



## 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.

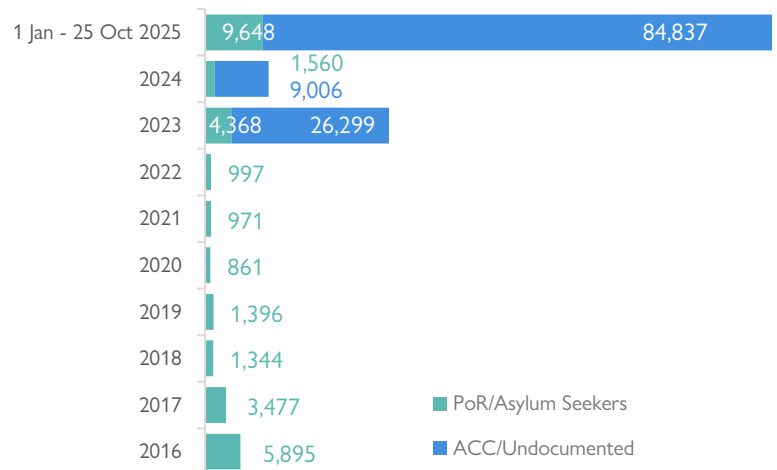
In 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued several directives impacting Afghan nationals. In January, the GoP announced that Afghan nationals should relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. In April, further announcements indicated the implementation 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 (19 – 25 October), a total of 3,152 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained, marking a 380% increase compared to the previous week – during which most border crossing points were closed, impacting the rate of arrests, detentions, deportations and returns.
- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period (19 – 25 October), ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 76% of the total rate of arrest and detentions, and PoR holders represented 24%.
- During the reporting period (19 – 25 October), over 99% 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 25 October 2025 are Chaghi (Balochistan), Attock (Punjab), and Pishin (Balochistan).

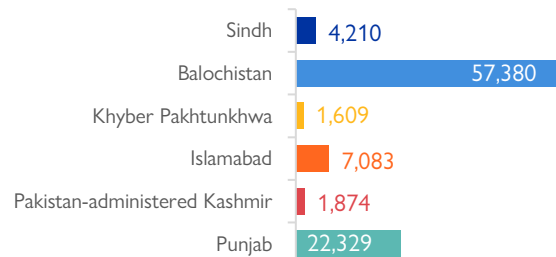
## ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



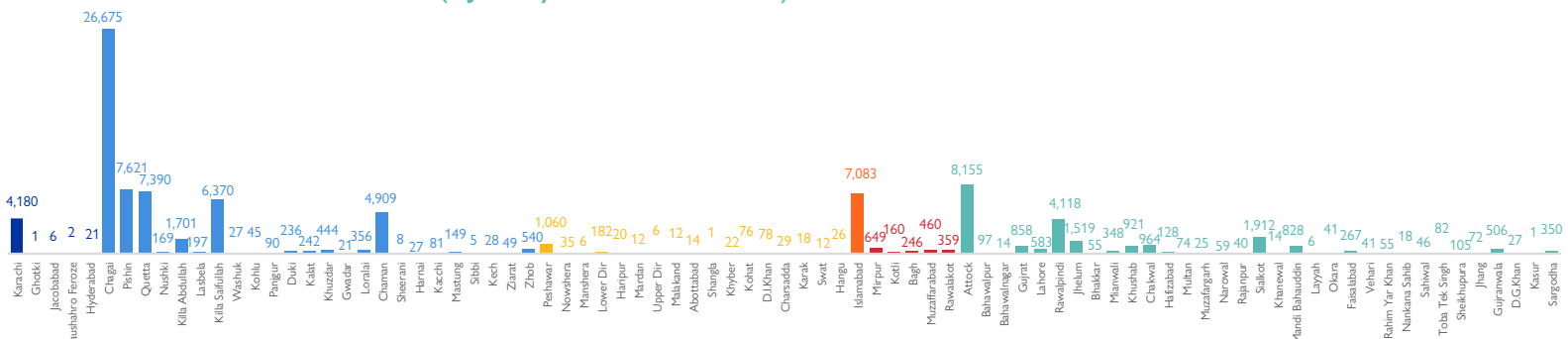
## % OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 25 October 2025)



