

PAKISTAN:

FLOW MONITORING OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN MIGRANTS COMPARISON REPORT 2018/2019

REGIONAL EVIDENCE FOR MIGRATION POLICY AND ANALYSIS (REMAP)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)



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DTM
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TRACKING MATRIX

**Australian
Aid** 

The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building
3 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand
Email: ROBangkok@iom.int

Country Office Pakistan

Plot 4C, G5 Markaz, Diplomatic enclave, Islamabad
Pakistan
Email: iomislamabad@iom.int
Website: <https://www.iom.int/countries/pakistan>



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For further information:

DTM REMAP Support Team
Email: dtmremap@iom.int

DTM Pakistan
Email: DTMPakistan@iom.int

Disclaimer

This report was produced with the financial assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government and the European Union (EU). This report is part of the outputs under the EU-funded project "Regional Evidence for Migration Analysis and Policy (REMAP)". The objective of DTM REMAP is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation of humanitarian and development policy and programming on migration and forced displacement in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Pakistan through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this report can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of IOM, its Member States, the Australian Government, European Union or other donors. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

Concepts and Definitions

Afghan Citizen Card (ACC): Registration cards issued to undocumented Afghan individuals living in Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan during a 2017-18 documentation exercise. ACC holders are required to return to Afghanistan and can only return to Pakistan after receiving a Pakistani visa in an Afghan Passport.

Afghan Citizen Card Token: Receipt issued to undocumented Afghans who come to the documentation centers to register for an Afghan Citizen Card. This receipt acts as proof that the holder has completed the documentation process and can use the receipt to receive their card at a later date.

Children: Individuals below 18 years of age.

Family: A group of people travelling together (either related or not) who habitually live under the same roof and have luggage with them during the return journey.

Proof of Registration (POR): Identification cards issued by the Pakistani National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. POR card holders are legally recognized as registered refugees by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR.

Returnee: Individuals returning to their place of origin.

Tazkira: Afghan National Identification Card.

Undocumented Individual: Individual of Afghan origin who falls into one of the following categories: 1) Individuals with no valid documents (POR, ACC, or visa), 2) Individuals with Tazkira (Afghan ID card) but no documentation from the Government of Pakistan, 3) Individuals with a Proof of Registration Card that has expired before 2015 and 4) Individuals with no passport or with a passport with an expired or no visa.

Vulnerable Individual: Elderly (60 years or above), disabled, chronically ill, widows, pregnant women, drug addicts, unaccompanied minors and females and female headed families.

NOTE: When the label “Multiple answers possible” appears above a graph or when a dagger symbol (†) appears in the text, it means that a single respondent was allowed to provide more than one answer. For this reason, totals do not add up to 100%.

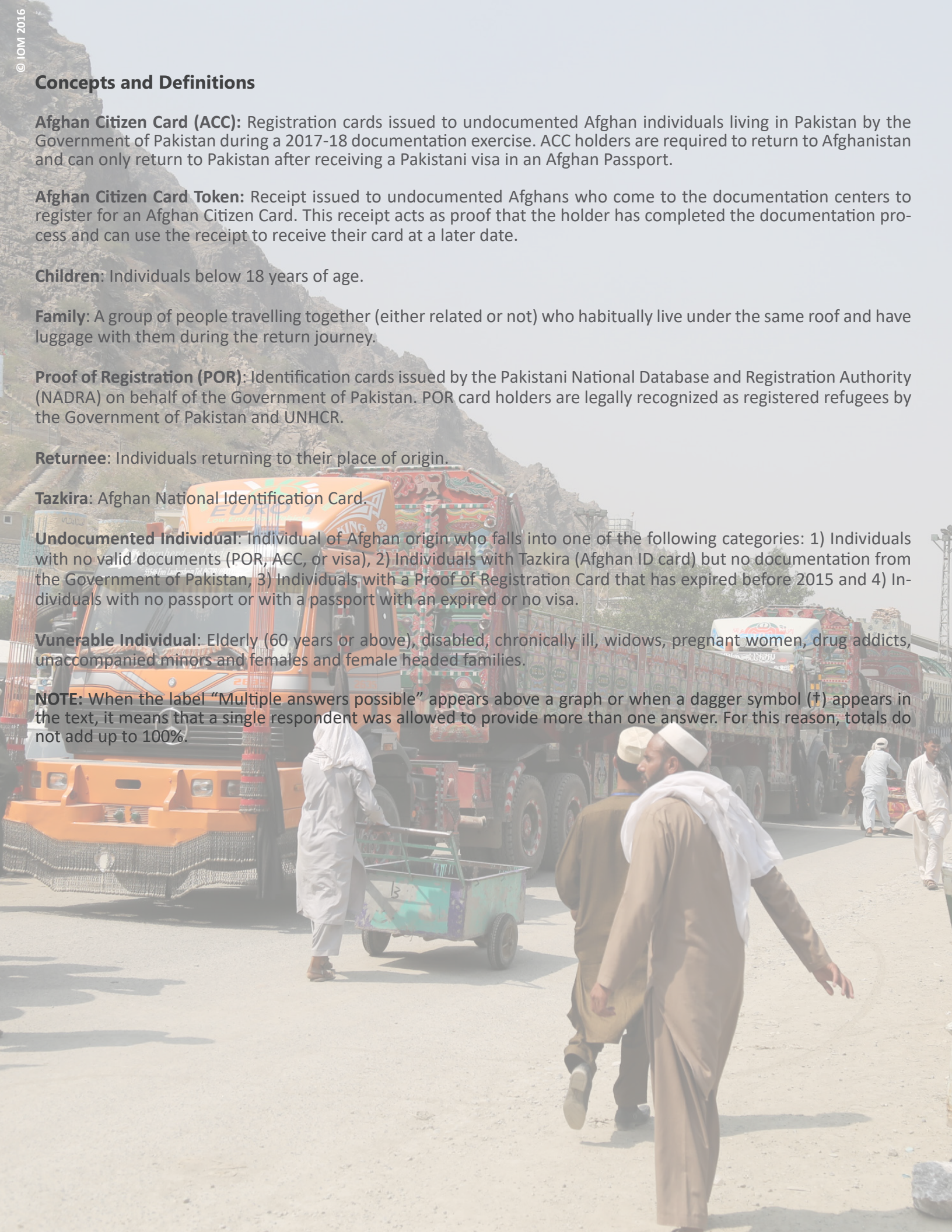


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I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades millions of undocumented Afghan nationals have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan due to a diverse set of push factors. Many of those returning have lived outside Afghanistan for decades, and some were born in Pakistan. This population will need support from the Afghan government and humanitarian actors, both on arrival, and as they seek to reintegrate into a country faced with widespread conflict, displacement and scarce economic opportunities. IOM collects information on the volume, profiles and vulnerabilities of documented and undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan at two official border points between the two countries.

This information is collected as part of the Flow Monitoring (FM) component of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which has been implemented in Pakistan since 2017. More specifically, FM tracks flows of migrant groups and individuals as they cross two transit locations, the Torkham and Chaman/Spin Boldak (further referred to in this report as “Chaman”) border crossings. At these locations, information on the numbers, socio-economic profiles and vulnerabilities of undocumented Afghans and Afghan Citizen Card holding returnees is collected, analyzed and disseminated bi-weekly.

This report aims to contribute to a better understanding of return movements of undocumented Afghan returnees by conducting more in-depth analysis on the data that was collected in 2018 and 2019 at the Torkham and Chaman border crossings. The data, which is collected at regular intervals, gives us the unique opportunity to compare information across the two years to uncover specific trends with regard to the volume of flows, profiles and vulnerabilities of undocumented Afghan returnees.

