



THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

PAKISTAN

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The **INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)** for over two decades has worked in camps and settlements in Peshawar and across Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and Balochistan, including the tribal areas. The IRC provides shelter, food, protection, education, vocational training, water supply and sanitation, and preventive and curative medical services to hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees living in camps and urban settlements. IRC is one of the largest and longest serving non-governmental organizations in the region, earning the trust of local populations through their commitment and dedication. In addition to assisting refugees, the IRC supports local communities to help them become sustainable and reduce dependency on international assistance. IRC Pakistan draws on the IRC Program Framework to inform all its programming; this is done by following the five guiding principles of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Participation, Capacity Building, Partnership and Holistic Programming.



FEMALE EDUCATION PROGRAM (FEP) The IRC improves the quality of life for conflict-affected Afghan refugees by implementing effective and relevant educational services in target locations. The FEP supports 24 schools with an enrollment of nearly 15,000 students of which 65% are girls, in Peshawar and other areas of the North West Frontier Province. In Baluchistan, FEP supports 3 secondary schools and over 1000 students. FEP also supports post-secondary

schooling opportunities, by providing 15 high school graduates with scholarships for a one-year diploma in information technology at a Pakistani private university as well as placing 55 graduates in various courses including physiotherapy and nursing. The program provides extensive training to refugee teachers, school administrators, school communities, and female health educators. IRC was the only organization to develop teacher-training resources for secondary-level science subjects and successfully piloted a 22-day teacher-training program in which female refugees participated. This training provided valuable skills to inexperienced teachers who will go on to teach either here in Pakistan in refugee schools or in Afghanistan upon their return. The FEP also published teacher-training manuals including a Dari language version of a psychosocial manual and developed arts and crafts activities for young children. IRC supported schools were the first refugee schools in Pakistan to be recognized by the Afghan Ministry of Education, enabling repatriating teachers and students to reenter the educational system easily upon their return to Afghanistan.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE The IRC Primary Health Care program operates a network of 9 Basic Health Units (BHU), 9 clinical laboratories, 1 dental clinic and 2 emergency obstetrics care centers (EmOC) in Hangu and Thal area of the North West Frontier Province. The program provides both curative and preventive health services to 106,000 Afghan refugees in 12 refugee camps of whom 75% are women and children. Diagnosis and treatment of common diseases as well as immunization of children and women are some of the main activities of the Primary Health Care Program. A patient referral system is in place for both BHU and EmOC, facilitating them to assist those cases that need attention. Trainings imparted to volunteer health workers in camps often results in mass dissemination of information regarding basic life saving hygiene practices.

WATER AND SANITATION IRC develops, upgrades, and maintains communal water sources in 63 refugee camps in southern NWFP. IRC ensures provision of sufficient amount of clean drinking water to 400,000 people including both refugees and their host communities. To fulfill the access and quality

standards defined by SPHERE and WHO, the program conducts regular monitoring, analysis, and chlorination of water sources. The program works closely with the local communities and has established water management committees (WMCs). These water management committees are strengthened through water and sanitation related technical and managerial trainings, so that they are able to maintain and operate their water systems on a sustainable basis. The water and sanitation interventions include drilling boreholes, development and protection of shallow wells, maintenance of deep wells, rehabilitation and protection of gravity springs, installation and repair of hand pumps, and water quality analysis/chlorination of water sources. The Water and Sanitation program also imparts skill trainings to hand pump mechanics/drillers/masons, as well as building the capacity of water management committees and raising awareness on environmental health issues. Some of the recent main activities conducted by the Water and Sanitation program include the development of 48 shallow wells, installation of 158 hand pumps, and development of 30 boreholes.

PROTECTION The Protection program has adopted a proactive approach to protection and human rights issues affecting refugees and other vulnerable communities in Pakistan. In order to meet its objectives, the Protection program carries out activities such as protecting the rights of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, provision of training to IRC and partner NGO staff on human rights and protection issues, and establishing mechanisms to prevent beneficiary exploitation through any program activities. These activities have helped the Protection program to understand the variety of problems that refugees are facing, enabling IRC to advocate on their behalf and provide them with assistance. The cross-border nature of the program allows for working on a regional basis, coordinating activities with IRC and other stakeholders in Afghanistan.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS PROJECT (DSP) The Durable Solutions Project (DSP) started operations in Peshawar in July 2004. The Project seeks to enable 1,500 vulnerable individuals and their families in the urban areas of Peshawar to move towards self reliance or one of UNHCR's identified durable solutions, while promoting the protection of Peshawar's urban Afghan population. The project's target community includes 20% Pakistani nationals while the remaining 80% are

