

OVERVIEW

IOM Pakistan collects data on the outflows of Afghan migrants at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points to better understand the migration movements of Afghan migrants returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Between 1 and 15 September 2023, 3,808 Afghan nationals spontaneously returned to Afghanistan, including 730 through the Torkham border point and 3,078 through the Chaman border point. Border authorities facilitated the return of 228 individuals due to the lack of legal documentation to remain in Pakistan. Information about these individuals is not included in the count. Although IOM identified 63,852 Afghan returnees (between 1 January - 15 September 2023) at two border crossings, this may not reflect the total number of Afghan returnees.

Moreover, for this study, only the head of household or representative of the family were interviewed. This means that the number of interviews conducted by the enumerators is lower than the number of returnees recorded by IOM. Between 1 and 15 September 2023, IOM interviewed 225 respondents.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross-border mobility between Pakistan and Afghanistan is characterized predominantly by populations speaking Pashto and Baloch languages who reside on both sides of the border.
- The worsening economic conditions in Pakistan is leading to higher levels of unemployment, rents and lower income levels. These, in turn, are increasingly compelling Afghans to return to Afghanistan where they believe they can access higher levels of humanitarian assistance.
- The top three challenges Afghan returnees anticipate facing in Afghanistan include: (i) finding income-generating opportunities, (ii) adapting to life in areas of return, and (iii) securing livelihoods.
- Throughout the reporting period, approximately seven percent of returnees were classified as vulnerable individuals.¹
- The primary occupations reported by returnees are: unskilled labour (62%), skilled labour (26%), and involvement in various businesses (12%).
- The average cost of travel from Pakistan to Afghanistan, as reported, stood at PKR 53,598 (equivalent to USD 184 as of September 19, 2023) per family.

63,852 UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES AT TORKHAM AND CHAMAN (BETWEEN 1 JANUARY - 15 SEPTEMBER 2023)

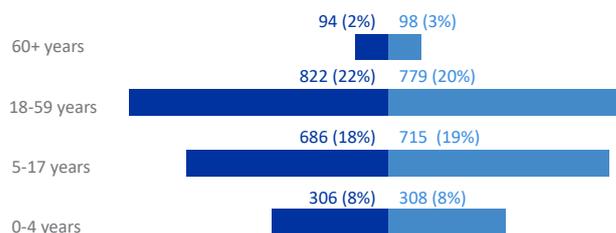
DISTRIBUTION OF RETURNEES BETWEEN 1 TO 15 SEPTEMBER



	Undocumented family	79%
	Family/Individual holding Afghan Citizen Card (ACC)	20%
	Undocumented individual travelling with documented family	1%

AGE AND GENDER

FEMALE 50% MALE 50%



PUSH FACTORS



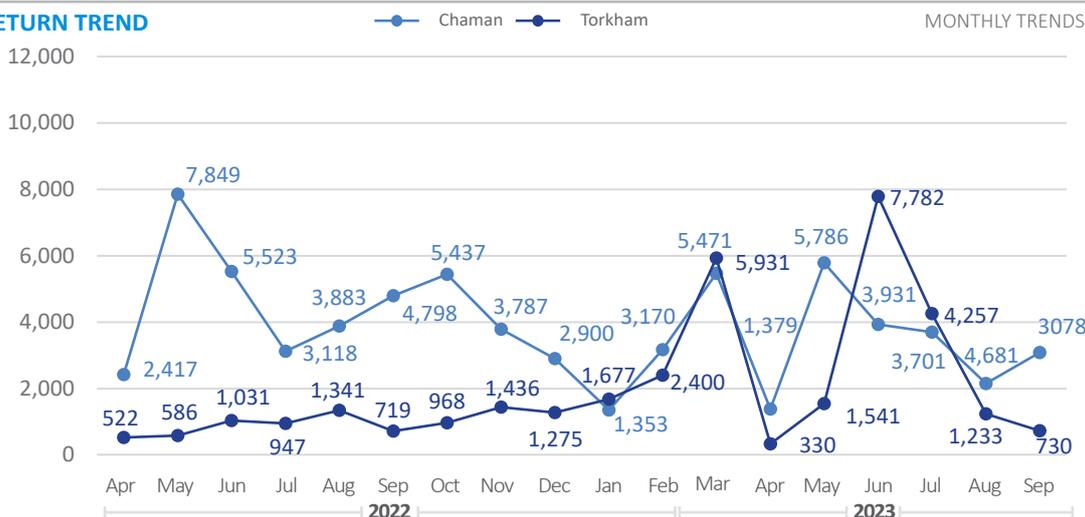
	Unable to pay house rent	34%
	Unable to pay utilities	31%
	No employment	18%
	Fear of arrest or deportation	11%
	Business reason	6%

PULL FACTORS



	Availability of assistance	60%
	Family reunion	37%
	Improvement in security situation	3%

RETURN TREND



MONTHLY TRENDS

WEEKLY TRENDS (LAST FOUR WEEKS)

