

ASSISTED AFGHAN RETURNS



16,231

Assisted Afghan returns

April-June 2024

195 from Iran

16,009 Pakistan

27 other countries

34,905

Assisted Afghan returns

Jan-Jun 2024

307 from Iran

34,548 Pakistan

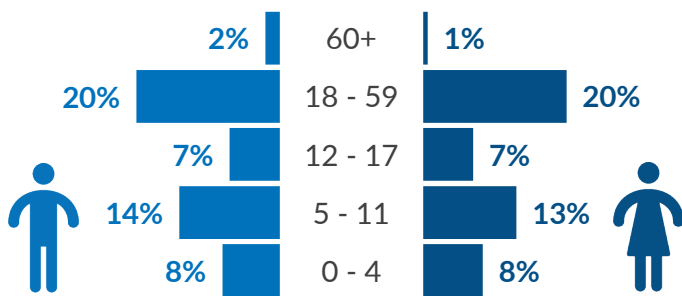
50 other countries

In 2024 UNHCR has assisted over 34,900 returns¹, (99% from Pakistan), there's a slight decrease in returns when compared to the first quarter, however it is a considerable increase if compared to a similar period in 2023 (4,500 refugee returns recorded). The main drive for such an increase verified since the last quarter of 2023, was October 3rd Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsement of the *Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP)* to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November.

Based on protection monitoring interviews, conducted during the second quarter of 2024 upon arrival with returnees, it is still clear a considerable shift in reasons related to return since the implementation of the Government of Pakistan's Repatriation Plan, such as: **fear of arrest/deportation, abuse by police or state authorities, uncertainty related to the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards extension in Pakistan, no added protection value of the PoR card and night raids.** Based on the system UNHCR put in place to monitor and analyze returns since 1 November 2023, **62% of the returns mention harassment as the number one problem faced in Pakistan before the cross-border movement.** However, many interviewed returnees who arrived in early June from Pakistan reported a decrease in protection issues (i.e., police harassment, arrest, extortion, night raids, etc.)

During the first six months of 2024, **76% of the intended provinces of return focused predominantly on five provinces: Nangarhar (31%), Kabul (20%), Kandahar (9%), Kunduz (8%), and Laghman (8%).** Some 2.5% of the individuals served have disabilities.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2024



