

Pakistan

30 September 2019

***4,623** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 March – 30 September 2019

16,035 Afghan refugees whose births were registered between 1 January – 30 September 2019

24,220 Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019

151 schools supported by UNHCR for **56,000** refugee students

5,288 patients treated in **38** health facilities supported by UNHCR

2,145 persons (Afghan refugees and Pakistani nationals) received livelihood assistance



Refugee and host community women learning to prepare the sketching for carpet weaving. This is the first step later imitated on a carpet with colorful threads. Quetta, Pakistan. © UNHCR/U. Irum

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,411,621
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,044
Somalia (refugees)	178
Others (refugees)	321
Asylum-seekers	7,362

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

191 national staff
 34 international staff

Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad
 Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta
 Presence in Haripur, Kohat, Karachi



A female artisan is making one of the master pieces for wall hanging in Quetta, Pakistan. © UNHCR/U. Irum

* The voluntary repatriation process resumed on 1 March 2019 at the two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan. Please refer to the UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Data Portal and the UNHCR Pakistan website for the latest updates.

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 federal and provincial levels, respectively. Of particular importance has also been continued collaboration with line ministries.
- 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 (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 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. During the last quadripartite meeting held in June 2019 in Islamabad, all parties agreed to extend the SSAR to 2021.

Protection and durable solutions

- **Voluntary repatriation:** UNHCR operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres in Pakistan where refugees wishing to repatriate to Afghanistan must deregister. Refugee returnees subsequently receive a cash grant of approximately \$200 per person upon arrival at one of three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.
- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR operates nine Advice and Legal Aid Centres (ALACs) in the main refugee-hosting areas in four provinces. Eight of these centres are run by UNHCR partner SHARP. The remaining centre is run by UNHCR partner SEHER.
- In September 2019, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to a total of 1,943 individuals. During the month, they intervened at police stations for 75 arrested/detained individuals and secured their release. Additionally, ALAC partners represented to 19 persons of concern to UNHCR in courts who had been charged under the Foreigners Act (dealing with unauthorized stay of foreigners).
- Partners also provided legal counselling to 507 individuals who visited ALACs and gave legal advice to 303 people through the ALAC helplines. Some 68 persons of concern to UNHCR were also given legal assistance due to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.

In September:

- **1,943 individuals received legal assistance;**
- **75 individuals were arrested/detained and then released;**
- **19 individuals were provided with court representation;**
- **507 individuals received individual legal counselling; and**
- **303 people assisted through ALAC helplines.**

- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 46 legal sessions and shura meetings, reaching approximately 1,000 participants (some 38 per cent of whom were women). Fifty-four per cent of these events were held in refugee villages, and the remaining took place in urban areas of Pakistan. Approximately 65 members of law enforcement agencies participated in this session. A total of 16,000 children were registered from 1 January through 30 September 2019.

Community-based protection

- The outreach volunteers in Katwai refugee village arranged a campaign for free malaria screening tests with UNHCR's support in Quetta. An outreach volunteer, who is also a lab technician, carried out these tests. As a result of the activity, 20 cases were identified as positive and referred to more advanced health care facilities.
- In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a male youth member of Jhuggian urban refugee cluster in Abbottabad took the initiative to establish a blood donor society. He enlisted blood donors in the area who would be available in case of emergency.
- Three countrywide workshops on best interest procedures (BIP) were conducted. The aim of the workshops was to enhance the capacity of protection staff, including partners, working with children.
- Two community training sessions on the theme of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were held in Peshawar, where 52 female refugees participated. Similarly, two training sessions for UNHCR and partner staff were took place in Quetta. The overall objective of these sessions was to equip staff and refugee volunteers with the knowledge of SGBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Education

- UNHCR continued to support access to education in refugee villages and encourage the inclusion of refugee children in the national structures. By improving public facilities near refugee villages, refugee children are welcomed in schools. This benefits host and refugee communities and contributes to social cohesion.
- Some 890 applications were received for DAFI scholarships, which were announced for 2019. The shortlisting process was completed on 30 September 2019. Interviews in all locations will be held in October.
- With the support of senior management and other staff, consultations were held to inform the revision of the UNHCR education strategy for 2019-2022.

