



FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION'S DESK

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past quarter, we also enter 2024 and I want to wish you a very happy new year. We want to share renewed enthusiasm for our work emphasizing that migration is part of the solution to the challenges we witness globally and in Pakistan. Migrants are actors of change and have solutions to offer, which we highlighted in our celebrations for the International Migrants Day.

More than a year has passed since the floods of 2022 impacted the lives of more than 33 million people. Despite response and recovery efforts from humanitarian organizations and the government, an estimated 1.5 million people remain displaced with limited access to necessities, such as food, shelter, and health. IOM Pakistan continued its unwavering commitment to increase access to these necessities and support in the recovery and rehabilitation of the flood affected communities.

In October 2023, Pakistan announced plans to repatriate Afghans back to Afghanistan under the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP). This has been an important concern for IOM Pakistan and its partners, as Afghanistan is going through a severe humanitarian crisis with several human rights challenges, particularly for women and girls. IOM Pakistan acknowledges the sovereignty of Pakistan and the right of the government to develop policies to ensure its own public's safety, however, IOM Pakistan continued to advocate for a due-process during returns.

IOM Pakistan continues to advocate for and protect the rights of the Afghan population throughout this quarter. Additionally, IOM Pakistan has continued to provide resettlement and relocation services for Afghan nationals in other countries. It is noteworthy to highlight that this last quarter has seen a surge in charter flights to resettle Afghans and the number of Afghans resettled in 2023 is double than the number of Afghans resettled in the previous year.

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FOLLOW US

IOM Pakistan continues to promote safe, orderly, and dignified migration, navigating challenges and seizing opportunities to create lasting impacts. Throughout these months, our teams worked diligently to address the unique needs of migrants, recognizing the diverse factors influencing their journeys. From conducting awareness raising sessions, capacity building trainings, improving conditions for migration and combatting Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM), IOM Pakistan has remained at the forefront of impactful initiatives.

In the spirit of collaboration, we have strengthened partnerships with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. The shared commitment to our mission has not only deepened our impact but has also facilitated a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to migration management.

As 2024 starts, IOM Pakistan is excited to share its [Crisis Response Plan \(CRP\) for 2024 and 2025](#) which highlights priority areas of work in Pakistan, including activities we will undertake as well as the budget needed to meet the objectives laid out in the CRP. IOM Pakistan's work will be aligned with the newly issued [IOM global strategic plan for 2024-2028](#) centred around three objectives: saving lives and protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement, and facilitating pathways for regular migration. Both were presented and highlighted to partners during IOM's Director General, Amy Pope's visit in December 2023.

I express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated teams at IOM Pakistan, our partners, as well as to the Government of Pakistan (GoP) who contribute to the success of our mission. As we look ahead to the new year, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to shape a future where migration is a source of empowerment and unity.

MIO SATO, CHIEF OF MISSION

IOM PAKISTAN

Amy Pope, IOM's Director General visits Pakistan within her first 100 days in office

On 1 October 2023, Director General (DG) Amy Pope began her term as the first woman DG in IOM's 72-year history. As part of her first 100 days in office, she visited Pakistan on 20 and 21 December 2023 giving prominence to the high number of Pakistani migrants and the opportunities of work and cooperation on labour migration, as well as the situation of vulnerable Afghan populations in Pakistan. During this time, she met with key government stakeholders, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, female members of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Women Association (APWA), visited IOM Pakistan's clinic where migrants get health services prior to departing the country. In addition, the DG gave a podcast interview to Hum Media where she discussed her visit to Pakistan and IOM Pakistan's efforts to promote safe and orderly migration. Watch and listen to the podcast [here](#)



IOM Director General, Amy Pope, gives a podcast interview to Hum Media and hosted by Mr. Usama Nizamani. [Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui / IOM Pakistan 2023]



IOM Director General, Amy Pope, visits IOM Pakistan's clinic in Islamabad. [Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui / IOM Pakistan 2023]

IOM Pakistan Crisis Response Plan (CRP)

