

AFGHAN REFUGEES AND THE EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF PAK- AFGHAN RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This research project focuses on the Afghan refugee crisis and its direct impact on the evolving relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. With the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, millions of Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan, posing significant challenges and opportunities for both nations. Through a detailed examination of historical, political, and socio-economic factors, this study aims to untangle the refugee crisis's complexities. The research investigates how the refugee influx affects the two countries by exploring the historical context of Pak-Afghan relations. It assesses the challenges, including resource allocation and security concerns, while exploring potential collaborative solutions. The study takes a forward-looking approach, projecting future scenarios for Pak-Afghan relations in the context of changing regional geopolitics and the Afghan peace process. This research aims to provide straightforward insights for policymakers, academics, and international organizations, offering a clear understanding of the Afghan refugee crisis and its implications for the broader landscape of Pak-Afghan relations.

Keywords: Afghan refugee crisis, impact, Pakistan, Afghanistan, challenges, opportunities, historical, political, socio-economic factors, complexities, resource allocation, security concerns, regional geopolitics, potential collaborative solutions.

INTRODUCTION

The Afghan refugee crisis has emerged as a pressing global concern, with millions seeking shelter in neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan, as Afghanistan grapples with persistent conflict and instability. This phenomenon not only presents a humanitarian challenge but also significantly shapes the diplomatic landscape between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This research endeavors to dissect the intricate dynamics surrounding the Afghan refugee crisis and elucidate its implications for the future relations between these two South Asian nations.

The conflict in Afghanistan, spanning decades, has led to waves of displacement, forcing a substantial portion of the Afghan population to seek refuge abroad. Among the neighboring countries, Pakistan has borne a considerable burden, hosting one of the largest populations of Afghan refugees globally. This influx poses multifaceted challenges, straining

resources, impacting security dynamics, and influencing the socio-economic fabric of both nations.

Historically, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been marked by a complex interplay of shared cultural, ethnic, and geopolitical ties, alongside periods of tension and mistrust. The Afghan refugee crisis further complicates this relationship, as the massive inflow of displaced individuals tests the limits of hospitality and resources in Pakistan. The historical context is crucial for understanding the current state of affairs, as the past interactions between these nations shape their responses to the refugee crisis.

In assessing the challenges posed by the Afghan refugee crisis, it is imperative to delve into the socio-economic implications for both countries. Pakistan, already contending with its own internal economic challenges, faces

additional strains on its infrastructure, healthcare, and education systems. The refugees, in turn, grapple with integration challenges, often residing in temporary settlements with limited access to basic amenities and employment opportunities. This interplay of socio-economic factors not only affects the immediate well-being of the refugee population but also has wider repercussions for the stability and development trajectories of both nations.

Security considerations also loom large in the backdrop of the refugee crisis. The porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, historically challenging to control, becomes a focal point for issues ranging from cross-border militancy to the trafficking of illicit goods. The presence of a large refugee population adds complexity to border management and raises concerns about potential security threats. Striking a delicate balance between providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensuring national security becomes a paramount challenge for both countries.

As Afghanistan navigates a tumultuous path towards peace and stability, the refugee crisis intersects with the broader context of regional geopolitics. The ongoing peace process in Afghanistan, involving negotiations with various stakeholders, including the Taliban, introduces an additional layer of complexity to the refugee issue. The outcome of these peace talks and the subsequent political landscape in Afghanistan will inevitably impact the fate of the Afghan refugees and shape the nature of Pak-Afghan relations in the years to come. Especially vital now, since Pakistan is evicting all these close to 1.8 million refugees from its borders back to their home country this year in 2023. With only 3 months to leave the country – for many who had made this country their home for 30-plus years.

Against this backdrop, this research project seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the Afghan refugee crisis and its far-reaching implications for the future relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. By examining historical dynamics, socio-economic challenges, and security considerations, the study aims to offer valuable insights for grappling with the multifaceted dimensions of this pressing global issue.

