



ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 5 April 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.

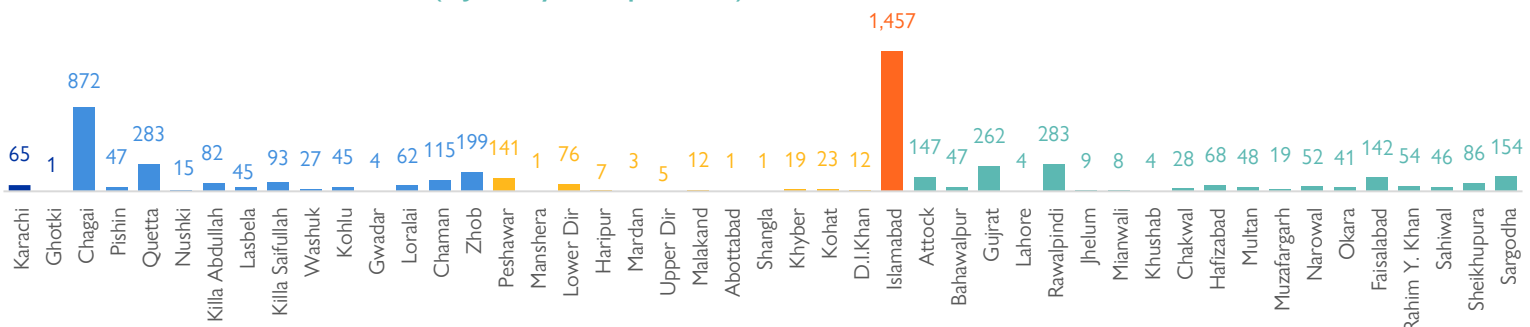
In January – February 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued a directive, requiring Afghan nationals in Pakistan to relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. In response, on 5 February 2025, UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint press statement](#). This was followed by announcements of the imminent implementation of a second phase of the "IFRP", targeting ACC holders in addition to undocumented Afghans for "repatriation" to Afghanistan. These decisions have resulted in an uptick in arrests, detentions and deportations of Afghan nationals, particularly since April 2025.

KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

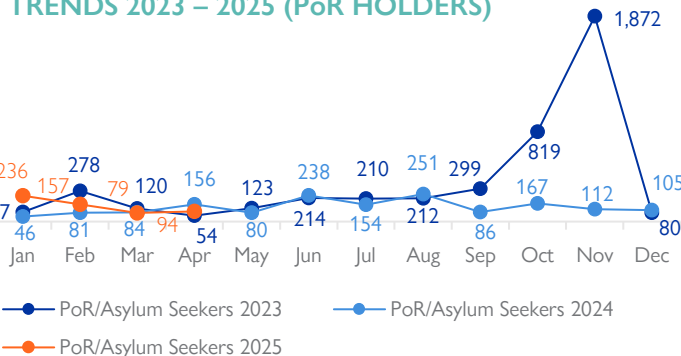
It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data, which should be considered indicative at this point. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period (1 March to 5 April), 65% (1,655) took place between 1 and 5 April 2025.
- During the reporting period, ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 93% of the total rate of arrests and detentions.
- During the reporting period, 51% of the total arrests and detentions took place in Punjab, and 32% took place in Balochistan.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between 1 January and 5 April are Islamabad, Chaghi (Balochistan), and Rawalpindi (Punjab).

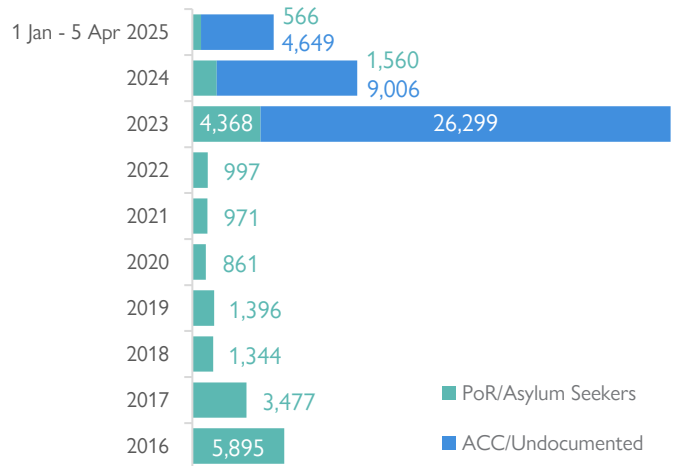
NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 5 April 2025)



