WEEKLY FLOW MONITORING SNAPSHOT

10 - 20 JANUARY 2024, DATA UPDATED AS OF 21:00 ON 20 JAN

IOM | UN MIGRATION
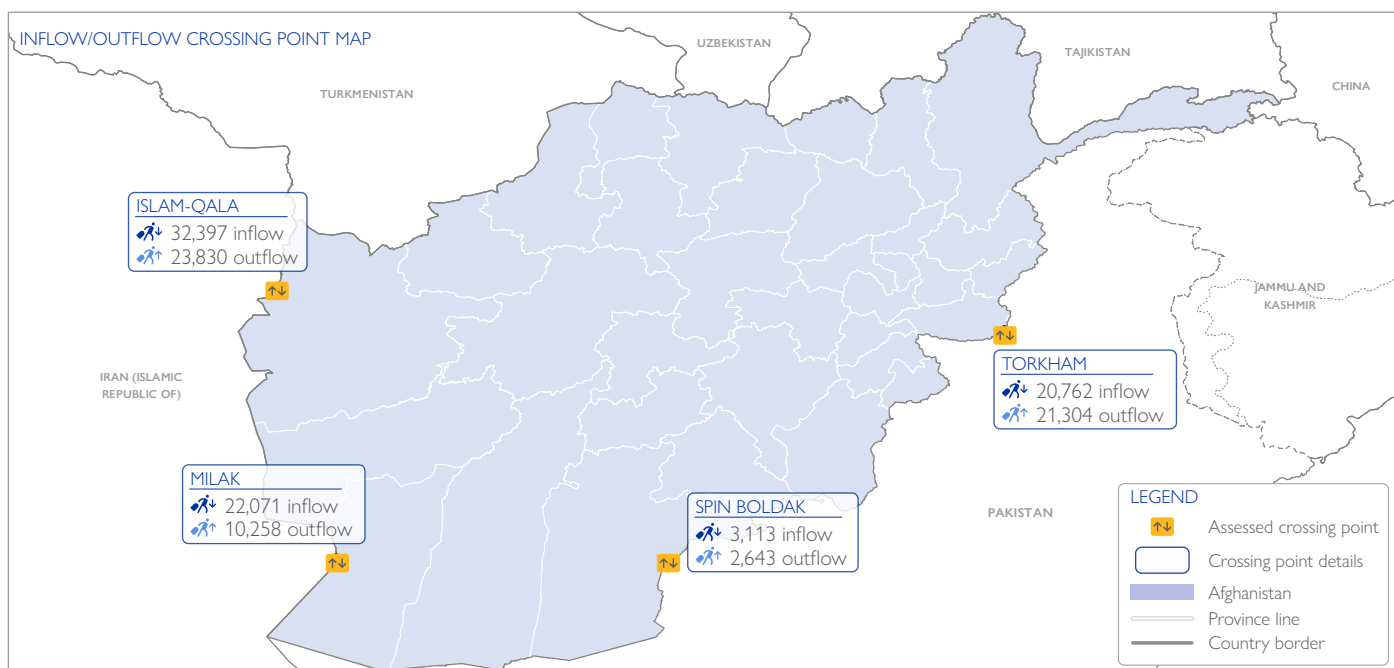