

MAY 2026



MIGRATION NEWSLETTER



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MIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

US Court Conviction in Transnational Human Smuggling Case Involving Pakistani National

- On 30 April 2026, Pakistani national Abbas Ali Haider (49), from Sialkot, pleaded guilty in a US federal court to charges linked to human smuggling.
- He was identified as the principal operator of an international smuggling network facilitating Pakistani nationals irregular migration to the United States.
- Two entities, **Diamond TV World Productions** and **Multimedia Advertising Ltd.**, were allegedly used as cover businesses for smuggling-related operations.
- Sentencing is scheduled for July 2026.



Afghan Returns Surpass 2.27 Million Amid Ongoing Humanitarian Concerns

- According to UNHCR-IOM Flash Update No. 93 (reporting period up to 2 May 2026), returns of Afghan nationals from Pakistan continued at a steady pace.
- Between 26 April and 2 May 2026, additional thousands of Afghan nationals reportedly returned via key border crossing points.
- Since September 2023, the total number of returns has exceeded **2.27 million**.
- Humanitarian actors continue to highlight protection risks and emphasize the need for sustainable reintegration support in Afghanistan.



Pakistan Migration Report 2025 Records Decline in Outward Migration, Strong Surge in Remittances

- The Pakistan Migration Report 2025 was launched on 5 May 2026 by the Centre on Migration, Remittances and Diaspora (CIMRAD) at the Lahore School of Economics.
- The report notes a decline in Pakistan's outward migration from **862,000** in 2023 to **725,672** in 2024.
- A partial recovery is recorded in 2025, with outward migration reaching **762,499**.
- Remittances increased by **25%**, reaching USD 38.3 billion in FY 2024-25.
- Remittances accounted for **9.34%** of Pakistan's GDP during the reported fiscal year.



[Full Report](#)

MIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Climate-Induced Internal Migration Exceeds 13 Million, Intensifying Urban Pressure

- Experts at the Breathe Pakistan Climate Change Conference 2026 reported that over **13 million** people in Pakistan are engaged in internal migration linked to climate-related shocks
- The trend indicates a shift from primarily economic migration to climate-induced displacement.
- Urban centres are experiencing increased pressure due to the growing inflow of climate-displaced populations.



Pakistan Sets 2026 Overseas Employment Target of 800,000 Workers with Focus on Skilled Labour Mobility

- The Government of Pakistan has set a target to facilitate approximately **800,000** overseas employment opportunities in 2026, up from around **740,000** in the previous year.
- The initiative prioritises skilled and semi-skilled labour placement.
- Key destination regions include Gulf countries, Europe, and East Asia.
- The target is reported under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis (2026 planning framework).



OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Papers for Journal of International Economics and Management Special Issue on "Trade, Migrations and the Environment"

Deadline for Submissions: Nov 15, 2026

[Click here for more information](#)

Call for Papers - Health and Migration: Perspectives from the Mediterranean

Deadline for Submissions: April 30, 2026

[Click here for more information](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Food Security & Forced Migration: A World Refugee Day Webinar

