

Annual Results Report

2024

Pakistan

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Context and Overview

- 1.1 - Changes to the Operational Context
- 1.2 - Progress Against the Desired Impact
- 1.3 - Challenges to Achieving Impacts
- 1.4 - Collaboration and Partnerships

Section 2: Results

- 2.1 - Outcomes and Achievements
- 2.2 - Age, Gender and Diversity

Section 3: Resources

- 3.1 - Financial Data
- 3.2 - Resources Overview

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan remained one of the world's largest refugee hosting countries in 2024, with some 3 million Afghans of various legal statuses residing there. Pakistan's political and security landscape remained fragile and challenging, with instances of political unrest and an uptick in security incidents particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan affecting Pakistani civilians. The strenuous bilateral relation between Pakistan and Afghanistan contributed to challenges in exploring the possibilities of longer-term solutions for Afghans residing there. To uphold adequate protection standards and prevent refoulement, UNHCR advocated for the establishment of procedures permitting the identification of people in need of international protection during its interactions with the Government. No new procedures were established in 2024.

There was a slowdown in the implementation of Pakistan's Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan in 2024, as well as an extension of proof of registration (PoR) cards until June 2025, which temporarily alleviated concerns regarding large scale deportation among the refugee community. However, refugees continued to struggle with persistent context-specific, socioeconomic and security challenges.

In November 2024, the Minister of Interior announced that Afghan nationals located in Islamabad and Rawalpindi must obtain a no objection certificate by 31 December 2024, citing national security concerns. With no clear mechanism for these certificates to be issued, Government officials began verifying documents of Afghans in Islamabad and Rawalpindi on 30 December. The year ended with a deterioration in the already unpredictable protection, security, and constrained socioeconomic environment in which UNHCR was attempting to operate.

There were no marked changes in Pakistan's statelessness demographics

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Refugees and asylum-seekers can realize their rights in line with international protection standards

Stateless populations can realize their rights in line with international protection standards

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.85%	90.24%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.70%	93.49%

Pakistan has generously hosted Afghan refugees for decades but is not a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol, nor has it enacted national asylum legislation. The absence of a legal framework and the administrative management of Afghan refugees through the Ministry of State and Frontier Regions, as well as the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, has resulted in short-term approaches and uncertainty. A one-year extension of proof of registration (PoR) cards alleviated uncertainties about cardholders' rights and entitlements in 2024, but the basic rights of other categories of refugees, including those registered with UNHCR, remained constrained.

Despite Afghans having access to national health and education services, in practice, there was inconsistent and limited fulfilment of basic rights, such as access to work, housing, education and health services. With no Government mechanism to register new arrivals, UNHCR continued to receive new applicants but could not issue documentation to asylum-seekers due to a 2022 Ministry of Foreign Affairs instruction. The lack of documentation exposed refugees to risk of arrest, detention and refoulement, and contributed to their fear and anxiety.

Despite UNHCR advocacy against the forced return of Afghans, some 8,954 Afghans were deported in 2024. Most were undocumented but some were registered by the Government or UNHCR. UNHCR estimates 643 Afghans were refouled including some 340 POR cardholders and UNHCR-registered individuals. Throughout the year, UNHCR advocated for a longer-term strategy to manage Afghans in Pakistan in its interactions with key Government interlocutors.

Legislative and policy-level interventions to address the issue of statelessness in Pakistan were hindered by political sensitivities surrounding nationality matters and a lack of political will.

In terms of the GCR commitments, though Pakistan did not formally make any pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the refugee response remains broadly aligned to GCR principles of inclusion and responsibility-sharing where some refugees, particularly PoR cardholders, have access to education and health, and targeted support is provided to refugees and host communities by international development partners. While refugees are not formally afforded the right to work, self-reliance (day wage labour, skills building) is supported through international development partners (e.g. World Bank, FAO, JICA), as well as INGOs and government institutions (e.g. NAVTTC) through UNHCR programming.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees (of all age, gender, and diversity groups) can exercise their freedoms and rights and make use of access to public services leading to greater levels of gender equality and self-reliance.

Women and child refugees and asylum seekers are safe from violence, exploitation, harmful practices and other forms of rights violations

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.02%	53.62%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.17%	17.29%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		67.21%

In 2024, the situation for forcibly displaced and stateless women and children at risk remained challenging. There were ongoing struggles for self-reliance and access to essential services, such as education and healthcare. Undocumented women and children faced additional protection-related challenges.

While certain steps were taken by the federal education authorities to waive the documentation requirement for school admissions, within the framework of the education emergency declared by the Government during the summer of 2024, provincial education ministries were yet to follow suit. This limited the decision to federally administered schools. Overall, access to education remained extremely low, even for Pakistani nationals. This was due to an adverse socioeconomic situation that often forced children to drop out of schools to contribute to the household income. The issue was compounded by inadequate fiscal allocation which was insufficient given the scale of the problem, resulting in a lack of qualified teachers and low learning outcomes, even when school infrastructure was available.

Legal barriers to the right to work persisted, forcing Afghan refugees into informal employment and daily labour, with little consideration for occupational safety and no social protection benefits. With Afghan refugees unable to register businesses in their own name, the announced relocation from Islamabad and Rawalpindi is likely to increase their risk of financial exclusion and exploitation.