The report is divided into two main sections. The first section starts with a clarification of the methodology and includes the research method, sampling information and limitations. The second section presents the findings of the data and includes cross comparisons and tabulations from the previous two years. The findings are further subdivided into six sections. The first section displays the demographics and socio-economic profiles of the undocumented Afghan returnees. This is followed by a section on the specific documentation status of the returnees. The third section explores the main reasons to return to Afghanistan, both in terms of push factors (the reasons to leave Pakistan) and pull factors (the reasons to return to Afghanistan). Next, the travel conditions are examined, followed by an exploration of the type of settlement that Afghan nationals were living

in in Pakistan and what type of settlement they expect to live in in Afghanistan as well as their settlement priorities in Afghanistan. Finally, the last section will look into the most important areas of origin (Pakistan) and destination (Afghanistan).

II. KEY FINDINGS

A careful analysis and comparison of the data that was collected between 2018 and 2019 at the two border crossings made it possible to infer some key findings.

The comparison of the data indicated that most of the information on flows, profiles and vulnerabilities of undocumented Afghan returnees remained largely the same over the past two years. There were no significant differences between data collected in 2018 and 2019. However, one finding of note was that the number of return movements of Afghan nationals was significantly lower in 2019 (17,286) than in 2018 (30,413). A decline of no less than 43 per cent between the two years.

Return levels in 2018 and 2019 were significantly different from the 2015-2017 period, the large increase in returns from Pakistan between 2015-2017 can be attributed to a variety of push and pull factors that led to a sudden surge in returns during that time period.

1. METHODOLOGY

1.1 Research and Sampling Method

The comparison report is based on data collected in 2018 and 2019 through the Flow monitoring (FM) methodology. FM is a component of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which was developed to track the flows of groups and individuals through key points of origin, transit and destination. The purpose of Flow Monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale of population flows and profiles of mobile populations (documented and undocumented Afghan migrants) through specific locations. The information and analysis provided through the flow monitoring methodology also helps to identify gaps and priorities in the provision of assistance along migration routes and upon destination.

The FM exercise in Pakistan provides key insights into the overall return migration trends of Afghan migrants, as well as an overview of the situation of Afghan returnees and their mobility patterns, exploring routes, vulnerabilities and demographic and social characteristics.

DTM experts in the field identify strategic locations for the establishment of monitoring locations/points where data collection will take place. IOM's DTM team in Pakistan identified two key transit locations: Torkham and Chaman. DTM teams collect and analyse data at the selected official border crossings through bi-weekly rounds of assessment to map information on Afghan returnees.

Border monitor teams of DTM in Pakistan conducted Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) with undocumented Afghan returnees at the abovementioned border crossing points (Chaman and Torkham). These surveys collect information on the number, demographic breakdown, vulnerabilities, migration intentions, reasons for migration and nationality of migrants at a given location.

In 2018, the DTM identified 30,413 undocumented Afghan returnees at the two border crossings. This number declined heavily in 2019 to 17,286 returnees. However, for this study, only the heads of the family are interviewed. As a consequence, the number of interviews conducted by the enumerators are significantly lower than the number of returnees that were captured by DTM. In 2018, enumerators interviewed 6,969 respondents compared to 6,985 respondents in 2019.

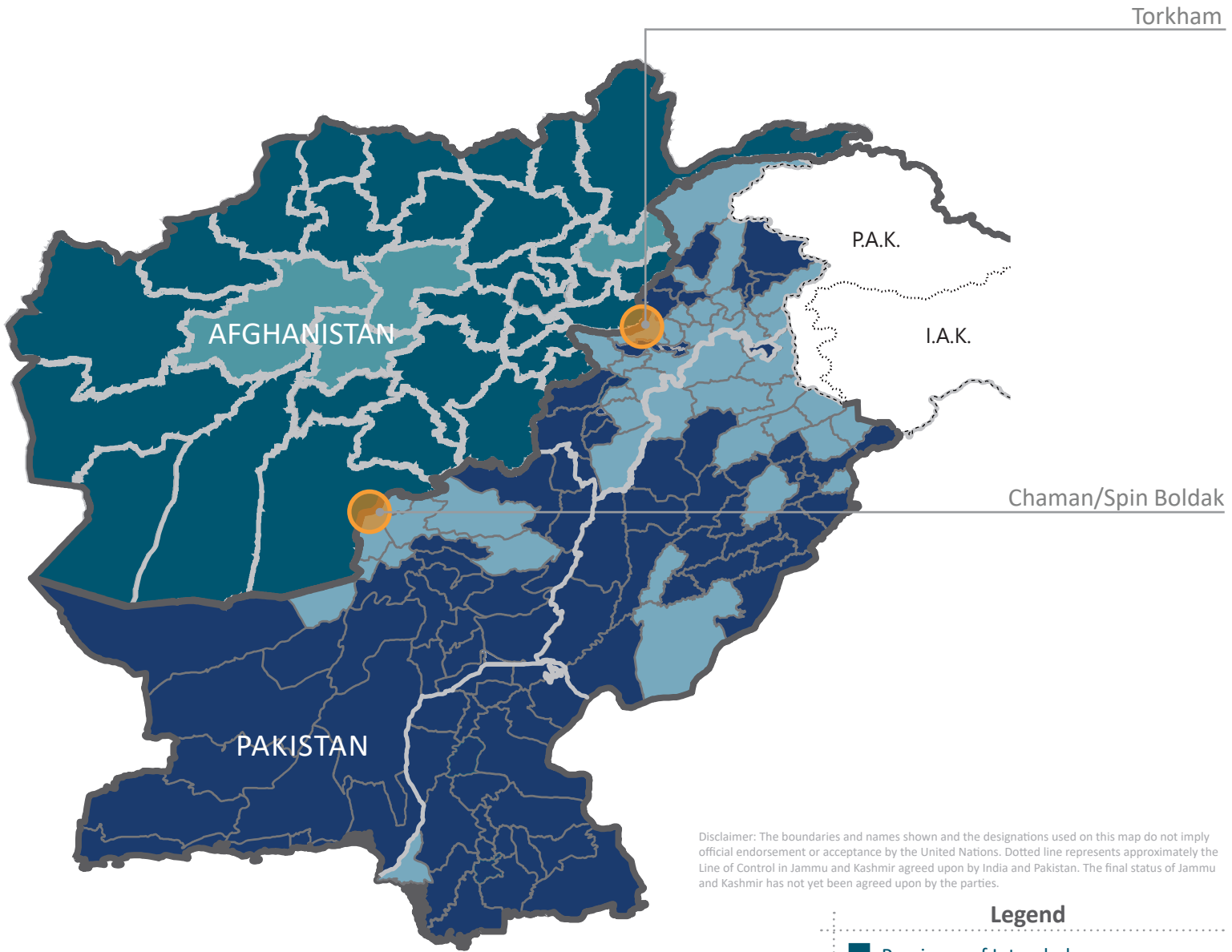
To reduce potential biases, data quality checks are rigorously conducted by the team during the data collection, processing and analysis processes.

1.2 Limitations

This document is based on data from individuals passing through DTM flow monitoring points in 2018 and 2019. As a result, data should not be generalized and may not represent a full picture of inter and intra-regional migration in the country, but rather is representative of migration flows at the specific locations monitored (in the case of this study: Torkham and Chaman).

It should be also noted that most of the visualizations are only representative for the respondents to the survey as interviews were only conducted with the head of the family. This will be clearly indicated in the visualization/question with an asterisk (*).

PROVINCE AND DISTRICT MAP OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Legend

- Provinces of Intended Destination (Afghanistan)
- Non-Intended Provinces of Destination (Afghanistan)
- Origin Districts of Returnees (Pakistan)
- Districts without Returnees (Pakistan)
- Border Crossing Point
- International Border
- Province Border
- District Border
- Line of Control (LOC)
- Disputed border
- P.A.K. Pakistan Administered Kashmir
- I.A.K. India Administered Kashmir

Total border crossings to Afghanistan



Total number of respondents



2. FINDINGS

2.1 Demographics and socio-economic profile

This section examines the socio-demographic characteristics of the undocumented Afghan returnees identified by DTM while crossing the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan through Torkham and Chaman in 2018 and 2019.

