

Key figures


1,684,500

 total returns¹

1,002,900

deportations

1,400,500

83%

60%

 of total returns are **deportations**

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 1 January 2025 to 23 July 2025. While the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived from 20 March 2025 to 23 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.

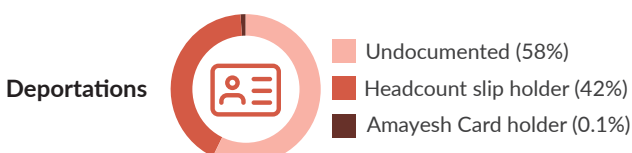
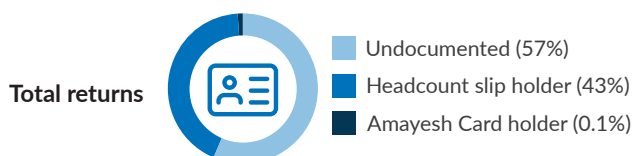
Daily returns increased sharply after 13 June, with further spikes observed after 25 June. However, the trend has shown a decline over the past two weeks. Between 17 and 23 July the average daily returns was 15,700 which is a 47% decrease from 29,600 in the previous week. Despite this drop, the current level remains significantly higher than the first quarter of 2025, when the daily average stood at approximately 3,500.

As of 23 July, some 1.4 million Afghans returned from Iran since 20 March 2025 and more than **1.68 million since the beginning of the year** bringing the total returns from both Iran and Pakistan to over 2.1 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.

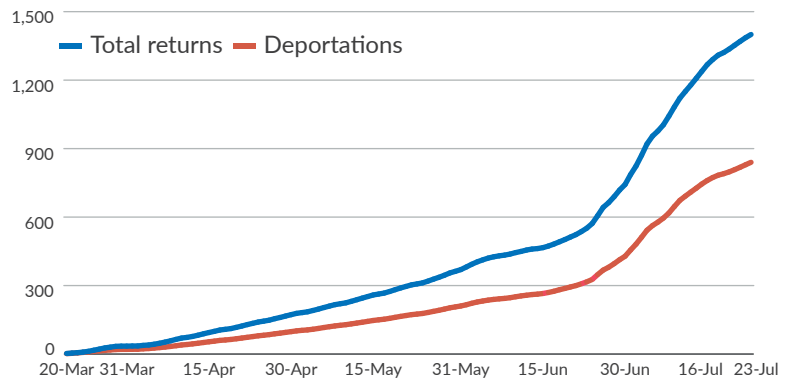
Returns by documentation status

From 17 to 23 July headcounted slip holders made up **59% of total returnees**—confirming the increasing trend observed since 13 June. A similar trend was observed in deportations, with **62% of total deportees being headcounted slip holders** during the same reporting period. Looking at the broader period since 20 March 2025, approximately 43% of total returnees and 42% of total deportees are headcount slip holders.



Total returns (cumulative since 20 March 2025)

Number of people in thousands

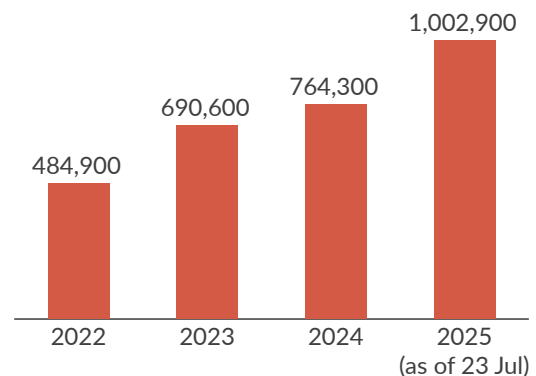


Deportations

In 2025, **1 million returns** – or 60% of the total – were deportations. Of these, over 580,200 Afghans were deported after 13 June.

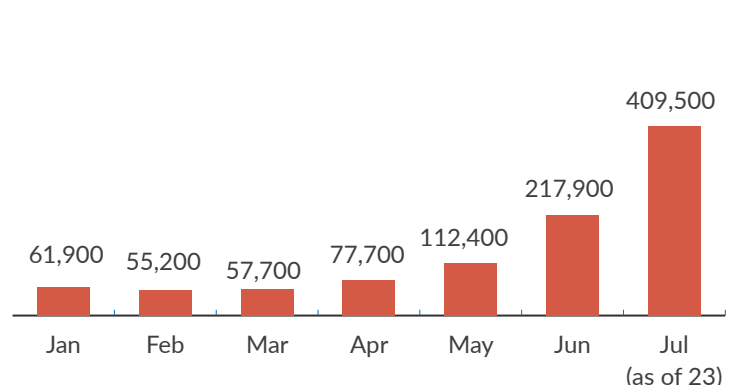
During the reporting period from 17 to 23 July, 64,400 individuals were deported, 82% of whom crossed through the Islam Qala border point and 18% through Zaranji. The proportion of deportees decreased to 59%, compared to 61% in the previous week and 64% in the first week of July.

Yearly deportations



Monthly deportations in 2025

In the first 23 days of July, 409,500 Afghans were deported – almost double compared to the entire month of June, which previously 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. In the reporting period, 17 to 23 July, 77% of returnees were travelling as families.



