QUARTERLY FLOW MONITORING OF AFGHAN RETURNEES
DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: JANUARY – MARCH 2024

IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

OVERVIEW

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Pakistan collects data on the outflows of Afghans at the Torkham (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Badini, Bahramcha and Chaman (Balochistan) border crossing point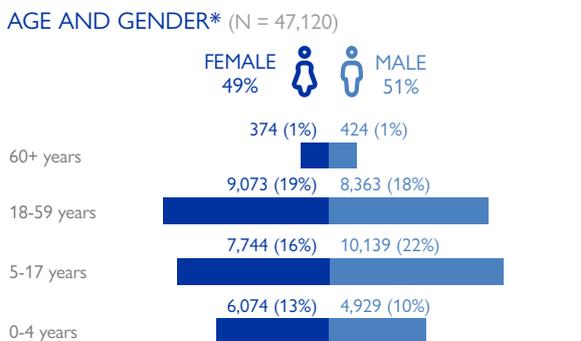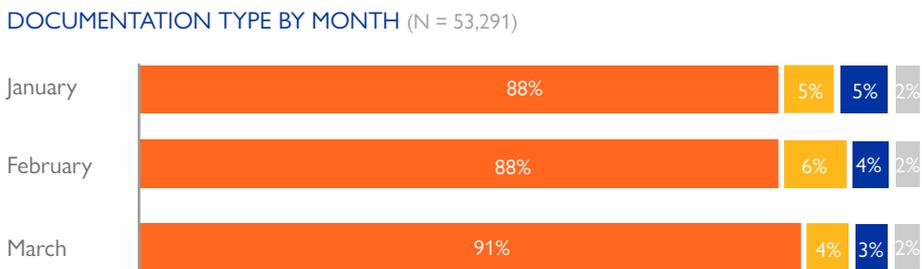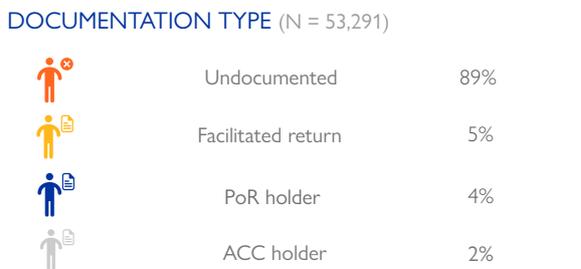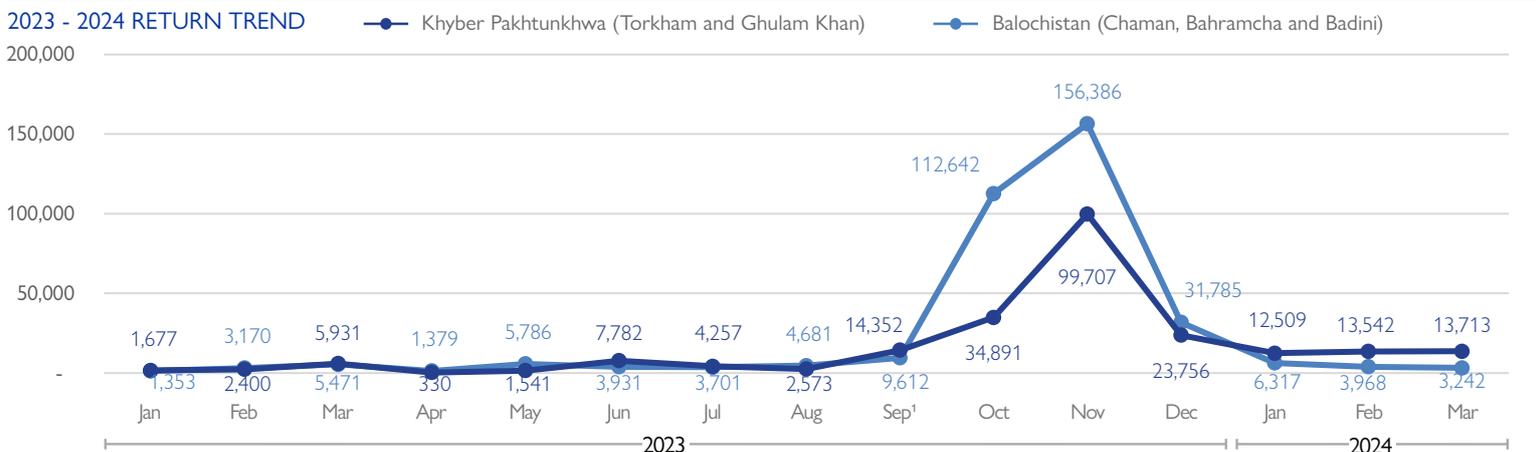s (BCPs) to better understand the movements of Afghans returning to Afghanistan. The data presented below is harmonised with those from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who also cover Ghulam Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