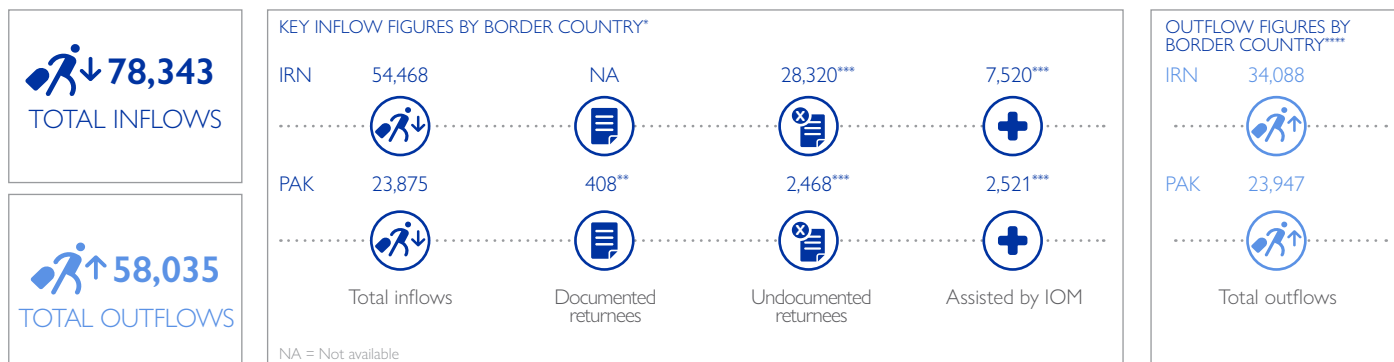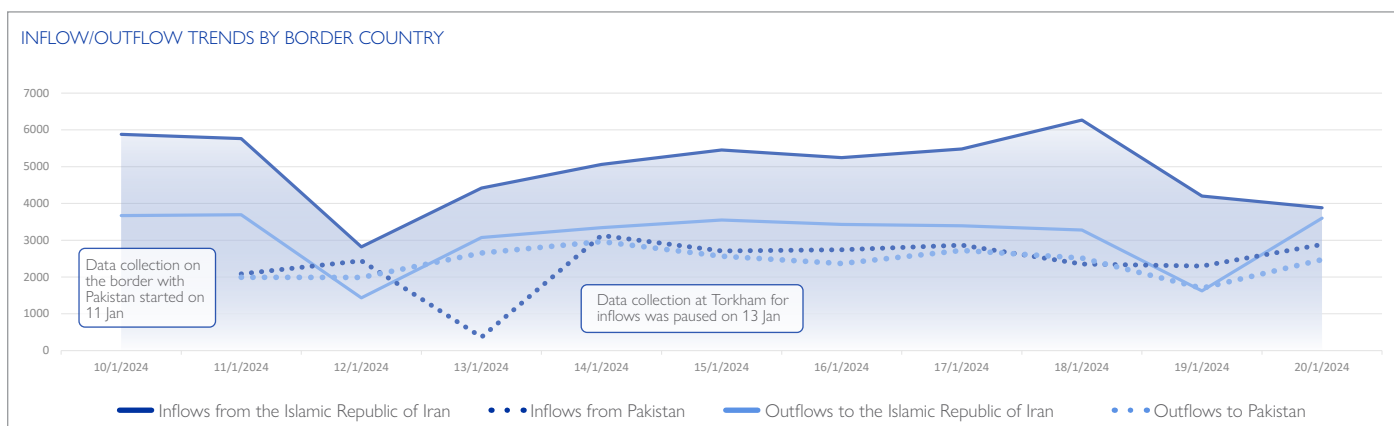GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

