

# Pakistan

January – June 2021

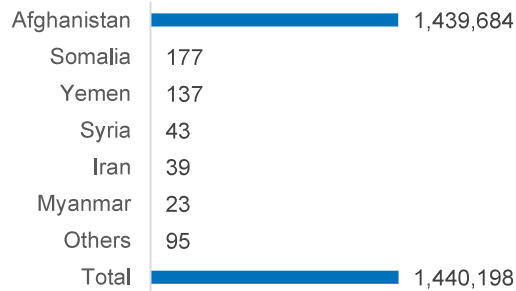
As of 30 June 2021, a total of **210,812 individuals** have been processed through the Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE).

In 2021, Pakistan ranked as the world's **third largest** refugee-hosting country. **International humanitarian support** remains key to facilitate Government efforts to provide inclusive policies towards refugees.

Between January and June, **566 refugees** received COVID-19 vaccination. UNHCR supported the Government of Balochistan with the provision of **5 fully equipped ambulances and PPEs**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

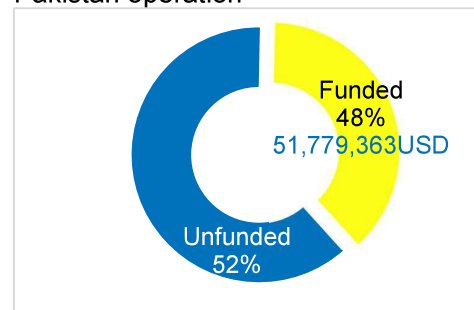
### Countries of Origin



## FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 2 JULY 2021)

**USD 108,300,000**

Pakistan operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

221 National Staff  
36 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Islamabad  
2 Sub-Offices in Peshawar and Quetta

Presence in Dalbandin, Haripur, Karachi, Kohat, and Loralai



## Working with Partners

UNHCR works in **close partnership** with the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, and civil society to improve protection and solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, and other persons of concern to UNHCR, while supporting their inclusion in national systems. Partners include:

- **Governmental:** Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), as well as the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees at the provincial level. UNHCR also collaborates with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) at the federal level and Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTA) at the provincial level for the youth skill development in Pakistan. UNHCR Pakistan also collaborates with provincial department of health and department of education, along with other provincial and district level government line departments.
- **National NGOs:** UNHCR partners with 15 national non-governmental organizations to provide protection and humanitarian assistance.
- **UN Agencies and International Organizations:** UNHCR coordinates with UN partner agencies, NGOs and international organizations under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

## Main Activities

### Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)

The SSAR is a quadripartite multi-year regional strategy between UNHCR and the governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. Launched in 2012, the 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 is also the guiding regional policy framework for protecting and enabling solutions for Afghan refugees. The June 2019 quadripartite meeting between the three governments and UNHCR saw the SSAR extended until end 2021. The key objectives of the SSAR in Iran are focused on health, education and livelihoods.

A **Support Platform** dedicated to achieving the SSAR objectives was launched on 16 December 2019 as part of the first-ever Global Refugee Forum. The Support Platform aims to reinforce the priorities of the SSAR and mobilize additional resources to promote and realize its three pillars – voluntary repatriation, sustainable reintegration, and assistance to host countries – while seeking to address the remaining gaps through reinvigorated, sustained and coherent humanitarian and development investments. Thirteen states and international organizations have become members of the **Core Group** of the Support Platform, namely the Asian Development Bank, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, UNDP, the United States of America, and the World Bank.

On 6 July 2020, UNHCR and the three governments launched a **portfolio of projects** as part of the SSAR Support Platform, outlining key areas of focus and support needs for two years (2020-21).

In the first half of 2021, the local Core Group of the Support Platform was created in Islamabad with the EU Ambassador as Chair. The local Core Group developed a workplan which centres around three thematic areas, including solutions, inclusive approaches, and documentation. The workplan has helped focus the attention of Core Group members on key areas of refugee protection where support is required. There have been some initiatives taken also by the Core

Group, which include a meeting with SAFRON Ministry in May, effectively to introduce the local Core Group membership, its commitment to support Pakistan as a refugee hosting country with more equitable responsibility and burden sharing, and to explore areas where cooperation with and support for Pakistan can be strengthened. A virtual donor mission was furthermore undertaken, organised by UNHCR, as part of the effort to promote solutions and support for Pakistan, with the close participation of the Core Group Chair and the SAFRON Ministry. This virtual mission included a focus on inclusive policies of Pakistan and further support needed, as well documentation efforts around DRIVE.

### Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA)

Since 2009, UNHCR, together with the Government of Pakistan, has implemented the RAHA programme, a humanitarian-development nexus initiative which supports the implementation of the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). Through RAHA, a wide variety of projects have been carried out in the sectors of education, health, livelihoods, infrastructure, water, sanitation and social protection.

From January to June 2021, the Government of Pakistan has implemented a total of 11 RAHA projects (1 project in Balochistan and 10 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). These projects are implemented in the sectors of education (8 projects), health (1 project) and water (2 projects).

### Emergency Preparedness

UNHCR maintains a stock of emergency relief supplies, as well as monitoring, assessment and response capacity which allows it to undertake a stand-alone and/or inter-agency emergency response.





## PROTECTION

<b>12,706</b> refugees and stateless persons received legal assistance	<b>18,883</b> individuals were reached through Communicating with Communities activities	<b>4,140</b> individuals received protection counselling through Protection Helplines
<b>3,700</b> refugees and stateless persons participated in awareness-raising sessions	<b>335</b> individuals participated in capacity building sessions	<b>1,773</b> Outreach Volunteers supported by UNHCR
<b>822</b> community visits Conducted	<b>9</b> community-led interventions implemented	<b>1,219</b> Persons with Specific Needs identified, referred, and supported

### Legal Assistance

From 1 January until 30 June, 374 Proof of Registration cardholders were detained by the security authorities. This figure represents a 38 per cent increase from 2020 when 271 persons of concern were detained. In part, this increase is attributed primarily to lockdown measures enforced by the Government in different parts of the country in the wake of the second wave of COVID-19. Of those arrests, 81 per cent of the refugees detained were released without being formally charged. Of the remaining, 8 per cent were charged and detained under the Foreigners Act, and 11 per

cent of the refugees detained were charged for violating administrative orders issued for COVID-19, maintaining law and order, preventing vagrancy, and for preventing imminent criminal activity(s).

 <b>2,982</b> Legal counselling	 <b>374</b> Arrested	 <b>68</b> Interventions by UNHCR and partners	 <b>376</b> Released
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From 1 January until 30 June, UNHCR and Advice and Legal Aid Centers (ALAC) teams organized 93 legal camps and shura meetings reaching out to 2,127 individuals in the refugee villages and urban areas. The meetings gave refugees a forum to voice their concerns about various issues affecting their communities. Similarly, 12 capacity building sessions were conducted with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and other stakeholders on refugee protection and refugee status in Pakistan, in which 335 LEA personnel participated. Additionally, UNHCR staff conducted eight online sessions with more than 200 military officers of the United Nations Peace Keeping and Assistance Mission on refugee rights and protection at the Centre of Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST).

### Community-Based Protection

During the reporting period, the Community Based Protection country team, including partner staff conducted over 822 community visits. The purpose of these visits was to strengthened community committees, identify and address protection issues. UNHCR and partners outreached to 5,534 refugees through conducting 426 awareness sessions. The purpose of the sessions was to sensitize refugee community on health, education, life skills, DRIVE, and COVID-19. Along with this 665 Outreach Volunteers (OVs) and elders were trained in 58 trainings on various topics including Community-Based protection community mobilization, role of OVs, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV). Under the individualized assistance, UNHCR and partners provided assistance to 1,291 individuals through different interventions (health, education, skill development). Some of the most vulnerable persons with specific needs were supported with assistive devices or one-time emergency protection cash assistance.

### Statelessness

UNHCR in partnership with Imkaan Welfare Organization is providing legal assistance to stateless Bengali, Bihari and Rohingya communities in Karachi. The legal assistance focuses on acquiring and unblocking of identity documentation, legal advice and awareness raising on importance of identity documentation, birth registration and help to access to basic services. During the first half of the year, legal assistance was provided to a total of 2,547 individuals. A total of 1,563 individuals were reached with awareness raising, including on COVID-19 prevention. **A total of 36 individuals were able to receive their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) from NADRA which were previously blocked.**

### Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE)

The Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE) is being undertaken by the Government of Pakistan - the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR), and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) - with the support of UNHCR.

DRIVE is designed to confirm and update government data relating to the 1.43m registered Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, and to address the need for new identity documents by issuing biometric smartcards to all eligible refugees. DRIVE is also strengthening the available dataset, allowing for improved efficiencies in refugee management and effective planning and response around protection, assistance and solutions, including voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan.