On 26 September 2023, the Ministry of Interior in Pakistan announced its decision to enact its "Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan (IFRP)". Since 1 January 2024, IOM identified 54,227 returns at the five BCPs. Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023, 545,118 individuals have returned to Afghanistan. Ten per cent (54,227 individuals) of this total have returned between January and March 2024.

KEY FINDINGS

- During this reporting period, 53,291 Afghan nationals returned to Afghanistan, including 33,593 (63%) through the Torkham BCP, 13,208 (25%) through the Chaman BCP, 6,171 (11%) through the Ghulam Khan BCP, 319 (1%) through the Badini BCP, while no Afghan nationals returned through the Bahramcha BCP. In addition, border authorities deported 936 individuals due to a lack of valid documentation.
- Between January and March 2024, DTM teams have observed an 88 per cent decrease in returns as compared to the previous quarterly report (October – December 2023).
- In terms of reasons for outflows, during the current reporting period, 75 per cent of the surveyed returnee families indicated they are moving back to Afghanistan due to fear of arrest.
- During the reporting period, two per cent of the overall flow could be considered vulnerable persons.

54,227 AFGHAN NATIONALS RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN
BETWEEN JANUARY AND MARCH 2024

2023 - 2024 RETURN TREND
— Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Torkham and Ghulam Khan) — Balochistan (Chaman, Bahramcha and Badini)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep[1]	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,677	3,170	5,931	1,379	5,786	7,782	4,257	4,681	14,352	34,891	99,707	31,785	12,509	13,542	13,713
Balochistan	1,353	2,400	5,471	330	1,541	3,931	3,701	2,573	9,612	112,642	156,386	23,756	6,317	3,968	3,242

2023 | 2024

DOCUMENTATION TYPE (N = 53,291)

Undocumented	89%
Facilitated return	5%
PoR holder	4%
ACC holder	2%

DOCUMENTATION TYPE BY MONTH (N = 53,291)

January	88%	5%	5%	2%
February	88%	6%	4%	2%
March	91%	4%	3%	2%

AGE AND GENDER* (N = 47,120)

FEMALE 49%   MALE 51%

	Female	Male
60+ years	374 (1%)	424 (1%)
18-59 years	9,073 (19%)	8,363 (18%)
5-17 years	7,744 (16%)	10,139 (22%)
0-4 years	6,074 (13%)	4,929 (10%)

GENDER BY MONTH* (N = 47,120)

■ Female ■ Male

	Female	Male
January	49%	51%
February	50%	50%
March	50%	50%

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY* (N = 47,120)
Note: Percentages are expressed as a proportion of the total number of vulnerable persons

- 41% Chronically ill persons
- 28% Elderly (60+)
- 17% Widowed (female)
- 7% Persons with physical disability (PwD)
- 6% Pregnant woman
- 1% Other[2]

TYPE OF VULNERABILITY BY MONTH* (N = 47,120)

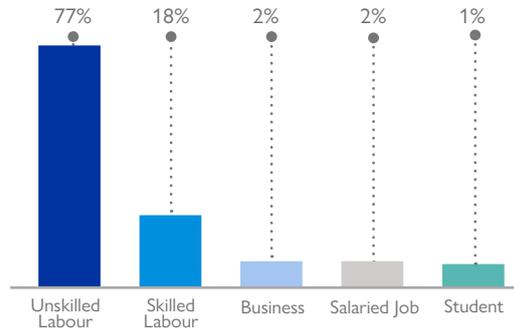|						
January	36%	27%	18%	11%	6%	2%
February	43%	29%	20%	4%	4%	
March	45%	30%	11%	6%	8%	