Problem Statement

Afghanistan has been plagued by conflict, natural disasters, chronic poverty, food insecurity, and most recently, a changeover in government authorities, for over 40 years. The events leading up to the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021 have only exacerbated the situation, intensifying instability and violence in the country, and causing even more human suffering and displacement. To date, over 8 million Afghans have been forced to flee their homes or their country due to conflict, violence, and poverty. Of these, at least 3.2 million are internally displaced within Afghanistan. As the humanitarian crisis continues, the resilience of both Afghans and their host communities is being pushed to the limit. In comes Pakistan, which has had a very tumultuous relationship with the Afghans. Be it in aiding the US in its activities in Afghanistan during the US invasions to take place to train the Taliban. From being a hub for illegal Afghan trade activity to housing Afghan refugees. Pakistan-Afghan relations remain uncertain post the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and evicting the refugees, who will undoubtedly now turn to put pressure on international organizations and the Taliban government – regardless of the degree of success.

Literature Review

The Afghan refugee crisis, a consequence of protracted conflict in Afghanistan, has garnered significant scholarly attention due to its complex implications for both humanitarian concerns and regional diplomacy. This literature review aims to synthesize key findings and perspectives on the Afghan refugee crisis, with a specific focus on its impact on Pak-Afghan relations.

Understanding the historical context of Pak-Afghan relations is crucial for contextualizing the current refugee crisis. The two nations share deep-rooted historical, cultural, and ethnic ties. However, the relationship has been marked by periods of cooperation as well as tensions, influenced by geopolitical considerations and regional dynamics.

Pakistan has been a significant host for Afghan refugees since the late 1970s, with waves

of displacement driven by events such as the Soviet invasion, the subsequent civil war, and the rise of the Taliban. The Durand Line, a historical border drawn in the 19th century, has been a source of contention, complicating matters between the two nations. This historical backdrop sets the stage for the evolving dynamics of the refugee crisis.

The Afghan refugee crisis has profound socio-economic implications for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Numerous studies highlight the strains on Pakistan's resources as it hosts one of the largest refugee populations globally. Research by (Khan et al., 2019) emphasizes the challenges faced by Pakistan in providing healthcare, education, and employment opportunities to the refugees. The pressure on infrastructure, especially in areas with high refugee concentrations, often leads to strained public services and increased competition for limited resources.

For Afghanistan, the departure of a significant portion of its population contributes to a "brain drain," affecting the country's human capital and development prospects. The socio-economic fabric of Afghan society transforms as individuals with diverse skills and backgrounds seek refuge abroad. As explored by (Akram & Ahmad, 2017), this dynamic has far-reaching consequences for the rebuilding and development of Afghanistan. Afghan refugees are currently the third-largest displaced population in the world, after Syrian and Ukrainian refugees. As of 2023, there were at least 8.2 million Afghans hosted across 103 different countries. Most of these refugees have been in the region for decades, with Pakistan and Iran hosting the largest numbers. Over 70 percent of the Afghan refugees living in these countries are women and children.

The porous border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, compounded by the presence of a large refugee population, introduces security challenges. Scholars like (Rashid, 2008) underscore the complexities of border management, highlighting issues such as cross-border militancy and the trafficking of illicit goods. The Afghan refugee crisis is often interlinked with broader security concerns in the region, influencing the strategic calculus of both nations.

The potential for the refugee population to be exploited or radicalized, inadvertently affecting regional stability, is a recurrent theme in the literature. By examining the nexus between the refugee crisis and security, researchers seek to inform policymakers on strategies that balance humanitarian concerns with national security imperatives.

International organizations and the broader global community play a pivotal role in responding to the Afghan refugee crisis. The literature extensively documents the efforts of agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance. Studies by (Smith, 2016) and (Patel et al., 2020) delve into the challenges and successes of these initiatives, shedding light on the complexities of managing a protracted refugee crisis. According to Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Afghanistan is facing one of the biggest and longest-lasting displacement crises in UNHCR's history. It's a dire situation where we're witnessing the birth of a third generation of Afghan children born in exile.