67% have returned as **families**



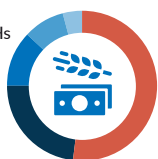
- Tajik (50%)
- Pashtoon (23%)
- Hazara (13%)
- Uzbek (10%)
- Others (4%)

Education levels
refers to HoHs



- No education (66%)
- Primary school (Grades 1 - 6) (11%)
- Secondary school (Grades 7 - 14) (20%)
- University degree (2%)
- Madrassa (1%)

Occupational skills
refers to HoHs



- No skills (52%)
- Unskilled daily wage labour (23%)
- Masonry (12%)
- 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 in Islam Qala. **From 27 June to 23 July, 17,800 returning households covering 124,500 Afghan returnees were supported with Core Relief Items (CRIs) and 70,200 received hot meals.** Distribution of CRIs resumed at Islam Qala on 19 July, following the arrival of additional supplies.

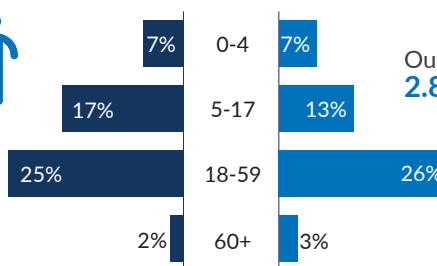
UNHCR continues to scale up its response capacity at the Zaranj/Milak border crossing. As of 21 July, UNHCR and its implementing partners have installed two rub halls at the IOM Reception Centre to serve as waiting areas for returnees. Additionally, 12 coolers have been provided to help mitigate the effects of extreme summer heat.

To support onward movement and ease congestion, **over 17,500 returnees were assisted with transportation from Islam Qala and Zaranj to main provinces of return.**

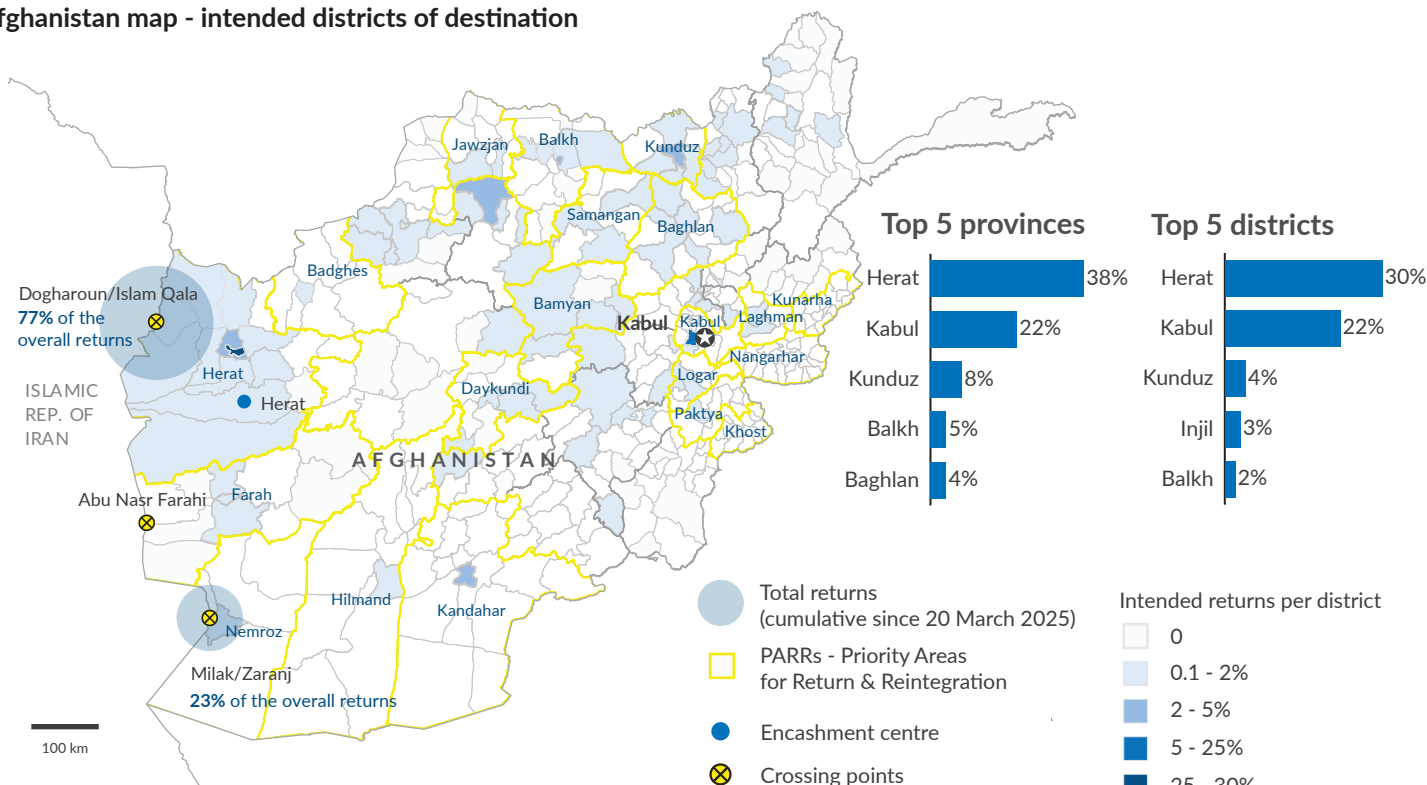
71% of assisted are **women & children**
34% are **Female headed households**