The average household size was approximately 6 persons in both years. In 2018 and 2019 there were slightly more female (53%) than male (47%) returnees. The gender distribution of the returnees remained the same over the two years. The proportion of female and male returnees was approximately the same when compared across the two border crossings. Both in Chaman and Torkham, female returnees represented more than half of the returnees recorded.

There were minor age differences of Afghan returnees between 2018 and 2019. The highest proportion of returnees included children under the age of 18 (2018: 56%, 2019: 55%), followed by adults (2018: 39%, 2019: 41%). People older than 60 represented the smallest group (4% in both years).

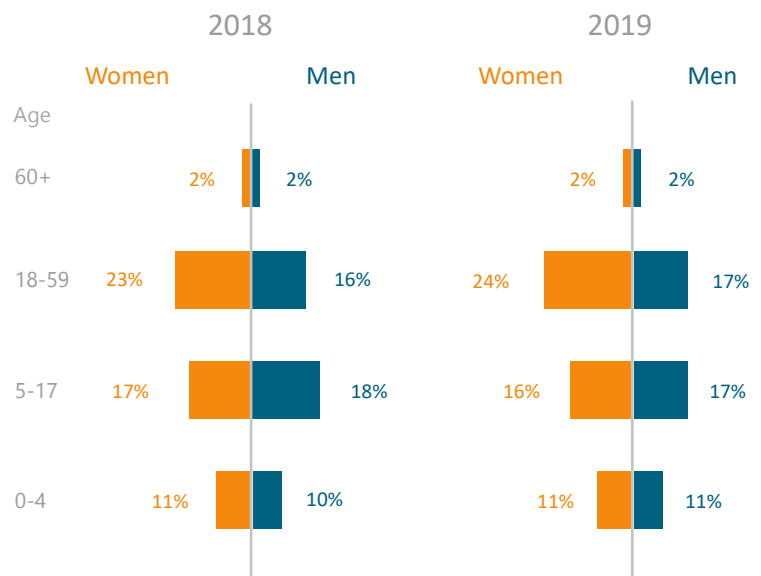
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNES



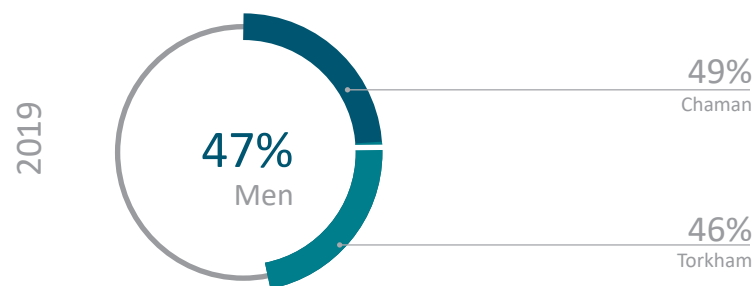
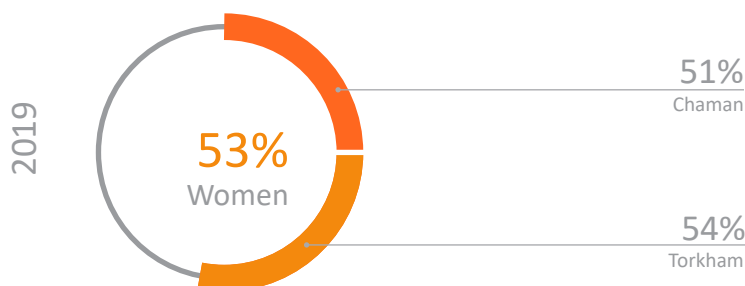
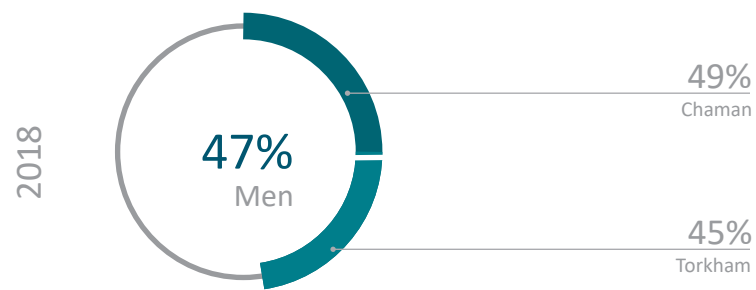
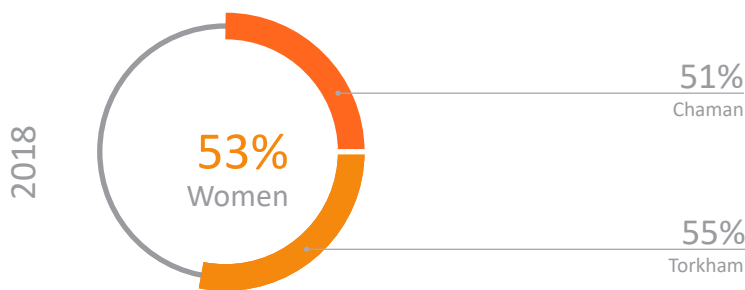
6 persons (2018)

6 persons (2019)

POPULATION PYRAMID OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNES



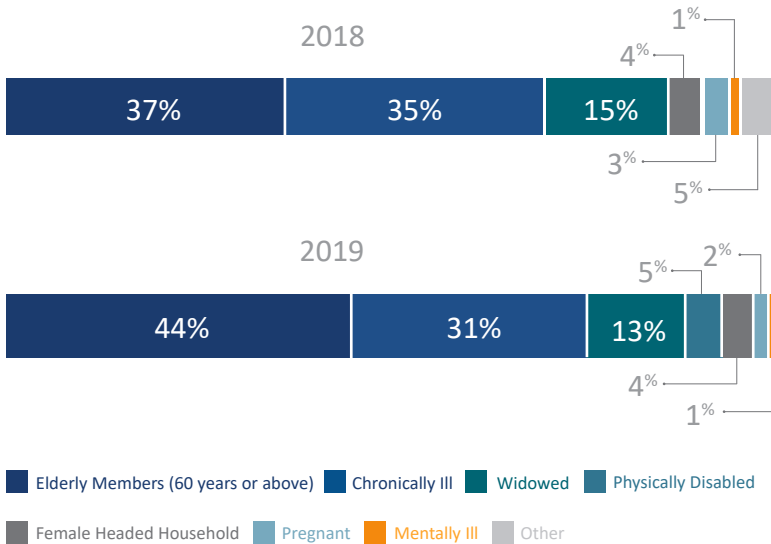
GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNES BY BORDER CROSSING