OVERVIEW

In response to recent movements, IOM Afghanistan re-launched its DTM Flow Monitoring activity at the beginning of 2024 to better understand the mobility dynamics at Afghanistan's borders. As of 20 January 2024, DTM has deployed field teams at four border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRN) and Pakistan (PAK) (see map below) 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 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 IOM Afghanistan's Cross-Border Post-Arrival Humanitarian Assistance (CB-PAHA) program as well as DTM Afghanistan and Pakistan for the period 10 to 20 January 2024. For more information about methodology, see the last page of this report.

78,343
TOTAL INFLOWS

58,035
TOTAL OUTFLOWS

KEY INFLOW FIGURES BY BORDER COUNTRY*

	Total inflows	Documented returnees	Undocumented returnees	Assisted by IOM
IRN	54,468	NA	28,320***	7,520***
PAK	23,875	408**	2,468***	2,521***

NA = Not available

OUTFLOW FIGURES BY BORDER COUNTRY****

	Total outflows
IRN	34,088
PAK	23,947

INFLOW/OUTFLOW CROSSING POINT MAP

UZBEKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
CHINA

ISLAM-QALA
32,397 inflow
23,830 outflow

TORKHAM
20,762 inflow
21,304 outflow

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

MILAK
22,071 inflow
10,258 outflow

SPIN BOLDAK
3,113 inflow
2,643 outflow

PAKISTAN

LEGEND

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

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.

