



We hope that this finds you, your colleagues, families and loved ones in good health. This newsletter will provide you an insight into the work of IOM in Pakistan from July to December 2024. We wish you an interesting read!

FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION'S DESK

As we reflect on the second half of 2024, I am pleased to highlight the important progress that IOM Pakistan has achieved in delivering on its mandate to support the needs of vulnerable, mobile, populations, including Afghan nationals and host communities across Pakistan. Our commitment to both the UNSDCF and IOM's Strategic Objectives continued to guide our actions, ensuring that we save lives, drive solutions to displacement, and facilitate pathways for regular migration.

During the second half of 2024, we have worked alongside our partners, to respond to the pressing challenges posed by seasonal monsoons, economic uncertainties, and evolving migration patterns. From deploying the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) to a new country to implementing Quick Impact Projects and expanding enterprise development, our efforts have been comprehensive and impactful. We have reinforced our commitment to creating sustainable and inclusive solutions through collaboration with local communities, government counterparts, and international stakeholders.

As we look forward to 2025, IOM Pakistan remains steadfast in its mission to support the Government of Pakistan and leverage migration as a force for good. I am confident that with your continued support, we will further strengthen our impact and foster a future of dignity and opportunity for all.

MIO SATO, CHIEF OF MISSION

IOM PAKISTAN

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OBJECTIVE 1 – SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



1,500 households received shelter and non-food items.



20,910 individuals, including Afghan nationals and host communities, accessed essential healthcare services.



4,727 beneficiaries received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).



4,727 individuals benefited from protection services.



Awareness Raising Session at Peshawar Community Center. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

“My name is Amina; I am an Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holder, and I have been visiting the community center in Peshawar which is being operated by IOM together with the Society for Human Rights and Prisoners’ Aid (SHARP) for the past year. I am truly grateful for the protection services provided. The community center serves as a valuable platform for continuous learning, with dedicated staff educating us about our rights and providing a helpline number for free legal assistance in case of issues like arrests. This center has been crucial in empowering us with the necessary knowledge and resources to navigate our lives effectively.

My journey at the community center has been transformative. Initially reserved, I became more active through interactions, which led to my recommendation as a community volunteer. The center has been a lifeline for me emotionally and financially, as I acquired stitching skills that help me earn a living, supporting my husband, a daily wage worker, and our nine children. The staff also educates us on health and hygiene, significantly impacting our lives by encouraging clean habits and prioritizing personal hygiene. This center is more than just a physical space; it is a sanctuary that has transformed my life holistically, empowering me with skills, livelihood opportunities, emotional support and sustains us through life’s challenges.”

Alleviating the suffering of flood affected households

IOM continued to distribute Shelter and Non-Food Item (SNFI) and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) kits/core relief items to flood affected households through IOM’s Common Pipeline. 1,500 households affected by the 2024 monsoon rains and floods benefited from the kits. Distributions were carried out in Khairpur district (Sindh), and Jaffarabad, Kachhi, Sohbatpur, and Pishin districts (Balochistan). The kits included emergency items provided as part of shelter kits, shelter repair toolkits, winter kits, hygiene kits, and dignity kits. In Pishin district, Balochistan, IOM collaborated with the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) Balochistan Office to distribute kits to ACC holders affected by the monsoon floods.



Shelter teams conducting assessments and evaluating damages in flood-affected areas. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

Raising awareness on disease prevention

Awareness raising sessions conducted to educate communities on the prevention of common and seasonal diseases, such as malaria, acute watery diarrhea, cholera, and scabies. These sessions reached 7,666 individuals improving community knowledge on disease prevention.

Capacity building for health authorities


IOM provided on-the-job training on various health topics to 1,794 health workers including facilitation for the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). The training, along with supportive supervision, further empowered mobile medical teams to improve healthcare services for vulnerable populations.


Supporting evidence-based decision making

DTM launched its first Afghan Response Community Needs Identification (CNI) report focusing on the needs of Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan. This comprehensive report serves as an evidence-base for the implementation of humanitarian, recovery, and development-oriented programmes supporting Afghan and host communities. The data collection for the quarter covered over 8,200 settlements, interviewing close to 40,000 community focal points, ensuring a wide-reaching and inclusive approach.











OBJECTIVE 2: DRIVING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Providing displaced people with resettlement and relocation solutions

 6,956 beneficiaries were resettled across ten countries.

 1,067 individuals awaiting resettlement received pre-departure cultural orientation training

Countries of destination

 3,862 United States of America	 2,123 Canada
 631 Australia	 265 United Kingdom
 43 New Zealand	 12 Switzerland
 07 Netherlands	 05 Rwanda
 05 Belgium	 03 Sweden

Supporting the recovery, resilience and self-reliance of displaced individuals

 08 Quick Impact Projects Completed

 100,000 individuals benefit from improved infrastructure

 23 businesses supported through EDF

 720 individuals benefit from business development training

Community engagement for intervention planning

8 Quick Impact Projects to address critical needs in water, education, health and social cohesion were completed to benefit 100,939 individuals. To tailor future initiatives to community needs, 20 focus group discussions were conducted across Balochistan and Punjab, with 250 participants. The findings from these sessions indicated that water, education, and sanitation are top priorities for both host and Afghan communities.

Enterprise development fund (EDF)

IOM supported 23 small and medium-sized businesses in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the EDF, creating 100 job opportunities, with 50% filled by Afghan Citizen Card holders. IOM launched a second EDF outreach campaign which led to 8,072 applications received and currently being assessed.



