

ASSISTED AFGHAN RETURNS



13,433

Assisted Afghan returns

July-Sep. 2024

325 from Iran

13,068 Pakistan

40 other countries

48,343

Assisted Afghan returns

Jan-Sep. 2024

632 from Iran

47,621 Pakistan

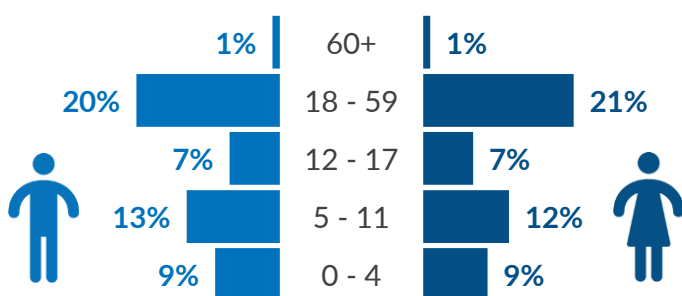
90 other countries

In 2024 UNHCR has assisted over 48,300 returns¹, (98.5% from Pakistan), the third quarter of the year registered a lower number of returns compared to the previous two, however two times more if compared to same period last year. The main drive for such an increase verified since the last quarter of 2023, was October 3rd 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. Furthermore, returnees from Iran have increased considerably in September, with this month registering 27% of the 2024 overall returns.

Based on protection monitoring interviews, conducted upon arrival with returnees at Encashment Centres, reasons for returning from Pakistan such as fear of arrest/deportation, abuse by police/state authorities, and uncertainty related to the Proof of Registration (PoR) card extension in Pakistan, decreased from April to September 2024 compared to September 2023 to March 2024. Regarding those returning from Iran, the last quarter shows a considerable increase in three reasons for return, discrimination by local authority, abuse by police or state authorities, and fear of arrest and/or deportation, this is mostly due to the increased anti-Afghan sentiment reported in Iran in 2024, which became evident since July onwards.

During the first nine months of 2024, 71% of the intended provinces of return focused predominantly on five provinces: Nangarhar (26%), Kabul (21%), Kunduz (9%), Kandahar (9%), and Laghman (6%). Some 2.5% of the individuals served have disabilities.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2024



