

Key figures


1,574,200

total returns¹

938,200

deportations

1,290,300

82%

60%

of total returns are **deportations**

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 1 January 2025 to 16 July 2025. While the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived from 20 March 2025 to 16 July 2025.

Context

Following headcount slip expiry on 20 March 2025, the Government of Iran launched a regularization/return scheme for the two million affected Afghans. Slip holders must undergo government assessments to determine whether they are allowed to remain.

Daily returns climbed steeply after 13 June, with further spikes following 25 June which continue during the reporting period. **From 10 to 16 July the average daily returns exceeded 29,600** with a peak of some 38,000 Afghan returnees on 10 July. The proportion of deportees during the same reporting period decreased to 61% compared to 64% of the previous seven days.

As of 16 July, some 1.3 million Afghans returned from Iran since 20 March 2025 and more than **1.57 million since the beginning of the year** bringing the total returns from both Iran and Pakistan to over 1.9 million in 2025.

UNHCR reiterates concern that many Afghans – regardless of status – face serious protection risks in Afghanistan due to the current human rights situation, especially women and girls.

Returns by documentation status

From 10 to 16 July headcounted slip holders made up 57% of total returnees – confirming the increasing trend observed since 13 June. A similar trend was observed in deportations, with **58% of total deportees being headcounted slip holders** during the same reporting period. Looking at the broader period since 20 March 2025, approximately 42% of total returnees are headcounted slip holders and 41% of total deportees.

Total returns

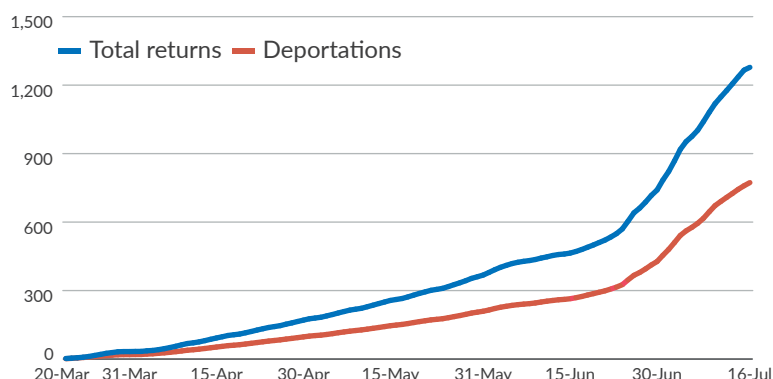

Undocumented (58%)
Headcount slip holder (42%)
Amayesh Card holder (0.1%)

Deportations


Undocumented (59%)
Headcount slipholder (41%)
Amayesh Card holder (0.1%)

Total returns (cumulative since 20 March 2025)

Number of people in thousands

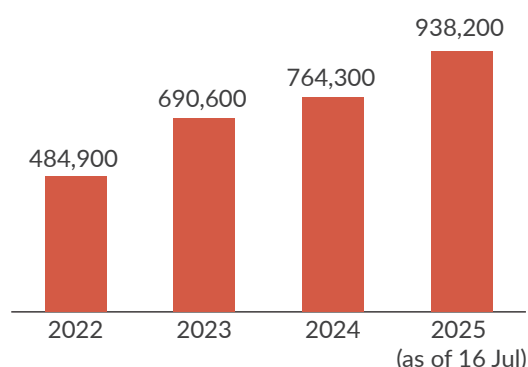


Deportations

In 2025, 938,200 returns – or 60% of the total – were deportations. Of these, some 515,600 Afghans were deported after 13 June.

