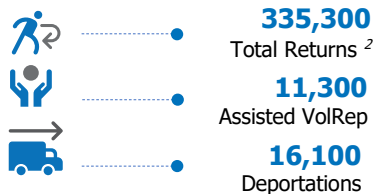


## Key Figures (from 1 Oct to date)



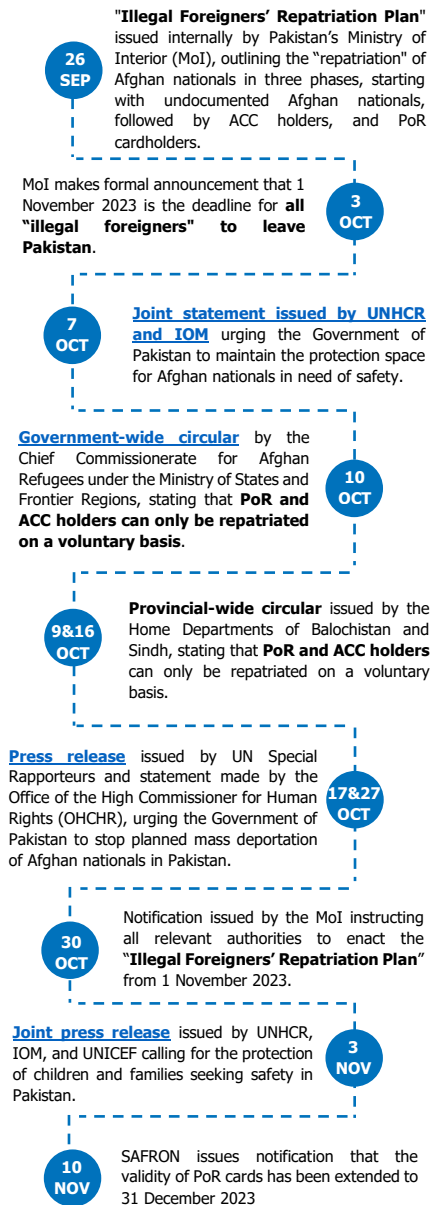
## UNHCR Funding Requirements

**\$43.48M** for Afghanistan from November 2023 to July 2024

**\$8.43M** for Pakistan from November to December 2023

*The quoted figures are currently under revision.*

## Key Highlights



## Background

On 3 October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to repatriate "illegal foreigners".<sup>1</sup> In view of the ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns for Afghans, particularly for women and girls, UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint statement](#) urging Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghans in need of safety. This was followed by a [joint statement](#) by UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF which appealed for the protection of children and families seeking safety in Pakistan. On 10 November, UNHCR declared an internal Level 2 emergency for Pakistan and Afghanistan for six months to scale up the humanitarian response in light of the rapidly evolving situation.

Since October, there has been an increase in daily border crossings by Afghans from Pakistan to Afghanistan. People arriving at the borders are exhausted and require urgent emergency assistance, as well as psychosocial support. Interviews with returnees indicate the rate of arrest of Afghan nationals in Pakistan has increased significantly, with undocumented Afghans most severely affected.

1.3 million undocumented Afghans are estimated to reside in Pakistan. Approximately 720,000 undocumented individuals and 50,000 assisted voluntary repatriations (PoR cardholders) are expected to require support at border points from now through July 2024. UNHCR and partners in Pakistan and Afghanistan are currently working together to ensure a harmonized and coordinated cross-border response to this new emergency. To support these efforts, an inter-agency [Border Consortium Appeal](#) was launched on 8 November. In addition, UNHCR and partners are also stepping up their presence in and around Torkham and Chaman border crossing points and accelerating efforts to ensure protection-sensitive mechanisms are in place via regular border monitoring visits and protection screenings to identify and assist people with heightened vulnerabilities and needs.

UNHCR maintains a [non-return advisory](#) for Afghanistan, which has been in place since August 2021, and continues to call for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals to a country still impacted by recurrent conflict, instability and climate-induced disasters. UNHCR continues to appeal to the Government of Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghan nationals in need of safety and that any returns must be voluntary, safe and dignified with full respect for rights and protection of those in need.