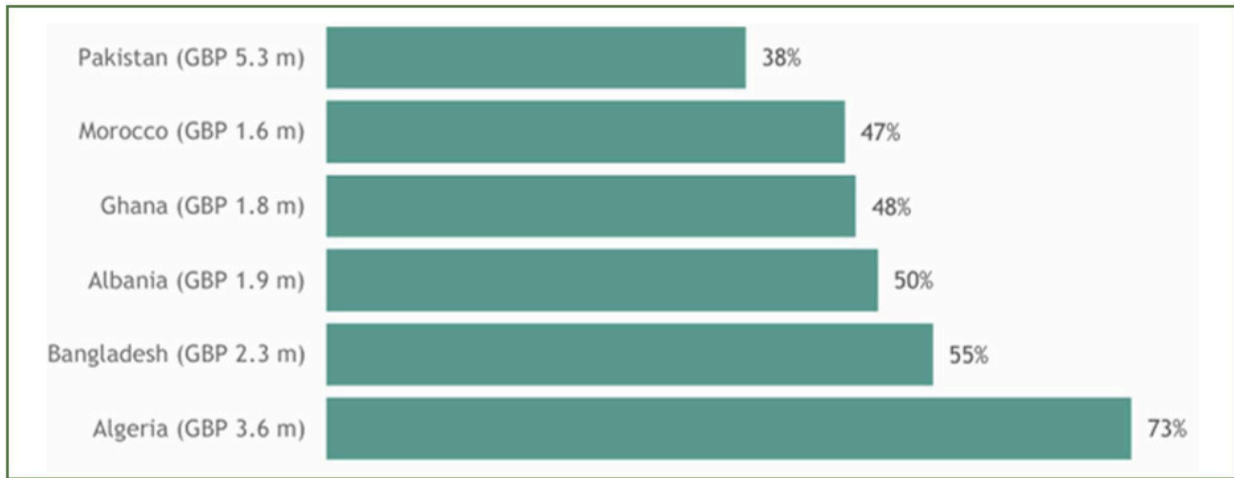
Deadline for Submissions: June 17, 2026

[Click here for more information](#)

POLICY AND MOBILITY UPDATES

Region	Initiative / Event	Key Details
Pakistan	Pakistan-Germany Skills Partnership	On 21 April 2026, Pakistan signed a deal with Germany. It will help people who want to migrate by giving them proper skills training, advice before they leave, and support when they return home.
Pakistan	Italy-Pakistan Labour Agreement	Italy has agreed to give 10,500 work visas to Pakistani workers in 2026. These visas are for specific shortage sectors: logistics, construction, hotels, and elderly care. This is a legal and organized migration channel.
Pakistan	New Zealand Skilled Migration Guidance	Pakistan's emigration office released clear instructions for Pakistanis who want to apply for skilled residence visas in New Zealand. It explains requirements such as age limit, English level, job offer, and points system.
Global	ManpowerGroup 2026 Talent Shortage Survey	A big global survey found that 72% of companies worldwide are struggling to find qualified workers. The hardest skills to find right now are related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). This creates more opportunities for skilled migrants.
Australia	New Skills in Demand (SID) Visa	Australia launched a new visa in mid-April 2026. It replaced the old temporary skilled visa. The new one is faster (can be approved in as little as 7 days for high-earning jobs) and gives workers more freedom to change employers.
UK	Skilled Worker Visa Compliance Tightening	Starting April 2026, UK employers must strictly follow salary rules. They have to pay the full promised salary every month. Visa fees have also gone up and salary thresholds were adjusted.
USA	Employment-Based Immigration Updates	The April 2026 Visa Bulletin shows improving waiting times for green cards in employment categories. However, new rules are being discussed that may require higher salaries for H-1B and other work visas.

REALITIES OF ASYLUM AND VISA APPLICATIONS



UK Visa Trends: Spending and Rejection Rates by Nationality

Source: Lessen Data Access of Governance Obstacles (LAGO)

While Pakistan continues to promote skilled and legal labour migration, a significant number of nationals still pursue asylum routes. Below is the latest detailed breakdown of asylum applications lodged by Pakistani nationals in 2024:

Destination	Applied	Accepted	Rejected	Acceptance rate (percentage)
Italy	12,362	344	8,446	3.9
UK	10,542	2,871	2,745	51.1
Canada	5,610	2,543	314	89.0
Germany	1,797	176	1,629	9.8
France	1,459	222	1,947	10.2
US	1,427	112	66	62.9
Ireland	1,390	77	270	22.2
Spain	1,154	42	642	6.1
Greece	1,074	32	835	3.7
South Korea	775	5	195	2.5
Others	5,523	1,958	2,580	
Total	43,113	8,382	19,669	29.9

Pakistani Asylum Applications: Top Destinations (2024)

Source: Pakistan Migration Report 2025

OUR WORK IN ACTION: PROMOTING SAFE & INFORMED MIGRATION

Legal ID Foundation remains dedicated to protecting migrants from exploitation and promoting safe, dignified and legal migration pathways.

Our Work in Action

In **April 2026**, we launched the first edition of the Migration Newsletter, analysing the recent Central Mediterranean boat tragedies and other pressing migration issues. The publication underscores key protection concerns and provides practical recommendations for at-risk communities and policymakers.

As we move forward, we are actively preparing for the 4th event on the upcoming **International Migrants Day (IMD) 2026**. Artists, creatives, and volunteers are warmly invited to contribute their work and ideas

Do you have your story?

Are you making some meaning contribution in the field of Migration?

Share it now!

For Queries and sharing your contributions; feel free to reach out to us:

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