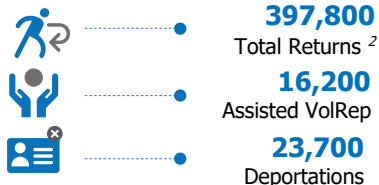


Key Figures (from 15 Sept to date)



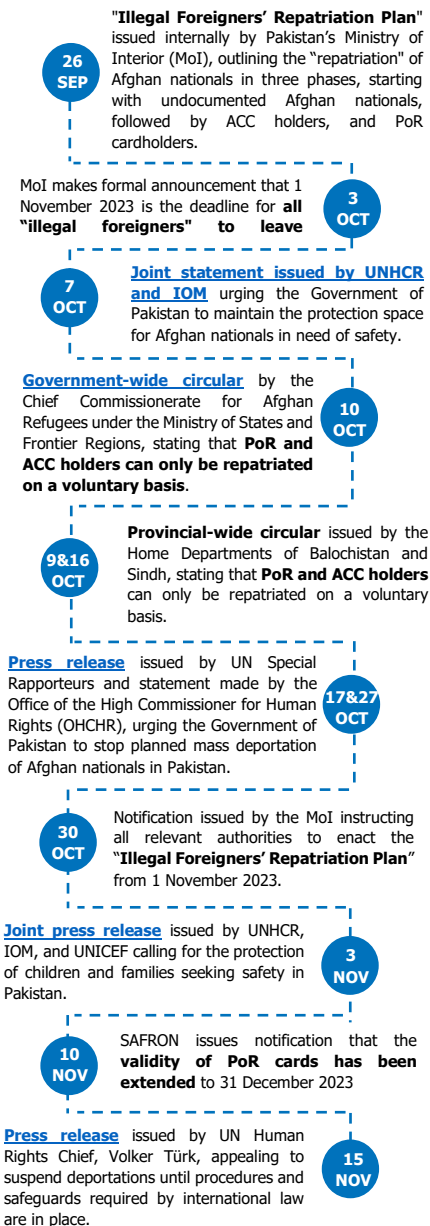
UNHCR Funding Requirements

\$43.48M for Afghanistan from November 2023 to July 2024

\$8.43M for Pakistan from November to December 2023

The quoted figures are currently under revision.

Timeline of Key Events



Background

On 3 October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to repatriate "illegal foreigners".¹ In view of the ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns for Afghans, particularly for women and girls, UNHCR and IOM issued a [joint statement](#) urging Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghans in need of safety. This was followed by a [joint statement](#) by UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF which appealed for the protection of children and families seeking safety in Pakistan. On 10 November, UNHCR declared an internal Level 2 emergency for Pakistan and Afghanistan for six months to scale up the humanitarian response in light of the rapidly evolving situation.

Since October, there has been an increase in daily border crossings by Afghans from Pakistan to Afghanistan. People arriving at the borders are exhausted and require urgent assistance, as well as psychosocial support. Interviews with returnees indicate the rate of arrest of Afghan nationals in Pakistan has increased significantly, with undocumented Afghans most severely affected. Arrivals back to Afghanistan are also adding to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, as winter temperatures start to dip to -4°C in some locations. Many Afghan returnees are vulnerable, including women and children who could lose their lives in a harsh winter if left without adequate shelter.

1.3 million undocumented Afghans are estimated to reside in Pakistan. Approximately 720,000 undocumented individuals and 50,000 assisted voluntary repatriations (Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders) are expected to require support at border points from now through July 2024. The sudden surge in returns in recent weeks is putting pressure on already strained resources, including shelter and basic services. Additional support is urgently required. UNHCR and partners in Pakistan and Afghanistan are currently working together to ensure a harmonized and coordinated cross-border response to this new emergency. To support these efforts, an inter-agency [Border Consortium Appeal](#) was launched on 8 November. In addition, UNHCR and partners are also stepping up their presence in and around Torkham and Chaman border crossing points and accelerating efforts to ensure protection-sensitive mechanisms are in place via regular border monitoring visits and protection screenings to identify and assist people with heightened vulnerabilities and needs.

