WEEKLY FLOW MONITORING SNAPSHOT

IOM | UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

OVERVIEW

IOM Afghanistan's DTM Flow Monitoring activity, initiated at the beginning of 2024, seeks to quantify and better understand the mobility dynamics at Afghanistan's borders. On 10 January 2024, DTM began deploying field teams at four border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRN) and Pakistan (PAK), expanding to another border crossing point Ghulam Khan as of 11 February (see map below for the locations of all five crossing points), to conduct two interlinked exercises. The first is a headcount of all individuals entering or leaving Afghanistan (including returnees), also called Flow Monitoring Counting (FMC), to gauge flow volume. The second is a survey of randomly selected Afghan national individuals or groups entering or leaving Afghanistan, also called the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS), to understand the profiles, motivations, and vulnerabilities of the target population. This snapshot provides key findings combining various IOM data sources, including DTM Afghanistan's FMC and FMS activities, DTM Pakistan's Flow Monitoring of Afghan returnees, and IOM Afghanistan's Cross-Border Post-Arrival Humanitarian Assistance (CB-PAHA) program, for the period 17 to 23 March 2024. For more information about methodology, see the section in the last page of this report titled "IOM INFLOW DATA."
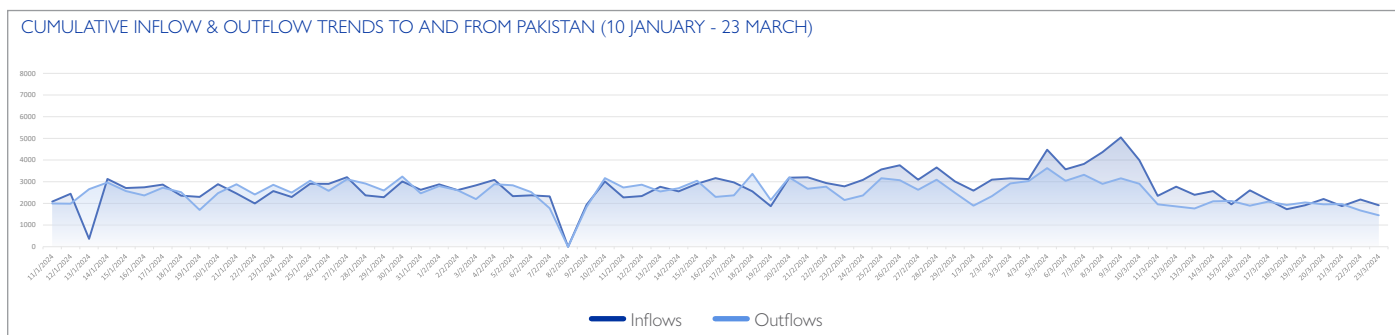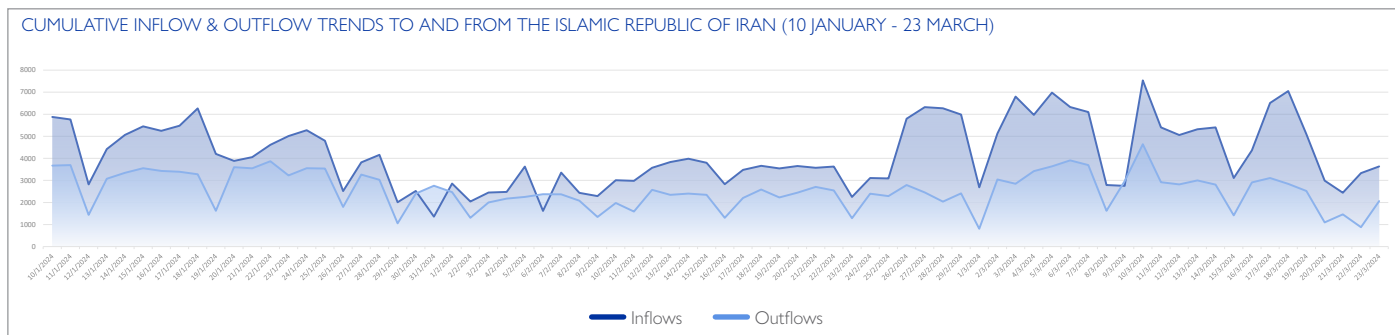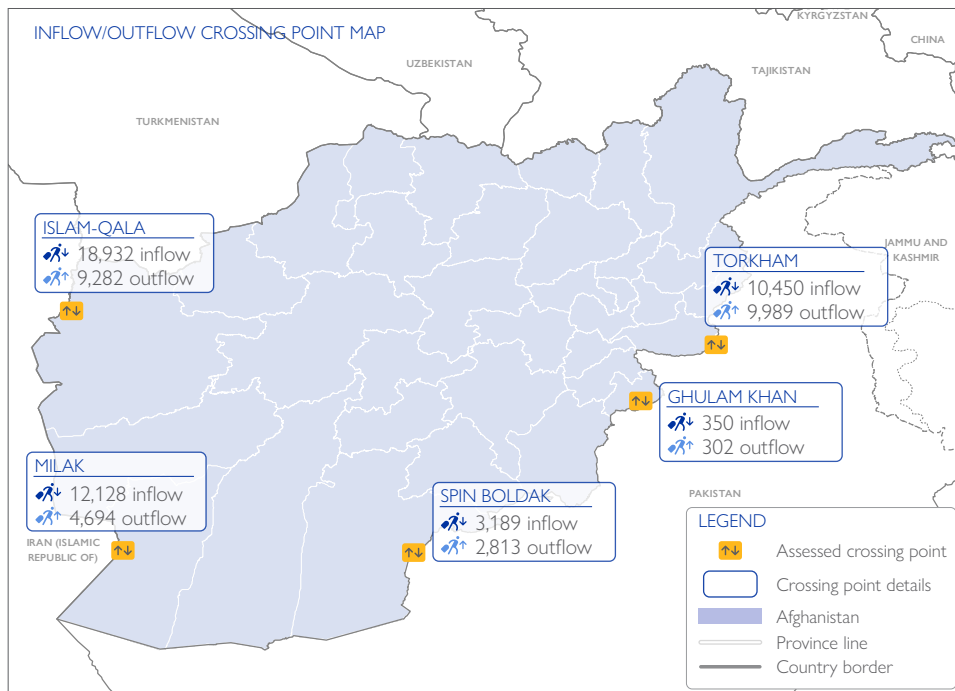
45,049 TOTAL INFLOWS

