



## ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 18 October 2025)

## 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.

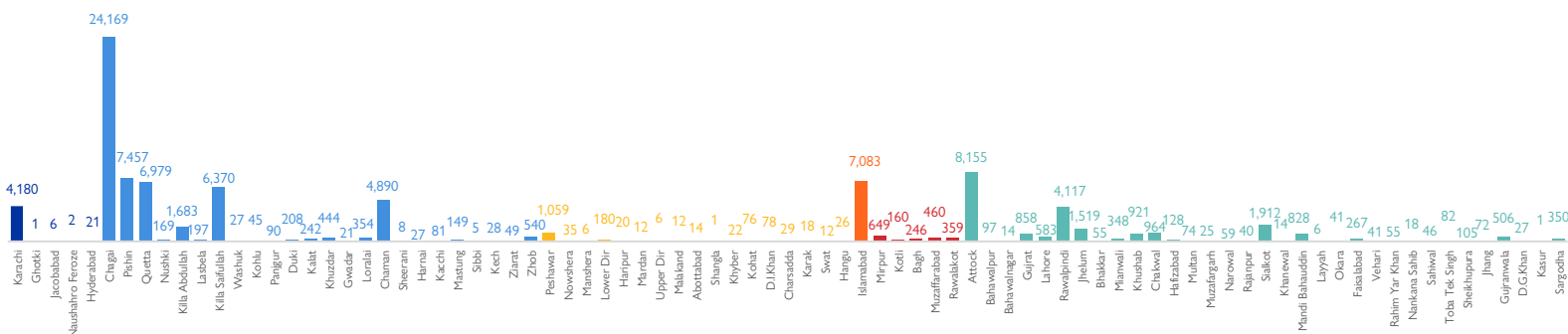
In 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued several directives impacting Afghan nationals. In January, the GoP announced that Afghan nationals should relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. In April, further announcements indicated the implementation of the second phase of the "IFRP", targeting ACC holders, in addition to undocumented Afghans. In July, the GoP issued a Statutory Regulation Order (SRO) directing the repatriation/deportation of PoR card holders following the expiry of PoR card validity on 30 June. The GoP later indicated a deadline of 1 September for PoR holders to leave Pakistan, before the start of the repatriation/deportation process. UNHCR issued a [press briefing](#) expressing concern regarding the decision and urging the GoP to exempt Afghans with international protection needs, as well as those with particular circumstances or vulnerabilities, from involuntary return.

## KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

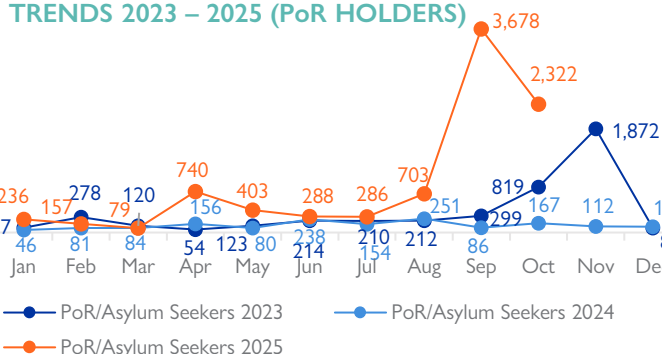
Prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- During the reporting period (12 – 18 October), a total of 657 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained, marking a 90% decrease compared to the previous week. Cross-border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan resulted in the closure of most border crossing points during the period, slowing down the rate of arrests, detentions, deportations and returns.
- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period (12 – 18 October), ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 92% of the total rate of arrest and detentions, and PoR holders represented 8%.
- During the reporting period (12 – 18 October), 100% of the total reported arrests and detentions took place in Balochistan.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between 1 January and 18 October 2025 are Chaghi (Balochistan), Attock (Punjab), and Pishin (Balochistan).

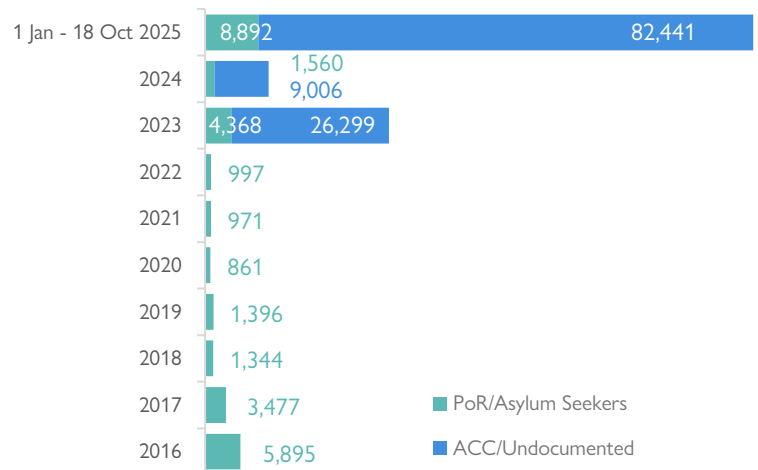
## NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 18 October 2025)