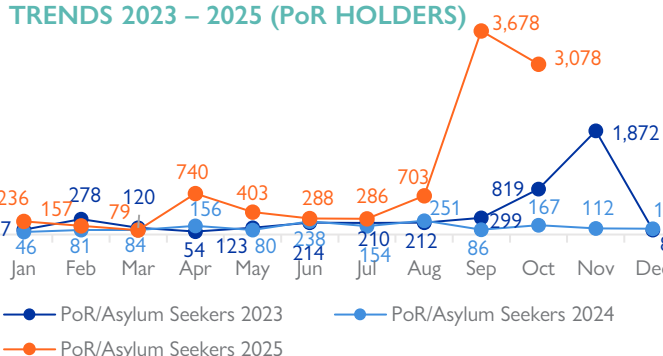
## NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 25 October 2025)



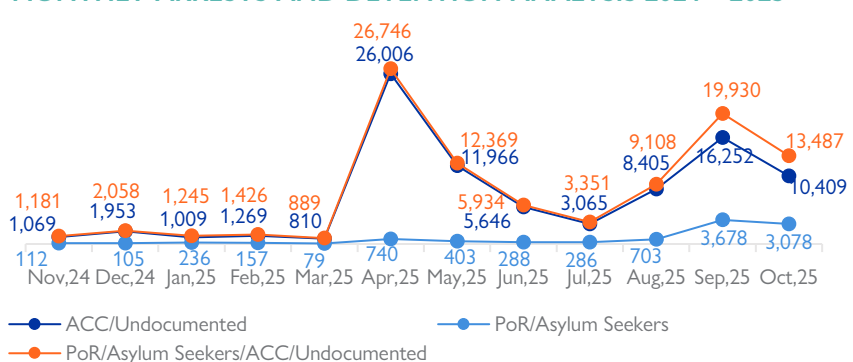
## NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 25 October 2025)



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



## MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025



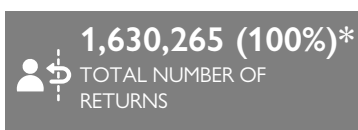


IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Chaman border. [IOM Pakistan 2025]

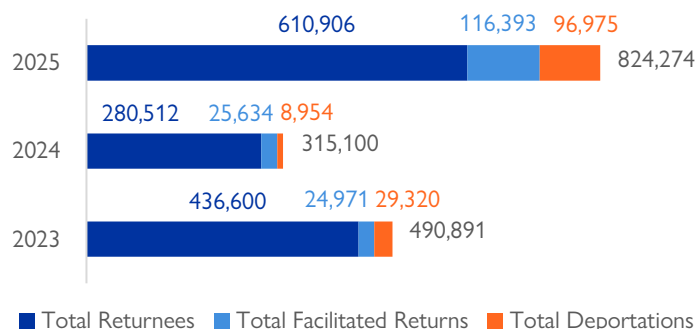
## KEY FINDINGS

- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 25 October 2025, 1,630,265 individuals have returned. During the period 19 – 25 October 2025, UNHCR and IOM estimate 18,630 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Between 19 – 25 October 2025, the number of returns and deportations rose sharply — by 51% and 476% respectively — compared to the previous week of 12 – 18 October (12,329 returns including 580 deportations). During 19 – 25 October, the figures reached 18,630 returns, including 3,341 deportations. This significant increase is primarily attributed to the reopening of the Chaman border, while all other border crossings remained closed. Whilst this week-on-week increase in return figures is significant, especially for Chaman in Balochistan, the overall figures during this reporting period have remained more modest compared to those in late August and September this year.
- For the returns from 19 – 25 October 2025, most of the returnees were PoR holders (53%) followed by undocumented (40%) and ACC holders (7%). Majority of the POR returns include those facilitated by UNHCR through the Voluntary Repatriation Centers (VRCs).
- For the deportees from 19 – 25 October 2025, most of the deportees were undocumented (59%); followed by PoR holders (24%) and ACC holders (17%).
- Since 1 April 2025, 776,232 Afghan nationals returned, of which 93,878 (12%) were deported. During the period, fear of arrest remained the main reason for return among undocumented individuals and ACC holders (93%) as well as PoR holders (28%).
- During the same time period, returnees were most likely to return from Attock (17%); Islamabad (16%) and Quetta (16%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (20%), Kunduz (19%) and Kabul (18%) in Afghanistan.