KEY INFLOW FIGURES BY BORDER COUNTRY*

	IRN	PAK
Total inflows	31,060	13,989
Documented returnees	NOT AVAILABLE	97**
Undocumented returnees	15,825***	621***
Assisted by IOM	4,504***	624***

27,080 TOTAL OUTFLOWS

OUTFLOW FIGURES BY BORDER COUNTRY****

	IRN	PAK
Total outflows	13,976	13,104

INFLOW/OUTFLOW CROSSING POINT MAP

ISLAM-QALA
18,932 inflow
9,282 outflow

TORKHAM
10,450 inflow
9,989 outflow

GHULAM KHAN
350 inflow
302 outflow

MILAK
12,128 inflow
4,694 outflow

SPIN BOLDAK
3,189 inflow
2,813 outflow

LEGEND
Assessed crossing point
Crossing point details
Afghanistan
Province line
Country border

CUMULATIVE INFLOW & OUTFLOW TRENDS TO AND FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN (10 JANUARY - 23 MARCH)

Inflows — Outflows

CUMULATIVE INFLOW & OUTFLOW TRENDS TO AND FROM PAKISTAN (10 JANUARY - 23 MARCH)

Inflows — Outflows

DISCLAIMER: These maps are for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

* More information on the methodology of collecting data on different subsets of inflow groups can be found on the last page of this report in the section titled "IOM INFLOW DATA."
** Documented returnees include Proof of Registration (PoR) holders. Source: IOM DTM Pakistan and UNHCR Pakistan
*** This data is collected by IOM CB-PAHA. Individuals receive post-arrival assistance from IOM and support from Border Consortium partners. The Border Consortium is led by IOM. For more information and access to the Consortium dashboard, visit https://afghanistan.iom.int/situation-reports.
**** DTM Afghanistan does not collect data on subsets of outflow groups.
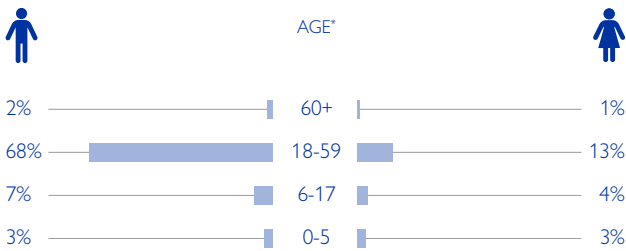
🏃↓ INFLOWS