The [Global CRP Platform](#) was launched by DG Amy Pope. The Pakistan CRP included in the Global CRP Platform is a strategic and comprehensive resource mobilization and communication tool presenting an overview of the immediate and longer-term planning and funding requirements to respond to the evolving needs of those impacted by, or at risk of, crises and displacement in Pakistan. Read [more](#)

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Immigration and Border Governance

IOM Pakistan, in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior (MOI), initiated the assessment of Pakistan's border management capacities. On 15 November 2023, IOM Pakistan organized a stakeholders' consultation meeting to solicit inputs on key gaps and challenges on border management and adapt assessment approach in line with government's priorities. In December 2023, IOM Pakistan completed the first assessment visit to Karachi International Airport, Karachi Seaport, Ghassbandar Seaport and Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Karachi to gather information relating to gaps and needs on administrative, regulatory, operational, and information management aspects of border management.

IOM Pakistan facilitated the visit of officials from MOI and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to participate in the 8th annual meeting of the Asian Network for Document Examination (ANDEX) held in Bangkok on 23 and 24 November 2023. The meeting comprised of officials from immigration agencies from across Asia and the Pacific and aimed towards enhancing capacities and regional cooperation on addressing challenges related to document frauds in immigration and border management.



Participants of the ANDEX meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. [Migration Management Department / IOM Pakistan 2023]

Readmission Management

To sustain progress on the successful roll-out of the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) in 23 European Union Member States (EU MS), IOM Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), organized a refresher workshop for RCMS end-users in Pakistan on 14 and 15 October 2023. The workshop aimed at strengthening the technical knowledge on usage of the RCMS, discuss operational challenges with processing readmission applications and further discussions on integration of RCMS with IOM Pakistan's RCMS.

Counter Trafficking

In November 2023, IOM Pakistan in collaboration with FIA organized two workshops targeting members of anti-human trafficking committees from 20 districts in Pakistan, with the

objective of strengthening operational capacities of stakeholders on combatting TIP and SOM. 56 officials from the FIA, Social Welfare Departments, Police, Child Protection Bureaus, Prosecution and Civil Society participated in the workshops.

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, and in collaboration with the Global Migration Media Academy (GMMMA) and Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), IOM Pakistan trained over 100 media professionals and journalists on ethical and victim-centered approaches to reporting on issues of TIP and SOM. The trainings were a unique and critical initiative in Pakistan and contributed towards FIA's efforts to combat TIP and SOM in a collaborative manner, while ensuring that safety and well-being of victims of TIP and migrants in vulnerable situations are at the core of all interventions. Consult the [press release](#) on this event to know more and watch IOM Pakistan's video on the event and hear from participants themselves [here](#).



Participants from Media outlets in Pakistan exchange on the outcomes of their discussions and work carried during the Media training on TIP and SOM. [Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui / IOM Pakistan 2023]

Labour Mobility and Inclusion

IOM Pakistan facilitated the participation of senior government officials of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MoOP&HRD) in the "Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWG) Meetings of the Colombo Process and the Reintegration Knowledge Forum" in December 2023. The delegation chaired the meeting of the TAWG on "Promoting Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittances", which focused on improving access to affordable and efficient channels of remittance transfer, especially for the low-skilled migrant workers.

"Regional Manual on Reintegration for South Asian Migrant Workers", developed by IOM, was launched and endorsed by member states in the Reintegration Knowledge Forum. This manual provides guidance on best practices and methods of implementation for sustainable solutions that are inclusive and gender-responsive to the reintegration of returning migrant workers. [Read more](#)

IOM Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) on 18 October 2023 to strengthen cooperation and collaboration on initiatives relating to promotion and protection of human rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations. Under the MoU, both organizations will engage specifically to implement joint activities aimed at generating evidence and research, improving awareness and outreach and provision of policy advice, in line with priorities of the Government of Pakistan.

Read [more](#)



Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson of the NCHR and Mio SATO, Chief of Mission IOM Pakistan sign the MoU and signify the start of the lasting cooperation on promoting and protection migrants rights. [NCHR 2023]

MANAGING HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

IOM Pakistan participated in various pre-UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP28) events arranged by GoP and civil society stakeholders to ensure that the nexus between Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) remains on the agenda for the GoP and other participants during the COP28 held in the United Arab Emirates from 31 November to 13 December 2023. During COP28, IOM Pakistan facilitated the travel and participation of GoP to relevant events, while facilitating the participation of IOM's international experts to panel discussions at the Pakistan pavilion.