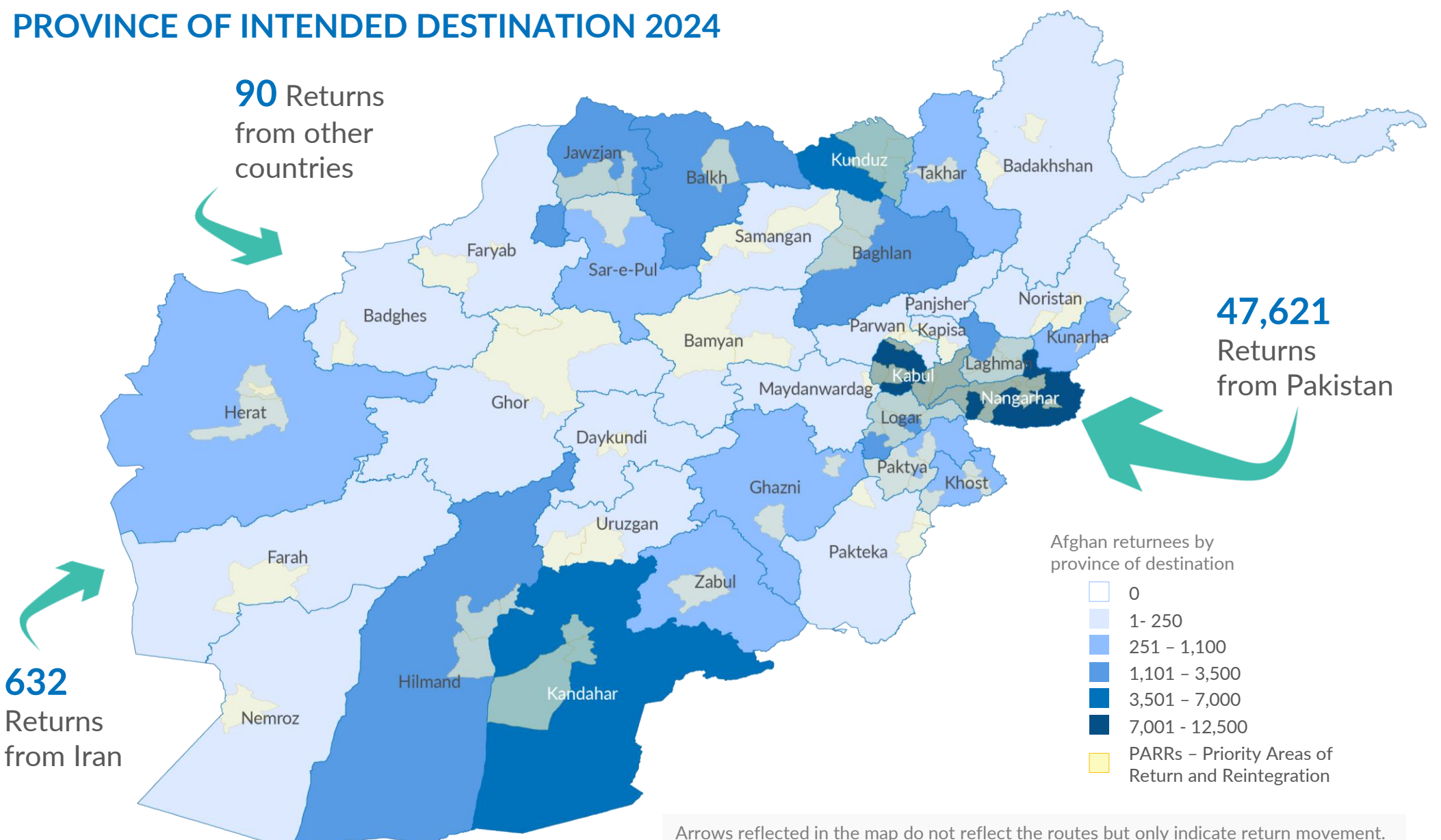
79% of the returnees are Women and Children

ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD 4.1M was provided in cash assistance to returnees during 2024 Q3. A total of USD 11.5M was provided in 2024.

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 INTENDED DESTINATION 2024

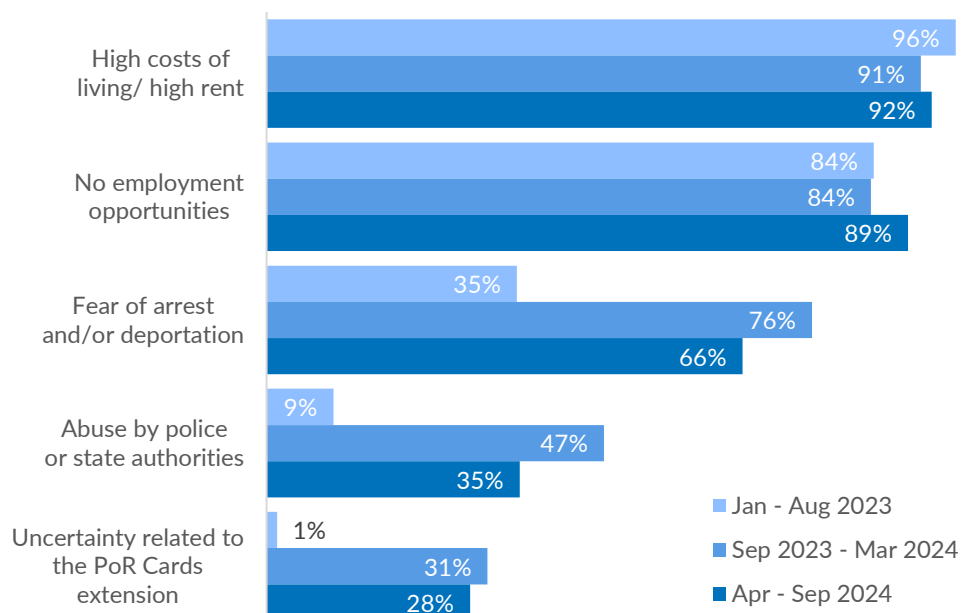


¹ Including Facilitated Volrep, Proof of Registration card holders, UNHCR slip holders, their nuclear family members with or without documentation, UNHCR asylum certificate holders and protection referrals.