FMC TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 45,049	FMS TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 3,296

The following analysis compiles responses from 3,296 total Afghan nationals (2,187 at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1,109 at the border with Pakistan) interviewed by DTM Afghanistan during its FMS activity among individuals and groups entering Afghanistan.
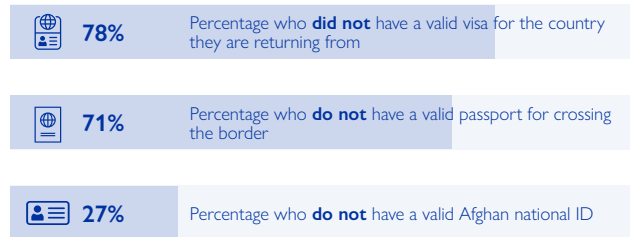
Entering Afghanistan with the intention to transit to a third country was very uncommon; the intended destination of almost all respondents arriving from the Islamic Republic of Iran or Pakistan was Afghanistan. While movements from Iran were mainly characterized by deportees and those traveling for economic reasons, movements from Pakistan involved voluntary returns and family-related visits. As found in previous weeks, male respondents coming from the Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely to have moved for economic reasons compared to female respondents. However, female respondents coming from both the Islamic of Iran and Pakistan were more likely than male respondents to report having felt unsafe in their origin locations as their reason for movement. At the same time, all respondents coming from Islamic Republic of Iran were more likely than those coming from Pakistan to have felt unsafe in their origin location (16% versus 3%, respectively).

PROFILES

Demographics

Male	AGE*	Female
2%	60+	1%
68%	18-59	13%
7%	6-17	4%
3%	0-5	3%

Documentation

78%	Percentage who **did not** have a valid visa for the country they are returning from
71%	Percentage who **do not** have a valid passport for crossing the border
27%	Percentage who **do not** have a valid Afghan national ID

Presence of vulnerable groups

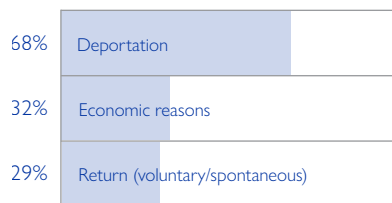| <1% Unaccompanied minor	<1% Single female	3% Pregnant/lactating person	2% Chronic disease/ special needs	2% Female-headed household	<1% Child-headed household

REASONS AND INTENTIONS

RESPONDENTS ARRIVING FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Length of stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran

33%	Short-term (<3 months)
23%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1year)
44%	Long-term (>1year)
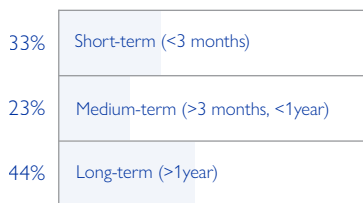
Main reasons for travel from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan (top 3)**

68%	Deportation
32%	Economic reasons
29%	Return (voluntary/spontaneous)

Planned length of stay in Afghanistan

7%	Short-term (<3 months)
2%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1year)
<1%	Long-term (>1year)
31%	No plans to leave; indefinitely
60%	Do not know
<1%	Prefer not to answer
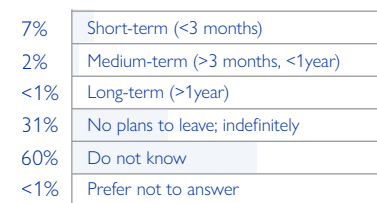
RESPONDENTS ARRIVING FROM PAKISTAN

Length of stay in Pakistan

68%	Short-term (<3 months)
16%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1year)
16%	Long-term (>1year)
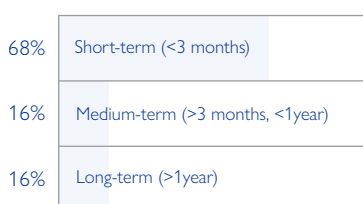
Main reasons for travel from Pakistan to Afghanistan (top 3)**
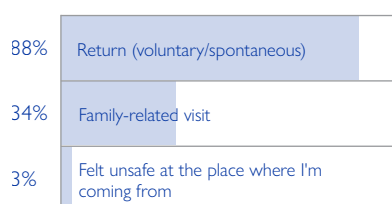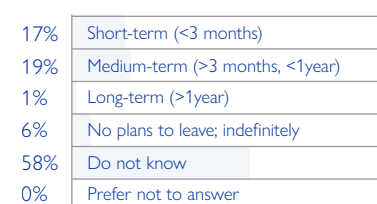
88%	Return (voluntary/spontaneous)
34%	Family-related visit
3%	Felt unsafe at the place where I'm coming from

