OVERVIEW

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Pakistan collects data on the outflows of Afghans at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points to better understand the movements of Afghans returning to Afghanistan.

Between 01 and 15 October 2023, 37,785 Afghan nationals spontaneously returned to Afghanistan, including 27,364 through the Torkham border point and 10,421 through the Chaman border point. In addition, border authorities forcibly returned 614 individuals due to a lack of valid documentation. Cumulatively, since 1 January 2023, IOM identified 121,785 Afghan returnees at the two border crossings, excluding those forcibly returned.

On 26 September 2023, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in Pakistan announced its decision to enact an "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan". The plan comprises of mechanisms to consolidate databases of "illegal foreigners" in the country, check entry of new illegal entrants, apprehension, deportation, repatriation of illegal/ overstaying foreigners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With the "Repatriation Plan" likely being enacted as of 1 November 2023, the outflow of Afghans has increased significantly at both border crossings.
- In terms of push factors, during the current reporting period, 84 per cent of the surveyed returnee families indicated they are moving back to Afghanistan due to fear of arrest. This is a significant increase compared to the previous reporting period, where it stood at 65 per cent.
- During the reporting period, six per cent of the overall flow could be considered vulnerable persons.[1] The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) registered 740 returnees moving back to Afghanistan who were chronically ill and require medical attention, in addition to 631 elderly individuals, 238 persons with disabilities (PWD), and 42 Unaccompanied Minors (UMs).
- The average cost of travel from Pakistan to Afghanistan, as reported, stood at PKR 105,789 (equivalent to USD 381 as of October 15, 2023) per family, which increased by more than 20,000 PKR compared to the previous reporting period.

121,785 AFGHAN RETURNEES AT TORKHAM AND CHAMAN (BETWEEN 1 JANUARY – 15 OCTOBER 2023)
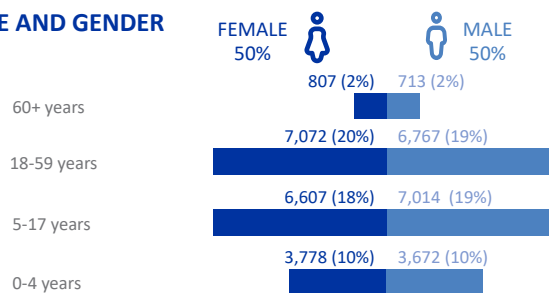
DISTRIBUTION OF RETURNEES BETWEEN 01 TO 15 OCTOBER
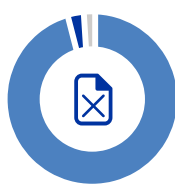
Undocumented	96%
ACC holder	3%
PoR Card holder	1%

AGE AND GENDER
This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

FEMALE 50% MALE 50%

	FEMALE	MALE
60+ years	807 (2%)	713 (2%)
18-59 years	7,072 (20%)	6,767 (19%)
5-17 years	6,607 (18%)	7,014 (19%)
0-4 years	3,778 (10%)	3,672 (10%)

PUSH FACTORS (Multiple answers, N = 1,817, can exceed 100%)
This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

Fear of arrest	84%
No employment	40%
Communal pressure to return	22%
Unable to pay rent	21%
Unable to pay utilities	21%

PULL FACTORS (Multiple answers, N = 1,817, can exceed 100%)
This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

Family reunion	85%
Availability of assistance	71%
Improvement in security situation	29%

RETURN TREND

Chaman — Torkham

MONTHLY TRENDS

	Chaman	Torkham
Apr 2022	2,417	522
May	7,849	586
Jun	5,523	1,031
Jul	3,118	947
Aug	3,883	1,341
Sep	4,798	719
Oct	5,437	968
Nov	3,787	1,436
Dec	2,900	1,275
Jan 2023	1,677	1,353
Feb	3,170	2,400
Mar	5,471	5,931
Apr	1,379	330
May	8,115	3,285
Jun	3,931	7,782
Jul	3,701	4,257
Aug	4,681	2,573
Sep[2]	9,612	14,352

WEEKLY TRENDS (LAST FOUR WEEKS)