UNHCR maintains a [non-return advisory](#) for Afghanistan, which has been in place since August 2021, and continues to call for a bar on forced returns of Afghan nationals to a country still impacted by recurrent conflict, instability and climate-induced disasters. UNHCR continues to appeal to the Government of Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghan nationals in need of safety and that any returns must be voluntary, safe and dignified with full respect for rights and protection of those in need.

Key Highlights

The flow of returnees entering **Afghanistan** from **Pakistan** via Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings continued to decline over the last week, signifying a notable reduction in cross-border movements compared to the beginning of the month. This is in part due to recent protests by truck drivers who blocked a major border artery with Afghanistan following Pakistan's decision to halt document-free travel between the two border crossings.

¹ The Government of Pakistan has subsequently announced that Afghan Citizen Cardholders and Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders are exempted. The validity of PoR cards was retroactively extended to the end of the year.

² An umbrella term that includes all returns including deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as PoR cardholders, ACC holders, and the undocumented.



UNHCR steps up its presence at official border crossings as tens of thousands of Afghans arrive from Pakistan
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As of 21 November, Pakistan no longer permits Afghans to enter the country without valid passports and visas, ending the use of national identity cards or driver's licenses.

- While the number of returnees crossing Pakistan to Afghanistan via the Torkham and Spin Boldak border has declined, deportation figures from **Pakistan** have increased with an average of 875 per day in the past week (up from an average of 351 per day in the first week of November). Police operations against Afghans continue to persist and have intensified in some locations, with continued reports of evictions and arrests of both documented and undocumented individuals, including holders of PoR cards, Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) and reception slips. In 2023, [21,608 Afghan nationals](#) have been arrested thus far, a figure exceeding any previous year since data collection on the arrest and detention of Afghan nationals began. Advocacy with authorities at all levels is ongoing. In tandem, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Advice and Legal Aid Center, is continuing to bolster legal assistance in Pakistan via the recruitment of an additional 70 lawyers and paralegals although access to detainees remains challenging in some locations.
- In **Pakistan**, UNHCR voiced its concern regarding the increase in arrests, detentions and deportations of Afghans in Pakistan in a [press statement](#) on 21 November. UNHCR continues to call for a humanitarian pause to the government's repatriation plan for at least the winter months. UNHCR also reiterated its offer of support to the government to put in place a screening mechanism to identify individuals in need of international protection.
- In **Afghanistan**, the first inter-agency protection meeting was held in Jalalabad, with IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, DRC, and OCHA in attendance. The meeting sought to enhance coordination and develop response strategies to the evolving situation at the border. Several issues were discussed, including strengthening the priority lane for high-risk referrals, implementing a protection system at Zero Points, engaging more female staff, and redoubling resource mobilization efforts. UNHCR also introduced its new enrollment tool anchored on biometric enrollment currently being utilized in Encashment Centres. Agencies agreed to meet weekly and extend the invitation to other stakeholders to promote a harmonized response.
- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR national female staff carried out protection interviews at the Spin Boldak Reception Center for the second day running after UNHCR established a Help Desk that also serves as a special Protection Desk.
- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR Assistant Representative (Protection) visited the Spin Boldak border crossing point on 22 November to monitor return activities. During the visit, the Assistant Representative (Protection) met with several partners, including NRC, DRC, and HealthNet TPO, to see how to bolster the protection response and resolve any emerging challenges.

- In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR continued to enrol and provide cash assistance to PoR card holders, UNHCR slip holders, their nuclear family members (with or without documentation) and other Protection referrals. In 2023, over 40,000 individuals have been provided with cash assistance, including some 33,000 PoR cardholders and their nuclear family members (with or without documentation). Of this figure, over 12,000 individuals aged five years old and above were biometrically processed.
- **More funding** is urgently needed to bolster UNHCR's and the inter-agency response to this new and unfolding emergency, with significant resource requirements identified in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Needs are continuing to rise due to a confluence of insecurity, instability, and environmental disasters as well as economic and geopolitical crosswinds. To support the response, UNHCR's ask under the inter-agency appeal is \$43.48 million for Afghanistan from November 2023 to July 2024 and \$8.43 million for Pakistan from November to December 2023. These figures are currently under revision in light of developments.