

INTRODUCTION

In response to the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) decision of 26 September 2023 to enact an "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan", UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and IOM, the UN Migration Agency, have collated 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.

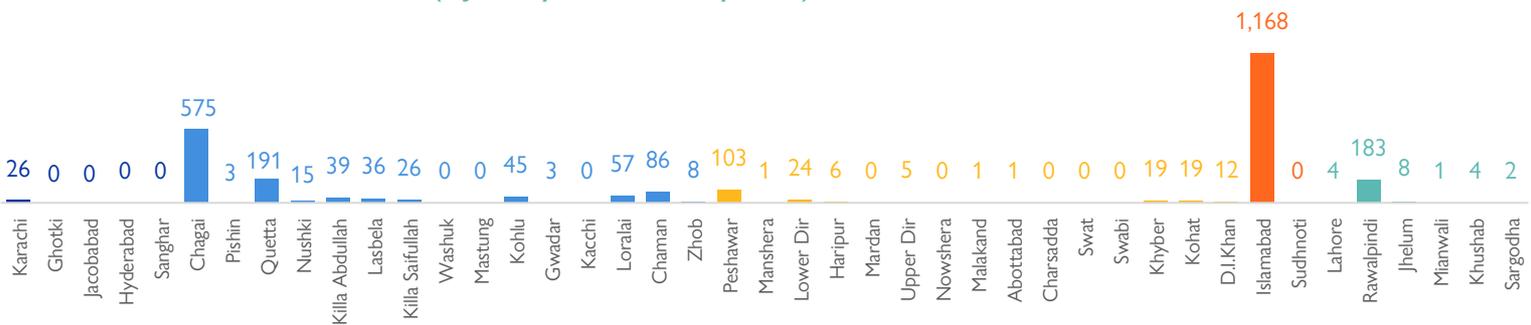
In January and February 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued a directive, requiring Afghan nationals in Pakistan to relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. This has resulted in an uptick in arrests, detentions and deportations of Afghan nationals in ICT and Rawalpindi. In response, on 5 February 2025, UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint press statement](#).

KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

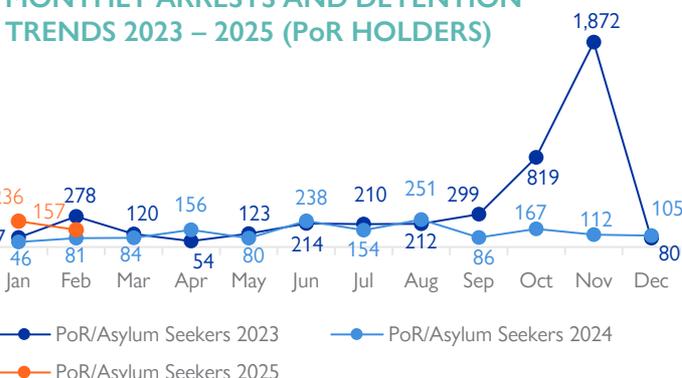
It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data, which should be considered indicative at this point. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- In February 2025, the overall reported rate of arrests and detentions increased by 15% compared to the past month (reporting period from 1 to 31 January 2025).
- In February 2025, ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 89% of the total rate of arrests and detentions, including a majority of undocumented Afghans.
- In February 2025, 50% of the total arrests and detentions took place in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi.
- Compared to January and February of 2024, the rate of arrests in Islamabad Capital Territory between January and February 2025 is 45 times higher.

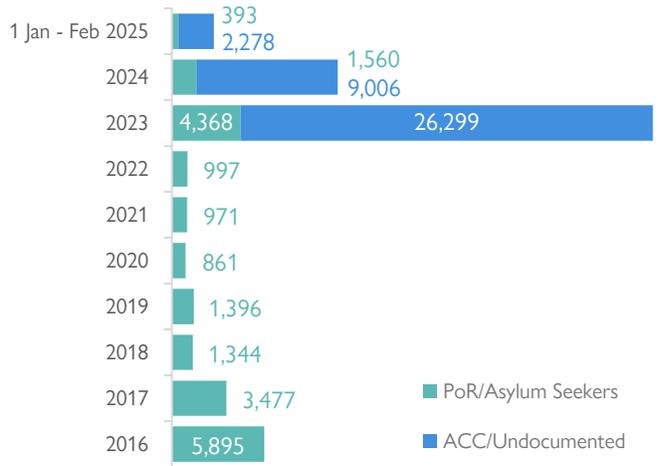
NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 28 February 2025)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2023 – 2025 (PoR HOLDERS)



