

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. We wish you an interesting read!

## FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION'S DESK

I am pleased to share highlights from the second quarter of the year. During this quarter, IOM Pakistan continued to provide crucial support to the Government of Pakistan in responding to and managing the needs of the most vulnerable migrants. IOM programmes facilitated structured and open dialogue between various stakeholders, including migrants, the Government, and representatives from civil society organizations. This newsletter will provide insight into IOM Pakistan's impactful work across the country.

On 16 June, we marked the International Day of Family Remittances. Pakistan is one of the top recipients of remittances globally. At IOM Pakistan, we recognize that migrant remittances are an essential lifeline for many families in Pakistan. Remittances from family members have and will continue to support Pakistan's economy by easing economic pressure and improving livelihoods. The Government of Pakistan also reaffirmed its commitment to improve access to formal remittance channels for migrant workers, enhance their access to financial services and empower the effective use of remittances for both migrant workers and their families by chairing the 6th meeting of the Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWG) on Remittances under the Colombo Process (CP) in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 - 23 June 2022.

During this quarter, IOM Pakistan also inaugurated another Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC) in Islamabad to enhance operations under its Migration Health Division (MHD).

I am thrilled to witness and be a part of the impactful work performed by the IOM Pakistan mission with utmost commitment and dedication. I want to thank the Government of Pakistan and our donor counterparts for their ongoing support and facilitation of IOM's activities in Pakistan.

**Mio Sato, Chief of Mission  
IOM Pakistan**

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Chief of Mission IOM, Mio Sato inaugurated another Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC) in Islamabad (22 June 2022) © MHD / IOM Pakistan

## Counter Trafficking

IOM Pakistan continued to provide direct assistance to victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) through its implementing partner. During this quarter, 35 victims were referred by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from its Taftan, Multan, and Peshawar zonal offices. IOM's implementing partner provided psycho-social support, medical care, reintegration assistance, and basic living supplies services to eight victims of TIP/SOM during this time.

IOM Pakistan is also developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for service delivery for victims of TIP and SOM. As part of this activity, IOM Pakistan carried out field visits to conduct Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with relevant stakeholders across the country. These discussions were held with stakeholders from FIA, Social Welfare Departments, Child Protection Departments, Labour Departments, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) based in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta, and Islamabad. These findings will be finalized as a Gaps Analysis Report and SOP document, which will be shared with relevant stakeholders for review and finalization.

Moreover, IOM Pakistan continued its sensitization sessions on TIP and SOM for local NGOs in Pakistan. Four sessions were organized this quarter in Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, and Peshawar, inviting representatives from over 40 local NGOs in Pakistan. The events facilitated discussion on best global practices from NGOs and enabled us to understand better the support IOM can provide in facilitating the implementation of similar interventions in Pakistan.

## Readmission Management

Under IOM's ongoing Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) programme, which has digitized the flow of readmission applications from EU Member States, IOM Pakistan and NADRA provided continuous support to RCMS end-users. IOM Pakistan coordinated closely with the relevant EU authorities and the Ministry of Interior (MOI) for RCMS deployment in the additional EU Member States.

As part of the decisions taken at the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting, IOM and NADRA concluded deployments in the EU authority sites of Latvia, Estonia, and Luxembourg and the Pakistani Diplomatic Mission in Poland in the first week of April. Moreover, IOM and NADRA initiated the next phase of RCMS deployment in Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria from the end of June 2022.

IOM Pakistan, in close collaboration with NADRA, also organized a two-day mentorship workshop for RCMS end-users in May, which featured participation from MOI, Directorate General Immigration and Passports (DGIMPASS), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The workshop provided participants with technical knowledge to operate the RCMS and provided the opportunity to discuss the technical and operational challenges faced by all stakeholders.

Moreover, to further explore RCMS development, IOM organized a virtual workshop with relevant Government of Pakistan authorities by the end of this quarter to discuss a possible integration of the e-RCMS solution, which is a cost-effective alternative and a unified function of various RCMS.



