



Overview

The Proof of Registration (PoR) card is an important protection tool that is issued by Government of Pakistan and provides temporary legal stay and freedom of movement for the 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. All the PoR cards that expired at the end of 2015 have been extended through official notification until 30 June 2020*.

The four PoR Card Modification centres (PCM) are located in Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi and Rawalpindi. These centres are used for the modification and replacement of existing cards; the registration of infants and children up to the age of five years; the issuance of new cards for eligible children who are five years and older; and the issuance of birth certificates to children under the age of 18.

In 2019, UNHCR prioritised funds for birth registration and the issuance of birth certificates to 70,000 children. The target for the issuance of individual PoR cards is 170,000 children who have reached five years of age and are eligible to receive their individual cards from the PCM centres.

In December, a significant increase in the number of persons approaching PCM services was observed. During the reporting month some 6,083 persons benefited from registration services (28% increase compared to November 2019). The launch of UNHCR's new policy regarding the collection of modified un-delivered PoR cards is attributed to the increase.

*PoR cards have been extended until the end of June 2020 by the Federal Cabinet in its meeting of 27 June 2019.

** The issuance of birth certificates is temporarily suspended by NADRA HQ. UNHCR is following-up with NADRA HQ to resolve the issue on a priority basis.

Year to date, 2019

76,965

Refugees availed registration services (Cases processed + Birth registration)

22,093 (31.56%)

Birth registrations

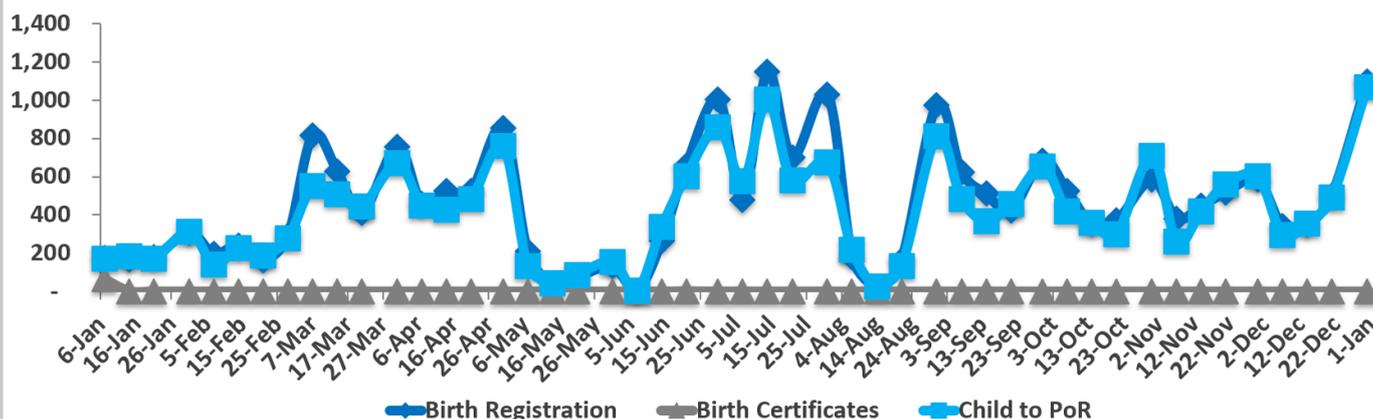
67 (0.09%)

Birth certificates**

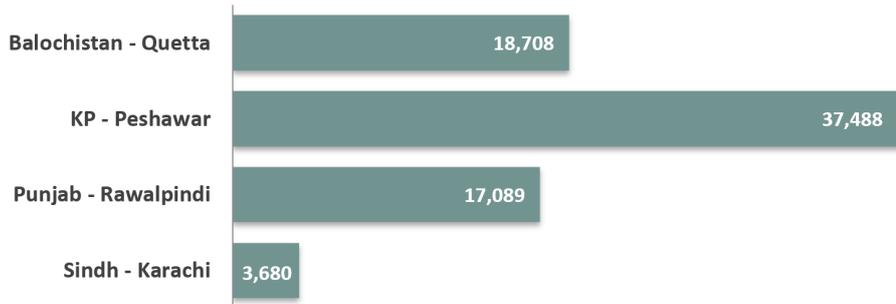
20,041 (11.79%)

PoR cards for children reaching above five years of age

Registration activities per week



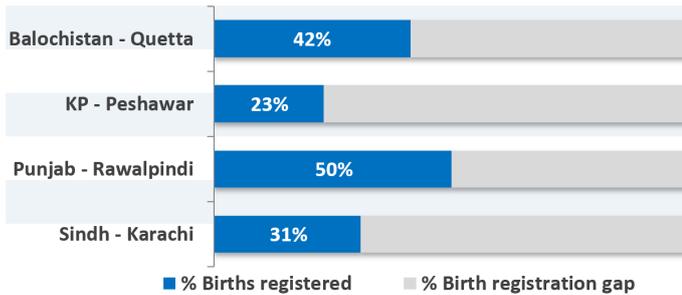
Registration activities summary by location - January–December, 2019



