



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.

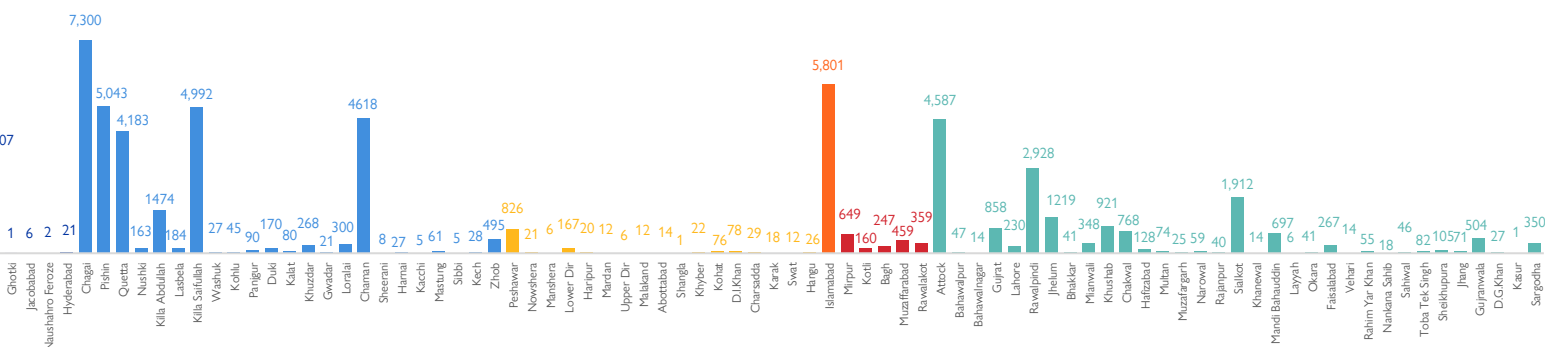
From January – February 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued a directive, requiring Afghan nationals in Pakistan to relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. In response, on 5 February 2025, UNHCR and IOM issued a joint press statement. Further announcements followed on the implementation of the second phase of the "IFRP", targeting ACC holders in addition to undocumented Afghans to return to Afghanistan. On 31 July 2025, the GoP issued a Statutory Regulation Order (SRO) directing the repatriation/deportation of PoR holders whose cards had expired in June 2025, declaring them illegal. This was followed by a notification sent on 04 August 2025 informing relevant government entities of a decision to delay the repatriation/deportation process of PoR holders until 1 September 2025, effectively giving the affected PoR holders time to decide to return on their own. The notification emphasized that Phase 1 and 2 of the "IFRP" are to be continued throughout the month of August. In response, on 5 August 2025, UNHCR issued a [press briefing](#) expressing concern at the decision and urging the GoP to exempt Afghans with international protection needs or with particular vulnerabilities from involuntary return.

KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

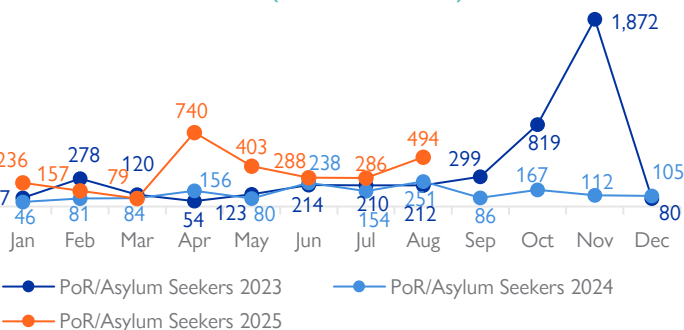
Prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- During the reporting period (17 – 23 August), a total of 1,755 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained, marking a 52% increase compared to the previous week.
- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period (17 – 23 August), ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 93% of the total rate of arrest and detentions.
- During the reporting period (17 – 23 August), 67% of the total arrests and detentions took place in Balochistan.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between 1 January and 23 August 2025 are Chaghi (Balochistan), Islamabad, and Pishin (Balochistan).

