

**Key figures**



**813,300**

total returns<sup>1</sup>

**643,600**

79%



**118,000**

UNHCR-assisted

**113,600**

96%



**38,700**

deportations

**37,300**

96%



Out of the overall returns **50%** are female, of which **29%** are girls. **59%** are children.

Blue figures above correspond to the period of 15 Sep. 2023 to 14 Jan. 2025, while the navy figures refer only to those who arrived from 1 Nov. 2023 to 14 Jan. 2025.

**Context**

On 3 Oct. 2023, Pakistan's authorities endorsed a plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents by 1 Nov. 2023.

Over 813,300 Afghans have returned since 15 September 2023, out of which some 315,100 in 2024 alone, an average of 26,300 returns per month, out of which 750 were deported.

In 2024, some 9,000 individuals have been deported, with December registering some 1,200 deportations (in-line with November figures).

Over 10,500 have been arrested or detained in 2024, December was the month with the highest level of arrests/detentions, with a total of some 2,060, November was the second highest (1,180).

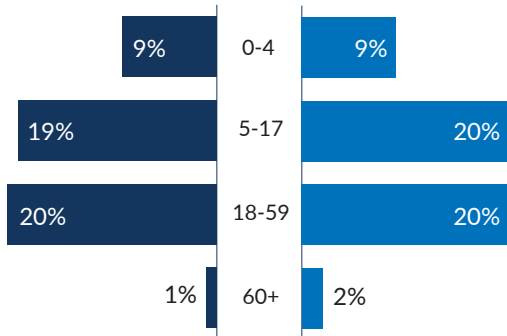
Given the challenging conditions under which many Afghans have returned from Pakistan, UNHCR has assisted some 118,000 returnees.

**Returns assisted by UNHCR Afghanistan by Demographic profile**

49% of assisted are Female



51% of assisted are Male



Out of those assisted **2.5%** have disabilities

**Gender breakdown of head of households**

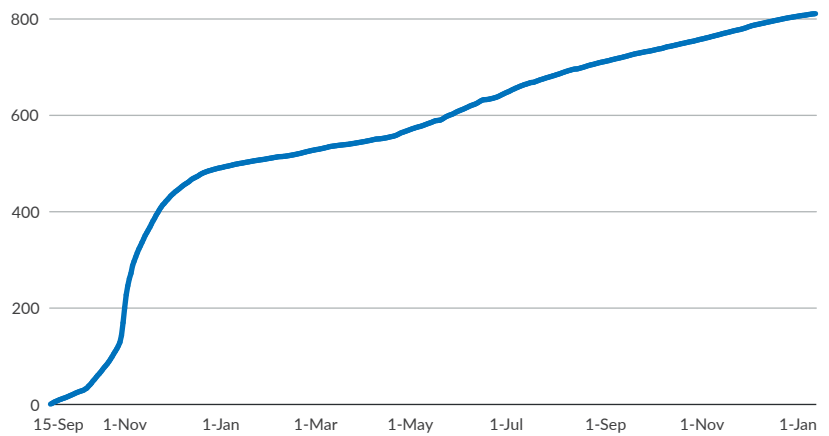
32% are Female



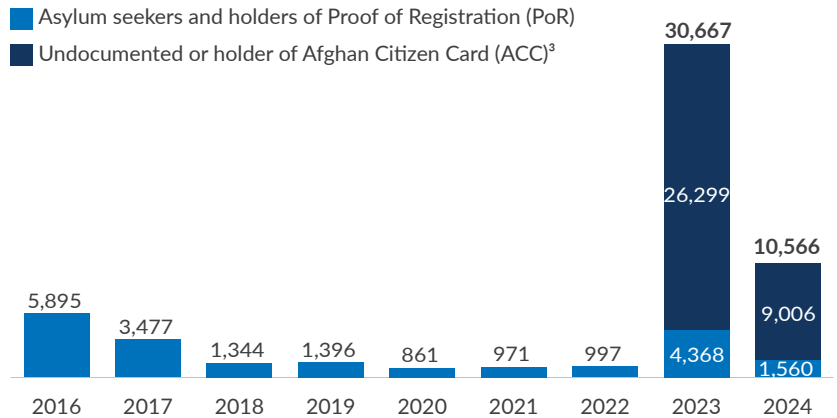
68% are Male

**Total returns since 15 September 2023<sup>2</sup>**

Number of people (thousands)



**Arrests and detentions (from 2016 up to 31 December 2024)**



**Situation map**



<sup>1</sup> An umbrella term that includes all returns including deportations, assisted Voluntary Repatriation (VolRep) and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as PoR cardholders, ACC holders, and the undocumented.