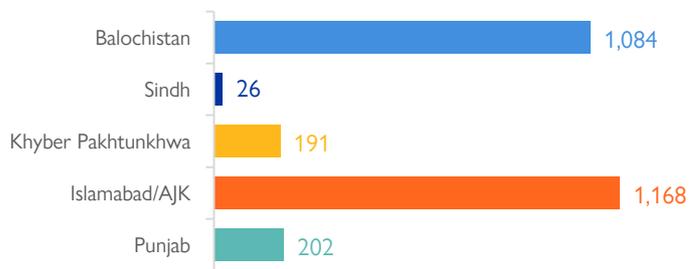
ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



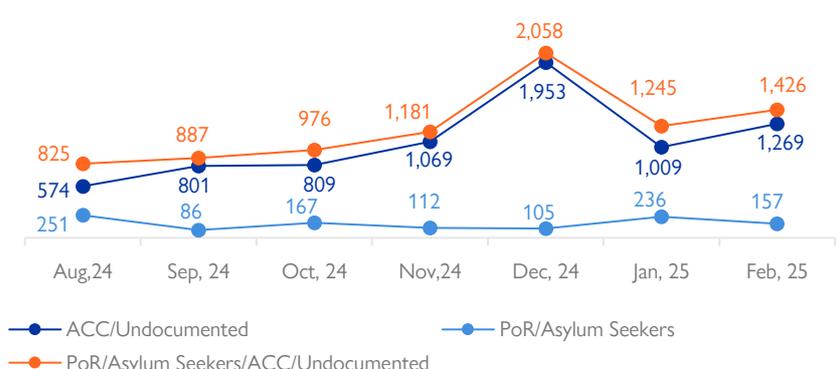
% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 28 February 2025)



NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 28 February 2025)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025



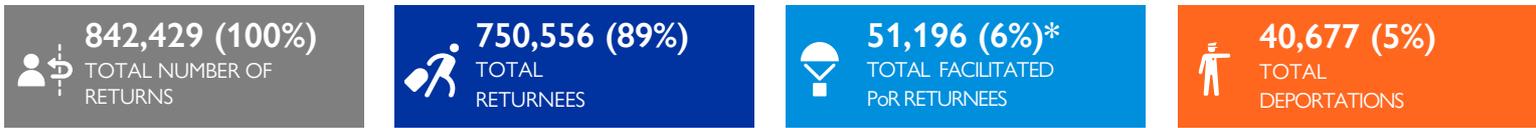


IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Chaman border. [IOM Pakistan 2025]

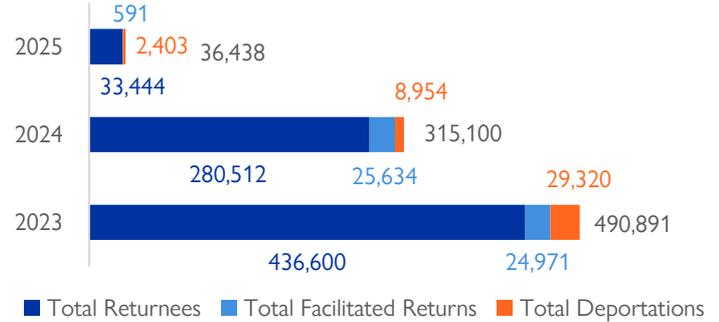
KEY FINDINGS

- During the period 1 – 28 February 2025, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 17,861 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Deportations have almost doubled (44% increase) compared to the previous reporting period, from 986 deportations in January to 1,417 deportations in February. Almost half (47%) of the deportations in February originated from Islamabad and Rawalpindi. During the last week of this reporting period, the Torkham border crossing point was closed due to cross-border hostilities which affected both returns and deportations.
- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 28 February 2025, 842,429 individuals have returned. The number of returns in the last month (1 – 28 February; 17,861) slightly decreased as compared to returns in the month prior to that (1 – 31 January; 18,577).
- Most of the returns were undocumented Afghans (88%), followed by PoR holders (10%) and ACC holders (2%). Majority of the PoR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.
- Fear of arrest (85%) remains the most common reason to return to Afghanistan among undocumented/ACC holders, while PoR holders cite socio-economic challenges.
- Returnees were most likely to return from Quetta (21%) and Peshawar (20%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (22%), Kandahar (21%) and Kabul (19%) in Afghanistan.

CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025



Period	Total Number of Returns	Total Returnees	Total Facilitated Returnees	Total Deportees
15 Sep – 31 Dec 2023	490,891	436,600	24,971	29,320
1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024	315,100	280,512	25,634	8,954
1 Jan – 28 Feb 2025	36,438	33,444	591	2,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>842,429</b>	<b>750,556</b>	<b>51,196</b>	<b>40,677</b>



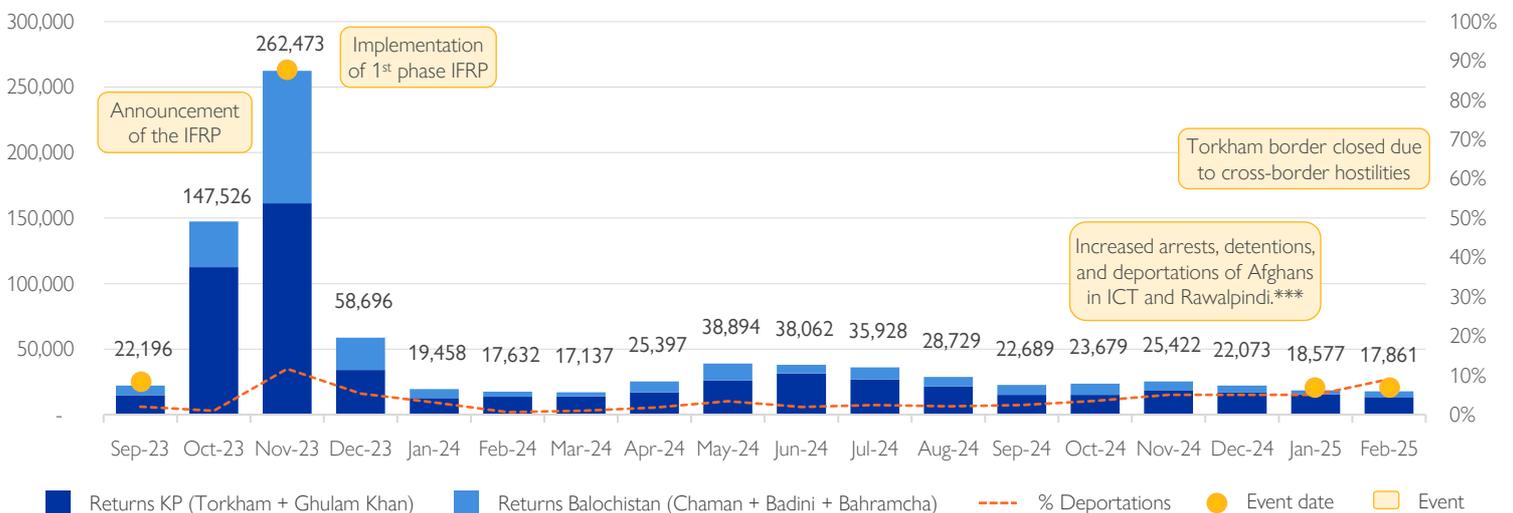
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES



TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 28 FEBRUARY 2025



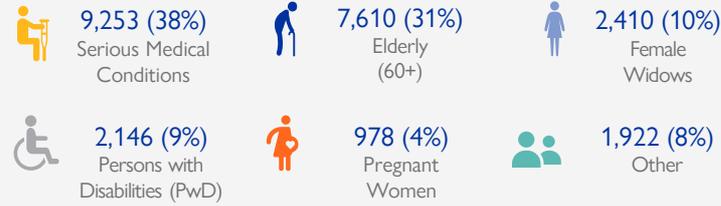
\*The number refers to facilitated PoR returns through VRCs who crossed the border during the reporting period.  
 \*\* This figure refers to PoR holders based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.  
 \*\*\* These arrests and detentions occurred following news reports on 27 November 2024, indicating a Mol requirement of a NOC for Afghan nationals residing in ICT after 31 December 2024.



