



IOM PAKISTAN MISSION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Government of Pakistan, IOM began its operations in Pakistan in 1981 and has expanded and affirmed its role as the leading Organization assisting the Government of Pakistan to ensure humane and orderly movement of people by devising practical solutions to shifting migration dynamics; protecting, assisting and supporting vulnerable migrant population; promoting international cooperation on migration issues; and serving as a key source of advice on migration policy, research, data and practice.

The Mission maintains a large operational footprint in Pakistan, with its main office in Islamabad, and sub-offices in Lahore, Mirpur, Karachi and Peshawar, with over 500 staff, 70% of whom are deployed in the field. IOM directly implements and delivers programmes across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through an integrated, multi-sectoral approach, and staff have technical expertise and long-standing experience within their respective fields.

Pakistan's geostrategic location plays a significant role in influencing and shaping internal socio-political dynamics of the country as well as of the region. Pakistan shares borders with four nations, having close ethnic, linguistic, religious, and economic ties with each neighboring country.

Pakistan remains the third-largest refugee-hosting country globally, hosting over 1.4 million Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards issued by the Government, in addition to 840,000 Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders, and an estimated 780,000 undocumented Afghan migrants. Pakistan is amongst the top ten countries of origin for international migrants, with the diaspora population estimated to be more than 8 million, according to the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

The migration and mobility landscape of Pakistan is dynamic, diverse and complex, characterized by circular and seasonal migration, regular and irregular migration, a large refugee population, and internally displaced people. Migration drivers in Pakistan are multiple and varied, with a range of push and pull factors such as persisting inequality, unemployment, large diaspora population, conflict and violent extremism, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

The dynamic nature of migration context in Pakistan necessitates IOM maintaining flexibility to adapt to changing needs and opportunities, for which the Mission draws upon its expertise in implementing adaptable programming. Diverse programming approaches, including research and pilot interventions, allow for this flexibility, supplemented by the maintenance of strong partnerships, communication and continual analysis.

Recognizing that partners have a wealth of experience, expertise and operational presence that can amplify the impact of programming, IOM works closely with UN partners and NGOs in Pakistan, and will continue to seek and build upon partnerships that add value to programming. IOM is also committed to participating in and strengthening common frameworks and processes at the national and local levels, taking a leadership role whenever appropriate.

Responding to the national priorities of Pakistan and guided by the IOM Strategic Vision, IOM's Comprehensive Action Plan for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, the Global Compact for Migration, and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Pakistan, IOM – working along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus – will continue its role as the Government of Pakistan's key partner in continuously improving migration management and governance and safeguarding the dignity and protection of migrants and migration-affected communities.

IOM's efforts in Pakistan are centred on four core areas of intervention, namely (1) Emergency Response, Protection and Access to Basic Services; (2) Migration Management; (3) Stabilization and Resilience; and (4) Resettlement and Movement Management.

IOM PAKISTAN

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HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

❖ *Multisectoral Response and Access to Basic Services*

Following a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach which seeks to assist most vulnerable populations affected by crisis, IOM Pakistan continues to support both vulnerable Afghans and host communities based on a needs based and area based approach. IOM ensures minorities, marginalized groups and others with specific needs are adequately served, and protection will be mainstreamed across all stages of interventions.

❖ *Social Cohesion, Durable Solutions and Access to Livelihoods*

In order to further mitigate the impact of the Afghan crisis in the surrounding countries including Pakistan, IOM Pakistan remains committed to supporting transition initiatives and ensuring that migrants and displaced populations are empowered to participate in recovery and sustainable development processes, including through area-based approaches for social cohesion and community stabilization, as well as through leveraging the role of migrants as essential workers in key sectors. In the longer term, IOM will work closely with host countries to support inclusive integration and sustainable development planning.

❖ *Displacement Tracking and Data*

IOM Pakistan continues to implement flow monitoring activities, through which information is collected at two official border points along the border shared with Afghanistan – Torkham and Chaman – to identify cross-border mobility patterns and profiles of mobile populations. Flow monitoring dashboards capture information on demographics of groups crossing the border with Afghanistan, with detailed analysis on migration flows. It also includes push and pull factors behind decisions to return, information on the journey (routes, mode of transport and intermediaries) as well as data on return intentions, expectations and perceptions of individuals returning to Afghanistan.