* An asterisk means the visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans returning through Torkham, Badini, Bahramcha and Chaman, excluding deportees and data collected by UNHCR.
[1] As of 15 September 2023, IOM and UNHCR have harmonised their flow monitoring data, therefore, data prior to 15 September 2023 does not include PoR holders.
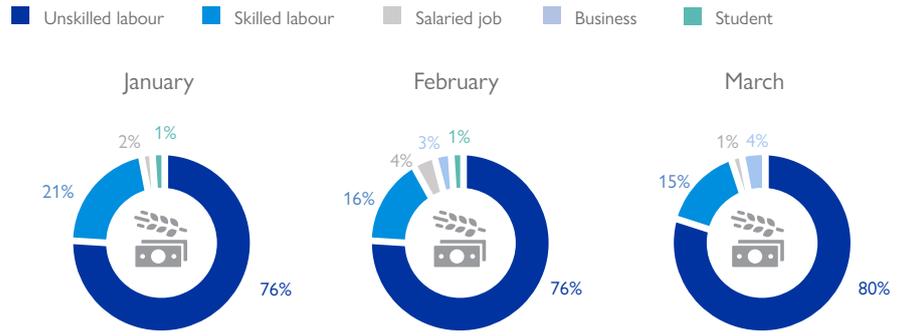[2] Other vulnerable persons include: other special cases.

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IN PAKISTAN*
(N = 2,339)

Source	Percentage
Unskilled Labour	77%
Skilled Labour	18%
Business	2%
Salaried Job	2%
Student	1%

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME IN PAKISTAN BY MONTH* (N = 2,339)

Legend: ■ Unskilled labour ■ Skilled labour ■ Salaried job ■ Business ■ Student

January
- Unskilled labour: 76%
- Skilled labour: 21%
- Salaried job: 2%
- Student: 1%

February
- Unskilled labour: 76%
- Skilled labour: 16%
- Salaried job: 4%
- Business: 3%
- Student: 1%

March
- Unskilled labour: 80%
- Skilled labour: 15%
- Salaried job: 1%
- Business: 4%

REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)*
(Multiple answers, N = 2,339, can exceed 100%)

Reason	Percentage
Fear of arrest	75%
No employment	13%
Communal pressure to return	10%
Forced repatriation	7%
Financial debt	5%

MONTHLY TREND*

	January	February	March
(orange)	70%	82%	74%
	13%	18%	16%
	12%	15%	8%
	3%	6%	5%
	3%	2%	2%
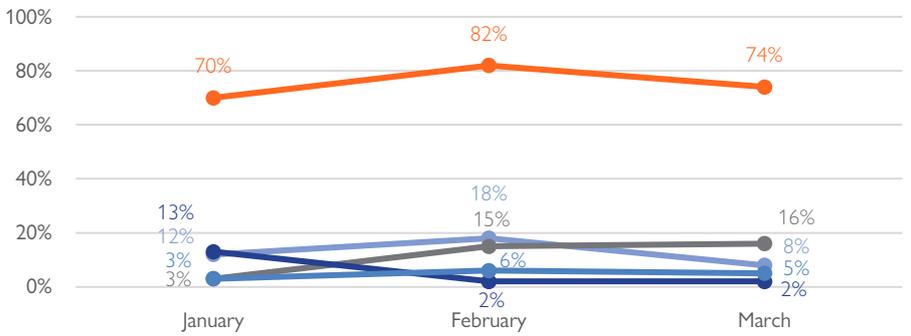
REASONS FOR CHOOSING FINAL DESTINATION (TOP 5)* (Multiple answers, N = 2,339, can exceed 100%)

Reason	Percentage
Family reunion	76%
Family member deported	8%
Returning to own house	5%
Improvement in security	2%
Business/trade reason	1%

