



Pakistan

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Estimated number of registered internally displaced persons (IDPs): **Over 420 000** (OCHA, January 2017)

Estimated number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan: **Over 1.3 million registered**, and up to 1.2 million unregistered

Food insecurity in Pakistan: **58% of households**

Global Acute Malnutrition rate: **15.1%** (beyond emergency thresholds) with an **estimated 3.5 million children** suffering from acute malnutrition (NNS, 2011)

European Commission Humanitarian Aid in 2017: **€7 million**

European Commission Humanitarian Aid since 2009: **€548.2 million**



Photo credit: Pakistan Humanitarian Forum

Key messages

The European Union's current humanitarian actions in Pakistan focus on several separate but interrelated crises:

- Support for people affected by the conflict in the northwest, where more than 420 000 people are presently displaced. The on-going complex emergency remains underfunded with little media attention and is classified by the European Commission as a Forgotten Crisis.
- Support for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. There are over 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees and an estimated 1.2 million additional undocumented Afghans in Pakistan. The European Commission funds protection activities including legal advice centres and advocacy for the preservation of asylum space, health services, and education for Afghan girls and boys in refugee villages.
- Support for those malnourished and food insecure. A significant part of EU humanitarian funding is directed to the Sindh Province – also classified as a Forgotten Crisis - where limited access to food, water, sanitation and medical services, is exacerbated by floods and drought.
- Response to natural disasters is also an integral part of the EU humanitarian commitment, together with disaster risk reduction, as the country is prone to natural hazards.

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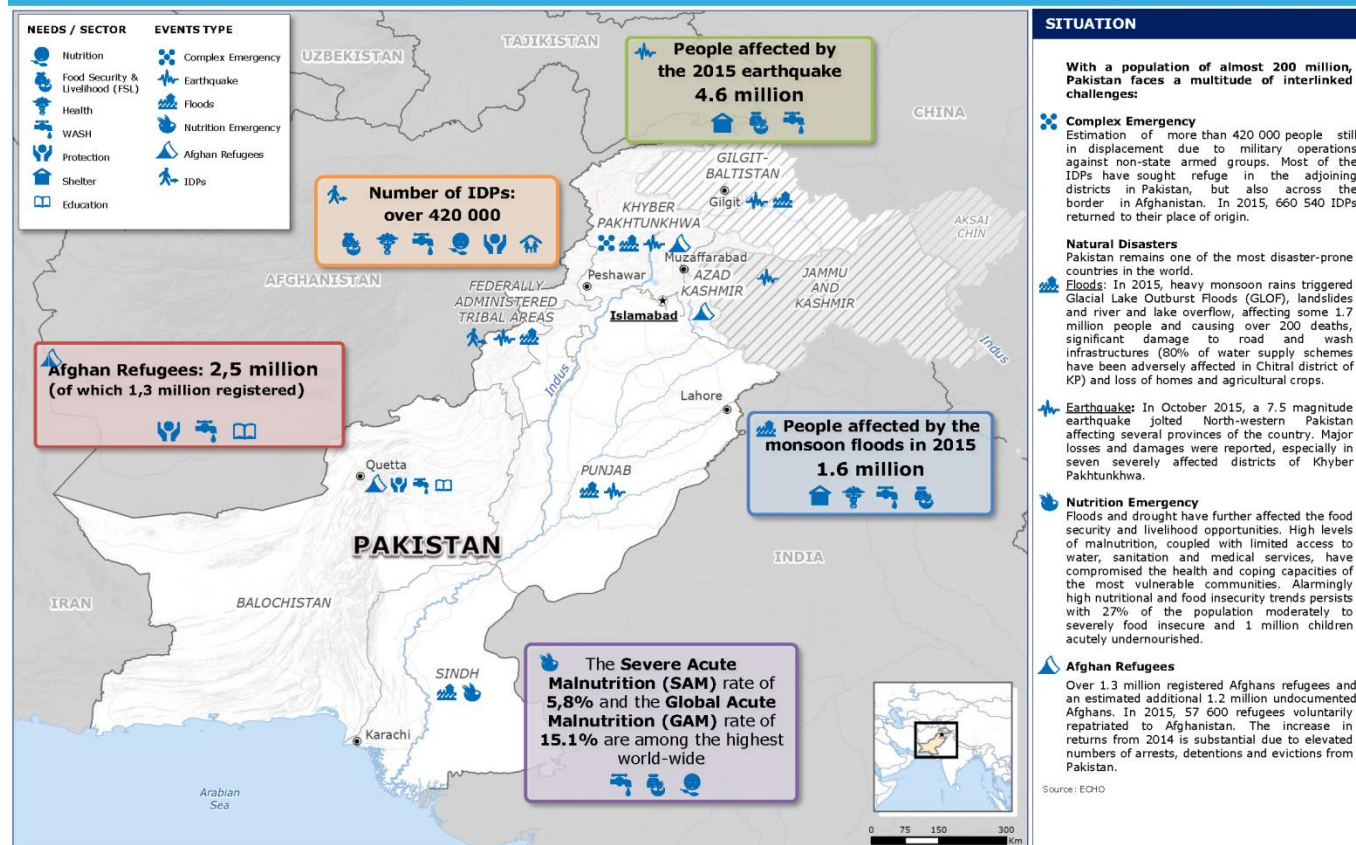
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Humanitarian situation and needs

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – January 2016 Pakistan – Humanitarian Situation



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The northwest of Pakistan and the regions bordering [Afghanistan](#)* (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)) are affected by large scale displacements due to insurgency. In 2014, military operations against non-state armed groups prompted the displacement of over one million people from North Waziristan Agency (NWA) and Khyber Agency (both in FATA). The majority of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have sought refuge in the adjoining districts of KP, but also across the border in Afghanistan. This massive displacement added to people still displaced from previous years. Following an acceleration of returns over the past two years, some 1.4 million IDPs had returned to their places of origin by the end of 2016. As part of the “FATA Sustainable Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Strategy”, the authorities had previously announced that all camps would be closed by mid-2016, and all IDPs would be returning to their places of origin by the end of the year. However, more than 420 000 people remained displaced as of January 2017.

