

International Rescue Committee Pakistan: Strategy Action Plan

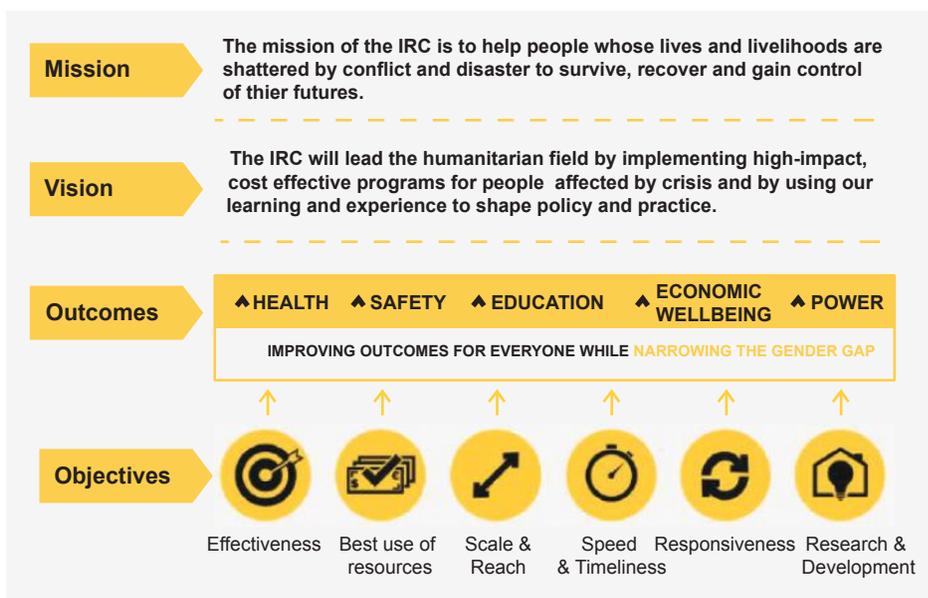


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IRC 2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of our global strategy, IRC 2020, is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



PAKISTAN OVERVIEW

Pakistan is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. There are estimated 3.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. As a result, Pakistan has several populations each with a unique set of challenges in humanitarian settings; such as communities temporarily displaced in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas; a large population of registered and unregistered Afghan refugees; and people displaced by natural disasters such as floods or drought.

Given such challenges, quality of life of the people affected by disasters suffers greatly. Pakistan's progress on the social development is slow. To address the emerging needs and uplift the human and social development, Government of Pakistan has adopted the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its agenda. Despite a lot of challenges, education is one of the major concerns. A large number of children in Pakistan lack basic education and are thus inadequately prepared for life and work.

Many children are unable to read, write, do simple math, work in teams and solve problems.

Furthermore, healthcare services often do not offer support for the unique needs of women and girls.

A high number of women die during, before or after childbirth; and girls often do not have enough information to make informed decisions about their health.

IRC's STRATEGIC PROGRAMING

The IRC first began working in Pakistan in 1980, providing emergency relief, health care, education, marketable skills and other essential services in affected communities. Since then, the IRC has expanded to support communities with a mission to help people whose lives and livelihoods are affected.

With 37 years of history in Pakistan, the IRC will build on recent governmental reforms to achieve lasting improvements in the lives of the people it serves. The IRC's new 2020 strategy for Pakistan illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety and education of people affected by poverty and humanitarian crises.

The IRC will directly reach more than 1.4 million people in Pakistan by the end of 2020, specifically assisting temporarily displaced persons, refugees, communities affected by humanitarian crises, and other vulnerable groups.

As a lead protection agency in Pakistan, the IRC will focus on keeping children and adults safe from abuse and exploitation. This will be achieved through programs providing psychosocial, health and legal aid to victims of abuse and exploitation and working with educators to discourage abuse in schools.

Ensuring children have age-appropriate reading, writing, and social skills will be a cornerstone of the IRC programs in Pakistan from 2015 till 2020. The IRC will reach boys and girls across the country with materials and training to ensure they have the tools to succeed in work and life.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal health, safety, and educational outcomes for women and girls, men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programing into all activities.

The International Rescue Committee in Pakistan aspires to empower vulnerable communities with choice (or freedom) and dignity by prioritizing the use of cash over in-kind humanitarian assistance to achieve its strategic/programmatic outcomes.