Gender disparities limited education and skills development among refugee women, often reducing their opportunities for income generation through home-based businesses and low-skilled labour.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Options for solutions for refugees in Pakistan will be expanded to include resettlement and complementary pathways alongside voluntary repatriation

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36,337	25,634
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	346	2,475
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	106	424
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed		
Stateless Persons	1,104	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

In 2024, the Government of Pakistan's focus remained largely on voluntary return and third country solutions as main avenues for durable solutions. A strategic partnership with the Federal Bureau of Statistics meant Afghan nationals were included in the 2023 Census (published in 2024) for the first time, providing better data to improve planning and inclusion efforts.

Voluntary repatriation centres facilitated the return of 25,634 refugees. This was significantly less than the 36,337 refugees who were facilitated to return in 2023, when the IFRP was first introduced. This decrease could be due to a pause in the IFRP's implementation and the one-year extension of proof of registration cards until June 2025.

In 2024, refugee status determination, resettlement, and complementary pathway programmes continued, in line with UNHCR's 2022-2024 Multi-Year Strategy. UNHCR submitted 3,161 refugees (789 cases) to 11 resettlement countries, with 2,600 departing to nine countries by year-end. A further 424 people left for 10 countries through complementary pathway programmes. While departures increased in 2024, allocated quotas decreased due to the high exit permit fees introduced in June 2023 for foreigners who had overstayed their visa or irregularly entered and stayed in Pakistan, including refugees departing to third countries. Advocacy to reinstate fee exemptions for refugees was ongoing.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual(2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities			
Pakistan	Refugees and Asylum-Seekers	Unknown	3.37%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services			
Pakistan	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	82.00%	67.48%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly regarding women and girls, coupled with Pakistan's domestic security, political and economic situation, meant Afghans' access to protection was seen by the Government of Pakistan through a security and political lens. Security incidents affecting the police, military personnel and civilians in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, impacted UNHCR's access to refugees and strained peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, with increased anti-Afghan sentiment. This limited forcibly displaced Afghans' access to rights and entitlements, including legal pathways for longer-term solutions in Pakistan for refugees and asylum-seekers under the current legal framework.

The events of November and December, notably in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, are indicative of a regression in the protection environment for forcibly displaced people and the associated fulfilment of their rights, including freedom of movement, arbitrary detention, harassment, refoulement and loss of livelihoods. Furthermore, UNHCR's efforts to promote gender equality through education, livelihoods and community participation were hindered in part due to heightened economic challenges and social norms

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

The regional Refugee Response Plan 2024-2025 supported efforts to safeguard the protection and build the self-reliance of Afghan refugees and their host communities. 45 local and international partners sought funding to support 4.5 million Afghans and their host communities. Despite securing only 32% of the funding, they reached 2.5 million people – 55% of the target population.

Driven and guided by the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), the SSAR Core Group, with UNHCR support, leveraged members' expertise to advocate for the protection of Afghans, particularly so in light of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP), and advocate for an extension of proof of registration (PoR) cards.

Implementation of the IFRP slowed and PoR cards were extended, allowing the Core Group to discuss solutions with the Government that benefit the Afghan population in Pakistan and their host community, as well as support for voluntary repatriation and third country resettlement in line with the SSAR's core principles. Despite a challenging context, the SSAR Core Group remained an instrumental forum to drive forward the commitment to engaging with a unified voice.

UNHCR maintained strategic development partnerships. Education and child protection sectors in Pakistan reported that collaboration between UNHCR and UNICEF had produced concrete outcomes. GIZ and JICA initiatives contributed to refugee education outcomes, including access, in addition to health and livelihoods, respectively. In Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Government counterparts involved in an International Development Association (IDA) human capital investment project promoting refugee inclusion in health and education. This IDA-18 Window with the Government benefitting host communities and refugees progressed their Strengthening Institutions for Refugee Administration project, with the support of UNHCR

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Refugees in Pakistan have access to registration and identity documentation

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.93%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.67%	100.00%	28.59%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.19%	100.00%	81.96%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80,922
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88,486

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Following the conclusion of the Document Renewal and Verification Exercise (DRIVE) in 2023, some 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees received smart proof of registration (PoR) cards. These cards are an essential protection tool, providing proof of identity and granting access to certain essential services, including education, healthcare, banking and SIM card registration. While the initial validity of the PoR cards lapsed on 30 June 2023, it has been incrementally extended to 30 June 2025.

In 2024, 11 PoR card modification centres operated by Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority with support from UNHCR, provided registered refugees services to record and document vital events as well as continuously update their data and documentation. 126,531 applications were lodged at these centres during the year, leading to the issuance of 50,000 PoR cards, 11,603 family information certificates, 25,587 birth certificates and 154 death certificates.

UNHCR continued to campaign for the validation of unregistered members of refugee families and birth registration. By year-end, 10,370 refugee family members were validated, bringing the total to 45,877 –

32% of those initially registered during DRIVE. To increase this validation rate, the campaign was extended to 31 March 2025. Meanwhile, 25,587 birth certificates were issued.