UNHCR supports:

- **151 schools;**
- **30 satellite classes;**
- **58 home-based schools;**
- **147 DAFI scholars;**
and,
- **Teacher student ratio 1:41.**

Health

- UNHCR supported the provision of maternal and child health services in refugee villages in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab. Refugee

women and children enrolled in preventive and reproductive health care programmes received antenatal, pre-natal and postnatal care. WHO, UNICEF and the Government of Pakistan's health department, together with the support of UNHCR's partners, conducted polio eradication campaigns in refugee villages. An Expanded Programme Immunization component of these campaigns has been officially transferred to the provincial health department. Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa now have access to these services in public health facilities, in line with UNHCR's health strategy.

- A total of seven patients living in refugee villages were diagnosed with dengue fever. The Provincial Health Department has provided insecticide to all the District Headquarters Hospitals. As a result of increasing numbers of cases reported, including in refugee villages, response strategy is being adopted. Indoor insecticide spray and street fumigation were used in areas with dengue incidents. PDH – CAR and Malaria Control programme have prepared work plan for refugee villages and in Oblan where the Dengue patient was diagnosed 10 days back has been sprayed. Similarly, FPHC has coordinated with DHOs and Gandaf, Baghicha, Haripur and Baraki refugee villages have been provided with insecticide and sprayed.

Livelihoods

- UNHCR Pakistan is providing vocational and artisanal skills training and tool kits, as well as kitchen gardening and poultry packages to 300 Afghan refugees in Balochistan, which helped them in earning income, ensure food security sustainable livelihoods development. This project is ongoing since January 2019.
- In the course of 2019, including in August, 120 Afghan refugee women at risk of violence are receiving UNHCR support in the province of Balochistan through a sustainable and integrated livelihoods development approach. They are given an opportunity to engage in livelihood activities, gender-based violence (GBV) education and services, basic literacy and numeracy, health and hygiene, early childhood care activities, as well as market-led artisanal skills training. All of these efforts have helped women market their products, earn income and achieve economic empowerment.
- UNHCR is also supporting an additional 100 women, both Afghan refugees and Pakistanis, in learning carpet weaving skills in the province of Balochistan, which will improve their employability and income-generating capacity and will ultimately help them enhance their self-reliance and economic capacity.
- UNHCR, in partnership with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), launched a skill development project in August 2019 in four provinces – Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Capital Territory Islamabad – to provide vocational and technical skills training and internships to 1,625 youth, both Afghan refugees and Pakistanis. A six-month certified training courses will be offered in pre-selected trades/skills. In particular, UNHCR aims to enable Afghan youth to acquire transferable skills and job training.

In September, UNHCR supported:

- **39 health facilities;**
- **6,815 patients treated;**
- **1,538 antenatal care cases;**
- **1,194 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants;**
- **1,314 postnatal care cases.**

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas Programme

Since 2009, 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, UNHCR Pakistan is celebrating 10 years' achievements of RAHA. During this decade, RAHA has supported more than 4,250 projects which align with UNHCR's livelihoods, education and health strategies aiming to ensure that Afghan refugees are included in public systems and structures.

In total, 4,258 projects have been completed since 2009.