Planned length of stay in Afghanistan

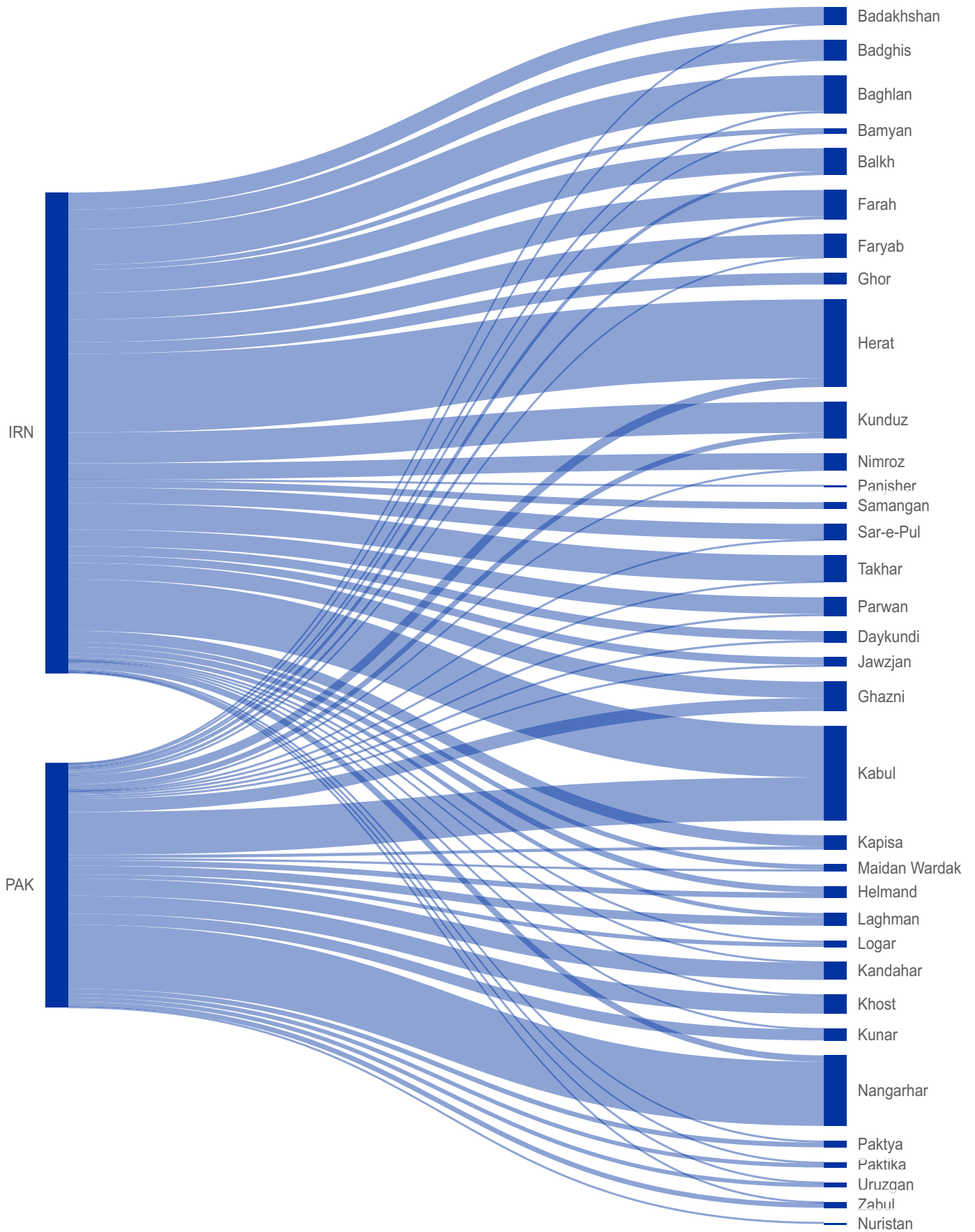| 17%	Short-term (<3 months)
19%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1year)
1%	Long-term (>1year)
6%	No plans to leave; indefinitely
58%	Do not know
0%	Prefer not to answer

* Individuals under 18 were assessed by having an accompanying adult answer on their behalf.
** Multiple answers were possible. As a result, percentages may exceed 100%.