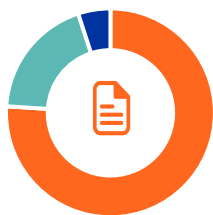
## CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025



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 – 25 Oct 2025	824,274	610,906	116,393	96,975
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,630,265</b>	<b>1,328,018</b>	<b>166,998</b>	<b>135,249</b>



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

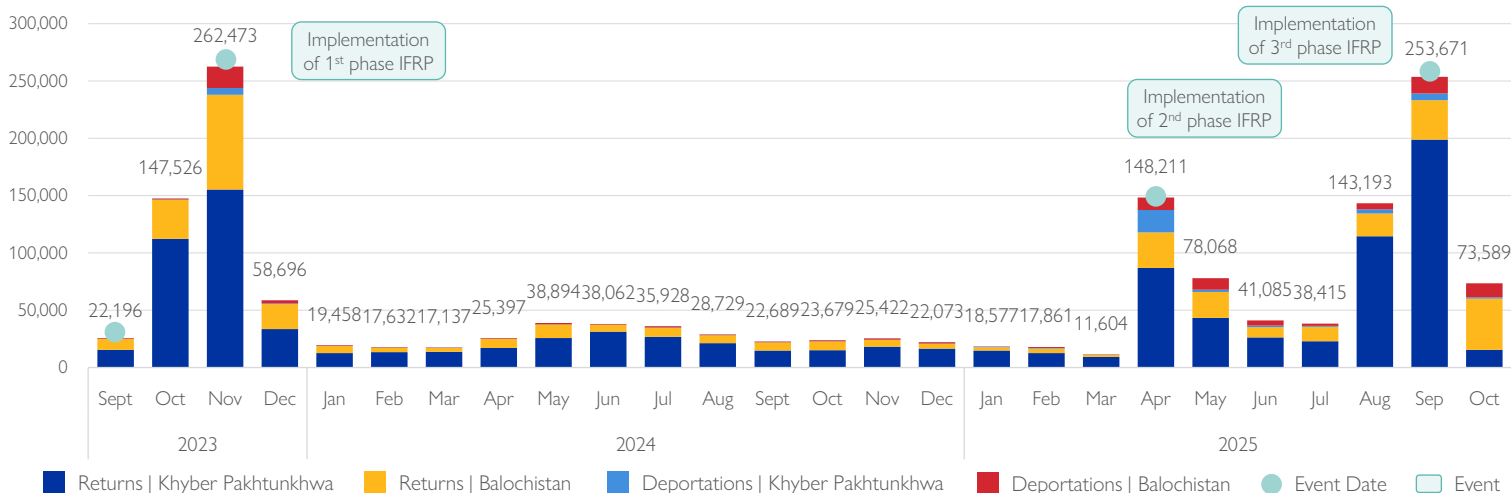


Undocumented	1,125,537 (75%)
ACC holders	75,061 (5%)
PoR holders ***	294,418 (20%)

## DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

ACC/Undocumented (15 Sep 2023 – 31 Mar 2025)	39,333
Undocumented (1 Apr – 25 Oct 2025)	72,061
ACC holders (1 Apr – 25 Oct 2025)	15,195
PoR holders *** (15 Sep 2023 – 25 Oct 2025)	8,660

## TOTAL RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 25 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.

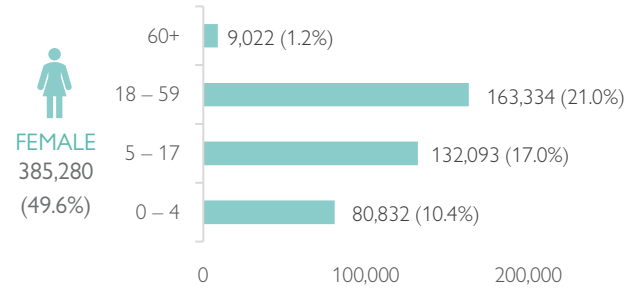
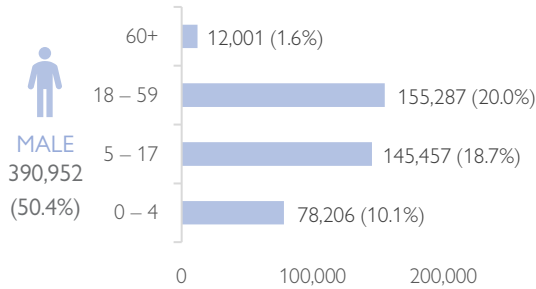
\*\* The number refers to facilitated PoR returns through VRCs who crossed the border during the reporting period.

\*\*\* 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).

