



Situation Update:

As of May 2025, the situation of Afghan refugees and other vulnerable foreign nationals in Pakistan remained complex and sensitive, amidst the evolving implementation of the Government's Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP). While the initial waves of large-scale enforcement activities have somewhat subsided in last month or so, protection concerns persist — particularly for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, undocumented individuals, and mixed-status families who continue to face legal uncertainty.

Field reports from key refugee-hosting areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, indicated a steady but reduced pace of forced and voluntary returns. Many returns remained motivated by factors such as deepening economic hardship, loss of livelihoods, rising housing insecurity, increasing societal pressure, and ongoing fears of renewed enforcement actions. Some individuals also expressed anxiety over ambiguous messaging regarding possible future phases of the IFRP, contributing to heightened psychological distress within affected communities.

Despite periodic official reassurances of a measured and phased approach, incidents of harassment, arbitrary arrests, evictions, and short-term detentions continued to be reported—particularly in urban centers such as Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, and Quetta. Vulnerable groups — including women, children, the elderly, single-headed households, individuals with medical needs, and those lacking valid documentation — remain disproportionately affected.

Field coordination with local district authorities showed gradual improvement in certain areas, with some district administrations renewing their commitment to upholding the rights of registered refugees and ensuring that any repatriation processes remain voluntary, safe, and dignified in line with Pakistan's humanitarian traditions and international obligations. Community-based outreach and legal awareness sessions continued to be delivered across high-risk zones, providing accurate information on rights, available services, repatriation processes, and grievance redress mechanisms to empower refugee families in making informed decisions.

As the IFRP continues to evolve, sustained humanitarian coordination, evidence-based advocacy, field monitoring, and policy dialogue remain essential to ensure that protection-sensitive, non-discriminatory approaches are upheld and that no vulnerable individual is left behind.

Throughout May 2025, SHARP maintained an active and adaptive protection response to address the ongoing and emerging challenges faced by Afghan refugees, asylum-seekers, and other vulnerable populations affected by the IFRP enforcement.

In view of continued risks faced by ACC holders, undocumented individuals, and mixed-status households, SHARP further intensified its legal interventions, operating in close coordination with UNHCR, IOM, government counterparts, and civil society partners. Legal teams provided individualized legal counseling, case management, court representation, and documentation support, ensuring respect for due process and access to legal remedies, especially in cases involving detention, eviction, and threatened family separation.

Through sustained coordination with humanitarian partners and local authorities, SHARP contributed to improved referral pathways, strengthened protection responses, and the promotion of rights-based approaches in areas most impacted by enforcement activities. SHARP remains committed to its core mandate of protecting the rights, dignity, and well-being of all vulnerable populations, and continues to advocate for principled, humane, and protection-sensitive implementation of repatriation and return processes.

VISITS & MEETINGS

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad visits SHARP Head Office

SHARP had the distinct honor of hosting Mr. Arno Kirchhof, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Islamabad, at its head office. He was warmly welcomed by SHARP Chairman Mr. Liaqat Banori, CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, and MHPSS Officer Ms. Maleeha Sami.

Mr. Mudassar Javed provided a comprehensive overview of SHARP's mission and operations, followed by a guided tour of the Reception Desk Centre (RDC), where Mr. Kirchhof observed SHARP's frontline services for refugees, migrants, and vulnerable communities. The visit served as a platform for constructive dialogue on areas of mutual interest,



including skilled labor mobility, combating human trafficking, migration support mechanisms, and welfare initiatives for prisoners in Pakistan. Both sides expressed a shared commitment to exploring future avenues for collaboration to advance human rights and social protection.

Mr. Arno Kirchhof commended SHARP's tireless efforts and meaningful contributions in the fields of legal aid and humanitarian support, reaffirming the importance of such partnerships in driving sustainable impact.



CEO SHARP Strengthens Collaboration with Attock Administration Through Strategic Meetings and Educational Engagement

SHARP CEO Mr. Mudassar Javed, accompanied by Media & Communication Coordinator Ms. Hina Saleem and Team Lead Mr. Taufiq Ahmed, held a series of impactful engagements in Attock, reflecting SHARP's continued commitment to community development and youth empowerment.