As of 30 June 2021, a cumulative total of 210,812 individuals have been processed across Pakistan. 150,848 are registered Afghan refugees who have been verified and will receive a new smart PoR card, 21,947 are registered children above age of five years who are now eligible for their own individual smart PoR card, while 23,542 are children of PoR cardholders who are under the age of five and will be newly registered following document validation. 27,724 refugees had received new PoR cards as of 30 June. An additional 14,475 individuals are undocumented immediate family members of Afghan refugees whose information has been recorded to highlight family links with registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. These individuals will be issued family certificates only.

An Afghan refugee girl getting registered for a smartcard at a centre in Islamabad. © UNHCR/Asif Shahzad

The majority of verifications to date have been conducted by the 18 sites active in Khyber Pakhtunkwa province (56%), with a further 20% in Balochistan province. The current DRIVE exercise also identifies nuclear families from within extended family groupings, averaging five individuals per nuclear family.

For further information, see the monthly dashboard produced by UNHCR by clicking [here](#).

## **HUMANITARIAN – DEVELOPMENT NEXUS IN ACTION**

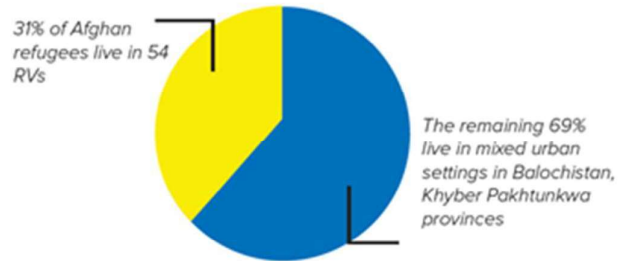
### **Benefitting refugees and host communities in Pakistan**

The Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Action is a reference to a gradual progression from a parallel humanitarian response system towards a model of supporting refugees in the country of asylum through facilitated access to national services that serve the host population. It is underpinned by an effort to strengthen and increase services for everyone. It is often more cost effective and has a bigger impact. There are several benefits that accrue to refugees and host communities during this transition and it is essentially a win-win model.

Inclusive models allow greater oversight by the national authorities and alignment with national standards. International support towards host country national services can also help build social cohesion between refugees and host communities and ensure that refugee investments contribute to wider development goals. The assets that accrue from these investments will also remain with the host community when refugees return home or find other solutions. In case of protracted displacement such as the Afghans who are more than 40 years in Pakistan the above approach also offers a more dignified life for refugees.

Since 2009, UNHCR has been working closely with the government of Pakistan to coordinate on how international humanitarian and development support is best channeled towards supporting refugees and host communities in Pakistan as part of this approach. The move in this direction also reflects the fact that 69% of refugees now live outside of refugee villages in urban and peri urban areas.

UNHCR-sponsored facilities remain in some RVs serving a minority of refugees all other refugees. All other refugees, around two-thirds of the population rely on Pakistani schools and health facilities.

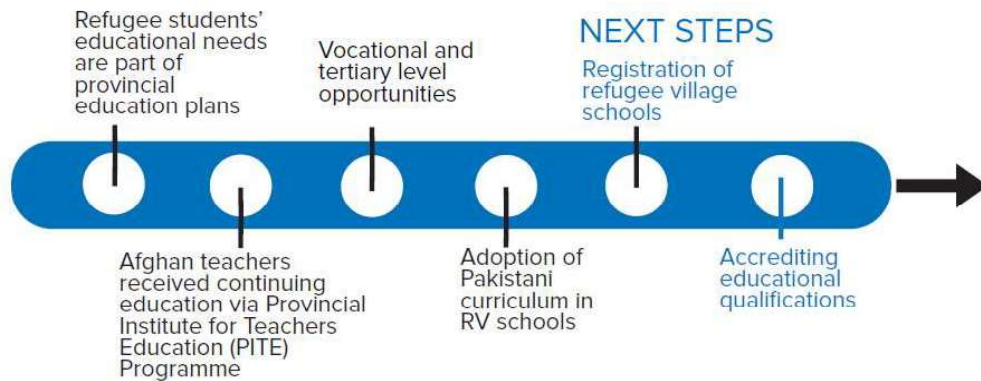


### Livelihoods

UNHCR provided market-led vocational and technical skill trainings, internationally recognized certificates and start-up tool kits to 1,845 youth in the reporting period. 200 refugee youth have been supported in internships and job placements. 150 refugees were trained in the agriculture and livestock sector. Under a poverty graduation programme, UNHCR provided productive assets and asset management skills training to 2,584 refugee households.

### Education

Accessibility and absorption capacity are key considerations for refugees being able to access public schools. Additionally, as illustrated below, a number of other actions have been and are underway.



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