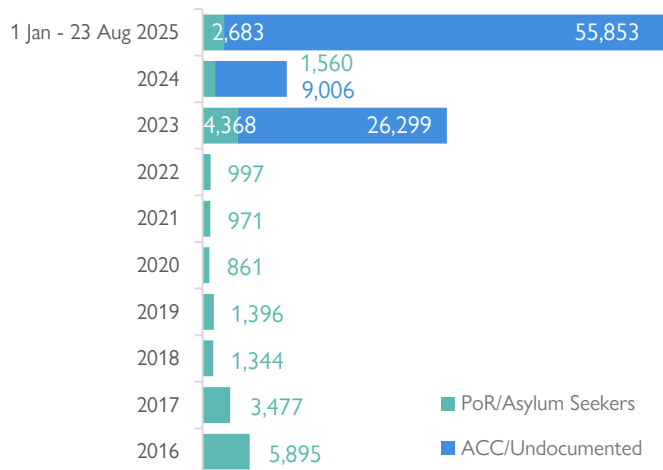
NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 23 August 2025)



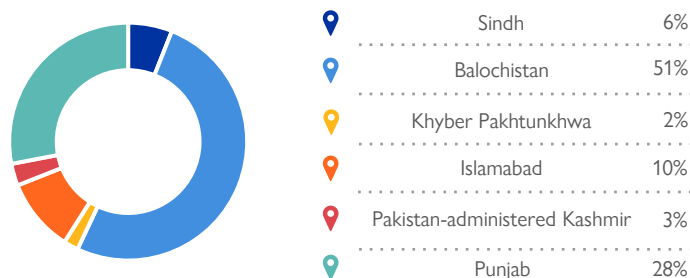
MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2023 – 2025 (PoR HOLDERS)



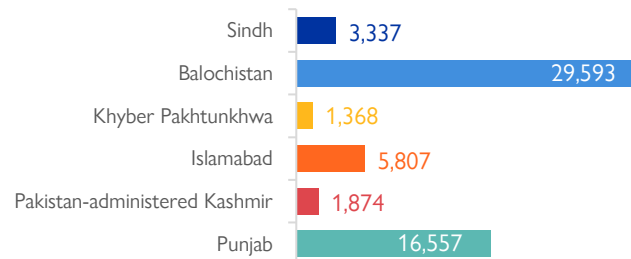
ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



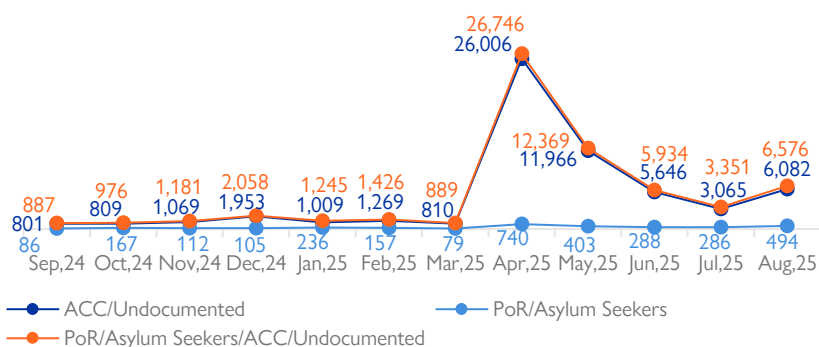
% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 23 August 2025)



NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 23 August 2025)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025



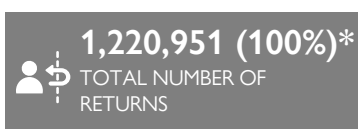


IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Torkham border. [IOM Pakistan 2025]

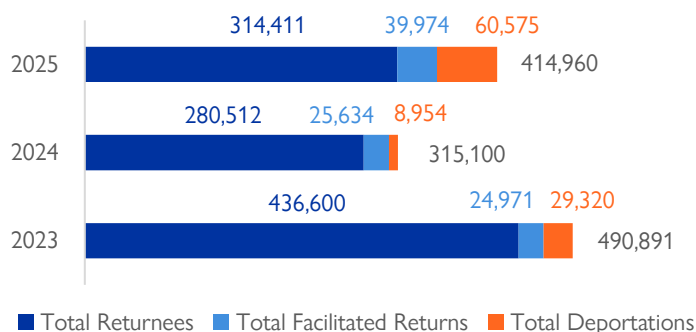
KEY FINDINGS

- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 23 August 2025, 1,220,951 individuals have returned.
- During the period 17 – 23 August 2025, UNHCR and IOM estimate 27,943 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Returns and deportations increased substantially by 79 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, during the period of 17 – 23 August (27,943 returns and 1,699 deportations), compared to the previous week of 10 – 16 August (15,641 returns and 1,102 deportations).
- For the returns from 17 – 23 August 2025, most of the returnees were PoR holders (70%) followed by undocumented (26%) and ACC holders (4%). Majority of the PoR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.
- For the deportees from 17 – 23 August 2025, most of the deportees were undocumented (65%); followed by PoR holders (33%) and ACC holders (2%).
- Since 1 April 2025, 366,918 Afghan nationals returned, of which 57,478 were deported.
- Since 1 April 2025, fear of arrest is the most common reason to return among undocumented/ACC; holders (92%) and PoR holders (46%).
- During the same time period, returnees were most likely to return from Islamabad (20%), Quetta (15%); and Rawalpindi (12%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Kabul (23%), Kunduz (19%) and Nangarhar (18%) in Afghanistan.