The visit began with a productive meeting with Assistant Commissioner Attock, Ms. Anza Abbasi, and District Police Officer Mr. Ghias Gul. The SHARP team expressed deep appreciation for the unwavering support of the district administration and police department in facilitating SHARP's ongoing initiatives. Mr. Mudassar acknowledged the strong spirit of collaboration and emphasized the need to sustain this partnership for future interventions focused on community welfare and human rights protection. As a token of gratitude, commemorative souvenirs were presented to Ms. Anza Abbasi and Mr. Ghias Gul, recognizing their valuable



contributions to SHARP's mission. Furthering this collaborative spirit, Mr. Mudassar and his program team also visited District Public School Attock—an initiative spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza aimed at transforming the region into a hub for IT and skills development. Coordinated by Assistant Commissioner Ms. Anza Abbasi, the visit included a tour of the school's facilities and a discussion on shared goals in empowering youth through education and vocational training. Both engagements highlighted the mutual commitment of SHARP and the Attock administration to fostering community resilience, skill-building, and sustainable livelihoods, paving the way for impactful future collaborations.

CEO SHARP held a productive meeting with representatives from the British High Commission in Islamabad

SHARP CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, held a productive meeting with representatives from the British High Commission in Islamabad, including Ms. Zoe Atwal, Second Secretary Political, and Mr. Jacke Wish, Second Secretary and Afghan Relocations Policy and Engagement Lead.

The discussion focused on pressing issues related to relocation, migration, and the prevention of human trafficking. Both sides emphasized their shared commitment to protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening coordination to promote safe, legal, and dignified migration practices. SHARP looks forward to continued collaboration and impactful joint efforts in the future.



UNHCR's Advice & Legal Aid Centers (ALAC)

SHARP's Team ALAC-1 organized a capacity building workshop for police officials in Islamabad

SHARP's Team ALAC-1 organized a capacity building workshop for police officials in Islamabad. The session brought together 27 police officials, including 6 female officers, to strengthen their understanding of human rights, refugee protection, and asylum seeker rights in line with national and international legal frameworks under the UNHCR Mandate.

Mr. Taufiq Ahmed, Team Lead ALAC-1, conducted an insightful and engaging session on the fundamental principles of human rights, emphasizing the importance of dignity, equality, and legal safeguards for all individuals. Mr. Waseem-ur-Rehman, Representative of UNHCR, provided a comprehensive overview of refugee rights and the international legal frameworks that protect asylum seekers, underlining Pakistan's commitments under the UNHCR Mandate.



The workshop was graced by the esteemed presence of Commandant CPC & DIG Law and Order, Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman, as Chief Guest, and SSP Director Initiatives, Mr. Shams ul-Haq, as Guest of Honor. In his address, Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman lauded SHARP's efforts, acknowledging the organization's significant role in enhancing police officers' awareness of sensitive human rights and refugee protection issues, which are critical in today's law enforcement environment.

In his remarks, SHARP Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal emphasized the pivotal role of police and law enforcement agencies as frontline defenders of human rights, particularly in safeguarding the dignity and protection of vulnerable populations, including refugees and asylum seekers. He encouraged continued collaboration, capacity-building, and rights-based policing to foster a more inclusive and just society for all. Certificates of participation were awarded to all attendees in recognition of their active engagement. As a token of appreciation, souvenirs were presented to the distinguished guests by Mr. Afzal, acknowledging their valued support and collaboration.

SHARP-ALAC Peshawar team conducted a one-day legal camp at the Urban Refugee Cluster—Haji Camp, Setti Town, Peshawar

SHARP-ALAC Peshawar team, led by Team Lead Mr. Asad Khan Afridi, recently conducted a one-day legal camp at the Urban Refugee Cluster—Haji Camp, Setti Town, Peshawar. The activity aimed to bridge critical information



gaps and empower Afghan refugee communities with essential legal awareness and practical guidance. More than 100 male and female forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) actively participated in the camp. Attendees received legal counseling on key protection concerns, including documentation challenges, tenancy-related disputes, access to basic services, and issues related to civil registration. The team also provided guidance on referral pathways and complaint redress mechanisms and emphasized the importance of timely legal intervention.



Special focus was given to enhancing awareness about individuals' legal rights, responsibilities, and the free legal aid services available through SHARP. SHARP remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering accessible, community-centered protection services for vulnerable populations, ensuring their rights are protected and their voices heard.

CP Team in KP Visits Chakdara CFS & CFS RV Jalala

Our Child Protection (CP) team in KP recently visited Chakdara CFS and CFS RV Jalala to strengthen support for children and ensure quality services. During their visit to Chakdara CFS, the CP team assessed the centre's maintenance and reviewed enrolment records to ensure a safe, child-friendly environment and compliance with quality standards.