IOM Pakistan continued to strengthen its engagement with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination through various meetings.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

IOM Pakistan continued its efforts to deliver both humanitarian support and recovery support, mainly through shelter rehabilitation, to those still affected by the floods. At the same time, IOM Pakistan also supports Afghan populations in Pakistan with protection, health, and livelihoods services and leads advocacy efforts to protect Afghan populations rights in Pakistan under the IFRP.

Assistance provided to flood-affected population

- As part of continuing efforts to collect data to provide evidence upon which to deliver its assistance, IOM Pakistan completed the fifth round of the flood response Community Needs Identification (CNI) across 17 districts in Balochistan and Sindh. This data provides better understanding of the displacement situation and multisectoral recovery needs of the flood-affected populations.
- IOM Pakistan continued to work alongside the GoP and organized a workshop on “National Data Needs Identification Exercise on Human Mobility” on 13 October 2023. Participants included staff from NADRA, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE), Chief Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CCAR), Home Department, Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), FIA, Ministry of Climate Change, Planning and Development Department.

IOM Pakistan published two provincial reports of the CNI for flood displaced population which can be found here: [Balochistan](#) and [Khyber Pakhtukhwa](#).



- As the Shelter NFI Sector lead IOM Pakistan assisted 12,486 flood-affected households through provision of emergency shelters. The sector also coordinated and led winter preparedness and response in snow-bound and affected districts and assisted 64,736 households through provision of winter kits to cope with harsh weather.
- IOM Pakistan provided the following WASH, Shelter and CCCM support:

Distribution of core relief items and kits



3,692 Flood-affected households (benefitting an estimated 25,844 individuals)

WASH support



270 Flood-affected households benefiting an estimated 1,890 individuals

Construction of latrines



40 Latrines

Construction of shelters



110 Shelters

Cash for Work beneficiaries



78 Males

Assistance provided to Afghan populations in Pakistan and host communities

- To better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghans returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan in relations to the implementation of the IFRP, IOM Pakistan and UNHCR collated their data on the arrest, detention, and deportation of Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghans as well as on the outflows of Afghans at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points. The key figures are reported in a weekly [flash update](#).
- In addition to the flash updates, IOM Pakistan continues to publish flow monitoring reports to monitor and quantify the mobility trends and patterns of Afghans departing from Pakistan see more: [bi-weekly FM reports](#).
- IOM Pakistan provided the following protection services during this quarter:

PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT (PCM)



PCM
364
Individuals



Case Workers
17
Individuals

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION (CBP)



Awareness
Sessions
11,565
Individuals



Community
Centers
19



Outreach
Volunteers
653
Individuals

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



Outreach
Sessions
9,751
Individuals



Women &
Girls Friendly
Space
12



Dignity
Kits
653
Individuals

CAPACITY BUILDING (CB)



PSEA
9,751
Individuals



PCM
28
Individuals



GBV Case
Management
8
Individuals

- IOM Pakistan conducted a workshop to strengthen collaboration and increase support to CCAR and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in October 2023. IOM Pakistan also conducted provincial level training for CAR staff, in Islamabad and Quetta, to strengthen their capacity on protection concepts and standards.

- In conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism campaign for 2023, Blue Veins, IOM Pakistan's Gender-Based Violence (GBV) implementing partner in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, established and launched the first toll-free GBV helpline dedicated for the Afghan community, specifically for ACC holders and undocumented Afghans. The Marasta Helpline (0800-02828) aims to facilitate a safe and accessible platform for reporting GBV incidents, protection risks and seeking support, including referrals to other services.