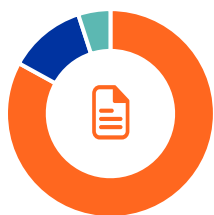
CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025



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 – 23 Aug 2025	414,960	314,411	39,974	60,575
Total	1,220,951	1,031,523	90,579	98,849



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNES

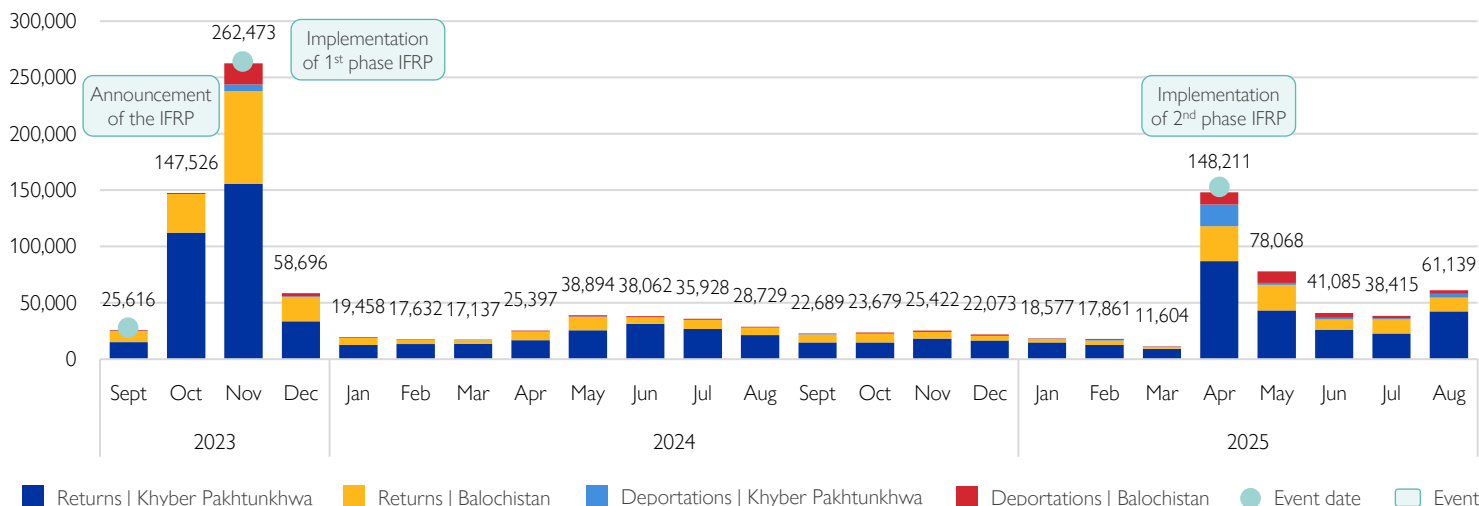


Undocumented	1,009,811 (83%)
PoR holders ***	150,718 (12%)
ACC holders	60,422 (5%)

DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

ACC/Undocumented (15 Sep 2023 – 31 Mar 2025)	39,333
Undocumented (1 Apr – 23 Aug 2025)	40,560
PoR holders *** (15 Sep 2023 – 23 Aug 2025)	4,418
ACC holders (1 Apr – 23 Aug 2025)	14,538

TOTAL RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 23 AUGUST 2025



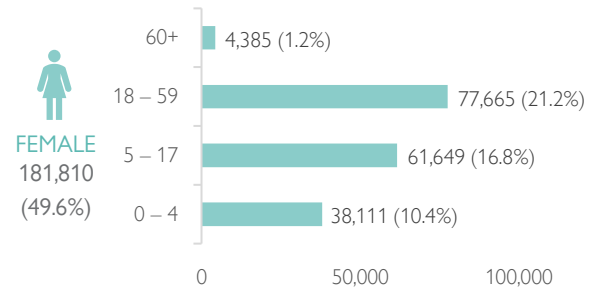
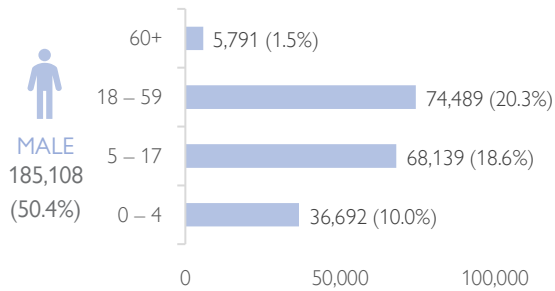
* This number includes returnees who received post-arrival assistance by the IOM-led Border Consortium in Afghanistan at Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points.