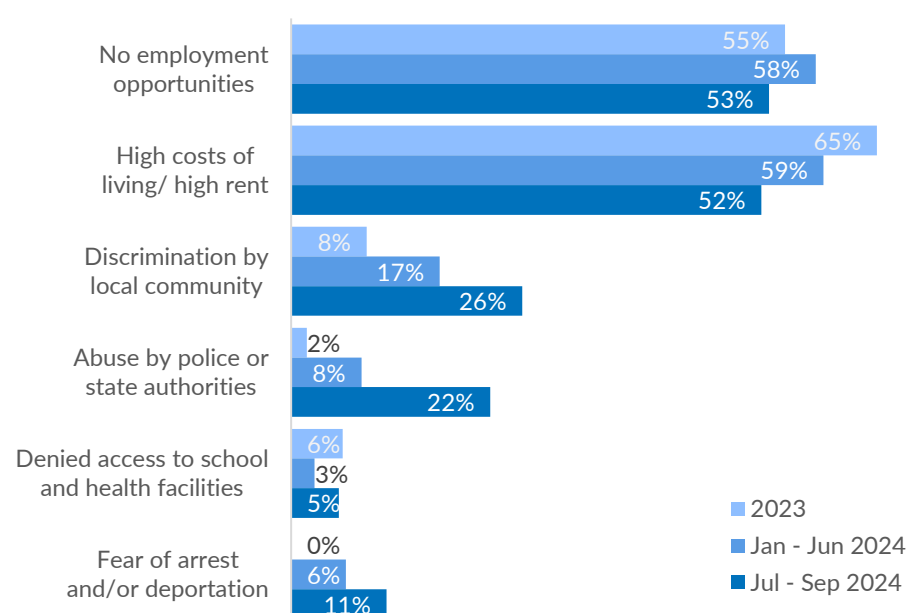
REASONS RELATED TO RETURN

Source: UNHCR's returnee monitoring of voluntary returns conducted at ECs. Timeframe: findings from Jan. 2023 to Sep. 2024. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