<sup>2</sup> Return figures from 31 December 2024 onwards may fluctuate till validation process is concluded.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals.

Sources: UNHCR, IOM

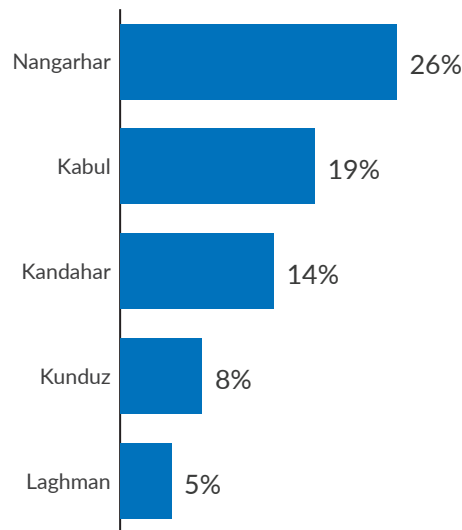
## Returns assisted by UNHCR Afghanistan

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. This support aimed to alleviate the difficulties faced by Afghan nationals who returned home hastily, and often largely unprepared due to the circumstances in Pakistan.

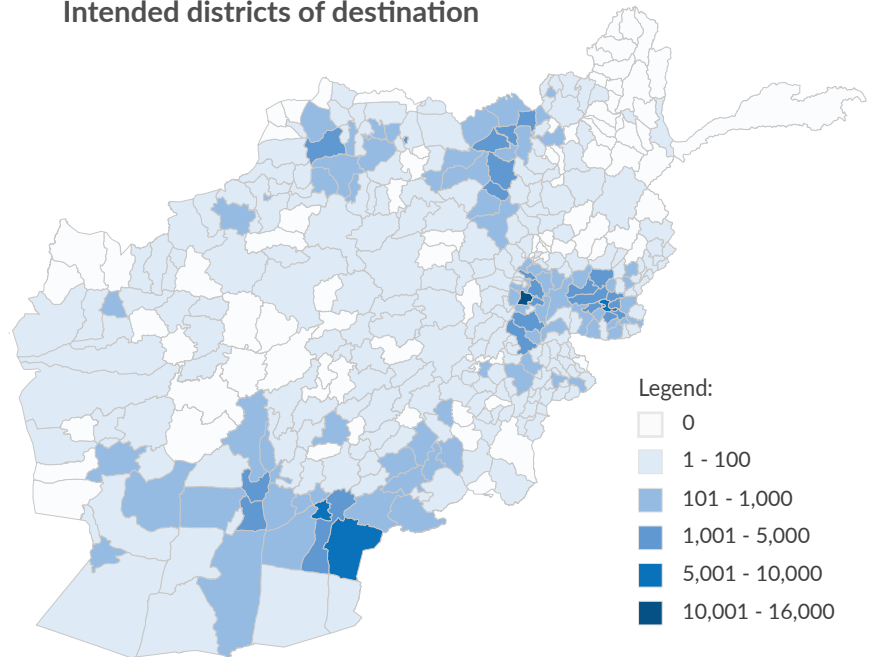
Since 15 September 2023, some 118,000 individuals returning from Pakistan have been provided with cash assistance in Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad encashment centres, including over 75,400 PoR cardholders. Out of the assisted, some 2.5% are individuals with disabilities and some 3,100 PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders and Asylum certificate holders were deported.

The district with the highest percentage of intended return is Kabul (12%), followed by Kandahar (7%), Bihsod (6%), Jalalabad (6%), and Spinboldak (5%). Almost one-third of the households assisted are headed by women. 33% of them intend to return to five provincial capitals (Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Kunduz).

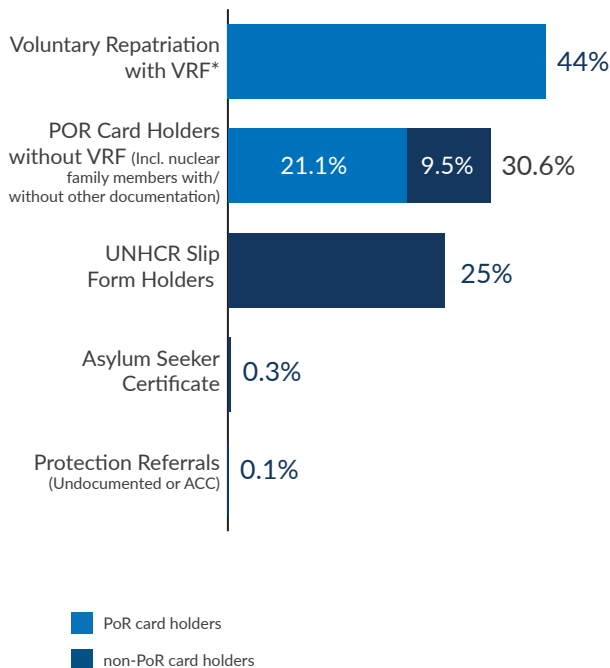
### Top 5 provinces of intended destination



