

Pakistan

30 November 2019

***6,220** registered refugees who returned to Afghanistan between 1 March – 31 October 2019

19,802 Afghan refugees whose births were registered between 1 January – 31 October 2019

27,004 Afghan refugees who have received legal assistance since 1 January 2019

146 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



A primary school in Mera Kachori refugee village in Peshawar has become the reason for Refugee children to continue their education. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin	Total persons of concern
Afghan refugees with proof of registration (PoR) cards	1,413,788
Afghan mandate refugees (without PoR cards)	3,024
Somalia (refugees)	181
Others (refugees)	318
Asylum-seekers	8,246

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff

157 national staff

31 international staff

Offices

One Country Office in Islamabad

Two Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta

Presence in Haripur, Kohat, Karachi



Pakistan's celebrity Mahira Khan announced as UNHCR national Goodwill Ambassador in Islamabad. (C) UNHCR/A. Shahzad

* The voluntary repatriation process stopped on 31 October 2019 for winter break and will resume from 1 March 2020. 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 November 2019, UNHCR and its partners provided legal assistance to a total of 1,746 individuals. During the month, they intervened at police stations for 22 arrested/detained individuals and secured their release. Additionally, ALAC partners represented six persons of concern to UNHCR in courts who had been charged under the Foreigners Act (dealing with unauthorized stay of foreigners). and other preventive laws (allowing preventive detention of person acting in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, security and defence of the country and public order). These interventions resulted in court ordered releases.

In November:

- **1,746 individuals received legal assistance;**
- **22 individuals were arrested/detained and then released;**
- **6 individuals were provided with court representation;**
- **500 individuals received individual legal counselling; and**
- **321 people were assisted through ALAC helplines.**

- Partners also provided legal counselling to 500 individuals who visited ALACs and gave legal advice to 321 people through the 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 46 persons of concern, mostly related to police harassment, PoR card verifications, rental agreements and affidavits.
- UNHCR and ALAC staff also organized a total of 52 legal camps and shura meetings, reaching 809 participants (40 per cent of whom were women) in the reporting month. 58 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 partner staff informed refugees of available free legal aid and UNHCR helpline services.

Community-based protection

- The 2019 Participatory Assessment exercise was completed in all targeted locations. The inputs provided by the diverse group of refugees through focus group discussion (FGDs), individual interviews and key informant interviews will help UNHCR in its 2020 Country Operational Planning.
- A Rapid Need Assessment was conducted in the districts of Jhelum and Mirpur in Pakistan-Administered Kashmir to assess the damages caused by the recent earthquake. Based on the assessment, UNHCR distributed tents, blankets and plastic sheets among 60 Afghan families, who are POR card or Afghan Citizen Card holders.
- UNHCR also distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 53 Afghan families who were evicted by a private landowner in Tehsil Taxila district in Rawalpindi, Punjab. The CRIs included family tents, plastic sheets and blankets.
- An Urdu language course provided to 15 refugees was completed in Islamabad and a certificate distribution ceremony was held with graduates.
- Sessions on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and code of conduct (COC) organized by UNHCR were held with 31 ALAC lawyers and 19 pro bono lawyers in Islamabad. Ten Outreach Volunteers (OVs) were also trained on PSEA and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in a partner office in Islamabad.
- An interactive discussion through FGDs and consultations was also held with refugee leaders, Shura members, refugee youth (female and male), outreach volunteers, UNHCR and partner staff, and the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan on the revision of UNHCR's Community-based Protection (CBP) strategy for the 2020-2022.
- As part of OVs led initiative at the refugee village in Posti-Balochistan, additional solar panels and computers have been installed at the computer learning centre.
- In order to reinforce capacity of UNHCR partner staff (SHARP and CAR) on community-based protection approaches and psychological first aid, a two-day "training of trainers" refresher workshop was organized for 26 staff members in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The trained staff members are expected to train OVs on psychological first aid given the important role they play in their communities as first line respondents to emergency cases. Also, a one-day psychological first aid training was conducted for outreach volunteers of Mughal Abad, Sabzal, Kuchlak, Ghaus Abad and Bashir Chowk clusters

in Quetta, Balochistan. The session was facilitated by a professional psychiatrist at the Bolan Medical Collage Hospital Quetta. Some 23 male OV's attended.

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.
- There are 419 DAFI scholarship awardees being supported by UNHCR in 2019.
- The draft UNHCR education strategy for 2020 – 2022 has been shared with development partners for comments.

UNHCR supports:

- **146 schools;**
- **30 satellite classes;**
- **51 home-based schools;**
- **419 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.

In November, UNHCR supported:

- **39 health facilities;**
- **6,303 patients treated;**
- **1,460 antenatal care cases;**
- **1,150 deliveries conducted by trained birth attendants; and**
- **1,275 postnatal care cases.**

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, 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, SGBV 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.

Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) 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 were implemented in 47 districts of Pakistan.*
 - *There were 21 projects in 2018.*

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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1. Contributions are shown by the level of flexibility in the earmarking. Contributions earmarked to a situation within a country are allocated at country level.
2. 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.