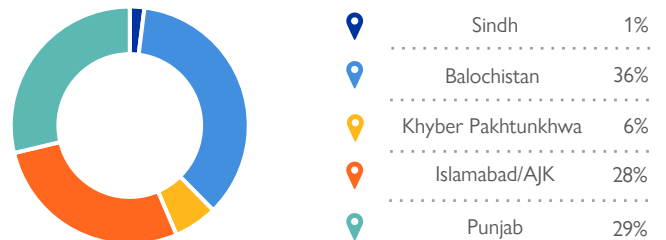
MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2023 – 2025 (PoR HOLDERS)



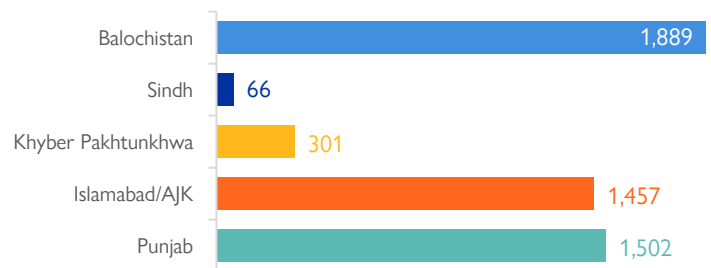
ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



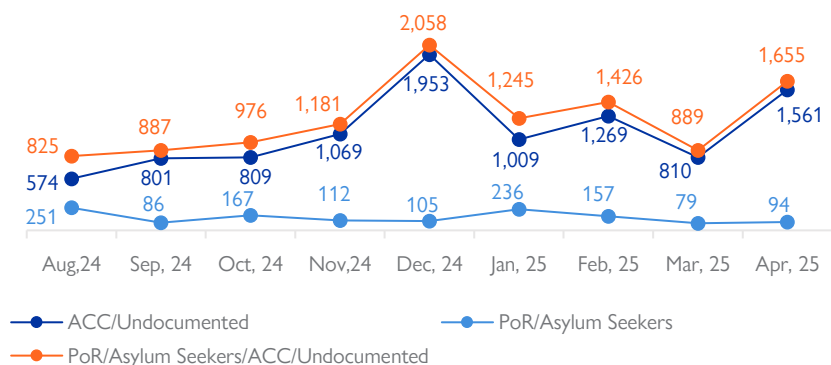
% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 5 April 2025)



NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 5 April 2025)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025





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

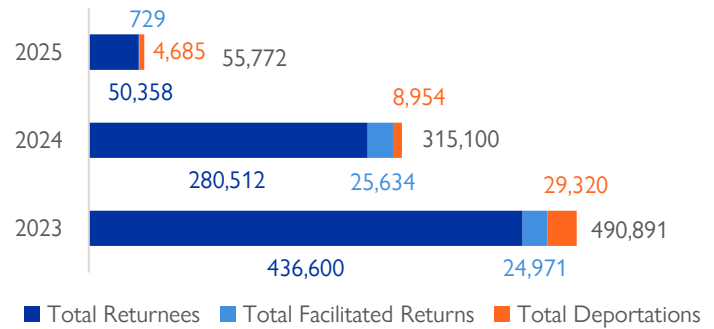
KEY FINDINGS

- During the period 1 March – 5 April 2025, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 19,334 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- In March, both returns and deportations have decreased significantly (35% decrease in returns and 51% decrease in deportations) compared to the previous reporting period (1 – 28 February). However, this decrease is mostly due to the Torkham border closure and a slowdown in returns during Ramadan.
- From April onwards, a noticeable increase in returns and deportations was recorded, particularly on 4 and 5 April, where more than 2,000 returns were recorded on each day. Between 1 and 5 April a total of 7,730 Afghan individuals returned, of these 1,588 Afghan nationals were deported. 18% of these returnees were ACC holders and there remains concern that some of the deportees are people with continuing international protection needs.
- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 5 April 2025, 861,763 individuals have returned.
- Most of the returnees were undocumented Afghans (89%), followed by PoR holders (9%) and ACC holders (2%). Majority of the PoR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.
- Fear of arrest (85%) remains the most common reason to return to Afghanistan among undocumented/ACC holders, while PoR holders cite socio-economic challenges, but also increased uncertainty around the extension of the PoR card and fear of arrest.