Afshan checks the quality of printed packaging products at her small factory in Peshawar. [Saad Rizwan/IOM Pakistan 2024]



Afshan, a remarkable female entrepreneur from Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is the proud owner of FastMove Packages, a custom packaging manufacturing business that has been transformed with support from IOM's Enterprise Development Fund (EDF). Through this initiative, Afshan acquired two critical machines—a flex printing machine and a rotary slotting machine—that revolutionized her production line by consolidating multiple steps into one, drastically cutting down processing time and boosting efficiency.

“With IOM’s support, we’ve scaled our daily production from 2,000 to 10,000 cotton items, a fivefold increase that’s allowed us to meet growing demand,” Afshan proudly shares. This remarkable growth has enabled her to create eight new jobs, four of which are filled by Afghan Citizen Card holders, contributing to both economic empowerment and community integration. Afshan’s story is a powerful testament to how targeted financial assistance can ignite business growth and foster inclusive job creation in Pakistan.



Business development training

To enhance business management skills for individuals looking to create micro-businesses or expand existing ones, IOM provided business development training to 340 Afghan Citizen Card holders and 380 host community members from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh. During the forthcoming reporting period, beneficiaries who successfully submit a business plan after completing the training will receive small grants, provided in two instalments, to purchase equipment for establishing or growing their businesses.

Enabling communities, enabling resilience: Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-N)

The Closing Ceremony of the Community Resilience Activity - North took place in August 2024, in Bhurban, marking a pivotal moment in the journey of community resilience and flood recovery in the Merged Districts and District Swat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This event celebrated the successful conclusion of CRA-N, a program that supported community-level development and conflict prevention activities in the Merged Districts of Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan and Orakzai within the KP. During the event, the program’s achievements, including key statistics and heartfelt stories from participants, were presented to illustrate the program’s significant impact on reducing marginalization and exclusion amongst remote communities. Most vulnerable to instability and violent extremism. This ceremony laid the groundwork for future initiatives in resilience building and sustainable development.



Mio Sato, Chief of Mission at IOM Pakistan, gets a presentation on the Mushroom product line set up by the Tirah Mushroom and Agriculture Development Welfare Organization (TMADWO) staff at the CRA-N Closing Ceremony. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

OBJECTIVE 3 – FACILITATING PATHWAYS FOR REGULAR MIGRATION

Supporting well-managed migration flows and cross-border mobility



An IOM trainer guides FIA immigration officials, working in pairs, to develop comprehensive training modules for upcoming cascaded sessions aimed at training junior FIA officers. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

To enhance Pakistan’s border management and combat cross-border crime, IOM conducted a specialized five-day training session in early July for eight senior immigration officials from Pakistan’s Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The training focused on advanced investigation techniques to detect irregular cross border activities, advanced interviewing techniques for witnesses and suspects, and effective report writing on cross-border crime cases.

Furthermore, a training was also held on Travel Documents and Identification—Biometrics to enhance the capacity of FIA border officials working at the international airports and land-border points across Pakistan in travel document examination procedures, focusing on responsible use of biometrics to contribute to the protection of vulnerable migrants while facilitating cross-border mobility and security. Subsequently, the master trainers along with the international trainer delivered two cascaded training sessions to new recruits and junior FIA immigration officials. .



IOM’s international expert, Mr. Saud Kadic, in a group photo with FIA immigration officials at the end of the Training of Trainers (ToT) session. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

Supporting the formulation of evidence-based migration policies



Group picture from the launch of “Perilous Journeys: Unraveling Irregular Migration from Pakistan” in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR). [IOM Pakistan 2024]

In late August 2024, in Lahore, the report titled “Perilous Journeys: Unraveling Irregular Migration from Pakistan” was launched in collaboration with the NCHR, with support from the Canadian High Commission, and the Embassy of Denmark. The launch of the report marked a significant step forward in addressing irregular migration and human rights issues in Pakistan. The event provided an opportunity for key government officials, representatives from civil society organizations, and various stakeholders, to gather and highlighting the critical importance of addressing irregular migration and human rights issues in Pakistan

In an effort to raise awareness to end human trafficking, IOM Pakistan, in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Labour Organization (ILO), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDo) and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), organized a joint event on the occasion of World Trafficking Day on 30 July 2024 . The event, aligned with this year’s theme “Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking” was attended by senior government officials, donors, CSOs, and media professionals. Participants emphasized on the urgent need to protect vulnerable children and combat human trafficking in all its forms.



Participants pose for a group picture on the World Trafficking Day event. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

Readmission Management



Participants pose for a group picture during the deployment of RCMS in Hungary. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

As part of the implementation and digitization of the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement (EURA), the Pakistan Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) was deployed in Hungary in mid-July 2024. The RCMS is an online system that helps manage the return of Pakistani nationals from other countries. It ensures that people who are being sent back to Pakistan go through a smooth and organized process. This makes the 24th country in which the system is deployed, covering both the Hungarian Policy Authority and the Pakistani Diplomatic Mission. As a result of this deployment, the Hungarian authorities can now process readmission applications digitally, streamlining the readmission workflow and reducing paper-based processes. The deployment mission comprised of senior officials from the Pakistani Ministry of Interior and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), along with participation from IOM Pakistan and IOM EURCAP team in Brussels.

Family Assistance Program

Started in 2023 in Pakistan, through its global initiative, IOM Family Assistance Program (FAP) facilitates the reunification of vulnerable Afghan families fleeing regions affected by violence and conflict, with a person holding protection status in Germany.

From July to December 2024, a total of 582 families visited the Family Assistance Program (FAP) center in Islamabad. This included 461 applications for family reunification visa for Afghan nationals. IOM conducted document completeness checks and applicant interviews to be ultimately forwarded to the Consular section of the German Embassy in Islamabad.



IOM staff member provides orientation session to applicants for IOM's Family Assistance Programme. [Saad Rizwan/IOM Pakistan 2024]



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development
#ForMigration



IOM ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN ARE FUNDED BY



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