Afghans. The Project focuses on providing vocational training, human rights protection mechanisms, dealing with resettlement cases, and sharing accurate and timely information on repatriation procedures, facilities, and services present in Afghanistan. As of date, the DSP has identified 1,500 Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) out of which 547 female beneficiaries have received skills training in tailoring, embroidery, or lace making and, as a result, are earning small incomes. There have been 250 males placed in apprenticeship programs and are currently being trained in auto mechanics, carpentry, tailoring, and welding. Another 250 beneficiaries are placed in courses on English language, computer skills, and traditional birth attendants. Medical treatment and rehabilitation have been received by 150 beneficiaries. The Project has conducted repatriation sessions for 1020 Afghan beneficiaries as a result of which some skilled beneficiaries approached DSP informing the program of their plans to repatriate to Afghanistan.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (WEP) The program aims to improve the plight of Afghan women's mental and physical health through psychosocial counseling sessions, reproductive health courses, vocational training, as well as literacy courses in Dari and Pashto. The psychosocial counseling focuses on issues such as depression, anxiety, child and spousal abuse and harassment, while the literacy and vocational courses impart valuable marketable skills to the female trainees. Besides this, day care centers have also been established inside the centers to cater to the needs of the children accompanying the beneficiaries. The WEP program works in ten urban settlements and camps of Peshawar where previously established centers of the DSP exist. It also recently opened four centers in nearby refugee camps. Presently in total, 143 refugee women are regularly visiting these centers as well as 27 children who are being taken care of in the day care centers. WEP also identified two protection cases faced by refugee women that are being followed up on.

EMERGENCY RELIEF UNIT-FLOOD RELIEF Weeks of torrential rainfall, flooding, heavy snowstorms and avalanches in the Pakistani provinces of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Balochistan resulted in communities being declared as disaster hit areas. The IRC Pakistan under the USAID relief program has purchased and delivered relief goods to 3500 families affected by the rain/snowfall areas of NWFP including, Shangla, Swat and Lower Dir. In addition to this an additional 550 families will be provided with food in Kalam. Assistance packages included rice, oil, sugar, salt, and pulses. IRC New York head office provided \$30,000 for the relief goods, along with IRC Pakistan staff who contributed food and non-food items, which also assisted those affected by the inclement weather. The IRC provided materials for emergency shelters. Materials included steel guarders, wheelbarrows, plastic buckets, pickaxes, and spades recovered from recently closed IRC-managed refugee camps. Transportation of relief goods has been difficult and the use of helicopters and in some cases even donkeys facilitated relief workers in the distribution of relief items. The IRC also in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) become an implementing partner in the distribution of food commodities provided by WFP to the people stranded in the Northern areas who do not have access to food. So far 11,500 families in the districts of Abbottabad, Manshera, Kohistan, Battagram, Kohistan, Shangla, Lower and Upper Dir and Swat have been provided with WFP food items distributed by IRC. The total number of families assisted by IRC and partners to date is 17,510.

PROGRAM STRATEGY

IRC seeks to provide well-planned assistance and protection to the Afghan refugees. We work towards building capacity of refugees to improve their lives in Pakistan and to ensure seamless repatriation and reintegration into Afghanistan. IRC aims to explore ways and means to provide assistance to the local communities affected by the presence of the refugee population.

OPERATIONS STAFFING

IRC Pakistan operates with 3 expatriate staff, 181 national staff, and 163 Afghan staff. In addition, IRC also employs 587 casual staff as teachers and camp helpers.

BUDGET

In the 2005 fiscal year, IRC Pakistan has an operating budget of 3.2 million USD. Funding for IRC Pakistan programming was provided by USBPRM, Europe Aid, European Community, ECHO, UNCHR, USAID, WFP, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Refugee Education Trust, Johnson & Johnson, and Stichting Vluchteling (SV), as well as various private foundations. Thus far, donors for the 2006 fiscal year include European Commission USBPRM, UNHCR, Refugee Education Trust (RET), Stichting Vluchteling (SV).

OFFICES

IRC Pakistan has 4 operating offices: Peshawar, Quetta, Kohat, and Hungu. We are currently in the process of opening a country liaison office in Islamabad.

CONTACT INFORMATION IRC Pakistan is pleased to share any additional information about its current programming or concepts for future projects.

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