



Presentation

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Pakistan – Country Profile



- **Official Name:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- **Government:** Parliamentary Government, Constitutional Republic
- **Location:** In South Asia with a coastline on the Arabian Sea in the south. Pakistan is bordered by Afghanistan, China, India, and Iran.
- **Area:** 881,913 km²
- **Population:** ~ 217,000,000 people
- **Language:** Urdu (National) and English (Official)
- **Currency:** Pakistani Rupee (PKR) (1US\$ = 110 Pak Rupees)
- **Administrative units of Pakistan:** Consists of five provinces, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Gilgit–Baltistan, two federal capital territories, Islamabad Capital Territory and Federally Administered Tribal Areas, one autonomous territory, Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

PAKISTANI DIASPORA

There are 8.5 million Pakistanis living, working and studying in the different countries of the world

REGION-WISE DISTRIBUTION

S. #	Region	Number of Overseas Pakistanis	Percentage Share
1	Middle East	4,744,193	55.85
2	Europe	1,823,242	21.46
3	Americas	1,351,881	15.91
4	Africa	235,107	2.77
5	Asia and Far East	202,205	2.38
6	Australia & New Zealand	137,600	1.62
7	Others	275	0.00
Total		8,494,503 8.5 Million	100.00

BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE NATIONAL POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND REGULATIONS ABOUT DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES

➤ Promotion of Overseas Employment;

- Address the irregularities in the emigration process and exploitation of overseas Pakistani labour, and to improve the awareness of prospective migrants to be able to promote safe, orderly and regular emigration from Pakistan.
- Develop a mechanism for analysing international labour market trends, trades and skill competencies in labour demand, as well as maintaining a database on overseas migration and return migration to Pakistan.
- Develop stronger economic links with the diaspora, mainly by encouraging the transfer of financial and / or human capital

Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BE&OE), a department under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) regulates export of manpower abroad under the Emigration Ordinance XVIII of 1979 and Rules made there under. Over a period of time, the Bureau has devised a realistic, pragmatic and systematic emigration mechanism under the emigration laws. Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment is a centralized agency of the Federal Government for processing recruitment demands of the Pakistani manpower through Licensed Overseas Employment Promoters, etc. for the different manpower importing countries in the world especially in the Middle East.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE NATIONAL POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND REGULATIONS ABOUT DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES

➤ Welfare of Overseas Pakistanis and their families

- Provide sustainable systems and services for improving welfare service provision to overseas Pakistanis (particularly migrant workers) in destination countries and support services for their families back in Pakistan.

Pakistan Missions abroad and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) an organization of Ministry OP&HRD are carrying out welfare activities for overseas Pakistanis and their families back respectively.

➤ Reintegration of return migrants to Pakistan

- Facilitate the economic and social reintegration of returning migrants into Pakistani society and economy through support mechanisms.

OPF has established 'Facilitation & Reintegration Center (FRC)' for overseas Pakistanis and return emigrants for facilitation and guidance on availability of job, investment opportunities and re-employment abroad and in Pakistan. Linkage with relevant departments/organizations for assistance in establishing businesses, securing micro-loans, vocational training and information on project pre-feasibilities.

TYPE OF PROGRAMS TOWARDS EMPOWERING AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA

- **Establishment of Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) offices in Pakistan Missions abroad.**

Government of Pakistan has posted 19 CWAs in Pakistan Missions abroad in the countries having a sizeable concentration of Overseas Pakistanis. The CWAs maintain a close liaison with Pakistani community as well as local authorities to redress the issues of Pakistani community in the host country.

A network of focal persons comprising of prominent Overseas Pakistanis in the different countries has been formed. These focal persons work on voluntarily basis coordinate with CWAs to resolve problems of Overseas Pakistanis, who live in far flung areas, which are not accessible by CWAs, in case of emergency.

Moreover, Pakistan Mission abroad are providing following services to Pakistani community.

- ✓ Basic consular services, such as processing passports and visa applications and authenticating legal documents like birth certificates, marriage certificates etc.
- ✓ Consular identification cards that citizens abroad can use in the destination country have also become more popular. Pakistan is probably among pioneers in issuing such cards like NICOP.
- ✓ Almost all embassies provide information on business and investment opportunities, most do not specifically target members of the diaspora.

TYPE OF PROGRAMS TOWARDS EMPOWERING AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA

- **Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF)**

Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), an organization of the Ministry of OP&HRD is responsible for carrying out welfare activities for Overseas Pakistanis and their dependents back. Accordingly, the OPF is providing multiple services to Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) which include, education, health, housing, vocational training, economic rehabilitation of disabled returning Overseas Pakistanis, free transportation of dead bodies of deceased overseas Pakistanis, education scholarships to the children of OPs, Financial assistance to the destitute etc.

One widow facilitation desks have been established by the OPF at all Pakistani International Airports, where the representatives of all concerned agencies are present to address the problems of Overseas Pakistanis both at arrival and departure lounges

TYPE OF PROGRAMS TOWARDS EMPOWERING AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE RELATIONS WITH DIASPORA

- **Establishment of Grievance Commissioner Cell**

A Grievance Commissioner Cell has been established in Federal Ombudsman Secretariat, Islamabad. The Cell is coordinating with all the relevant Federal Ministries / Organizations and is persistently monitoring the prompt resolution of complaints of Overseas Pakistanis.

FOUR MAIN COUNTRIES, WHERE MAJORITY OF PAKISTANIS ARE RESIDING; MAJOR REASONS

Following are the countries having large number of Pakistanis

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (K.S.A)	2.6 Million (2,600,000)
United Arab Emirates (U.A.E)	1.5 Million (1,500,000)
United Kingdom (U.K)	1.17 Million (1,175,000)
United States America (U.S.A)	1 Million (1,000,000)

FOUR MAIN COUNTRIES, WHERE MAJORITY OF PAKISTANIS ARE RESIDING; MAJOR REASONS

Major Reasons

- More job opportunities
- Promise of higher remuneration
- Better educational opportunities;
- Family reunification
- Financial Stability and Better Future Prospect
- High Standard of Living
- Religious and Cultural opportunities
- Political Reasons

THREE MAJOR CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS OF DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES IN HOST COUNTRIES

➤ Labour Disputes with the Employers

- This problem generally relates to non-implementation of mutually agreed upon contractual obligations, including salary, food, and medical allowance and non-renewal of residence permit (Iqama) etc.
- Mostly, in Gulf Countries employers do not recognize the Foreign Service Agreement (FSA) executed between a migrant worker and an Overseas Employment Promoter (OEP) in Pakistan. Therefore, a migrant worker has to enter into a new FSA with the employer, after his arrival in such countries. The terms and conditions which include salary, fringe benefits etc. are usually less favorable to the migrant worker.

THREE MAJOR CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS OF DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES IN HOST COUNTRIES

➤ Health -related Problems

Medical treatment is very expensive in the host countries particularly, in Middle Eastern countries (having no proper health insurance system) and remains un-affordable for the ordinary workers. The hospital authorities do not discharge the patient until the dues are cleared.

➤ Family Reunification

It is a recognized reason for immigration in many countries that presence of one or more family members in a certain country enables the rest of the divided family or only specific members of the family to immigrate to that country as well. However, it has been observed that in EU countries and even in USA, Canada etc. when an expatriate intends to file a case for reunion of his other family member (s), it takes a long time to finalize the case.

THANK YOU