UNHCR | The UN Refugee Agency | CORE

Returns Emergency Response
as of 23 November 2023

Key figures

397,800
total returns[1]

16,200
assisted VolRep

23,700
deportations

228,000 — 57%

11,800 — 73%

22,300 — 94%

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 15 September to 23 November, while the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived in November (1-23 November).

Context

On 3 October, Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsed a plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November.
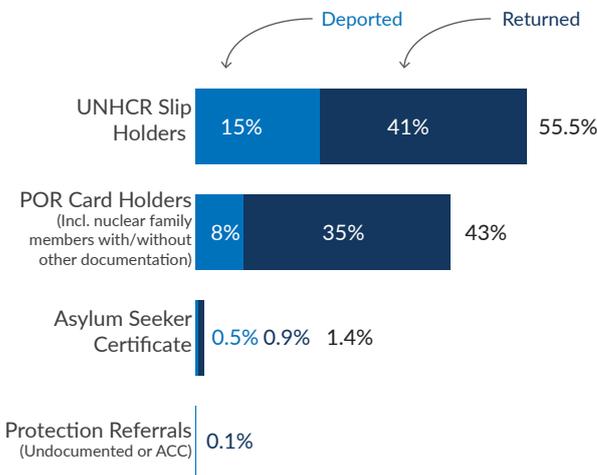
Since 15 September, almost 400,000 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan. November alone registered a substantial increase in deportations with over 22,000 Afghans deported. Most of the movement took place through Torkham and Spin Boldak-Chaman borders, although Badini and Ghulam Khan are also being used.

UNHCR is providing cash assistance to returning and deported Afghans at Kandahar and Jalalabad. Those assisted, possess different documentation including, Asylum Seeker Certificates, Proof of Registration (POR) card holders and their families, UNHCR Slip holders, and their families, as well as Protection referrals.
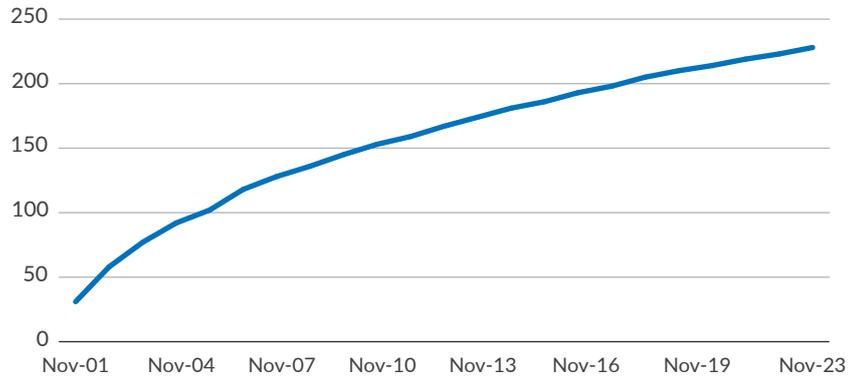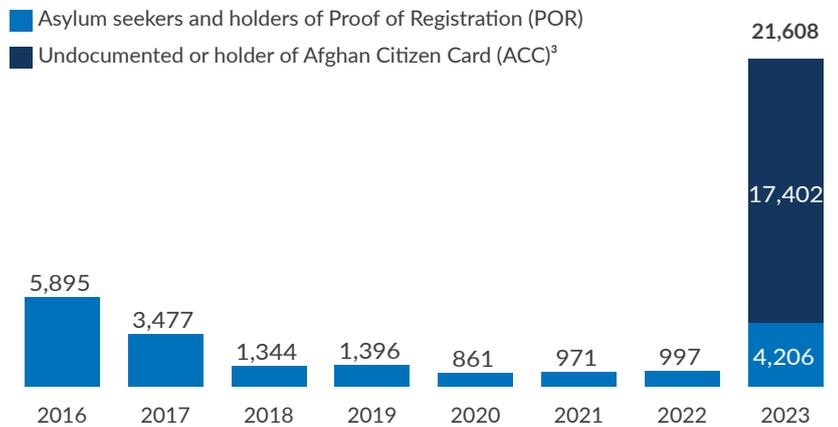
Total returns (cumulative since 1 Nov. 2023)[2]

Number of people (thousands)

Arrests and detentions (from 2016 up to 18 Nov. 2023)

