



**CONTEXT**

On 19 October 2023, in response to the Ministry of Interior’s (MoI) decision to enact an “Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan” (IFRP), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and IOM, the UN Migration Agency, began collating their data on the arrest, detention, and deportation of Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghan nationals, as well as on the outflows of Afghan nationals at the Torkham, Ghulam Khan, Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha border crossing points, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan. While the Government of Pakistan (GoP) formally announced a one-year extension of the validity of the PoR card until 30 June 2025, undocumented Afghans and those holding an ACC continue to remain in an uncertain situation due to lack of pathways for protection.

**KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS**

It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. The figures since 2023, and particularly those of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- The rate of returns, deportations, arrest, and detentions, peaked in November 2023, with over 23,000 Afghans arrested. This has since decreased significantly, with an average of 700 Afghan individuals arrested per month in 2024, the majority of which are undocumented.
- During the past year, the province of Balochistan saw the highest rate of arrest and detention (66%). This is likely due to the province seeing high levels of irregular migration between Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Since 15 September 2023, 88% of returns were undocumented Afghans, 10% were PoR holders and 2% ACC holders. When looking at arrest and detentions, 88% were ACC holders and undocumented Afghan nationals, with the majority of those arrested being undocumented Afghans with irregular status in Pakistan.

**KEY ASKS**

- UNHCR and IOM appreciate the de facto pause of the IFRP and Pakistan’s historical commitment to refugee protection and call on the GoP to remain a global example of refugee protection, in the context of increased international protection needs of Afghans, regardless of their current legal status in Pakistan.
- Acknowledging the mixed and complex mobility dynamics between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and reiterating that many Afghans in Pakistan have developed strong socio-economic and family ties, UNHCR and IOM call on the GoP to uphold the human rights of all Afghans, regardless of their current legal status.
- UNHCR and IOM remain committed, and stand ready, to support the GoP in developing a comprehensive refugee and migration management system.

**TIMELINE**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
“IFRP” issued internally by Pakistan MoI.

**3 OCTOBER 2023**  
Formal announcement by the MoI of the deadline of 1 November 2023 for all “illegal foreigners” to leave Pakistan.

**10 OCTOBER 2023**  
Government-wide circular issued by CCAR under the Ministry of SAFRON, stating that PoR and ACC holders can only be repatriated on a voluntary basis.

**17 OCTOBER 2023**  
[Press release](#) issued by UN Special Rapporteurs urging the Government of Pakistan to stop the planned mass deportation of Afghans.

**30 OCTOBER 2023**  
Notification issued by the MoI instructing all relevant authorities to enact the “IFRP”, as of 1 November 2023.

**3 NOVEMBER 2023**  
UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF [press release](#) emphasizing the need for returns to be voluntary, with full respect for rights and protection of returnees including children and the vulnerable.

**10 NOVEMBER 2023**  
Notification issued by the Ministry of SAFRON extending the validity of PoR cards until 31 December 2023.

**7 FEBRUARY 2024**  
Notification of extension of the validity of PoR cards, until 31 March 2024.

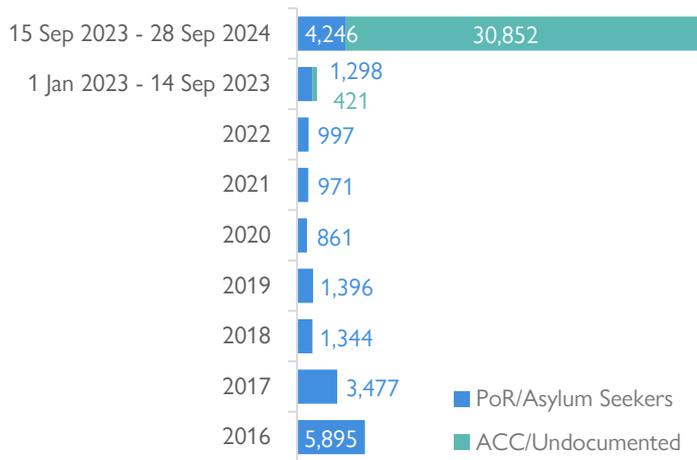
**6 MAY 2024**  
Notification of extension of the validity of PoR cards, until 30 June 2024.

