



Wishing you all a very blessed



Eid Mubarak



Situation Update: **Diplomatic Dialogue Amid Deepening Refugee Crackdown:** March 2025 marked an escalation in both the humanitarian crisis and diplomatic activity concerning Afghan nationals in Pakistan. The Government's March 31st deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders and undocumented individuals to voluntarily leave the country has now passed. Fears are mounting over the likelihood of intensified enforcement and mass deportations in the post-Eid period.

Despite official assurances that registered Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards are permitted to stay until June 30, 2025, reports from multiple districts suggest that even PoR cardholders are facing harassment, wrongful detention, and forced relocation—particularly in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, where the government has ordered the relocation of PoR holders to other areas.

The enforcement actions—initially limited to Islamabad and Rawalpindi—have expanded into several districts in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, including Gujrat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, and Mianwali. These crackdowns have resulted in widespread arrests, detentions in holding centers, and deportations, severely affecting vulnerable individuals including women, children, and elderly Afghans.

As of March 2025, over 3.1 million Afghans reside in Pakistan, including around 1.35 million registered refugees and approximately 600,000 new arrivals post-2021, along with an unregistered population. Since 2023, more than 800,000 individuals have been repatriated to Afghanistan.

In a significant diplomatic development, Pakistan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, met Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Kabul. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue and cooperation on critical issues, including refugee management, trade and transit.

The Afghan Foreign Minister urged that Afghan refugees should be allowed to return gradually and with dignity, rather than face mass expulsions. Ambassador Sadiq reiterated Pakistan's intention to avoid politicizing humanitarian matters and promised practical steps, including facilitating visas and travel arrangements. Both sides also expressed commitment to continued high-level engagements to resolve outstanding issues.

SHARP Response: **High Alert & Coordinated Protection Efforts in a Complex and Evolving Environment:** Amid fears of a post-deadline crackdown and despite Ramzan the Eid holidays, SHARP-Pakistan remains fully mobilized. Our legal and protection teams continue to respond swiftly to the growing needs of Persons of Concern (PoCs) across various regions.

Emergency Legal & Field Interventions

Rapid Response: All SHARP field units operated on high alert, anticipating a surge in arrests and detentions after the March 31st deadline.

Helpline Activation: SHARP's emergency helplines remained active throughout the month to ensure PoCs could reach out for urgent support.

Holding Center Access: Protection teams conducted monitoring visits to holding centers, securing the release of several PoR cardholders detained mistakenly.

On-Site Legal Aid: Lawyers have been deployed at key detention points to advocate for due process, ensure humane treatment, and intervene in cases of arbitrary detention.

Proactive Advocacy & Coordination

Engagement with Authorities: SHARP continues to coordinate with district administrations, police, and the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) to ensure procedural fairness and facilitate the resolution of high-risk cases.

High-Risk Profiling: A comprehensive list of vulnerable individuals—including unaccompanied minors, single-headed households, and PoCs with protection letters—is being updated for advocacy with local and international stakeholders.

Daily Situation Updates: Consolidated updates are being shared daily with UNHCR and IOM—UN to inform broader advocacy and protection planning efforts. Protection teams are conducting outreach to reassure refugee communities, combat misinformation, and build trust.

Unified Humanitarian Call SHARP urges humanitarian actors, UN agencies, and civil society partners to scale up protection-sensitive interventions. With post-deadline enforcement likely to intensify, particularly once the temporary Torkham border reopening agreement expires on April 15, coordinated advocacy and resource mobilization are essential.

SHARP reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting the rights, safety and dignity of Afghan refugees in Pakistan—and remains on standby for immediate response throughout this critical period.

VISITS & MEETINGS

Swiss Ambassador Visits SHARP to Strengthen Refugee Protection Efforts

His Excellency Mr. Georg Steiner, the Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan, along with Ms. Laura Antonelia Salvato, First Secretary at the Swiss Embassy, was warmly welcomed by SHARP Chairman, Mr. Liaqat Banori, and CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed.

The delegation toured the Reception Desk Center (RDC), where Mr. Mudassar Javed provided insights into the refugee registration process. Mr. Liaqat Banori expressed



gratitude for Switzerland's continued support, sharing SHARP's achievements and the challenges faced by displaced communities. He emphasized the urgent need for a structured, dignified repatriation mechanism that prioritizes humanitarian concerns.



