


ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 29 November 2025)

INTRODUCTION

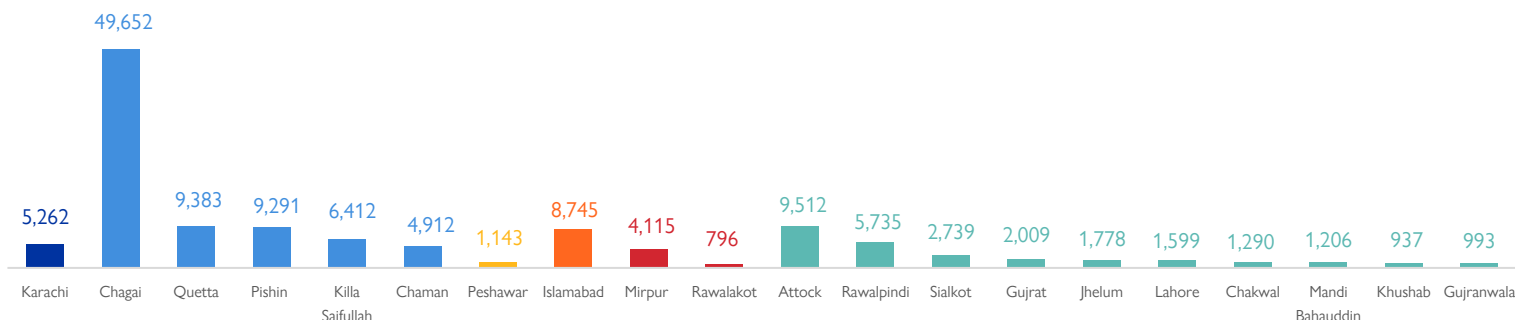
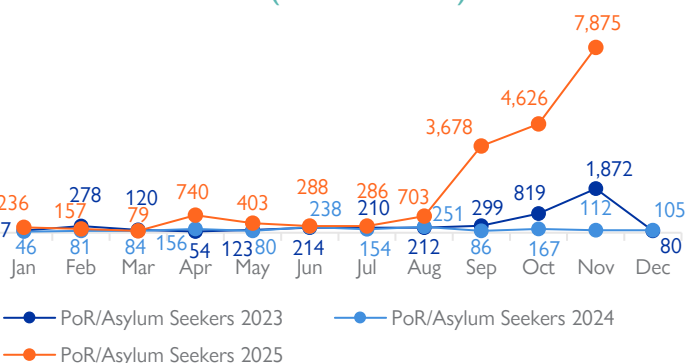
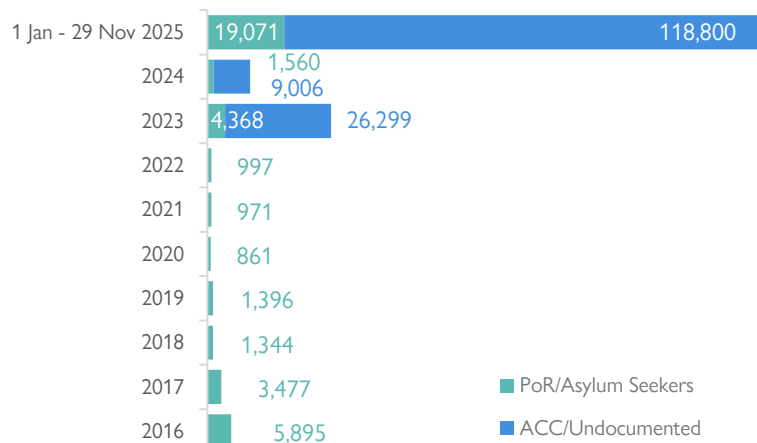
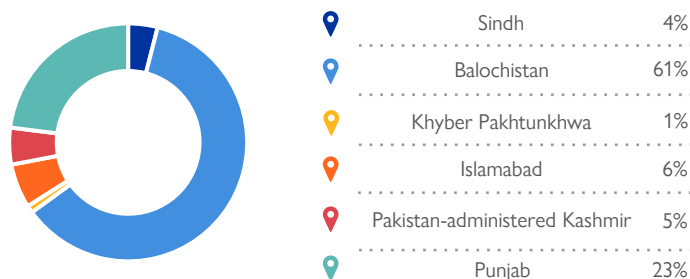
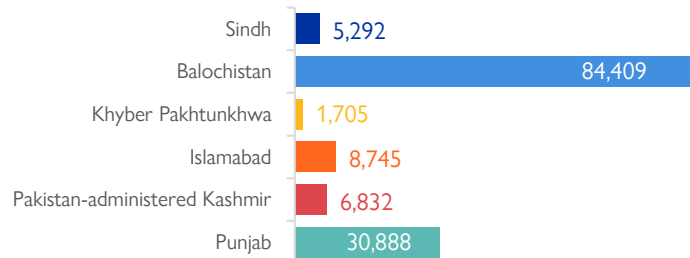
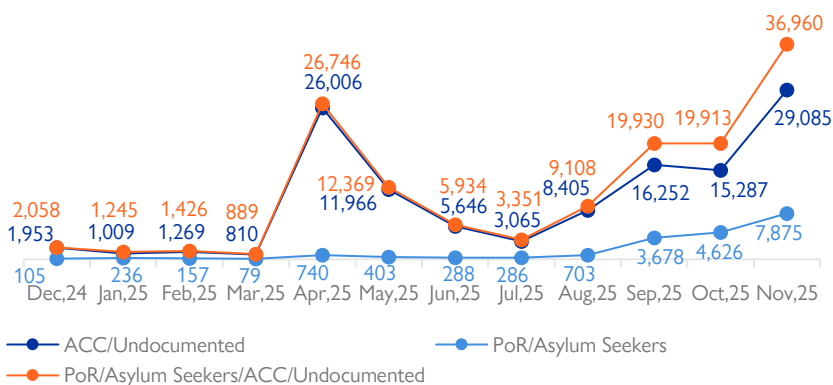
In response to the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) decision of 26 September 2023 to enact an "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan", UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and IOM, the UN Migration Agency, have collated their data on the arrest, detention, and deportation of Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, 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 (23 – 29 November), a total of 3,207 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained, marking a 62% decrease compared to the previous week.
- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period (23 – 29 November), ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 88% of the total rate of arrest and detentions, and PoR holders represented 12%.
- During the reporting period (23 – 29 November), 61% of the total reported arrests and detentions took place in Balochistan, 19% in Islamabad Capital Territory, and 13% in Punjab.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between 1 January and 29 November 2025 remain Chaghi (Balochistan), Attock (Punjab), and Quetta (Balochistan).