Participants engaging in discussions during Sensitization Session on TIP and SOM in Lahore, Pakistan. (19 May 2022). © MMU / IOM Pakistan



Deployment of the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) at the Foreigners and Border Service (SEF) headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal. (27 - 28 June 2022) © IOM Portugal

## Labour Migration

Under the labour migration project “Strengthening Social and Economic Resilience of Returning Pakistani Migrants”, IOM Pakistan team initiated an outreach campaign to identify target beneficiaries in selected districts. A targeted Facebook campaign, paid promotions, and advertisements in Jung News were launched to invite people to attend the community sessions and maximize the outreach. During this quarter, three community sessions were held in Lahore, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala. These sessions educated communities about the upcoming opportunities for skill development training and business support in order to reintegrate the returning Pakistani labour migrants.

Furthermore, IOM Pakistan facilitated the participation of the Government of Pakistan in the Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs) meetings of the Colombo Process (CP), held in Bangkok at the end of this quarter. The CP is a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia. The 6th meeting of the TAWG on Promoting Cheaper, Faster and Safer Transfer of Remittances, chaired by the Government of Pakistan featured key dialogues that reaffirmed the group’s objective to improve access to formal remittance channels for migrant workers, enhance their access to financial services, and empower the effective use of remittances for both migrant workers and their families.



Senior officials from Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development chairing the 6th meeting of the Remittances TAWG in Bangkok, Thailand. (22 June 2022) © IOM ROAP

## Diaspora Engagement

IOM’s diaspora engagement aims to build the capacity of the Government of Pakistan in engaging the Pakistani diaspora and leveraging their skills and expertise to support the country’s development. More specifically, IOM Pakistan is collaborating with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (M/o OPHRD) to explore avenues to work together on its “Engagement of Pakistani Diaspora in Development Process” component of the National Emigration and Welfare Policy for Overseas Pakistanis.

To provide international avenues for collaboration and knowledge sharing between the global diaspora and the Pakistani government policymakers, IOM Pakistan has invited the government of Pakistan to endorse the Dublin Declaration, which was passed at the Global Diaspora Summit held in April this year. By supporting the Dublin Declaration, the Government of Pakistan will be able to participate in the Global Diaspora Policy Alliance (GDPAL), an inclusive and sustainable ecosystem for collaboration across government and other stakeholders. This will also enable the Government of Pakistan to access an institutionalized global network that has successfully developed and benefited from diaspora engagement programmes and strategies. Moreover, this will provide critical support to Pakistani policymakers in reinforcing and enhancing existing policy frameworks that contribute to the recognition and empowerment of the diaspora as development actors.



IOM Pakistan staff raising awareness about reintegration support available for returning Pakistani labour migrants during a community awareness session in Gujranwala, Pakistan. (29 June 2022) © MMU / IOM Pakistan

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE, PROTECTION AND BASIC SERVICES

During this quarter, IOM Pakistan continued its response and recovery activities devised in line with the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2022 (RRRP-2022) priorities and the strategic objectives of the IOM's Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (2021-2024). IOM's activities are built upon an integrated, multi-sectoral, and area-based approach that aim to cater to the immediate and most pressing humanitarian needs of Afghan migrants as well as host communities across Pakistan.

### Livelihoods and Skills Development

As a result of household profiling conducted in coordination with the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Peshawar and Quetta, 110 beneficiaries (58 in Peshawar and 52 in Quetta) were selected as eligible for the Business Development Support (BDS) training. BDS is an initiative under the Individual Livelihoods Assistance (ILA) that aims to enhance socio-economic stability and inclusion for vulnerable groups, particularly Afghan migrants and Pakistani host communities.

During this quarter, BDS trainings were conducted in both Peshawar and Quetta for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, undocumented Afghans and vulnerable host community members. 76 participants successfully attended the training, including 10 female participants. Upon completion of the training and submission of individual business development plans, 70 trained individuals (61 male and 9 female) received cash grants to implement their business development plans.