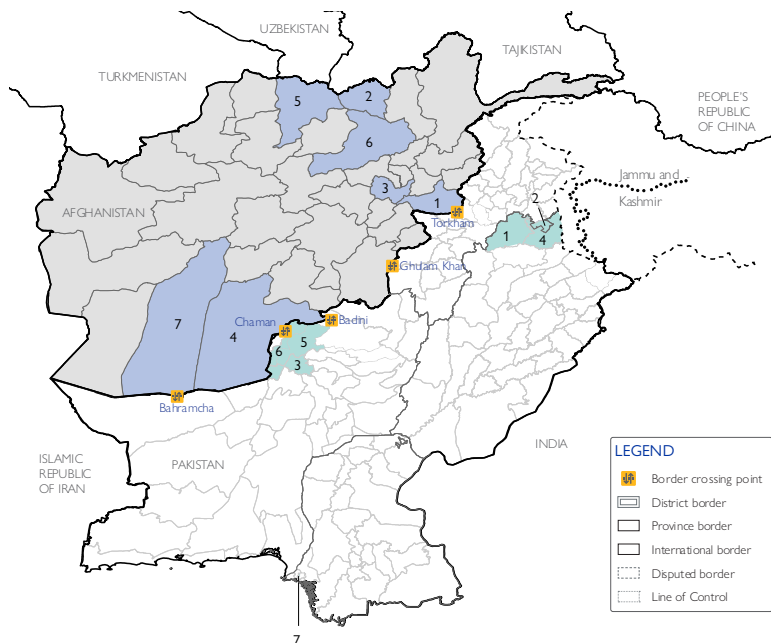
\*\*\*\* This figure refers to PoR holders based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.



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

**776,232**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	17%
2. Islamabad	16%
3. Quetta	16%
4. Rawalpindi	11%
5. Pishin	9%
6. Killa Abdullah	7%
7. Karachi Central	5%

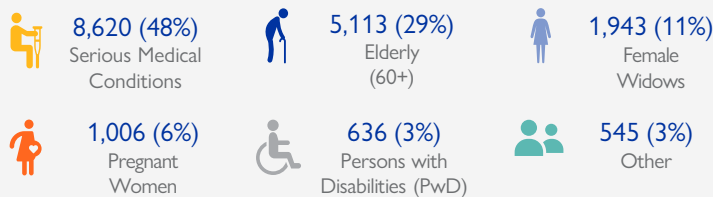
## PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)

1. Nangarhar	20%
2. Kunduz	19%
3. Kabul	18%
4. Kandahar	11%
5. Balkh	9%
6. Baghlan	7%
7. Hilmand	3%

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

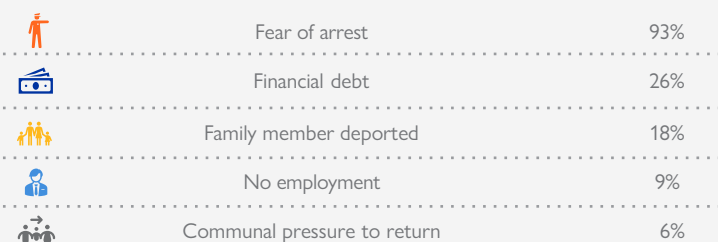
## TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

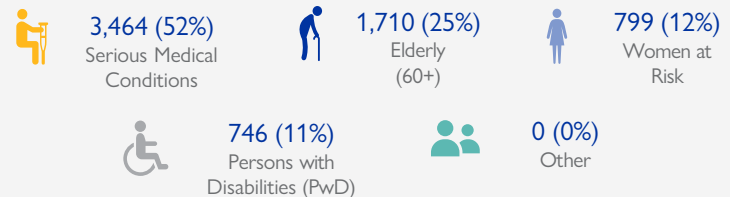
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 27,923)



This section only applies to PoR holders

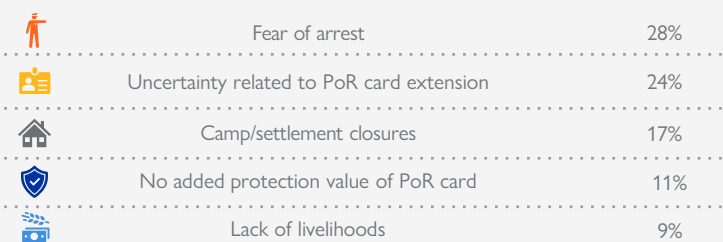
## TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



## TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 3,118)



\*\*\*\* 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 (328,487 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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