MONTHLY TREND*

	January	February	March
(orange)	79%	77%	68%
	11%	12%	8%
	6%	2%	3%
	2%	0%	1%
	1%	0%	0%
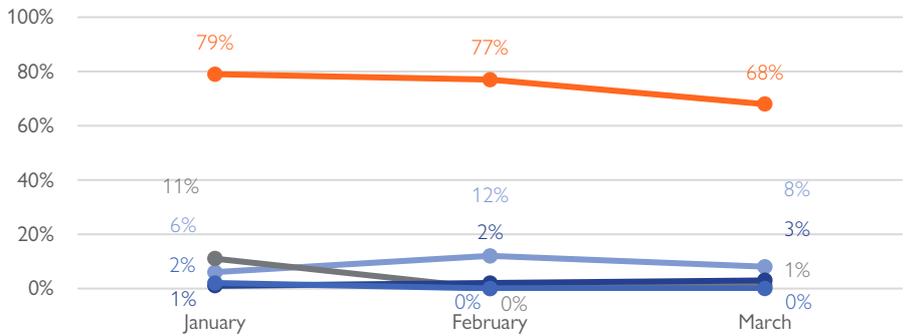
FORESEEN CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN (TOP 8)*
(Multiple answers, N = 2,339, can exceed 100%)
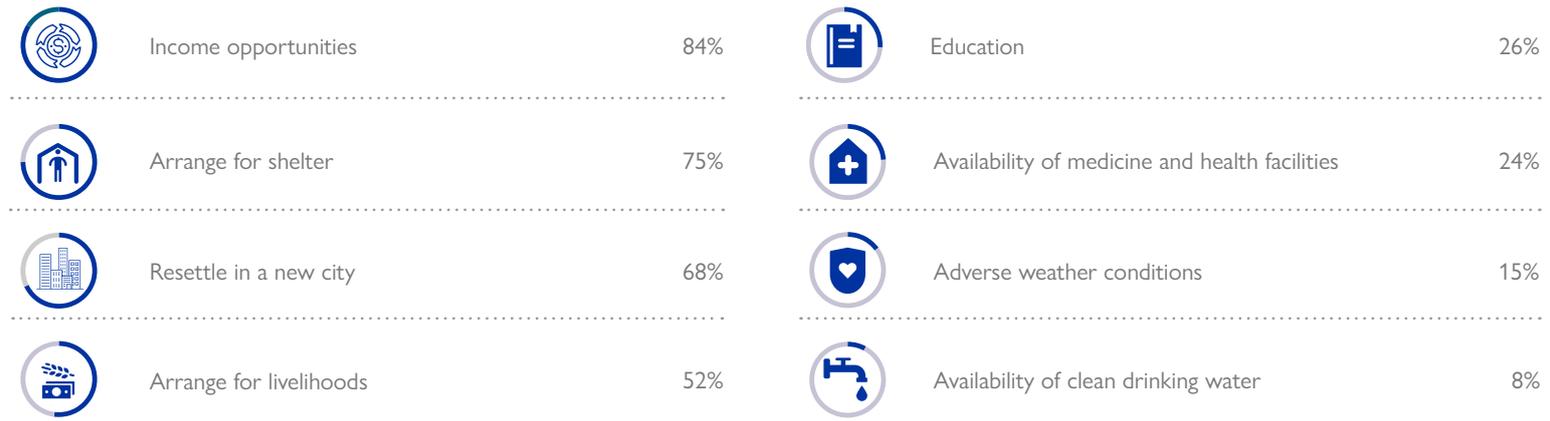