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

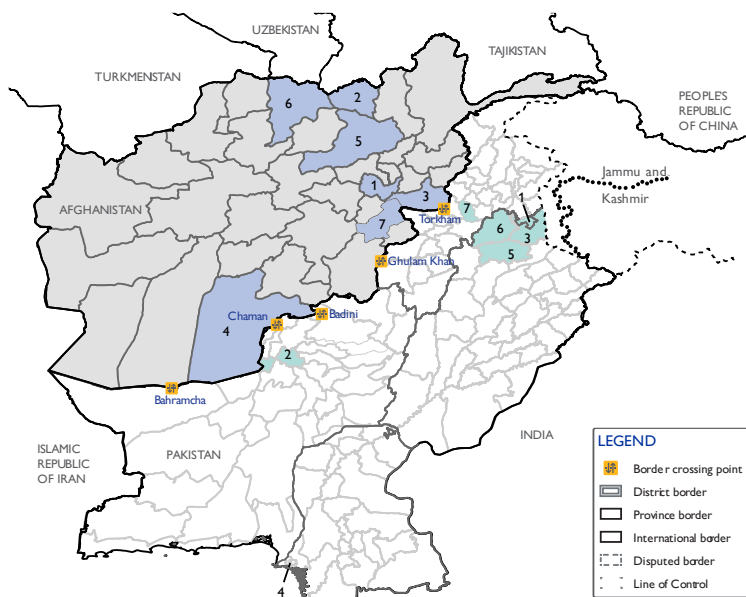
*** This figure refers to PoR holders based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.

AGE AND GENDER****

366,918
TOTAL NUMBER OF
RETURNS SINCE 1 APRIL 2025



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



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 7)

1. Islamabad	20%
2. Quetta	15%
3. Rawalpindi	12%
4. Karachi Central	8%
5. Chakwal	8%
6. Attock	8%
7. Peshawar	7%

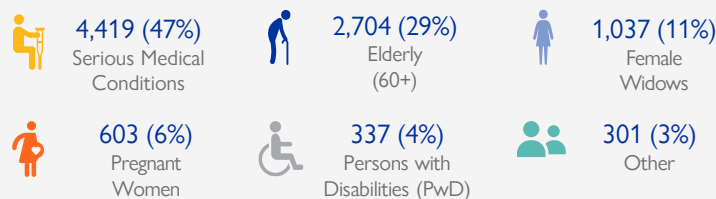
PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)

1. Kabul	23%
2. Kunduz	19%
3. Nangarhar	18%
4. Kandahar	11%
5. Baghlan	8%
6. Balkh	8%
7. Paktia	3%

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

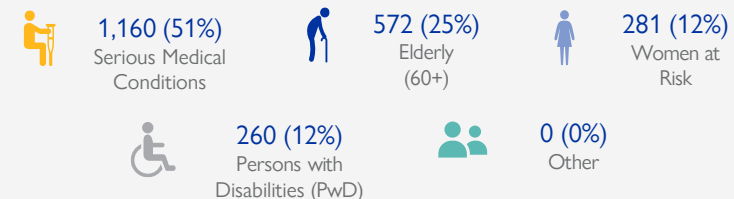
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 14,416)



This section only applies to PoR holders

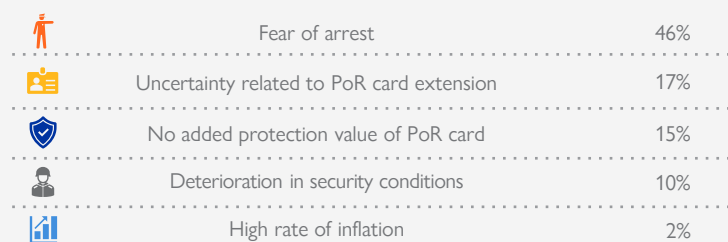
TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 2,569)



**** The figures shown in this visual are based on gender and age aggregated figures from UNHCR and IOM, which were available for 41 per cent (150,299 individuals) of the total returns and then applied to the total return figure since 1 April 2025. For the remaining 59 per cent, no age/gender disaggregated data is available.

***** 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.