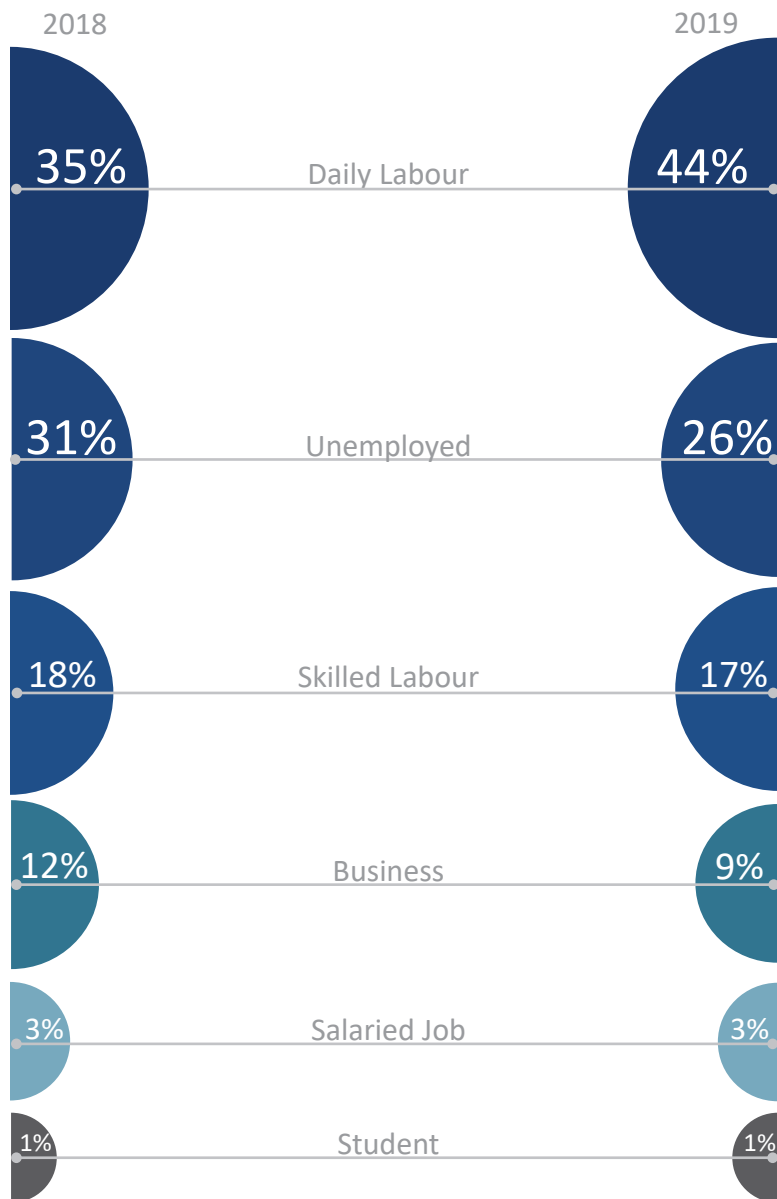
One in ten returnees were identified as vulnerable in both 2018 and 2019. There were no significant differences between the two years. The largest vulnerable groups were elderly persons (2018: 37%, 2019: 44%), chronically ill persons (2018: 35%, 2019: 31%) and widowed persons (2018: 15%, 2019: 13%). However, in 2019 physically disabled persons made up five per cent of vulnerable returnees, while in 2018 only two people (0.05%) were reported as being physically disabled.

In 2018, 69 per cent of returnees interviewed by DTM indicated they were employed when they were in Pakistan. This number rose to 74 per cent in 2019. Most returnees were involved in daily labour (2018: 35%, 2019: 44%), followed by skilled labour (2018: 18%, 2019: 17%) and business (2018: 12%, 2019: 9%). Returnees with a salaried job (3% in both years) and students (1% in both years) represented the smallest groups.

VULNERABILITIES OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEEES



EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEEES IN PAKISTAN*



*This question was only answered by the head of the family.



2.2 Documentation status

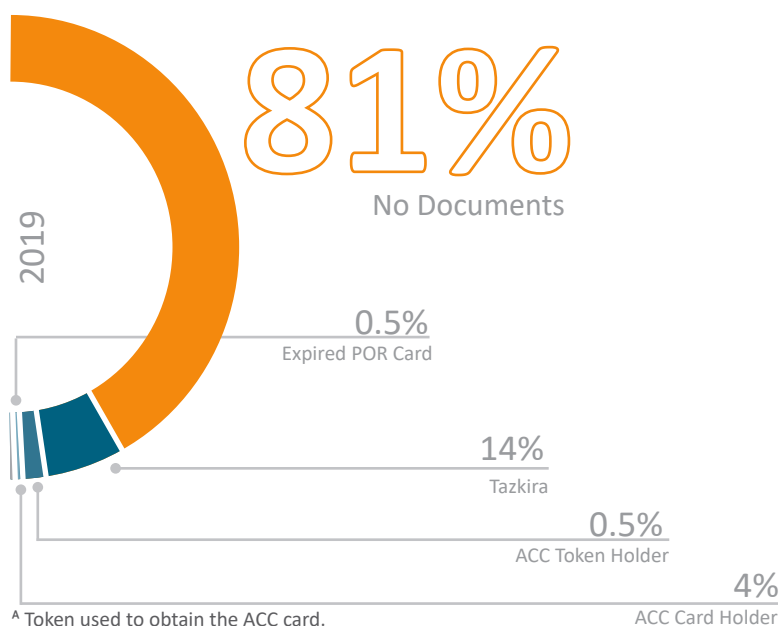
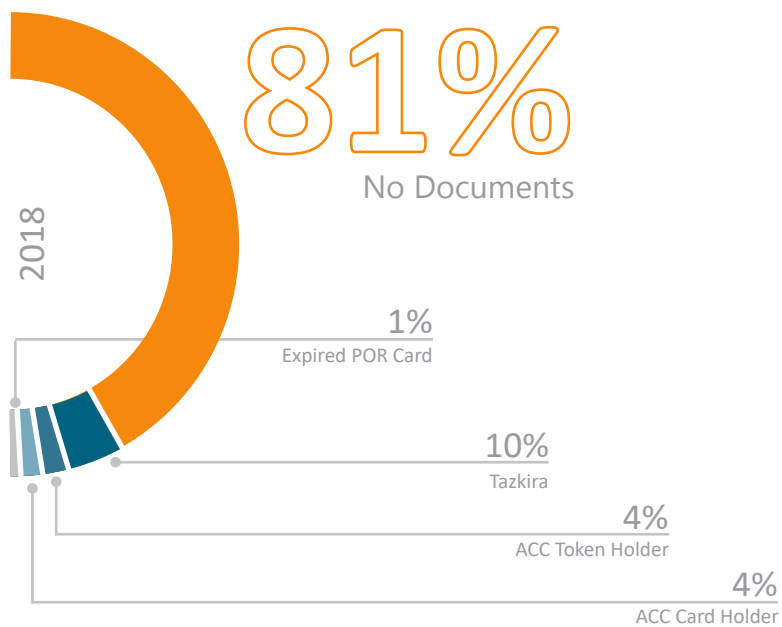
Eighty-one per cent of the returnees recorded by DTM in 2018 and 2019 did not possess any legal documentation. The remaining 19 per cent were made up of Afghan returnees with some sort of documentation, including a Tazkira, an ACC Token Holder, an ACC Card holder or an expired POR Card.

Of those returnees with documentation, returnees with a Tazkira represented the largest group. Ten per cent in 2018 and 14 per cent in 2019. In 2018, the second largest group were returnees with an ACC Token^A (4%) and an ACC Card (4%). However, in 2019 returnees with an ACC Token only