✈↓ INFLOWS

ORIGIN COUNTRIES

DESTINATION PROVINCES

IRN

PAK

Badakhshan
Badghis
Baghlan
Bamyan
Balkh
Farah
Faryab
Ghor
Herat
Kunduz
Nimroz
Panjsher
Samangan
Sar-e-Pul
Takhar
Parwan
Daykundi
Jawzjan
Ghazni
Kabul
Kapisa
Maidan Wardak
Helmand
Laghman
Logar
Kandahar
Khost
Kunar
Nangarhar
Paktya
Paktika
Uruzgan
Zabul
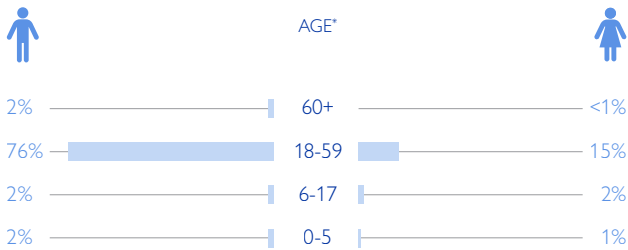Nuristan

🏃↑ OUTFLOWS

FMC TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 27,080	FMS TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 1,495

The following analysis compiles responses from 1,495 total Afghan nationals (447 at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1,048 at the border with Pakistan) interviewed by DTM Afghanistan during its FMS activity among individuals and groups leaving Afghanistan.
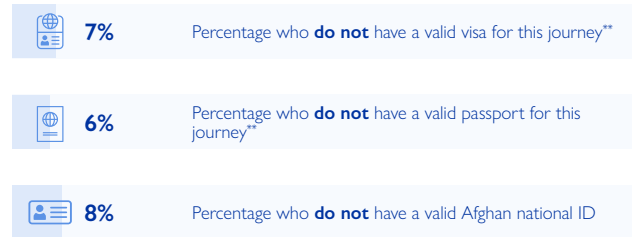
Possessing travel documents, including a passport and visa, was relatively common among those leaving Afghanistan. This stands in contrast with the majority of those arriving to Afghanistan, who were not carrying travel documents. The majority of those going abroad reported that this was their first time leaving Afghanistan. Most respondents going to the Islamic Republic of Iran intended to stay there for a year or less, while most going to Pakistan planned shorter trips; the majority intended to stay less than three months. These intentions reflect respondents' reasons for migration. While family-related visits were a common reason to leave Afghanistan for both those going to Pakistan and those going to the Islamic Republic of Iran, accessing healthcare, which can often constitute a shorter visit, was more common among the former, whereas economic motivations, likely related to employment, were more common among the latter.
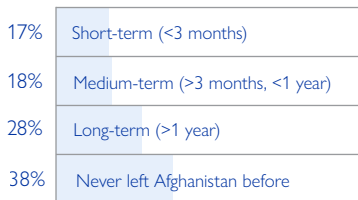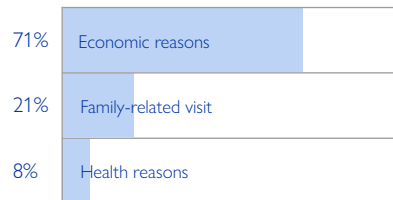
PROFILES

Demographics

AGE*

Male		Female
2%	60+	<1%
76%	18-59	15%
2%	6-17	2%
2%	0-5	1%

Documentation

7% Percentage who **do not** have a valid visa for this journey**

6% Percentage who **do not** have a valid passport for this journey**

8% Percentage who **do not** have a valid Afghan national ID

REASONS AND INTENTIONS

RESPONDENTS GOING TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Length of stay in Afghanistan

17%	Short-term (<3 months)
18%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1 year)
28%	Long-term (>1 year)
38%	Never left Afghanistan before

Main reasons for travel from Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran (top 3)***

71%	Economic reasons
21%	Family-related visit
8%	Health reasons

Planned length of stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran

39%	Short-term (<3 months)
48%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1 year)
2%	Long-term (>1 year)
0%	No plans to leave; indefinitely
11%	Do not know
0%	Prefer not to answer
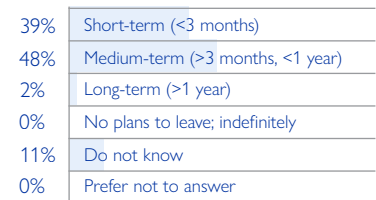
RESPONDENTS GOING TO PAKISTAN