**22 JULY 2024**  
Latest notification of extension of the validity of PoR cards, until 30 June 2025.

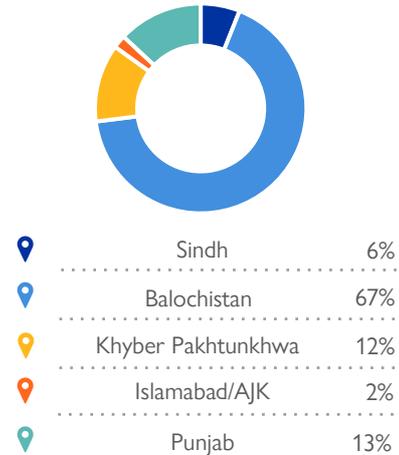
# ONE YEAR RECAP: UNHCR – IOM FLASH UPDATES

15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2024

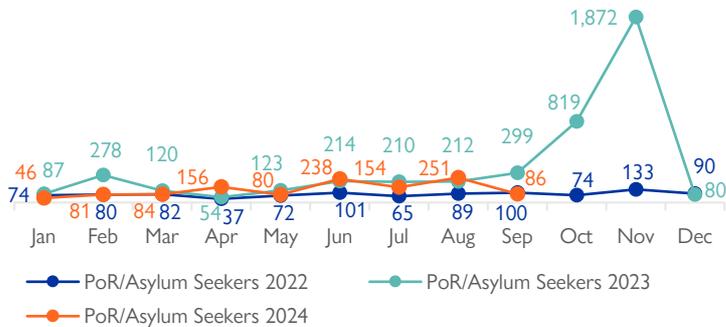
## ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



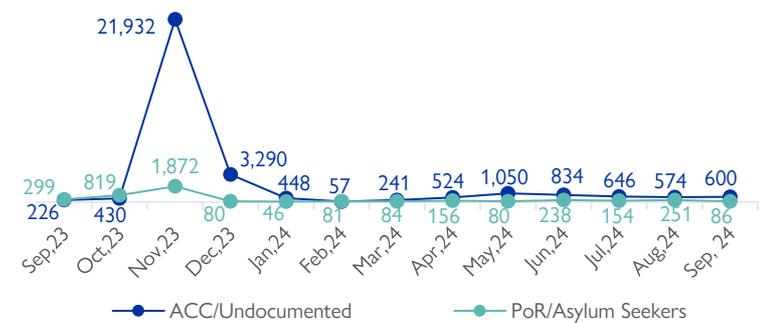
## % OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION



## MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2022 – 2024 (PoR HOLDERS)



## MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2023 – 2024



## FLOW MONITORING



UNHCR and IOM border monitors conducting an interview at Torkham border. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