	Chaman	Torkham
16 - 22 Sep	3,523	6,706
23 - 30 Sep	3,125	7,462
01-07 Oct	2,841	6,945
08-15 Oct	7,580	20,419
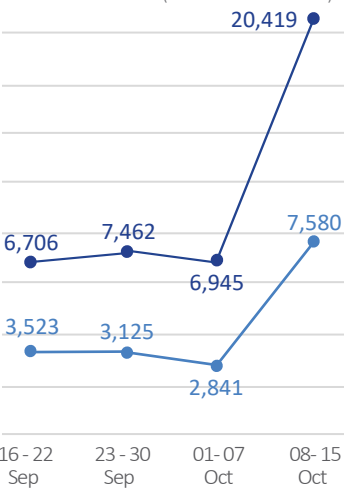
[1] Vulnerable persons include: persons with disabilities, those who need medical attention, pregnant women, elderly persons, unaccompanied minors, drug addicts, mentally ill persons and widowed persons.
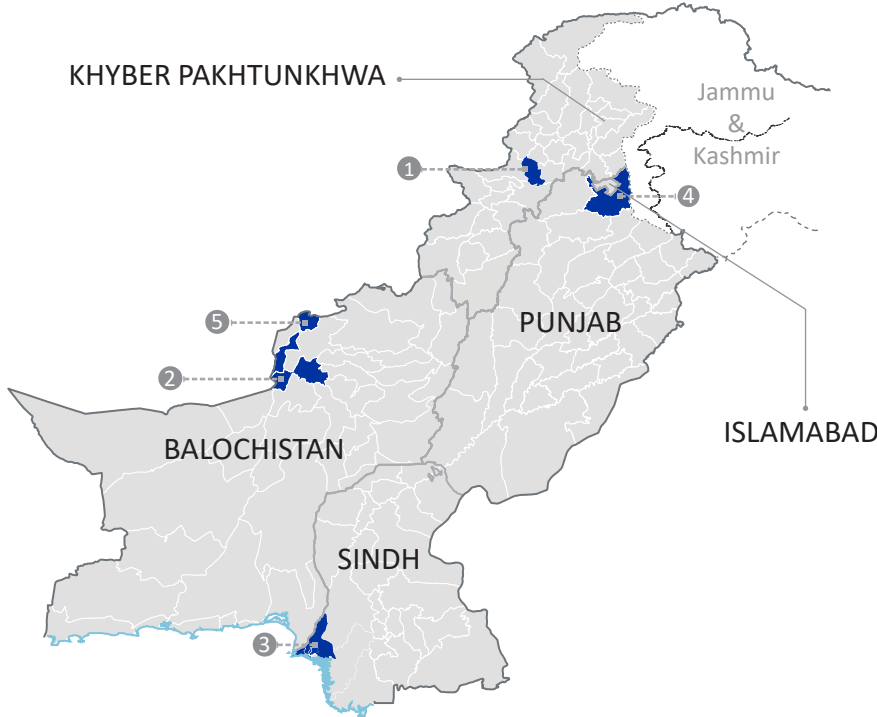[2] As of 15 September 2023, IOM and UNHCR have harmonized their flow monitoring data, therefore, data prior to 15 September 2023 does not include PoR holders.
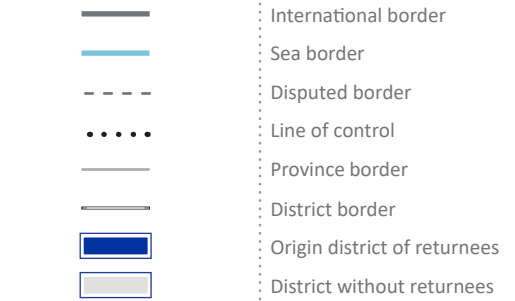
SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND

- Rented house
- Spontaneous settlement
- Own house
- Camp
- Living with relatives

This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Jammu & Kashmir

PUNJAB

ISLAMABAD

BALOCHISTAN

SINDH

LEGEND

———	International border
———	Sea border
- - -	Disputed border
.....	Line of control
———	Province border
———	District border
▮	Origin district of returnees
▯	District without returnees