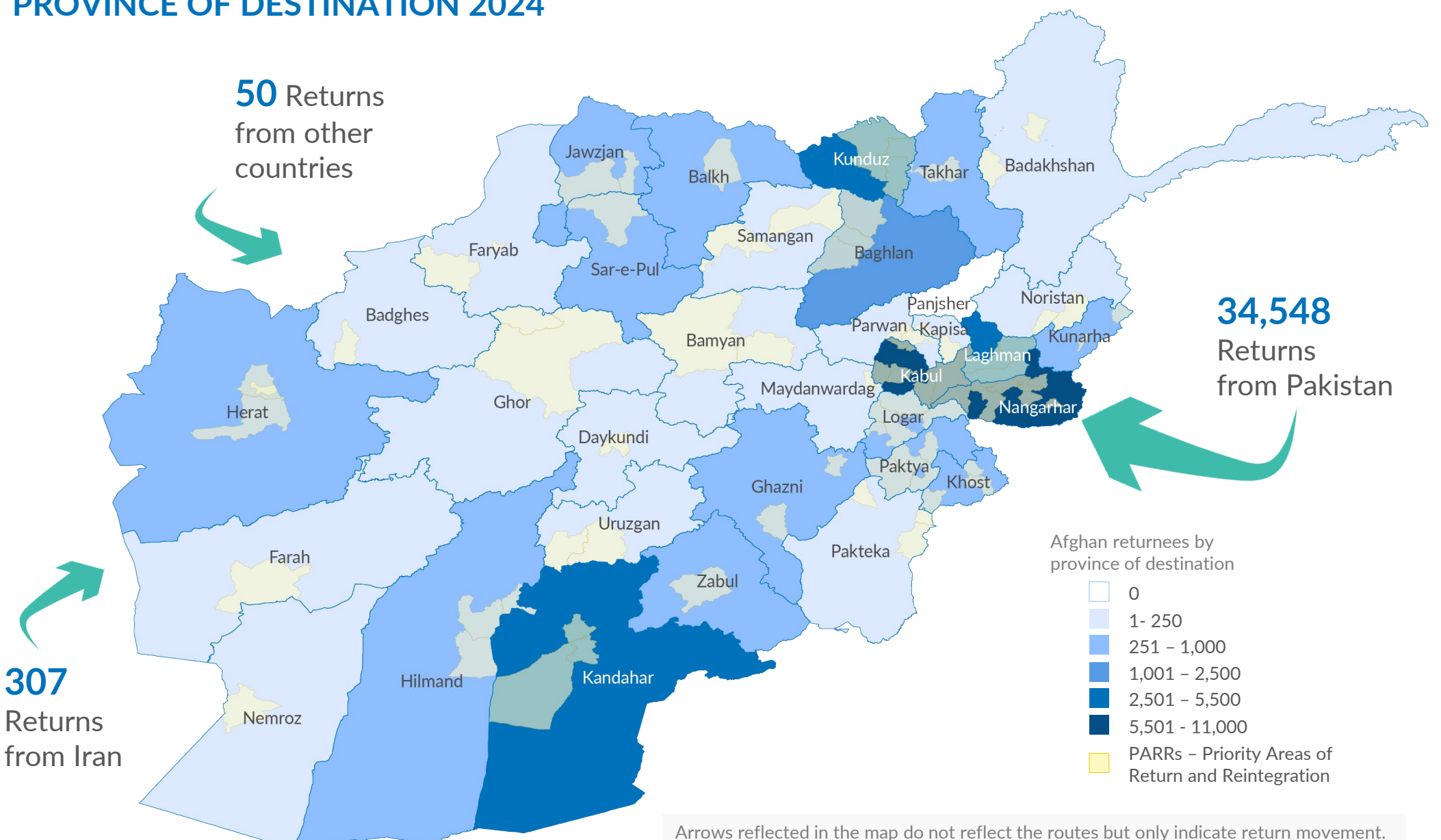
78% of the returnees are Women and Children

ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD 6.4M was provided in cash assistance to returnees during 2024 Q2. A total of **USD 8.8M** was provided in 2024.

Besides cash grants, returning refugees receive basic health care, vaccination for children, mine risk education, access to waiting areas and playgrounds for children, as well as, overnight accommodation when needed and protection referrals.

PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2024

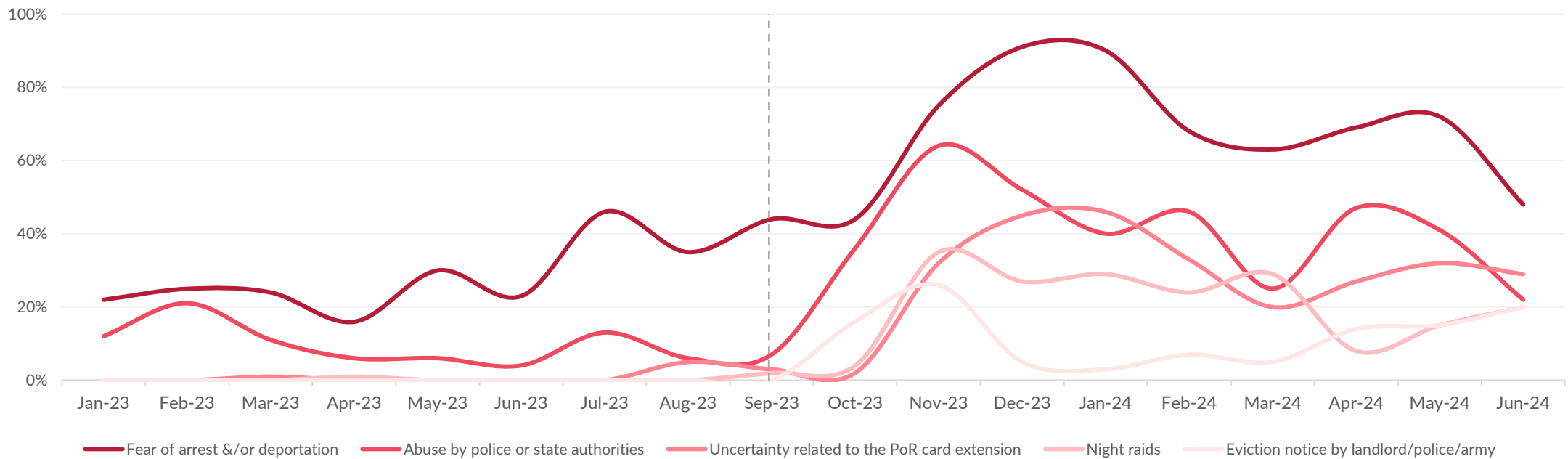


¹ Including Facilitated Volrep, Proof of Registration card holders, UNHCR slip holders, their nuclear family members with or without documentation, UNHCR asylum certificate holders and protection referrals.

REASONS RELATED TO RETURN

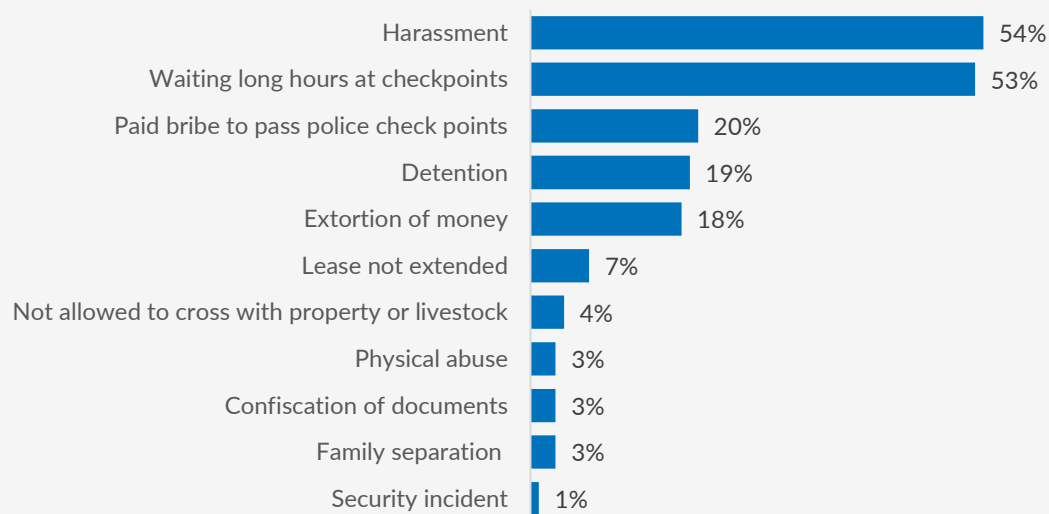
Source: UNHCR's returnee monitoring of voluntary returns conducted at ECs. Timeframe: findings from Jan. 2023 to Jun. 2024. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