In 2024, following verification, UNHCR implemented individual basic registration for people recorded by UNHCR and its partners. This enhanced the identification of individual protection risk profiles as well as specific needs, particularly among girls and women. More than 37,000 asylum-seekers were individually registered while data was updated for approximately 16,000 UNHCR-verified people.

UNHCR successfully piloted the electronic filing system for registration and case management in Islamabad, phasing out the creation of physical files. The system will be rolled out in field offices in early 2025

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Refugees have access to asylum procedures which uphold procedural standards

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	368.00	270.00	638.00

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No
Stateless Persons	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Mandate refugee status determination was used strategically as a protection tool in Pakistan to secure resettlement for the most vulnerable refugees, and for complementary pathway programmes where needed.

In 2024, 2,895 people underwent refugee status determination assessments, resulting in the submission of 3,161 refugees for resettlement, including a few pending cases from 2023. By year-end, 2,600 refugees had departed for resettlement and 424 UNHCR-registered people had departed via complementary pathway programmes

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Refugees' rights are strengthened under the national legal/policy framework

Stateless persons have access to civil registration systems to improve prospects for

acquiring nationality and ensuring their rights are realized

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Not yet aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
Stateless Persons	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The protection environment remained fragile for forcibly displaced people due to the political and security context. a. UNHCR engaged support from the Core Group of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to advocate for Afghan refugees' rights and maintained dialogue with the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR). UNHCR provided technical support to CCAR to develop a foundation course on staff protection for Lahore University of Management Sciences, and coordinated with CCAR's protection unit, working also closely with the World Bank for their support to a project strengthening institutions in refugee administration.

UNHCR advanced knowledge on international refugee protection among government officials and other stakeholders. Partners sensitized 1,627 officials in the subject, including law enforcement, the judiciary and public prosecutors. It also trained 61 civil society members in Balochistan and delivered public lectures and policy dialogues on forced displacement with 302 representatives from academia, civil society, the Government, and the refugee community. These sessions discussed challenges facing Afghans in Pakistan and explored practical solutions.

Efforts to expand the refugee law curriculum, in collaboration with Lahore University of Management Sciences, led to Lahore's Kinnaird College for Women approving the course by year-end. UNHCR also discussed its mandate and refugee protection with Pakistani peacekeepers and armed forces personnel and trained 120 civil administration and senior police officials on international refugee protection. Support for stateless people continued in three major settlements, including Korangi town. Birth registration rates, particularly for children with only one documented parent, increased. Legal advice and assistance sought related primarily to acquiring identity documentation through follow-up with relevant authorities. As a result, 40 people received identity documents, a de-facto proof of Pakistani nationality that paves the way for entire families to obtain the same.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

GBV risks are reduced, and all survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services to effectively address root causes of GBV

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		75.00%	42.60%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		50.00%	48.47%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.33%	50.00%	80.95%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34,882

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR sought to ensure gender-based violence survivors among forcibly displaced and stateless people had timely access to quality, non-discriminatory services that met minimum standards and included marginalized groups. UNHCR worked with partners to raise awareness of referral pathways and strengthen the capacity of those providing specialized services. It offered a dedicated helpline, remote case management and coaching for case workers. Greater gender-based violence awareness in the community contributed to more disclosed cases than in 2023.

UNHCR worked with refugee communities and Government counterparts to address the root causes of gender-based violence, implementing the Engaging Men and Boys in Accountable Practice (EMAP) approach and women empowerment activities, including for adolescent girls, to encourage transformative behaviour changes, raise awareness of the risks, and empower men and boys to prevent future gender-based violence. These EMAP sessions in 11 locations, including refugee villages and urban areas, reached 184 males and 146 females. At 27 women and girls' safe spaces, 2,313 women, 1,095 girls, as well as other marginalized groups, met and accessed information on health, including mental health, psychological and social support, and livelihoods. The Girl Shine programme was implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. UNCHR Pakistan has consistently used the client feedback survey since 2023 to monitor the quality of case management work. Coupled with capacity enhancement to GBV partners, the quality of GBV case management and client satisfaction has increased in 2024.

Continuous community outreach sessions and awareness raising on GBV, and referral pathways enabled refugees to better understand issues related to gender-based violence and how to seek support.

UNHCR worked across sectors, including Government institutions, to integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation. To better understand the crucial needs and safety gaps, a needs assessment was jointly conducted by UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM in response to the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan. The findings were reported in June 2024, highlighting the access to health, livelihoods, cash assistance and spaces and support services as short-term needs. Overall availability of services, where access remains a challenge due to fear of harassment and arrest, especially for non-PoR cardholders.

UNHCR prioritized preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in the refugee community by raising awareness, ensuring reporting mechanisms were accessible and assistance was available to survivors. It worked with partners and other UN agencies to equip staff and funded partners to prevent and address these issues effectively.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children are protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination (in reference to baseline data) and have access to child friendly procedures and services

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33.76%	35.00%	37.89%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.81%	2.00%	1.74%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.11%	95.00%	93.92%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,490

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UHCR Pakistan and its partners have identified 1,984 children who faced heightened safety risks, including unaccompanied and separated children. The children had access to child-centred, best interest procedures or protection services, such as alternative care, family tracing, mental health support and legal aid. These services helped prevent violence, abuse, neglect and separation, while reducing future harm and ensuring essential care. Service quality gradually improved, as reflected in the feedback from 429 children and caregivers surveyed. Of those, 74% reported being fully satisfied with the case management and protection services, while 13% indicated being partially satisfied.