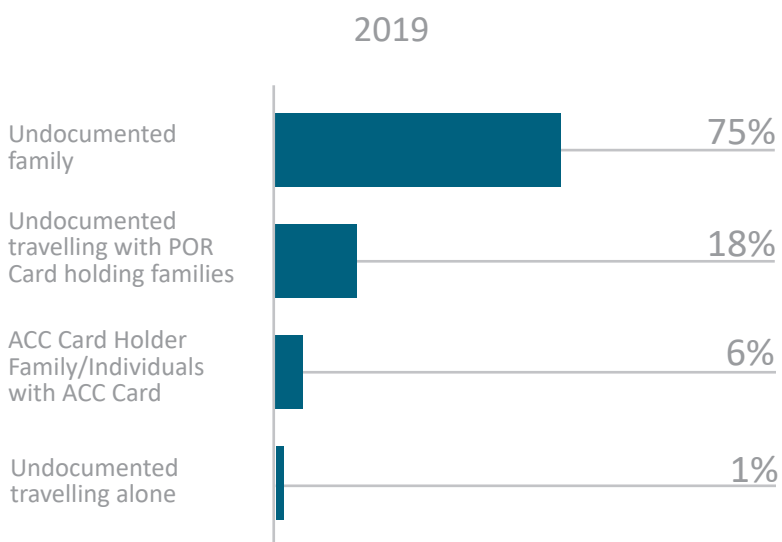
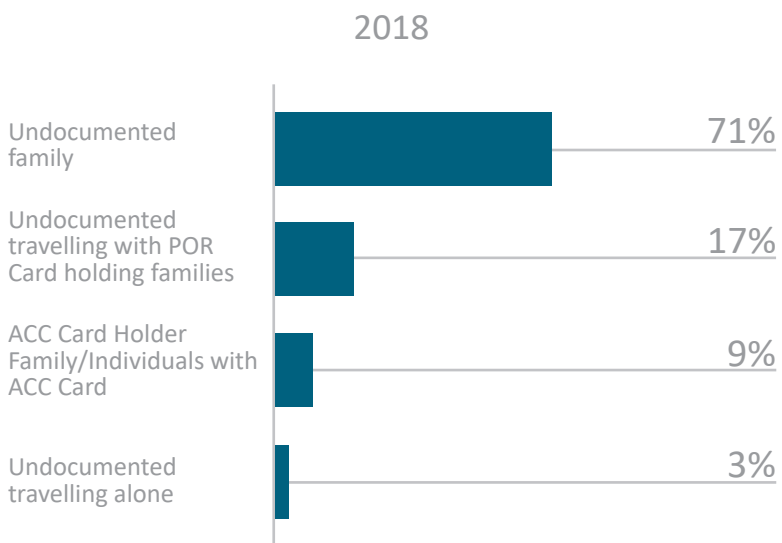
represented 0.5 per cent. Returnees with an expired POR Card constituted the smallest group in both years (2018: 1%, 2019: 0.5%).

On the family level, undocumented families made up the largest group (2018: 71%, 2019: 75%), followed by undocumented individuals travelling with a family that has one or more members holding a POR Card (2018: 17%, 2019: 18%) and families or individuals holding an ACC Card (2018: 9%, 2019: 6%). The final group was composed of undocumented persons travelling alone (2018: 3%, 2019: 1%).

DOCUMENTATION STATUS OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEEES



DOCUMENTATION STATUS OF UNDOCUMENTED FAMILIES*



*This question was only answered by the head of the family.

2.3 Reasons and drivers for migration

2.3.1 Pull factors and push factors

This section examines the reasons why Afghan nationals return to Afghanistan from Pakistan. The focus of this section will be on the pull factors, the reasons to return to Afghanistan, and on the push factors, the reasons to leave Pakistan.

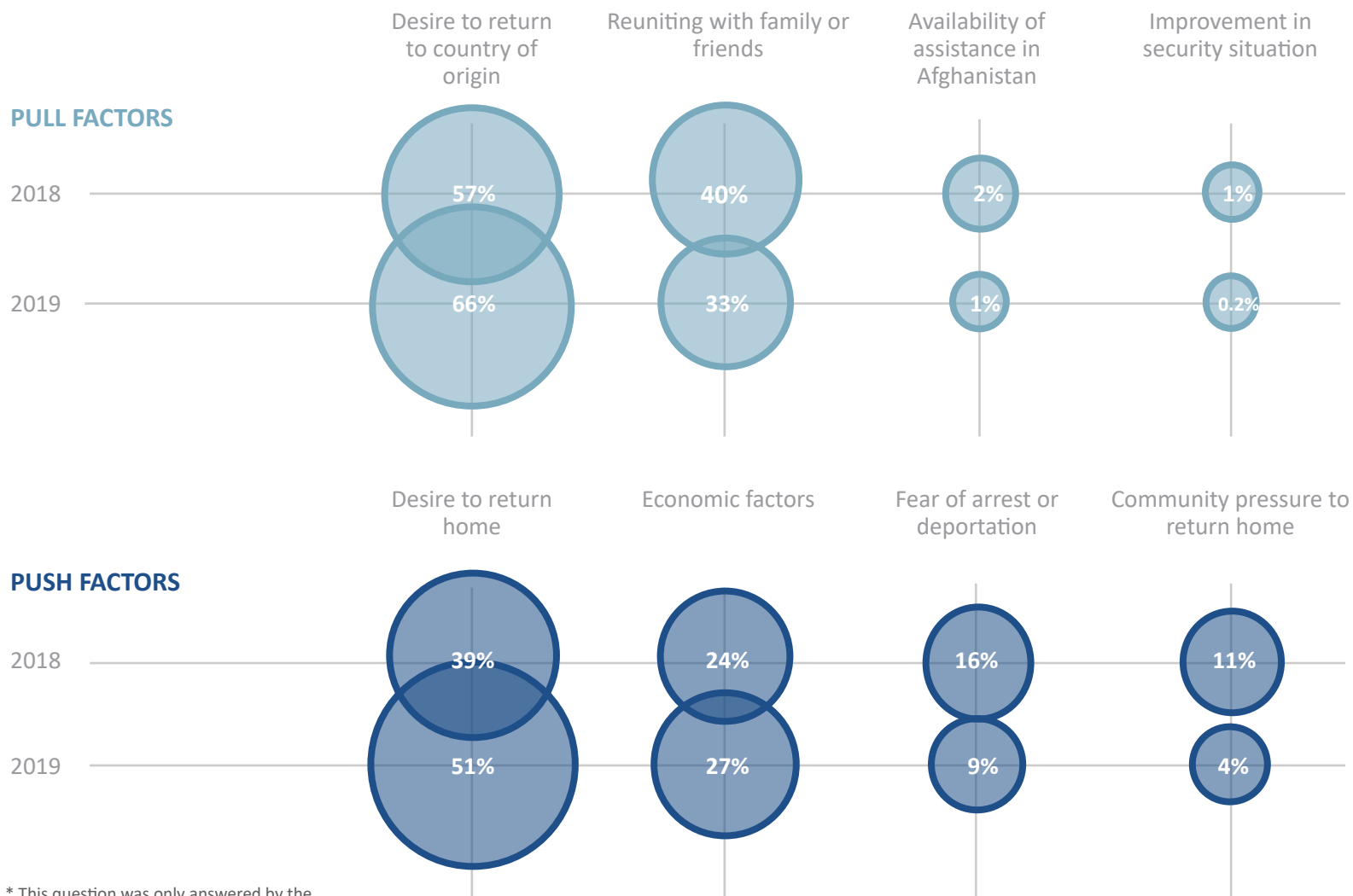
With regard to the pull factors, a majority of the returnees interviewed by DTM in both 2018 and 2019 indicated that a desire to return to their own country was the main reason or pull factor to return to Afghanistan. As some of those interviewed have been in Pakistan for decades and some were even born in Afghanistan, it is notable that a large proportion perceive Afghanistan as their country of origin. However, in 2019 (66%) this factor was more commonly reported than in 2018 (57%). The second most common reason was reuniting with friends or family. This factor did

nevertheless drop in significance between 2018 (40%) and 2019 (33%). Availability of assistance in Afghanistan (2018: 2%, 2019: 1%) and improvement in the security situation (2018: 1%, 2019: 0.2%) were also reported but at a much lower rate.

Regarding push factors, returnees interviewed by DTM reported, both in 2018 and 2019, that a desire to return home was the most important factor in their decision to leave Pakistan. However, the frequency with which this factor was reported rose considerably between 2018 and 2019, from 39 per cent to 51 per cent. Economic factors were indicated as the second most important push factor (2018: 24%, 2019: 27%). Fear of arrest and deportation (2018: 16%, 2019: 9%) and community pressure to return (2018: 11%, 2019: 4%) were reported as other push factors.

MAIN REASONS FOR RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES

(top 4 answers)*



* This question was only answered by the head of the family.

