy, capacity building and sensitisation with law enforcement agencies to mitigate risk of arrest and detention. 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 period.

In May:

2,837 people received legal assistance

47 people arrested/detained and then released

22 people receive court representation

658 provided individual legal counselling

608 people assisted through ALAC helplines.

- UNHCR and ALAC staff organised a total of 80 legal and shura meetings, reaching 1,805 participants (45 per cent were women) in the reporting month. Some 57 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 and its legal partners organised three training sessions on refugee rights, UNHCR's mandate and international protection one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan where 18 public prosecutors participated along with 20 persons from civil society.
- 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 7,156 children were registered between 1 January to 30 May 2019.

Community-based protection

- Outreach Volunteers (OVs) continue to play an important protection role and support a variety of community-driven activities, including undertaking home visits to extremely vulnerable families and engaging in referral mechanisms for health and other services. Throughout Pakistan, OVs identified and referred over 140 vulnerable individuals to UNHCR and partners for specialized services.
- During the month, OVs and community focal points in Lahore and Attock reported two devastating fires to UNHCR which resulted in 19 refugee families losing their houses and most of their belongings. Following the reports, UNHCR coordinated with OVs to support the affected families by providing Core Relief Item (CRI) kits and family tents.
- UNHCR Community Based Protection (CBP) staff and partners conducted 118 visits to different Refugee Villages (RVs) and urban clusters and facilitated outreach to 1,600 refugees across KP. These visits provided UNHCR and partners the opportunity to interact with refugees and equip refugees with the necessary skills to strengthen safety nets for addressing protection risk factors and effectively respond to protection incidents at the community level. The office is currently exploring new initiatives through SHARP to expand CBP programmes in communal places, focusing on persons with specific needs and provision of technical skills to community based support structures and caregivers to offer non-specialized services and create linkages with specialized service providers.
- UNHCR's CBP team in Islamabad, conducted an eight-day comprehensive training for 22 new partner staff from the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). The staff were recently hired by ICMC to support CBP activities and OV networks in Islamabad and Punjab. The training covered basic principles of CBP, UNHCR procedures, legal protection, community outreach strategies, communicating with communities, code of conduct, and the identification of individuals with specific needs.

Education

UNHCR supports:

153 schools

30 satellite classes

60 home-based schools

230 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.

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

Denmark | European Union | 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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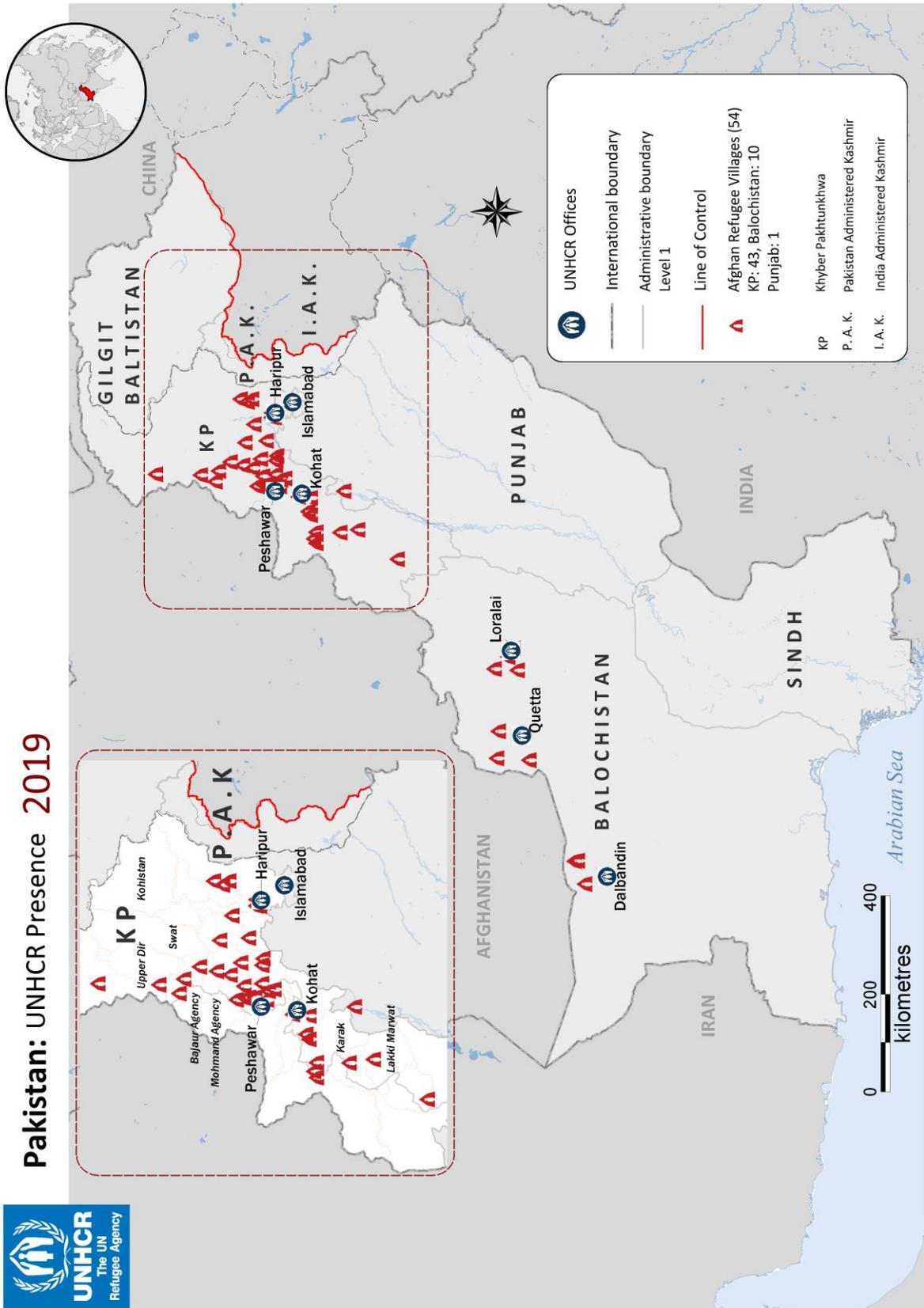
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and 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.