

#### ASSISTED AFGHAN RETURNS



**18,680**

Assisted Afghan returns

**Jan-Mar 2024**

**112** from Iran

**18,545** Pakistan

**23** other countries

**1,369**

Returns in the first

quarter of **2023**

**95** from Iran

**1,245** Pakistan

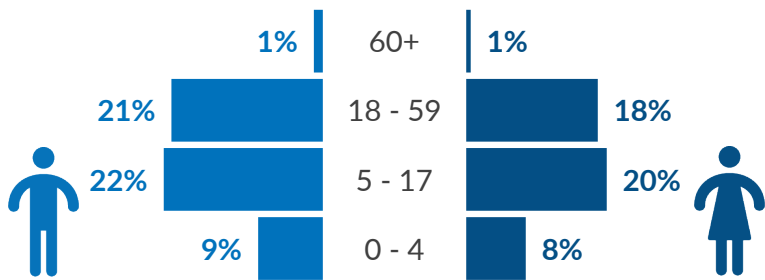
**29** other countries

In 2024 UNHCR has assisted close to **18,700 returns<sup>1</sup>**, (99% from Pakistan), there's a decrease in returns when compared to the last quarter of 2023, however it is a considerable increase if compared to a similar period in 2023 (when some 1,400 refugee returns were recorded). The main drive for such an increase verified since the last quarter of 2023, was October 3<sup>rd</sup> Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsement of the *Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP)* to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, largely Afghans, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November.

Based on protection monitoring interviews, conducted during the first quarter of 2024 upon arrival with returnees, it is still clear a considerable shift in reasons related to return since the implementation of the Government of Pakistan's Repatriation Plan, such as: **fear of arrest/deportation, abuse by police or state authorities, uncertainty related to the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards extension in Pakistan, no added protection value of the PoR card and night raids.** Based on the system UNHCR put in place to monitor and analyze returns since 1 November, **61% of the returns mention harassment as the number one problem faced in Pakistan before the cross-border movement.**

During the first three months of 2024, **88% of the Afghan returns occurred predominantly in five provinces: Nangarhar (49%), Kabul (15%), Laghman (13%), Kandahar (8%) and Kunduz (3%).** Over 2% of the individuals served have disabilities.

#### RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2024



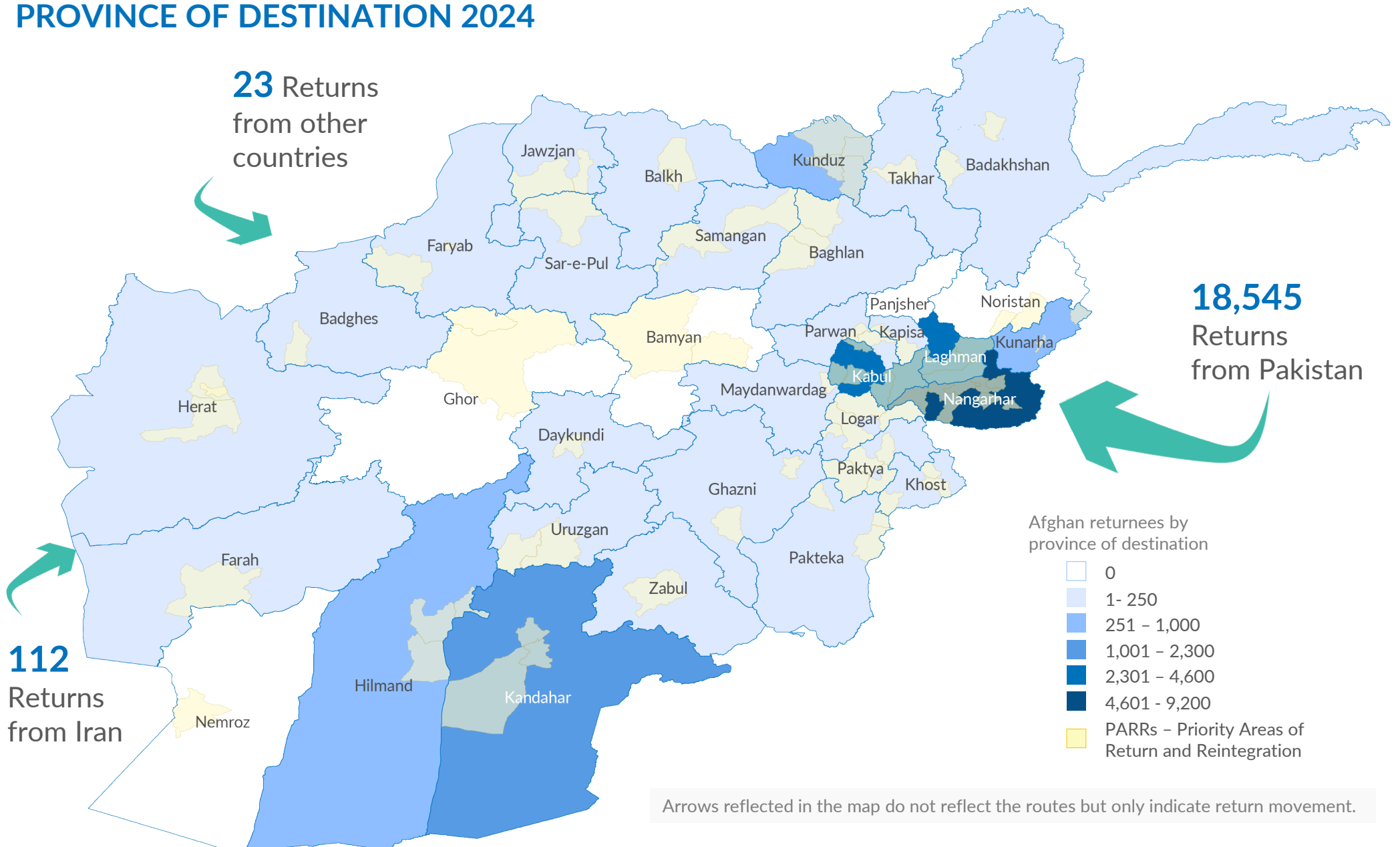
Out of the overall returns **47%** are female, of which **28%** are girls. **59%** are children.

#### ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

**USD 2.4M** was provided in cash assistance to returnees during 2024 Q1.

Besides cash grants, returning refugees receive basic health care, vaccination for children, mine risk education, access to waiting areas and playgrounds for children, as well as, overnight accommodation when needed and protection referrals.

#### PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2024

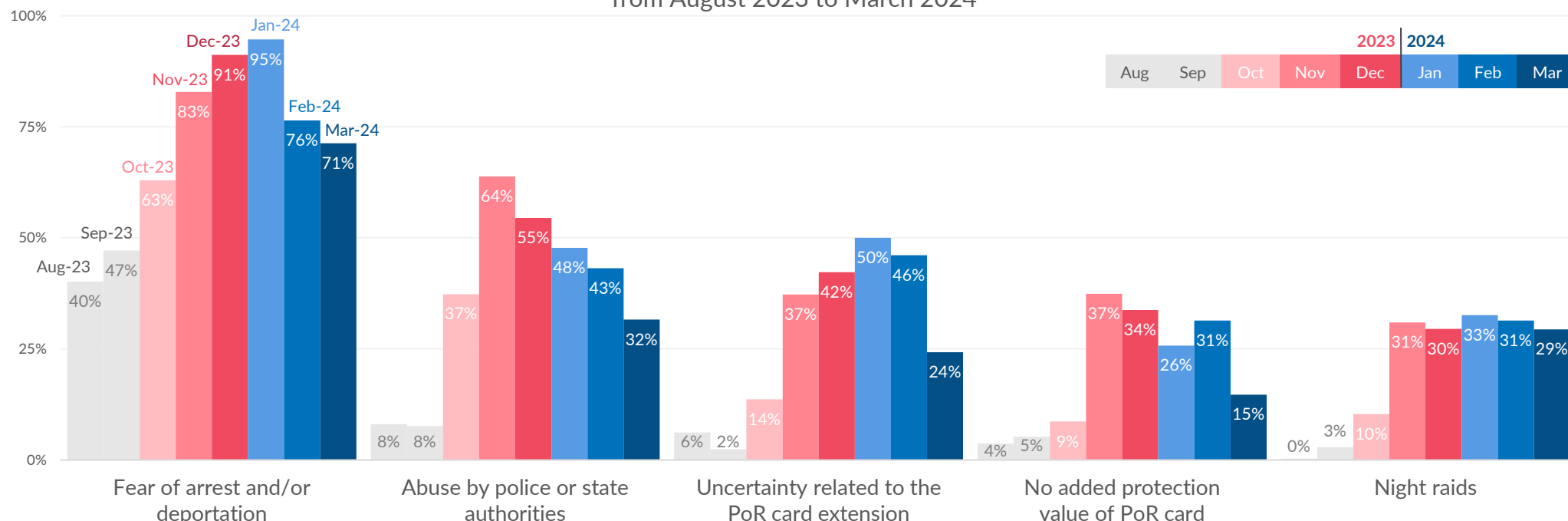


<sup>1</sup> Including Facilitated Volrep, Proof of Registration card holders, UNHCR slip holders, their nuclear family members with or without documentation, UNHCR asylum certificate holders and protection referrals.

### REASONS RELATED TO RETURN

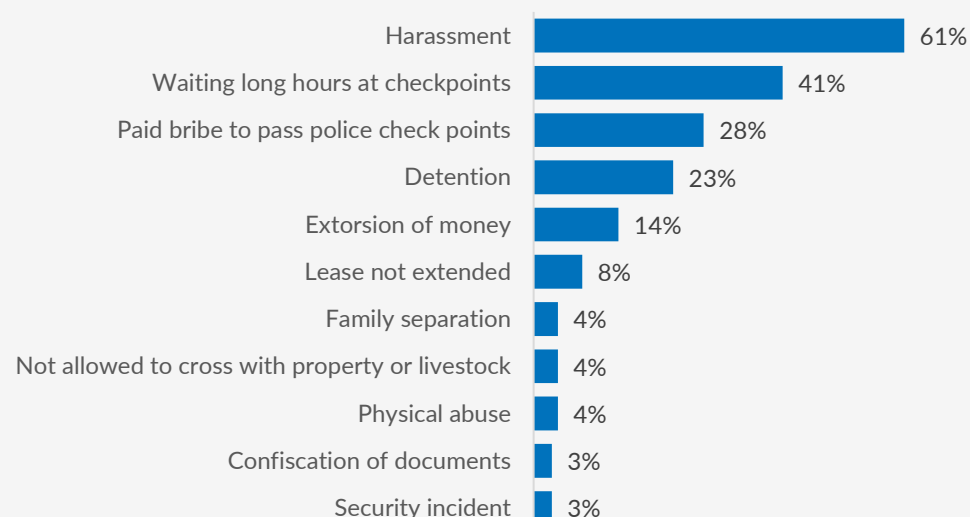
Source: UNHCR's returnee monitoring of voluntary returns conducted at ECs.  
Timeframe: findings from Jan. to Mar. 2024. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

