

PAKISTAN



REFUGEES
PROGRAMME

Background

Building on learning and successes over the past 42 years, Alight is committed to transformative social change that seeks to deepen its impact in today's rapidly evolving world. It is and always has been about amazing global citizens taking action to change our world.

Alight believes in helping people rebuild their lives by co-designing solutions that create new value and bring meaningful change in their lives. Modern, humanitarian crises faced today require modern solutions.

Alight vouches for co-creating together with impassioned, dedicated people, limited neither by imagination nor by practicalities, is the key to sustainable solutions that impact far and wide.

Pakistan has hosted one of the world's most protracted refugee populations for 40 years. The influx started in 1979 after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and it still accommodates nearly 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees.

At its peak, Pakistan has hosted around 5 million Afghan refugees in different parts of the country; this has varied over time, depending on the level of stability, employment and social services in Afghanistan. Of the 1.4 million registered refugees, more than 60% reside in urban areas of Pakistan. The major refugee caseload is in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Baluchistan provinces.

Interventions

Supporting Proper Healthcare and Nutrition

Alight has been a beacon of positive impact in refugee women and children's lives with extensive medical support programmes. These maintain a key focus on strengthening healthcare delivery systems, disease prevention and control, provision of mother and child healthcare and nutrition services.

With donor support, Alight has implemented numerous healthcare and nutrition projects throughout Pakistan. Its geographical footprint covers all provinces of Pakistan, with interventions providing primary healthcare, reproductive health services, immunisation facilities and clean drinking water.

Alight joined hands with UNHCR in 2003 to uplift the socio-economic conditions of refugees and host communities. It collaborated with multi-sector domains including primary healthcare, education, livelihood, reproductive health, immunization campaigns, gender based violence and WASH.

From 2003 to 2015, integrated efforts were made to provide primary healthcare services in Afghan refugee villages and host communities in Balochistan. Its efforts also focused on providing portable clean water for drinking and personal hygiene in Quetta, Balochistan. In 2009, Alight initiated the provision of care and maintenance services to refugees in Baleli, Balochistan that continued until 2013.

Since 2010, Alight remained a partner of UNHCR under its RAHA component, implementing a health project in Kechi Beg, Quetta in 2010. In 2012, we constructed and equipped labour rooms for refugee women in Mohammad Khail, Quetta and Pishin.

In addition to hosting Afghan refugees, due to the geographic proximity and historical migration patterns rooted in close ethnic, tribal, religious and cultural affiliations, Pakistan has also traditionally been a destination for Afghan migrants to access services and better livelihood opportunities.

In order to provide refugees with basic facilities, the Government of Pakistan has played a proactive role along with international development agencies. This multi-sectoral response has included provision of education, health, infrastructure, livelihood, and protection. Refugees were mainstreamed by providing education and livelihood opportunities inside Pakistan to ensure their socio-economic well-being.



1,418,054

Registered Afghan
Refugees in Pakistan



4,386,648

Afghan Refugees Facilitated
for Voluntary Repatriation

Source: UNHCR

Continuing with our commitment to refugee relief in 2015, Alight constructed classrooms, examination halls, WASH facilities and provided lab equipment, furniture and water coolers in two schools of Rawalpindi, Punjab, to strengthen infrastructure and educational facilities.

Preventing Gender-Based Violence

Alight is committed to protection of people affected by humanitarian crises by supporting with a GBV awareness, prevention, response and referral mechanism.

With participation of religious and community elders, it promotes dignity and tolerance among refugee and hosting communities.

Under its core protection programme, Alight has raised awareness among masses including marginalised segments of society under its GBV prevention programme funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Population and Refugee Migration (BPRM). Alight values strengthening community capacity so communities themselves can adequately respond and prevent cases of GBV among refugees and host communities.

Youth Empowerment

Alight has actively involved in youth empowerment through skill development. In 2015, Alight took an initiative to develop healthcare skills for employability of rural and urban Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

A programme in collaboration with BPRM included capacity building of 120 Afghan refugees in healthcare services delivery through a

vocational training diploma programme with Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. At the end of this two-year programme, more than 100 candidates graduated in different disciplines. It offered additional support through linkages development and financial assistance to graduates.



In partnership with UNHCR, Alight executed livelihood interventions. From 2011 to 2014, we provided vocational skills trainings in tailoring to women and carpentry and mobile repairing to men in two refugee villages of in Pishin, Balochistan.

Disaster Resilience Building

Alight's active engagement in disaster rescue and relief maintains a key focus on building self-sustaining resilient communities. Alight Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) interventions prepare communities to withstand the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change.

Alight established alternate livelihoods mechanisms, rehabilitated water channels, introduced new farming techniques and built community-based protection systems and infrastructure.

