

The Documentation Renewal and Information Verification Exercise (DRIVE), a joint registration exercise carried out by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR, verified and updated the data of 1.28 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan and documented them with biometric Proof of Registration (PoR) smartcards.

INTRODUCTION

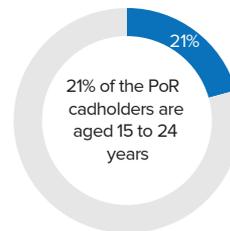
Youth, aged 15 to 24 years old, are in transition to adulthood and face unique risks and challenges that affect their development and wellbeing, which are further exacerbated by displacement where access to rights and opportunities are often limited. However, young people are resilient and possess the ability to adapt and play significant roles in bringing positive changes to their communities and societies. Empowering youth and engaging them in decisions that affect their lives will contribute to long-term benefits towards a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable future. This has direct linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals. Six of the Sustainable Development Goals including Education and Gender Equality have targets strongly focusing on youth, and over a third of the 169 SDG targets highlight the role of young people and the importance of their empowerment, participation and well-being. Youth empowerment is also an integral part of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and its Support Platform.

Youth data acquired from the DRIVE exercise provides detailed information about educational levels, occupations, and skillsets of youth as well as their return intention. The analysis shows general trends in these areas while highlighting gaps such as gender disparities in education. It provides opportunities for the government, donors, and other stakeholders to address gaps and to create enabling conditions for youth through funding, programming, and promoting their meaningful engagement to thrive and enhance their protection and solution prospects.

DEMOGRAPHICS 21% of refugees are youth

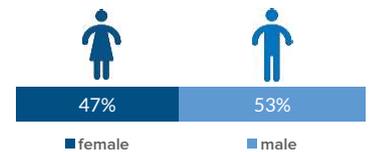
- A total of 308,626 families (or 1,282,963 individuals) were verified during DRIVE. 21% or 276,429 refugees are youth aged between 15 to 24 years old.
- Among the youth, 53% are male and 47% are female, while 26% are minors and 74% are adults.
- 99% of youth were born and raised in Pakistan; and are second generation children of PoR cardholders.
- Regardless of their area of residence, youth still make up an average of 20% of the PoR population residing in those provinces.

47% of youth are female



26% of youth are minors

Youth - Gender breakdown

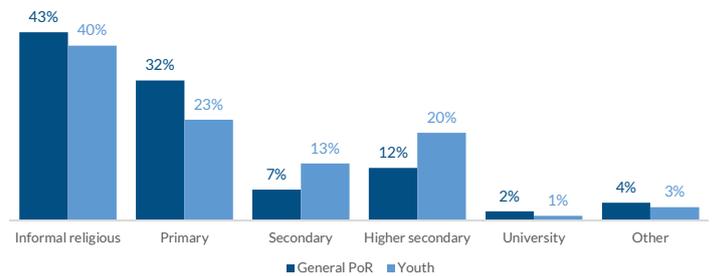


YOUTH EDUCATION LEVEL 49% of youth reported attaining education.

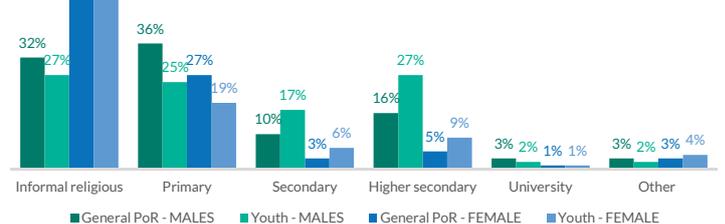
- 51% of youth reported having no education.
- More youth reported studying or having completed some level of education (49%) compared to the general PoR population (36%) above five years old.
- Of youth who reported having an education, 40% completed informal religious education, 23% completed primary education, 13% completed secondary education and 20% completed high secondary education as their highest level of education.
- Whereas the majority of the PoR population only attained informal religious education (43%) or primary school (32%) as their highest level of education, the youth attained a higher level of education – 13% at secondary level (compared to only 7% among the general population) and 20% at higher secondary level (compared to only 12% in the general population) as their highest level of education.
- Only 1% or 1,933 individual youth reported attaining university level.

Youth completed higher levels of education than general PoR population.

Youth Education level vs General PoR population (not including those with no education)



Youth Education level vs General PoR population (not including those with no education) Females and Males



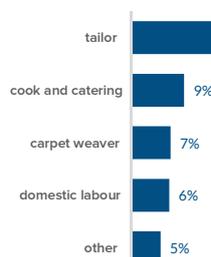
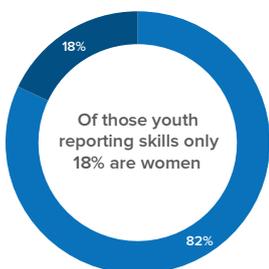
- The majority of female youth (similar to women and girls in general) still only attained their highest level of education in informal religious education (61%) and primary school (19%), compared to male youth who attained informal religious education (27%), and primary school (25%).
- A higher percentage of male and female youth attained a higher level of education compared to the general population – 27% of male youth attained higher secondary level compared to only 16% males in the general population; 9% of female youth attained higher secondary level compared to 5% females in the general population.

