



ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 3 May 2025)

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, Ghulam Khan, Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha border crossing points, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

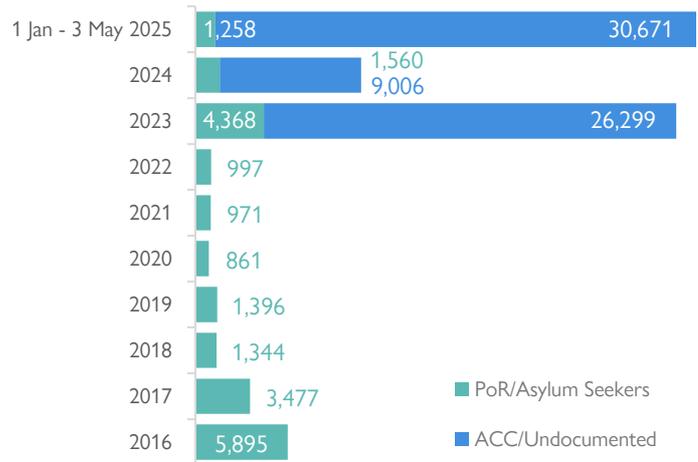
From January – February 2025, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) issued a directive, requiring Afghan nationals in Pakistan to relocate from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Rawalpindi, or else face deportation. In response, on 5 February 2025, UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint press statement](#). Further announcements followed on the implementation of the second phase of the "IFRP", targeting ACC holders in addition to undocumented Afghans to return to Afghanistan. These decisions have resulted in an uptick in arrests, detentions and deportations of Afghan nationals, particularly since April 2025.

KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

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.

- During the reporting period (27 April to 3 May), a total of 4,001 Afghan nationals were arrested and detained, marking a 29% decrease compared to the previous week.
- Out of all arrests and detentions during the reporting period, ACC holders and undocumented Afghans represented 97% of the total rate of arrest and detentions.
- During the reporting period (27 April to 3 May), 72% of the total arrests and detentions took place in Balochistan while 16% took place in Punjab.
- Across Pakistan, the top three districts for arrest and detention between 1 January and 3 May 2025 are Attock (Punjab), Chaghi (Balochistan), and Killa Saifullah (Balochistan).

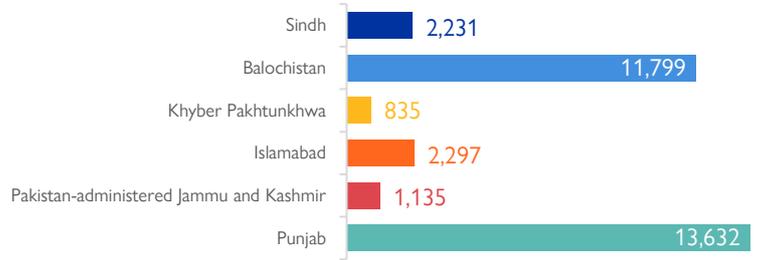
ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



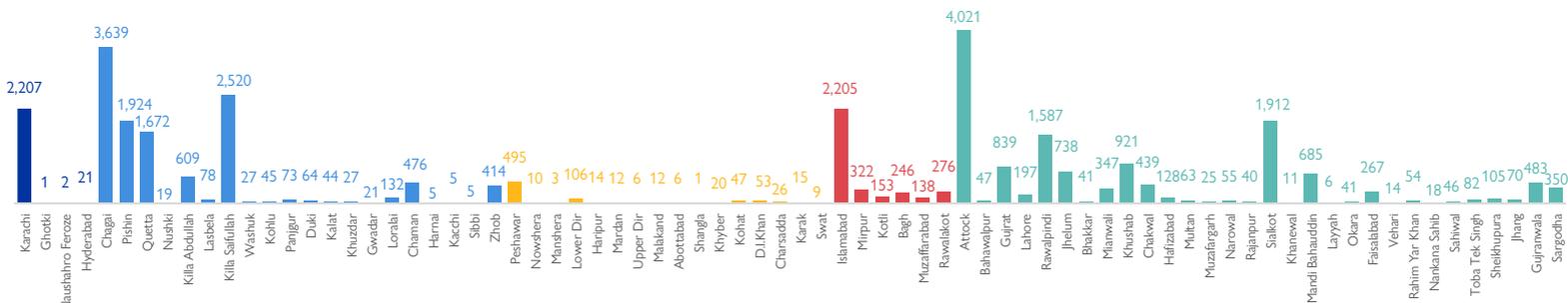
% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 January – 3 May 2025)