Ambassador Steiner commended SHARP's unwavering commitment to refugee protection and acknowledged the increasing challenges due to geopolitical shifts and funding constraints affecting humanitarian aid. He reaffirmed Switzerland's commitment to humanitarian principles and showed interest in strengthening refugee protection

frameworks and exploring sustainable solutions for displaced populations in Pakistan. The discussions also explored potential collaborations to enhance legal assistance, psychosocial support, vocational training, and livelihood opportunities for refugees, reinforcing a shared vision of protection, dignity, and empowerment.

UNHCR Delegation Visits SHARP Peshawar to Enhance Refugee Support and Coordination

SHARP's Peshawar Regional Office had the privilege of hosting a distinguished UNHCR delegation led by Ms. Kiran Kaur, Assistant Representative (Protection), and Mr. Richard Grindell, Senior Protection Officer. The visit marked a significant opportunity to strengthen coordination and reinforce collective efforts in addressing the challenges faced by refugees in Pakistan.



PD (K-P) Ms. Memoona Batool Khan and Legal Manager Mr. Manzoor Ali welcomed the delegation and provided an in-depth briefing on SHARP's ongoing protection initiatives, legal aid services, and the pivotal role of the Reception Desk Centre (RDC) in assisting persons of concern. In a strategic discussion, both teams explored ways to enhance response mechanisms, address emerging protection challenges, and further streamline collaboration to ensure accessible and effective support for refugees. The delegation also acknowledged SHARP's commitment and frontline efforts in delivering legal assistance and community outreach.

UNHCR Security Officer Reviews SHARP's Safety Measures & Humanitarian Efforts

SHARP Pakistan had the honor of hosting Ms. Julie Spooner, Senior Security Officer at UNHCR, for a security assessment of SHARP's operational framework. She was warmly received by Capt. Rauf Kiyani (Security Focal Point) and Mr. Mateen Janjua (RDC Supervisor).

Mr. Aatif Afzal, Project Director (ICT), led a tour of the Reception Desk Center (RDC), highlighting key security protocols and operational procedures ensuring both staff safety and efficient service delivery to vulnerable communities.



In a follow-up meeting, SHARP's CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, along with Mr. Aatif Afzal and Ms. Huma (ADHR Manager), briefed Ms. Spooner on SHARP's ongoing humanitarian efforts amid growing challenges. He emphasized the critical role of frontline staff in maintaining safety and protection.

Ms. Spooner commended SHARP's commitment to security and humanitarian work, reinforcing cooperation between UNHCR and SHARP Pakistan in ensuring a safe and supportive environment for those in need.



SHARP CEO Joins U.S. Embassy & PUAN Debrief to Reflect on IVLP & IELP Experiences

SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed attended a debrief event organized by the U.S. Embassy Islamabad and Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN), bringing together 2024 IVLP and IELP alumni to reflect on their enriching exchange experiences in the United States.



Drawing from his participation in IVLP 2024, Mr. Javed shared insights on leveraging international collaborations to enhance legal aid, human rights advocacy, and peacebuilding initiatives in Pakistan. The discussion

reaffirmed the profound impact of U.S.-Pakistan exchange programs in fostering professional growth, innovation, and strategic partnerships.

A big thanks to Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy Lisa Swenarski and PUAN for their continued support in strengthening U.S.-Pakistan cooperation!



SHARP CEO Meets IHCBA Secretary to Strengthen Collaboration on Justice & Human Rights

SHARP CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, met with Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Jajja, newly-elected Secretary of Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA), to extend warm congratulations on his election, wishing him success in his new role. The gentlemen discussed potential collaboration, including signing an MoU to work together in enhancing and strengthening the criminal justice system for the greater good of the rule of law in Pakistan and the protection of human rights.

As a token of appreciation, Mr. Jajja presented a commemorative shield to Mr. Mudassar Javed, who reciprocated with a souvenir, symbolizing SHARP's commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships for justice and human rights.



A delegation from the High Commission of Canada visits SHARP Karachi office

Ms. Cindy Lam (Global Engagement Officer) and Mr. Asif Shahzad Khan (Program/Case Analyst, Migration) from the High Commission of Canada visits the SHARP Karachi office to engage with the project team and gain insights into the ongoing efforts supporting displaced Afghan refugees in Sindh. They also met with SHARP's Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs) under the Protection Project.