Since 2020, to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic affects global mobility, IOM developed an online tool and database to register points of entry, exit and transit - such as airports and land and blue border crossing points - where mobility restrictions and preparedness and response measures are in place. IOM Pakistan collects data on 17 Points of Entry in Pakistan – encompassing nine airports, six land borders, and two sea borders – with bi-monthly analysis reports shared, providing information on the status of POEs, as well as SOPs and restrictions at points of entry that have been imposed due to COVID-19.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

As a remittance-dependent economy and a country hosting some 3 million Afghans, migration continues to play a key role in Pakistan’s development and constitutes a key priority for the Government in the forthcoming period, which is committed to strengthening overall migration management, as evidenced through various programmes and policies. The Government of Pakistan adopted the Global Compact on Migration in December 2018 and acknowledged the multidimensional character of migration that requires a whole of government approach and strengthened partnerships to facilitate integrated solutions for migration challenges. The Government has also expressed its commitment to addressing migration issues at international platforms such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and through participation at inter-government consultative processes of which Pakistan is a member state, such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process, and Bali Process. In October 2021, Pakistan was also awarded the chairmanship of Abu Dhabi Dialogue for the next two years and has been chairing the thematic group on remittances under the Colombo Process.

IOM is recognized as a critical partner within migration management efforts in Pakistan and has enjoyed close cooperation with the Government of Pakistan for a number of years, with support provided at both the operational and policy levels. IOM’s activities are designed as partnerships with the Government of Pakistan to identify needs, determine priority areas, and shape and deliver interventions, and activities delivered over the years have been continuously evolving to meet new and emerging migration challenges and opportunities at the national and regional level.

❖ *Border Management*

A core focus of the work of IOM Pakistan is in strengthening the technical and operational capacity of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Investigation Agency in migration and border management. The establishment of a dedicated Border Management Wing in the Ministry of Interior aims to strengthen border management through technological modernization of document verification procedures, improve cross-border collaboration and strengthen data management and sharing at Points of Entry in Pakistan. The Wing has enabled consolidation of efforts at the national level, but further capacity building efforts are required to consolidate gains made to date.

IOM will therefore continue its efforts to strengthen capacities for migration and border management in Pakistan through both technical trainings and infrastructure interventions. IOM has liaised with the Government of Pakistan and identified key topics within its flagship programme on Essentials of Migration Management, the key objective of which is to equip government officials and those working in the migration field with an understanding of the international standards that are relevant for good governance of migration. All capacity building efforts are preceded by strong coordination and liaison with the Government to determine strategic priorities, as well as key gaps in implementation and policies and strategies on the ground, to ensure that topics prioritized respond to the shifting dynamics on the ground in Pakistan. In addition, IOM prioritizes capacity building through the Training Academy of the Federal Investigation Agency, to ensure Government ownership over outcomes and best ensure sustainability.

Examples of critical infrastructure interventions implemented in support of the Government of Pakistan include the installation and operationalisation of Secondary Passport Examination Tools, namely the Verifier Travel Document and Bearer (TD&B), an automated secondary inspection system for travel document inspection and identity verification developed by IOM. With the installation of Verifier TD&B in Pakistan, the country has benefited from the regional Document Examination Support Center (DESC) initiative, including advanced training curriculum on Data collection and Analysis, Human rights and Border Management, among others, as well as access to regional trends analysis of passports and identity frauds. These efforts were supplemented through the provision of handheld travel document examination tools and associated trainings, including workshops for immigration officials on travel document inspection and identity verification.

❖ *Counter Trafficking*

The Government of Pakistan has demonstrated its commitment to tackling trafficking in persons, as well as smuggling of migrants, with two new laws passed by the Parliament of Pakistan in 2018 that are harmonized with international standards. These laws have not only non-criminalized smuggled migrants but also reiterate the importance of providing protection and assistance to victims. IOM is a key partner to the Government within wider efforts to tackle trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; as the lead on protection and assistance under the Global Action to Prevent Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (GLO.ACT) project in Pakistan, IOM is currently assisting the Government of Pakistan in establishing a national level referral mechanism, and has also successfully set up an informal referral pathway in with close coordination and support from Federal Investigation Agency. IOM also provide direct assistance to victims, through provision of – inter alia – shelter, livelihood support, psychosocial support, and medical care. IOM works closely with the Federal Investigation Agency within these efforts, and has upgraded the Agency's Anti Human Trafficking Centers, through improving reception capacities based on international standards, including shelter facilities, interviewing cubicles, and sanitation facilities. IOM has also provided to tailored capacity building to immigration authorities at the Centres to provide the necessary skills and knowledge to better identify and refer vulnerable persons, including victims of trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants.