NO. OF ARRESTS – TOP 20 DISTRICTS (1 January – 29 November 2025)

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

ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS

% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 29 November 2025)

NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 29 November 2025)

MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025




ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 29 November 2025)

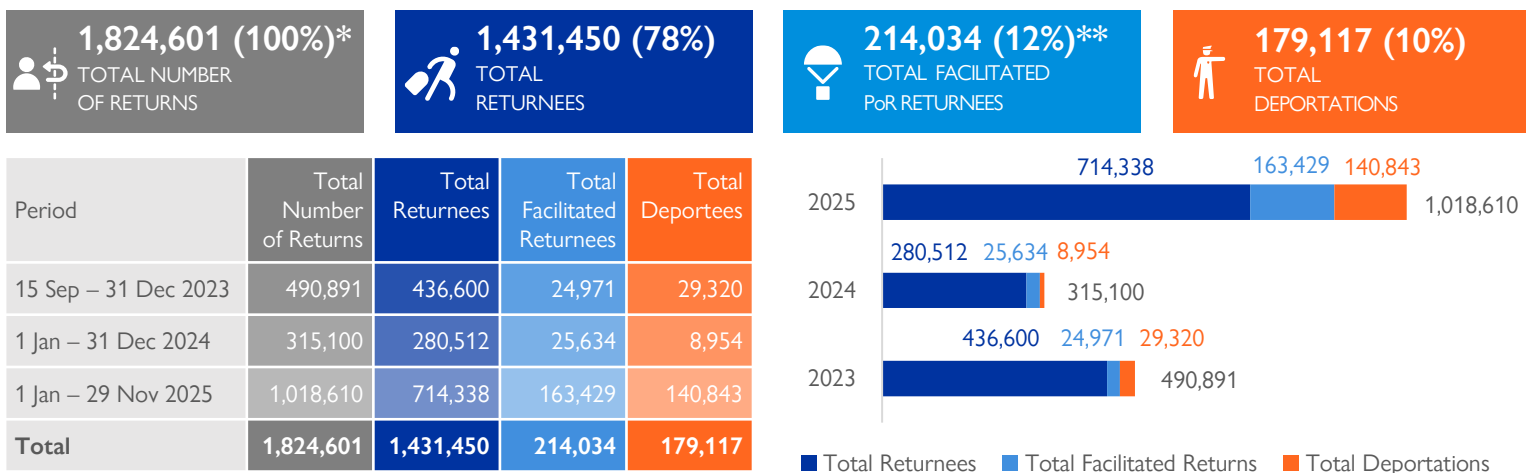


IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Torkham border. [IOM Pakistan 2025]