While visiting CFS RV Jalala, the team held a productive meeting with the Animator and conducted a lively awareness session with children, inspiring them about the transformative power of education and reinforcing their right to learn, thrive, and dream big. In his remarks, SHARP Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal emphasized the pivotal role of police and law enforcement agencies as frontline defenders of human rights, particularly in safeguarding the dignity and protection of vulnerable populations, including refugees and asylum seekers. He encouraged continued collaboration, capacity-building, and rights-based policing to foster a more inclusive and just society for all. Certificates of participation were awarded to all attendees in recognition of their active engagement. As a token of appreciation, souvenirs were presented to the distinguished guests by Mr. Afzal, acknowledging their valued support and collaboration.



AMAN-KAAR (Performers for Peace)

SHARP Concludes EU-Funded Performers for Peace project with a powerful theater performance in Islamabad

SHARP, in partnership with NACTA & UNODC, proudly concluded the EU-funded AMAN-KAAR: Performers for Peace project with a powerful theater performance in Islamabad. Through workshops, live shows, and community dialogues across eight districts, AMAN-KAAR empowered over 300 youth to become peacebuilders by utilizing creativity, empathy, and storytelling. The ceremony was attended by representatives from civil society, government, media, and students, reflecting the wide-reaching impact of the initiative.



The event opened with a welcome address by SHARP CEO, Mr. Mudassar Javed, who reaffirmed SHARP's longstanding commitment to human rights, peace, and inclusion. He remarked, "We are proud of our youth, who used the stage to become messengers of peace." PD Mr. Aatif Afzal then delivered a detailed presentation on project's enthralling journey and achievements. Echoing the spirit of the initiative, SHARP Chairman Mr. Liaqat Banori remarked, "AMAN-KAAR is not merely the conclusion of a project; it signifies the beginning of a transformative movement. He also expressed deep appreciation to NACTA, UNODC, and the European Union for their continued support and enduring institutional partnership.

The ceremony featured a live theatre performance, musical tributes to Pakistan's cultural diversity, and open dialogue between youth and guests.

Key voices at the event included:

Dr. Khalid Chohan, Director General of NACTA, commended AMAN-KAAR for its clear alignment with the National Policy on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). He emphasized the vital role of cultural expression and grassroots engagement in strengthening peace and resilience across communities.

Syed Arslan Zaidi, Advisor at UNODC, expressed pride in supporting a project that seamlessly integrates creativity with social purpose. He noted how the live performances—rich in local stories, music, and humor—struck a deep chord with youth audiences, fostering emotional connection and critical reflection.

Dr. Muhammad Bilal, an expert in social cohesion and civic engagement, underscored the long-term value of initiatives like AMAN-KAAR. He advocated for embedding peace narratives into academic curricula to cultivate tolerance, empathy, and unity from an early age within educational institutions.

Mr. Jamal Shah, renowned artist and former Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, reflected on the power of theatre to transcend boundaries and touch the soul, praising the performances for their ability to inspire, connect, and unify diverse audiences.



AMAN-KAAR: A Nationwide Theatre Movement Empowering Youth for Peace

In a remarkable demonstration of youth-led peace advocacy, SHARP—under its AMAN-KAAR (Performers for Peace) initiative and in collaboration with UNODC, NACTA, and with the support of the European Union—successfully carried out a powerful series of theatre-based performances and dialogue sessions across universities and colleges in Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

From Khairpur to Larkana, Sukkur, Multan, Muzaffargarh, and Swat, SHARP engaged thousands of students and faculty through interactive performances that emphasized empathy, nonviolent communication, critical thinking, inclusion, social harmony, and civic responsibility. The initiative was not merely theatrical but an immersive educational experience that connected art, academia, and advocacy in meaningful ways.



Key highlights included:

Emotional and engaging performances at SALU Khairpur, University of Larkana, Chandka Medical College, Sukkur Arts Council, and BBSUTSD Khairpur that tackled real-world issues like misinformation, inequality, and youth extremism.

Academic collaboration with institutions such as Women University Multan, AIOU Regional Campus Multan, City University Peshawar, IM Sciences Peshawar, and Government Degree Colleges in Swat.