❖ *Readmission Management*

Since 2016, IOM has been closely working with the Ministry of Interior to improve readmission processes with support from European Readmission Capacity Building Facility (EURCAP). In coordination with the Ministry of Interior and National Database and Registration Authority of Pakistan (NADRA), IOM has assisted in the development and deployment of an electronic Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) in 8 EU Member States to digitalize the processing of readmission applications. The digitalization of the flow of information between actors involved in the return and readmission process has allowed for greater time-efficiency, transparency, accountability and access to real-time data.

IOM deployed the system at seven international airports in Pakistan in November 2021, in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad and Sialkot. The activity was two-fold, comprising of trainings for immigration officials on the use of the RCMS and installation of the system at the arrival counters of the respective airports. IOM provides mentorship workshops and refresher trainings for RCMS end-users, with the aim of enhancing their technical knowledge to operate the RCMS, in addition to the provision of troubleshooting of hardware issues for end-users from the EU Immigration authorities and Pakistani Diplomatic Missions.

❖ *Labor Migration*

IOM is scaling up support for the reintegration of returning Pakistani labor migrants to supplement the ongoing efforts on enhancing social and economic resilience of marginalized returning Pakistani migrants and their families using a rights-based and gender sensitive approach. Core approaches of IOM Pakistan include technical skill-building workshops and in-kind assistance for setting up start-ups for returning migrant workers who would meet IOM's vulnerability criteria. The project will be closely coordinated with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation.

❖ *Diaspora Engagement*

More than 8 million Pakistanis overseas make one of the largest diasporas in the world. According to statistics from the Bureau of Emigration of Pakistan, 288,280 Pakistanis went overseas for employment during the year 2021, an increase from the 225,213 that went overseas in 2020, though noting that – as a result of COVID-19 – these numbers are lower than in previous years. Indeed, despite COVID-19 and the projections that remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries was to fall by 7.2 percent to USD 508 billion in 2020, an increase of 6.4% was recorded in the remittance flows in Pakistan during 2020 as compared to 2019. IOM is therefore committed to supporting efforts to capitalize upon the role that the Diaspora can play in the socioeconomic development of Pakistan.

A key area of focus at present is in building the capacity of the Government of Pakistan in engaging the diaspora of Pakistan and leveraging their skills and expertise in support of the country's health sector. Within these efforts, IOM will undertake an assessment to identify gaps in this sector and the role that can be played by the Diaspora in meeting needs identified, strengthen outreach to the Diaspora through design and delivery of effective communication strategies and tools, and facilitating the temporary of healthcare workers to support health institutions in Pakistan through skills transfer and capacity building.

At a broader level, IOM coordinates closely with government counterparts on building a consensus to move the diaspora engagement agenda forward and create a centralized mechanism to enable the meaningful diaspora engagement through knowledge transfer. IOM is also conducting a technical assessment and evaluation of the Government's digital platform that connects diaspora individuals with national institutes.

STABILIZATION AND RESILIENCE

At present, IOM Pakistan's stabilization and resilience efforts focus on supporting community-level development and conflict prevention activities in the newly merged districts of Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan and Orakzai within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. IOM works in close coordination with the Government of Pakistan at the regional and district level, to promote cohesion within and between 'at risk' communities, particularly those with social, ethnic, or religious identities that have been exploited by Violent Extremist organizations. IOM designs programming to ensure that communities have access to public information, benefit from increased social connections within the public sector and across conflicting groups, while addressing barriers across communities that prevent human security, with a focus on three core areas of intervention, namely community cohesion, civic engagement, and livelihoods and local development, primarily through community-based, small grants.

❖ *Community Cohesion*

IOM supports social cohesion efforts through targeted activities to address drivers of conflict that are blocking recovery, as well as integrating community-level peace and cohesion activities. Within these efforts, IOM provides tailored support for the remote and marginalized communities along the Afghan border, including support where poverty, illiteracy and unemployment are key drivers of instability and community tensions, as well as broader support for mediation and dispute resolution mechanisms.

IOM also supports youth in developing and implementing resilience-focused Social Action Projects in their respective communities. These efforts form part of the Youth Empowerment and Development (YELD) Forum, under which youth are provided tailored training to build their capacity, skills, and knowledge to act as proactive agents of change that can contribute to strengthening cohesion within their respective communities.

❖ *Civic Engagement*

IOM is supporting multiple activities to support civic engagement in Pakistan, including through collaboration, engagement, and capacitating of existing civil society forums. These include the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women. IOM recently signed an agreement with the latter, through which IOM will engage youth from the merged districts in seminars on civic engagement, resilience, social cohesion, and the role of the Commission in promoting the rights of women. IOM also provides capacity building to both print and broadcast media, particularly radio, to strengthen their role in increasing understanding and awareness amongst communities on key topics related to civic engagement, such as – inter alia – gender mainstreaming, government return and rehabilitation plans, and governance reforms. These efforts serve to improve local perceptions on the current sociopolitical environment, as well as of the Government and development actors in the region, to encourage civic engagement.

