



STEPHAN LIDSBA,

REFUGEE EXPERT

BASED IN ISLAMABAD, Stephan Lidsba heads a programme supporting the peaceful coexistence of Afghan refugees with the Pakistani population along the border with Afghanistan. 'Working here allows me to utilise my expertise in providing emergency aid in crisis zones and in civil-military cooperation,' says Lidsba, who holds a degree in peace and conflict studies. He joined GIZ after taking part in various UN peacekeeping missions. In Pakistan, his focus is on the border region, where one fundamental resource is particularly scarce: water. The fact that Afghan refugees also use the little water available for their needs is a frequent source of conflict between them and the Pakistani host population. Lidsba coordinates and monitors various projects designed to prevent these conflicts, 'for example to irrigate fields and set up watering points.' He lives in Islamabad with his wife and three children aged eight, five and two. 'In terms of infrastructure, Islamabad has everything that a family with small children could wish for. There are playgrounds and sports clubs.' He spends a quarter of his time travelling the country; the rest is spent in Islamabad. 'My office is in the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions and I can discuss my work directly with the Minister.'

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