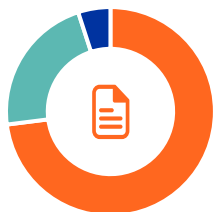
KEY FINDINGS

- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 29 November 2025, 1,824,601 individuals have returned.
- During the period 23 – 29 November 2025, UNHCR and IOM estimate 20,540 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Between 23 – 29 November 2025, the number of returns and deportations decreased by 44% and 57% respectively — compared to the previous week of 16 – 22 November (36,509 returns including 8,498 deportations). During 23 – 29 November, the figures reached 20,540 returns, including 3,628 deportations. The decrease is likely due to the fact that most returns were processed immediately after the reopening of the Torkham border on 1 November, leading to a temporary spike in movements during the previous reporting periods. Current figures suggest that flows are now stabilizing following the initial surge.
- For the returns from 23 – 29 November 2025, most of the returnees were Undocumented (58%) followed by PoR (32%) and ACC holders (10%). Majority of the PoR returns include those processed by UNHCR through the Voluntary Repatriation Centers (VRCs).
- For the deportees from 23 – 29 November 2025, most were undocumented (91%); followed by PoR holders (6%) and ACC holders (3%).
- Since 1 April 2025, 970,568 Afghan nationals returned, of which 137,746 (14%) were deported. During the period, fear of arrest remained the main reason for return among undocumented individuals and ACC holders (94%) as well as PoR holders (52%).
- During the same time period, returnees were most likely to return from Quetta (25%); Attock (12%) and Rawalpindi (9%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (20%), Kunduz (18%) and Kabul (16%) in Afghanistan.

CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES (EXCLUDING DEPORTEES)

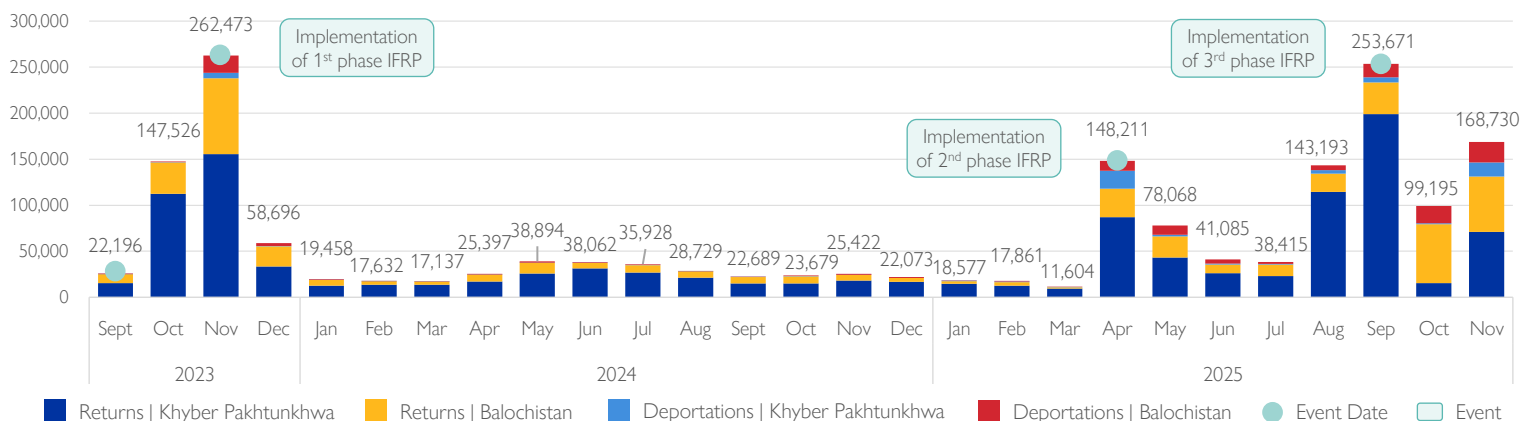


Undocumented ***	1,192,977 (73%)
ACC holders	89,774 (5%)
PoR holders ****	362,733 (22%)

DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

ACC/Undocumented (15 Sep 2023 – 31 Mar 2025)	39,333
Undocumented (1 Apr – 29 Nov 2025)	109,562
ACC holders (1 Apr – 29 Nov 2025)	16,997
PoR holders ***** (15 Sep 2023 – 29 Nov 2025)	13,225

TOTAL RETURNS AND DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 29 NOVEMBER 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.

