

UNHCR-IOM FLASH UPDATE #7

ARREST AND DETENTION FLOW MONITORING (15 September – 25 November 2023)

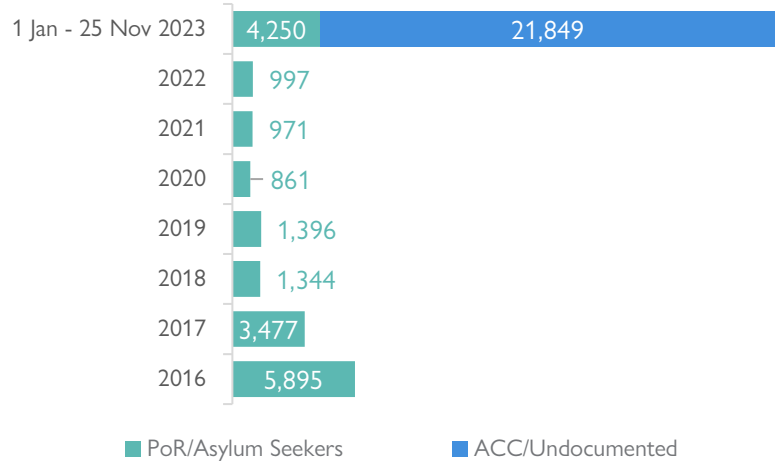
INTRODUCTION

In response to the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) decision of 26 September 2023 to enact an "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan", UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and IOM, the UN Migration Agency, have collated their data on the arrest, detention, and deportation of Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghan nationals as well as on the outflows of Afghan nationals at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing point, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

CHRONOLOGY

- 26 September 2023**
"Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan" issued internally by MoI, outlining the "repatriation" of Afghan nationals in three phases, starting with undocumented Afghan nationals, followed by ACC holders, and PoR holders.
- 3 October 2023**
Formal announcement by MoI of the deadline of 1 November 2023 for all "illegal foreigners" to leave Pakistan.
- 7 October 2023**
[Joint statement](#) issued by UNHCR and IOM urging the Government of Pakistan to maintain the protection space for Afghan nationals in need of safety.
- 10 October 2023**
[Government-wide circular](#) issued by the Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) under the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), stating that PoR and ACC holders can only be repatriated on a voluntary basis.
- 17 and 27 October 2023**
[Press release](#) issued by UN Special Rapporteurs, urging the Government of Pakistan to stop planned mass deportation.
- 30 October 2023**
Notification issued by the MoI instructing all relevant authorities to enact the "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan" as of 1 November 2023.
- 3 November 2023**
[Joint press release](#) issued by UNHCR, IOM, and UNICEF calling for the protection of Afghans seeking safety in Pakistan.
- 10 November 2023**
Notification issued by SAFRON that the validity of PoR cards is extended to 31 December 2023.
- 15 November 2023**
[Press release](#) issued by UN Human Rights Chief, Volker Türk, appealing to suspend deportations until procedures and safeguards required by international law are in place.

ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 October – 25 November 2023)

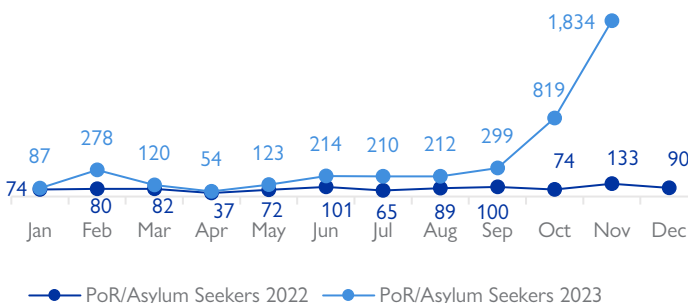


KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

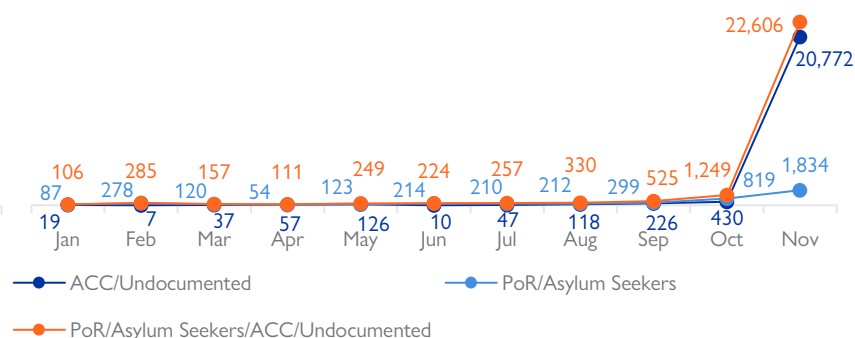
It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data, which should be considered indicative at this point. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghan nationals, should be considered underreported.

- Over the last week, there has been a decrease in the number of reported arrests, in comparison to the week before. The total number of PoR holders arrested is 44 individuals during the reporting period.
- Thus far in 2023, 26,099 Afghan nationals have been arrested, a figure exceeding any previous year since data has been collected on arrest and detention.
- In comparing the rate of arrest and detention of PoR holders, as collected by UNHCR, for the months of November 2022 and November 2023, the rate has increased by thirteen-fold.
- During the reporting period, the rate of arrest reported has been highest in the province of Balochistan. However, it is important to nuance this figure by noting that Afghan nationals may be recorded as being arrested in Balochistan while having come from Karachi.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to receive reports of forcible eviction, extortion, and harassment.

MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2022 – 2023 (PoR HOLDERS)



MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2023





ARREST AND DETENTION | FLOW MONITORING (15 September – 25 November 2023)



IOM enumerator collecting flow monitoring data at Chaman border. [IOM Pakistan 2023]

KEY FINDINGS

- During the past seven days, UNHCR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 39,157 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman and Badini (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.
- Cumulatively, from 15 September to 25 November 2023, 413,745 individuals have returned.
- The overall return flows have decreased by 19 per cent compared to last week (Flash Update #6).
- The number of deportations remains high but fluctuate significantly from day to day.
- Most of the returnees were undocumented Afghans (96%), followed by ACC holders (2%) and PoR holders (2%).
- Fear of arrest (91%) remains the most common reason to return to Afghanistan among returnees.
- Returnees were most likely to return from Balochistan (35%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Kandahar (28%), Nangarhar (28%) and Kabul (16%) in Afghanistan.

413,745 (100%)
TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNS

378,589 (92%)
TOTAL RETURNEEES

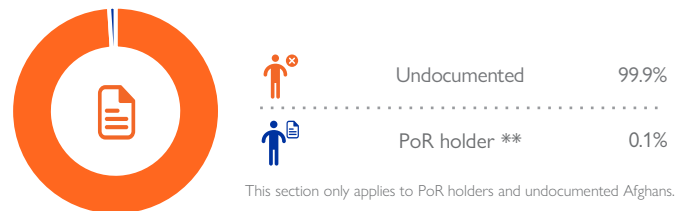
10,623 (2%)*
TOTAL FACILITATED PoR RETURNEEES

24,533 (6%)
TOTAL DEPORTATIONS

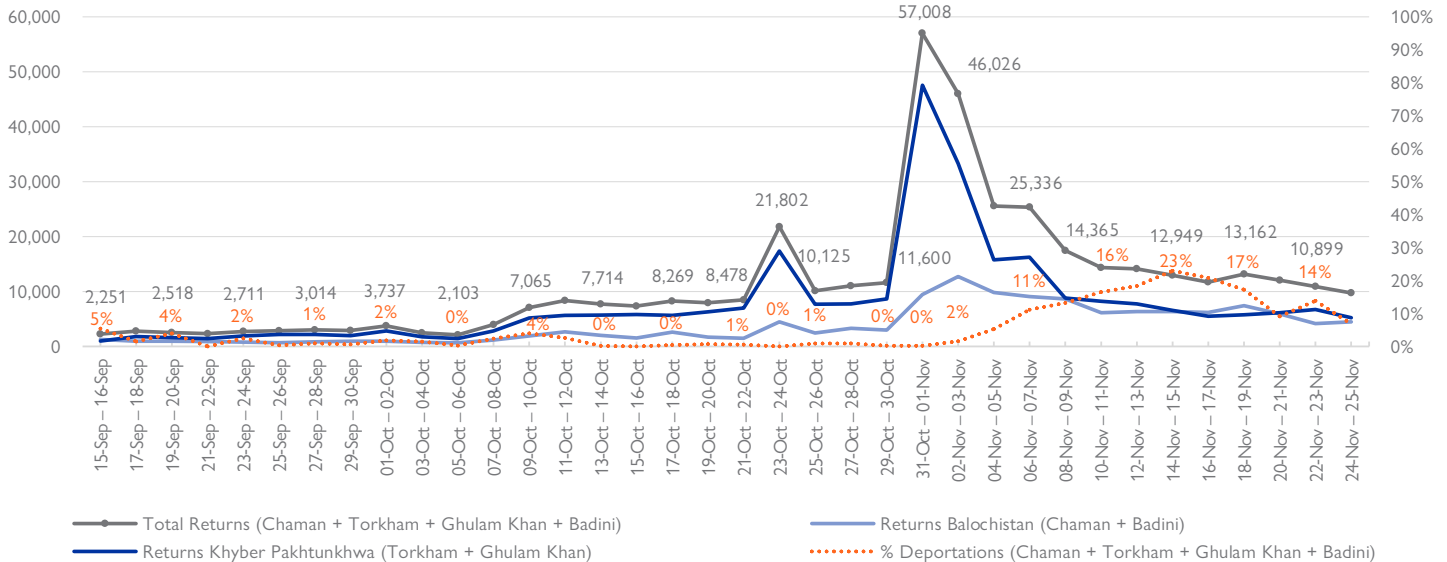
DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION – TOTAL DEPORTEES

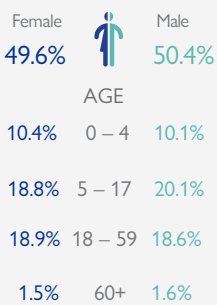


TOTAL RETURNS AND % DEPORTATIONS | 15 SEPTEMBER – 25 NOVEMBER 2023



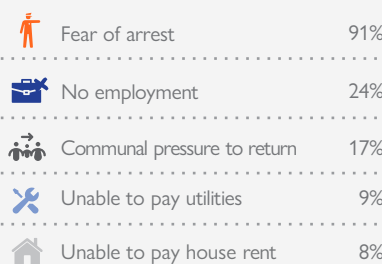
This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

AGE AND GENDER



PUSH FACTORS (TOP 5)

(Multiple answers, N = 15,505, can exceed 100%)



ORIGIN AND INTENDED DESTINATION (TOP 5, BY PROVINCE)

PROVINCE OF ORIGIN		PROVINCE OF DESTINATION	
1. Balochistan	35%	1. Kandahar	28%
2. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	28%	2. Nangarhar	28%
3. Punjab	23%	3. Kabul	16%
4. Sindh	11%	4. Kunduz	5%
5. Islamabad Capital Territory	4%	5. Kunar	4%