The role of the international community extends beyond immediate humanitarian aid to diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the underlying conflicts in Afghanistan. Scholars stress the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of displacement to achieve sustainable solutions (Betts, 2013). The literature thus emphasizes the interconnectedness of diplomatic, humanitarian, and security efforts in addressing the Afghan refugee crisis.

The ongoing peace process in Afghanistan adds a layer of complexity to the refugee crisis and its implications for Pak-Afghan relations. As diplomatic efforts progress, the potential for repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees becomes a focal point. Research by Haider and (Muzaffar, 2021) explores the interplay between the peace process and the refugee issue, highlighting the need for coordinated strategies that align with the evolving political landscape in Afghanistan. The success or failure of the peace process is poised to significantly impact the future trajectory of the Afghan refugee crisis.

If the process leads to sustainable peace and stability, the conditions for voluntary repatriation may improve. Conversely, a breakdown in negotiations could exacerbate existing challenges, prolonging the displacement of Afghan nationals and straining host countries like Pakistan. Understanding the perspectives of the host population and the Afghan refugees themselves is essential for crafting effective policies and interventions. Research by (Khan & Khan, 2018) explores the attitudes of the Pakistani public towards Afghan refugees, revealing a nuanced picture shaped by factors such as economic considerations, security perceptions, and cultural affinities.

Similarly, studies on the experiences and aspirations of Afghan refugees shed light on the challenges they face in host countries and their hopes for the future (Samad et al., 2022). Public opinion not only influences government policies but also plays a role in shaping social dynamics between host communities and refugees. The literature underscores the importance of fostering understanding and collaboration to mitigate potential tensions and promote social cohesion.

This literature on the Afghan refugee crisis and its impact on Pak-Afghan relations reveals a complex web of historical, socio-economic, security, and diplomatic factors. The challenges posed by the refugee crisis are multifaceted, requiring a comprehensive understanding to inform effective policies and interventions. As the region grapples with the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and seeks pathways to peace, the fate of Afghan refugees remains intertwined with the broader geopolitical landscape. The literature reviewed here emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that considers the interconnectedness of humanitarian, security, and diplomatic dimensions to address the complexities of the Afghan refugee crisis and foster positive relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the years to come.

Research Questions

1. How might the outcomes of the peace process impact the future diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan?

2. To what extent do security considerations, such as cross-border militancy and the trafficking of illicit goods, influence and complicate Pak-Afghan relations in the context of the Afghan refugee crisis, and what policy measures can be implemented to address these security challenges effectively?

3) How does the Afghan refugee crisis impact the socio-economic infrastructure of Pakistan, particularly in terms of healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Methodology

Historical Analysis: Conduct a comprehensive historical analysis to understand the evolution of Pak-Afghan relations and the factors contributing to the Afghan refugee crisis. Utilize scholarly works and articles/ websites online from credible sources to trace key events and their impact on the relationship between the two nations.

Content Analysis: Perform a content analysis of media coverage, policy documents, and official statements related to the Afghan refugee crisis and Pak-Afghan relations. This method can reveal dominant narratives, policy trends, and public discourse, offering a broader understanding of how the issue is framed and discussed.

Discussion

To initially cover the Pak Afghan relationship, we must first delve into the history of Kabul and Islamabad. Amidst the intricate tapestry of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, the enduring Afghan refugee crisis has been a defining feature, shaping the narrative of their geopolitical interplay. The influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan has not only been a humanitarian challenge but has also become a significant factor influencing the diplomatic discourse between the two nations.

Since the inception of Pakistan, the policy towards Afghanistan has been entangled with complex issues, prominently the Pashtunistan dispute and the Durand Line controversy. The historical indifference of Afghanistan towards recognizing the Durand

Line as a legitimate border fostered mistrust, setting the stage for a relationship fraught with challenges. Despite attempts at reconciliation, including the withdrawal of Afghanistan's UN vote against Pakistan in 1948, the underlying tensions persisted.