UNHCR Pakistan employs a community-based approach to children's rights and protection. Through children's clubs and child protection committees, 187 UNHCR-supported initiatives enhanced the protection and wellbeing of children and families. At 89 child rights clubs supported by UNHCR and partners, 13,331

children gained social, emotional and life skills through sports, drama, debates and campaigns. Additionally, 5,100 mental health support kits helped children cope with stress and trauma while fostering resilience and emotional recovery.

To promote protective social and gender norms and address harmful practices that place children at risk, UNHCR and partners supported 98 child protection committees that helped raise awareness, address child protection issues, identify alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children, and refer at-risk children to UNHCR and partners for support. Information was provided to 26,458 people on child rights, protection risks and referrals for children and caregivers to appropriate services.

UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of forcibly displaced children in the national child protection system and worked to enhance the capacity of key Government stakeholders, including law enforcement, on child rights, child protection, referral mechanisms and child-sensitive approaches. With UNICEF, UNHCR trained 188 government staff on child protection, child rights, and referral mechanisms.

With the National Commission on Human Rights, UNHCR contributed to the Technical Notes on Children on the Move, focusing on Afghan refugee children in Pakistan. The notes provide guidance on child-sensitive measures and protecting detained, unaccompanied and separated children during cross-border movements

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Protection interventions are implemented to ensure the prevention of refoulement and access to justice is ensured for refugees and asylum-seekers

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54,270
Stateless Persons	6,270

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Government of Pakistan slowed implementation of its Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan in 2024, though smaller scale administrative and court-ordered deportations continued. Arrests and detentions decreased by approximately 35% compared to 2023 but the complex political and security situation intermittently led to the increased arrest and detention of Afghans in the country, particularly towards the second half of the year.

The alleged involvement of Afghans in political rallies led to Afghans being arrested by the counter terrorism department, particularly in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, in the last quarter of 2024. UNHCR and its legal assistance partners often could not ascertain the documentation status of, or secure access to, those charged under Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act. However, UNHCR's legal assistance partners could generally secure the release of those with proof of registration cards.

In the Islamabad Capital Territory, the Ministry of Interior said Afghans would require a no-objection certificate to reside there, prompting uncertainty and anxiety among refugees.

UNHCR and partners continued to monitor arrests and detention in the country and the situation at the borders. UNHCR and IOM worked together to enhance protection monitoring, response, and advocacy capacity. With its legal assistance partners, UNHCR continued to work through its 10 advice and legal aid centres (ALACs). Its legal assistance partners assisted 54,270 refugees and asylum-seekers, including interventions by ALAC teams at police stations and in and out of court interventions. Legal camps and community awareness sessions were held with the communities, attended by 31,656 participants. ALAC staff provided individual legal counselling, both in person and remotely. This assistance was predominantly

related to incidents of police harassment, proof of registration card renewals and modifications, asylum procedures, rental agreements, and affidavits

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

People with and for whom UNHCR works (of all age, gender and diversity groups) have enhanced participation in programme design, implementation and evaluation thereby ensuring the full engagement of women, children and vulnerable groups at the decision making level

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Moderate	Moderate
Stateless Persons		Moderate	Limited
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		6.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.08%	47.00%	46.41%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Host Community	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	376
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	226,940
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	380,398
Stateless Persons	6,270

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued its commitment to engaging refugee communities in Pakistan through its Outreach Volunteer Programme. This initiative promoted the participation of women and girls, disseminated information about available services, identified and referred vulnerable refugees to critical support, and

facilitated community-led initiatives.

In 2024, 3,917 outreach volunteers were trained in key protection concepts, 46% of whom were women. Communities implemented 21 community-led initiatives, including home-based stitching centres, early learning spaces, basic computer courses, and arts and craft centres supported by UNHCR and partners. These initiatives addressed social and economic needs, fostering social cohesion, self-reliance, and empowerment.

To ensure accountability, UNHCR community-based complaint and feedback mechanisms were used by 226,940 people to voice concerns, request services and enquire about assistance and the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan. These mechanisms included helplines, complaint and feedback boxes, a dedicated protection mailbox, community consultation sessions and protection counselling services.

UNHCR and partners provided critical support to 2,856 people with disabilities, supplying assistive devices and referring them to specialized services. To enhance their social inclusion and participation, 303 frontline humanitarian workers and outreach volunteers were trained in disability inclusion and age, gender and diversity considerations. An Islamabad-based advisory committee of people with disabilities identified gaps and made inclusion recommendations.

Community awareness efforts reached 55,892 people on topics such as proof of registration card services, unregistered members of registered families, complaint mechanisms, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, psychosocial support, DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarships, complementary pathways, fraud prevention and voluntary repatriation. Additionally, 21,851 people participated in consultations, advisory sessions, information initiatives and protection services.