2.4 Travel conditions

When crossing the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghan returnees indicated that they travelled either by truck, bus or pick-up. In 2018, a truck was the most preferred mode of travel (43%), followed by a pick-up (38%) and a bus (19%). In 2019, however, a pick-up (62%) was preferred over a bus (19%) and a truck (19%).

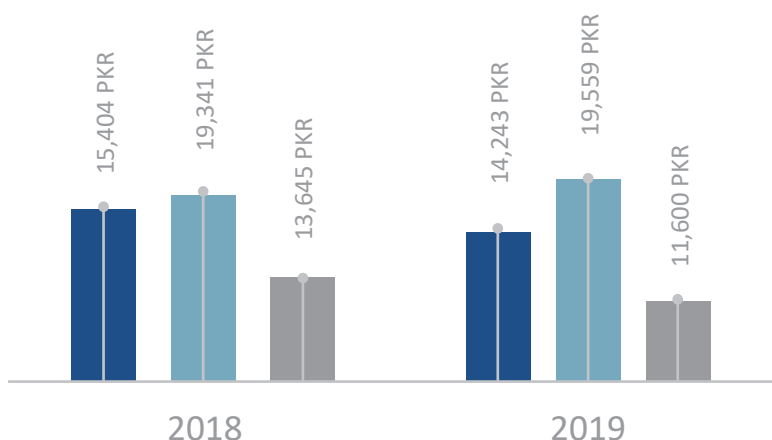
The mode of transportation also varies significantly between the two border crossings. In 2018, a truck (34%), a pick-up (32%) and a bus (34%) were almost equally preferred by returnees in Chaman, while in Torkham, returnees more often chose a truck (47%) or a pick-up (40%) than a bus (12%). In 2019, returnees crossing through Chaman favored a pick-up (40%) and a bus (38%) over a truck (23%). While in Torkham, nearly three thirds of returnees used a pick-up (73%).

The total expected average cost for the journey from Pakistan to Afghanistan was higher in 2018, namely 15,404 PKR compared to 14,243 PKR in 2019. The expected cost also differs between the two border crossings. The expected total cost reported in Chaman (2018: 19,341 PKR, 2019: 19,559 PKR) is considerably higher than in Torkham (2018: 13,645 PKR, 2019: 11,600 PKR). This was reported in both 2018 and 2019.

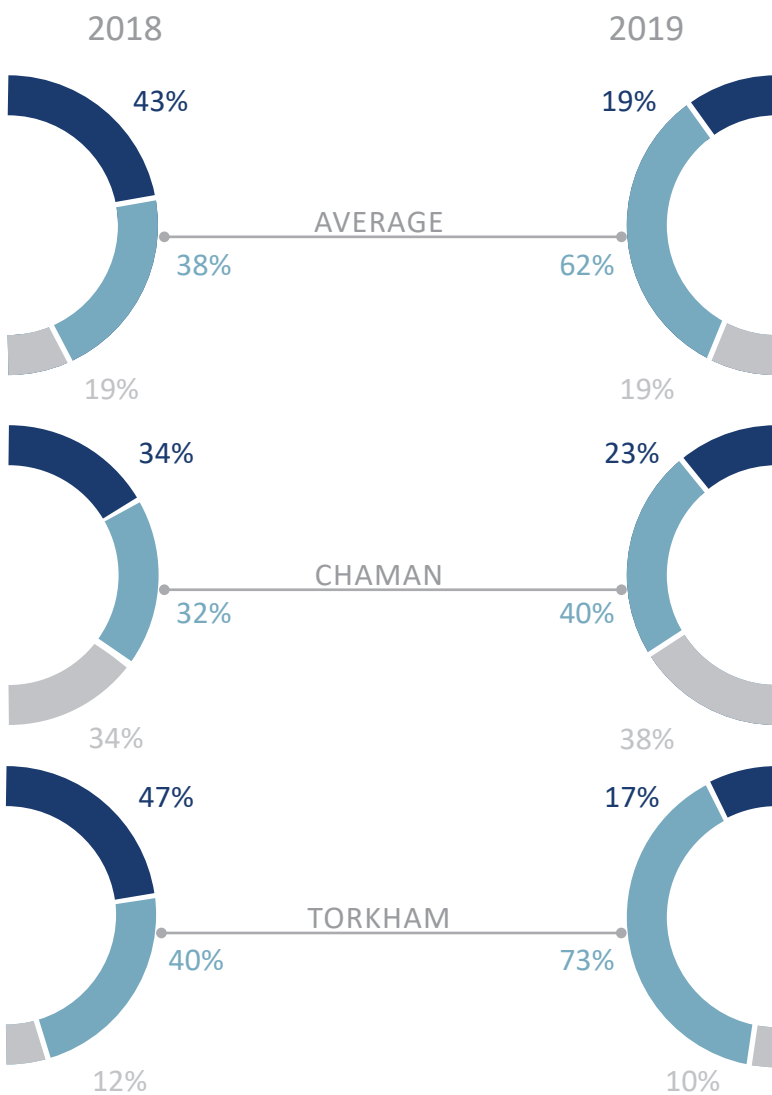
Almost all of the returnees that were interviewed by DTM brought their personal belongings, household items and a high proportion reported also bringing cash. Less frequently reported were productive assets, transportation and livestock. The numbers and trends were roughly the same across both years.

EXPECTED TOTAL COST (PKR) OF THE JOURNEY BY BORDER CROSSING*

Legend: ■ Average ■ Chaman ■ Torkham

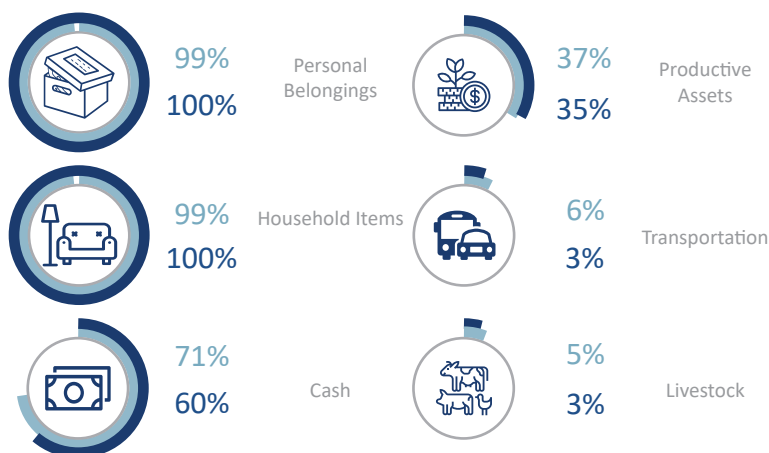


MODE OF TRANSPORTATION OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES*



Legend: ■ Truck ■ Pick-up ■ Bus

GOODS BROUGHT FROM PAKISTAN TO AFGHANISTAN BY UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES* (multiple answers possible)



Legend: ■ 2018 ■ 2019

*This question was only answered by the head of the family.

