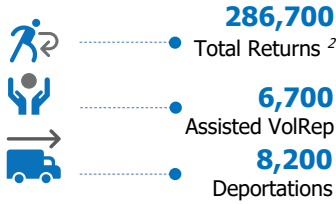


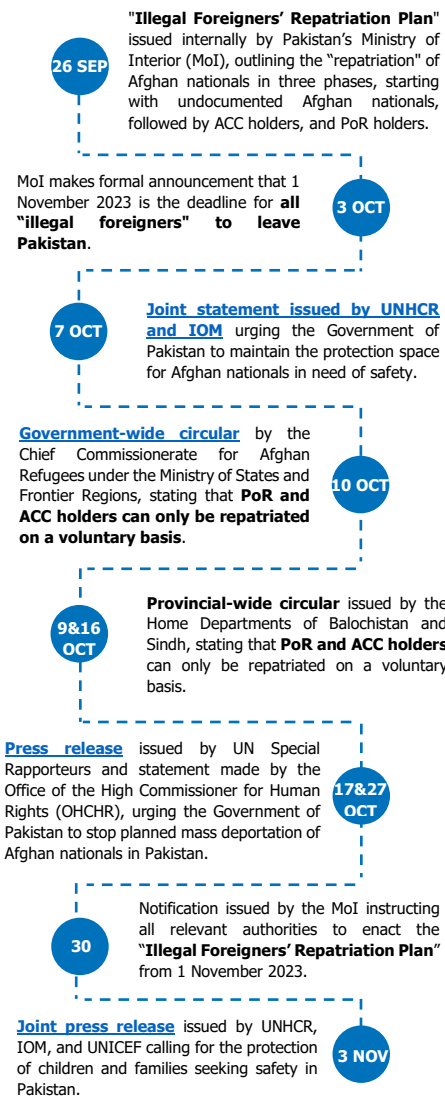
## Key Figures



## UNHCR Funding Requirements

**\$43.48M** for Afghanistan from November 2023 to July 2024 and **\$8.43M** for Pakistan from November to December 2023. The quoted figures are currently under revision.

## Key Highlights



## Background

On 3 October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to repatriate "illegal foreigners".<sup>1</sup> In view of the ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns for Afghans, 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.

There has been an increase in daily border crossings by Afghans from Pakistan to Afghanistan after the Government of Pakistan made this announcement. Most are voluntary returns although a small, but sharply increasing number, are deportations. People arriving at the borders are exhausted and require urgent emergency assistance, as well as psychosocial support. Interviews with returnees indicate the rate of arrest of Afghan nationals in Pakistan has increased significantly, with undocumented Afghans most severely affected.

1.3 million undocumented Afghans are estimated to reside in Pakistan. Approximately 720,000 undocumented individuals and 50,000 assisted voluntary repatriations (PoR card holders) are expected to require support at border points from now through July 2024. UNHCR and partners in Pakistan and Afghanistan are currently working together to ensure a harmonized and coordinated cross-border response to this new emergency. To support these efforts, an inter-agency [Border Consortium Appeal](#) was launched on 8 November. In addition, UNHCR and partners are also scaling 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.

## Emergency Response, Needs and Priorities

- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR is enhancing its capacity to support new arrivals in reception centres in a timely manner and to reduce overcrowding and potential protection risks caused by any backlogs. UNHCR and partners are also carrying out inflow monitoring, protection interviews, and medical screenings. One of the main priorities is improving water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in reception centres to reduce the risk of any outbreak and to enhance privacy for women and girls as well as to mitigate any protection risks they might face.

<sup>1</sup> The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that Afghan Citizen Cardholders and Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders are exempted.

<sup>2</sup> 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 **Pakistan**, UNHCR is working closely with partners to bolster the protection response for Afghans regardless of their status. UNHCR is currently in the process of scaling up legal aid partners' capacity following a 340% rise in queries through helplines concerning the reported arrest, detention, deportation, extortion, and harassment of Afghan nationals by law enforcement agencies. Additional helpline staff have also been brought on board. UNHCR is also providing emergency cash assistance to vulnerable individuals and for protection needs. Mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence, and child protection activities are also being bolstered to meet the growing demand.
- UNHCR is undertaking extensive protection counselling, and continues to emphasize the challenging situation in Afghanistan, particularly after the [recent earthquakes](#), so that people can make a free and informed decision. Communication with Communities modalities have been reviewed to adapt messaging for the current situation. Help desks have also been established to provide information on available services to obtain information, report protection issues and request help in the form of assistance.
- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR is also boosting cash assistance for vulnerable cases – in line with the [Policy on CBIs \(2022 – 2026\)](#) to expand the use and quality of cash-based interventions to better support protection outcomes and solutions. This type of assistance has been essential in supporting women at risk and female headed households. At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive voluntary repatriation grants of \$375 per individual. However, in response to the current economic instability in Afghanistan, refugee families returning after 1 January 2023 will receive a one-time supplemental reintegration cash grant approximately three months after arrival in their areas of origin/intended destination. This grant is intended to support reintegration by extending financial support for three additional months. Returnees will receive \$700 (for families of two or more people) or \$350 (for single individuals, or if part of the family arrived, the remaining \$350 will be issued if/when the family arrives). Returnees will also be able to access programmes and projects implemented by UNHCR in priority areas of return and reintegration.
- In **Afghanistan**, a new tool with biometric capabilities to track, monitor, and increase accountability for the delivery of cash assistance has been finalized. On 5 November, partner enumerators, UNHCR and money service provider staff were trained how to use this tool.
- In **Pakistan**, UNHCR is continuing to advocate for a system of registration for undocumented Afghans who are residing in Pakistan. This would be in the national security interest of the country while ensuring protection for vulnerable Afghans, particularly women and girls, in need of international protection.
- In **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan**, core relief items are being pre-positioned and will be distributed in both countries, with additional supplies ready to be deployed from UNHCR's regional stockpile in Termez, Uzbekistan.
- More funding is urgently needed to bolster UNHCR's as well as the inter-agency response to this new and 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. These figures are currently under revision in light of developments.



UNHCR Representative, Philippa Candler interacting with Afghan refugee women at the UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Center in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.  
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