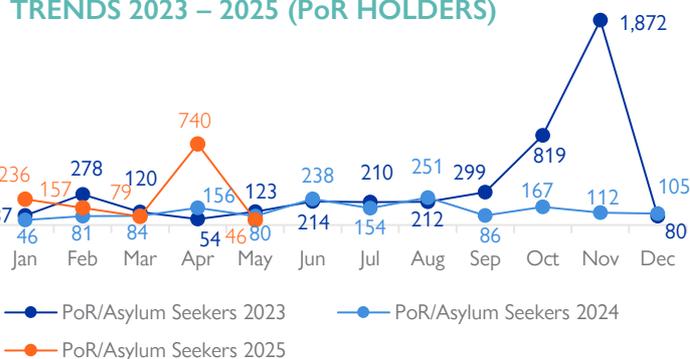
NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 3 May 2025)



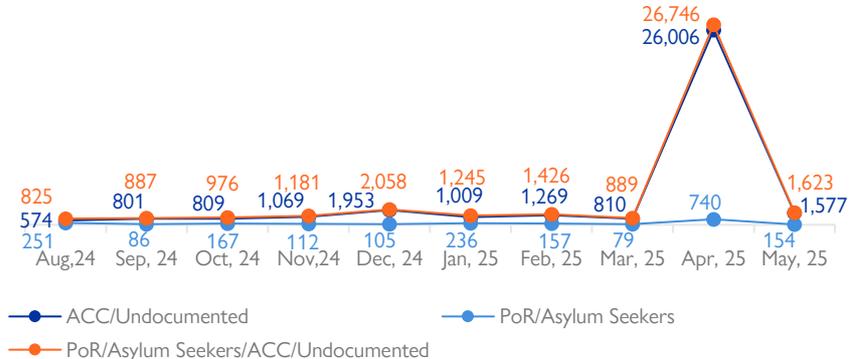
NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 3 May 2025)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2023 – 2025 (PoR HOLDERS)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2024 – 2025





IOM border monitor conducting an interview at Chaman border. [IOM Pakistan 2025]

KEY FINDINGS

- Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 3 May 2025, 1,011,332 individuals have returned.
- During the period 27 April – 3 May 2025, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 25,064 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Bahramcha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- The number of returns and deportations decreased in the last week (27 April – 3 May; 25,064 returns and 4,032 deportations) compared to returns and deportations in the week prior to that (20 – 26 April: 29,695 returns and 5,765 deportations). However, daily returns and deportations are still significant and well above the average prior to April.
- For the returns from 27 April – 3 May 2025, most of the returnees were undocumented (72%), followed by ACC holders (19%), and PoR holders (9%). Majority of the PoR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.
- Since 1 April, 157,299 Afghan nationals returned, of which 31,795 were deported.
- Since the beginning of April, fear of arrest is the most common reason to return among undocumented/ACC holders (91%) and PoR holders (70%).
- During the same time period, returnees were most likely to return from Quetta (20%), Chakwal (20%) and Karachi Central (16%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (19%), Kandahar (17%) and Kabul (16%) in Afghanistan.

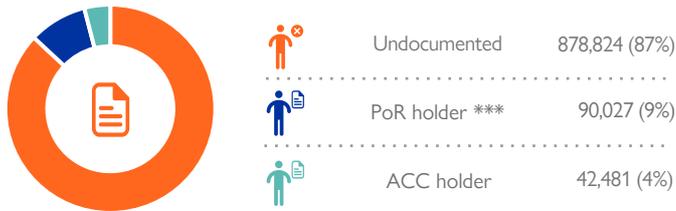
CUMULATIVE – 2023, 2024 AND 2025

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1,011,332 (100%)* TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNS | 880,733 (87%) TOTAL RETURNEEES | 57,433 (6%)** TOTAL FACILITATED PoR RETURNEEES | 73,166 (7%) TOTAL DEPORTATIONS |
|---|--|--|--|

| 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 – 31 Dec 2024 | 315,100 | 280,512 | 25,634 | 8,954 |
| 1 Jan – 3 May 2025 | 205,341 | 163,621 | 6,828 | 34,892 |
| Total | 1,011,332 | 880,733 | 57,433 | 73,166 |