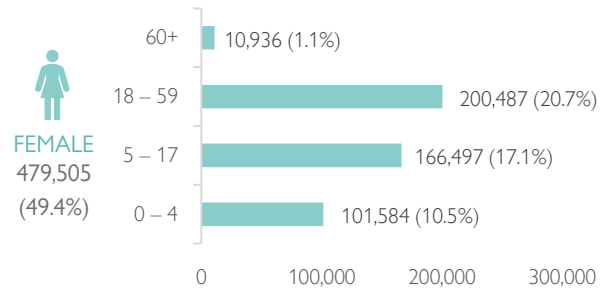
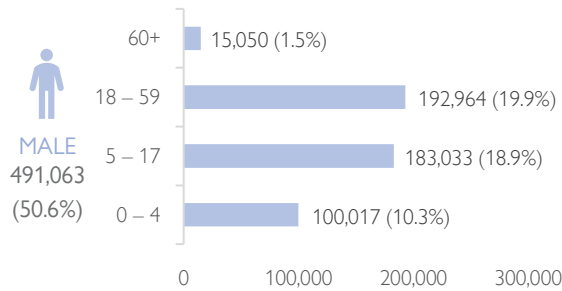
*** Includes 50,319 Afghans who were registered with UNHCR.

**** 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).

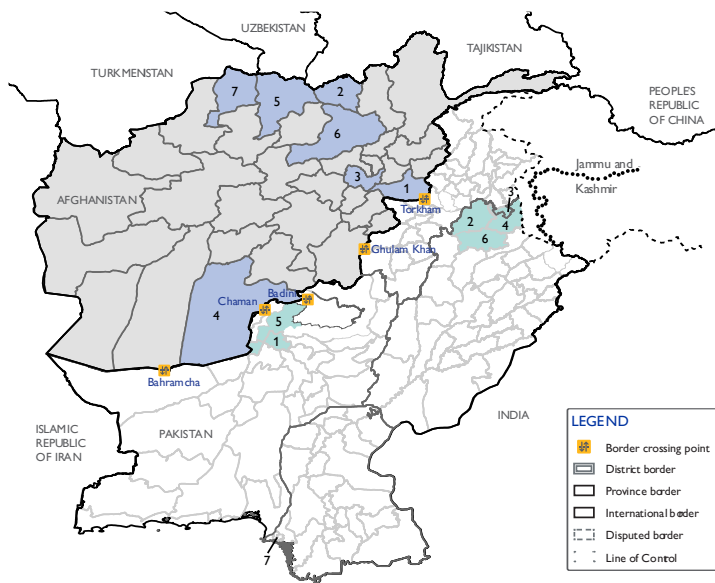
***** This figure refers to PoR holders based on interviews conducted with returnees in Afghanistan.



AGE AND GENDER*****

970,568TOTAL NUMBER OF
RETURNS SINCE 1 APRIL 2025

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



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 7)

1. Quetta	25%
2. Attock	12%
3. Islamabad	9%
4. Rawalpindi	9%
5. Pishin	8%
6. Chakwal	6%
7. Karachi Central	4%

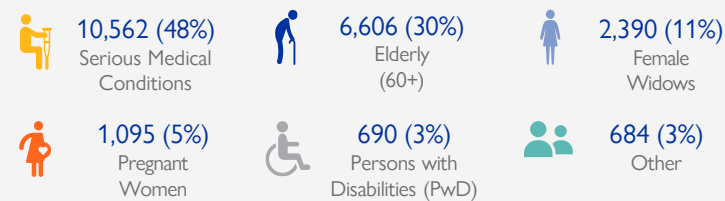
PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)

1. Nangarhar	20%
2. Kunduz	18%
3. Kabul	16%
4. Kandahar	10%
5. Balkh	10%
6. Baghlan	9%
7. Jawzjan	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)



TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

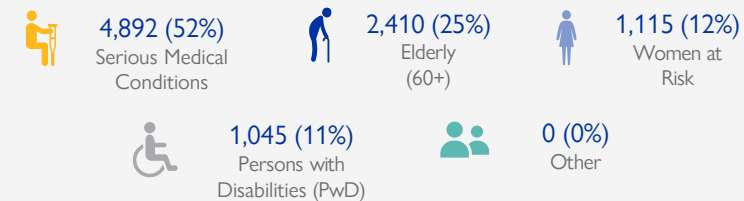
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 36,049)



This section only applies to PoR holders

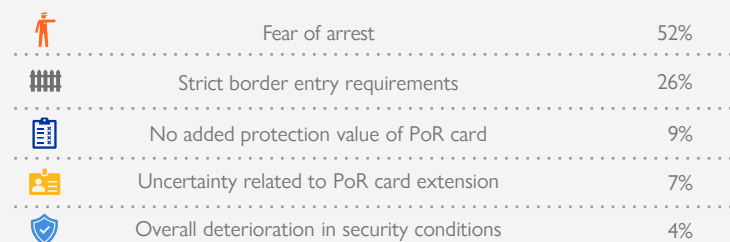
TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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



TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 3,458)



***** The figures shown in this visual are based on gender and age aggregated figures from UNHCR and IOM, which were available for 45 per cent (440,023 individuals) of the total returns and then applied to the total return figure since 1 April 2025. For the remaining 55 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.