INFLOW/OUTFLOW TRENDS BY BORDER COUNTRY

Data collection on the border with Pakistan started on 11 Jan

Data collection at Torkham for inflows was paused on 13 Jan

10/1/2024, 11/1/2024, 12/1/2024, 13/1/2024, 14/1/2024, 15/1/2024, 16/1/2024, 17/1/2024, 18/1/2024, 19/1/2024, 20/1/2024

— Inflows from the Islamic Republic of Iran
• • • Inflows from Pakistan
— Outflows to the Islamic Republic of Iran
• • • Outflows to Pakistan

* 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."
** This data is collected by DTM 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.
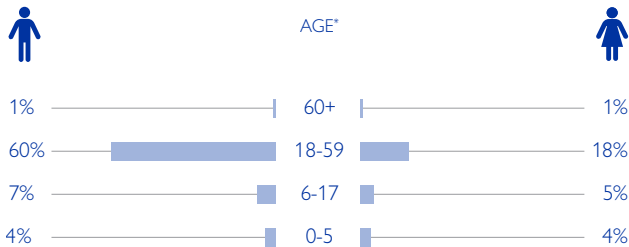**** DTM Afghanistan does not collect data on subsets of outflow groups.
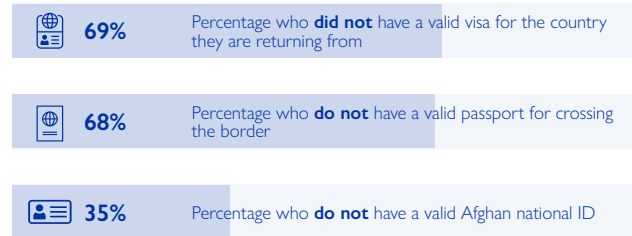
INFLOWS: 78,343 INDIVIDUALS

Afghan nationals make up 99 per cent of the 4,393 total individuals (3,013 at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1,380 at the border with Pakistan) **who were interviewed by DTM Afghanistan entering Afghanistan** for the period 10 to 20 January 2024. The following data only covers Afghan nationals who were interviewed as part of the Flow Monitoring Surveys.
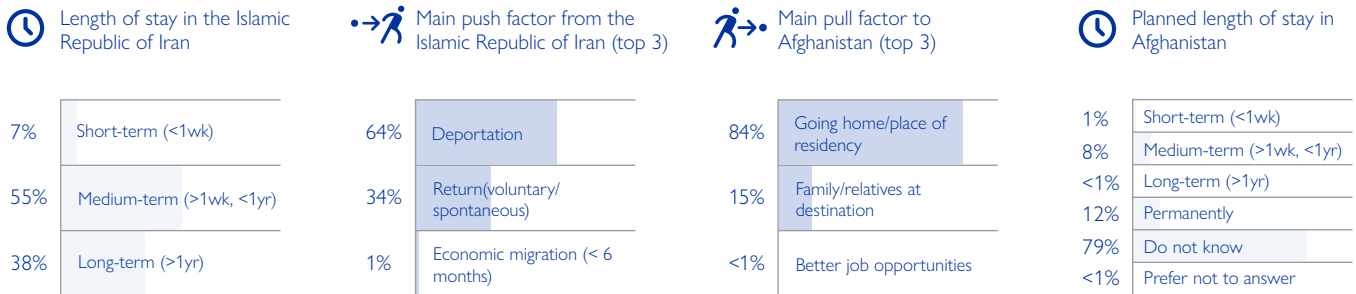
PROFILES

Demographics

AGE*

1%	60+	1%
60%	18-59	18%
7%	6-17	5%
4%	0-5	4%

Documentation

69% Percentage who **did not** have a valid visa for the country they are returning from

68% Percentage who **do not** have a valid passport for crossing the border

35% Percentage who **do not** have a valid Afghan national ID

Presence of vulnerable groups

1% Unaccompanied minor

1% Single female

3% Pregnant/lactating person

1% Chronic disease/ special needs

3% 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

7%	Short-term (<1wk)
55%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
38%	Long-term (>1yr)