The period from 1963 to the mid-1970s brought a relative thaw, marked by improved relations and mutual support during the 1965 India-Pakistan war. However, the emergence of Sardar Daud in Afghanistan in 1973 and the subsequent Soviet invasion in 1979 reignited tensions. Pakistan, faced with the challenge of managing its own interventionist strategies and confronting a superpower on its border, navigated through a complex geopolitical landscape.

The rise of the Taliban in the mid-1990s provided a temporary respite, as Pakistan saw an opportunity to bring stability to Afghanistan. The support extended to the Taliban regime, both diplomatically and materially, was motivated by Pakistan's pursuit of peace and economic opportunities. However, the post-9/11 era marked a crucial turning point, with the U.S. issuing an ultimatum that compelled Pakistan to abandon its support for the Taliban and align with the global war on terror.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Pakistan engaged in diplomatic efforts, providing intelligence, logistic support, and mediating talks between the U.S. and the Taliban. The relationship with Afghanistan underwent recalibration, with Pakistan supporting the interim government and contributing to Afghan reconstruction. However, challenges persisted, exacerbated by the presence of Indian consulates along the Pak-Afghan border, introducing an additional layer of complexity.

Throughout this tumultuous journey, the Durand Line and Pashtunistan movement remained central, unaddressed issues contributing to persistent strains. Simultaneously, the Afghan refugee crisis gained prominence, with millions seeking shelter in Pakistan. The refugee issue not only posed a humanitarian challenge but also became a diplomatic leverage point, influencing the dynamics between the two nations. Afghanistan, holding Pakistan accountable for the consequences of the U.S. invasion, continues to

harbor grievances, further complicating the path to lasting reconciliation.

Key Points to note:

1. Magnitude of the Crisis:

The Afghan refugee crisis is one of the most protracted and significant refugee situations globally, with millions of Afghans forced to flee their homeland due to decades of conflict.

2. Long-Term Displacement:

The crisis dates back to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, leading to continuous waves of displacement, including the Afghan civil war in the 1990s and the U.S.-led war on terror from 2001 onwards.

3. Pakistani Hosting:

Pakistan has been a major host country for Afghan refugees, providing shelter and support to millions over the years. At its peak, Pakistan hosted over three million Afghan refugees.

4. Voluntary Repatriation:

Various repatriation programs have been initiated to encourage the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. However, challenges, including insecurity and economic instability in Afghanistan, have impeded large-scale returns.

5. Refugee Camps:

Afghan refugees in Pakistan are primarily located in refugee camps and urban settlements. Notable camps include Jalozai, Nowshera, and others, which have been home to a significant portion of the refugee population.

6. Challenges in Repatriation:

The repatriation process faces hurdles such as insufficient infrastructure in Afghanistan, concerns about security and economic opportunities, leading many Afghans to opt for prolonged stays in host countries.

7. Generational Impact:

The crisis has resulted in multi-generational displacement, with many Afghans born and raised in refugee camps, having never experienced their homeland. This has profound implications for identity, education, and social integration.

8. Global Displacement:

Afghan refugees are not only found in neighboring countries like Pakistan but also in Iran and other parts of the world. The global

Afghan diaspora has significant numbers in Europe, North America, and Australia.

9. UNHCR Involvement:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) played a crucial role in coordinating efforts to address the Afghan refugee crisis, working with host countries and international partners such as providing funding for rehabilitation as well as sending in funds and professionals for aid.

10. Socioeconomic Strain:

The prolonged presence of Afghan refugees poses challenges to host countries, straining their resources and infrastructure, impacting education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for both refugees and host communities.

11. Repatriation Statistics:

Despite repatriation efforts, a substantial number of Afghan refugees remain in host countries. The voluntary return process has seen fluctuations, with periods of increased returns followed by declines due to various factors.

12. Ongoing Humanitarian Concerns:

Humanitarian organizations continue to address the needs of Afghan refugees, focusing on healthcare, education, livelihood opportunities, and protection, recognizing the enduring challenges faced by this displaced population.