IOM is also implementing the Enterprise Development Fund (EDF), an innovative livelihoods approach that aims to contribute to skills development and job creation through private sector recovery and expansion via tailored support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). During this quarter, IOM conducted an SME market assessment based on four Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) and 23 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with relevant entities from the SME sector in Peshawar and Quetta. An assessment report with findings and recommendations has been developed and is under review.

### Community Stabilization and Resilience Building

To enhance social cohesion, resilience building, and stability among Afghan migrants and host communities, IOM planned Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to improve community services and infrastructure. QIPs enhance equitable access to services and ensure active community participation from migrant and local populations alike. In consultation with CAR, IOM selected two government schools in Peshawar with Afghan migrant and host community students for a pilot solarization project. IOM conducted technical and needs assessments of both sites and recommended that 8KW solar panels are installed.

### European Union Delegation Monitoring Visit

An EU monitoring mission visited Pakistan from 10 to 20 May 2022. The objective of the visit was to witness the progress of IOM's activities and to provide an opportunity for interaction between EUD and various segments of the migrant population. The EUD toured IOM and UNHCR activity sites in Peshawar and met with field staff and ILA beneficiaries who have established or expanded micro-enterprises with IOM's support. They also visited one of the beneficiary schools that will soon have solar panels, thanks to IOM's quick impact project. Later, the delegation participated in two separate Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with the beneficiaries - ACC holders and undocumented Afghans. During the sessions, they discussed the challenges ACC holders and undocumented Afghans face, the impact of humanitarian assistance, and the prospects for undocumented Afghans.



*Beneficiary sharing his story with EU delegation about his experience with support provided by IOM, creating employment opportunities for migrants in his community. (Peshawar, Pakistan) © HRRU / IOM Pakistan*



*Grocery store established by IOM's Individual Livelihood Assistance (ILA) funds by a beneficiary in Quetta, Pakistan. © HRRU / IOM Pakistan*

### **Aminullah's Journey**

*Before the pandemic, Aminullah, a skilled cook in Peshawar, ran a successful micro-business that provided on-demand catered meals. When COVID-19 pandemic 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 — six Afghans 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.*



*IOM's Individual Livelihood Assistance program gave Aminullah a fresh start to his catering business (Peshawar, Pakistan) © HRRU / IOM Pakistan*

## **Displacement Tracking Matrix**

### **Flow Monitoring**

To better understand migration movements from Pakistan to Afghanistan, IOM continued to collect outflow data of undocumented Afghan migrants at the Chaman and Torkham border crossing points. During this quarter, 17,928 undocumented Afghan migrants spontaneously returned to Afghanistan, including 15,789 individuals through the Chaman border point and 2,139 individuals through the Torkham border point. The number of undocumented returnees decreased by 30% compared to the previous quarter. Based on interviews with Afghan migrants departing from Pakistan, the main challenges returnees faced were arranging livelihoods after return, settling in a new city, and searching for employment opportunities. IOM Pakistan's Flow Monitoring and Situation Reports can be accessed [here](#).

### **Returnees Longitudinal Study**

IOM Pakistan completed the last round of data collection for the returnee longitudinal study with Pakistani returnees from selected countries in Europe with a high number of returnees during 2019 – 2020. The data analysis and reporting of the final round are underway. The study aims to understand the demographic profiles, living conditions, and the reintegration processes of returnees. The snapshot of the first round is available [here](#).

### **Understanding Mobility Patterns in Pakistan:**

With the support of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), specifically the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Support Unit, IOM Pakistan has initiated a new study on Understanding Mobility Patterns in Pakistan. The study will help address identified gaps in existing migration data, particularly the availability of disaggregated, longitudinal, timely, and reliable data on various internal migrant populations and human mobility dynamics. The training of enumerators in Gujrat has been completed. Currently, the team is in the data collection phase targeting 1,120 Mouzas (Revenue Village) and Ward in Gujrat.