Length of stay in Afghanistan

26%	Short-term (<3 months)
10%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1 year)
23%	Long-term (>1 year)
41%	Never left Afghanistan before
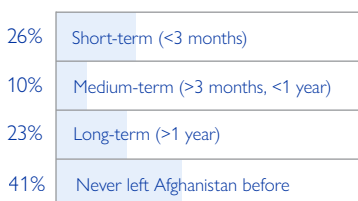
Main reasons for travel from Afghanistan to Pakistan (top 3)***
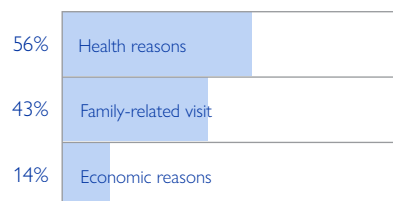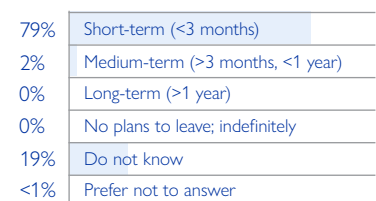
56%	Health reasons
43%	Family-related visit
14%	Economic reasons

Planned length of stay in Pakistan

79%	Short-term (<3 months)
2%	Medium-term (>3 months, <1 year)
0%	Long-term (>1 year)
0%	No plans to leave; indefinitely
19%	Do not know
<1%	Prefer not to answer

* Individuals under 18 were assessed by having an accompanying adult answer on their behalf.
** These percentages are based on the responses of interviewees only and have no means of verification.
*** Multiple answers were possible. As a result, percentages may exceed 100%.

🏃↑ OUTFLOWS

ORIGIN PROVINCES

DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Badakhshan
Badghis
Faryab
Daykundi
Ghor
Herat
Sar-e-Pul
Takhar
Nimroz
Jawzjan
Kunduz
Balkh
Maidan Wardak
Farah
Ghazni
Kapisa
Panjsher
Parwan
Baghlan
Helmand
Bamyan
Kabul
Logar
Kandahar
Kunar
Laghman
Nangarhar
Samangan
Uruzgan
Zabul
Khost
Paktika
Paktya