Total registered refugees in Pakistan as of 31 December 2019

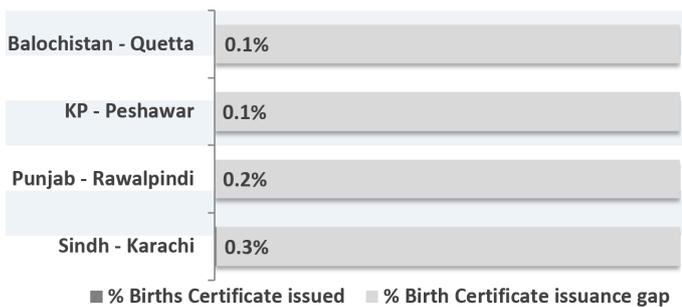
1,416,078

Birth registrations



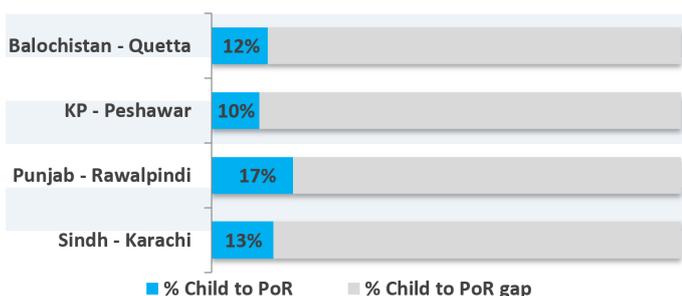
Above percentage presented against the target of 70,000 new births during 2019

Birth certificates



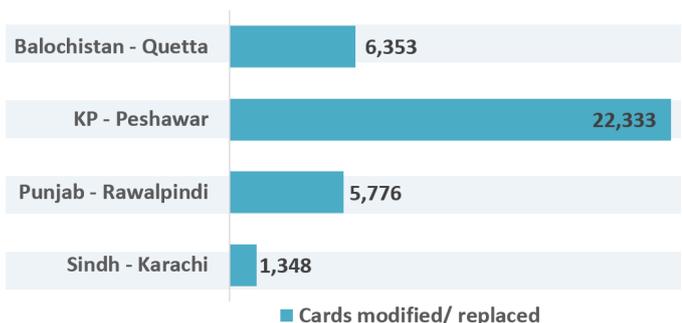
Above percentage presented against the target of 70,000 birth certificates

Provision of PoR cards to registered children that have reached above 5 years of age



Above percentage presented against the target of 170,000 children who have reached five years

Card modification / replacement



Cards modification includes changes to Name, Father Name, Gender and Marital status and it does not entail an annual target.

The following charts summarise the progress towards 2019 targets and the remaining gaps.

The percentages for birth registrations, birth certificate issuance and provision of PoR cards to registered children that have reached five years of age are based on the estimates noted on page 1. These overall targets have been apportioned to each centre based on the size of the Afghan refugee population for which the centre provides services.

During the reporting period, the trend in child registration activities increased slightly compared to those in November 2019 at all PCM centres countrywide (a total of 2,291 children were registered in December 2019 at all the PCM centres countrywide compared to 1,932 in the month of November 2019).

In 2019, based on a cost-benefit analysis with PCM centres and discussions on the best interests for persons of concern, UNHCR will continue to deploy 3 Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) in KP, Balochistan and in Punjab (for a period of four months each). The deployment of MRVs was very successful in 2018. The Mobile Registration Vans provide services for applicants living in remote areas of KP, Punjab and Balochistan, facilitating those who can't afford to travel to PCM centres.

During December, UNHCRs issued the new policy for the collection of all un-delivered modified PoR cards. The policy entails that the PoR card holders who wish to modify their cards will be given 13x months to collect their previous cards from respective PCM centers. If they fail to collect their modified PoR cards within given timeframe, their cards shall be withdrawn and these PoR card holders will be deregistered from NADRA database, leading to cancellation of refugee status. The 13x months period will start from the date on which PoR card is received at PCM center.

During the reporting period, birth certificate issuance remained temporarily suspended by NADRA HQ. The reason of the suspension is that NADRA HQ has made changes in the template and they are seeking formal endorsement from the Ministry of Interior/CCAR. UNHCR is following-up with CCAR/NADRA HQ to resolve the issue on a priority basis.

It should be noted that the trend for PoR card modifications will naturally follow that of birth registrations and the provision of PoR cards to children over five. This is because children are added or removed from their parents' cards, and their parents' cards will need to be modified.

From 1 January to 31 December 2019, 8,410 lost or stolen cards were replaced. Deaths of refugees continue to be significantly underreported. Only 30 deaths were registered/reported between January to December 2019.