



ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 29 February 2024)

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 points, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

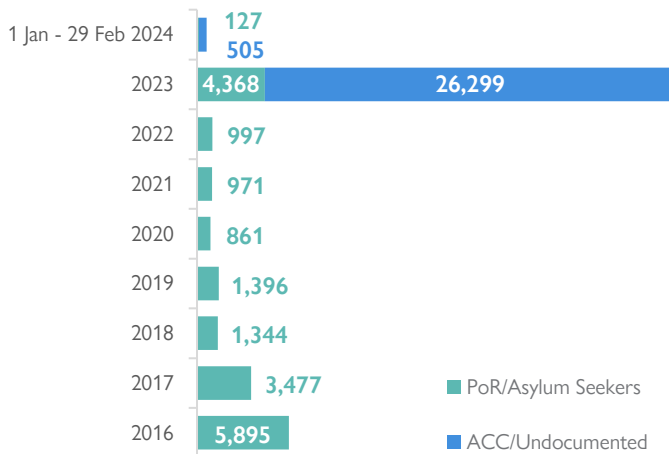
While the Government of Pakistan has yet to halt the "IFRP", the rate of arrest, detention, deportation, and returns has decreased significantly since its peak in October and November 2023. Furthermore, on 7 January 2024, the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) issued a notification that the validity of the POR cards has been extended until 31 March 2024.

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.

- The month of February 2024 saw the overall reported rates of arrest and detention decrease by 72 per cent, in comparison to January 2024.
- Notably, in February 2024, the rate of arrest and detention was higher for PoR Holders and Asylum Seekers, then it was for undocumented Afghans and ACC holders. This is the first month since the start of the "IFRP", where the rate of arrest and detention for PoR Holders and Asylum Seekers has been higher than for undocumented Afghans and ACC holders.
- Since the start of 1 October 2023, the overall reported rate of arrest remains highest for the province of Balochistan. However, between January 1st and February 29th, the highest reported rate of arrest for Afghan nationals has been in the province of Sindh.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between January 1st and February 29th are Karachi (Sindh), Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), and Pishin (Balochistan).

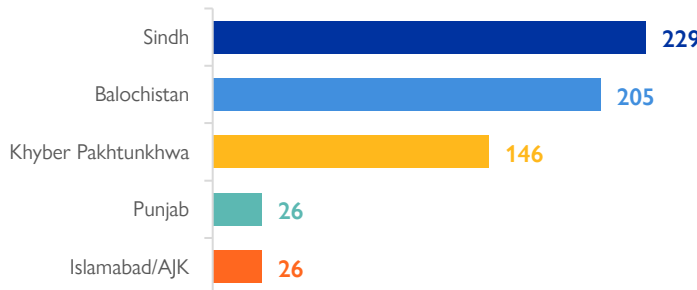
ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



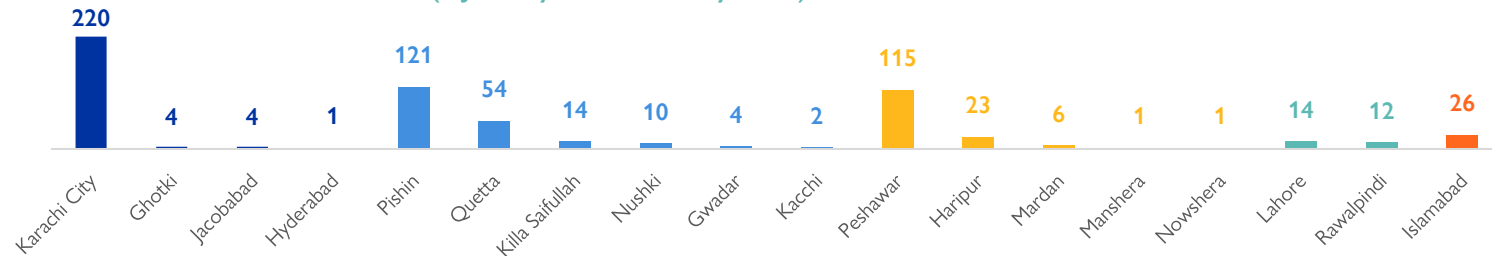
% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 29 February 2024)