Main reasons for return from Pakistan



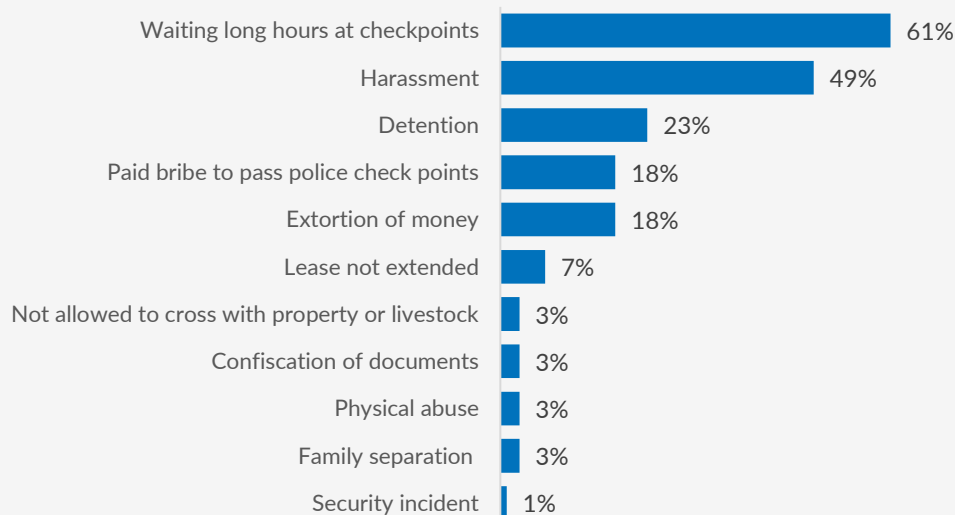
Main reasons from return from Iran



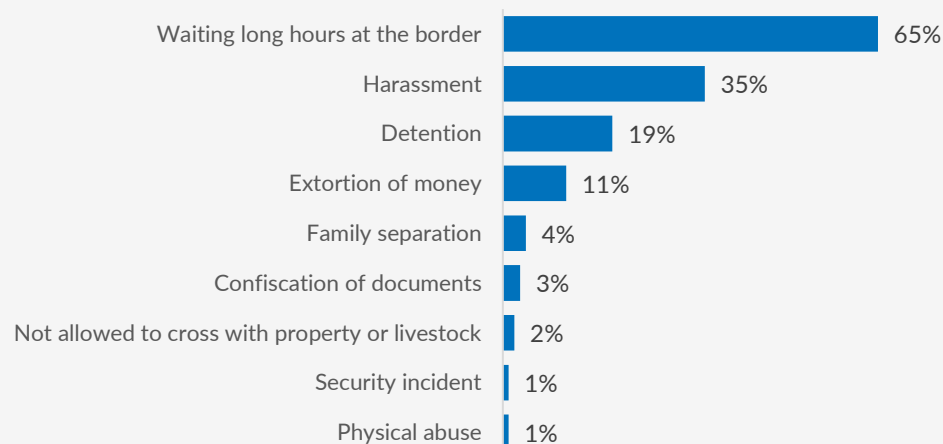
UNHCR maintained enhanced protection monitoring through dedicated protection desks managed by UNHCR protection staff (male and female) who conduct return monitoring at the Encashment Centers (ECs) in Afghanistan. The 2024 overall main reasons for leaving the country of asylum were (1) **high costs of living/high rent 90%**, (2) **no employment opportunities 86%**, and (3) **fear of arrest and/or deportation 63%**.

Looking specifically at those returning from Pakistan, there has been a decrease in the last period (April-September 2024) in reasons related to return, such as **fear of arrest/deportation**, **abuse by police/state authorities**, and **uncertainty related to the Proof of Registration (PoR) card extension in Pakistan**. Regarding those returning from Iran, the last quarter shows a considerable increase in three reasons for return, **discrimination by local authority**, **abuse by police/state authorities**, and **fear of arrest/deportation**. Returning refugees interviewed since June at the ECs continue to report a negative change in the behavior of the Iranian police and host community vis-à-vis all Afghans, including refugees.

Problems faced prior to the cross-border movement



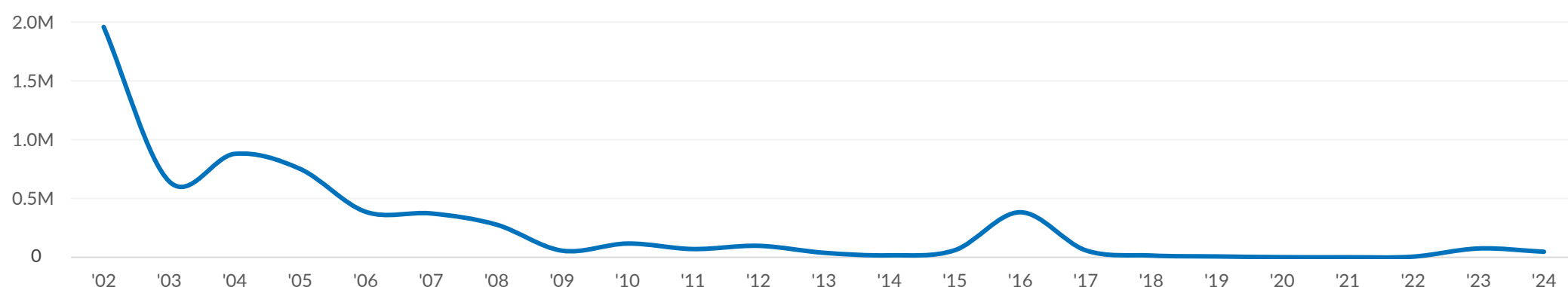
Problems experienced at the border point



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

As a result of the October 3rd Pakistan's national Apex Committee endorsed a 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 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 2023-2024)