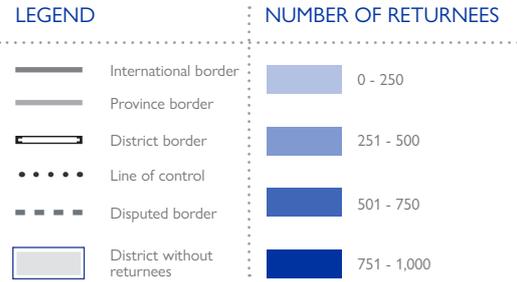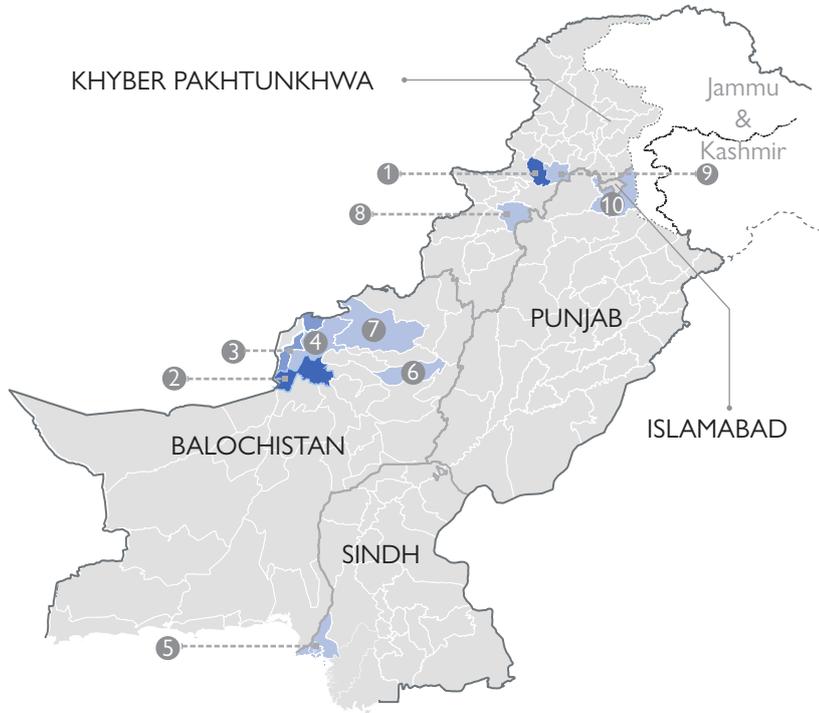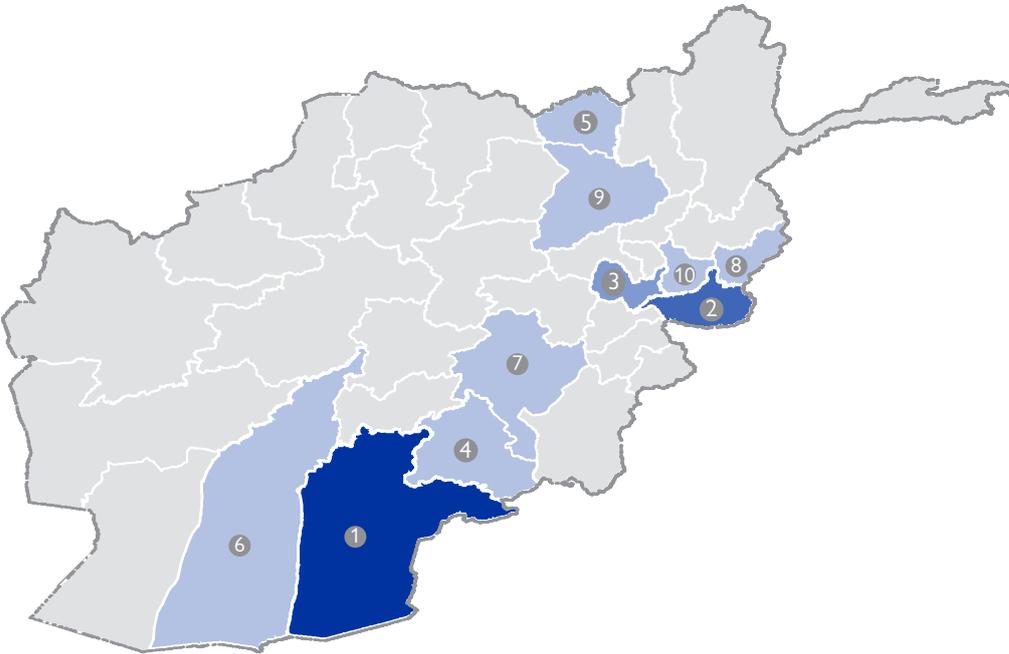| Challenge	Percentage	Challenge	Percentage
Income opportunities	84%	Education	26%
Arrange for shelter	75%	Availability of medicine and health facilities	24%
Resettle in a new city	68%	Adverse weather conditions	15%
Arrange for livelihoods	52%	Availability of clean drinking water	8%

