

International Rescue Committee Pakistan: Strategy Action Plan



Photo by: Haseeb khalid/The IRC



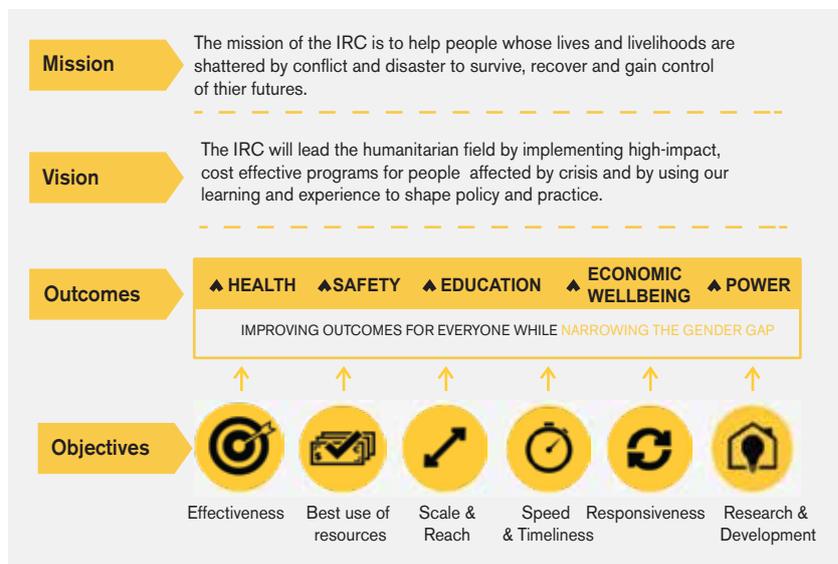
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We work to improve livelihoods opportunities for long-term economic wellbeing of the people, whom we affect. Photo by Haseeb Khalid/The IRC

IRC2020 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 clients' needs.



PAKISTAN OVERVIEW

Pakistan is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. There are estimated 2.9 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 newly merged districts; 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. In addition, women and children are at risk of insufficient dietary intake, infection and diseases are contributing factors to malnutrition - the indicators of which are alarmingly high according to NNS.¹

¹ National Nutrition Survey, Pakistan 2011 & 2018

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

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.

Banking on its 39 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 2020 strategy for Pakistan illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety and education of people affected by poverty and humanitarian crises.

In last five years (2015-2019), the IRC has helped over 3 million people in Pakistan and will reach about 0.5 million people by the end of 2020 specifically providing development and humanitarian assistance to the communities who need it the most, including temporary displaced persons, refugees, and other vulnerable groups. Our programs are designed to achieve meaningful change in people's lives.

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, legal aid and other appropriate services to survivors of abuse and exploitation as well as strengthening community based protection mechanisms. IRC is also putting in place a

safeguarding system within the organization as well as at the partner organizations to safeguard our clients from exploitation and abuse.

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 programming into all activities.

The IRC 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.

The IRC Pakistan's Country Emergency Team (CET) is well-capacitated to respond quickly to rapid emergencies. 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

