

UNHCR-IOM FLASH UPDATE #4

ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September – 04 November 2023)

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 and Chaman border crossing point, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

CHRONOLOGY

26 September 2023

"Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan" issued internally by MoI, outlining the "repatriation" of Afghan nationals in three phases, starting with undocumented Afghan nationals, followed by ACC holders, and PoR holders.

3 October 2023

Formal announcement by MoI of the deadline of 1 November 2023 for all "illegal foreigners" to leave Pakistan.

7 October 2023

[Joint statement](#) issued by UNHCR and IOM urging the Government of Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghan nationals in need of safety.

10 October 2023

[Government-wide circular](#) issued by the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) under the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), stating that PoR and ACC holders can only be repatriated on a voluntary basis.

9 and 16 October 2023

Provincial-wide circular issued by the Home Departments of Balochistan and Sindh, stating that PoR and ACC holders can only be repatriated on a voluntary basis.

17 and 27 October 2023

[Press release](#) issued by UN Special Rapporteurs and [statement](#) made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), urging the Government of Pakistan to stop planned mass deportation of Afghan nationals in Pakistan.

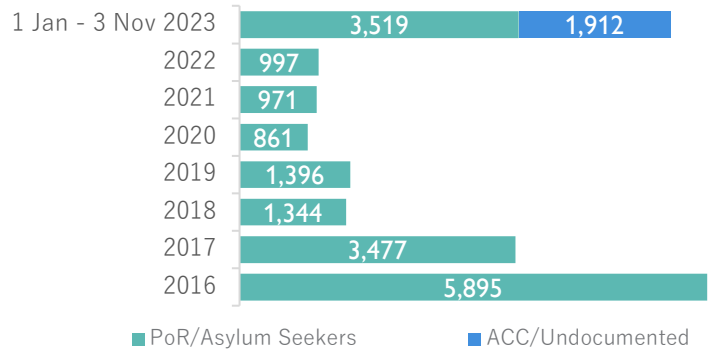
30 October 2023

Notification issued by the MoI instructing all relevant authorities to enact the "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan" as of 1 November 2023.

3 November 2023

[Joint press release](#) issued by UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF calling for the protection of children and families seeking safety in Pakistan.

ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 October – 3 November 2023)

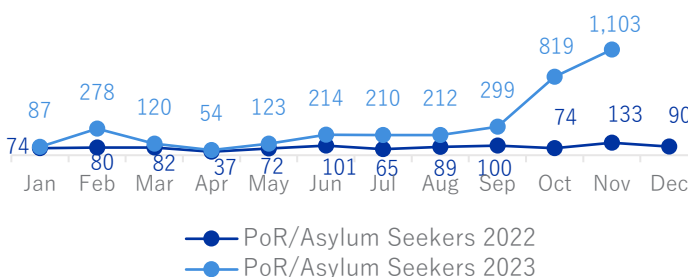


KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

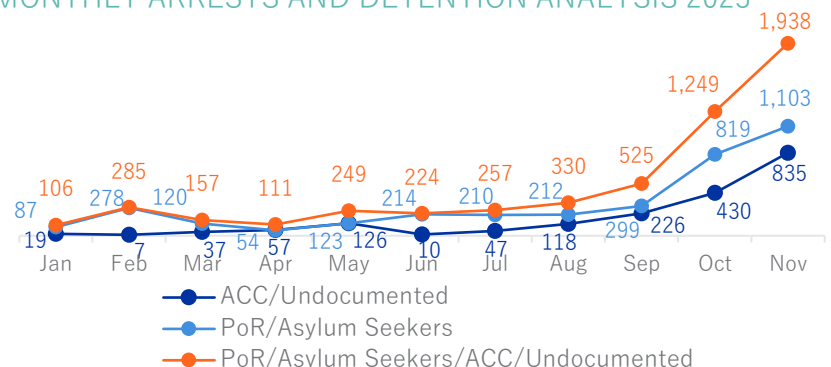
It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data, which should be considered indicative at this point. The figures, particularly of undocumented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

- In comparing the rate of arrest and detention of PoR holders, as collected by UNHCR, for the months of November 2022 and November 2023, the rate has increased by almost eight-fold.
- During the reporting period, the rate of arrest has shifted away from Balochistan to the province of Punjab.
- Since 1 November 2023, the rate of arrest of Afghan nationals has significantly increased, with undocumented Afghans most severely affected.

MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2022 – 2023 (PoR HOLDERS)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2023





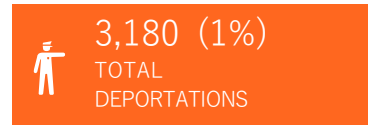
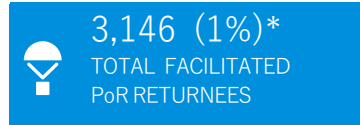
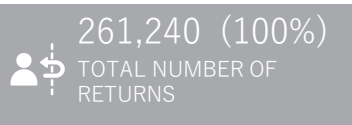
ARREST AND DETENTION | FLOW MONITORING (15 September – 04 November 2023)



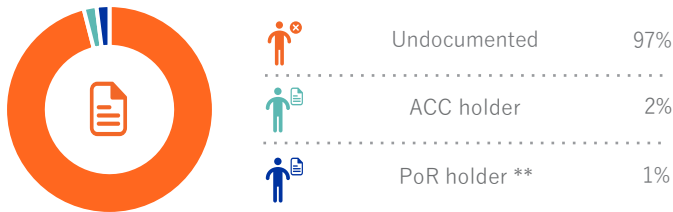
Afghan families are taking their household belongings back to Afghanistan through the Torkham border. [IOM Pakistan 2023]