## Pre-Departure Health Assistance

The Migration Health Department (MHD) achieved a new milestone as it opened its fifth clinic in Islamabad. The new clinic will respond to the growing demand and enable MHD to provide exemplary patient care to more patients. MHD had a busy second quarter as it responded to an increased number of Immigration Medical Examinations (IMEs), accommodating 18,000 individuals in clinics across Pakistan. They also conducted pre-flight assessments and COVID-19 PCR tests at IOM clinics for the additional caseload of chartered flights. Beneficiaries who tested positive were accommodated in pre-identified quarantine homes per international guidelines.



## Cultural Orientation

Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) sessions were conducted for 203 Afghan migrants from April to June. Due to the ongoing pandemic, sessions were conducted remotely on the phone and in person. AUSCO beneficiaries were briefed about various topics such as traveling, packing before departure, flight orientation, and resettlement services upon arrival. Currently, most of the caseload includes emergency cases.

The Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) continued to provide online orientation sessions for privately sponsored cases during the reporting period. The rest of the sessions are provided post-arrival by the COA team in Ottawa. COA also supported online sessions for other missions processing the Afghan caseload.



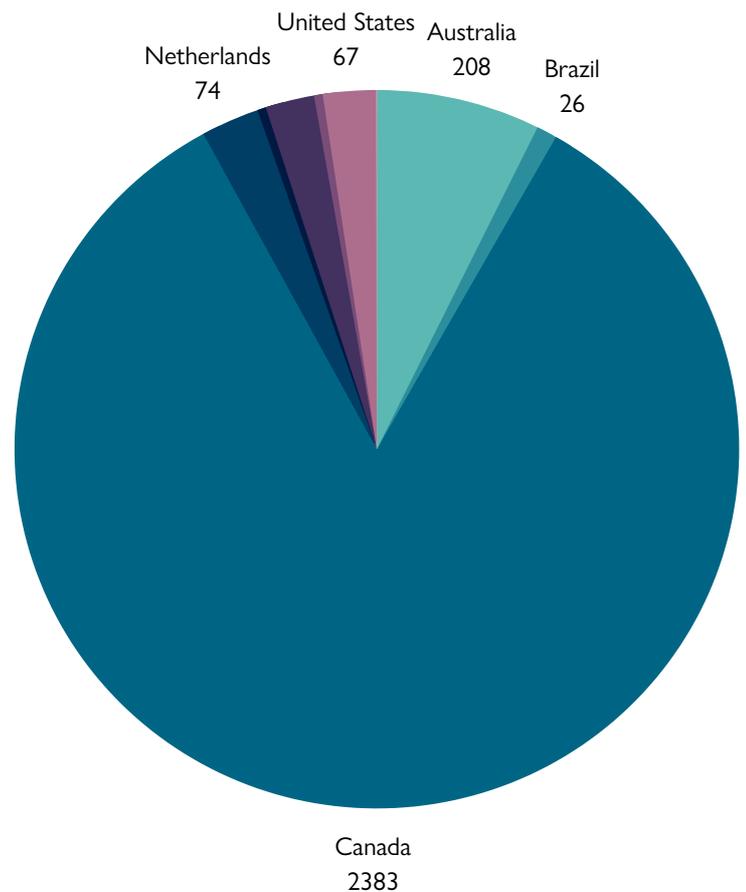
## Resettlement

The Migration Movement Unit continued to support the ongoing transfer and resettlement movement for Afghans. Following the transfer arrangement agreed by the Government of Pakistan, a total number of seven charters destined for Canada were organized during the reporting period which safely transported over 2,000 migrants to Canada. The implementation of the United Kingdom (UK) resettlement programme started in June and will continue in July to move 2,100 Afghans.