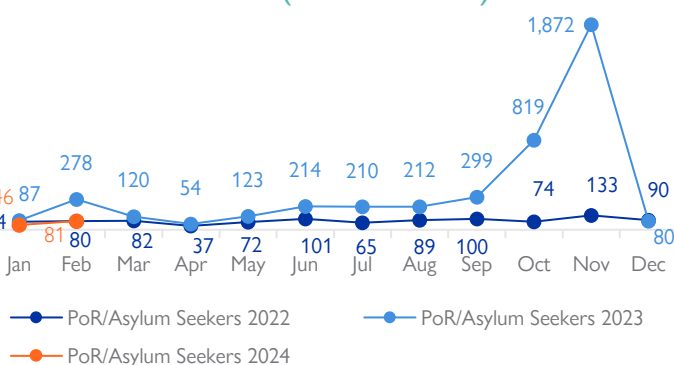
NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 29 February 2024)



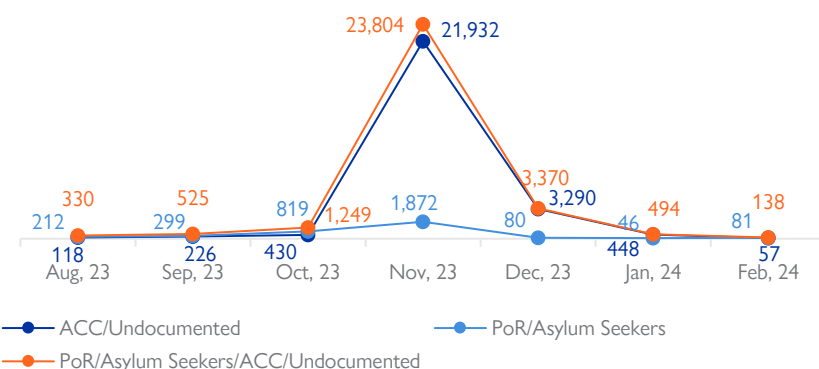
NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 29 February 2024)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2022 – 2024 (PoR HOLDERS)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2023 – 2024





ARREST AND DETENTION | FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 29 February 2024)



IOM enumerator collecting flow monitoring data at Chaman border. [IOM Pakistan 2024]

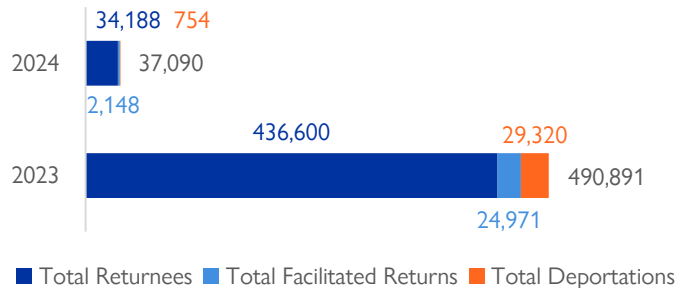
KEY FINDINGS

- During the past month, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 15,984 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 29 February 2024, 527,981 individuals have returned.
- The number of returnees in February (17,632) declined by 4% compared to returns in January (19,458). The overall return figures remain low in comparison to the first weeks of November 2023.
- Most of the returnees were undocumented Afghans (88%), followed by PoR holders (10%) and ACC holders (2%). Majority of the POR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.
- Vulnerable persons including chronically ill people, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and others account for four percent of the population.
- Fear of arrest (89%) remains the most common reason to return to Afghanistan among undocumented/ACC holders while PoR holders cite social economic challenges.
- Returnees were most likely to return from Quetta (21%) and Peshawar (18%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (26%), Kandahar (23%) and Kabul (15%) in Afghanistan.