YOUTH SKILLS

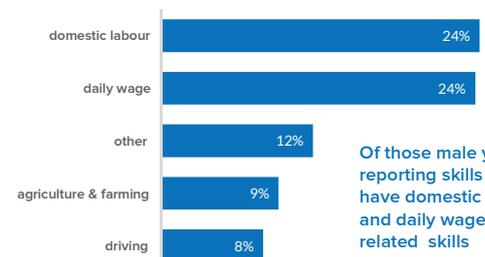
23% of youth reported skills

24% tailoring skill among female youth with skills

- 23% of total youth reported having skills, compared to 25% of total PoR population above five years old who reported having a skill.
- Among the youth who reported skills, 82% are male and 18% are female.
- The most commonly reported skills among male youth are domestic labour (24%), daily wage (24%), other (12%) and agriculture (9%).
- However, among female youth who reported a skill, the most commonly reported skills were tailoring (65%), cook and catering (9%) and carpet weaving (7%).



Of those female youth reporting skills 65% have tailoring skills



Of those male youth reporting skills 46% have domestic labour and daily wage related skills

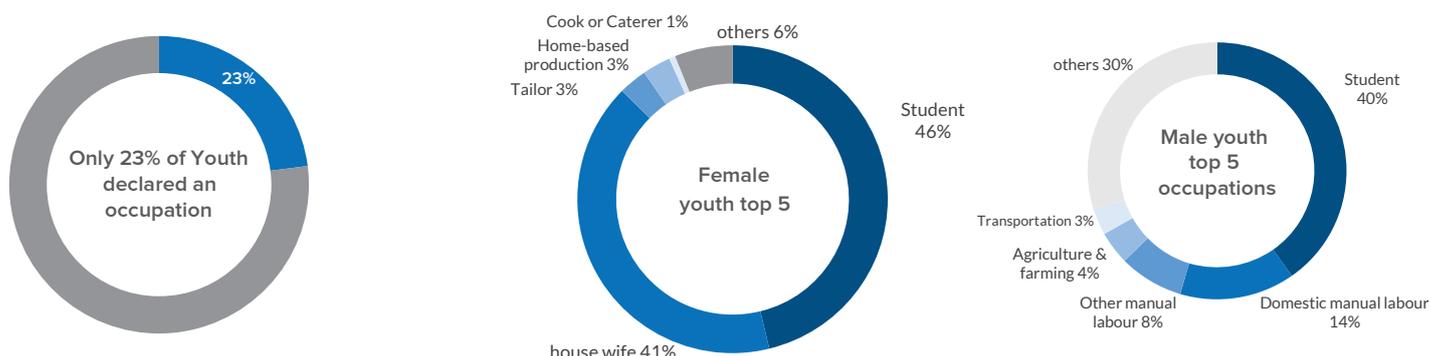
YOUTH OCCUPATION

23% of youth declared having an occupation.

24% of youth with occupation are minors.

10% of youth with occupation are female.

- Of the total youth, 47% did not report having an occupation, 21% reported they were students, 7% reported they were housewives.
- 23% of youth declared an actual occupation (**not including student or housewife**).
- Of youth having an occupation, 76% are above 18 years old and 24% are minors between 15 and 17 years old; while 90% are male and 10% are female.
- The majority of youth reported to have the following occupations: 23% domestic manual labour, 18% other, 12% other manual labour, 6% agriculture, farming, fisheries and livestock and 5% transportation or driver.
- Among female youth with occupation, 32% declared other, 23% tailoring, 23% home-based production, and 8% domestic manual labour.
- Among the youth, 349 are other qualified professionals, 225 are teaching professionals (10% of total population with this qualification are youth), 175 are finance and accounting professionals (24% of total population with this qualification are youth), 133 are medical professionals, 45 are engineering professionals, 17 are legal professionals, 16 are managers.
- Female youth make up 42% of the qualified teaching professionals among the youth with this qualification.



YOUTH INTENTION TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN

19% total refugees intend to return to Afghanistan.

20% of those who intend to return are youth.

26% of youth who intend to return have only informal religious education or no education.

30% of youth who intend to return declared an occupation.

- Of the total refugees verified or newly registered, 241,124 individuals or 19% indicated an intention to return to Afghanistan. Over 50,000 individuals are under five years old and their intention to return reflects that of their parent or caregiver.
- Of those who intend to return, 20% or 47,979 individuals are youth between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. 46% of youth who intend to return are female and 54% are male.
- No discernible difference in ages of youth who intend to return - there is no preference for return among adults or the minors.
- The largest number of refugees indicated their place of origin in Afghanistan was in Nangarhar province (17%), Kunduz province (14%), Kabul province (9%), Baghlan province (8%) and Logar province (8%). On average, 20% of refugees from those places of origin in Afghanistan are youth.
- Of the youth who intend to return, 28% have only informal religious education and 41% have no education. 493 individual youth have university education and intend to return.
- Of the youth who intend to return, 32% are students, of whom 39% are female.
- Of the youth who intend to return, 30% declared an occupation (not student or housewife) – 26% domestic manual labour, 12% daily wages and 10% agriculture and farming.
- 363 youth who intend to return have qualified professions, including finance and accounting professionals (98) and teaching professionals (60).

Top 10 Provinces of origin in Afghanistan