Representatives from donor organizations, including Ms. Jamal Khatoon, Ms. Amber Gaho, and Mr. Ayaz Raja, joined the discussion alongside Mr. Shabeer Shinwari, Manager of SHARP, and the Protection Team. The meeting focused on reviewing SHARP's interventions in Karachi, particularly legal assistance, documentation, community-based protection, case management, and capacity building. Challenges and solutions regarding repatriation under the Illegal Foreign Repatriation Plan (IFRP) were also discussed.

SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed Strengthens Collaboration for Afghan Refugee Support During Lahore Visit

During his recent visit to Lahore, SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed held a coordination meeting with Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CAR Punjab) Mr. Arshad Rana to enhance collaboration, streamline refugee support services, and address key challenges Afghan refugees face. The meeting focused on strengthening coordination mechanisms, ensuring legal protections, and improving humanitarian assistance for displaced communities.

Also in attendance were Project Coordinator Mr. Syed Muhammad Saleem and Field Manager Ms. Arooj, reinforcing SHARP's commitment to fostering strong



partnerships with key stakeholders to develop more effective, rights-based solutions for refugee protection and support in Pakistan.

Additionally, Mr. Mudassar Javed met with the SHARP team in Lahore, where he shared organizational values, acknowledged their dedication, and appreciated their hard work in providing legal aid and protection services to vulnerable communities. His visit reaffirmed SHARP's mission to advocate for refugee rights, ensure legal assistance, and foster stronger partnerships for a more effective response to the ongoing refugee situation.



SHARP Islamabad Teams Strategize for Enhanced Legal and Registration Services

Project Director-ICT Mr. Aatif Afzal led a series of productive meetings with SHARP's legal and registration teams in Islamabad to recognize their dedication and strategize for improved service delivery in the evolving protection landscape.

In the first session, Team Leads Mr. Taufiq Ahmad and Syed Muhammad Saleem, along with their legal teams, were appreciated for their outstanding performance in navigating complex protection challenges. The discussion focused on enhancing coordination, streamlining response mechanisms, and reinforcing SHARP's commitment to legal support for vulnerable communities.



In a subsequent meeting, RDC Team Lead Mr. Mateen Zafar and RDC colleagues joined Mr. Afzal to deliberate on registration matters and future challenges. The team explored proactive planning strategies to ensure efficient, accessible, and responsive registration services for persons of concern.

These discussions underscore SHARP's commitment to legal excellence, coordinated teamwork, and proactive solutions, ensuring stronger protection and support for those in need.

UNHCR's Advice & Legal Aid Centers (ALAC)

SHARP Karachi ALAC Team Conducts Legal Awareness Session for Afghan Refugees

SHARP ALAC team in Karachi conducted a counseling session to raise awareness about free legal assistance, advice, and aid services for Persons of Concern (PoCs). Led by Lawyer Ms. Quratul-Ain, the session was particularly beneficial for Afghan refugees holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, helping them understand their rights and access essential legal support.

Through these efforts, SHARP continues to empower refugee communities by providing legal aid and promoting access to justice.



SHARP Pakistan Marks International Women's Day 2025 Nationwide

With great enthusiasm, SHARP Pakistan celebrated International Women's Day 2025 across Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, and Mianwali, recognizing the remarkable contributions of women who drive positive change within our organization and beyond. The day served as a powerful testament to the strength, resilience, and leadership of women, reinforcing SHARP's unwavering commitment to gender equality, empowerment, and inclusivity.

The celebrations commenced at SHARP's Head Office in Islamabad, led by Ms. Hina Saleem (Media & Communication Coordinator) and Ms. Samman Aman (Registration Assistant) brought together inspiring voices advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment. Through engaging discussions, they emphasized that collective action is key to accelerating progress toward gender equality. The celebration was graced by Project Director-ICT Mr. Aatif Afzal, Ms. Huma Aziz (Manager Admin & HR) and esteemed team members.

In his address, Mr. Aatif extended heartfelt congratulations to all women, acknowledging their resilience, dedication, and invaluable contributions to society. He highlighted that SHARP is home to 150+ talented female professionals, a testament to the organization's commitment to equal opportunities, diversity, and women's leadership.

In Karachi, SHARP ALAC and the protection teams celebrated with a day filled with empowerment, inspiration, and unity! Greeting cards were shared with female staff to recognize their dedication, followed by team-building activities and networking sessions that fostered collaboration and connection among women from different departments. The event highlighted women's resilience and achievements, reinforcing our pledge to a more inclusive and supportive workplace.