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



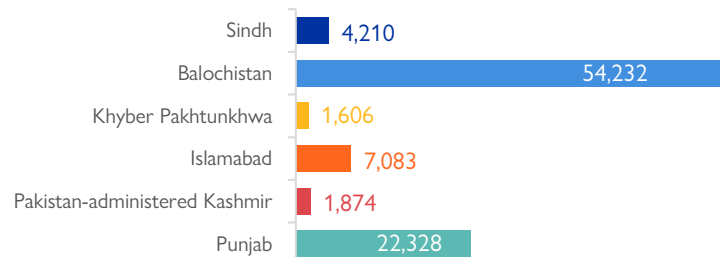
## ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



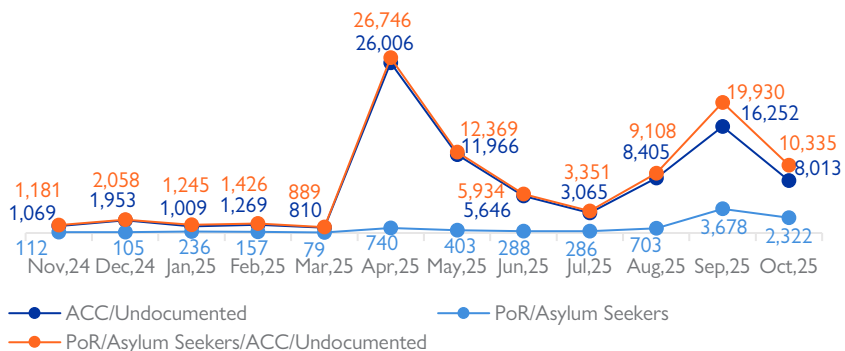
## % OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 18 October 2025)



## NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 18 October 2025)



## MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025



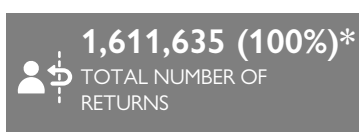


IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Torkham border. [UNHCR Pakistan 2025]

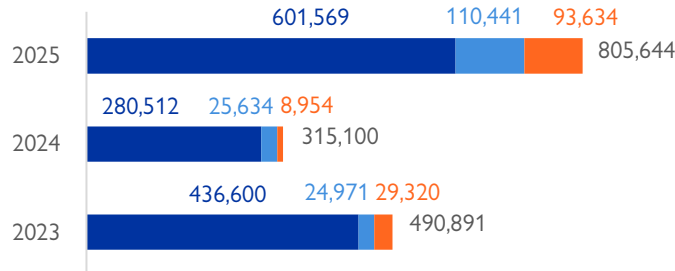
## KEY FINDINGS

- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 18 October 2025, 1,611,635 individuals have returned. During the period 12 – 18 October 2025, UNHCR and IOM estimate 12,329 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Between 12 – 18 October 2025, the number of returns dropped by 53% to 12,329, while deportations saw a significant decline of 91%, totaling 580. This marks a sharp decrease compared to the previous week of 5 - 11 October 2025 (26,351 returns including 6,545 deportations). The substantial reduction is primarily attributed to the closure of border crossings during cross-border clashes, which severely limited both returns and deportation.
- For the returns from 12 – 18 October 2025, most of the returnees were undocumented (70%) followed by PoR holders (27%) and ACC holders (3%). Majority of the POR returns include those facilitated by UNHCR through the Voluntary Repatriation Centers (VRCs).
- For the deportees from 12 – 18 October 2025, most of the deportees were undocumented (55%); followed by PoR holders (32%) and ACC holders (13%).
- Since 1 April 2025, 757,602 Afghan nationals returned, of which 90,537 (12%) were deported. During the period, fear of arrest remained the main reason for return among undocumented and ACC holders (93%), while camp or settlement closures were the primary driver for PoR holders (32%).
- During the same time period, returnees were most likely to return from Attock (18%); Islamabad (17%) and Quetta (12%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (21%), Kabul (19%) and Kunduz (18%) in Afghanistan.

## CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025

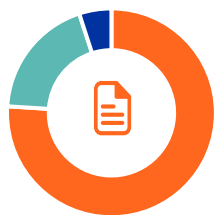


Period	Total Number of Returns	Total Returnees	Total Facilitated Returnees	Total Deportees
15 Sep – 31 Dec 2023	490,891	436,600	24,971	29,320
1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024	315,100	280,512	25,634	8,954
1 Jan – 18 Oct 2025	805,644	601,569	110,441	93,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,611,635</b>	<b>1,318,681</b>	<b>161,046</b>	<b>131,908</b>



■ Total Returnees ■ Total Facilitated Returns ■ Total Deportations

## DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNES (EXCLUDING DEPORTEES)

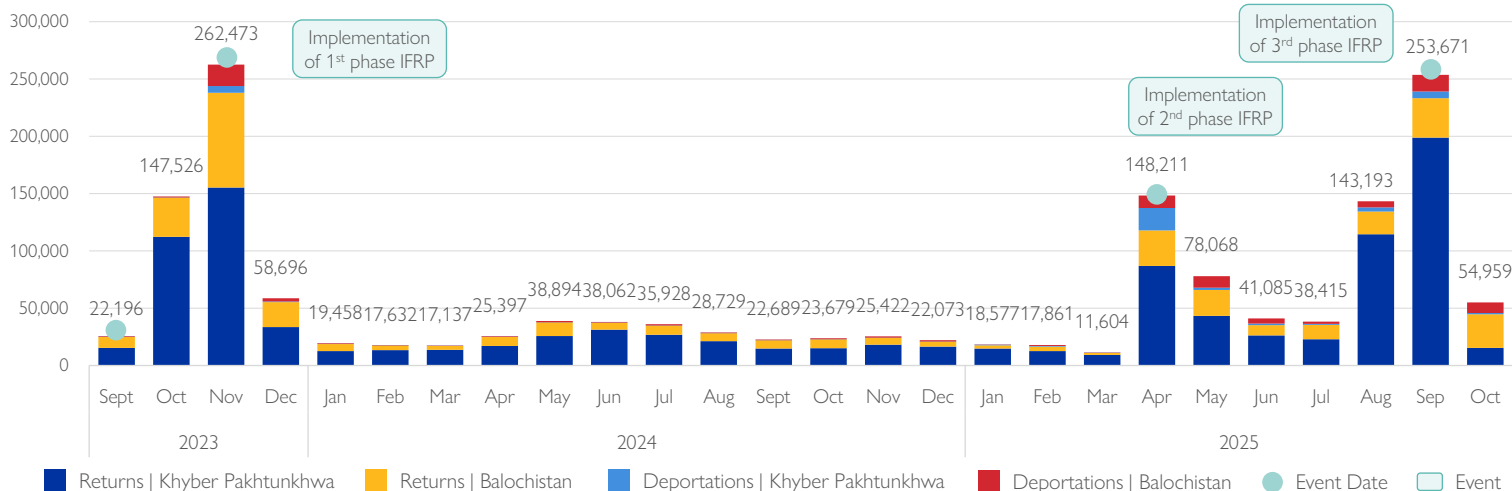


Undocumented	1,119,479 (76%)
ACC holders	73,989 (5%)
PoR holders ***	286,259 (19%)

## DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

ACC/Undocumented (15 Sep 2023 – 31 Mar 2025)	39,333
Undocumented (1 Apr – 18 Oct 2025)	68,957
ACC holders (1 Apr – 18 Oct 2025)	15,095
PoR holders *** (15 Sep 2023 – 18 Oct 2025)	8,523

## TOTAL RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 18 OCTOBER 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.

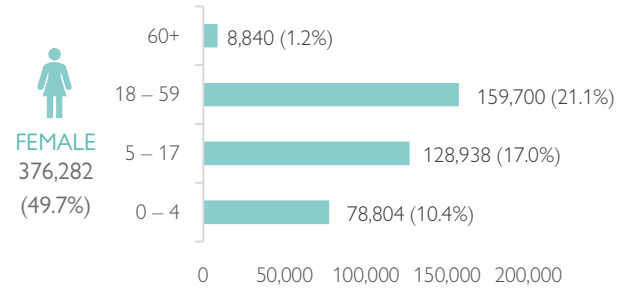
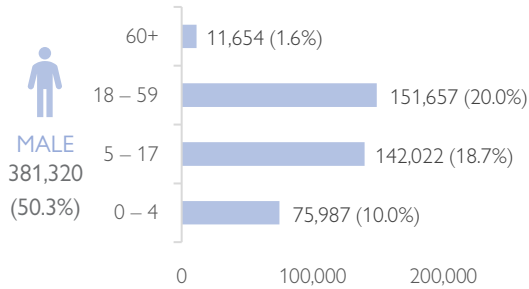
\*\* The number refers to facilitated PoR returns through VRCs who crossed the border during the reporting period.

\*\*\* Refers to all groups of undocumented Afghans, including of holders of expired PoR cards who did not renew their PoR cards during the latest verification exercise conducted by the GoP in 2021 (DRIVE).