Inclusive dialogue sessions, moderated by Project Directors Mr. Aatif Afzal and Mr. Zahid Usman, and Theatre Director Mr. Safeer Ullah Khan, that allowed students to reflect, voice their views, and explore peaceful solutions.

Cultural exchange and appreciation, with Sindhi Ajrak, Topis, souvenirs, and certificates awarded by host institutions to SHARP teams and performers in heartfelt acknowledgment of their work.

Each performance served as a catalyst for conversation, sparking reflection on the role of youth—especially young women—in building peaceful, informed, and resilient communities. The initiative fostered mutual respect, interfaith harmony, and understanding across diverse academic environments.

From universities to medical and nursing colleges, the AMAN-KAAR initiative proved that theatre is more than performance—it's a transformative tool for dialogue, empathy, and social change.

SHARP extends deep gratitude to all participating institutions, faculty, students, and local stakeholders whose support made this campaign a resounding success. Together, we continue to build a culture of peace—one stage, one story, and one voice at a time.

Legal Aid and Protection Services (LAPS) Project

Stakeholders Consultative Meeting under the Protection Project at Lahore

SHARP Lahore team successfully organized a Stakeholders Consultative Meeting under the Protection Project, aimed at strengthening support mechanisms for refugee and migrant communities across Punjab. The event brought together key partners and decision-makers, fostering meaningful dialogue on critical protection issues.

The Honorable Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CAR) Punjab, Mr. Arshad Rana, graced the event as the chief guest. Also in attendance were Chairman SHARP Mr. Liaqat Banori and CEO Mudassar Javed and senior officials from the protection team, including Mr. Alexis and Mr. Aamer reflecting strong institutional collaboration and commitment.



The meeting featured a comprehensive presentation on SHARP's ongoing protection activities in Punjab and introduced the newly launched phase of the project. The project team, led by Ms. Arooj Un Nissa Awan, SHARP's Field Manager, delivered an insightful presentation highlighting key field challenges and developments. Topics included a recent success story involving the release of an ACC holder, persistent outreach limitations, legal uncertainties faced by PoR cardholders, and the government's evolving approach to complex deportation cases.

Stakeholders from SHARP, the Protection team, and CAR emphasized the pressing need for enhanced coordination, more robust legal interventions, and strategic outreach to effectively respond to the challenges faced by vulnerable communities. In a focused discussion with Commissioner Mr. Arshad Rana, SHARP leadership expressed sincere appreciation for CAR Punjab's continued support. The dialogue underscored the shared commitment to strengthening coordination mechanisms, ensuring legal safeguards, and enhancing humanitarian assistance for displaced populations in the region.

SHARP conducted a One-Day Lesson-Learned Workshop at Head Office Islamabad

SHARP Protection team successfully conducted a One-Day Lesson-Learned Workshop at its Head Office in Islamabad to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and best practices of the recently completed protection project. Participants included the Islamabad protection team and



the Peshawar team led by Mr. Manzoor Ali, Manager Legal, and Mr. Shabbir Hussain, Project Coordinator, the protection team from the donor, and SHARP management.

Facilitated by M&E Officer Mr. Raheem-ud-Din and Project Coordinator Mr. Syed Muhammad Saleem, the session

offered a comprehensive review of project milestones and outlined future directions. Group discussions and brainstorming sessions helped extract key lessons and improvement areas, with valuable insights shared by Mr. Manzoor Ali.

In his address, Mr. Syed Liaqat Banori, Chairman SHARP, commended the unwavering dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the Protection Team throughout the project. He emphasized the vital role of such initiatives in protecting vulnerable populations, especially Afghan refugees, and highlighted the need for stronger media engagement to boost public awareness and community support for refugee protection. He also acknowledged donor support and encouraged continued synergy between humanitarian partners for greater impact.

In his remarks, CEO SHARP, Mr. Mudassar Javed, congratulated the team on project success and encouraged continued innovation and excellence in future programming. While delivering the vote of thanks, Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal acknowledged the leadership's support and commended the field teams and coordinators for their unwavering commitment and impactful delivery.

One-day capacity-building workshop for prison department staff from across Pakistan (NAPA) Lahore

SHARP Protection Team in Lahore successfully organized a one-day capacity-building workshop for prison department staff from across Pakistan. Held at the National Academy for Prison Administration (NAPA) Lahore, the session was expertly led by Mr. Shah Faisal, Senior Legal Protection Expert, and Mr. Azeem Ul Shan, Protection Paralegal, bringing together 35 participants from various provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir to deepen their understanding of human rights, prison regulations, and legal reforms.