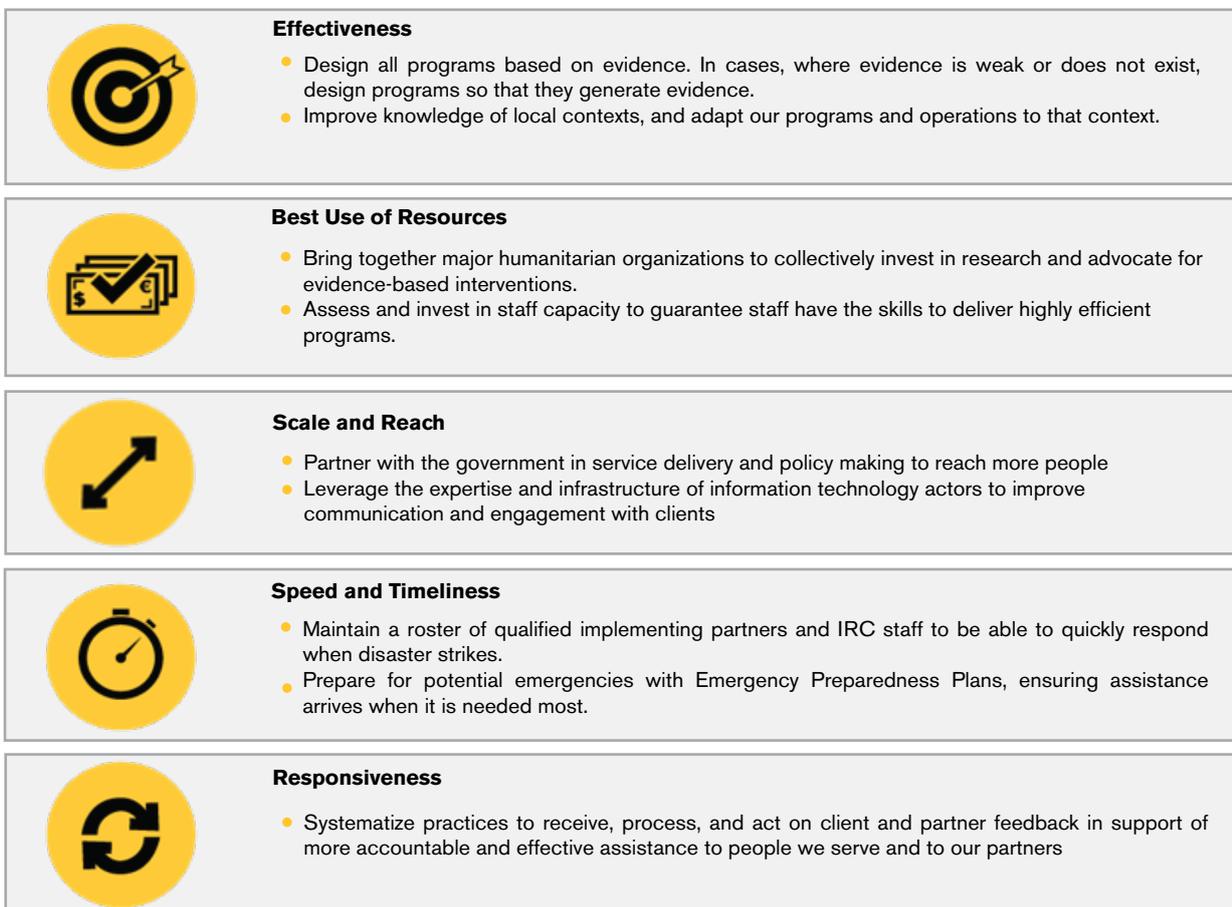
	Priority Outcomes in Pakistan	Future Programs
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 - 14 year olds have literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills, according to their developmental potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve children's reading and writing skills by providing quality materials for students, professional training for teachers and effective engagement structures for parental participation and community support
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"> Optimum mix of demand creation, service improvements, community engagement, public-private partnerships, and system(s) strengthening, for increase coverage, efficiency, and quality of reproductive health services to reduce the risk of maternal mortality before, during, and after childbirth especially for women and adolescent girls Ensure that acutely malnourished women and children are referred for treatment² by adopting a multi-sectoral approach through prevention pathway
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People are safe in their homes 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 Increased capacity to reduce disaster risk, through better planning, preparedness, response, and resource allocation at the governmental and community levels

² Optimum dietary intake through MIYCN (Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition) interventions

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 disaster strikes, respond to clients' 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.

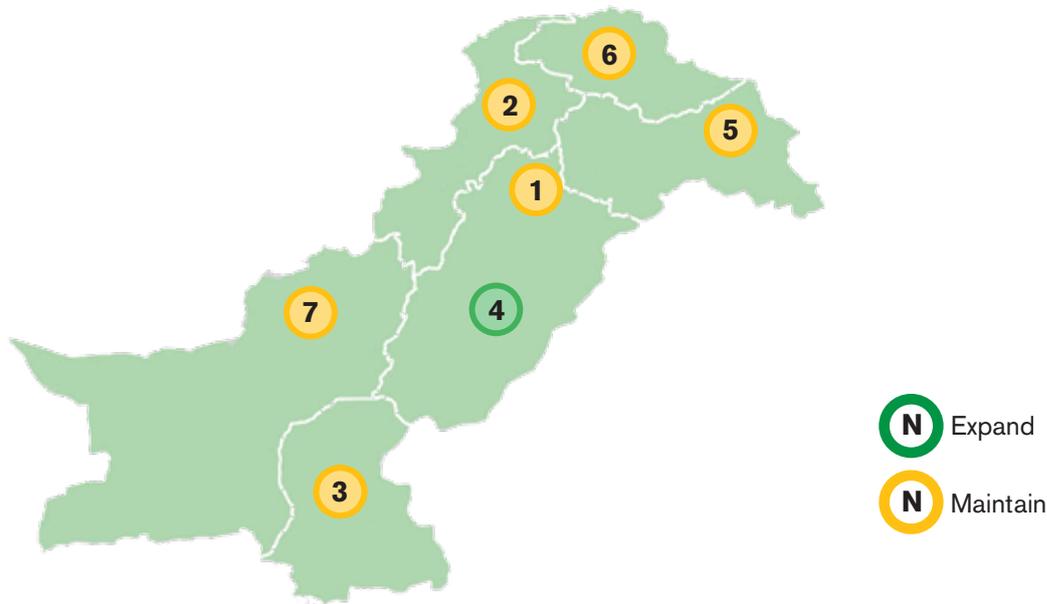
Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate strong relationships with the Government of Pakistan and support literacy promotion programs.
2 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) including newly merged districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide assistance to at least 30% of temporarily displaced people. Respond to the needs of returnees through the IRC's network of local partners.
3 Sindh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain presence to rapidly respond whenever disaster strikes and support local partners in delivering disaster-resilient, malnutrition and education programs.
4 Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver new, innovative humanitarian interventions in cooperation with the key relevant line ministries and departments.
5 Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies.
6 Gilgit Baltistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies.
7 Balochistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations to respond quickly to potential emergencies and, where necessary, initiate programs to serve Afghan Refugees and host communities.



The IRC in Pakistan



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