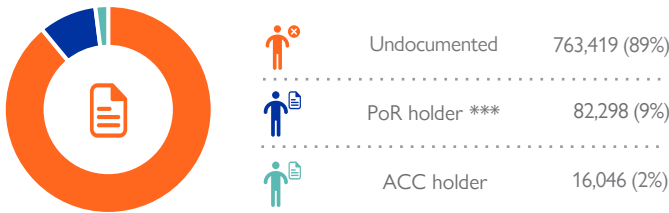
CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025



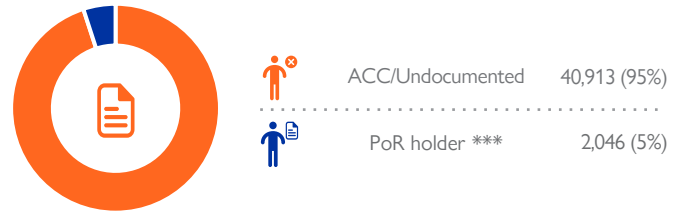
| Period | Total Number of Returns | Total Returnees | Total Facilitated Returnees | Total Deportees |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 15 Sep – 31 Dec 2023 | 490,891 | 436,600 | 24,971 | 29,320 |
| 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024 | 315,100 | 280,512 | 25,634 | 8,954 |
| 1 Jan – 5 Apr 2025 | 55,772 | 50,358 | 729 | 4,685 |
| Total | 861,763 | 767,470 | 51,334 | 42,959 |



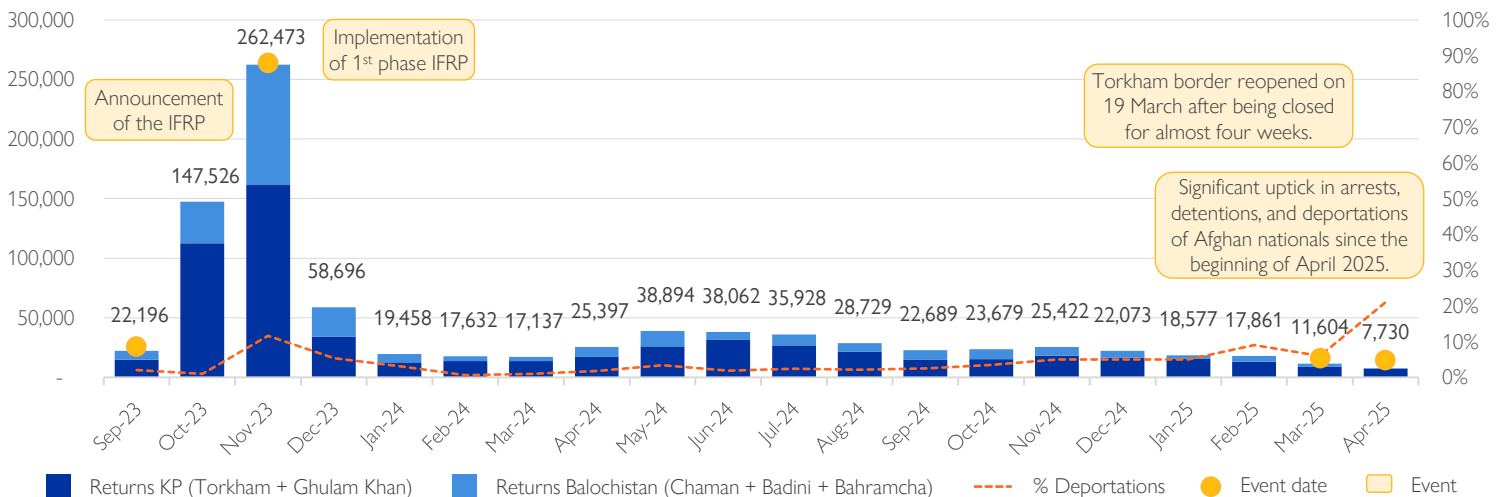
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES



TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 5 APRIL 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. For more information and access to the consortium dashboard, visit [this link](#). Returnees assisted by the Border Consortium only include undocumented individuals and ACC holders but not individuals with other statuses such as PoR returnees, Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF) holders, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and their undocumented family members.

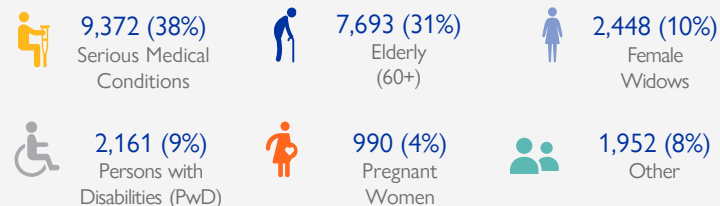
**The number refers to facilitated PoR returns through VRCs who crossed the border during the reporting period.

