UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | CORE

IRAN-AFGHANISTAN

Returns Emergency Response

as of 27 May 2025

Key figures

592,900
total returns[1]

328,300
55%

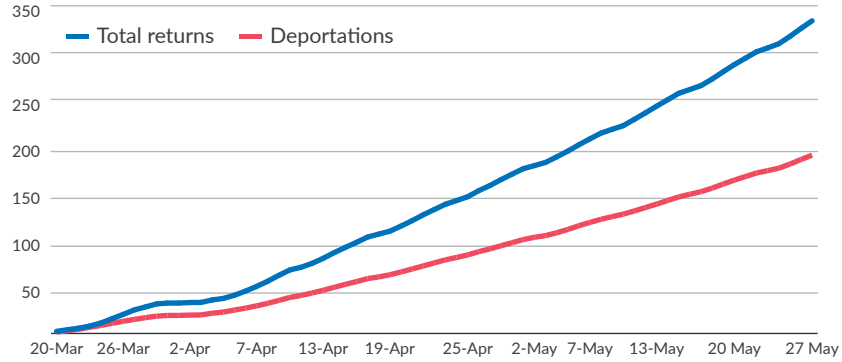
343,300
deportations

187,800
55%

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 1 January 2025 to 27 May 2025. While the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived from 20 March 2025 to 27 May 2025.

Total returns (cumulative since 20 March 2025)

Number of people in thousands

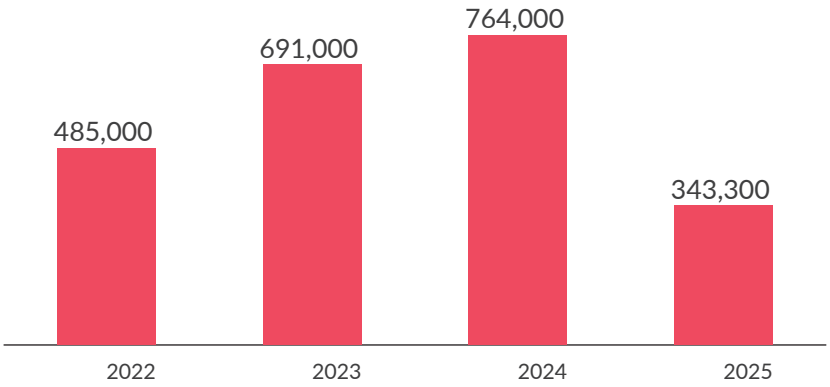


Context

Following the expiration of headcount slips on 20 March 2025, the Government of Iran introduced a regularization and return scheme to manage the status of over two million affected individuals. Headcount slip holders must undergo government assessments to determine whether they must leave the country or are allowed to remain. Some individuals qualify for exemptions, including those in mixed-status families comprising Amayesh members, as well as former Afghan government and military personnel, who are granted Temporary (Movaqqat) Cards that afford temporary stay rights and access to services like Amayesh card holders. The long-term validity of these cards remains subject to further government policy decisions. Most individuals, however, must leave Iran and may only return with a visa. UNHCR continues to raise its concerns that many Afghans, regardless of legal status, face protection risks upon return to Afghanistan in view of the human rights situation in the country, particularly those affecting women and girls.

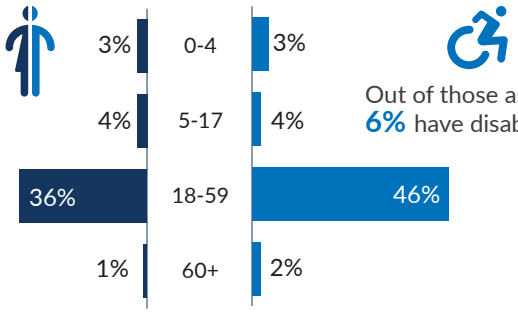
Since 20 March 2025 over 328,300 have returned.

Deportations (from 2022 up to 27 May 2025)



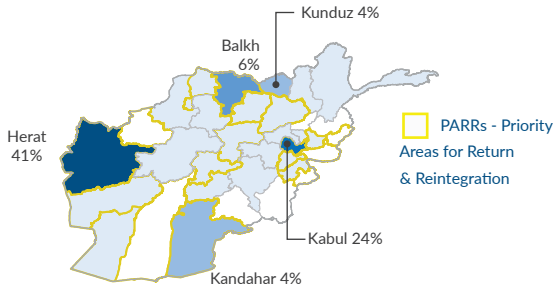
Returns assisted by UNHCR Afghanistan

51% of assisted are **women & children**
40% are **Female headed households**



Out of those assisted **6%** have disabilities

Top 5 provinces of intended destination



Situation map

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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