Main push factor from the Islamic Republic of Iran (top 3)

64%	Deportation
34%	Return(voluntary/ spontaneous)
1%	Economic migration (< 6 months)

Main pull factor to Afghanistan (top 3)

84%	Going home/place of residency
15%	Family/relatives at destination
<1%	Better job opportunities

Planned length of stay in Afghanistan

1%	Short-term (<1wk)
8%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
<1%	Long-term (>1yr)
12%	Permanently
79%	Do not know
<1%	Prefer not to answer

RESPONDENTS ARRIVING FROM PAKISTAN

Length of stay in Pakistan

13%	Short-term (<1wk)
39%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
48%	Long-term (>1yr)

Main push factor from Pakistan (top 3)

28%	Return after completing medical treatment
24%	Return (voluntary/ spontaneous)
20%	Family visit

Main pull factor to Afghanistan (top 3)

82%	Going home/place of residency
5%	Access to health services
4%	Family/relatives at destination

Planned length of stay in Afghanistan

5%	Short-term (<1wk)
15%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
1%	Long-term (>1yr)
1%	Permanently
79%	Do not know
<1%	Prefer not to answer

Most movements to both the Islamic Republic of Iran and to Pakistan lasted less than a year. While movements from Iran were mainly characterized by deportees and voluntary returns, movements from Pakistan involved those returning after completing medical treatment or visiting family in addition to voluntary returns. Male respondents arriving from Pakistan were more likely to cite family visits (24%) and trade (14%), while female respondents were more likely to cite voluntary returns (46%). Enumerators noted that many who cited voluntary returns had originally gone to Pakistan due to insecurity in Afghanistan, and were now returning believing the security situation improved. 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.
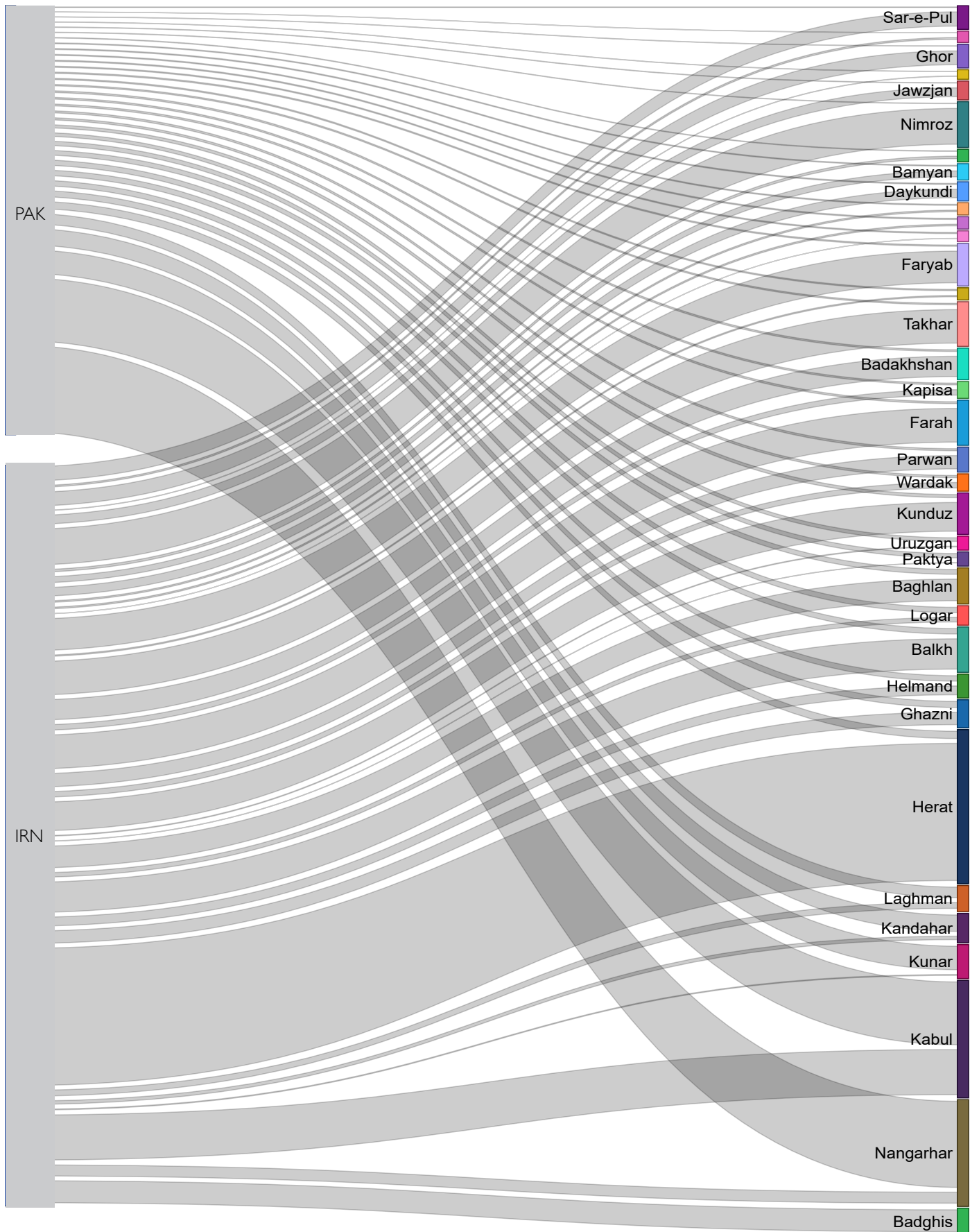
* Individuals under 18 were assessed by having an accompanying adult answer on their behalf.