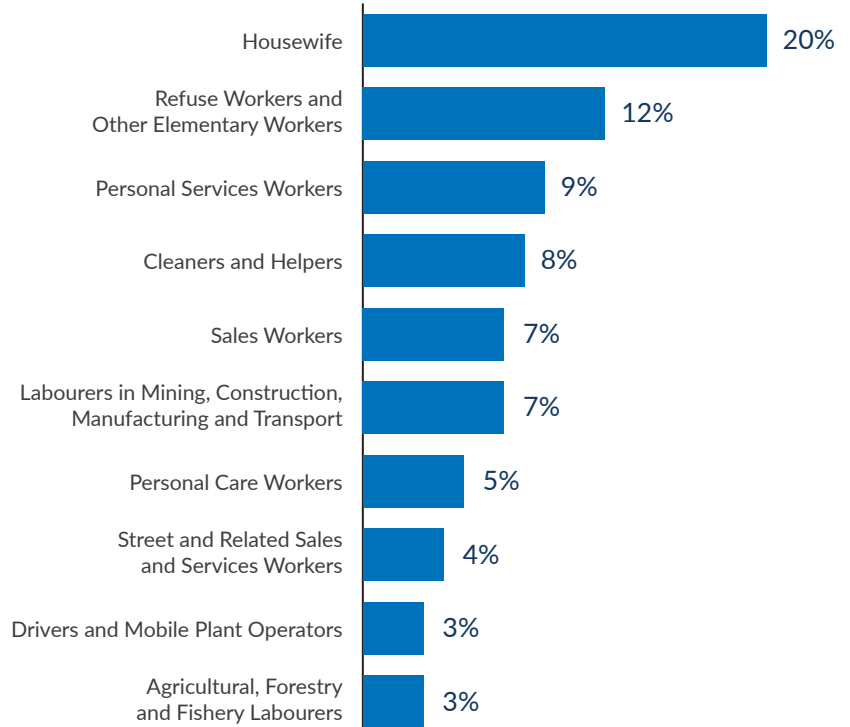
### Intended districts of destination



### Documentation status



### Top 10 occupation of the head of households

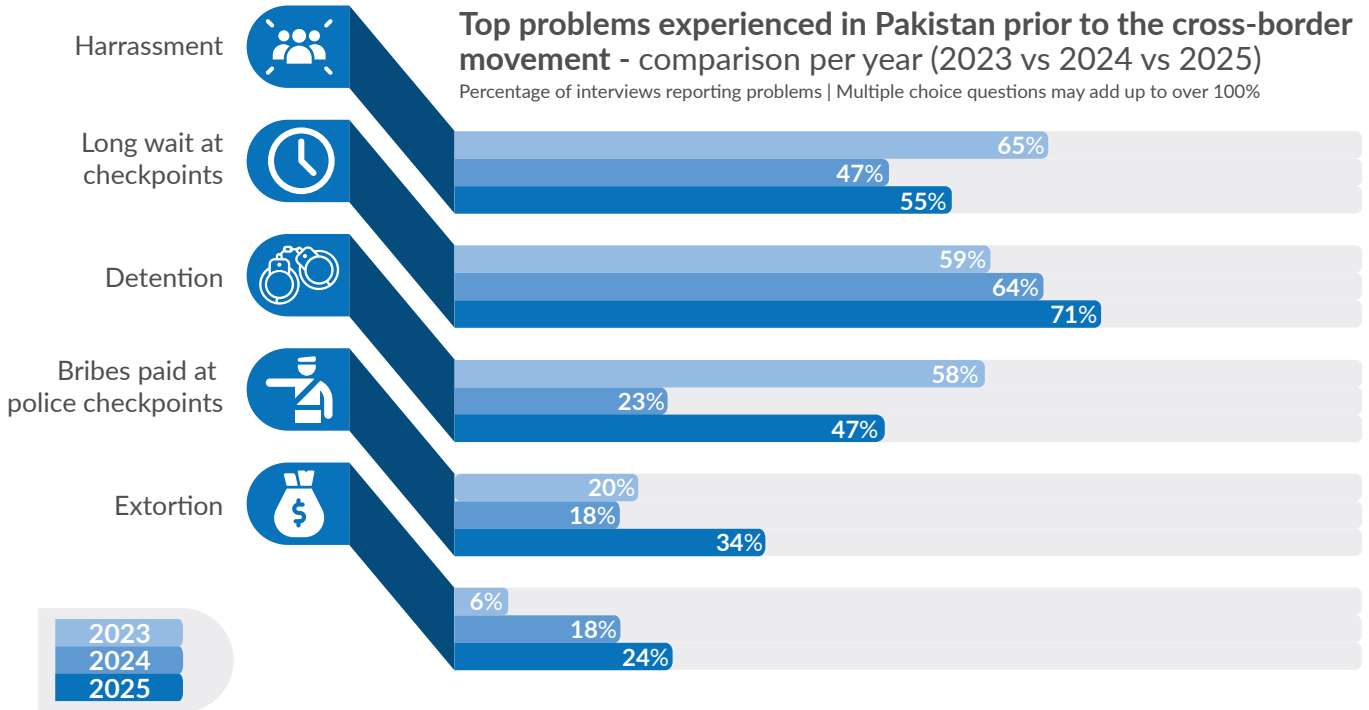


\* Voluntary Repatriation Form.

### Border Protection Monitoring

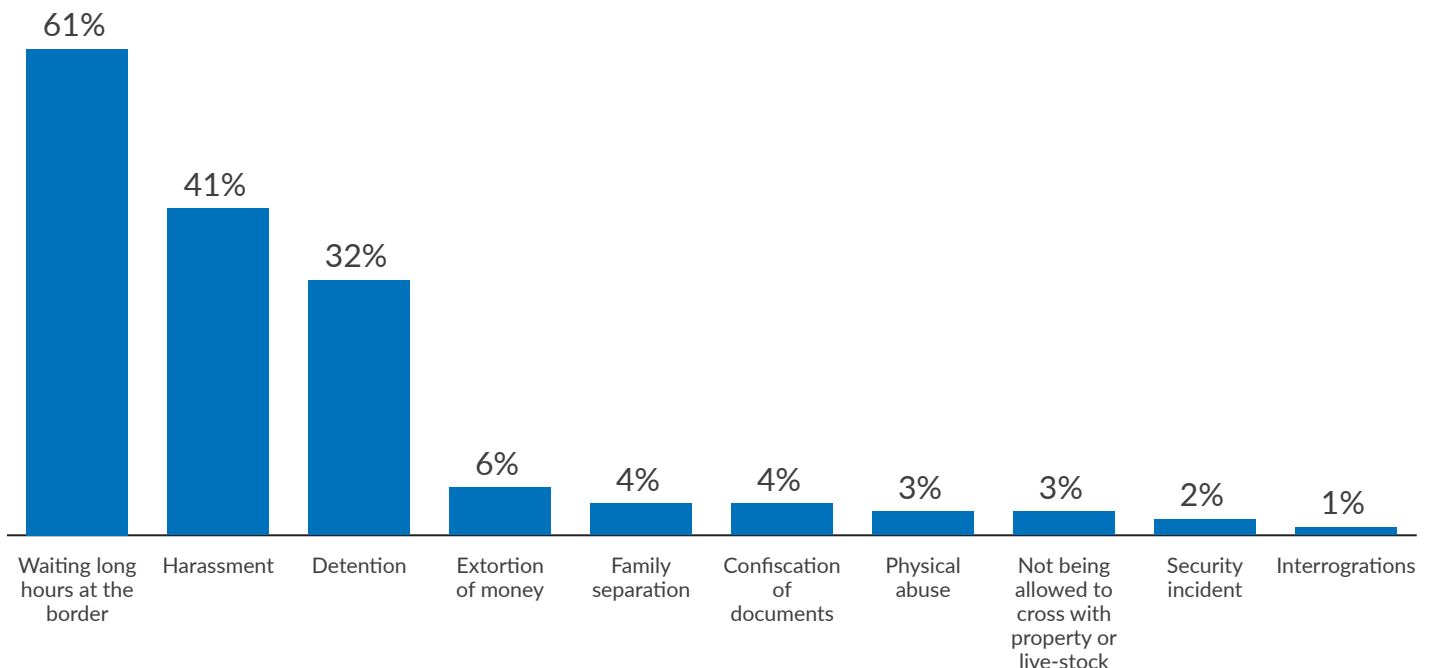
UNHCR and its partner Wadan in Afghanistan have scaled up protection activities at the border. Daily presence consists of Border Protection monitoring through interviews with returnees including deportees in order to identify protection concerns and risks, as well as their intended areas of return in Afghanistan. Five help desks have been set up to boost protection screening interviews, identification and referral of individuals to be assisted by UNHCR.

