



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Pakistan



Courtesy: Lonely Planet

Reasons for Displacement:

Most IDPs are forced to move due to the military operations in the Federally Administered

Tribal Area (FATA) and other areas. Civilians who are caught in the crossfire often have to escape to protect themselves. This has occurred most recently in the northwestern regions, where hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis have been displaced. The people in this region were told to leave in anticipation of escalating violence but were sometimes restricted from going to other parts of the country, severely limiting their settlement options. Due to this situation and the overall increasing danger, some have decided to cross the border into the hills of Afghanistan, one of the first times that there has been mass migration in that direction.

The struggle for power with India in the Kashmir region also continues to displace residents who then must resettle in either India or Pakistan.

Refugee and IDP Communities:

Historically, Pakistan has been one of the top three countries to receive refugees from neighboring countries. The over 1.6 million registered Afghans make up the majority of the refugee population, living in both cities and refugee villages. To this end, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees was proposed at an international Geneva conference and accepted by the Pakistani government.

There are also Bengali, Burmese, and Bihari people who are considered at risk of being stateless within Pakistan because of insufficient legal provisions for their safety. As the number of IDPs grows, institutions such as hospitals in safer towns are completely overwhelmed and receive only limited support from the government. This has led to the outbreak of diseases such as polio, and these diseases have spread quickly among the tent settlements where the refugees often have to live.

Number of refugees:
1,505,525 residing in Pakistan;
335,915 originating from
Pakistan
[source: UNHCR]

**Number of Internally
Displaced Persons (IDPs):**
1,800,000
[source: IDMC]

History:

1947—Creation of Muslim state of East and West Pakistan, separate from India

1948/1965—First and second wars between Pakistan and India over Kashmir

1971—Secession of East Pakistan leads to civil war; East Pakistan becomes Bangladesh

2001—Pakistan and India near war by gathering troops along common border in Kashmir

2003—A Kashmir ceasefire is declared

2004—Pakistan's military targets Al-Qaeda militants and supporters in tribal areas near Afghanistan

2007—two-time PM Benazir Bhutto is assassinated

2011—Osama bin Laden is killed by US special forces in Pakistan

2012—US Senate takes away US\$33m after a doctor important in finding bin Laden is jailed; Taliban gunmen attacks Malala Yousafzai, a girl accused of promoting secularism

2013—Pakistani President Zardari and Afghan president Karzai agree to establish an Afghan peace deal; Mamnoon Hussain is elected president

2014—Malala is awarded Nobel Peace Prize; Taliban attack a school in Peshawar, killing 150 people and increasing hostility towards Afghan refugees in Pakistan

Assistance:

- RIJ funded the provision of hygiene kits and hygiene awareness training to IDP families with older and disabled people as well as widows
- USAID added power to the electrical grid to provide electricity for over 6 million people and UNHCR has facilitated the return of 3.8 million Afghans
- Many NGOs help refugees and IDPs, such as Inspire Pakistan and Muslim Aid