■ Asylum seekers and holders of Proof of Registration (POR)
■ Undocumented or holder of Afghan Citizen Card (ACC)[3]

Year	Value
2016	5,895
2017	3,477
2018	1,344
2019	1,396
2020	861
2021	971
2022	997
2023	21,608 (17,402 + 4,206)

Returns assisted by UNHCR by documentation status
(excluding assisted VolRep)

49% of assisted are **Women**   **51%** of assisted are **Men**

← Deported   Returned →

UNHCR Slip Holders: 15% | 41% — 55.5%

POR Card Holders (Incl. nuclear family members with/without other documentation): 8% | 35% — 43%

Asylum Seeker Certificate: 0.5% 0.9% — 1.4%

Protection Referrals (Undocumented or ACC): 0.1%

Situation map

Legend
● Encashment centres
⊗ Crossing points
● Total returns (cumulative since 1 October)

UZBEKISTAN   TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
AFGHANISTAN
ISLAMIC REP. OF IRAN
Jammu and Kashmir
Jalalabad EC
Kabul EC
Torkham — **69%** of the overall returns
Kandahar EC
Spin Boldak/Chaman — **31%** of the overall returns
PAKISTAN
INDIA

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

100 km

[1] 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.
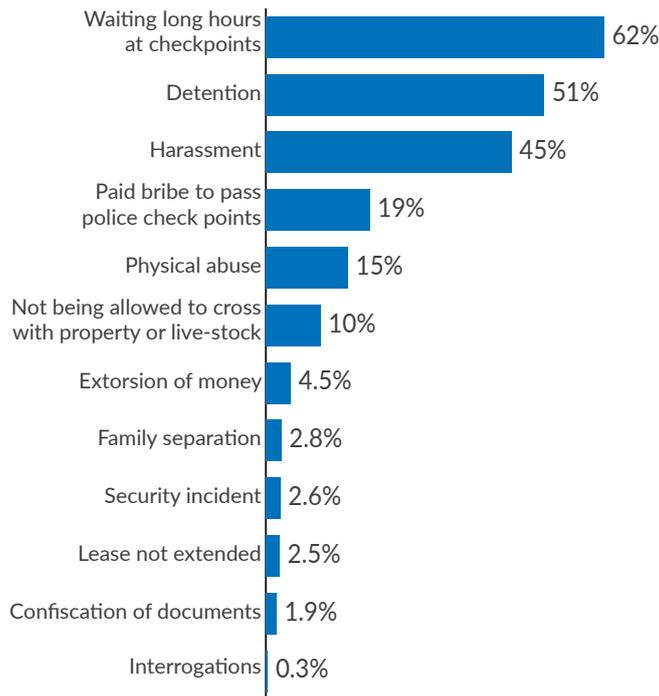[2] Return figures from 19 November onwards may fluctuate till validation process is concluded.
[3] Prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals.
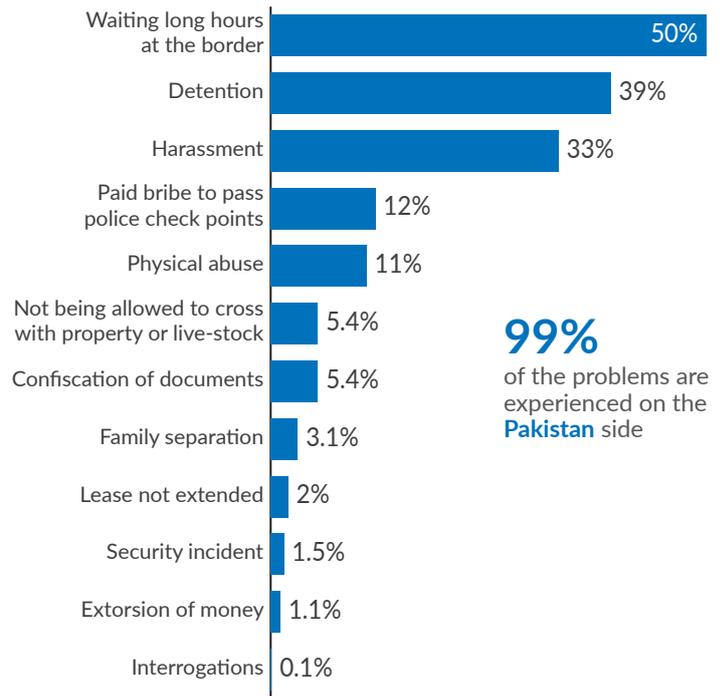
Sources: UNHCR, IOM

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 in order to boost protection screening interviews, identification and referral of individuals to be assisted by UNHCR.