The IRC will advocate with the key public authorities and humanitarian actors to use cash as a prioritized modality for responding to needs of targeted populations, where cash is a feasible option.

IRC Pakistan will respond quickly to rapid emergencies through its well-capacitated Country Emergency Team (CET). The CET Pakistan possesses the experience to be on the ground in 72 hours with services essential to survival.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Pakistan	Future Programs
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and adolescent girls are protected from and treated for complications of pregnancy and childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide reproductive health services to reduce the risk of maternal mortality before, during, and after childbirth > Improve reproductive health for adolescent girls by raising awareness on key issues such as menstrual hygiene and physical changes
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enhance protection for children and adults through social protection centers, child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support, case management and information dissemination > Increase capacity to reduce disaster risk, through better planning, preparedness, response, and resource allocation at the governmental and community levels
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 6 - 14 year olds have literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills, according to their developmental potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improve children's reading and writing skills by providing quality materials for students, professional training for teachers and effective engagement structures for parental participation and community support



COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize the impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in Pakistan is making new investments to use resources more efficiently, react more quickly when crisis strikes, respond to beneficiaries' and partners' needs, and reach more people in more places. The IRC has made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Pakistan.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact

	<p>Best Use of Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Bring together major humanitarian organizations to collectively invest in research and advocate for evidence-based interventions > Assess and invest in staff capacity to guarantee staff have the skills to deliver highly efficient programs
	<p>Speed & Timeliness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintain a roster of qualified implementing partners and IRC staff to be able to quickly respond when disaster strikes > Prepare for future crises with emergency preparedness plans, ensuring assistance arrives when when it is needed most
	<p>Responsiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Set aside 'Accountability Budgets' in all grants to enable IRC staff to receive, process, and act on beneficiary and partner feedback
	<p>Scale and Reach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Partner with the government in service delivery and policy making to reach more people > Leverage the expertise and infrastructure of information technology actors to improve communication and engagement with beneficiaries
	<p>Effectiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Design all programs based on evidence. In cases, where evidence is weak or does not exist, design programs so that they generate evidence. > Improve knowledge of local contexts, and ensuring that programs and operations are adapted to that context.

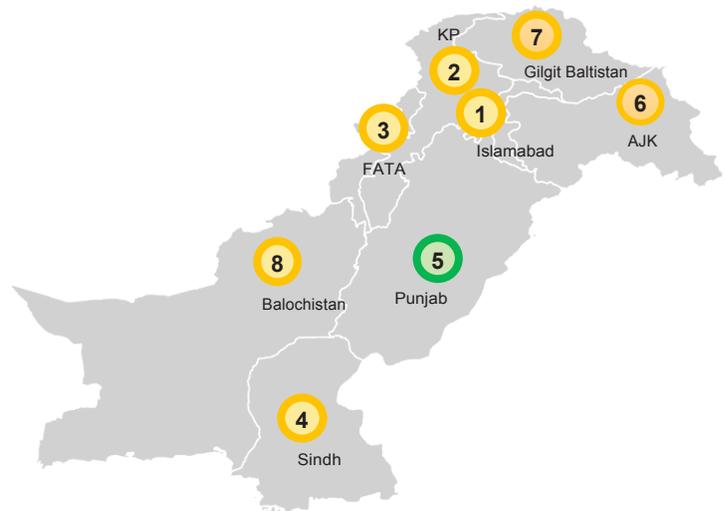


IRC's STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain and expand sites across Pakistan based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographical Transitions in Pakistan

Location	Geographical Transition
1 Islamabad	Facilitate strong relationships with the Government of Pakistan and support literacy promotion programs
2 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	Provide assistance to at least 30% of temporarily displaced people
3 Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)	Respond to the needs of returnees through the IRC's network of local partners
4 Sindh	Maintain presence to rapidly respond when ever disaster strikes and support local partners in delivering malnutrition and education programs
5 Punjab	Deliver new, innovative humanitarian interventions in cooperation with the key relevant line ministries and departments.
6 Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)	Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies
7 Gilgit Baltistan	Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies
8 Balochistan	Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies and, where necessary, initiate programs to serve Afghan Refugees



Expand or open



Maintain or reduce



Close



IRC in Pakistan



IRCPakistan@rescue.org



[Rescue.org/where/Pakistan](https://www.rescue.org/where/Pakistan)



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