

International Rescue Committee Pakistan: Strategy Action Plan



U Ghani / IRC



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

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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 (see right), 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 has become increasingly vulnerable to humanitarian crises due to regional instability, climate change, governance challenges and widespread poverty.

As a result, Pakistan has several populations each with a unique set of challenges in humanitarian settings; such as communities temporarily displaced by law enforcement actions 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, 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 problem solve.

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.

With 35-years of history in Pakistan, the IRC will build on recent governmental reforms to achieve lasting improvements in the lives of beneficiaries we serve. The IRC's new strategy for Pakistan illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, and education of people affected by poverty and humanitarian crises in Pakistan.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

Since launching humanitarian operations in Pakistan in 1980, the IRC has expanded to support communities in all eight provinces and territories of Pakistan, including flagship programs such as the Pakistan Reading Project. Other interventions help keep people safe in their homes and communities, assist pregnant and lactating women with necessary reproductive health support, provide water, improve nutrition, and deliver cash to help families through emergency/humanitarian crises.

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's strategy in Pakistan will prioritize improving health, safety, and education (see Figure 1). 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.

The IRC in Pakistan will improve access to quality healthcare including reproductive health and the treatment of common water borne diseases.

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 for the next five years. 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.

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
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 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 our 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



Best Use of Resources

- > 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



Speed & Timeliness

- > 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 it is needed most



Responsiveness

- > Set aside 'Accountability Budgets' in all grants to enable IRC staff to receive, process, and act on beneficiary and partner feedback



Scale and Reach

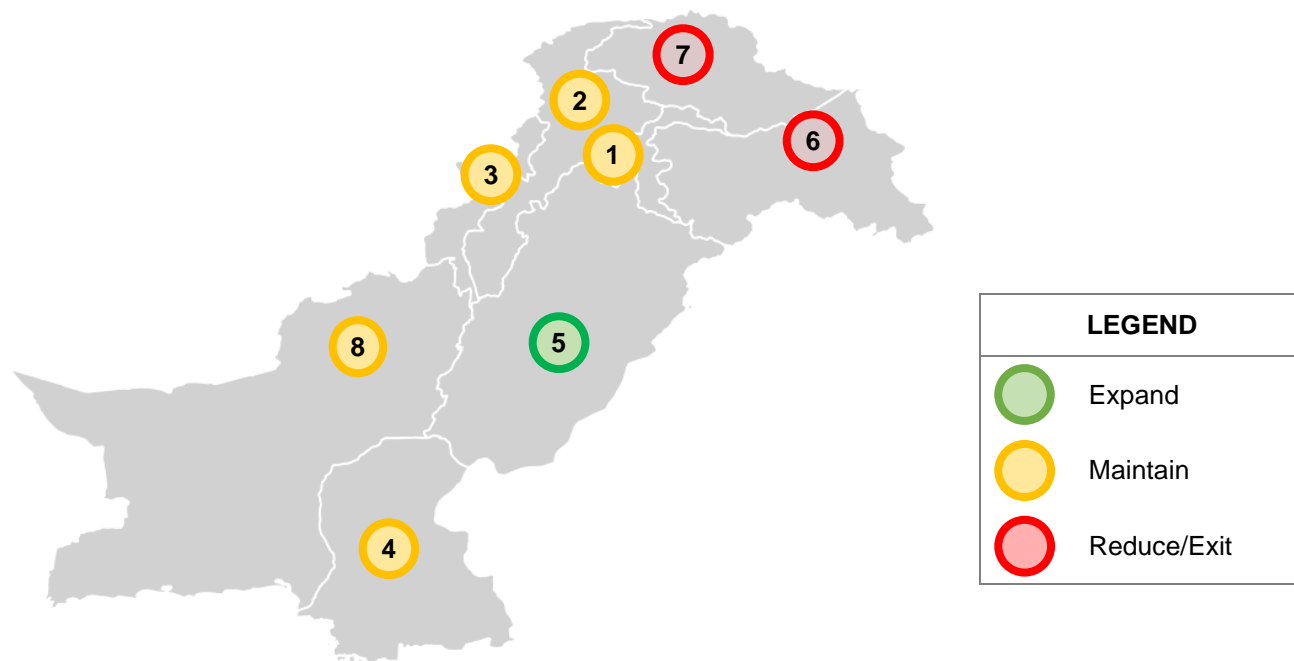
- > Partner with the government in service delivery and policy making to reach more people
- > Leverage the expertise and infrastructure of information technology actors to improve communication and engagement with beneficiaries



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain, reduce, 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 (KPK)	Provide assistance to at least 30% of temporarily displaced people
3	Federally Administered Tribal Areas	Respond to the needs of returnees through the IRC's network of local partners
4	Sindh	Maintain presence to rapidly respond whenever disaster strikes and support local partners in delivering malnutrition and education programs
5	Punjab	Deliver new, innovative humanitarian interventions in cooperation with the Punjab Information Technology Board
6	Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir	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



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