CUMULATIVE – 2023 AND 2024

527,981 (100%) TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNS	470,788 (89%) TOTAL RETURNEEES	27,119 (5%)* TOTAL FACILITATED PoR RETURNEEES	30,074 (6%) TOTAL DEPORTATIONS
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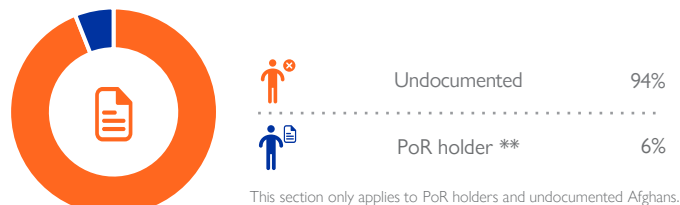
Period	Total Number of Returns	Total Returnees	Total Facilitated Returnees	Total Deportees
15 Sep – 31 Dec 2023	490,891	436,600	24,971	29,320
1 Jan – 29 Feb 2024	37,090	34,188	2,148	754
Total	527,981	470,788	27,119	30,074



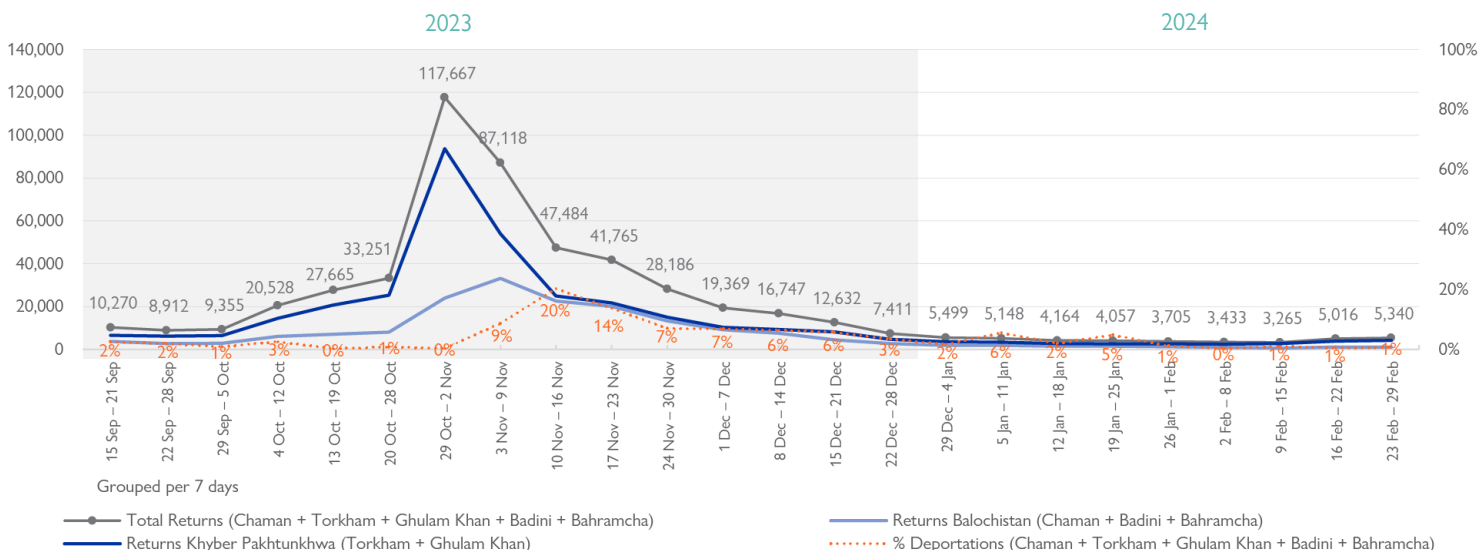
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES



TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 29 FEBRUARY 2024



*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.

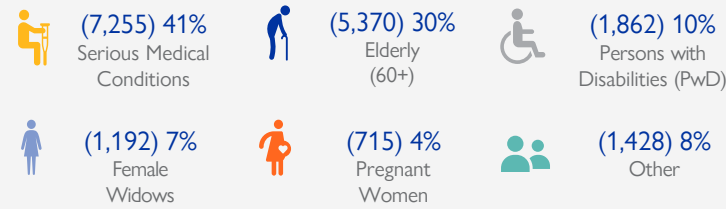


ARREST AND DETENTION | FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 29 February 2024)

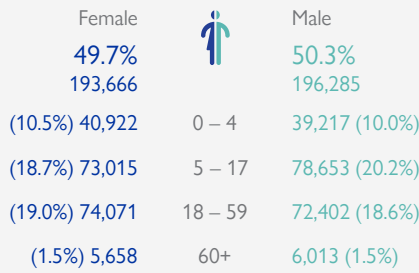
This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