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



Afghanistan map - intended districts of destination



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

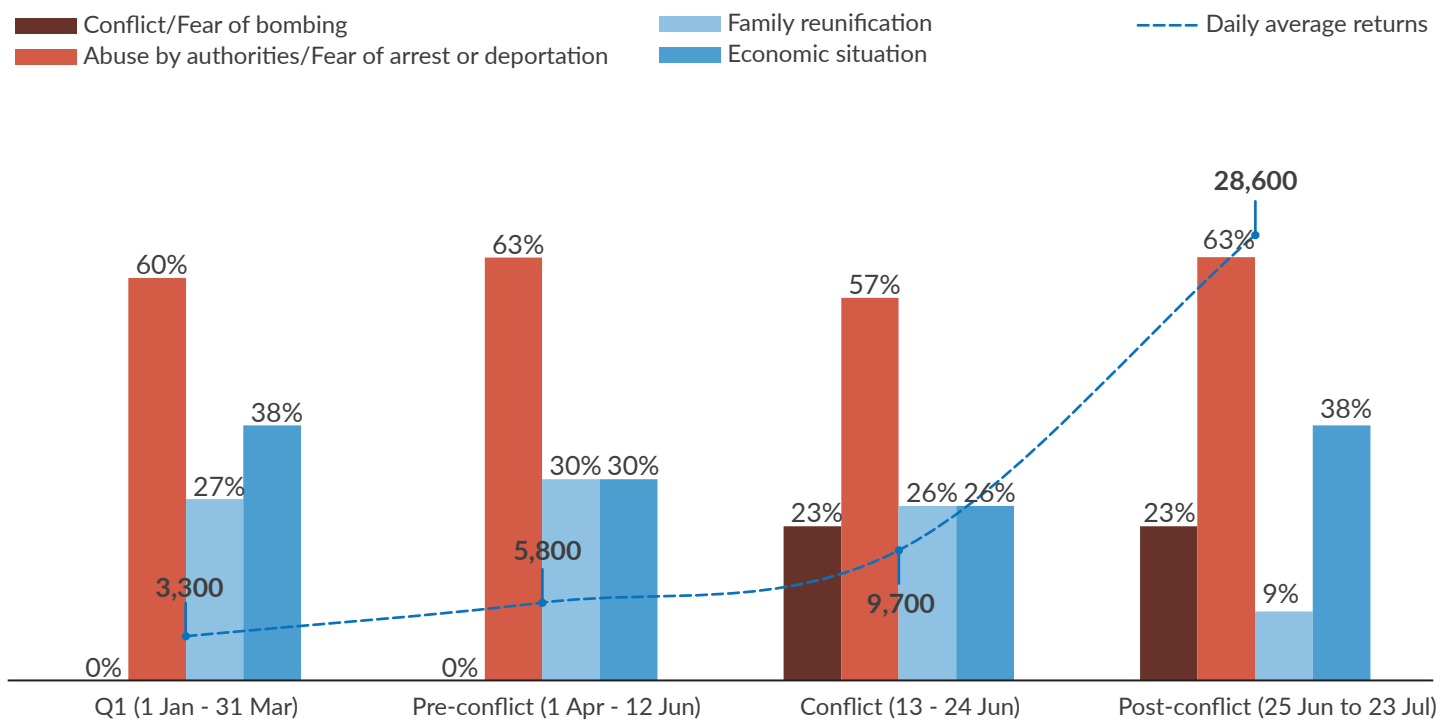
Border Protection Monitoring

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.

Border monitoring in Afghanistan continues to reveal significant protection challenges faced by Afghan returnees while in Iran, including difficulties in obtaining essential services and instances of discrimination. Many struggle to secure SIM cards and banking services, limiting their ability to communicate and meet everyday needs. Returnees reported increased anti-Afghan sentiments, including unfair treatment and suspicion, with foreign nationals barred from residing in certain sensitive areas. NGOs in Iran also face restrictions on providing medical assistance to undocumented Afghans, heightening vulnerabilities. As a result, more Amayesh card holders are turning to UNHCR in Iran to request resettlement or financial support, often citing discrimination and hardship. Headcount slip holders continue to constitute the majority of those seeking assistance.

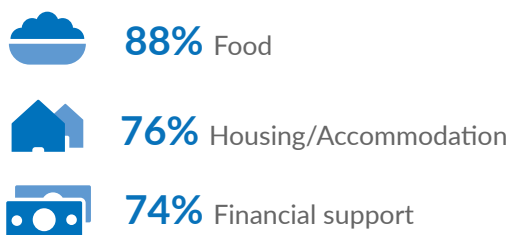
Reasons for leaving Iran

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%



Top 3 Protection services requested in Afghanistan

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

