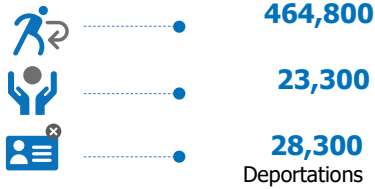


Key Figures (from 15 Sept to date)



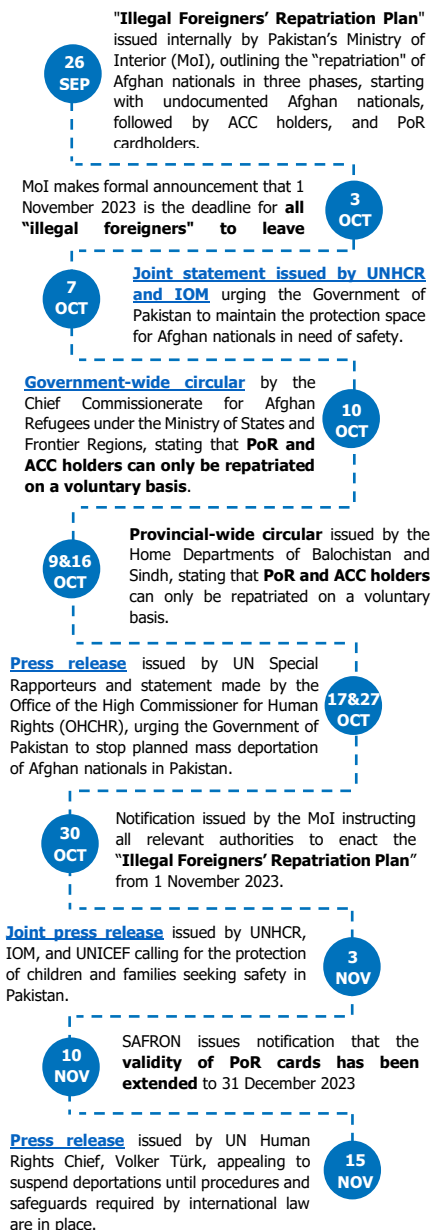
UNHCR Funding Requirements

\$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.

Timeline of Key Events



Source: [UNHCR-IOM Joint Update #9](#)

Background

On 3 October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to repatriate "illegal foreigners".¹ In view of the ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns in Afghanistan, 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.

Population trends during the reporting period indicate that most Afghans made the decision to leave Pakistan following the announcement of the repatriation plan although deportations through Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points were also recorded. People arriving at the border are exhausted and require urgent assistance as well as psychosocial support. Arrivals back to Afghanistan are also adding to the worsening humanitarian crisis, as winter temperatures start to dip to -4°C in some locations. Many Afghan returnees are vulnerable, including women and children, who could lose their lives in a harsh winter if left without adequate shelter.

1.375 million undocumented Afghans are estimated to reside in Pakistan. Approximately 720,000 undocumented individuals and 50,000 assisted Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders) are expected to require support at border points from now through July 2024. The sudden surge in returns in recent weeks is putting pressure on already strained resources, including shelter and basic services. Additional support is urgently required. UNHCR and partners in Pakistan and Afghanistan are currently working together to ensure a harmonized and coordinated cross-border response to the new emergency. To support these efforts, an inter-agency Border Consortium Appeal was launched on 8 November and has recently been updated. 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.

Key Highlights

The number of returnees entering **Afghanistan** from **Pakistan continued to decline during the reporting period**. While deportation figures increased considerably in November, the average number of border crossings in the past week has come down to some 170 people. Unofficial crossings continue to be reported.

¹ The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that Afghan Citizen Cardholders and Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders are exempted. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to the end of the year.

² 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.

- In **Afghanistan**, several UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs involved in the border response relocated from the Reception Center near the Spin Boldak border to the newly designated reception area in Takhtapul, located some 55 km away from Spin Boldak and 75 km away from Kandahar. On 9 December, humanitarian actors resumed their usual activities. On 10 December, the acting Minister of Information and Culture visited the new site to observe the new site and returnee registration process.
- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR mixed-gender teams visited the Spin Boldak and Torkham borders and carried out protection interviews, including with female returnees. As previously reported, fear of arrest and detention, limited freedom of movement, reports of extortion as well as challenges extending tenancy agreements are some of the reasons families left Pakistan and returned to Afghanistan.
- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR continued to biometrically process and provide cash assistance to PoR card holders and their nuclear family members, UNHCR slip holders, asylum seeker certificate holders and other protection referrals. Since 15 September 2023, some 57,000 individuals returning from Pakistan have been provided with cash assistance, including some 38,000 PoR cardholders.
- In **Pakistan**, police operations against Afghans persist following reports of evictions and arrests of both documented and undocumented individuals, including holders of PoR cards, Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) and reception slips. In 2023, 29,067 Afghan nationals have been arrested thus far, a figure exceeding any previous year since data collection on the arrest and detention of Afghan nationals began. Advocacy with authorities at all levels continues. For the latest figures, please see the latest [UNHCR-IOM Flash Update](#).
- From 11 to 12 December, UNHCR **Pakistan's** Representative and Assistant Representative (Protection) visited Jalalabad, Nangahar province. Accompanied by UNHCR Afghanistan's Representative and Head of Sub-Office in Jalalabad, the team met with the de facto authorities' (DfA) Deputy Governor of Nangarhar province and other high-level officials. Several topics were discussed, including the protection response and challenges returnees face, UNHCR's preparedness and response in Afghanistan, as well as its ongoing advocacy with the Government of Pakistan. The delegation from UNHCR Pakistan also visited Torkham, the Reception Center, and Encashment Center to observe return activities.
- In **Pakistan**, a delegation from ECHO visited Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. During the visit, ECHO met with UNHCR and IOM as well as other partners, including SHARP in Islamabad, where they were briefed on reception and legal aid support. The delegation also met with Afghans, who expressed concerns about their future since the implementation of the repatriation plan. The visit also comes ahead of the upcoming launch of ECHO's Humanitarian Implementation Plans for 2024 on 15 December.
- More funding** is needed to bolster UNHCR's and the inter-agency response to this 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.