KEY FINDINGS

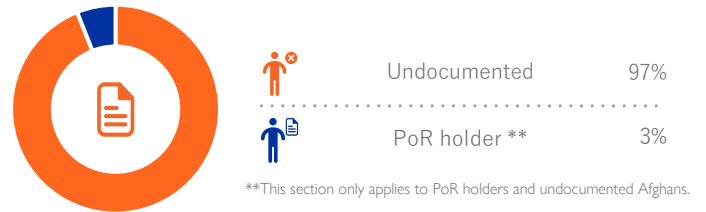
- During the past seven days, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 137,835 Afghans returned through the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points to Afghanistan. This constitutes an increase of 100,921 (273%) returnees week-on-week in comparison to the third flash update. Cumulatively, since 15 September 2023, 261,240 individuals have returned.
- Most of the returnees were undocumented Afghans (97%), followed by ACC holders (2%) and PoR holders (1%).
- Fear of arrest (89%) was the most common reason among returnees to return to Afghanistan.
- Returnees were most likely to return from Punjab (31%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (27%), Kandahar (22%) and Kabul (20%) in Afghanistan.



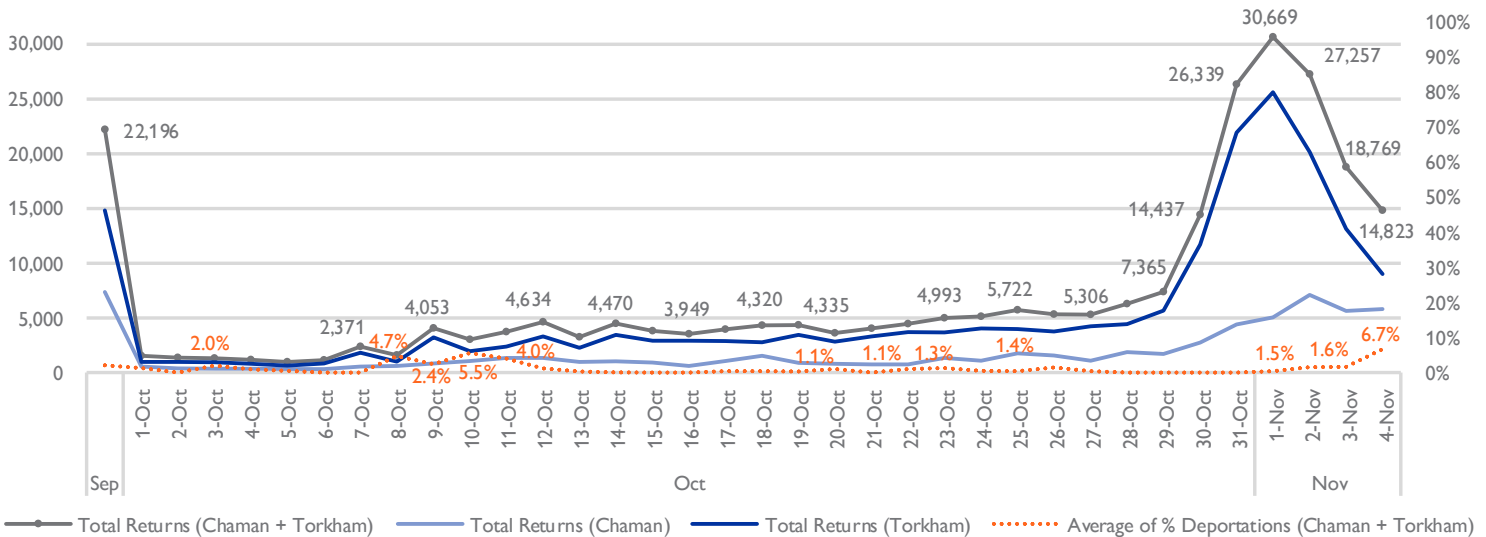
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

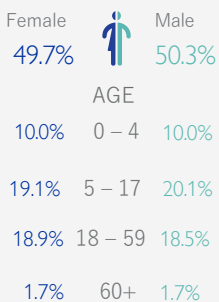


TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | TORKHAM AND CHAMAN | 15 SEPTEMBER – 04 NOVEMBER 2023

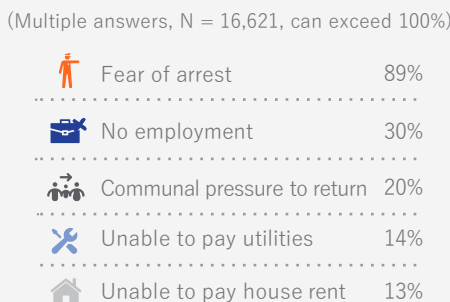


This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

AGE AND GENDER



PUSH FACTORS



ORIGIN AND INTENDED DESTINATION (TOP 5, BY PROVINCE)

PROVINCE OF ORIGIN		PROVINCE OF DESTINATION	
1. Punjab	31%	1. Nangarhar	27%
2. Balochistan	26%	2. Kandahar	22%
3. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	24%	3. Kabul	20%
4. Sindh	14%	4. Kunduz	6%
5. Islamabad Capital Territory	4%	5. Kunar	5%