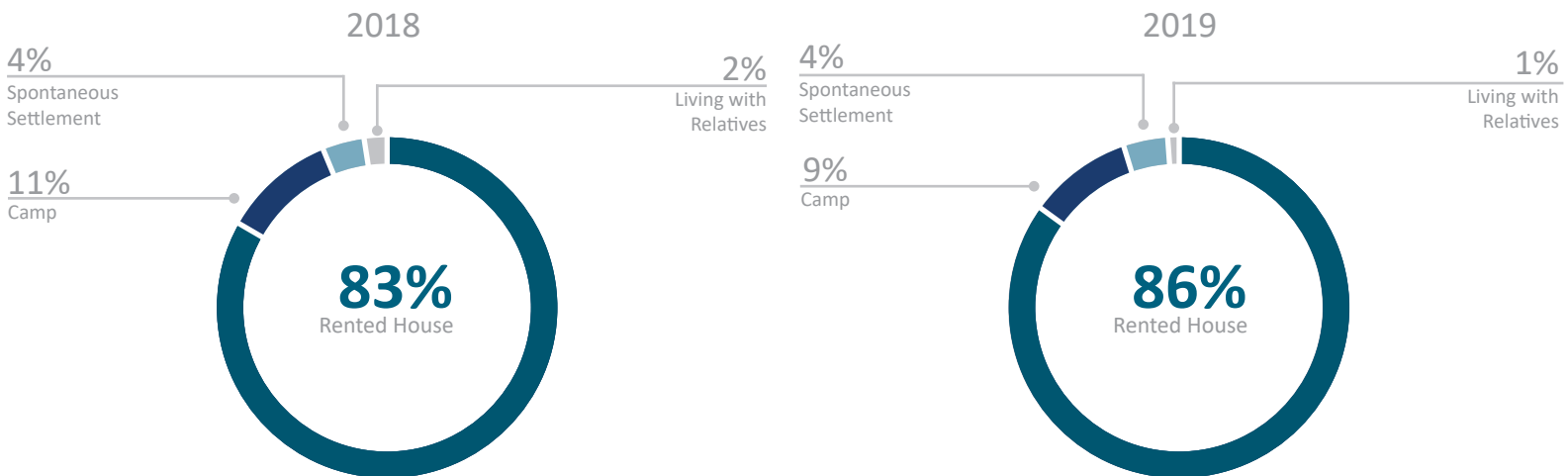
2.5 Type of settlement and settlement priorities

In both 2018 and 2019, a rented house was the most common type of settlement for undocumented Afghan returnees in Pakistan. Eighty-three per cent of returnees in 2018 and 86 per cent of returnees in 2019 reported that they were living in a rented house. Another 11 per cent in 2018 and 9 per cent in 2019 indicated that they lived in a camp. The remaining returnees were either living in a spontaneous settlement (4% in both years) or living with relatives (2018: 2%, 2019: 1%)

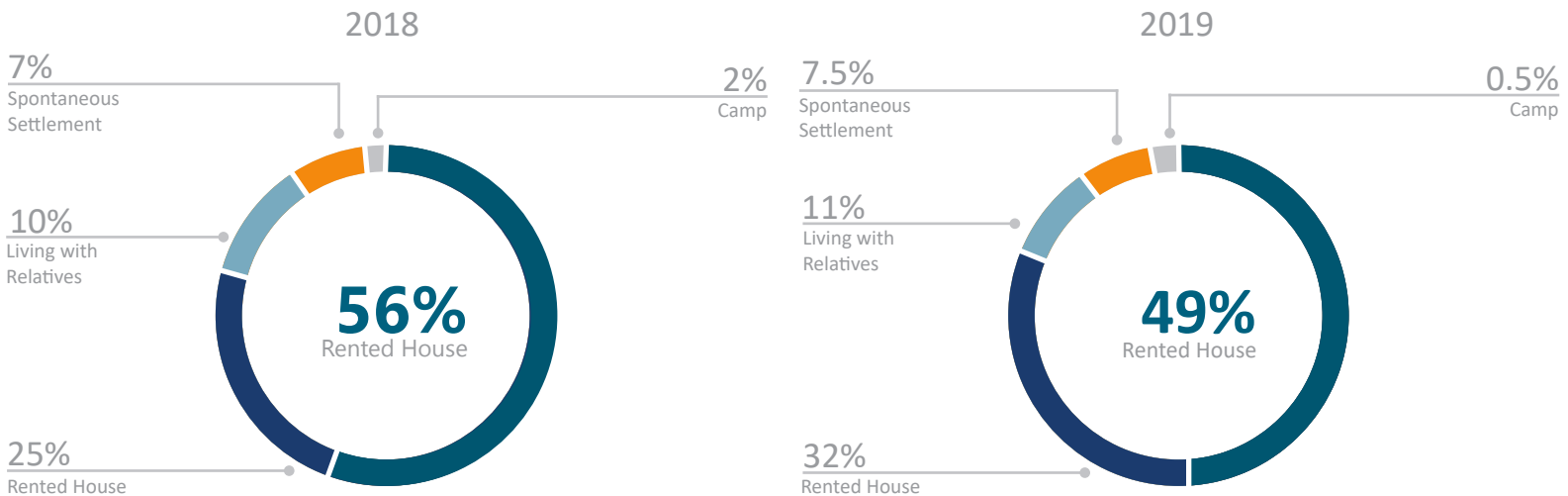
Afghanistan, most returnees specified that they expected to live in a rented house (2018: 56%, 2019: 49%). However, this percentage is significantly lower than living in a rented house in Pakistan. The second most commonly reported expected settlement type in Afghanistan is living in their own house. This percentage rose between 2018 and 2019 from 25 per cent to 32 per cent. Living with relatives was more often reported as an expected type of settlement in Afghanistan (2018: 10%, 2019: 11%) than it was in Pakistan. Other options were living in a spontaneous settlement (2018: 7%, 2019: 7.5%) or a camp (2018: 2%, 2019: 0.5%).

When asked about expected type of settlement in

TYPE OF SETTLEMENT IN PAKISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES*



EXPECTED TYPE OF SETTLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES*



*This question was only answered by the head of the family.

The settlement priorities of the undocumented Afghan returnees did not show large differences over the two years. A majority of undocumented returnees reported that finding income opportunities (2018: 88%, 2019: 85%), resettling in a new city (87% in both years), arranging for shelter (2018: 81%, 2019: 68%) and arranging for livelihood (2018: 78%, 2019: 69%) will be important when settling

in Afghanistan. However, the numbers also indicate that education (2018: 56%, 2019: 47%), security (2018: 52%, 2019: 39%) and availability of medicine and health facilities (2018: 41%, 2019: 47%) are of great concern. Less reported, but still significant was the availability of clean drinking water (2018: 34%, 2019: 28%).

SETTLEMENT PRIORITIES IN AFGHANISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES*

(multiple answers possible)



Income Opportunities
88%
85%



Resettle in a New City
87%
87%



Arrange for Shelter
81%
68%



Arrange for Livelihood
78%
69%



Education
56%
47%



Security Challenges
52%
39%



Availability of Medicine and Health Facilities
41%
47%



Availability of Clean Drinking Water
34%
28%

Legend: ■ 2018 ■ 2019

*This question was only answered by the head of the family.



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2.6 Areas of origin and destination