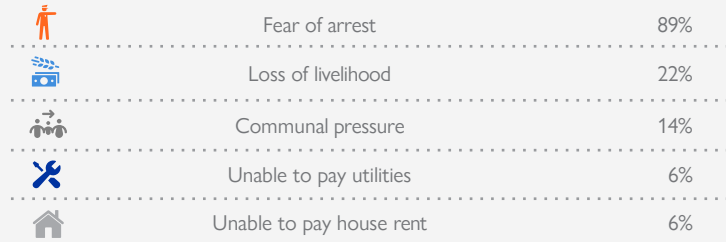


AGE AND GENDER



REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

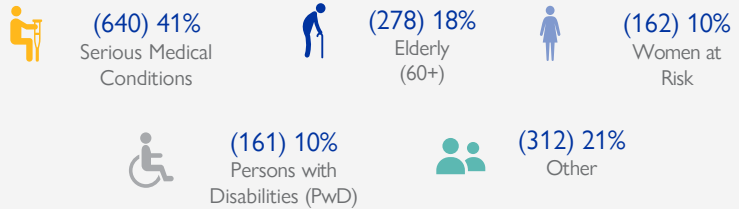
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 21,932)



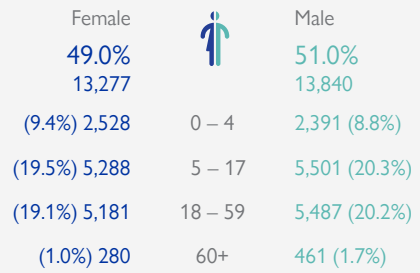
This section only applies to PoR holders

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

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

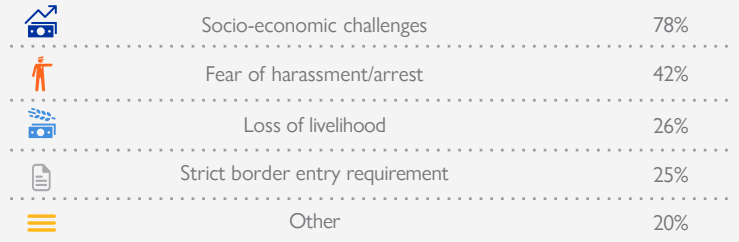


AGE AND GENDER



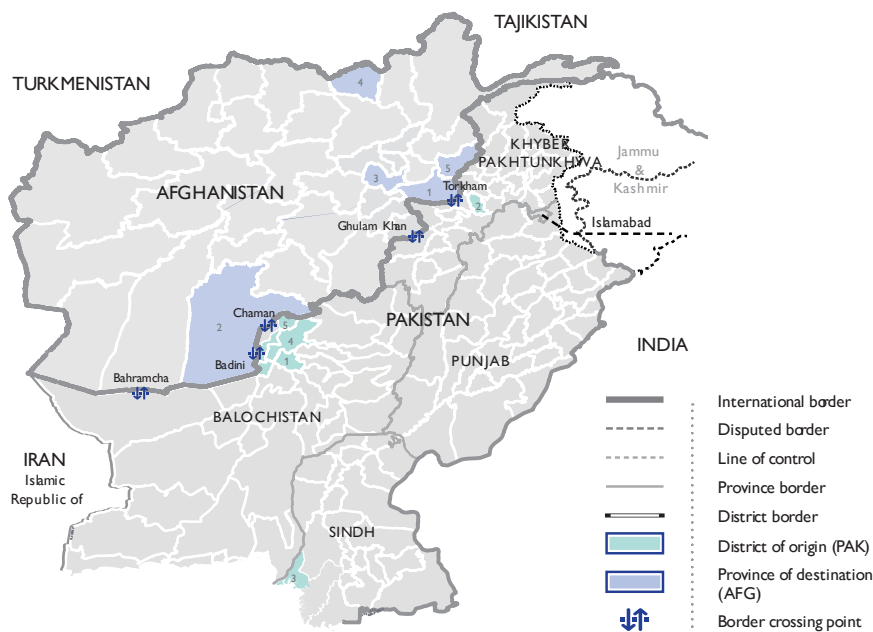
REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 1,954)



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN AND PROVINCE OF DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN

This map applies to undocumented Afghans, ACC and PoR holders.



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 5)



PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 5)



Disclaimer:

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.