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

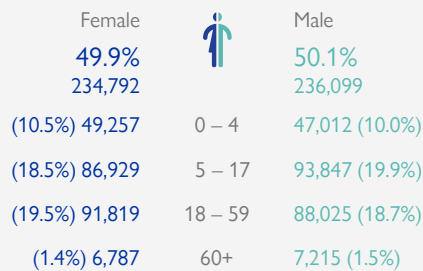
This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

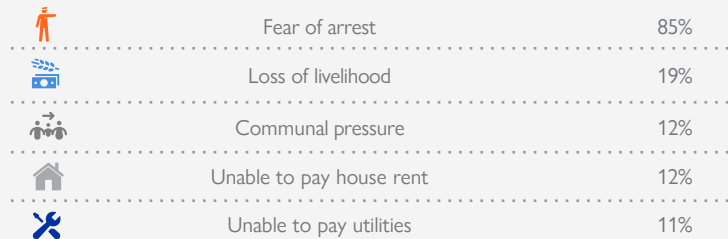


AGE AND GENDER



REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

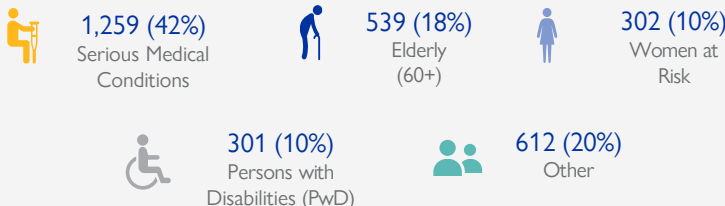
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 31,485)



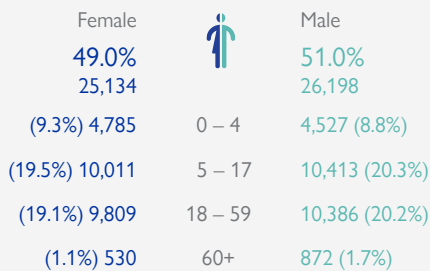
This section only applies to PoR holders

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

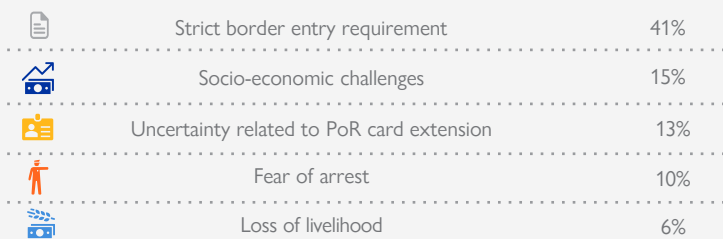


AGE AND GENDER

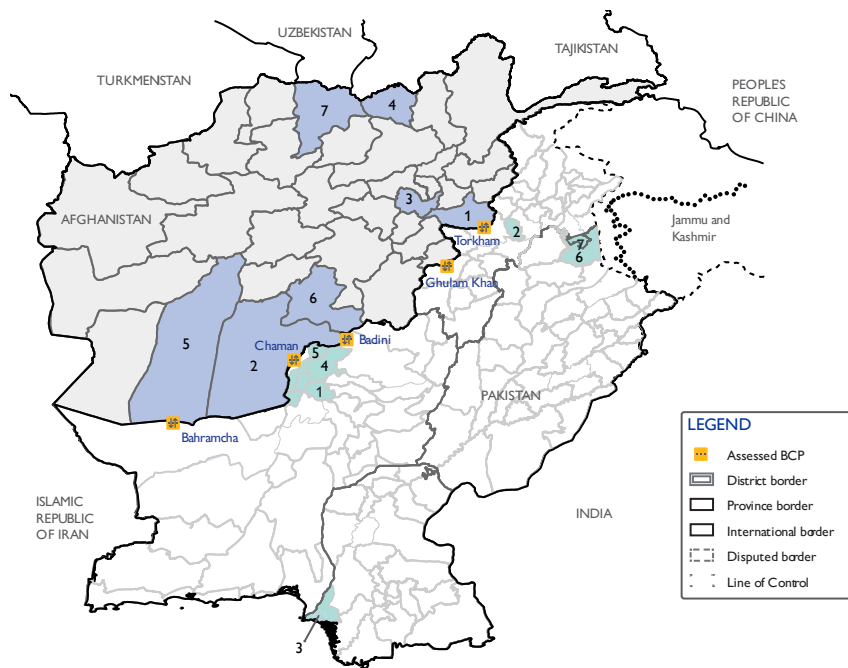


REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 4,899)



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN AND PROVINCE OF DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 7)



PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)



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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.