Ms. Memoona Batool, Project Director KP, opened the workshop with an introduction to SHARP mission and its unwavering commitment to upholding the rights of marginalized communities. This was followed by an insightful presentation on the role of human rights, delivered by Ms. Urooj-un-Nissa, Field Manager.



Special guest speakers enriched the discussions with their expertise. Mr. Usman Ghani, Director Legal at the Afghan Commissionate, explored the intricacies of prison law, while Mr. Javed Iqbal, Deputy Director, emphasized the need for comprehensive jail and legal reforms. The workshop provided a forum for dialogue, equipping attendees with practical tools to advocate for improved legal standards and humane treatment within Pakistan's prison system. The day concluded with the distribution of participation certificates, celebrating the dedication and engagement of all participants.



SHARP conducted community awareness sessions in Safi Abad and Samandar Khel, District Nowshera

SHARP Protection team in KP recently conducted community awareness sessions in Safi Abad and Samandar Khel, District Nowshera, aimed at engaging displaced Afghan nationals and equipping them with essential information to support their safe and dignified repatriation.

The sessions covered critical topics including access to education, healthcare, protection services, and the prevention of exploitation and discrimination during the repatriation process. Participants also received practical guidance on transportation logistics and border



procedures, ensuring they are better informed about the challenges and protocols involved in their return journey.

These awareness-raising activities were monitored by representatives from the donor, including Mr. Amir Hamza and Ms. Sabina, who observed the proceedings and engaged with participants to ensure the quality and relevance of the support provided.

Through these sessions, SHARP continues to uphold its commitment to protecting vulnerable communities and promoting informed, rights-based approaches to migration and return.



Community Awareness Sessions for Displaced Afghan Nationals in Aza Khel Bala, District Nowshera

SHARP Protection team in KP recently organized community awareness sessions for both male and female displaced Afghan nationals in Aza Khel Bala, District Nowshera.

These sessions served as a vital platform to share essential information related to education, healthcare, and protection services.



Participants were sensitized on key issues surrounding repatriation, with a strong focus on preventing exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. Discussions also covered transportation-related challenges and provided guidance on border procedures to help communities make informed decisions and navigate the process safely.

These initiatives reflect SHARP's ongoing commitment to empowering displaced populations with knowledge, ensuring their rights are protected, and facilitating safe, dignified repatriation.



AMNA-supported MHPSS project

Online Training Session on "Barriers Faced by Refugees in Rebuilding Their Lives"

SHARP is honoured to have conducted an online training session on "Barriers Faced by Refugees in Rebuilding Their Lives" — facilitated by our colleagues Aatif Afzal and Maleeha Sami.

Organized under the Global Healing Network (GHN) platform, the session focused on legal, social, cultural, economic and psychological challenges that refugees face



in host communities. SHARP's team shared insights and field-based experiences, followed by a brief but thoughtful exchange among participants.

We extend our sincere thanks to AMNA, The Refugee Healing Network (formerly Refugee Trauma Initiative - RTI), for bringing together sector-specialist global organizations under one platform — and for trusting SHARP to lead this session. We look forward to continued engagement and collective efforts to support refugee well-being, dignity and protection.



Labour Day

Honoring the Heart of SHARP: Celebrating Our Support Staff on Labour Day

In commemoration of Labour Day, SHARP proudly celebrated the hard work, resilience, and dedication of our support staff, the unsung heroes who form the backbone of our operations. The event, held at SHARP's Islamabad Head Office, was a heartfelt tribute to the individuals who ensure the smooth functioning of our day-to-day work and contribute immensely to our mission of serving humanity.

In his address, Project Director Mr. Aatif Afzal stated:

"Labor Day serves as a reminder of our obligation to create inclusive, safe, and healthy workplaces, not just a time for celebration. At SHARP, we remain steadfast in promoting staff welfare and fostering a culture rooted in diversity, equality, and mutual respect. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our support staff for their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and vital role in driving our mission forward. Every team member, regardless of role, is valued and essential to our shared success."

Ms. Huma Aziz, Manager Admin and HR, acknowledged and appreciated the invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication of the support staff, emphasizing their crucial role in ensuring the seamless functioning of daily operations. She highlighted that their commitment, often behind the scenes, is the foundation of a productive and efficient work environment.