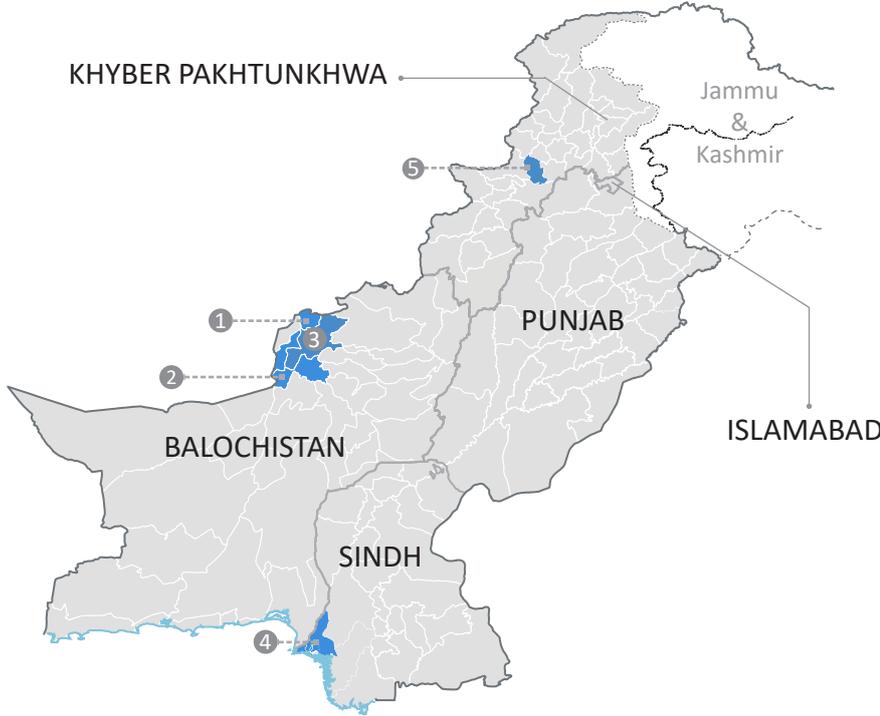


¹ Vulnerable persons include: persons with physical disability, those who need medical attention, pregnant women, elderly persons, unaccompanied minors, drug addicts, mentally ill persons and widowed persons.

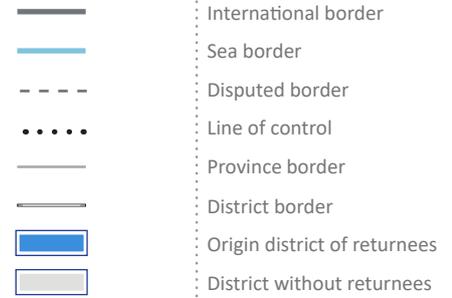
SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND



DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN OF RETURNEES

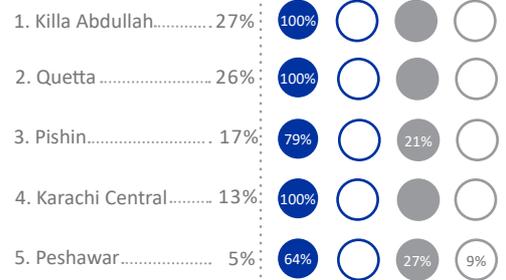


LEGEND



ORIGIN DISTRICT

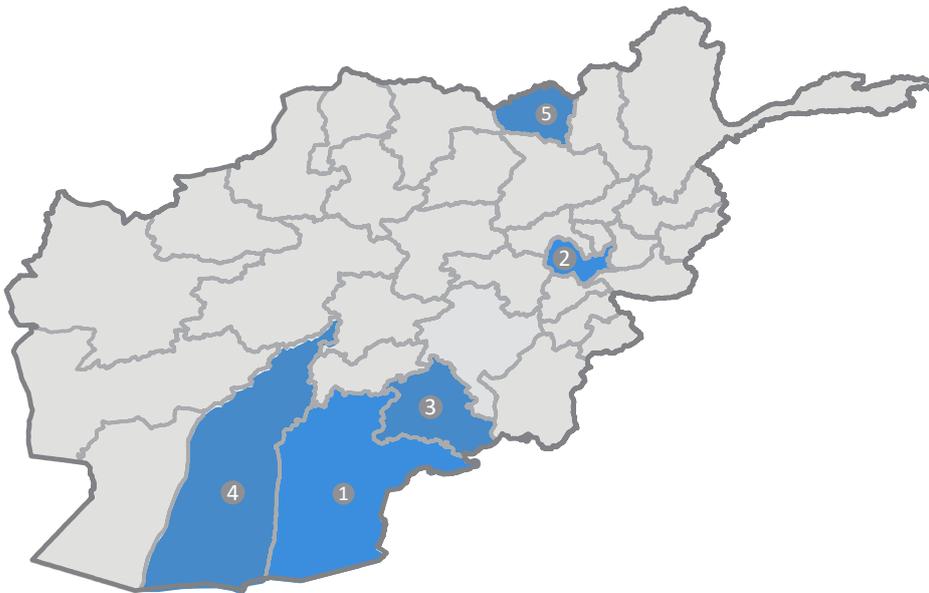
SETTLEMENT TYPE



Note: This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 districts of origin in Pakistan during the reporting period from 01 - 15 September 2023

Disclaimer: 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. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM or United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

PROVINCES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

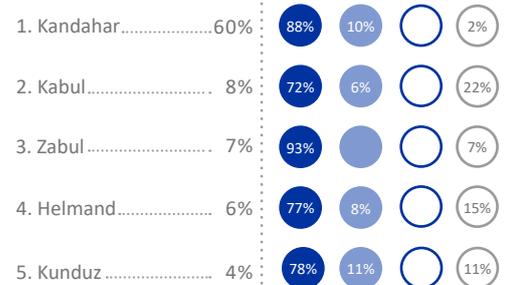


LEGEND



INTENDED PROVINCE

SETTLEMENT TYPE



Note: This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 provinces of intended destination in Afghanistan during the reporting period from 01 - 15 September 2023

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