Recommendations from a nationwide assessment to improve the meaningful participation of forcibly displaced communities, particularly marginalized groups, included the expansion of community-based mental health services, greater inclusion of young people, women, girls and minority groups in decision-making processes, more digital learning opportunities, and safe spaces for women and girls

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

People with whom UNHCR works receive cash transfers and/or in-kind assistance.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.89%	100.00%	99.13%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.32%	26.00%	24.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,262
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	205,675

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 205,675 people (41,135 households), including mosquito nets and repellent, sanitary kits and energy efficient items, to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases and improve refugees' overall health and wellbeing. It also provided cash assistance to more than 10,000 people to address their basic needs, protection concerns and access education and other services.

UNHCR also provided sectoral cash assistance, such as cash for education, with a strategic focus on girls' secondary education. By offering cash assistance, UNHCR helped ensure children's education while reducing the risks of early marriage, domestic responsibilities and child labour. UNHCR continued piloting a cash-for-work programme that supports refugee engagement in communal work and community-driven projects. This programme improved infrastructure and fostered social cohesion and ownership by building pavements, repairing boundary walls, and removing debris in refugee villages.

In 2024, Pakistan did not experience any major natural hazards, so shelter and CRI distributions were mostly ad hoc. Emergency cash assistance was sparingly used by UNHCR and its partners to complement protection case management and address basic needs and refugees' protection concerns.

With the protection environment remaining fluid and communities reporting concerns over increased police harassment and limited access to livelihoods, demand for financial support from UNHCR has grown compared to previous years, leading UNHCR to further tighten its targeting given the limited resources available

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Proportion of refugees who have sustainable and affordable access to energy and adequate water systems and sanitation

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		20.00%	12.98%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.32%	26.00%	71.86%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,105

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR Pakistan accelerated efforts to provide sustainable and resilient solutions for refugees and host communities, ensuring protection-sensitive and gender-responsive interventions. It also made significant progress in enhancing access to clean and affordable energy and improving refugee village

infrastructure.

Solar equipment provided sustainable energy to 124 public and community facilities, including schools, health centres, and livelihood hubs. Additionally, 32,605 households received solar kits, covering all refugee households in Baluchistan's refugee villages and providing energy to 15 refugee villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

To enhance protection and safety in refugee villages, UNHCR provided solar streetlights, including by leveraging in-kind donations. Awareness sessions on energy, gender mainstreaming, and resilience reached approximately 14,000 people and aimed to foster sustainable settlement management and community ownership. Furthermore, 10 refugee villages received training on compost making and solid waste management.

While water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in refugee villages was largely managed by the communities, UNHCR invested in improving 14 priority water supply schemes to improve safe, reliable water access for refugees. Additionally, 50 rainwater harvesting units were installed, and interventions to improve water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in 24 refugee villages schools were implemented. Cumulatively, these efforts contributed an estimated 8,600 kW of clean energy in 2024, reducing approximately 5,300 tons of CO₂e annually. More than 500,000 people, both refugees and host communities, benefitted from these cost-saving, environmentally sustainable solutions, with the Government of Pakistan saving at least \$1.5 million in electricity bills during the year

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

People with and for whom UNHCR works have access to health care facilities and services leading to improvements in their health status

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.96%	85.00%	89.89%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.98%	87.00%	89.19%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	125,313
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,837

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Registered refugees can access national health services on a par with host communities, ranging from primary-level basic health units to district hospitals and tertiary and specialized hospitals although practical challenges remain.

To facilitate this access and relieve pressure on national health infrastructure, UNHCR supported some improvements to public health facilities, including infrastructure upgrades and medical equipment.

In 2024, hospitals in refugee-hosting provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan gained vital equipment, such as a CT scan for the Institute of Kidney Diseases and solar equipment so 16 hospitals could maintain power to critical wards.

In refugee villages with no nearby government health facility, UNHCR supported mother and child-focused primary healthcare through funded partners. In 2024, 139,562 refugee patients accessed basic health services, while complicated cases were referred to government hospitals. Community health workers ran hygiene and menstrual hygiene promotion sessions.

In 2024, UNHCR collaborated with national and provincial tuberculosis control programmes, screening 157,000 refugees and treating confirmed cases.

Preliminary results from a forced displacement survey showed refugees' core health indicators were adequate and comparable to host communities, with measles vaccine rates at 90% (comparable to 93% for their hosts), and 87% of refugee women giving birth with trained health workers. However, there was a high prevalence of stunting among refugee children under five and the gender gap for wasting in refugee girls was almost twice that of males.

UNHCR together with national and international NGOs, academic institutions and the Government is working to develop a common mental health strategy to address the needs of both refugees and host communities. It is also in discussion with the Ministry of Health's Sehat Sahulat Programme on the inclusion of registered refugees in the government health insurance scheme

11. Outcome Area: Education

People with and for whom UNHCR works have access to education facilities – primary, secondary, and tertiary – leading to higher education status among Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.90%	5.00%	0.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61,926

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 56,512 refugee students were enrolled at 142 refugee village schools, a rate of 37%. Among them, 23,514 were female. Most (50,638, including 20,794 females) attended primary school while 5,874 were in secondary school (2,720 female). Additionally, UNHCR supported 417 students in further or higher education, including 197 women. In 2024, 149 students graduated, 39 of whom were female, while 13 (seven female) dropped out.