The vast majority of IDPs (98%) have sought refuge with the host communities of KP, while the rest went to four IDP camps (New Durrani, Togh Serai, Bakka Khel and Jalozai). In addition to the suffering caused to those displaced, there is a tremendous strain on the limited existing facilities in the hosting areas. **Education and health facilities are overburdened** and there is lack of adequately trained health professionals, particularly female medical staff, to meet the increased number of patients. **Protection needs** are also significant as children and women, who constitute an estimated 77% of IDPs, are especially vulnerable in displacement settings.

Pakistan is **one of the most disaster prone countries in the world** and frequently experiences multiple disasters in a given year. Over the last few years, the Province of Sindh has been repeatedly affected by both floods and drought, further affecting the food security and livelihood opportunities. **High levels of malnutrition**, coupled with **limited access to water, sanitation and medical services**, have compromised the health and coping capacities of the most vulnerable communities. Alarming high nutritional and food



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insecurity trends persist in the disaster-prone province, where 27% of the population is moderately to severely food insecure and 1 million children are acutely undernourished.

In 2015, heavy monsoon rains triggered Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, landslides and river and lake overflow in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh provinces, killing over 200 people and affecting a total of 1.7 million. The events also caused significant damages to roads and water and sanitation infrastructures (80% of water supply schemes have been adversely affected in Chitral district of KP), and resulted in the loss of homes and agricultural crops.

On 26 October 2015, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake with epicentre in the Afghan border jolted north-western Pakistan, killing close to 400 people in both countries and damaging over 100 000 houses on the Pakistan side of the border.

The Afghan refugee crisis is among the largest and most protracted refugee crisis in the world, and a durable solution is yet to be found. Over the past two years, a sharp increase both in returns of registered refugees and deportations of undocumented refugees by Pakistan authorities has been recorded. In February, the government extended the validity of the Proof of Registration cards that enables Afghan refugees to stay in the country until the 31st of December 2017.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

In 2017, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has allocated €7 million to provide assistance to internally displaced Pakistanis and Afghan refugees. In 2016, ECHO's contributions for projects in Pakistan amounted to €25.5 million. The EU-funded projects provide lifesaving assistance through cash programming, livelihood support, shelter, health, nutrition, water and sanitation services, and protection. In addition, ECHO supports safety and security and assessments and coordination, through the clusters, working groups and coordination fora for an effective and well-coordinated response. This funding also includes the provision of safe access to quality education for conflict-affected boys and girls in the strife-torn province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as for Afghan refugee children in multiple areas across the country.

The European Union's current humanitarian actions in Pakistan focus on three separate but interrelated crises: **support for people affected by the conflict** in the northwest; **support for those malnourished and food insecure**; **support for Afghan refugees** living in Pakistan. Response to natural disasters is also an integral part of the humanitarian commitment, together with [disaster risk reduction](#)*.

Conflict and natural disasters

ECHO has been operating in Pakistan since the 1990s providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict and major natural disasters, including the 2005 earthquake and the devastating floods between 2010 and 2015, which affected a total of over 30 million people. Since 2009, the European Union's humanitarian aid to people in need in Pakistan has totalled **€548.2 million**. Relief items have also been channelled to flood victims through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Nutrition crisis

Global Acute Malnutrition affects particularly the severely disadvantaged rural communities of Sindh that face the most significant humanitarian risk from floods and drought, as well as conflict affected IDPs and host populations in KP and FATA.

Support to Afghan refugees

The European Commission remains engaged in the promotion of Afghans' informed decision-making on durable solutions, and funds protection activities which support refugees with legal advice, renewal of PoR cards, and obtaining birth certificates. Health services are also provided, with a focus on maternal neonatal and children health, as well as education for Afghan children in refugee villages. Since 2002, some 4.1 million Afghan refugees have repatriated with the assistance of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), including almost 370 000 in 2016 alone. In addition, the European Commission supports protection activities including those aimed at preserving asylum space, refugee status determination and resettlement efforts carried out by UNHCR.



Major challenges for delivering humanitarian aid

Access of humanitarian organisations to populations in need remains a key challenge. According to an international non-governmental organization (INGO) regulation issued by the Minister of Interior in October 2015, all INGOs are now requested to re-apply for registration in Pakistan and the process has not been completed yet.

Respect for the **independence of humanitarian action** must be ensured, including on needs assessments and response, which need to be carried out in a neutral and impartial way, delinked from military or security considerations and with vulnerability as the main criteria.

The coherence and quality of the overall humanitarian response need to be enhanced; inter-agency consolidated needs assessments across all sectors are required and the coordination of humanitarian efforts needs to be strengthened.



ECHO supports relief efforts after natural disasters – here providing safe drinking water after floods in Sindh in 2010

(Photo credit: ACF)



Addressing the malnutrition crisis in Sindh province is one of the priorities of our work in Pakistan

(Photo credit: EU/ECHO)



In 2015, over 57 000 Afghan refugees voluntarily repatriated from Pakistan thanks to the UNHCR-ECHO partnership

(Photo credit: EU/ECHO)



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