**733,666 (100%)**

TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNS

**651,595 (89%)**

TOTAL RETURNEES

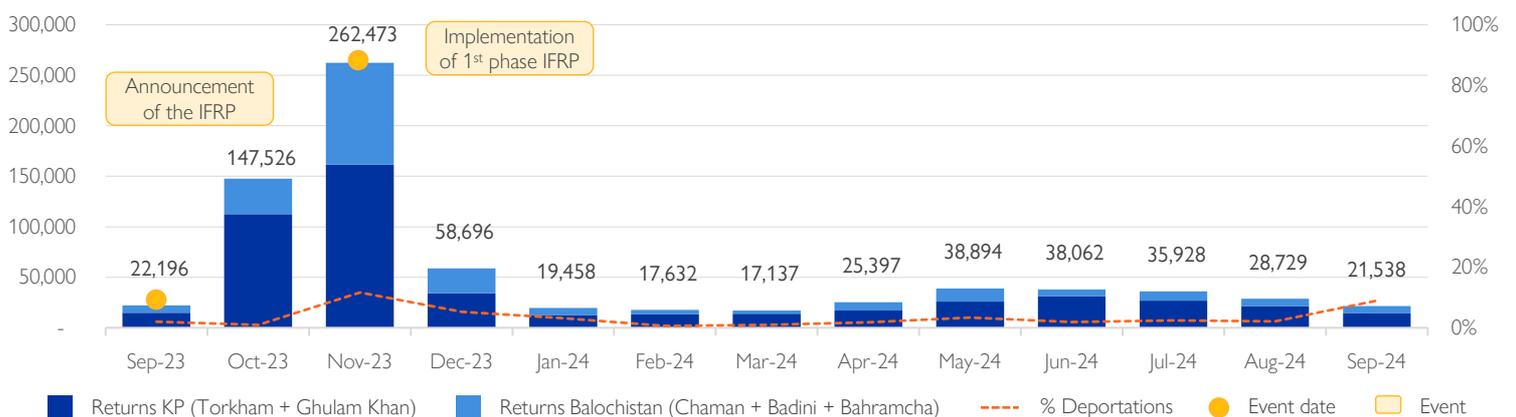
**47,047 (6%)\***

TOTAL FACILITATED PoR RETURNEES

**35,024 (5%)**

TOTAL DEPORTATIONS

## TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS

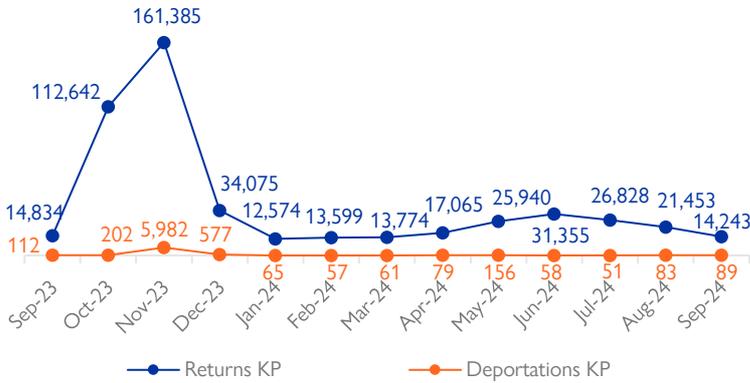


\*The number refers to facilitated PoR returns through VRCs who crossed the border during the reporting period.

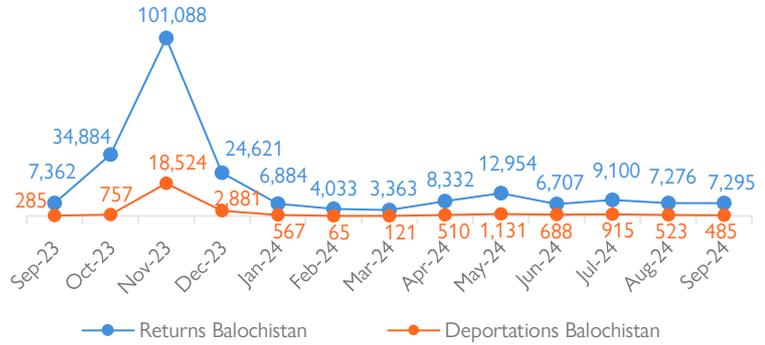


15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2024

**MONTHLY RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS, KP (TORKHAM + GHULAM KHAN)**



**MONTHLY RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS, BALOCHISTAN (CHAMAN + BADINI + BAHRAMCHA)**



**DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL RETURNEES**



	Undocumented	645,235 (88%)
	PoR holder **	74,414 (10%)
	ACC holder	14,017 (2%)

**DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES**



	ACC/Undocumented	33,066 (94%)
	PoR holder **	1,958 (6%)

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

**TYPE OF VULNERABILITY**

(Expressed as a percentage of the total numbers of vulnerable persons)

	8,332 (38%) Serious Medical Conditions		6,819 (31%) Elderly (60+)		2,047 (9%) Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
	1,941 (9%) Female Widows		856 (4%) Pregnant Women		1,780 (9%) Other

**AGE AND GENDER**

Female	Male
49.8% 219,249	50.2% 220,907
(10.4%) 45,946	0 – 4 43,890 (10.0%)
(18.7%) 82,143	5 – 17 88,457 (20.1%)
(19.3%) 84,818	18 – 59 81,780 (18.6%)
(1.4%) 6,342	60+ 6,780 (1.5%)

**REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)**

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 27,449)

	Fear of arrest	87%
	Loss of livelihood	19%
	Communal pressure	13%
	Unable to pay utilities	8%
	Unable to pay house rent	8%

This section only applies to PoR holders

**TYPE OF VULNERABILITY**

(Expressed as a percentage of the total numbers of vulnerable persons)

	1,141 (41%) Serious Medical Conditions		493 (18%) Elderly (60+)		283 (10%) Women at Risk
	282 (10%) Persons with Disabilities (PwD)		555 (21%) Other		

**AGE AND GENDER**

Female	Male
49.0% 23,029	51.0% 24,003
(9.3%) 4,384	0 – 4 4,148 (8.8%)
(19.5%) 9,172	5 – 17 9,540 (20.3%)
(19.1%) 8,987	18 – 59 9,516 (20.2%)
(1.1%) 485	60+ 799 (1.7%)

**REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)**

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 4,210)

	Socio-economic challenges	29%
	Strict border entry requirement	28%
	Loss of livelihood	12%
	No added protection value to PoR card	12%
	Other	19%

\*\* This figure refers to the % of POR holders who returned based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.