

Frequently Asked Questions

Services Available at the Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) Centres

Registration of New Born Children and Provision of Birth Certificates

What is the purpose of birth registration?

- Birth registration is the official recording of the birth of a child by the responsible government authority, following which a birth certificate is issued to the parents.
- Birth registration is fundamental to the protection and enjoyment of rights by the child throughout his/her life. It ensures the child's recognition as a person before the law.

What are the benefits of birth registration?

- Registering a child's birth serves as proof of the child's official identity, age, gender and nationality and is required to have access to education, job opportunities, legal marriage, issuance of ID cards and passports, and many public services including medical assistance.
- Without registration of birth and a birth certificate, the child may have problems proving his/her identity, age and nationality and may be excluded from these rights and opportunities.

What is a birth certificate?

- It is an official document issued by the Government of Pakistan that records the legal identity of the child and secures his/her rights.
- It is required on many occasions during a person's life, e.g. enrolment in school, employment, marriage, issuance of identity documents and proof of nationality.

How can Afghan Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders register their new born children?

- Either parent holding a valid PoR card (current validity: 31 December 2015) can register their children who were born in the past five years (since 2010) in Pakistan.
- If both parents are PoR cardholders, only one parent needs to visit the Proof of Registration Card Modification (PCM) centre (*addresses available at the bottom of the document*) along with their child for his/her registration. If only one parent is a PoR cardholder, this parent needs to be present with the child in order to register the child.
- Documents that are needed for the registration include the proof of birth document (*see response below for explanation*) and the original PoR card of the parent (a photocopy will not be accepted).
- Parents will receive an official birth certificate upon registration on the same day.
- Upon registration of a child, the PoR card of the parent who came to register the child will need to be modified and re-issued to include the information for the child on the back of the card.
- The PCM centres are operated by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

What is a 'proof of birth document'?

- This is a paper that confirms that the child has been born. It can be received from the place of birth (health facility) or from a certified birth attendant (midwives/lady health workers trained

by the Government) present during the birth of the child who should write down the birth information (date, place of birth, gender of child, parents' names) and sign the paper.

- PoR cardholders can also receive a birth notification from Basic Health Units (BHUs) in refugee villages or a vaccination card (a WHO EPI vaccination card can be received from BHUs) or medical prescription. All these documents are accepted as proof of birth at the PCM centre.

Can Afghan children who have been registered with their parents in the past but have not yet received a birth certificate still get their birth certificates?

- Yes, all Afghan children below the age of 18 years, who were born in Pakistan and have been registered by NADRA in the past, but who have not yet been issued with a birth certificate, should obtain such a birth certificate from the PCM centre.
- They do not have to be present for the issuance of this document, which can be collected by the head of family or a family representative without further steps to be taken.

Other Activities at the PCM Centres

What other services are available at the PCM centres?

- Corrections to existing PoR cards (e.g. name of the applicant/father/mother/spouse/ dependents, age, sex, marital status, photo and address).
- Additions to existing PoR cards: address, telephone number, photo and new born child.
- Replacement of lost, stolen, faded or damaged PoR cards.
- Issuance of a PoR card to registered children that have turned five years of age (*see below*).

From which age are already registered children entitled to their own PoR card?

- Children who have reached the age of five years, who are already registered with their parents and whose parents hold a valid PoR card are entitled to receive their own individual PoR card in the PCM centres.
- To receive their PoR cards, the parent holding the valid PoR card on the back of which the child is registered has to accompany the child to the PCM centre in order to record the child's photograph and biometric information.
- The PoR card of the parent on which the child's registration information was recorded will also need to be modified and re-issued.

What needs to be done if a valid PoR card contains incorrect data or was lost/stolen?

- An application for a modified or duplicate (in case of loss or theft) PoR card can be made at any of the PCM centres.
- In case of a lost/stolen PoR card, a First Information Report (FIR) from the police or MoRR Attestation (with the applicant's name and PoR card number) has to be presented at any PCM centre in order to obtain a new PoR card. The individual who has lost the card will need to attend in person.
- The FIR from the police should include the applicant's name, father's name, province and district of residence in Pakistan and province and district of origin in Afghanistan, PoR card number, police station's telephone number and address and name of the person who issued the letter.

How long will it take to receive the new/modified PoR card?

- New, duplicate or modified cards should be available for collection at the PCM centre within two weeks of the application.
- Applicants can send their PoR card number per SMS to the number 7000 to check the availability of their card.

Is it still possible for Afghans holding PoR cards which were issued in 2010 and carry a validity date of 31 December 2012 to benefit of any of the services described above?

- No, Afghans holding cards that expired on 31 December 2012 or before are no longer considered as persons of concern to the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR. They are hence no longer entitled to any assistance provided by UNHCR and its partners, including voluntary repatriation assistance.

Can unregistered Afghans apply for a PoR card?

- Afghans who never held a PoR card, including family members of PoR cardholders who were never registered with NADRA are not entitled to the issuance of PoR cards. However, they may wish to approach NADRA during the upcoming registration exercise for undocumented Afghans residing in Pakistan. Information on this exercise will be shared by the Government of Pakistan as UNHCR is not involved in this activity.
- They may also apply for refugee status with UNHCR if they are able to establish in a comprehensive interview that they cannot return to Afghanistan because they fear for their life or liberty. Information on how to access the refugee status determination procedure and the applicable criteria for being granted refugee status is available from UNHCR and its partners.

What legal entitlements does a PoR card provide?

- The PoR card is an identity document and entitles the cardholder to legally remain in Pakistan until the end of 2015. The card is valid throughout Pakistan.
- It is important that registered Afghans carry their PoR cards at all times and present it to law enforcement agencies on demand.
- PoR cardholders have the right to reside in Pakistan and cannot be arrested under the 1946 Foreigners Act or other preventive laws. However, the PoR card does not give immunity from criminal prosecution if bearers are involved in criminal activities or breach the law of Pakistan.
- The PoR card is not a travel document and does not allow its holder to cross international borders, including between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Are there any charges for the above-described services provided in the PCM centres?

- All services are FREE of cost. If any person or party demands money or fees for these services, this should be immediately reported to one of the UNHCR helpline numbers as follows:

UNHCR Helplines:

Khyber Pakthunkhwa (Peshawar):
0300-8585600

Islamabad/Punjab: **0300-5018568**

Sindh (Karachi): **0342-2704888**

Balochistan (Quetta): **0333-7819601**

PCM Centre Addresses

(Open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm)

Peshawar PCM Centre

Khyber Colony, Street No. 2, Tehkal Payan Bus stop, near Mian Khan general store, University road (no landline number)

Haripur PCM Centre

Tarbela road near Chungi no. 1, Kalabat Township (no landline number)

Quetta PCM Centre

House no. 169-J, Block-5 (near QDA Ground), Satellite Town, Tel: 081-2443502

Karachi PCM Centre

No. C 136/2 Block-02 Clifton (near Zia Ud Din Hospital (Shirin Jinnah Colony) (no landline number)

Lahore PCM Centre

577 G Block (near Alliance Grammer School), Liaqat Chowk, Sabzazar Scheme, Tel: 042-37840022

Rawalpindi PCM Centre

Golden Plaza, Service Road, Shakrial (near Khannapul), Tel: 051-447162