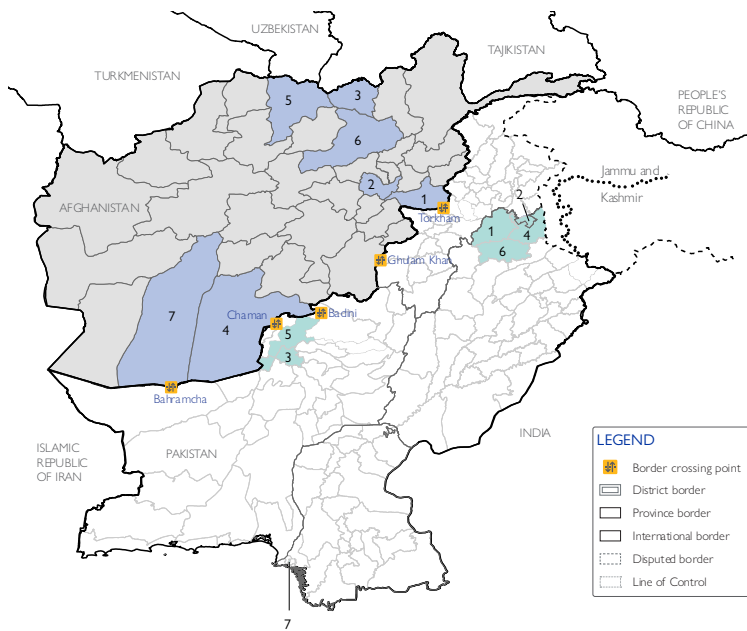
\*\*\*\* This figure refers to PoR holders based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.



## AGE AND GENDER\*\*\*\*

**757,602**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. Attock	18%
2. Islamabad	17%
3. Quetta	12%
4. Rawalpindi	11%
5. Pishin	9%
6. Chakwal	8%
7. Karachi Central	5%

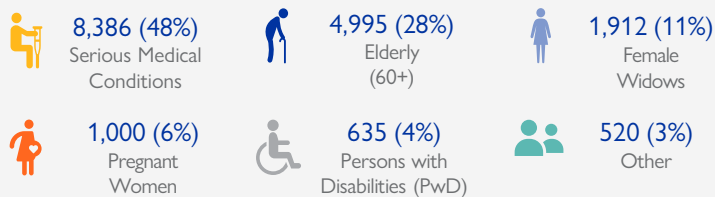
## PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)

1. Nangarhar	21%
2. Kabul	19%
3. Kunduz	18%
4. Kandahar	11%
5. Balkh	8%
6. Baghlan	7%
7. Hilmand	3%

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

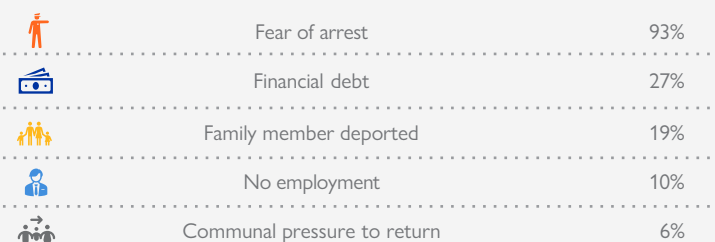
## TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

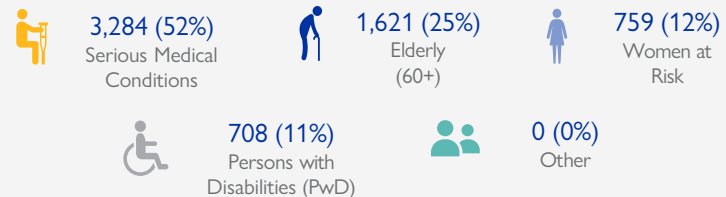
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 27,344)



This section only applies to PoR holders

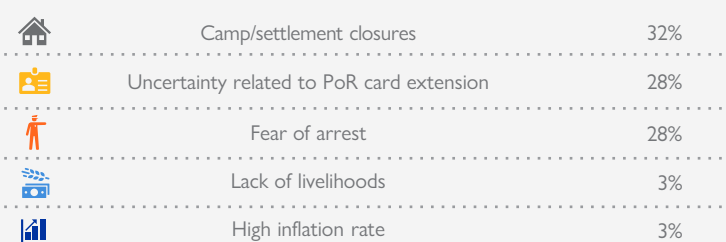
## TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 3,078)



\*\*\*\* The figures shown in this visual are based on gender and age aggregated figures from UNHCR and IOM, which were available for 42 per cent (317,655 individuals) of the total returns and then applied to the total return figure since 1 April 2025. For the remaining 58 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.

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