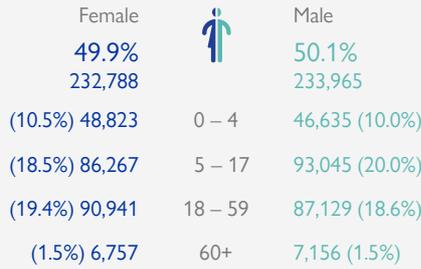
This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

### TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

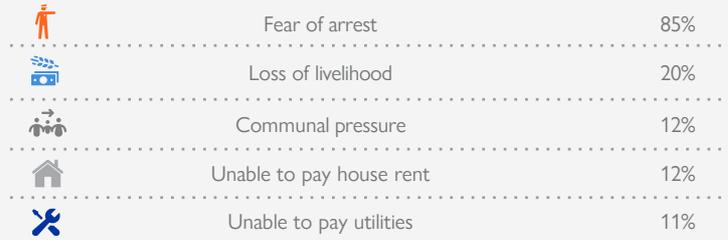


### AGE AND GENDER



### REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

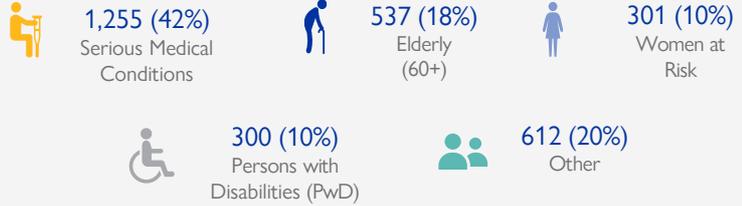
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 30,840)



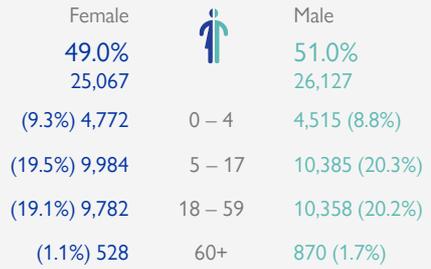
This section only applies to PoR holders

### TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

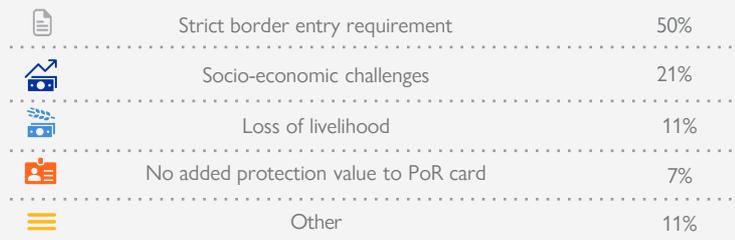


### AGE AND GENDER

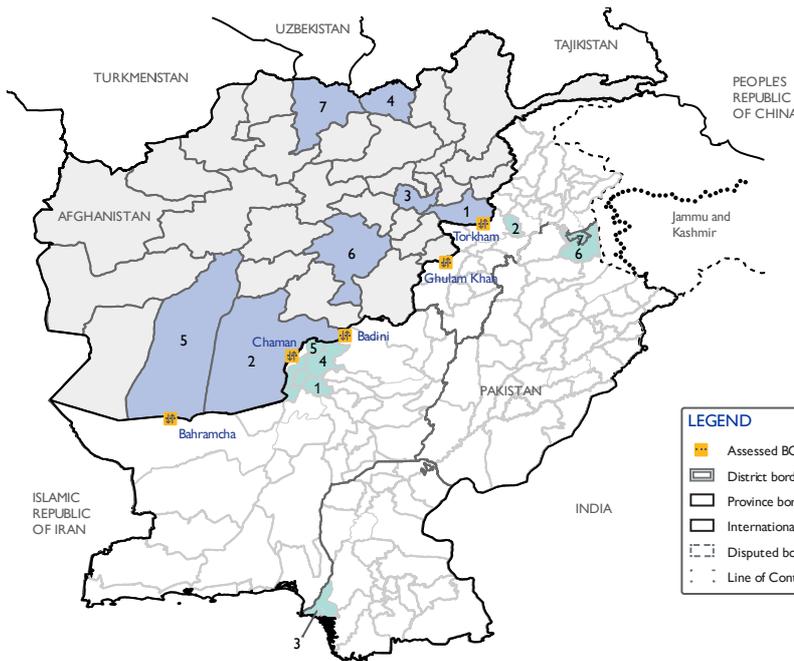


### REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 4,858)



## DISTRICT OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN AND PROVINCE OF DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN



### DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 7)



### PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)



Disclaimer:

Dotted line represents approximately the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM or United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This document was produced jointly by IOM and UNHCR. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or UNHCR. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.