Cash assistance covered transport for 3,299 secondary school girls in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with a 93% retention rate at year-end. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 823 out-of-school refugee girls enrolled in public secondary schools while 1,700 over-age young women joined a home-based accelerated learning programme (ALP), overcoming financial and cultural barriers. Most former ALP primary-level learners advanced to grade six in public schools, marking progress in mainstreaming girls into secondary education and potentially reducing the risk of early marriage.

To enhance learning experiences, UNHCR launched its Digital Learning and Connected Education programme in all refugee village schools. A three-day training session for 375 teachers created a cohort of master trainers in blended learning. Despite electricity challenges, they introduced the new approach using tablets with all students, reporting greater class engagement and attendance.

To improve teaching quality and support national curriculum implementation, 919 teachers (a third of them women), including those trained in digital learning, also trained in pedagogy and subject content.

UNHCR held 20 awareness sessions on the right to education, reaching 3,674 community members, while 896 people from parent-teacher, school management, and mother committees in schools were trained in school management and the importance of education, improving attendance and child protection rates.

UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of refugee-segregated enrolment data in the national education management system, following the introduction of a new data standardization framework by the Pakistan Institute of Education. Piloted in 2023, the framework is now being used to synchronize refugee enrolment data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Refugees and asylum seekers have increased access to livelihood opportunities leading to higher number of self-reliant refugees and asylum-seekers

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12.12%	10.00%	4.51%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		2.00%	9.15%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Host Community	574
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,310

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, a UNHCR diversified livelihoods programme supported 1,077 Afghan women to use their skills and heritage to create unique products, with training in crafts, tailoring, food production and digital services, as well as business management. They were given essential toolkits to establish and grow sustainable businesses and, to enhance their market access, UNHCR partnered with private sector entities to establish six shops where they could sell their products and earn money.

Additionally, 266 young people, including 90 DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholars, gained entrepreneurship skills at national incubation centers in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta. They also received startup support for their businesses.

With livelihood partners, including the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, UNHCR organised certified skills training for 2,768 young people (1,207 males and 1,561 females), as well as internships and on-the-job training for 503 trainees (323 males and 180 females). UNHCR also provided equipment and training to 11 vocational and technical institutes.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, 2,304 Afghan refugees (978 men and 1,326 women) received training and start-up assistance in agricultural livelihoods, including but not limited to poultry management, beekeeping and kitchen gardening. These initiatives improved food management and created sustainable income opportunities, fostering financial self-reliance.

Through a comprehensive poverty graduation approach, 900 refugee households (488 males and 412 females) were trained in enterprise development, asset management and financial literacy.

UNHCR also expanded its cash assistance to livelihood programme participants, who received cash in lieu of in-kind productive assets, especially in urban and peri-urban areas.

To promote financial inclusion, UNHCR organised financial literacy training for 5,415 people, with 574 Afghan refugees later successfully opening bank accounts

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

Refugees are able to make informed decisions to return to their country of origin and may avail themselves of the facilitated volrep programme

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Returnees		100.00%	0.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25,634

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR supported Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority to facilitate the return of 25,634 Afghan refugees in 2024 through voluntary repatriation centres in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. With partners, it provided enhanced protection counselling, which was introduced following the issuance of the 2021 Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan. Individual protection counselling was provided to all adult family members, men and women, highlighting the change in circumstances, including the curtailment of rights for women and girls in Afghanistan. UNHCR continued to conduct community outreach sessions and issues of voluntary repatriation were part of these discussions with communities. The number of working days for the voluntary repatriation centres was adjusted throughout the year to align with demand and operational requirements

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Resettlement is used as protection tool to ensure the most vulnerable are able to achieve solutions and complementary pathway opportunities are expanded

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,197	5,500	3,161

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Refugee status determination, resettlement and complementary pathways programmes were used strategically as protection tools to ensure solutions for the most vulnerable refugees in third countries.

In 2024, 3,161 refugees in Pakistan were submitted for resettlement in 11 countries, including 29 to Australia, five to Belgium, 563 to Canada, one to Finland, three to France, 10 to Germany, one to Italy, six to the Netherlands, 15 to New Zealand, six to the United Kingdom, and 2,522 to the United States.

During the year, 2,600 refugees also departed for resettlement in nine countries. Among them, 507 were resettled in Australia, five in Belgium, 550 in Canada, three in Finland, seven in the Netherlands, 186 in New Zealand, six in Norway, 943 in the United Kingdom, and 393 in the United States.

In parallel, complementary pathways for protection and migration expanded. Through these various pathways, 424 UNHCR-registered forcibly displaced people relocated to 10 countries. These included 11 through family reunification, 53 through private sponsorships, five through employment-based schemes, 353 under humanitarian programmes, and two through educational opportunities.