## Emergency Response, Needs and Priorities

- The flow of returnees entering **Afghanistan** from **Pakistan** via the Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings has progressively decreased over the last week, signifying a notable reduction in cross-border movements compared to the beginning of the month. UNHCR and its partner in Afghanistan have scaled up their presence at the border. Five help desks have been set up and regular protection monitoring via screening interviews with returnees is ongoing to identify protection concerns, risks and intended areas of return, and to refer individuals for further assistance.

<sup>1</sup> The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that Afghan Citizen Cardholders and Proof of Registration (POR) cardholders are exempted.

<sup>2</sup> An umbrella term that includes all returns including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as PoR cardholders, ACC holders, and the undocumented.<sup>2</sup> An umbrella term that includes all returns including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as PoR card holders, ACC holders, and the undocumented.

- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR started enrolling and providing cash assistance to non-Voluntary Repatriation Form cardholders in two Encashment Centers in Kandahar and Jalalabad. 48% of those assisted between 12 and 16 November were women and 52% were men. Recipients were UNHCR slip holders, PoR cardholders (including nuclear family members with/without other documentation), protection referrals and those with asylum seeker certificates. For more information, please see the Pakistan-Afghanistan Returns Emergency Response CORE dashboard [here](#).
- In **Afghanistan**, as part of efforts to bolster partners' capacities, UNHCR is training partners on basic interview techniques, humanitarian principles, individual case screening, as well as how to collect accurate information. The deployment of Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and additional BIMS stations will be essential to ensuring cases are processed in Encashment Centers in a timely manner.
- In **Afghanistan**, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan a.i., Mr. Daniel Endres, visited a UNHCR-supported middle school in Daman, Nangarhar province, where he met with students, staff and the school *shura* (council). Situated in a [priority area of return and reintegration](#), 60 new students have reportedly joined the school in recent weeks. Community elders emphasized the challenges posed by the growing number of students and appealed for more support from the international community to ensure access to education for those in need.
- **The Government of Pakistan** retroactively extended the validity of Afghan PoR cards from 30 June to 31 December 2023. Despite exemptions from the current repatriation plan, heightened anxiety among Afghans across Pakistan persists. UNHCR is continuing to advocate for a minimum one-year extension from 1 January 2024.
- In **Pakistan**, the rate of arrest for PoR cardholders has increased almost thirteen-fold from November 2022 to November 2023. Since 1 November, 12,569 arrests have been recorded, surpassing figures from previous years. In response to reports of detention and arrest, UNHCR is bolstering the capacity of legal aid partners with an additional 70 lawyers and paralegals on board, or in the process of being brought on, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces as well as Islamabad, while also advocating with authorities at all levels.
- In **Pakistan**, PoR Card Modification (PCM) centers across the country received double the number of applicants in October, with 20,000 people approaching the 11 PCM centers, compared to the usual 10,000 people. Afghan PoR cardholders are addressing their various documentation needs, including the issuance of family information certificates, validation of unregistered members of registered families, as well as birth registration.
- In **Pakistan**, there was a 50% decline in the number of calls received on the [UNHCR helpline](#), particularly those related to the violation of people's rights and harassment. UNHCR continues to prioritize communicating with communities and shares information both proactively and reactively through various communication channels to ensure Afghans receive the right information in a timely manner to preserve their protection, access to services, well-being, and to prevent fraud and protection risks.
- More funding is urgently needed to bolster UNHCR's and the inter-agency response to this new and unfolding emergency, with significant resource requirements identified in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Needs are continuing to rise due to a confluence of insecurity, instability and environmental disasters as well as economic and geopolitical crosswinds. To support the response, UNHCR's ask under the inter-agency appeal is \$43.48 million for Afghanistan from November 2023 to July 2024 and \$8.43 million for Pakistan from November to December 2023. These figures are currently under revision in light of developments.



UNHCR scales up presence at official border crossings as tens of thousands of Afghans arrive from Pakistan  
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