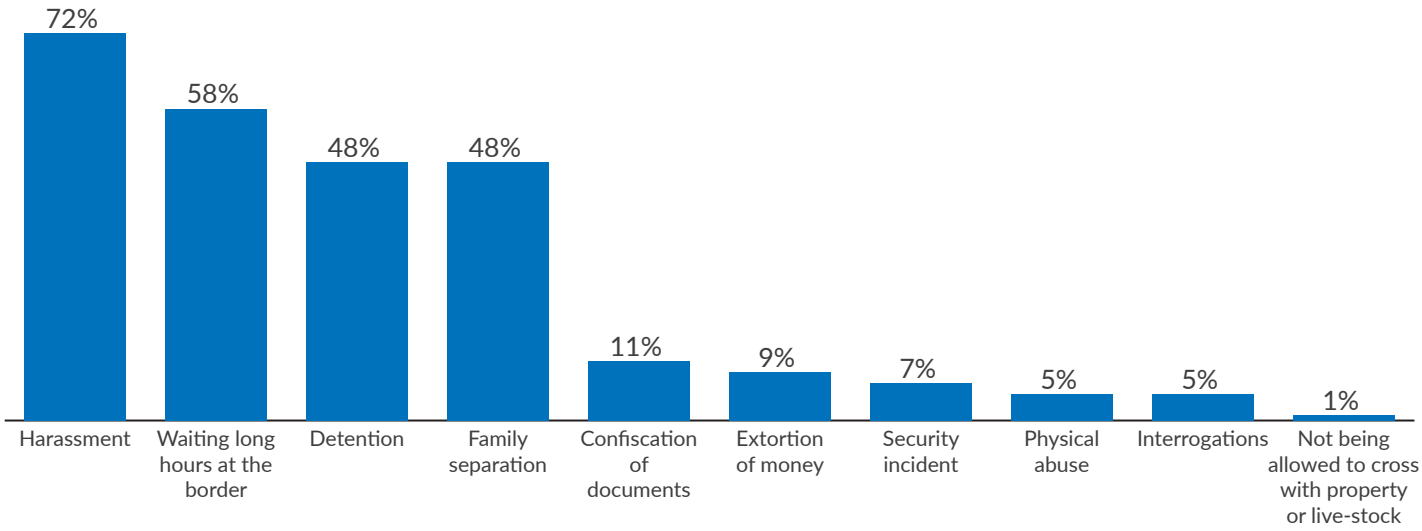
Sources: UNHCR, DoRR

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 in the Encashment Centers.

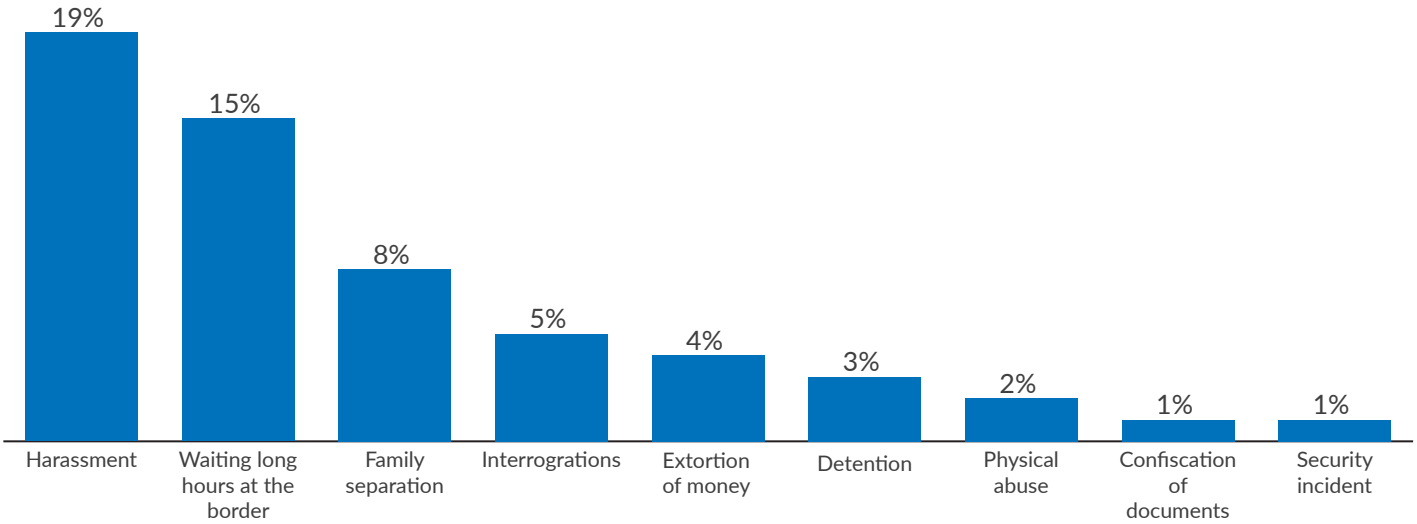
Top problems experienced in Iran prior to the cross-border movement

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



Problems experienced at the Iran border point

Percentage of interviews reporting problems | 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

77% Financial support

72% Water

Top 3 Protection services requested in Afghanistan

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

62% Documentation / Legal assistance

59% Support with family reunification

21% Information on services and assistance