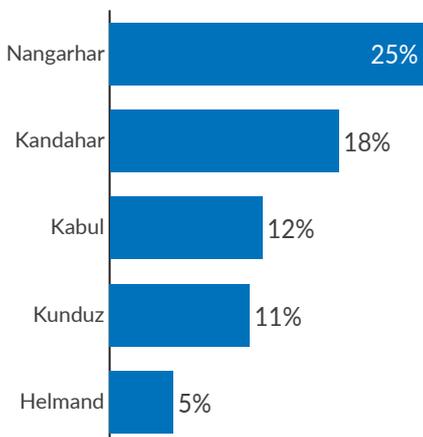### Problems experienced in Pakistan prior to the cross-border movement[4]

Problem	%
Waiting long hours at checkpoints	62%
Detention	51%
Harassment	45%
Paid bribe to pass police check points	19%
Physical abuse	15%
Not being allowed to cross with property or live-stock	10%
Extorsion of money	4.5%
Family separation	2.8%
Security incident	2.6%
Lease not extended	2.5%
Confiscation of documents	1.9%
Interrogations	0.3%

Problems experienced at the border point on Pakistan and Afghanistan side[4]

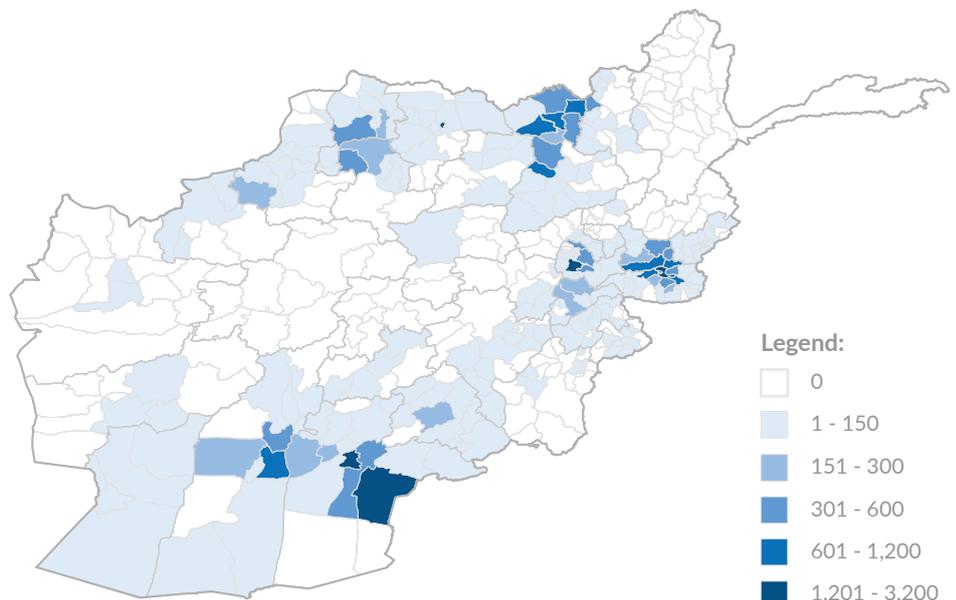| Problem	%
Waiting long hours at the border	50%
Detention	39%
Harassment	33%
Paid bribe to pass police check points	12%
Physical abuse	11%
Not being allowed to cross with property or live-stock	5.4%
Confiscation of documents	5.4%
Family separation	3.1%
Lease not extended	2%
Security incident	1.5%
Extorsion of money	1.1%
Interrogations	0.1%

99% of the problems are experienced on the **Pakistan** side

Returns assisted by UNHCR

Top 5 provinces of intended destination

Province	%
Nangarhar	25%
Kandahar	18%
Kabul	12%
Kunduz	11%
Helmand	5%

Intended districts of destination

Legend:
- 0
- 1 - 150
- 151 - 300
- 301 - 600
- 601 - 1,200
- 1,201 - 3,200

[4] Multiple choice questions, may add up to over 100%.