IRN

PAK
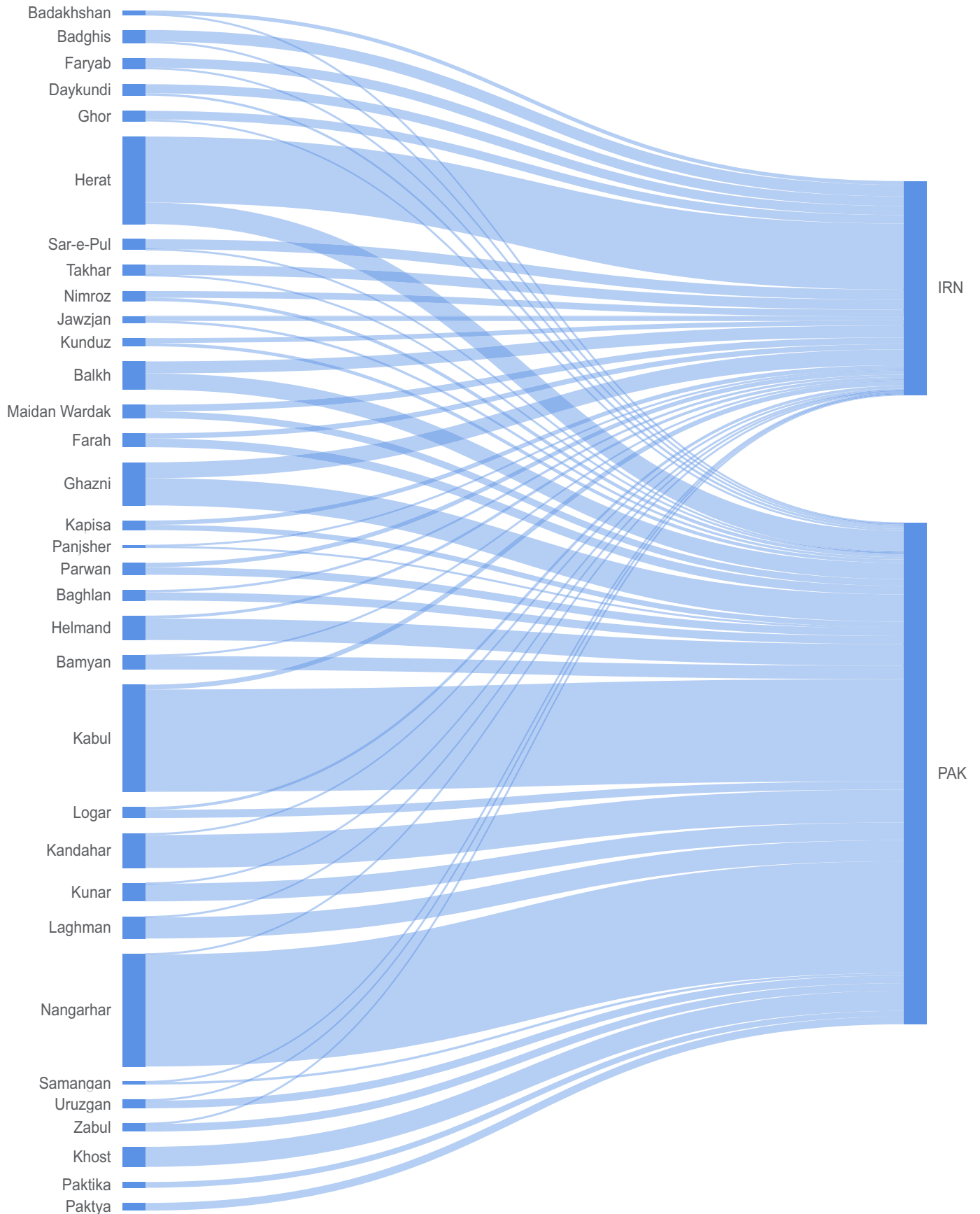
IOM INFLOW DATA

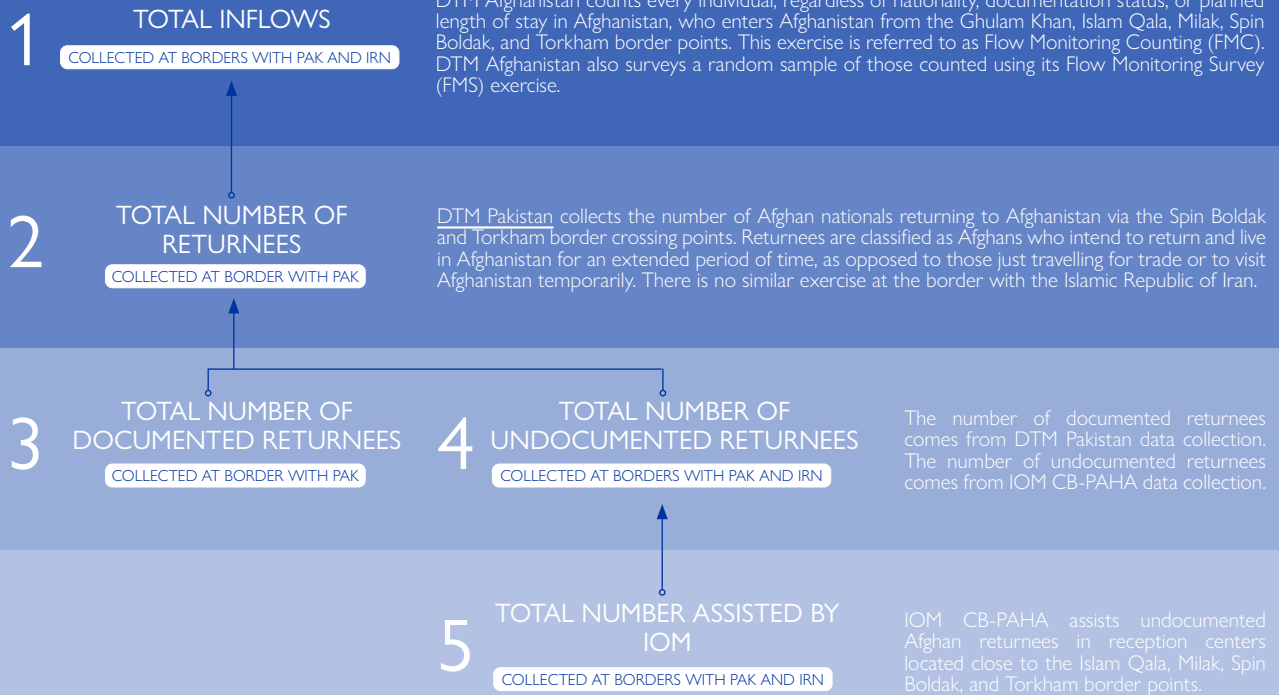DTM Afghanistan, DTM Pakistan, and IOM Afghanistan's Cross Border Post-Arrival Humanitarian Assistance (CB-PAHA) program use different methodologies to collect data on various demographic subsets of individuals entering Afghanistan (inflows). The following flow chart illustrates the relationships between the subsets and how IOM coordinates its various activities and methodologies to develop more robust and comprehensive databases on movements into Afghanistan.