Main shifts on reasons for leaving Pakistan since September 2023

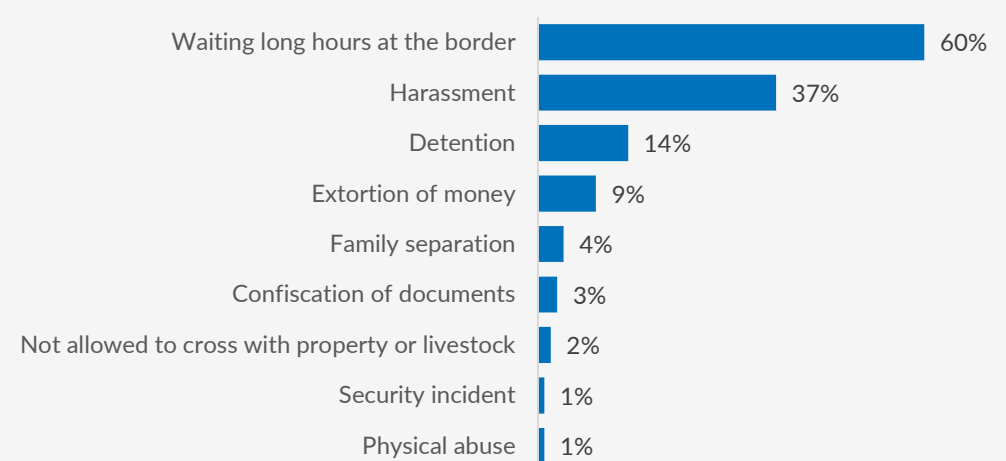


UNHCR enhanced protection monitoring by establishing dedicated protection desks managed by UNHCR protection staff (male and female) who conduct return monitoring at the Encashment Centers in Afghanistan. The main reasons for leaving the country of asylum were (1) **high costs of living/high rent 89%**, (2) **no employment opportunities 86%**, and (3) **fear of arrest and/or deportation 67%**. However, if analyzed month by month (as per the chart above), it's possible to note a considerable increase after September 2023 for five protection reasons: **fear of arrest and/or deportation (91% in December)**, **abuse by police or state authorities (52% in December)**, **uncertainty related to the Proof of Refugee cards extension in Pakistan (46%)**, **night raids and eviction notice by landlord, police and/or army in Pakistan (both 0% or close to, before September 2023)**.

Problems faced prior to the cross-border movement



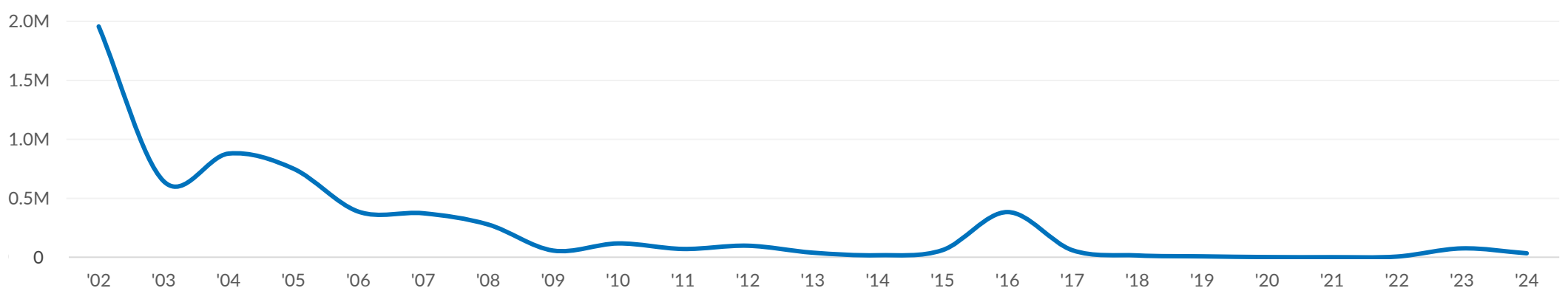
Problems experienced at the border point



Source: UNHCR's monitoring tool for Forcibly Afghan Returns from Pakistan. Timeframe: findings from January-June 2024. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

As a result of the October 3rd Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsed a plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November, UNHCR put in place a system to monitor and analyze these returns. The above charts reflect the problems reported by the returnees prior to the cross-border movement, and also at the border point.

AFGHAN RETURNS 2002-2023



AFGHAN RETURNS BY MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM (zoomed in 2022-2023)



For further information please visit the [Afghanistan Situation Operational Portal](#) or please contact RBAPDIMA@unhcr.org and AFGKAIMU@unhcr.org.