## Reintegration

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme continued to help facilitate dignified voluntary returns for migrants wishing to return to Pakistan. With IOM's support, over 100 business plans were implemented by beneficiaries returning from different countries to Pakistan. IOM also continued to provide virtual counseling for Pakistanis who intend to return from Germany and Bosnia voluntarily. Representatives from the Media and Communications Division (MCD) at the IOM HQ visited Pakistan from 30 May to 2 June, 2022 to cover some returnees' stories. The visit was very productive as MCD representatives were able to understand the dynamics and the implementation of this project. Stories collected during the visit will be shared on various social media platforms in collaboration with the Mission.



Representation of movements from Pakistan as per country between April and June 2022

## STABILIZATION AND RESILIENCE

### Strengthened Community Cohesion

To promote inter-faith harmony, the Community Resilience Activity – North (CRA-North) programme, in collaboration with the Religious Affairs Department, provided community-based religious leaders with a forum to discuss different perspectives. The residential conference in Peshawar was attended by 30 religious scholars from minority communities, 20 youth, the Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council of Pakistan, the former Minister for Religious Affairs KP, and the Chairman of the International Research Council for Religious Affairs. The intervention helped de-escalate the tension in the community and reduced the threat of violence, demonstrating the critical role CRA-North programming plays in volatile communities. CRA-North is also collaborating with the National Counterterrorism Authority Pakistan (NACTA) to raise community awareness about Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Together, they launched radio programming in newly merged districts to promote a positive narrative, improve community access to information about economic and social development, and share available mechanisms to address grievances of at-risk and marginalized groups. The radio show started broadcasting in June this year and will continue till September 2022.

### Support for TDP Reintegration in Target Areas

To create livelihood opportunities for the former Temporarily Displaced Persons, CRA-North supported the local Sericulture Development Department, Kurram, in the provision of lab equipment and rehabilitation of the existing laboratory for mushroom spawn development. The initiative aims to improve mushroom cultivation and develop mushroom spawn locally. Under this initiative, the Sericulture Department, Kurram, will support 56 youth farmers in mushroom cultivation, which will improve livelihood opportunities for marginalized youth in the Kurram district. Moreover, to improve public service delivery for local communities, CRA-North helped rehabilitate a resilience center located in Bara, Khyber, which was previously damaged during militancy. The center is currently serving as a platform where all tribes of Bara engage in peaceful dialogue to resolve their individual and communal grievances. The district Government also uses it to hold official meetings, community dialogues, etc. The Alternate Dispute Resolution Council will use the center to bring government and at-risk communities together under one roof for cohesion and trust-building initiatives.

### Increased Civic Engagement

To empower communities to exercise their civic rights and duties, CRA-North is supporting members of the newly formed District Committees on the Status of Women (DCSWs) in designing and implementing resilience-focused social action projects. These projects aim to raise public awareness of pro-women laws and build women's resilience against violence. During May, CRA-North trained 21 members of DCSW in Peshawar. Following the training, the DCSW members, including a member of the transgender community, further organized community-level awareness sessions in Khyber, Kurram, and Orakzai through their individual social action projects.

CRA-North is also training female faculty members and students from educational institutes within remote areas across Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan, and Orakzai on civic engagement, social cohesion, and leadership skills.

### 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 including series of awareness raising sessions 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 CRA-North in Lower Kurram. © CRA - North / IOM Pakistan*

# STABILIZATION AND RESILIENCE

## Monitoring and Evaluation

IOM Pakistan is providing support to the Government of Pakistan by conducting third-party monitoring and evaluation for the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Pakistan (US INL-P) in 24 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, including the six Newly Merged Districts (NMDs). During the reporting period, IOM conducted 68 monitoring visits and evaluated 19 projects in tribal districts of Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur, and KP.

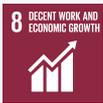


A view of functional irrigation channel in Jamrud, providing local farmers with an efficient irrigation system © INLP / IOM Pakistan



## THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development  
#ForMigration



## IOM ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN ARE FUNDED BY



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