Since 12 November 2023, the most reported problems experienced prior to the cross-border movement have consistently been harassment, waiting long hours at checkpoints and detention.



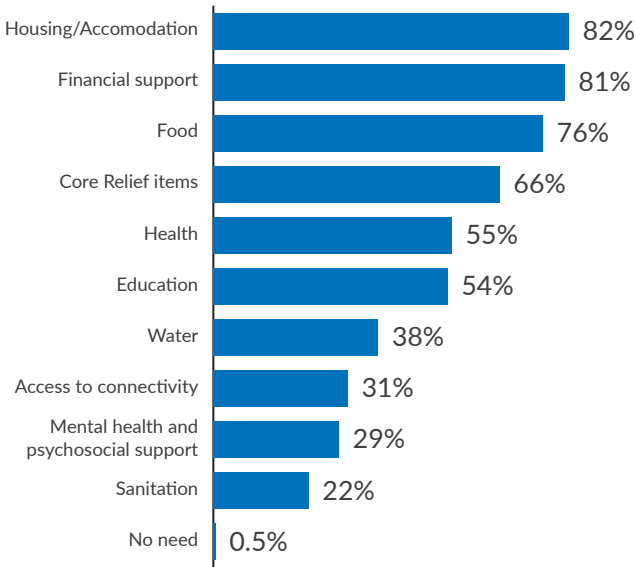
### Problems experienced at the Pakistan border point

Percentage of interviews reporting problems | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



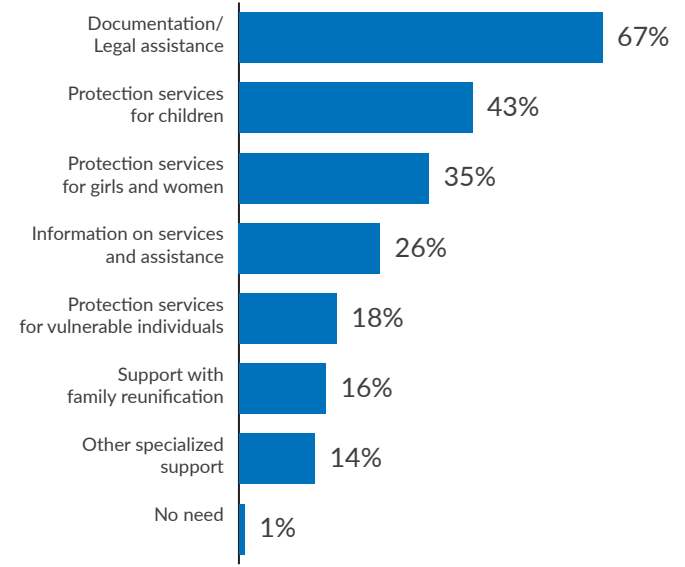
### Needs upon arrival in final destination

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



### Protection services required in final destination

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



### Protection Analysis - using natural language processing

In addition to the border monitoring interviews, returnees who are enrolled and provided with cash assistance are asked to elaborate on topics that they would like to highlight to UNHCR. The descriptive experiences and perceptions shared were analysed with Artificial Intelligence using natural language processing for semantic similarities and patterns.

The analysis done with a word count of over 38,900, found 11 detailed clusters shown below. These 11 clusters can be broadly categorized into experiences leaving Pakistan, specific vulnerabilities in the household and requests for support to meet needs in Afghanistan. Amongst the 11 clusters, shelter and food needs, in need of service other than protection, paying bribes and experiences of being arrested were the top four most highlighted.

The top highlighted clusters vary with documentation status. For UNHCR Slip holders specifically, paying bribes was the most highlighted cluster followed by needing services other than protection. For those without documentation, in need of support other than protection services was the most frequently mentioned followed by bribes and female heads of households at risk. The protection risks faced by single women was also the most frequently mentioned by women heads of household.

■ Experience leaving Pakistan   ■ Household vulnerabilities   ■ Support needs