⬇ INFLOWS

ORIGIN COUNTRIES

DESTINATION PROVINCES

PAK

IRN

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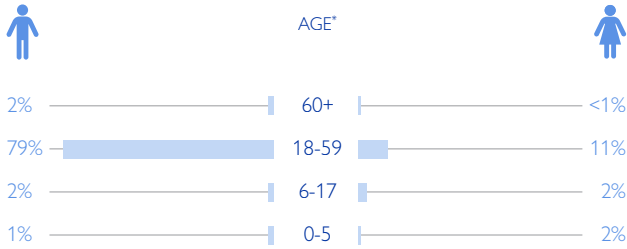Ghazni
Herat
Laghman
Kandahar
Kunar
Kabul
Nangarhar
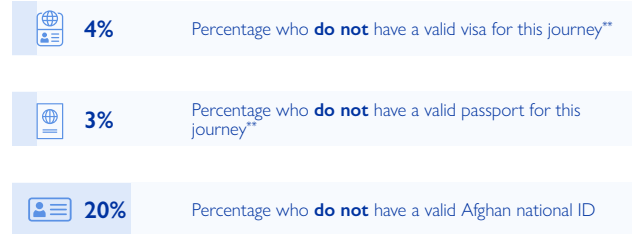Badghis

OUTFLOWS: 58,035 INDIVIDUALS

Afghan nationals make up 96 per cent of the 2,714 total individuals (1,470 at the border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1,244 at the border with Pakistan) **who were interviewed by DTM Afghanistan leaving Afghanistan** for the period 10 to 20 January 2024. The following data only covers Afghan nationals who were interviewed as part of the Flow Monitoring Surveys.
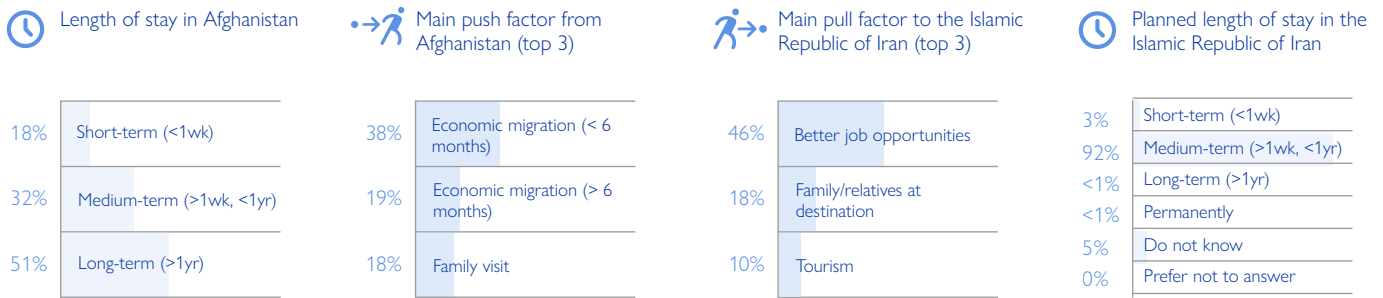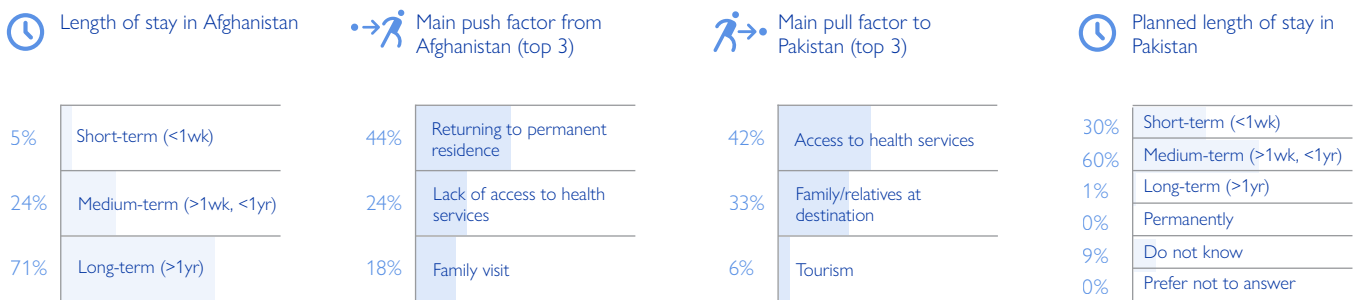
PROFILES

Demographics

AGE*

2%	60+	<1%	
79%	18-59	11%	
2%	6-17	2%	
1%	0-5	2%	

Documentation

4% — Percentage who **do not** have a valid visa for this journey**

3% — Percentage who **do not** have a valid passport for this journey**

20% — 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

18%	Short-term (<1wk)
32%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
51%	Long-term (>1yr)

Main push factor from Afghanistan (top 3)

38%	Economic migration (< 6 months)
19%	Economic migration (> 6 months)
18%	Family visit

Main pull factor to the Islamic Republic of Iran (top 3)

46%	Better job opportunities
18%	Family/relatives at destination
10%	Tourism

Planned length of stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran

3%	Short-term (<1wk)
92%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
<1%	Long-term (>1yr)
<1%	Permanently
5%	Do not know
0%	Prefer not to answer

RESPONDENTS GOING TO PAKISTAN

Length of stay in Afghanistan

5%	Short-term (<1wk)
24%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
71%	Long-term (>1yr)

Main push factor from Afghanistan (top 3)

44%	Returning to permanent residence
24%	Lack of access to health services
18%	Family visit

Main pull factor to Pakistan (top 3)

42%	Access to health services
33%	Family/relatives at destination
6%	Tourism

Planned length of stay in Pakistan

30%	Short-term (<1wk)
60%	Medium-term (>1wk, <1yr)
1%	Long-term (>1yr)
0%	Permanently
9%	Do not know
0%	Prefer not to answer