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SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND

- ● Rented house
- ◯ Living with host community
- ● Camp
- ◯ Living with relatives
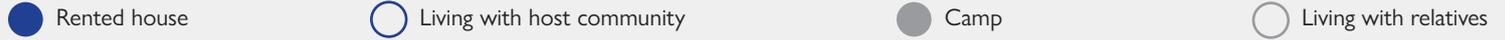
DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN OF RETURNEES* (N = 2,339)

LEGEND

───	International border
───	Province border
▭	District border
• • • •	Line of control
- - -	Disputed border
▢	District without returnees

NUMBER OF RETURNEES

- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 750
- 751 - 1,000

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Jammu & Kashmir

PUNJAB

ISLAMABAD

BALOCHISTAN

SINDH

ORIGIN DISTRICT		Rented house	Camp	Living with host community	Living with relatives
1. Peshawar	23%	97%	2%	1%	
2. Quetta	21%	99%		1%	
3. Killa Abdullah	15%	100%			
4. Pishin	7%	97%	2%	1%	
5. Karachi Central	5%	100%			
6. Duki	4%	12%			88%
7. Killa Saifullah	3%	57%		24%	19%
8. Kohat	2%	61%	39%		
9. Nowshera	2%	75%	25%		
10. Rawalpindi	2%	100%			

Note:
This map and the following legend focus on the top 5 districts of origin in Pakistan during the reporting period of January to March 2024.

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.

TRANSPORTATION TYPE FROM ORIGIN TO BORDER*
(N = 2,339)

Average type of vehicle used until border point between January and March 2024

- Pick up ➤ 44%
- Truck ➤ 38%
- On foot/bus/rented vehicle ➤ 20%

AMOUNT PAID FROM ORIGIN TO BORDER*[3]
(N = 2,339)

PKR 30,499 (USD 113)
Average amount between January and March 2024

January	PKR 26,718 or USD 96
February	PKR 31,898 or USD 118
March	PKR 36,211 or USD 130

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SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND

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

PROVINCE OF INTENDED RETURN IN AFGHANISTAN* (N = 2,339)

LEGEND
- ─── International border
- ▭ Province border
- ▨ Province without returnees

NUMBER OF RETURNEES
- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 750
- 751 - 1,000
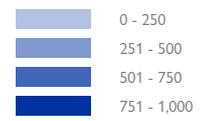
INTENDED PROVINCE		SETTLEMENT TYPE				
1. Kandahar	38%	91%	1%	○	●	8%
2. Nangarhar	26%	46%	14%	4%	12%	24%
3. Kabul	12%	80%	8%	1%	●	11%
4. Zabul	6%	16%	81%	○	●	3%
5. Kunduz	3%	78%	8%	4%	●	10%
6. Helmand	3%	90%	●	○	●	10%
7. Ghazni	2%	87%	7%	○	●	6%
8. Kunar	2%	15%	10%	4%	●	71%
9. Baghlan	1%	42%	10%	6%	●	42%
10. Laghman	1%	26%	42%	○	●	32%

Note:
This map and the following legend focus on the top 5 provinces of intended destination in Afghanistan only during the reporting period of January to March 2024

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TRANSPORTATION TYPE FROM BORDER TO FINAL DESTINATION* (N = 2,339)

Average type of vehicle used from border point to final destination between January and March 2024

- 🚙 Pick up ➤ 50%
- 🚚 Truck ➤ 40%
- 👣🚐 On foot/bus/rented vehicle ➤ 10%
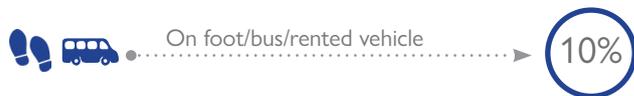
AMOUNT PAID FROM BORDER TO FINAL DESTINATION*[4] (N = 2,339)

PKR 34,138 (USD 123)
Average amount between January and March 2024

- January .... PKR 28,809 or USD 104
- February .... PKR 38,352 or USD 138
- March .... PKR 39,043 or USD 140

* An asterisk means the visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans returning through Torkham, Badini, Bahramcha and Chaman, excluding deportees and data collected by UNHCR.
[4]Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Exchange rates are PKR 278.021 to USD 1 according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 April 2024.