Under a mitigation and risk reduction strategy, Alight has worked closely with communities to improve their preparedness and ensure economic empowerment by enhancing food security and exploring new avenues of livelihood.

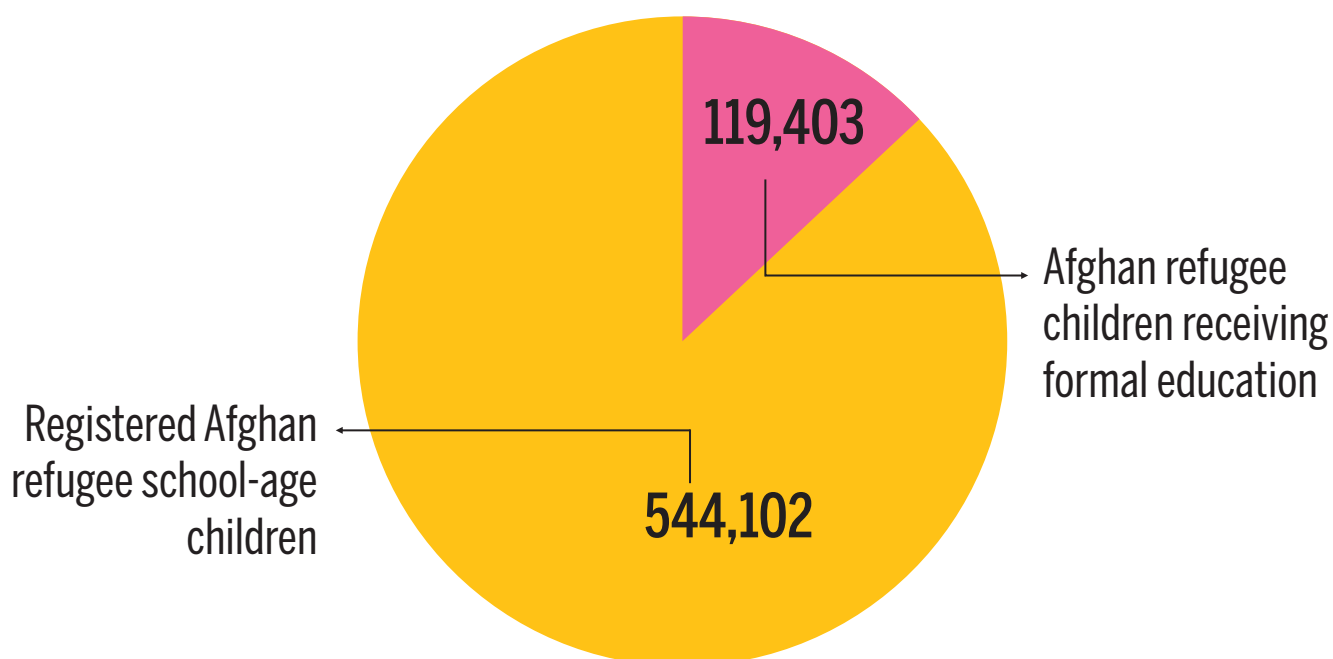
Quality Education Provision

Currently implementing the Educate a Child (EAC) programme, Alight is working to enrol one million out of school children (OOSC) of 6-16 years of age in primary education through formal and non-formal schools in 56 districts across Pakistan.

We have a valid NOC from the Ministry of Interior and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MFE&PT). We have signed MOUs with all provincial education departments, NCHD, BECS, BISP, JICA, BISP, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), Waseela-e-Taleem, Basic Education Community Schools and a number of other organizations to mobilise communities and strengthen existing government structures to support additional enrolments and retention.

The programme is in accordance with the priorities defined in Article 25A of the Constitution of Pakistan, National Education Policy, and the UN's SDG 4, with a sharp focus on strengthening school governance and community engagement for enrolment, retention, and provision of quality education.

The programme also builds capacity of provincial and district education departments on planning, information management, implementation and monitoring of formal and non-formal education programmes.



Source: UNHCR

Skills Development Program with Refugee Youth

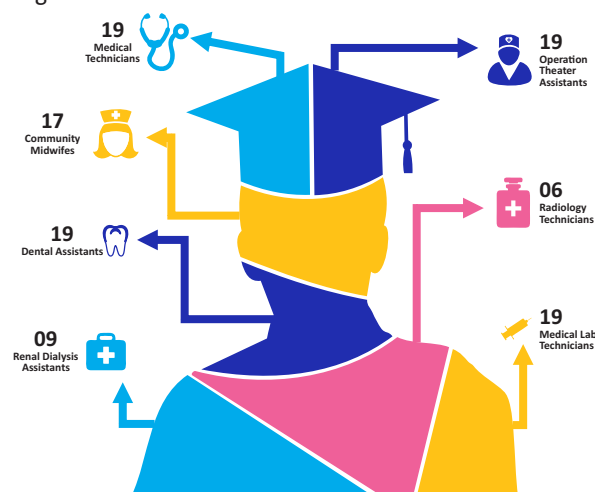
The foundations of the Youth Skills Development Programme are aimed at the transfer of knowledge and skills to a burgeoning segment of society who can contribute to the economy and improve upon standard of living of a large marginalized community.