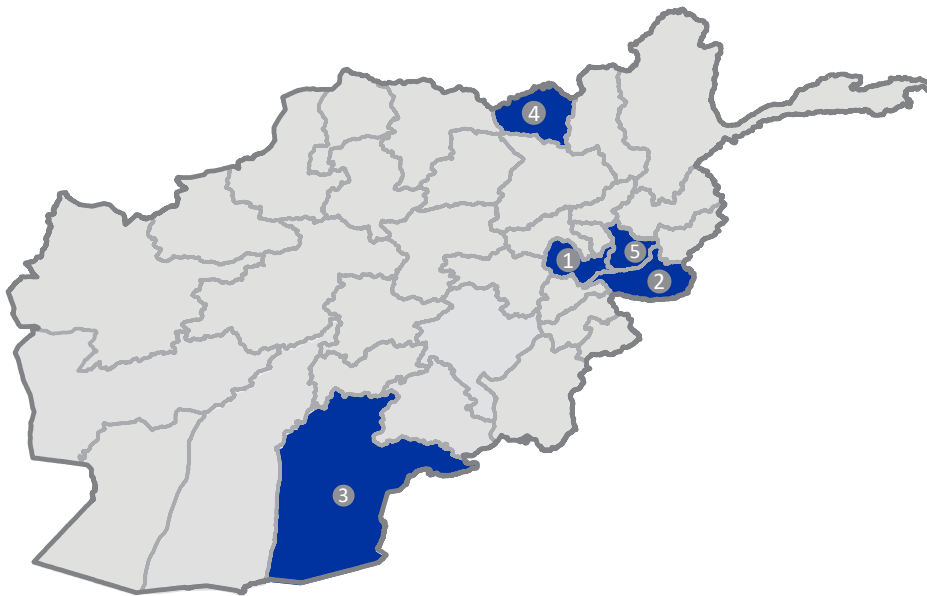| ORIGIN DISTRICT		SETTLEMENT TYPE			
1. Peshawar	11%	81%	1%	17%	1%
2. Quetta	10%	100%			
3. Karachi Central	9%	100%			
4. Rawalpindi	8%	95%	4%		1%
5. Killa Abdullah	7%	96%	1%	3%	
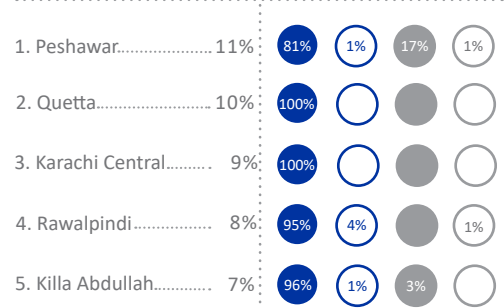
Note:
This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 districts of origin in Pakistan during the reporting period from 01 - 15 October 2023
Disclaimer:
Dotted line represents approximately the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and 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.

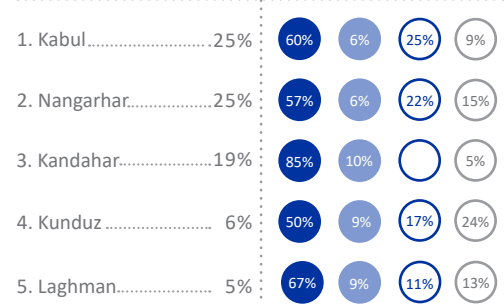This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

PROVINCES OF INTENDED DESTINATION

LEGEND

———	International border
———	Province border
▮	Province of intended destination
▯	Other provinces

INTENDED PROVINCE		SETTLEMENT TYPE			
1. Kabul	25%	60%	6%	25%	9%
2. Nangarhar	25%	57%	6%	22%	15%
3. Kandahar	19%	85%	10%		5%
4. Kunduz	6%	50%	9%	17%	24%
5. Laghman	5%	67%	9%	11%	13%

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 October 2023
Disclaimer:
The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report 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.