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 16 and 31 October 2023, 108,782 Afghan nationals spontaneously returned to Afghanistan, including 85,076 through the Torkham border point and 23,706 through the Chaman border point. In addition, border authorities forcibly returned 345 individuals due to a lack of valid documentation. Cumulatively, since 1 January 2023, IOM identified 230,567 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.

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, 92 per cent of the surveyed returnee families indicated they are moving back to Afghanistan due to fear of arrest. Twenty-three per cent also indicated communal pressure as an important push factor.

During the reporting period, five per cent of the overall flow could be considered vulnerable persons. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) registered 1,943 returnees moving back to Afghanistan who were chronically ill and require medical attention, in addition to 1,472 elderly individuals, 641 persons with disabilities (PWD), and 74 Unaccompanied Minors (UMs).

The average cost of travel from Pakistan to Afghanistan, as reported, stood at PKR 116,399 (equivalent to USD 414 as of October 31, 2023) per family, which increased by more than 10,000 PKR compared to the previous reporting period.
DTM PAKISTAN
BI-WEEKLY FLOW MONITORING OF AFGHAN RETURNEES
DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 16 – 31 OCTOBER 2023

SETTLEMENT TYPE LEGEND

This visual only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN

Note:
This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 districts of origin in Pakistan during the reporting period from 16 – 31 October 2023
Disclaimer:
Dot 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 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

Note:
This map and the following legends focus on the top 5 provinces of intended destination in Afghanistan during the reporting period from 16 – 31 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.

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