BACKGROUND

Nearly 70% of Afghan refugees in Pakistan live in urban and rural areas along with their host communities and depend on access to Pakistan’s national healthcare system. The Government of Pakistan has generously enabled Afghan refugees to access Pakistan’s primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare on a par with Pakistani nationals. In recognition of this inclusive approach and hospitality, the RAHA health interventions seek to channel vital investments into Pakistan’s public healthcare service provision with a view to enhancing its absorption capacity and the quality of services provided, with benefits for both refugees and their host communities.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Enhanced and sustainable access to health care services through cost effective interventions
- Disease prevention and control programmes in line with the priorities of the Government
- Increased community capacity and social health protection
- Strengthened partnerships and coordination, particularly with the Provincial Departments of Health, to optimize the healthcare service delivery and maximize the use of resources
- Enhanced capacity of the Provincial Departments of Health to enable efficient provision of healthcare for both local and refugee populations.

The RAHA health projects are designed based on the needs identified by the communities, as well as needs assessments carried out by national and local authorities. The projects are fully aligned with and supportive of UNHCR Pakistan’s Health Strategy.

TOTAL VALUE OF RAHA PROJECTS USD 220 MILLION

MORE THAN 6 MILLION INDIVIDUALS BENEFITED FROM RAHA HEALTH PROJECTS

18% AFGHAN BENEFICIARIES
82% PAKISTANI BENEFICIARIES

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 25 DISTRICTS COUNTRY WIDE

14 KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
8 BALOCHISTAN
14 SINDH
1 PUNJAB

USD 36 MILLION
159 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED
FOCUS OF RAHA HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

- Rehabilitation and/or construction of health units and hospitals, missing facilities, labour rooms and female wards
- Provision of medical equipment, furniture, water facilities, solar panels and alternate water and electricity supply to public health facilities
- Establishing and capacitating the community health care facilities; training and capacity building of hospital staff and community health workers and monitoring of services provided
- Awareness-raising and sensitization of communities. Construction of labor rooms and provision of medical equipment at Basic Health Units (BHUs) to strengthen the mother and child care services at grass root level
- Provision of solar-powered systems to the Government health facilities to support alternate energy solutions

IMPACT OF RAHA HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

- Enhanced capacity of public and community healthcare facilities and improved quality of medical services provided in refugee hosting districts of all four provinces of Pakistan
- Improved service delivery of Basic Health Units (BHUs) and hospitals
- Enhanced community awareness on a wide range of health issues, including preventable diseases, immunization, nutrition, family planning, personal hygiene and sanitation

EXAMPLES OF RAHA HEALTH PROJECTS

- Establishment of a prosthesis and gait analysis lab for disabled persons at the Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences (PIPOS) (USD 0.4M, 2013) Peshawar.
- Construction of facilities and provision of equipment at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital – KP (USD 7 M, 2014-18)
- Provision of mother and child facilities at the Mayo Hospital Lahore (USD 0.3M, 2014)
- Provision of a CT Scan machine to the Ayub Medical Complex (USD 0.6M, 2015) Abbottabad.
- Enhancement of capacity for storage of vaccines at the Provincial Extended Programme for Immunization (EPI) Facility, Quetta (USD 0.2M, 2015)
- Provision of kidney dialysis units at Balochistan Institute of Nephro Urology Quetta (USD 0.4M, 2016)
- Provision of an incinerator for the disposal of hospital waste at the Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi (USD 0.5M, 2017)

KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES

In line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular its overarching commitment to leave no one behind and the SDG #3 that seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages; as well as the Global Compact on Refugees which calls for greater and more equitable responsibility-sharing by the international community, UNHCR continues to advocate for:

- Inclusion of refugees in national health plans and programmes of the Government of Pakistan
- Enhanced synergies and collaboration with development actors in support of investments in the Government’s healthcare system to enhance the quality and coverage of primary, secondary and tertiary health care services in districts hosting refugees
- Greater and more equitable burden and responsibility-sharing by the international community through additional investments in Pakistan’s national healthcare system, in recognition of Pakistan’s generosity and inclusive health policies
- Donors, development agencies, financial institutions, private sector, etc. making concrete pledges in support of Pakistan’s healthcare system at the 1st Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.