



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

93rd Standing Committee UNHCR

Under Agenda Item 5: (a) Update on Budgets and Funding

(17-19 June 2025)

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished
Delegates and
Dear Colleagues.

Pakistan appreciates the UNHCR and its team for providing critical humanitarian assistance to more than 120 million forcibly displaced persons across the globe. Through its tireless efforts, UNHCR provides life-saving support such as shelter, food, and healthcare while also working to ensure long-term solutions, including resettlement, voluntary repatriation, and self-reliance.

This commitment to humanitarian mission is shared by Pakistan. We have been providing humanitarian assistance to millions of Afghan nationals for over four decades through various phases of instabilities in Afghanistan due to wars and conflicts. Our historic partnership with the UNHCR will continue.

Most recently, Pakistan provided 4500 fully funded scholarships to Afghan youth to equip them with necessary skills for contributing more effectively to the development and peace of Afghanistan. More than half of these scholarships are reserved for female student to facilitate their access to education in top educational institutions of Pakistan.

Chairperson

We thank UNHCR for providing a comprehensive update on the current budgetary situation. We share its deep concerns regarding the growing impact of resource shortfalls on protection and assistance efforts. In the face of rising humanitarian needs and constrained resources, we wish to highlight some key areas for urgent attention: funding and budgetary allocation, burden and responsibility-sharing, and third-country resettlement.

A. Funding and Budgetary Allocation

The ongoing humanitarian resource constraints are having a direct impact on UNHCR's ability to deliver on its core protection mandate. We are particularly concerned by the effects these constraints are having on refugee hosting countries and communities.

In the Asia and Pacific region, UNHCR's expenditure in 2024 declined by **\$96.8 million—a 17% decrease** compared to 2023. These are not just numbers; they translate into reduced services, increased vulnerability, and growing pressure on already strained national systems.

The burden of hosting large refugee populations is becoming unsustainable without more robust and predictable international support. Many host countries, including those in the Global South, continue to absorb the majority of displaced populations.

When critical funding gaps persist, access to essential services such as food, shelter, education, and protection is reduced or delayed, leading to worsening conditions for refugees and asylum seekers. These challenges can also create friction between refugees and host communities, especially in areas where public services are already overstretched. If left unaddressed, such tensions risk evolving into broader social unrest and may increase exposure to criminal networks or recruitment by armed groups and ultimately create security challenges.

B. Burden and Responsibility-Sharing

Leaving host countries and communities to shoulder this responsibility alone is contrary to the spirit and objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). In this context, we underscore the urgent need to implement, in full and without delay, the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forums (GRF) in 2019 and 2023.

We commend those Member States that have made early contributions to UNHCR this year and call on others to demonstrate solidarity by fulfilling their commitments.

A sustained investment in voluntary repatriation and reintegration in the country of origin are essential for achieving durable solutions.

C. Third-Country Resettlement

We welcome the report's update that over **42,100 vulnerable refugees applications from Asia and Pacific region were submitted for resettlement** in 2024. However, it is not known how many of these applications were accepted.

Third-country resettlement remains a critical pillar of international cooperation and a concrete manifestation of responsibility-sharing. We call for renewed attention to expanding resettlement quotas, simplifying procedures, and ensuring that complementary pathways are also fully utilized. Refugees must not remain in protracted situations indefinitely durable solutions must be equitably shared.

We would also appreciate further information on how UNHCR facilitates the resettlement process. Specifically, we are interested in understanding the criteria and principles used for accepting or declining resettlement applications. Is this process entirely state-driven, or is UNHCR developing normative guidance or best practices to support consistency and fairness in resettlement pathways?

I thank You
