

Pakistan

Photo: UNHCR



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Context

Pakistan is one of the countries hosting the largest number of refugees in the world. It is also home to other vulnerable populations, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), and communities affected by natural disasters.

Despite the efforts of humanitarian actors, the needs of many vulnerable individuals remain unmet due to geographic limitations, security concerns, weak identification and referral mechanisms, and lack of necessary facilities. Certain groups face additional difficulties in accessing support, such as non-Afghan refugees who experience language barriers and discrimination, single women with children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) who face difficulties due to conservative social and cultural norms in Pakistan.

Operations

ICMC has been operating in Pakistan since 1998, responding to the basic and most urgent needs of local and refugee communities affected by natural disasters and human crises.

ICMC's work targets the most vulnerable individuals and groups in both rural and urban areas, and includes a broad range of activities, such as livelihood, disaster risk reduction (DRR), protection, emergency response, shelter, education, security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Throughout this work, ICMC makes sure that the local communities are involved in the projects and that interventions for women and girls are adapted to their needs.



LIVELIHOOD

Improving livelihoods and empowering vulnerable communities:

- professional and vocational skills training;
- increasing the quality and quantity of workers' products and their incomes;
- facilitating access to markets through linkages to suppliers and businesses;
- empowering workers, advocating for labor rights.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Improving the resilience of vulnerable communities to natural disasters:

- improving the preparedness and capacity of communities to respond to natural disasters and mitigate risks;
- repairing damage and developing key infrastructure to protect communities from the impact of future disasters;
- increasing the capacity of community leaders to advocate for disaster risk reduction.



PROTECTION

Providing protection to vulnerable refugees:

- protecting and supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;
- meeting basic needs of vulnerable urban non-Afghan refugees;
- determining, through a process of "best interests determination", the best interests of refugee children at risk referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Activities



LIVELIHOOD

Overcoming initial obstacles to employment

- Rehabilitating schools and training teachers to improve educational environments.
- Basic literacy and numeracy training for adults.
- Language classes for non-Afghan refugees.

Professional skills training

- Certified training for adults to develop skills in demand in local markets.
- Technical and vocational training programs for youth.

Increasing incomes

- Providing materials and equipment through community-based business centers and cooperatives to improve the quality and quantity of workers' products.
- Cash grants to establish small businesses.
- Promoting links between successful trainees and potential employers after the end of the training.
- Providing the most vulnerable families with monthly allowances before they regain economic independence.

Facilitating access to markets

- Business, finance and marketing skills training.
- Providing marketing assistance and developing market linkages with suppliers and businesses.

Empowering workers

- Supporting home-based women workers in advocating for workplace labor rights.
- Facilitating access to social benefits for home-based women workers by promoting linkages with governments and service providers.
- Reducing the dependency of refugees from external assistance by encouraging the development of new skills which allow them to become self-sufficient.

Key figures



More than 1,000 students benefited from improved education facilities

72%

of young people attending vocational training earn a livelihood within 5 months



Training in skills such as poultry and livestock rearing, honey bee keeping, candle-making, plumbing, electrical work and garment making

218%

increase in monthly average income of home-based women workers after joining ICMC's cooperatives

“ With ICMC’s support, my daughter was able to access education beyond the 5th grade. I am confident that she will be able to build a brighter future now. ”

Woman beneficiary of a sexual and gender-based violence prevention project in Pakistan



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In Pakistan, a country exposed to natural disasters, ICMC's work includes emergency response and risk prevention. In particular, ICMC helps communities prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and mitigate risks, by:

- conducting training about disaster risk reduction (DRR), first aid, safe environments and water, environment and sanitation;
- providing tool kits and first aid kits to communities and schools, including training on their use; and
- mapping potential hazards, developing disaster mitigation and emergency safety plans in villages and schools.

ICMC also repairs damage and reduces the impact of future disasters by constructing and rehabilitating key infrastructure to facilitate evacuations and protect against floods, and by supporting tree plantation campaigns to reduce land erosion and flood flow.

ICMC ensures the sustainability of its work on disaster risk reduction by supporting community leaders in lobbying and advocating for disaster risk reduction. In particular, ICMC facilitates consultations with government and other stakeholders concerning the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures in affected villages, and their integration into disaster response policies formulated at higher governmental levels.

With thanks to our donors



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PROTECTION

ICMC also protects the most vulnerable refugees by:

- providing safe shelter facilities for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and ensuring access through shelters to essential services, such as medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and interactive learning classes for children;
- determining, through a process of best interest determination, the most suitable solution to the protection needs of children at risk.
- ensuring that the basic needs of vulnerable urban non-Afghan refugees are met, including by providing subsistence and education allowances to vulnerable refugee families, access to services (such as medical care and psychosocial support), and pre-departure financial assistance to refugees who are to be resettled or repatriated.

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