❖ *Livelihoods and Local Development*

Providing livelihoods and strengthening local markets is critical within stabilization and resilience efforts, enabling targeted communities to become more resilient to shocks, regain destroyed assets, inject cash into communities and create productive and beneficial outputs for the wider community.

IOM provides small scale livelihood, social enterprise opportunities and market-driven skills development targeting at-risk groups, supplemented by the provision of materials and equipment for small business development through in-kind or cash-based mechanisms. As part of these efforts, IOM has established two skills development centers within the Sepha, Bara and Tirah Valley areas, and has recently focused efforts on the economic empowerment of women from marginalized communities through a nine-month vocational training to be delivered at the centers. IOM also focuses efforts on the reintegration of former Temporarily Displaced Persons, with livelihoods and local development efforts designed to act as a vehicle to promote social cohesion and tolerance.

RESETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT MANAGEMENT

Resettlement is an international protection tool which meets the specific needs of refugees and other vulnerable persons of concern. Resettlement is also a durable solution for refugees as well as a demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing with those countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

IOM recognizes that the safe and dignified resettlement of refugees and other humanitarian entrants requires a comprehensive, humane and protection-oriented approach – one which recognizes the interdependencies of travel, health and integration as integral components of the resettlement process. Therefore, alongside resettlement, IOM Pakistan implements Pre-Departure Health Assistance and Cultural Orientation, whilst also supporting Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration.

❖ *Resettlement*

IOM works closely with the Government of Pakistan, UNHCR, NGOs and other partners, such as airlines and airport authorities, to enable resettlement. In the last decade, IOM Pakistan has organized the resettlement movements of more

than 10,000 refugees and other vulnerable persons of concern, and has experienced, trained and dedicated staff during departure, transit and arrival phase of movement.

Real-time information management and monitoring of refugee movements and established communication protocols ensure that all partners are kept informed of their progress from take-off to landing, with support provided including – inter alia – validating travel requests; initiation of necessary exit; international flight bookings for individuals and groups, and issuance of tickets; coordination of travel plans with authorities in departure, transit, and destination countries; accommodation arrangements during departure, transit and arrival; passenger assistance at departure; transit assistance; operational and/or medical escorts during travel; reception and arrival assistance.

❖ *Pre-Departure Health Assistance*

Refugees are a vulnerable population, with health profiles that vary according to the displacement experience, pre-existing health conditions and epidemiological profiles, among other factors. Premigration health activities including travel health assistance, ensure that refugees' health needs are addressed prior to departure, that they are fit to travel, and that appropriate arrangements can be made for reception and continuity of care, when needed.

Pre-migration health activities conducted by IOM Pakistan include medical history taking and physical exam, mental health evaluation, radiological and laboratory investigations, pre- and post-test counselling, pre-departure treatment for certain conditions, immunizations, referrals for follow-up and/or pre-travel stabilization, and pre-embarkation checks. Individuals in need of travel health assistance (such as wheelchairs, supplemental oxygen or medical escorts,) during travel are identified at the time of the migration health assessment to ensure that they travel safely and to avoid in-flight medical emergencies or flight deviations. Migration health assessment protocols can be tailored to the epidemiological context and receiving country requirements.

❖ *Cultural Orientation*

Cultural orientation programs prepare refugees and humanitarian entrants for life in countries of resettlement. Cultural orientation sessions provide information concerning – inter alia – what to expect on-arrival in the country of resettlement; an introduction to lifestyle, social and cultural norms; and life-skills trainings, including managing accommodation, transport, banks, and health. These sessions served to allay any fears that refugees and humanitarian entrants may have, give them greater confidence through the basic skills they acquire to deal with the initial stages of their settlement in the country of resettlement, and facilitate their integration through enhanced understanding of the new environment. At present, IOM Pakistan is implementing the Australian Cultural Orientation Program, which is specifically designed for refugees accepted for resettlement in Australia, and the Cultural Orientation Abroad Program, which offers tailor-made curricula for refugees and skilled workers going to Canada.

Interactive and learner-centered sessions are conducted by skilled personnel with a sound understanding of the legal, cultural and skills requirements in the country of resettlement to promote and enable successful integration, and are delivered in the language of the refugees or through a qualified interpreter.