At SHARP Lahore and Mianwali offices, Women's Day was commemorated with insightful discussions, where women from various departments shared their personal stories, challenges, and successes. These discussions served as a powerful reminder that every woman's journey is unique, inspiring, and valuable in shaping a better future for all.



SHARP CP Team Strengthens Child Protection Efforts in KP

The SHARP Child Protection (CP) Team in KP conducted impactful awareness sessions with community members, emphasizing critical child protection concerns and collaborating with the ALAC team to identify legal aid cases for vulnerable children. During their visit to the Child-Friendly Space (CFS) Khazana, the team observed daily activities and engaged children in an interactive session, fostering a safe and supportive environment for learning and growth.



In RV Padhana, the team conducted a session on violence and abuse prevention, equipping children with essential knowledge and safety strategies to protect themselves. SHARP's Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) play a vital role in ensuring a secure, nurturing environment where children can learn, play, and develop free from harm. Committed to child protection and empowerment, SHARP continues to create safe spaces where every child can thrive with dignity and confidence.

Legal Aid and Protection Services (LAPS) Project

Two Capacity Building Workshops for lawyers enrolled with Islamabad High Court Bar Association

SHARP, in collaboration with our Protection Partner, successfully conducted two back-to-back Capacity Building Workshops with lawyers enrolled with the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) on March 25-26, 2025.

The trainings aimed to enhance the legal community's understanding of human rights, national & international protection frameworks, and legal mechanisms for refugees and migrants. On both training days, 70+ participants actively engaged in discussions, case studies, and interactive sessions, strengthening their capacity to advocate for the rights of displaced communities.



The SHARP team of facilitators was led by PD-ICT Mr. Aatif Afzal, along with Mr. Taufiq Ahmed Adv., Ms. Aneela Sarfaraz Adv., and Mr. Waqas Adv., who provided in-depth knowledge and guided participants through interactive learning exercises.

We were honored to have Mr. Ch. Manzoor Ahmed Jajja, General Secretary IHCBA, as the Chief Guest on Day-1, and Syed Wajid Ali Shah Gillani, President IHCBA, as the Chief Guest on Day-2. Their presence and insights added immense value to the discussions.



SHARP Strengthens Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach for Refugee Protection Across Pakistan

In response to the prevailing protection environment, SHARP teams across Pakistan have been actively engaging with key stakeholders to address the challenges faced by displaced persons and communities.

The SHARP ALAC team in Mardan, including Adv. Safia Naz, Adv. Bilal, and Adv. Aubaid, met with DPO Mardan, Mr. Zahoor Babar, who assured full cooperation in addressing the concerns of displaced communities. Additionally, the SHARP Protection Team in Mardan visited PS Kalu Khan and met with Razzar's Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Sabiha Haistam, where they provided a detailed briefing on the challenges faced by Persons of Concern (POCs) and sought



support for their needs. The team also held a significant meeting with DPO Swabi, Mr. Azhar Ali Khan, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts and humanitarian assistance for the well-being of POCs.

SHARP's Protection Team in Karachi conducted crucial community visits to engage directly with Afghan refugees and provide them with essential guidance and support.

Khamiso Goth (District Central): Led by Ms. Rozina Issa (Protection Officer), alongside Ms. Yasmeen Fatima (Protection Assistant) and Ms. Karishma (Interpreter), the team met Afghan nationals, listened to their concerns, and shared information about SHARP's objectives, services, and available support mechanisms.

Al-Asif Square (District East): Another outreach session was held by Ms. Shahnaz Parveen (Protection Officer) and lawyers Ms. Meena Naz and Mr. Imran Akmal. They engaged with both male and female Afghan nationals, offering them vital information about SHARP's protection services.



To strengthen collaboration with local authorities, Madam Jamal Khatoon from the Protection Team joined a visit to P.S Yousuf Plaza. The team held a constructive meeting with Lady Head Constable Ms. Shazia Iqbal and SHO Mr. Sohail Khaskely of P.S Sohrab Goth. Discussions centered on addressing the challenges faced by refugees and reinforcing coordination between SHARP and law enforcement officials to ensure an effective response to the ongoing situation.