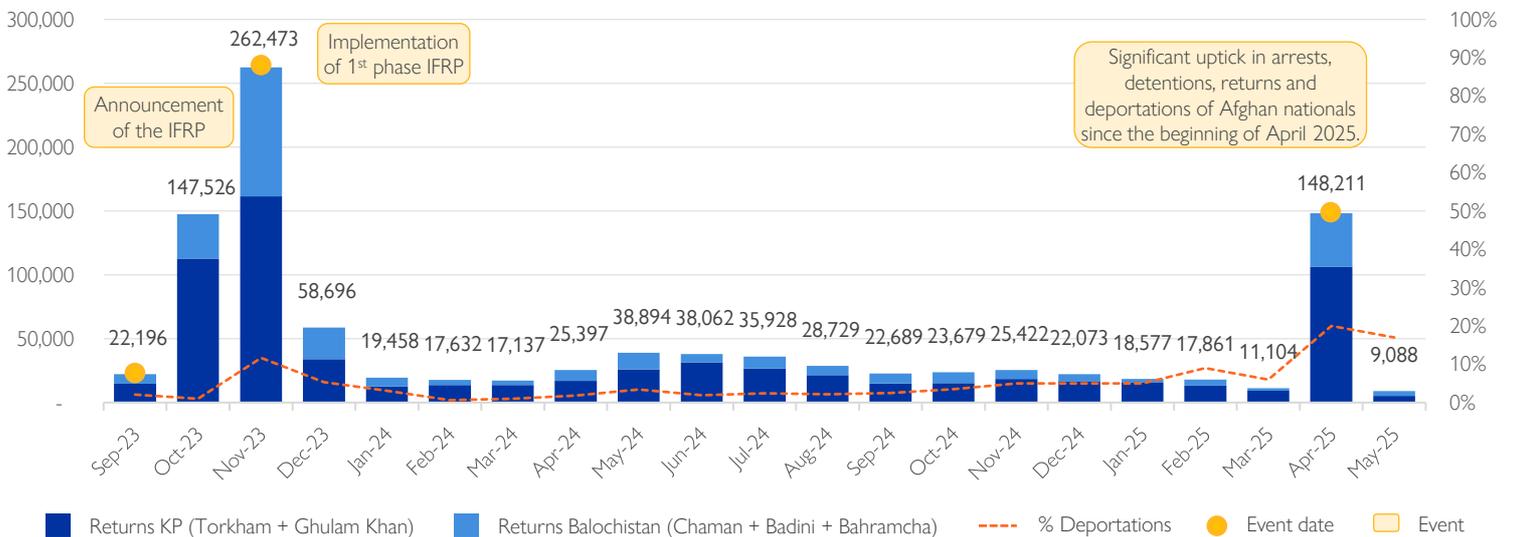
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES



TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 – 3 MAY 2025



*This number includes returnees who received post-arrival assistance by the IOM-led Border Consortium in Afghanistan at Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points.

**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.

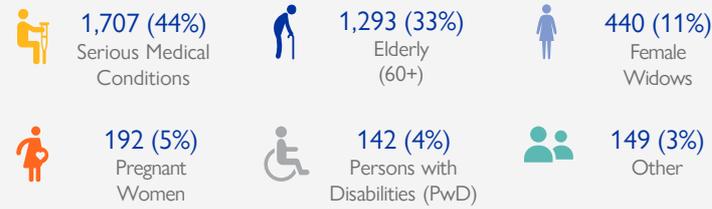


ARREST AND DETENTION | FLOW MONITORING (1 April – 3 May 2025)

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY (From 1 April 2025)

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



AGE AND GENDER (From 1 April 2025)

| | | |
|----------------|---------|----------------|
| Female | | Male |
| 49.4% | | 50.6% |
| 28,224 | | 28,881 |
| (10.9%) 6,218 | 0 – 4 | 5,753 (10.1%) |
| (16.8%) 9,633 | 5 – 17 | 10,657 (18.7%) |
| (20.5%) 11,718 | 18 – 59 | 11,554 (20.2%) |
| (1.2%) 675 | 60+ | 917 (1.6%) |

TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (From 1 April 2025)

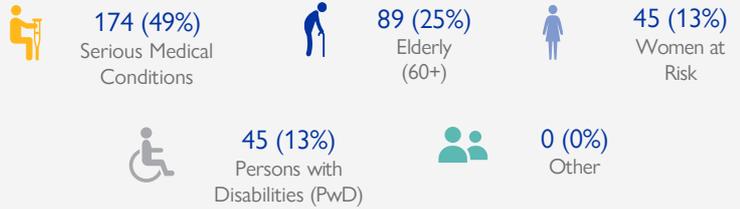
(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 7,558)



This section only applies to PoR holders

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY (From 1 April 2025)

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

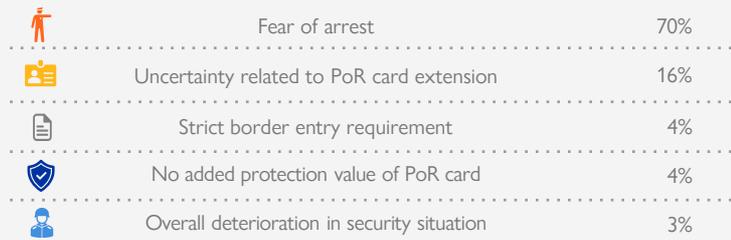


AGE AND GENDER (From 1 April 2025)

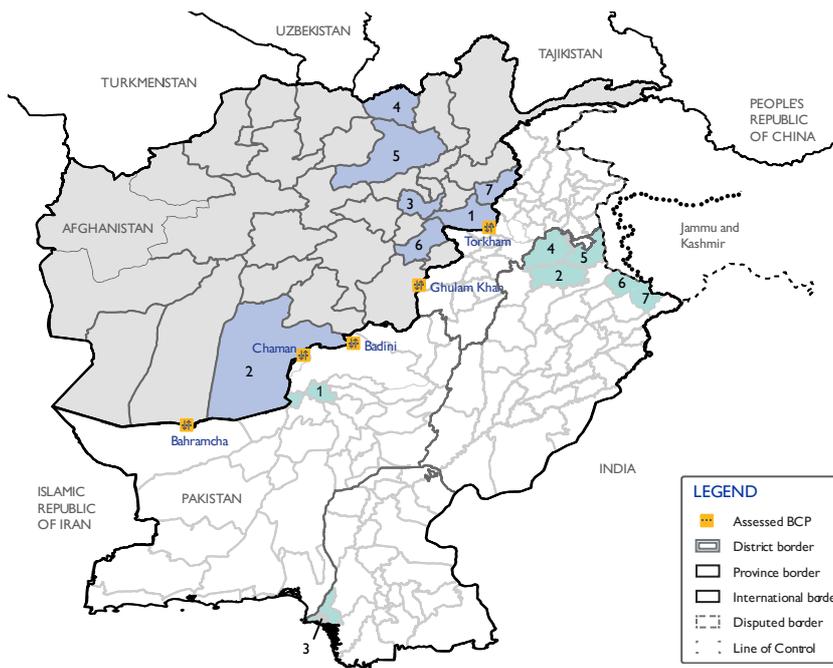
| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Female | | Male |
| 49.0% | | 51.0% |
| 2,986 | | 3,113 |
| (9.3%) 568 | 0 – 4 | 538 (8.8%) |
| (19.5%) 1,190 | 5 – 17 | 1,237 (20.3%) |
| (19.1%) 1,165 | 18 – 59 | 1,234 (20.2%) |
| (1.1%) 63 | 60+ | 104 (1.7%) |

TOP 5 REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (From 1 April 2025)

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 625)



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN AND PROVINCE OF DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN (From 1 April 2025)



DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 7)

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. Quetta | 20% |
| 2. Chakwal | 20% |
| 3. Karachi Central | 16% |
| 4. Attock | 9% |
| 5. Rawalpindi | 9% |
| 6. Gujrat | 7% |
| 7. Sialkot | 7% |

PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 7)

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Nangarhar | 19% |
| 2. Kandahar | 17% |
| 3. Kabul | 16% |
| 4. Kunduz | 15% |
| 5. Baghlan | 5% |
| 6. Paktia | 5% |
| 7. Kunar | 3% |

Disclaimer:

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