UNHCR and its partners continued to implement the labour mobility scheme with Talent Beyond Boundaries, expanding its outreach to Balochistan. Across Pakistan, 17 community outreach sessions were conducted reaching 632 people, with a focus on female participation. During the year, 1,426 people registered with the Talent Catalogue and 32 received job offers.

UNHCR worked with the International Refugee Assistance Project and directly with specific countries to facilitate family reunification for refugees with pending applications or those who qualify for a family reunification programme. UNHCR mainly assisted in referrals for family reunification to Germany or the United Kingdom. UNHCR's proposition of a comprehensive, complementary pathway digital platform for the Digital Innovation Fund was approved for implementation in 2025

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2024, UNHCR strengthened its engagement with refugee communities in Pakistan through 3,917 outreach volunteers, 46% of whom were women. These volunteers were key to bridging the gap between UNHCR and refugees. UNHCR enhanced its staff and partner capabilities by adopting better data collection methods, which helped identify the unique risks and needs of refugees, including those with disabilities. This approach enabled timely assistance and referrals to specialized services. Of the queries received through UNHCR and partners' complaints and feedback mechanisms, 38% were from female refugees.

Support for women's empowerment through 10 women-led community initiatives provided safe spaces for women and children and encouraged their involvement in community-building and resilience. Similarly, advisory councils were formed at community centres, with 70% female participation, to provide feedback and share innovative improvement ideas.

UNHCR organised training and dialogue to promote the participation of people from marginalised groups, including through sessions for outreach volunteers. It engaged with NGOs to map available services and ensure effective referrals. UNHCR also conducted gender-based violence needs assessments to identify risks, especially for women, girls, and other refugees, to ensure a holistic and effective response. Similarly, the operation collaborated with an NGO led by people with disabilities, which supported various capacity-building initiatives and provided insights for access and inclusion.

An annual participatory assessment was conducted across the country, encompassing both urban areas and refugee villages and engaging 376 people, with a focus on marginalized minorities, people with disabilities, and young people. The outcome of the assessment was included in programme planning for 2025

Section 3: Resources

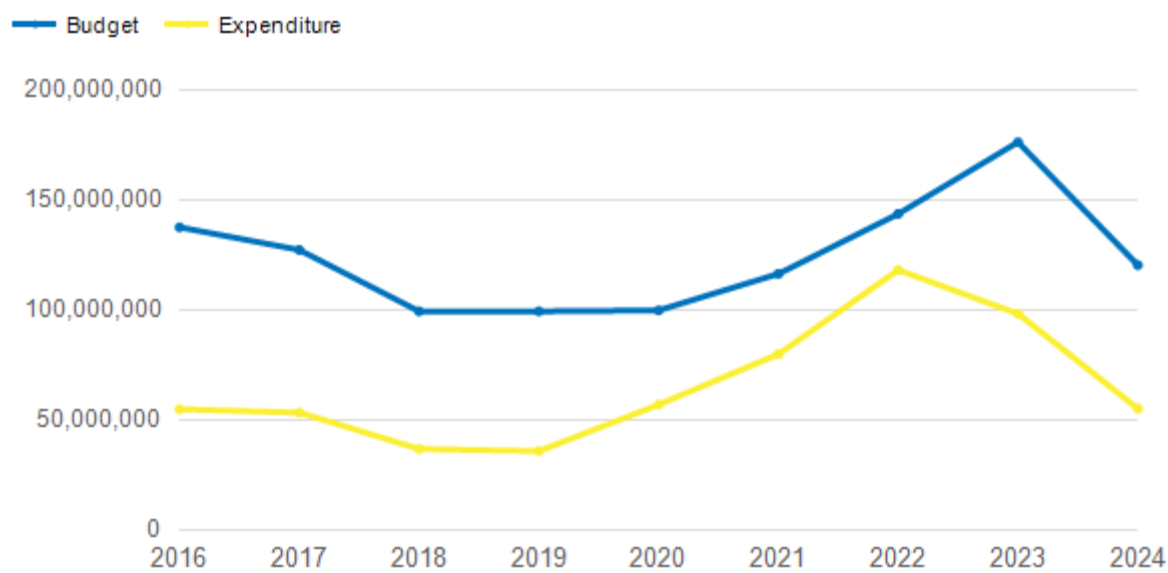
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