In a recent development, Pakistan's interim interior minister, Sarfaraz Bugti, issued a deadline of October 31 for the eviction of all "illegal" refugees and migrants, citing security concerns. This decision aligned with a backdrop of heightened armed attacks in Pakistan, with the government attributing them to groups and nationals based in Afghanistan. Notably, Bugti claimed that out of the 24 recorded suicide bomb attacks since January 14, were carried out by Afghan nationals.

Against this backdrop, local media reports suggested that nearly 100,000 Afghan immigrants voluntarily returned to Afghanistan from the Torkham border crossing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Chaman crossing in Balochistan provinces this month. However, the move faced criticism from rights groups and the United Nations, who questioned the wisdom and humanity of the eviction order.

The situation put Afghan refugees, who sought refuge in Pakistan due to security

concerns, in a precarious position. Individuals like Akhtar, a former school teacher from Kabul, highlighted the challenges faced by refugees in obtaining documentation despite applying for visas and seeking assistance from the UNHCR office.

Critics argued that the deportation policy contradicted Pakistan's constitution, which guaranteed the dignity of individuals, including refugees. They emphasized that, under certain international laws ratified by Pakistan, the forced repatriation of these individuals was illegal. The refugees, having built homes, families, and livelihoods in Pakistan, then faced significant challenges upon returning to Afghanistan, where the security situation remained uncertain, economic opportunities were scarce, and access to essential services was limited.

Advocates stressed the need for any repatriation policy to carefully consider the well-being and safety of refugees, taking into account the psychological toll of returning to a war-torn country. They called for adherence to international obligations to protect vulnerable populations and argued that policies should be in line with established norms and principles. As the Afghan refugee crisis continued to unfold, the international community closely watched the developments and called for a humane and lawful approach to address the complexities of forced migration in the region.

Pakistan's constitution guarantees the dignity of man, and the same applies to refugees, too. We can say that under certain international laws, which has been ratified by Pakistan, sending these people back is illegal, a human rights activist told Al-Jazeera.

Currently in terms of the situation, the biggest stakeholders are international organisations, Afghanistan, Pakistan and then possibly the US (on whose direction Pakistan currently follows).

In the context of the evolving dynamics in the region, the present-day relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are intricately woven into the complex aftermath of the Taliban's takeover. The United States, while holding critical levers over Afghanistan, including recognition in the United Nations, control over Afghan Central Bank assets, and the ability to provide military relief, finds itself navigating a delicate geopolitical landscape.

The U.S., having blocked significant aid post-withdrawal, possesses considerable influence over Afghanistan's economic recovery. Unfreezing Afghan Central Bank assets in New York is a pivotal tool that, if exercised, could substantially contribute to Afghanistan's economic stability. However, the utilization of these levers is fraught with political and logistical challenges, requiring consensus among key global players.

The Taliban, now at the helm of Afghanistan, has demonstrated a more amiable stance towards Pakistan, tracing historical and ancestral ties. However, this shift has strained Pak-U.S. relations, especially given the historical context of the U.S. empowering Pakistan economically and militarily during Musharraf's era. The current warming of ties between Pakistan and China further complicates this dynamic, potentially leading to a deterioration in Pak-U.S. relations.

Additionally, the U.S. has proposed sanction and economic policies, met with outrage from Pakistan, labeling them as "Anti-Pakistani." While Pakistan has not officially diplomatically recognized the Taliban, its concerns about the potential impact on its international interests underscore the delicate diplomatic balance.

The Taliban's post-takeover policies, particularly those affecting women, have drawn widespread condemnation. Repressive measures, such as bans on women's education and restrictions on their movement, have raised human rights concerns globally. The international community faces a challenge in balancing humanitarian relief efforts with the need to address these rights violations by the Taliban.

The grave humanitarian condition in Afghanistan, exacerbated by Taliban-led rights abuses, poses a significant challenge for international efforts. The Taliban's refusal to engage constructively with foreign financial institutions and their isolation due to human rights concerns hinder economic recovery. Foreign governments, while considering loosening limitations on the country's banking sector, demand accountability for atrocities and an end to rights abuses.