❖ *Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration*

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration implemented by IOM Pakistan follows an approach that facilitates safe and dignified return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, focusing on the well-being of individual returnees and the protection of their rights throughout the entire return, readmission and reintegration process. In the last decade, IOM Pakistan has supported the voluntary return and reintegration of over 8,000 persons to Pakistan.

IOM recognizes the multidimensional nature of a reintegration process – economic, social and psychosocial – and the need to approach reintegration in a comprehensive manner, considering the factors that can affect reintegration at the individual, community and structural levels. Therefore, IOM Pakistan efforts include reception assistance upon return, as well as short- and long-term reintegration support, encompassing reintegration counselling, economic and social assistance, and psychosocial assistance, recognizing that – whilst the foundational reintegration dimension is economic – social and psychosocial support can play a critical role in consolidating and sustaining reintegration gains. Case monitoring is conducted

of those supported under AVRR programming, findings from which is utilized to inform and strengthen reintegration support provided.

❖ *Voluntary Returnee as Messengers*

IOM recognizes that some migrants leave Pakistan with minimal detailed information about specific destinations or the conditions of the journeys, which can force them to constantly develop their own mechanisms to stay safe, which in turn also means a significant level of improvisation. Misinformation and a lack of awareness can influence the initial decision to migrate and increase the risk of ending up in vulnerable situations along the journey.

In response to these risks, IOM Pakistan implements the Voluntary Returnee as Messengers Program, a peer-to-peer awareness-raising campaign that empowers young people in Pakistan to make informed decisions about migration, and diminishes the capacity of traffickers and smugglers to exploit the limited knowledge of potential migrants, whilst providing a counterbalance to false information provided by criminals involved in the facilitation of irregular migration. Within this project, IOM engages returning migrants that have experienced the perils of the journey to tell their stories to peers at awareness raising events. The sessions are discussion-orientated, and returnees provide honest accounts of their migration journey, including dangerous routes undertaken, money paid to different agencies at various steps along the routes taken, expectations and realities of life in the destination countries, as well as reasons to voluntarily return. Testimonies from participants attest to the success of the approach in correcting prior, biased knowledge, perception and attitudes towards the quality of life in Europe, the chances to stay in Europe legally, and the risks related to the journey by land or sea.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

CURRENT ACTIVE BUDGET

72,900,000 USD

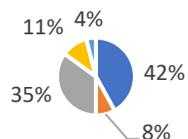
BUDGET FOR 2022

49,850,000 USD

BUDGET FOR 2021

32,400,000 USD

Budget percentage per area of activity



- Resettlement and movement management
- Medical care services
- Emergency services to Afghan nationals
- Border Management
- DTM

APPEALS

The IOM revised Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), released mid-February is funded at 34%. To date, IOM has mobilized a total of USD 202 mill against the USD 589 mill requested, including 172 for Afghanistan.



589M
FUNDING REQUIREMENT



202M
MOBILIZED BY IOM

FOCUS ON BENEFICIARIES

❖ *Aqiq, a symbol of resilience*

Aqiq, a transgender woman from a remote village in district Kurram, set out on a mission to build women’s resilience against violence after receiving training from the CRA-North programme. Despite experiencing prolonged sectarian violence, poverty, and discrimination, Aqiq envisioned a peaceful Kurram valley. In May 2022, she was one of the members of the District Committees on the Status of Women (DCSW) trained by CRA-North. After training, Aqiq designed a ‘Know Your Rights’ project series centered around community resilience, cohesion, civic engagement, and protection for women under the structure of the newly merged districts’ administration. She successfully conducted awareness sessions for marginalized women in remote villages Bisatu, Mahora, and Yaqoobi. Aqiq has become a role model for her community — a symbol of resilience.



Aqiq, a transgender woman, and member of DCSW conducts awareness session on pro-women laws after designing resilience focused social action project with support from in Lower Kurram.

❖ *Aminullah’s journey*

Before the pandemic, Aminullah, a skilled cook in Peshawar, ran a successful micro-business that provided on-demand catered meals. When coronavirus swept across Pakistan, the demand for catered meals drastically declined. As revenue fell, Aminullah’s micro-business struggled to stay afloat, and he was forced to shut down.

IOM’s Individual Livelihood Assistance program completely turned Aminullah’s life around. IOM provided funds that allowed him to restart his catering business on an even larger scale. Aminullah’s business now provides him with a stable income. He currently employs seven people — three POR card holders, two ACC card holders, one undocumented migrant, and one Pakistani citizen.

During the EU delegation visit, Aminullah shared his story with representatives. He was thrilled to share how IOM’s

support changed his life and created new employment opportunities for migrants in his community.