AMNA-supported MHPSS project

SHARP Celebrates Nowruz & International Women's Day 2025 with Afghan Refugee Community

SHARP hosted a vibrant and inspiring event celebrating Nowruz and International Women's Day 2025, bringing together 40 Afghan refugee women, men and SHARP staff to honor heritage, resilience and empowerment. The gathering highlighted the strength and contributions of women, reinforcing the need to [#AccelerateAction toward gender equality and social cohesion](#).



The session was skillfully facilitated by Ms. Maleeha Sami, with Ms. Rukhsana Jafar co-facilitating, and Mr. Tamim expertly doing the interpretation, ensuring an engaging and enriching discussion. PD-ICT Mr. Aatif Afzal and AHRM Ms. Huma Aziz shared insightful remarks, emphasizing SHARP's commitment to women's rights, cultural inclusivity and community empowerment. This event also marked the closing activity of our AMNA-supported project, through which SHARP provided essential Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services to Afghan refugees and returnees in Kabul and Islamabad. We are deeply grateful to AMNA for their invaluable support in strengthening the well-being and resilience of displaced communities.

AMAN-KAAR

SHARP Concludes a Series of Peacebuilding Theatre Workshops Under AMAN-KAAR Initiative

SHARP, in collaboration with NACTA and UNODC, successfully organized a series of transformative theatre workshops across various educational institutions, including Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, Government Girls Degree College Usta Muhammad, University of Larkana, and culminating at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Sukkur. These workshops were conducted under the EU-funded AMAN-KAAR (Performers for Peace) initiative to foster inclusivity, tolerance, and social harmony.



Led by the esteemed theatre director and activist, Mr. Safer Ullah Khan, these immersive sessions empowered young participants from diverse backgrounds to channel their real-life experiences into compelling performances. Through the power of storytelling and performance, students engaged in thought-provoking discussions, challenged societal barriers, and inspired meaningful change.

This impactful journey across multiple institutions has not only encouraged artistic expression but has also strengthened the role of theatre in peacebuilding, reinforcing the power of dialogue and empathy in shaping a more inclusive society.



Strengthening Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding: SHARP's Collaborative Efforts Under AMAN-KAAR

Under the EU-funded AMAN-KAAR (Performers for Peace) initiative, PD-ICT Mr. Aatif Afzal led a series of strategic meetings across Sindh and Balochistan, engaging with academic leaders, government officials, and community stakeholders to foster peacebuilding through performing arts and creative dialogue.



Heritage, Rohri, further expanding the initiative's reach.

Recognizing the vital role of peripheral regions in peacebuilding, Mr. Afzal visited Usta Muhammad, engaging in discussions with Assistant Commissioner Mr. Ramzan Ishtiaq, Principal Ms. Nighat Jan, and Vice Principal Mr. Muhammad Iqbal. Accompanied by SHARP's legal experts, he emphasized the transformative impact of performing arts in fostering dialogue and harmony. Officials extended their full support, ensuring the active participation of students in future initiatives.

These engagements reflect SHARP's unwavering dedication to empowering youth through art, dialogue, and collaboration. By building strong alliances with academia, government institutions, and communities, SHARP continues to shape a future where young minds drive peace, resilience, and social harmony.

Mr. Zahid Usman (Project Manager AMAN-KAAR), meets with Director of the Women Development Center at Women University Multan

Under the AMAN-KAAR (Performers for Peace) Project, funded by the European Union and implemented in collaboration with NACTA and UNODC, SHARP Project Manager, Mr. Zahid Usman, reaffirmed our commitment to empowering youth as agents of peace and social cohesion.

During his visit to Multan, he engaged in a meaningful discussion with Dr. Shazia, Director of the Women Development Center at Women University Multan. The conversation focused on the transformative role of performing arts and creative expression in engaging youth in peacebuilding initiatives. The university's academic leadership expressed strong support for SHARP's vision and committed to mobilizing students for theatre-based interventions that promote harmony, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence.



Mr. Afzal, accompanied by SHARP's Sukkur team, met with key figures from University of Larkana, Chandka Medical College, Begum Nusrat Bhutto University (BNBU) Rohri, and IBA Sukkur. These discussions emphasized theatre-based interventions as a means to empower youth, with institutions pledging their support in mobilizing students for peace-oriented activities. Similarly, during his visit to Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, Vice Chancellor Dr. Yousuf Khushk endorsed SHARP's vision, recognizing the role of students as catalysts for social cohesion. Collaboration opportunities were also explored at The Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design &