**Main shifts in reasons for return since the IFRP implementation per month**  
from August 2023 to March 2024

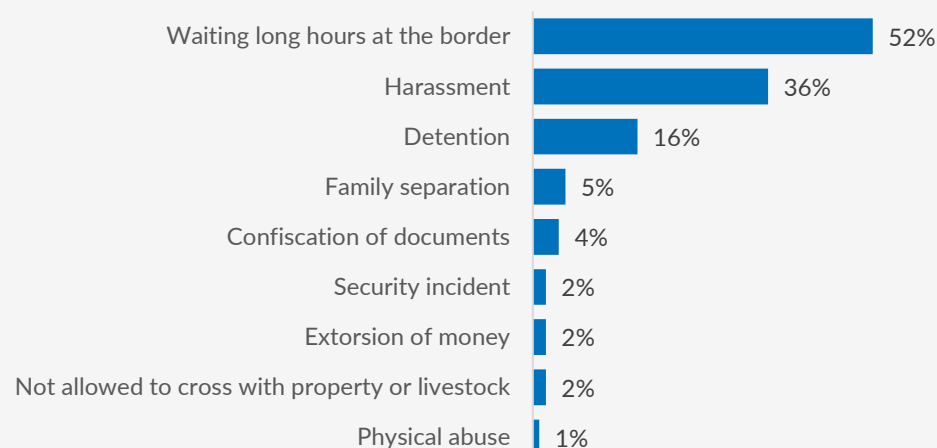


In 2024, UNHCR will continue to conduct voluntary returns monitoring at ECs in Afghanistan. Since the IFRP announcement, some reasons related to return have increased drastically. The above chart shows the main shifts related to the reason for return since the announcement of the Government of Pakistan's Repatriation Plan. The five reasons that show the highest increase in the past few months are **fear of arrest/deportation** (reaching 95% in January 2024), **abuse by police or state authorities** (a seven-fold increase from September to November 2023), **uncertainty related to the PoR cards extension in Pakistan** (mentioned by 50% in January 2024), **no added protection value of the PoR card** and **night raids** (mentioned by one-third of those returning).

Problems faced prior to the cross-border movement



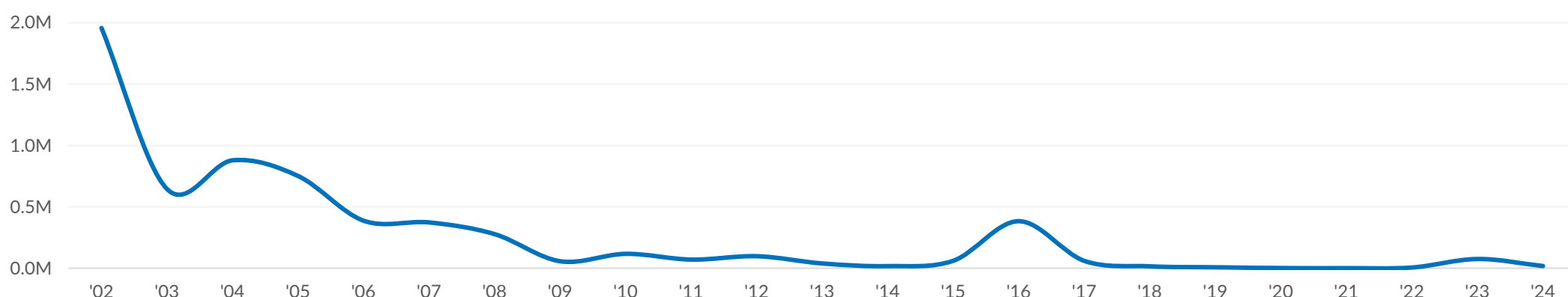
Problems experienced at the border point



Source: UNHCR's monitoring tool for Forcibly Afghan Returns from Pakistan.  
Timeframe: findings from Jan. to Mar. 2024. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

As a result of Pakistan's plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, requiring them to leave the country by 1 November, UNHCR put in place a system to monitor and analyze Protection-related issues around these returns. The above charts reflect the problems reported by the returnees prior to the cross-border movement, and also at the border point.

### AFGHAN RETURNS 2002-2024



### AFGHAN RETURNS BY MAIN COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM (zoomed in 2022-2024)