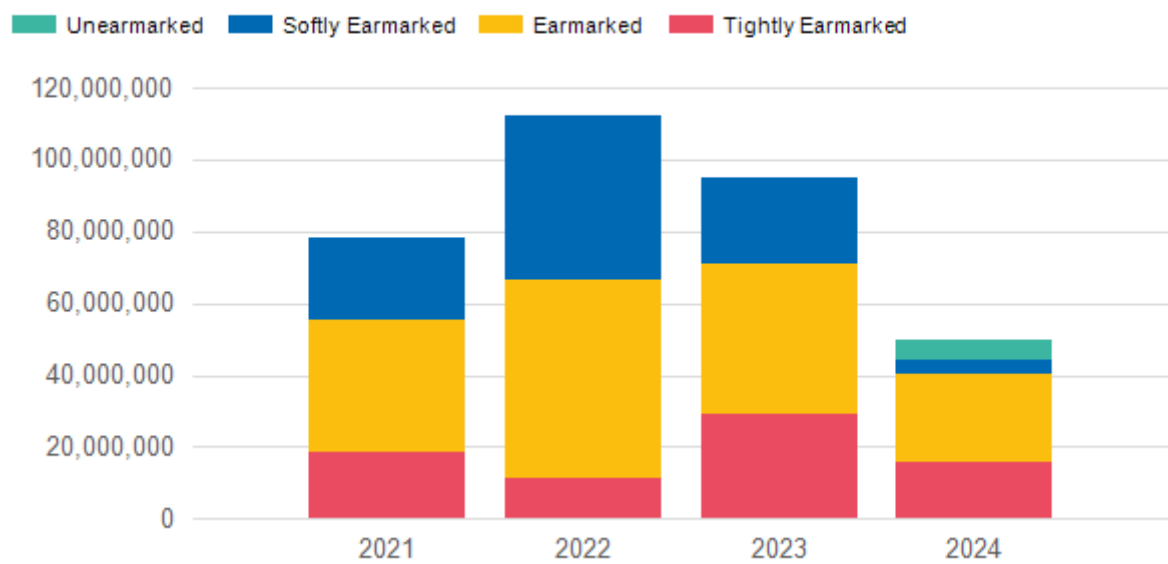
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	19,580,847	7,765,264	39.66%	7,765,264	100.00%
IA3: Empower	88,731,616	41,422,940	46.68%	41,422,940	100.00%
IA4: Solve	11,897,538	5,834,068	49.04%	5,834,068	100.00%
All Impact Areas		7,431,259			
Total	120,210,000	62,453,532	51.95%	55,022,273	88.10%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	6,843,075	3,020,995	44.15%	3,020,995	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,944,875	710,545	18.01%	710,545	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	4,409,042	2,405,796	54.57%	2,405,796	100.00%
OA4: GBV	5,828,099	5,865,524	100.64%	5,865,524	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,828,101	5,211,442	184.27%	5,211,442	100.00%
OA6: Justice	4,383,855	1,627,929	37.13%	1,627,929	100.00%
OA7: Community	5,018,700	6,094,914	121.44%	6,094,914	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	2,845,558	2,185,390	76.80%	2,185,390	100.00%
OA9: Housing	6,415,158	5,954,480	92.82%	5,954,480	100.00%
OA10: Health	13,294,598	3,253,200	24.47%	3,247,389	99.82%
OA11: Education	29,000,596	5,986,873	20.64%	5,986,873	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	23,500,807	6,876,929	29.26%	6,876,929	100.00%
OA14: Return	8,352,512	2,090,055	25.02%	2,090,055	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,545,025	3,744,014	105.61%	3,744,014	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		7,425,448			
Total	120,210,000	62,453,532	51.95%	55,022,273	88.10%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

This was a critical year for UNHCR to demonstrate impact, opportunities as well as needs on the ground for both host communities and refugees and leverage the international community’s support to the Government of Pakistan in identifying longer-term solutions for Afghans residing in the country.

Overall, UNHCR’s programme was 50% funded, from a \$120 million budget for the year. Recognizing the global funding landscape and the challenging outlook for 2025 and beyond, UNHCR prioritized the diversification of funding streams and engaged to secure multi-year funding for its work in Pakistan. As a result, it had a healthy balance of both annual humanitarian funding and five separate commitments of

multi-year development funds until 2027.

As part of diversification efforts, private sector fundraising was also prioritized, securing both financial contributions and in-kind support. A third of UNHCR's donors in Pakistan in 2024 were private sector, though the amount of the contributions represented a significantly smaller percentage of the overall support received. Nonetheless, the positive engagement indicated potential for further support in 2025 and beyond.

UNHCR's resource mobilization also included fundraising efforts for the regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP). The RRP, which was covered both 2024 and 2025, outlined the needs of Afghans of various documentation statuses, as well as of the communities hosting them. In its leadership role, UNHCR sought to ensure the 52 partners represented in the response plan were adequately supported. Despite best efforts, only 32% of the requested \$368.3 million for the RRP in 2024 was funded

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

UNHCR remains committed to mobilizing international cooperation and promoting partnership with development actors, civil society, private sector and forcibly displaced people for comprehensive, sustainable and Government-led solutions. However, with the protection environment remaining precarious and arguably worsening in the last month of 2024, it is obvious that more systemic solutions are required to address the refugee situation in Pakistan, as well as in countries of origin to create conditions for safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable returns.

While a long-term focus remains the development of a national legal and administrative framework for refugees, UNHCR continues to pursue a high-level dialogue to identify solutions for Afghans of various documentation statuses residing in the country.

While Pakistan has a long-standing history of hosting refugees, external support is required to sustain its hosting and address the needs of refugees, including access to documentation, essential services, and human capital development. A forced displacement survey, which looked at the situation of refugees across multiple sectors, was undertaken by UNHCR in cooperation with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. While the survey showed comparable results in areas of health, access to energy and drinking water, substantial disparities emerged between refugees and host communities when it comes to birth registration, primary and secondary education completion, tenure rights and financial inclusion, indicating that systemic and political solutions are required to address these gaps.



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