- ***12.4 million beneficiaries projects implemented in 47 districts of Pakistan***
- ***21 projects in 2018***
- ***14 projects in 2019***

External / donors relations

Earmarked contributions to the UNHCR Pakistan in 2019¹

Canada | Denmark | European Union | Japan | Norway | Switzerland | United States of America | UN programme on HIV/AIDS | United Nations Development Programme | Miscellaneous private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR Pakistan in 2019²

Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Norway | Netherlands | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors

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LINKS

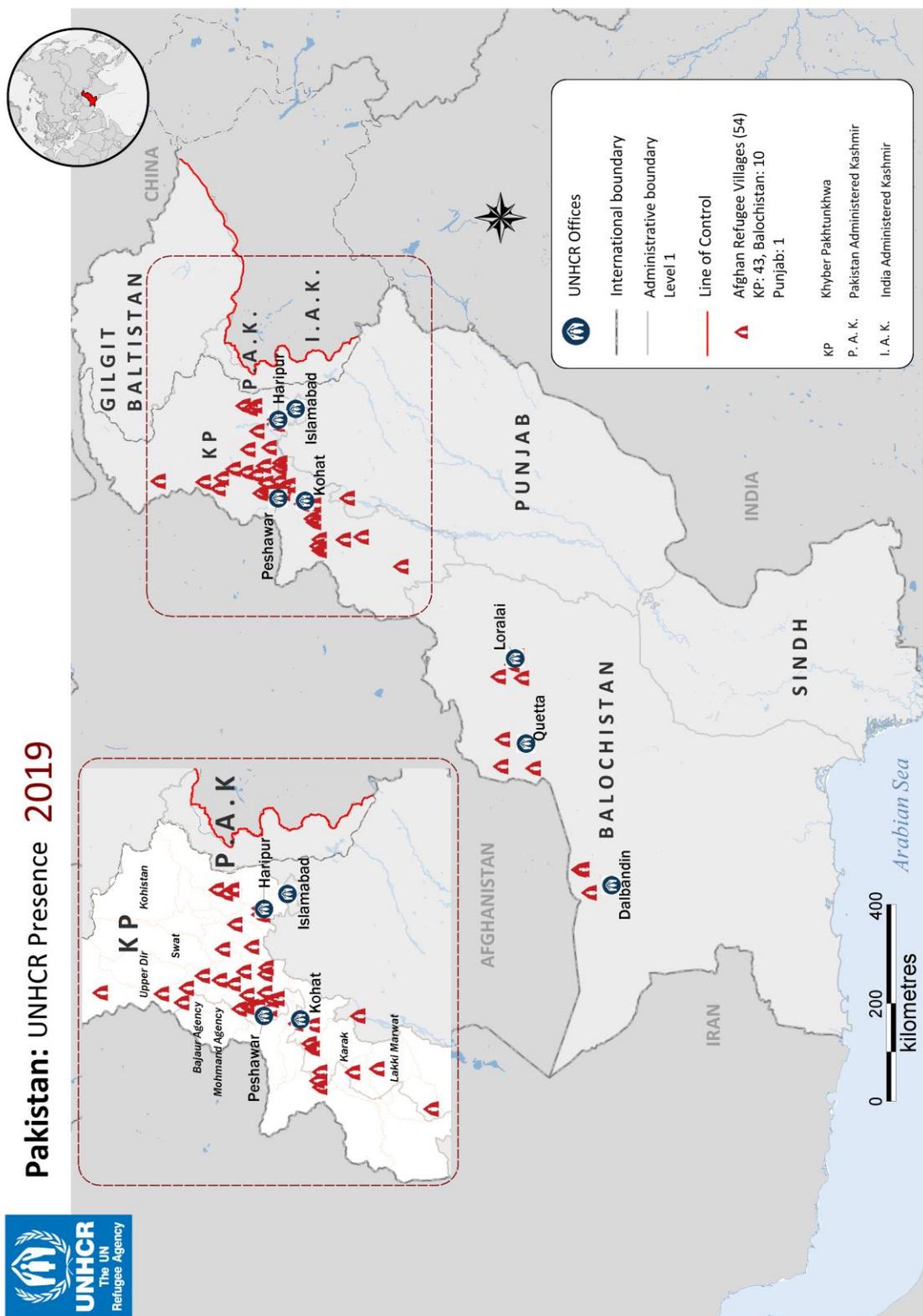
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- Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
- Unearmarked funding gives UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other persons of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.