Possessing travel documents, including a passport and visa, was relatively common among those leaving in Afghanistan. This stands in contrast with the majority of those arriving in Afghanistan, who were not carrying travel documents. The large proportion of outflow respondents who reported having stayed in Afghanistan for over a year is most likely attributed to the majority of respondents being Afghan nationals and therefore normally living in Afghanistan. However, nearly half of those going to Pakistan reported that they were traveling to their permanent place of residence. Other reasons for movement among those going to Pakistan included visiting relatives and accessing health services, with a third of respondents only intending to stay in Pakistan for less than a week. Reasons for movement among respondents leaving Afghanistan for the Islamic Republic of Iran were more often related to economic motivations, including economic migration for less than six months (38%), most likely referring to seasonal work, and better job opportunities (46%).
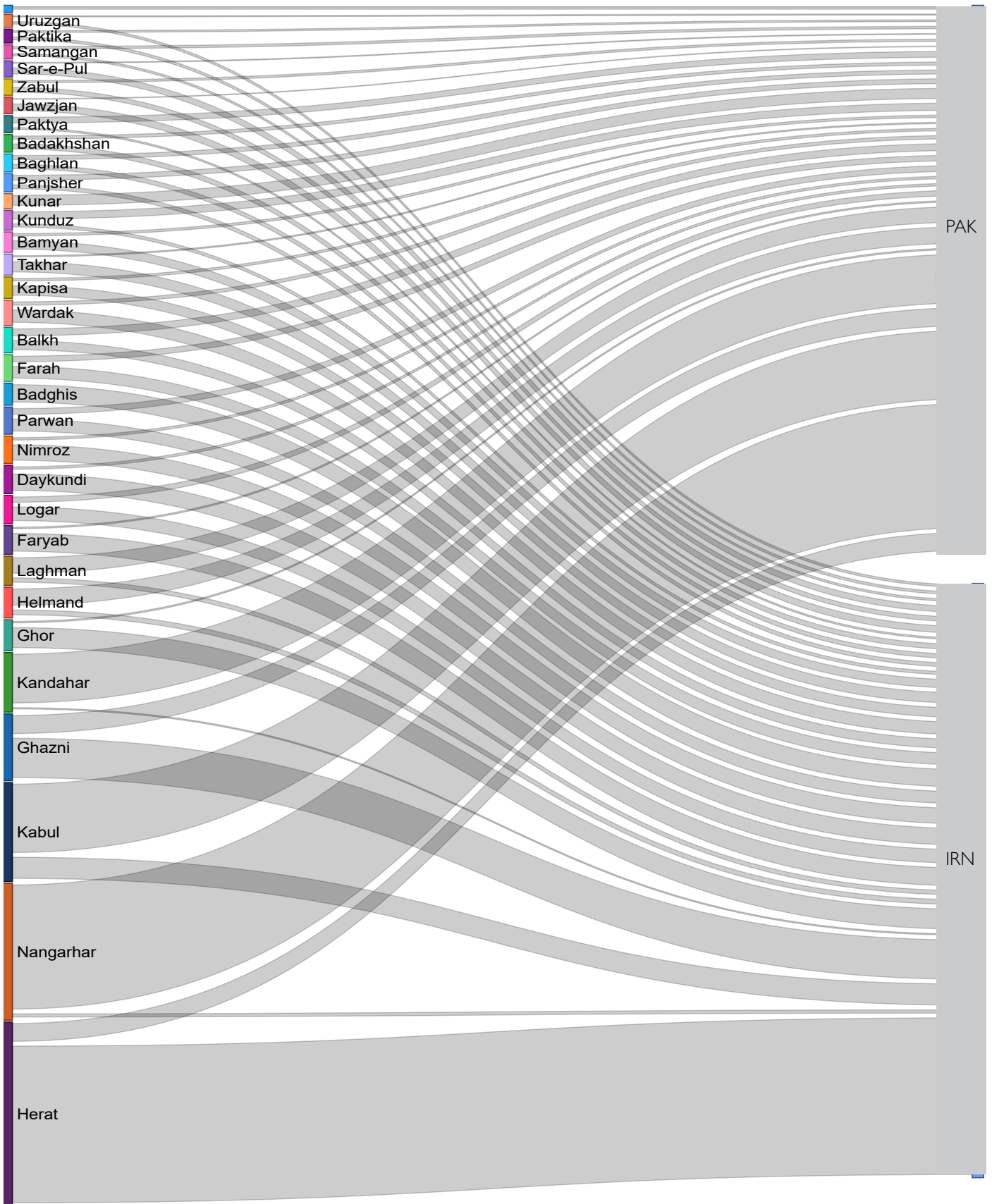