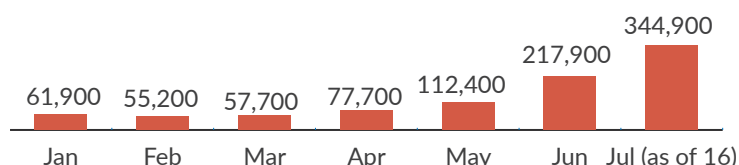
The situation at the Zaranj/Milak border has been worsening with daily returns increasing from a daily average of 1,400 per day in Q1 and Q2 to now 7,400 since the beginning of July. The majority originated from Iranian provinces such as Hormozgan, Tehran, Kerman, and Sistan-Baluchistan, the latter is a “no go area” for Afghans. **Deportation figures have also escalated significantly at Zaranj border**, with a daily average at 4,500 individuals deported during July, almost 340% increase compared to the daily deportation in Q1 and Q2. **Deportees reported they were apprehended during raids at homes, workplaces, markets, and while traveling.** Several headcounted slip holders reported they were arrested despite holding valid transit permits, including some who were detained outside Bureau for Aliens & Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) offices while waiting for legal documentation.

Yearly deportations



Monthly deportations in 2025

In the first 16 days of July, 344,900 Afghans were deported – more the total for the entire month of June, which had the highest monthly deportation figures in the past three years.


¹ Includes deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Amayesh cardholders and the undocumented, excluding passport holders.

Sources: UNHCR, DoRR

Returns profiles (since 20 March 2025)

Since the beginning of 2025, there have been **significant shifts in the proportion of returnees traveling as families rather than individuals**. The percentage of family returns rose substantially from 11% in Q1 to 40% between April and 12 June. During the conflict period from 13 to 24 June, family returns increased sharply to 67%, **continuing to rise to 83% after the ceasefire on 25 June**. During the reporting period, 10 to 16 July, 82% of returnees were travelling as families.

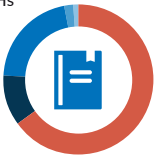


66% have returned as **families**



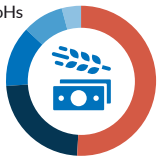
Tajik (50%)
 Pashtoon (24%)
 Hazara (12%)
 Uzbek (11%)
 Others (3%)

Education levels
 refers to HoHs



No education (65%)
 Primary school (Grades 1 - 6) (11%)
 Secondary school (Grades 7 - 14) (21%)
 University degree (2%)
 Madrasa (1%)

Occupational skills
 refers to HoHs



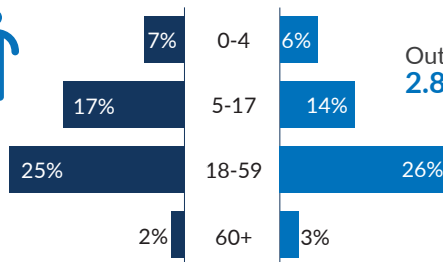
No skills (51%)
 Unskilled daily wage labour (23%)
 Masonry (13%)
 Agriculture (9%)
 Tailoring (4%)

Returns assisted by UNHCR Afghanistan

In addition to the cash assistance provided to returning Amayesh card and expired headcounted slip holders, starting from 27 June 2025, UNHCR mobilized resources to support the returnees with emergency relief items including blankets, plastic sheet, kitchen set, jerry cans, hygiene kits and hot meals. **From 27 June to 16 July, 10,040 returning households covering 70,300 Afghan returnees were supported with Core Relief Items (CRIs) at Islam Qala and Zaranj border points of crossing.** Some 13,300 returnees were assisted with transportation from Islam Qala to Herat and 54,200 received hot meals. On 14 July, the distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) commenced in Zaranj for individuals holding Amayesh cards or headcount slips. Additional CRIs from contingency stock are being transferred to Zaranj to support up to 4,300 families.