- On November 27, 2023, IOM Pakistan Protection unit in collaboration with UNFPA, UNHCR and SRSP, commemorated the 16 Days of Activism campaign with an event at the City District Women Degree College Peshawar. 88 young women and girls pursuing their bachelor's degree at City College participated in the event. Read [more](#)

LEGAL SERVICES



Legal
Aid
1,570
Individuals



Legal
Camps
1,020
Individuals



Capacity
Building
187
Individuals



Gul delivers an awareness raising sessions to Afghan female beneficiaries on GBV. [Muhammad Zeeshan Siddiqui / IOM Pakistan 2023]

Qamar Gul, a Community Outreach Volunteer (COV), received training from IOM Pakistan and its partner, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), on GBV, protection, and available referral mechanisms.

Empowered by the knowledge gained during the training, Gul now leads awareness sessions on GBV for local women in Balochistan. She imparts information about GBV, the risks associated with early marriages, and educates them on how to access support through IOM Pakistan's referral mechanisms.

"I am deeply honored to serve as a COV. Although I completed my education up to the 12th grade, I couldn't pursue further studies. This work brings purpose to my life, and I take pride in sharing these important messages with women who face restricted mobility and unfortunate confinement within their homes."

Despite facing eviction notices and encountering mixed reactions within her community, Gul perseveres. She continues to warmly welcome women to her awareness-raising sessions, maintaining her commitment to educating them about GBV.

Gul is among the forty COVs trained by IOM Pakistan and BRSP in Balochistan. To date, COVs like Gul have conducted 530 awareness-raising sessions on GBV for both men and women in Balochistan, reaching over 9,000 Afghans in Pakistan.

- Aiming to contribute to improvement of the knowledge and expertise of health workers, as well as expanding their reach, IOM Pakistan provided a health and psychological first aid training to 251 staff from IOM Pakistan, Government and NGO partners, as well as key members of the communities served. In addition, IOM Pakistan also provided the following emergency health services:

Lifesaving emergency health services

 32,638

Beneficiaries received services such as communicable and non-communicable diseases, child health and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH, including family planning, and ante and postnatal care) services, and emergency referrals.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

 20,096

Community members supported through Psychological First Aid, individual and groups counselling sessions as well as group art therapy for children.

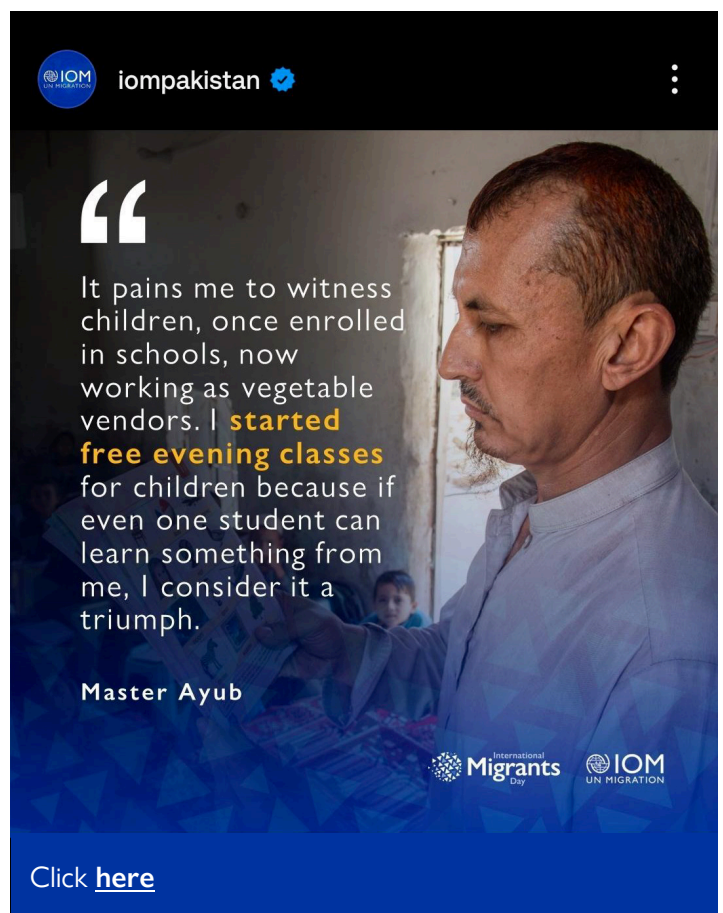
Risk communication and community engagement

 11,992

Beneficiaries were reached through health promotion sessions, door to door visits, campaigns and community corner meetings.