* Individuals under 18 were assessed by having an accompanying adult answer on their behalf.
** These percentages are based on the responses of interviewees only and have no means of verification.
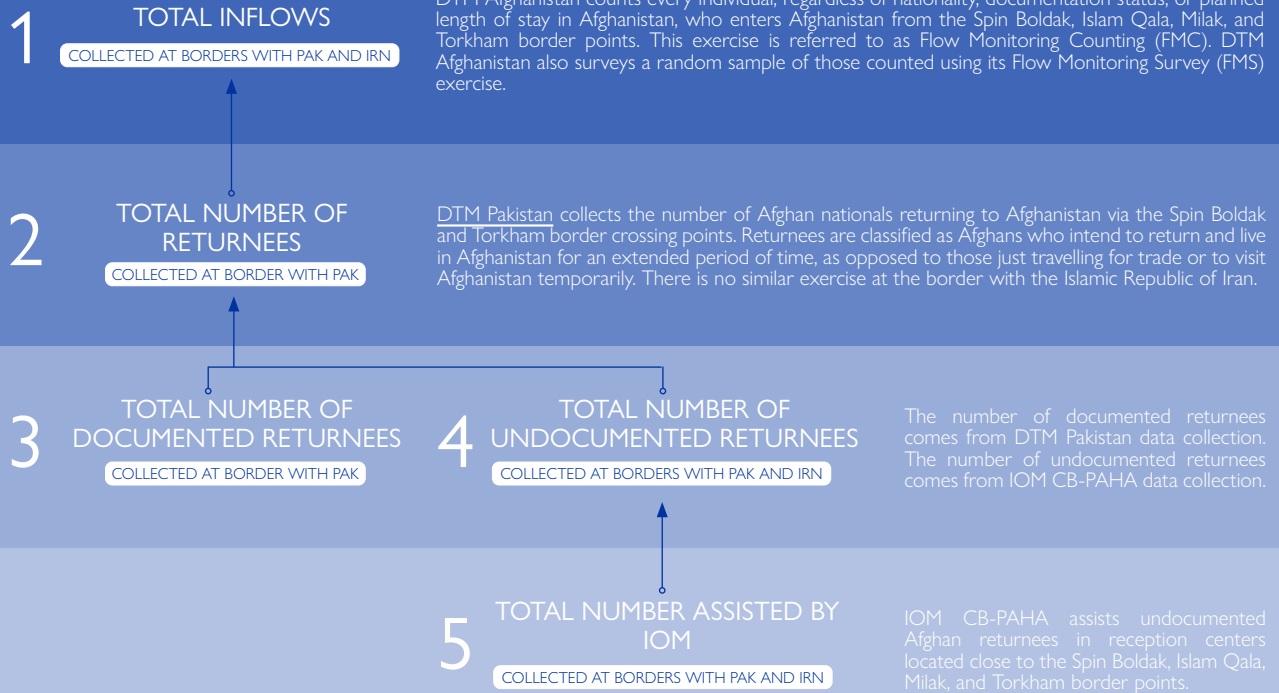
🏃↑ OUTFLOWS

ORIGIN PROVINCES

DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Origin provinces (top to bottom): Uruzgan, Paktika, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Zabul, Jawzjan, Paktya, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Panjsher, Kunar, Kunduz, Bamyan, Takhar, Kapisa, Wardak, Balkh, Farah, Badghis, Parwan, Nimroz, Daykundi, Logar, Faryab, Laghman, Helmand, Ghor, Kandahar, Ghazni, Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat. Destination countries: PAK, IRN.

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 Spin Boldak, Islam Qala, Milak, 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 Spin Boldak, Islam Qala, Milak, 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.

TRENDS: NUMBER OF RETURNEES ASSISTED BY IOM CB-PAHA

FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

ISLAM QALA
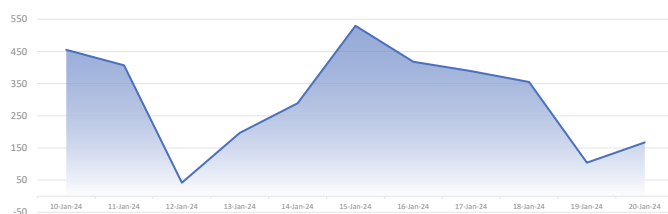
FROM PAKISTAN

SPIN BOLDAK

MILAK

TORKHAM