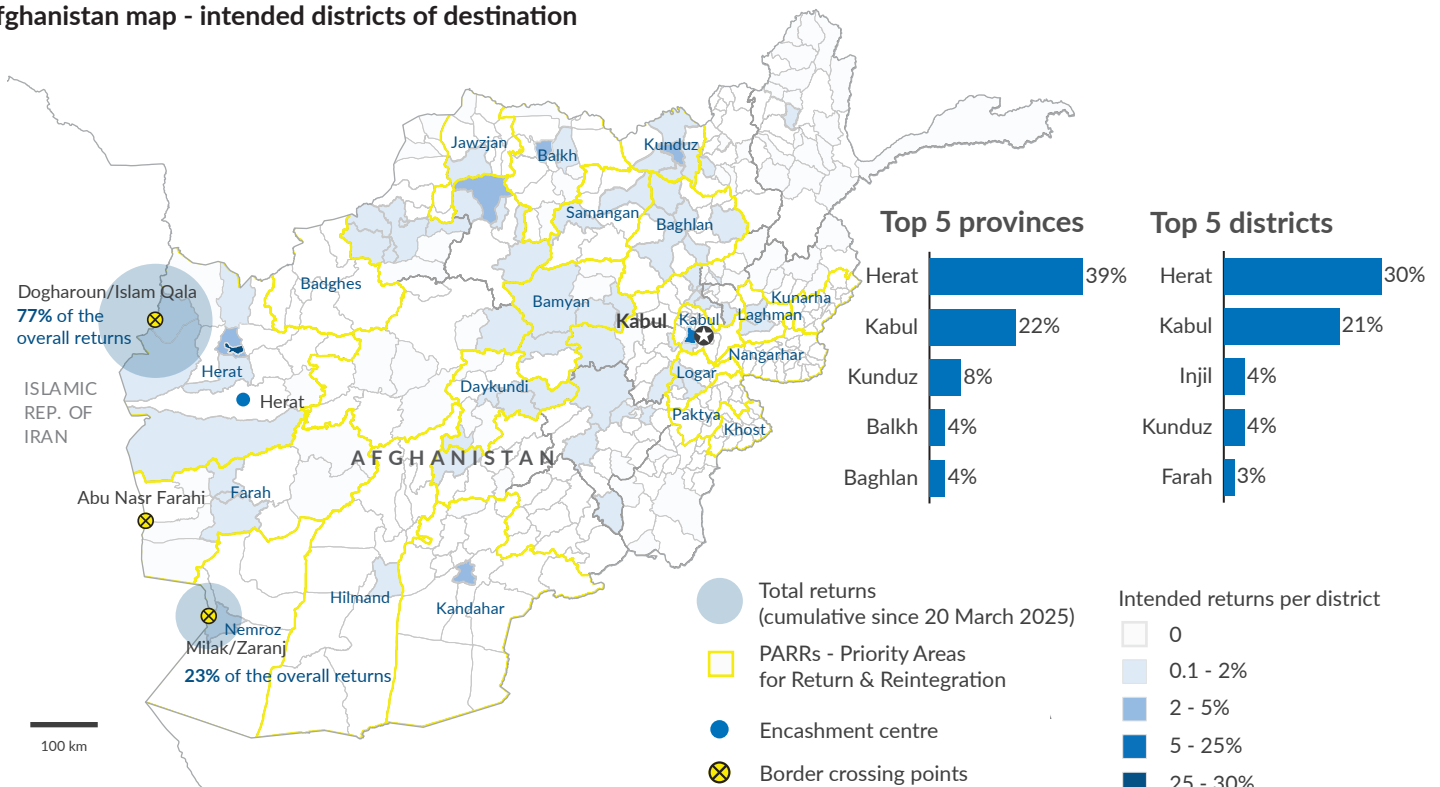
UNHCR and its partner, WADAN, are also working to install a rub hall at the IOM reception centre at the border in Zaranj. This space will serve as a shaded waiting area for returnees. In light of extreme temperatures—reaching up to 50–55°C—coolers will be installed to provide a safer and more comfortable environment.