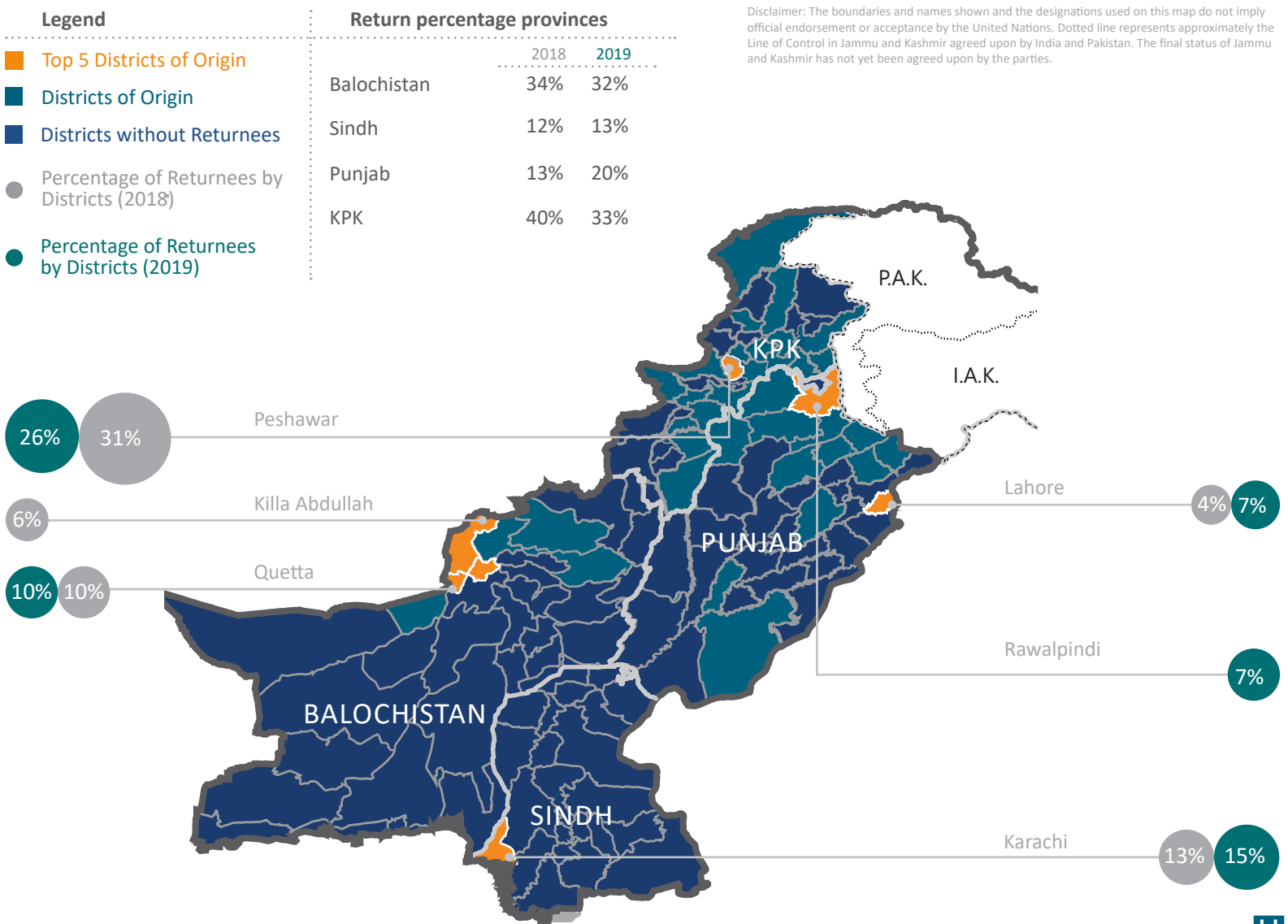
In both 2018 and 2019, nearly all (99% and 98%) of the returnees came from four provinces in Pakistan: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP or KPK), Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh. There were no significant differences across the two years. The largest share of returnees came from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (2018: 40%, 2019: 33%) and Balochistan (2018: 34%, 2019: 32%), followed by Punjab (2018: 13%, 2019: 20%) and Sindh (2018: 12%, 2019: 13%).

Looking at the district level, it is notable that the majority of the returnees (2018: 65%, 2019: 66%) came from only five different districts. In 2018, these districts were Peshawar (31%), Karachi (13%), Quetta (10%), Killa Abdullah (6%) and Lahore (4%). These districts remained roughly the same in 2019, however, the district of Rawalpindi was reported more

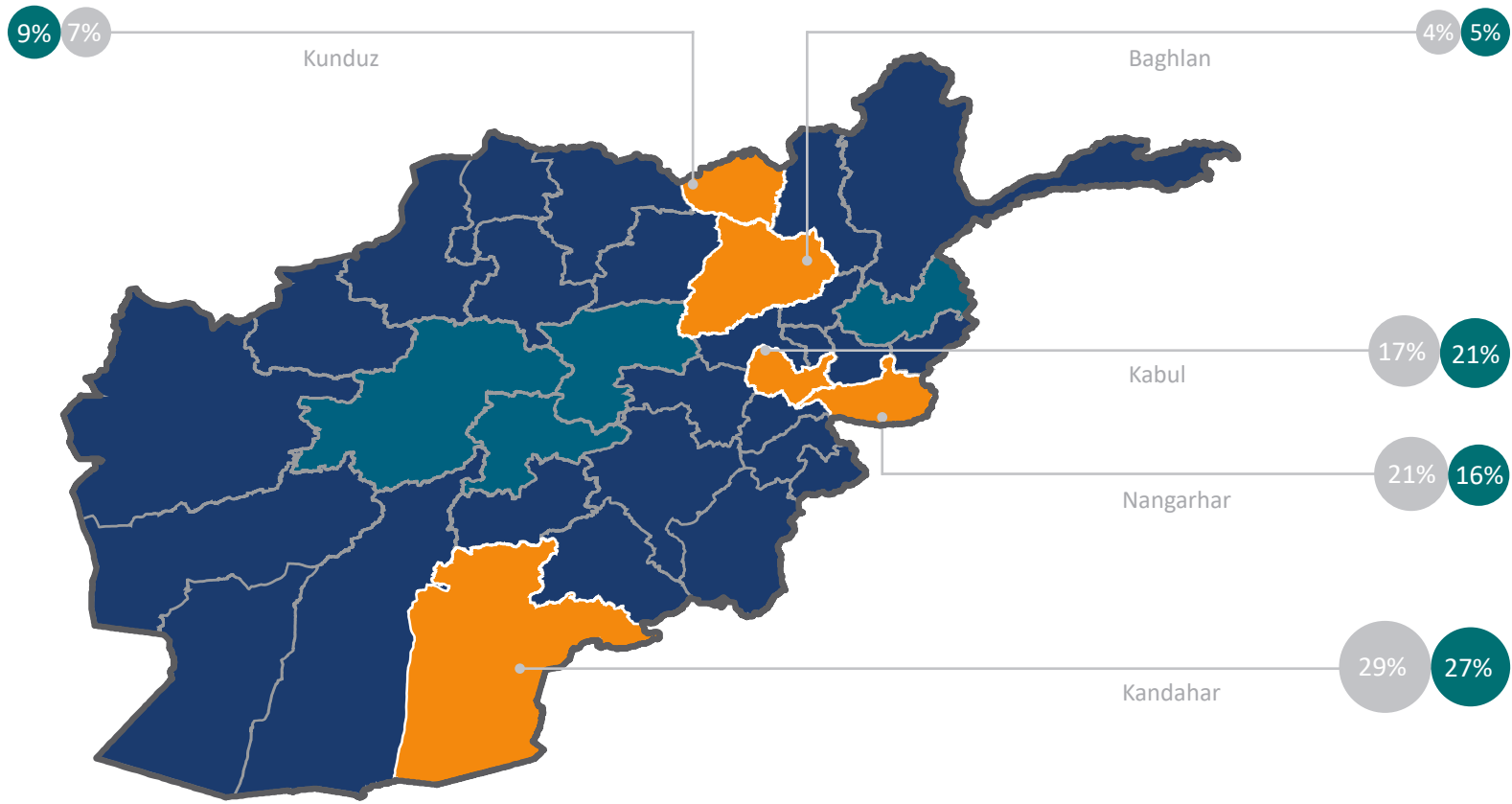
frequently than Killa Abdullah, so the top five districts of origin in 2019 were Peshawar (26%), Karachi (15%), Quetta (10%), Lahore (7%) and Rawalpindi (7%).

When returnees were asked about their intended province of destination in Afghanistan, nearly three fourths of respondents (2018: 74%, 2019: 71%) indicated that they wanted to return to five provinces in Afghanistan. These provinces were Baghlan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nangarhar. Kandahar (2018: 29%, 2019: 27%), in both years, was the most popular destination of return, followed by Nangarhar (2018: 21%, 2019: 16%) and Kabul (2018: 17%, 2019: 21%). Less popular are Kunduz (2018: 7%, 2019: 9%) and Baghlan (2018: 4%, 2019: 5%).

PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEEES



INTENDED DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES (top 5 provinces)



Legend: ■ Top 5 Provinces of Intended Destination ■ Provinces of Intended Destination ■ Non-Intended Provinces of Destination
● Return Percentage 2018 ● Return Percentage 2019

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