International Migrants Day

IOM Pakistan joined IOM's global online campaign for International Migrants Day to recognize and celebrate the many opportunities of migration. IOM Pakistan also shed light on migrants in Pakistan who bring concrete solutions to their communities, such as Ayub.



“

It pains me to witness children, once enrolled in schools, now working as vegetable vendors. I **started free evening classes** for children because if even one student can learn something from me, I consider it a triumph.

Master Ayub

Click [here](#)

RESETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT

Pre-Departure Health Assistance












This quarter witnessed a heavy inflow of patients at the four clinics that IOM Pakistan operates across Pakistan. A total of 39,099 beneficiaries were supported with migration health assessments, pre-embarkation medical check, or fitness to travel checks:

Beneficiaries	Activities
25,479	Immigrant Immigration Medical Exam (IIME)
5,815	Refugee Immigration Medical Exam (RIME)
7,799	Pre-Embarkation Medical Check (PEC)
06	Medical check for individuals participating in Voluntary Return (AVR) cases

Resettlement

IOM Pakistan continued to be engaged in the resettlement of an increased number of Afghan nationals in coordination with the various embassies of countries where they are being resettled. 14 chartered flights were arranged by IOM Pakistan (12 to Canada and two to the United Kingdom). 6,677 Afghan nationals were assisted for departure (3,360 males and 3,317 females). Under Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO), Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA), UK Cultural Orientation (UKCO) programs, 2,235 Afghans were provided cultural orientation in 96 sessions.

Countries of Destination

	4485		1360
Canada		U.S.A	
	85		37
Australia		Brazil	
	585		95
U.K		Italy	
	16		06
New Zealand		Norway	
	04		03
Netherlands		Sweden	
	01		
Switzerland			



Tamana (on the right and her family, waiting to check in their luggage and board their flight to the UK. [Maha Akbar/ IOM Pakistan, 2023]

Story of Tamana, being resettled in the UK

Tamana, a 33-year-old mother of two, felt an overwhelming sense of excitement as she embarked on her journey to the UK. She was excited about the prospect of immersing herself in a new culture, forming connections with different people, and exploring new opportunities.

She hopes that in the UK, her children will be able to grow and learn without restrictions, free from concerns about their safety and mental well-being.

"I've always had a passion for basketball, but the circumstances in Afghanistan never allowed me to play. If my daughter shares my love for basketball, I'll wholeheartedly support her pursuit, allowing her to follow her dreams."

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

Strengthened Community Cohesion

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government established the Right to Public Services Commission (RTPSC) in 2014 to ensure timely public service delivery and compensate citizens for service delays. IOM Pakistan in collaboration with the North Waziristan District Administration, and RTPSC held an inaugural workshop in December 2023. The workshop aimed to inform communities, especially elders, youth, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), religious leaders, and government officials, about accessing RTPSC information and filing complaints.



Participants take part in the inaugural workshop learning more about RTPSC. [IOM Pakistan 2023]

Increased Civic Engagement

In response to a lack of female representation in addressing violent extremism in Khyber district, IOM Pakistan collaborated with the Khyber district administration and relevant CSOs to enhance community involvement, especially among women in remote areas. Under this initiative, IOM Pakistan established networks among displaced and conflict-affected women in Upper Bara and Tirah Valley. Nine workshops were conducted during the quarter, involving 225 female participants on topics such as deradicalization, conflict resolution, and the role youths and different gender roles play in this regard.



Women take part in workshops and discuss female-led solutions to address violent extremism. [IOM Pakistan 2023]

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

IOM Pakistan fills the role of third-party monitoring partner of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs-Pakistan (INL-P). INL-P is funding infrastructure and agricultural projects in KP and Balochistan provinces. During this quarter, IOM Pakistan conducted a total of 24 monitoring visits to verify the delivery of information technology items at prison sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and assess the police line project.



IOM Pakistan monitors activities at prison site in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. [IOM Pakistan 2023]



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development
#ForMigration





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From
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