71% of assisted are **women & children**
34% are **Female headed households**



Out of those assisted **2.8%** have disabilities

Afghanistan map - intended districts of destination



Border Protection Monitoring

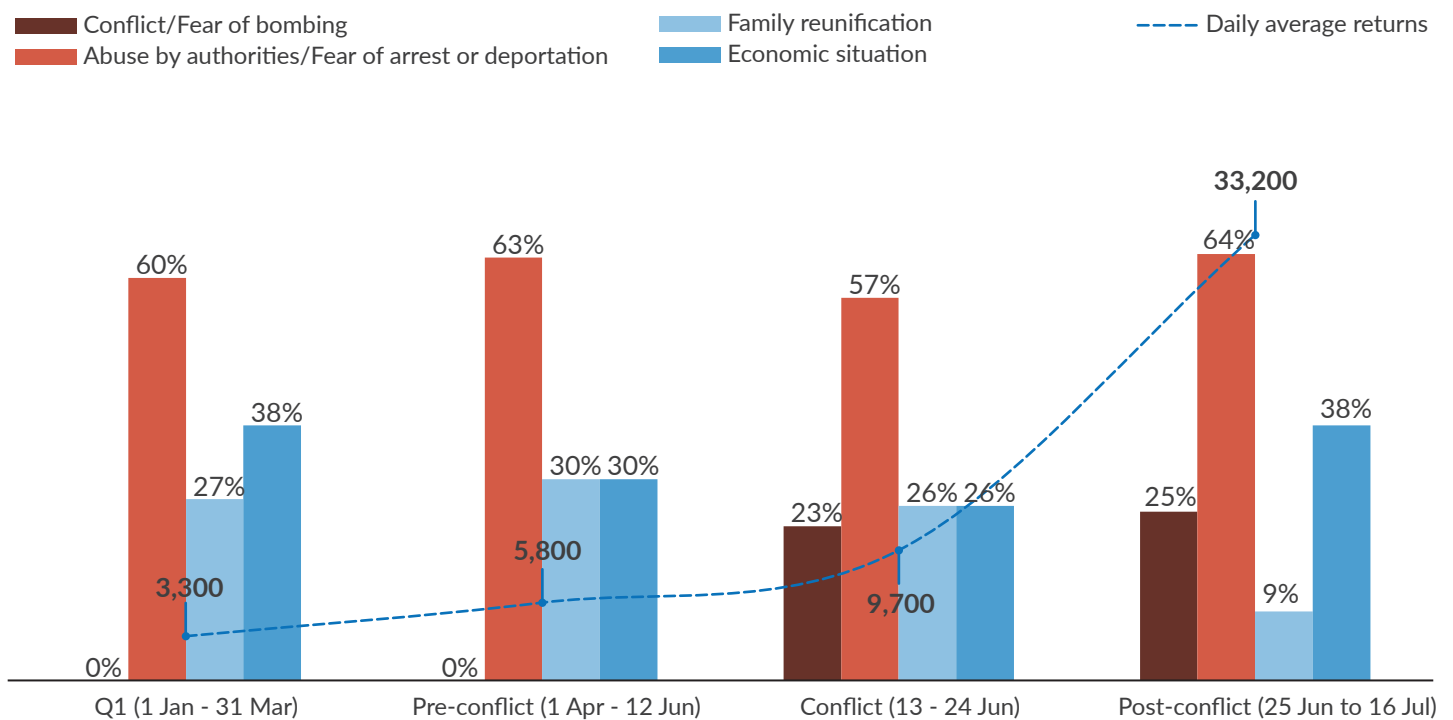
UNHCR and its border partners WADAN and CHA in Afghanistan have scaled up protection activities at the border (Islam Qala, Zaranj and Abo Nasr Farahi) with Iran. Daily presence consists of Border Protection Monitoring through interviews with returnees and deportees in order to identify protection concerns and risks, as well as their intended areas of return in Afghanistan. Help Desks have been set up to boost protection screening interviews, identification and referral of individuals to be assisted by UNHCR at the border and in the Encashment Centers. Since 13 June, deportations from Iran increased, also coinciding with a Government-announced 6 July deadline for holders of expired Headcount slips to exit Iran.

Returnees continue to report violations of fundamental human rights, including accounts of Iranian police entering rented premises at night and detaining Afghans, as well as reports of mistreatment in detention facilities.

At the Islam Qala border crossing, the DfA have mobilized private sector actors to provide transportation to Herat, along with meals and refreshments for returnees. However, critical gaps remain — particularly in onward transportation to final areas of return, as current options are primarily limited to routes from Islam Qala to Herat or Kabul.

Reasons for leaving Iran

Percentage of interviews reporting reasons | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



Top 3 Needs upon arrival

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



89% Food



75% Housing/Accommodation



73% Financial support

Top 3 Protection services requested in Afghanistan

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



62% Documentation / Legal assistance



43% Support with family reunification



20% Information on services and assistance