The programme is built upon a level of education already attained-supporting the participants with technical skills, job placements and entrepreneurial encouragement. The students are selected from different parts of country, having diverse rural and urban backgrounds with a varying degrees of command over English and computer literacy.

Soft skills training is also imparted to the students in areas such as effective communication and counseling, critical thinking, self care, team building, entrepreneurship, knowledge of job searching, market behavior and resume writing.

This facilitation has enabled the graduates to develop their CVs and other job acquiring skills besides planning of future goals, job

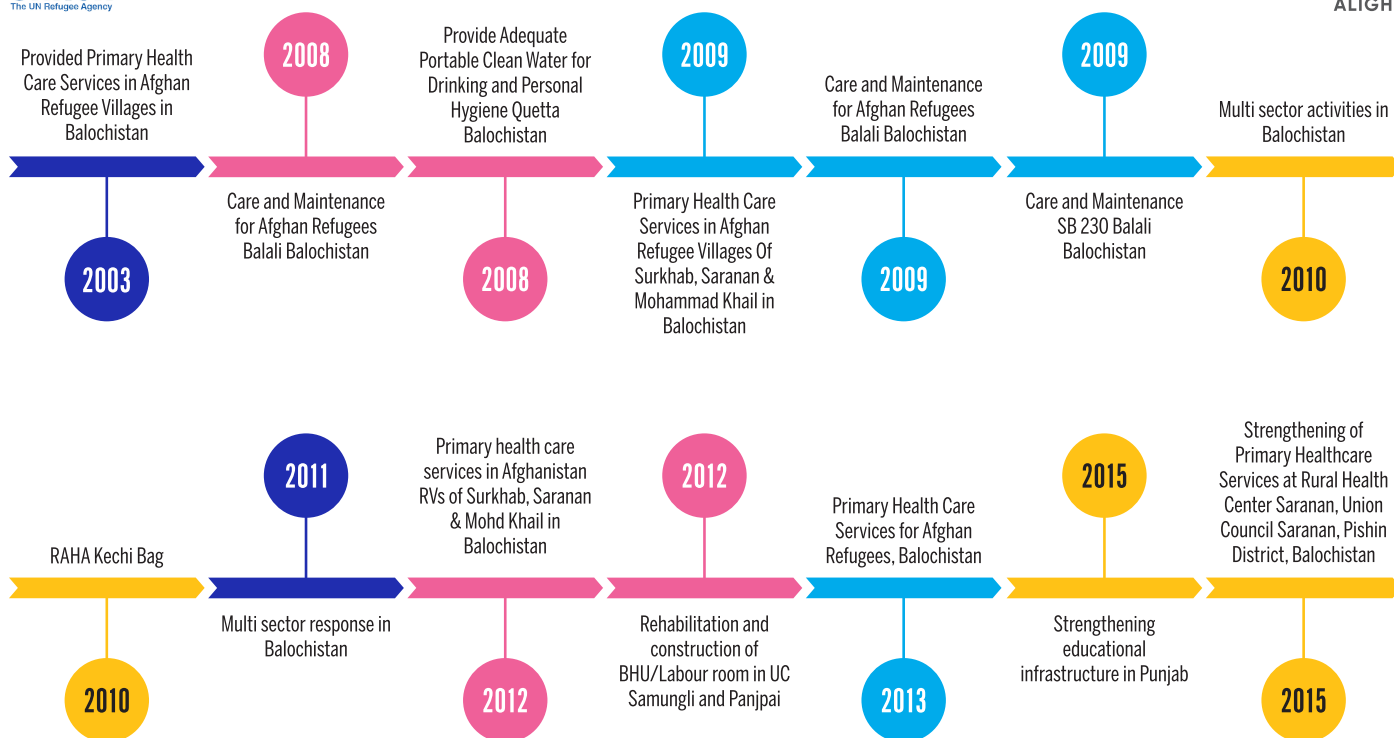
prospects and further education after completion of the skills training courses.



108 Afghan Youth Graduates



UNHCR-ALIGHT | Project Footprint



Partners



World Food Programme



World Health Organization

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