1 **TOTAL INFLOWS**
COLLECTED AT BORDERS WITH PAK AND IRN

DTM Afghanistan counts every individual, regardless of nationality, documentation status, or planned length of stay in Afghanistan, who enters Afghanistan from the Ghulam Khan, Islam Qala, Milak, Spin Boldak, and Torkham border points. This exercise is referred to as Flow Monitoring Counting (FMC). DTM Afghanistan also surveys a random sample of those counted using its Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) exercise.

2 **TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES**
COLLECTED AT BORDER WITH PAK

DTM Pakistan collects the number of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan via the Spin Boldak and Torkham border crossing points. Returnees are classified as Afghans who intend to return and live in Afghanistan for an extended period of time, as opposed to those just travelling for trade or to visit Afghanistan temporarily. There is no similar exercise at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3 **TOTAL NUMBER OF DOCUMENTED RETURNEES**
COLLECTED AT BORDER WITH PAK

4 **TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED RETURNEES**
COLLECTED AT BORDERS WITH PAK AND IRN

The number of documented returnees comes from DTM Pakistan data collection. The number of undocumented returnees comes from IOM CB-PAHA data collection.

5 **TOTAL NUMBER ASSISTED BY IOM**
COLLECTED AT BORDERS WITH PAK AND IRN

IOM CB-PAHA assists undocumented Afghan returnees in reception centers located close to the Islam Qala, Milak, Spin Boldak, and Torkham border points.

DATA ON ASSISTED AFGHAN RETURNEES

IOM Afghanistan's CB-PAHA program collects information on undocumented Afghan returnees who pass through reception centers near the border and receive assistance from IOM and Border Consortium partners. The Border Consortium is led by IOM. For more information and access to the Consortium dashboard, visit https://afghanistan.iom.int/situation-reports.
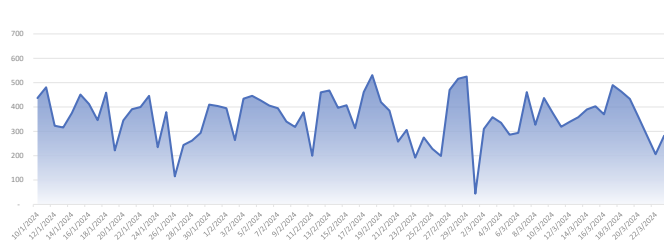
CUMULATIVE TRENDS: NUMBER OF RETURNEES ASSISTED BY IOM (10 JANUARY - 23 MARCH)
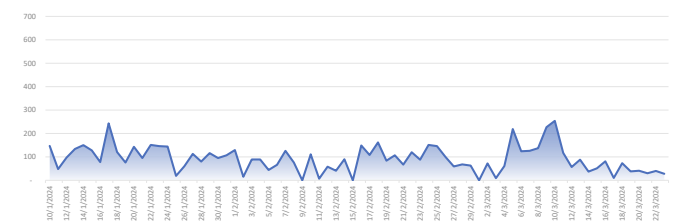
FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

ISLAM QALA
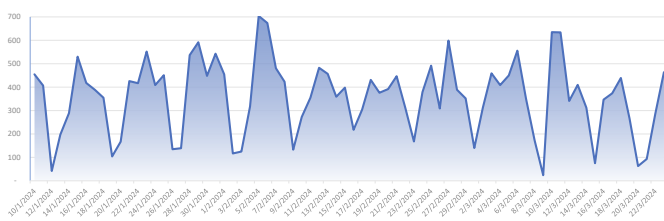
FROM PAKISTAN

SPIN BOLDAK

MILAK

TORKHAM