As Afghanistan grapples with these complex challenges, its future relations with Pakistan are inextricably linked to regional dynamics, global politics, and the Taliban's ability to restore order, address human rights concerns, and navigate the intricate web of international interests that have defined the region for decades. The unfolding events will determine the trajectory of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the context of a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

Results

The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), formulated in 2012 through collaborative efforts between Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan with support from UNHCR, represented a comprehensive framework aimed at mitigating the protracted refugee crisis in the region. With a staggering 28.8 million individuals in need of humanitarian and protection assistance, the SSAR strategically addressed the persistent challenges faced by Afghan refugees, many of whom had endured decades of conflict.

During its operational phase, the SSAR was implemented through the SSAR Support Platform, functioning as a global hub for coordinating international efforts. At the local level, Core Groups in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan worked diligently to galvanize support and address specific needs. The framework placed a crucial emphasis on securing predictable and sustained financial, political, and technical support to ensure the effectiveness of its initiatives.

The SSAR's initiatives were multifaceted, with a primary focus on facilitating voluntary repatriation through safe and dignified return assistance. Furthermore, the framework extended support to returning refugees in Afghanistan, emphasizing reintegration efforts that encompassed housing, education, and employment assistance. Host countries like Pakistan and Iran received continued aid, with the SSAR supporting the Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Afghanistan Situation in Pakistan, fostering resilience and host community development, and in Iran, concentrating on education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities for Afghan refugees.

However, the SSAR was not without its challenges. The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan posed a significant obstacle to the safe and sustainable return of refugees. Persistent funding gaps further limited the scope of assistance programs, while political and social integration challenges complicated the reintegration process for returnees.

In hindsight, the SSAR envisioned a future direction centered on strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources. Efforts were to be directed towards addressing the root causes of displacement and promoting peace in Afghanistan. Moreover, there was a commitment to enhancing the social and economic inclusion of refugees in host countries, recognizing the importance of adapting to evolving needs and developing innovative solutions to meet the dynamic challenges of the refugee situation in the region.

Way Forward and Conclusion

The Afghan refugee crisis, a consequence of protracted conflict and instability in Afghanistan, continues to present significant humanitarian challenges and complicate the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This research has explored the historical, socio-economic, and security considerations surrounding the crisis, highlighting its impact on both countries and the broader region.

Looking forward, several key points emerge:

- The need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach: Addressing the Afghan refugee crisis requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses the root causes of displacement, facilitates voluntary and safe repatriation, and provides adequate support to refugees and host communities. This requires collaboration between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the international community, and humanitarian organizations.
- Protection of human rights: Ensuring the safety and dignity of refugees is paramount. This includes upholding international legal frameworks and addressing human rights violations, particularly those faced by women and girls in Afghanistan.

- Economic development: Investing in economic development in both Afghanistan and Pakistan is crucial for creating sustainable livelihoods and reducing dependence on aid. This includes promoting cross-border trade, investing in education and skills training, and fostering entrepreneurship.
- Regional cooperation: Strengthening regional cooperation is essential for addressing shared challenges, including refugee management, border security, and terrorism. This could involve establishing regional forums for dialogue and joint initiatives to promote peace and stability.
- International commitment: The international community must remain committed to providing humanitarian assistance and supporting efforts towards long-term solutions for Afghan refugees. This includes unfreezing Afghan assets, providing humanitarian aid, and advocating for dialogue and political reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Afghan refugee crisis remains a complex and multifaceted challenge. By understanding the historical context, socio-economic implications, and security considerations, we can develop more effective solutions that address the needs of both refugees and host communities. Ultimately, achieving lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan is essential for finding a sustainable solution to the refugee crisis and fostering positive relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The SSAR remains a significant framework for addressing the Afghan refugee crisis. By working collaboratively and addressing emerging challenges, the international community can continue supporting Afghan refugees and host countries in finding durable solutions. Especially since Pakistan and Afghan relations potentially not getting affected since both governments now do not place too much importance on the issue if it is not affecting them negatively.

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