INTRODUCTION

In response to the Ministry of Interior’s (MoI) decision of 26 September 2023 to enact an “Illegal Foreigners’ Repatriation Plan”, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and IOM, the UN Migration Agency, have collated their data on the arrest, detention, and deportation of Proof of Registration (PoR) holders, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, and undocumented Afghan nationals as well as on the outflows of Afghan nationals at the Torkham and Chaman border crossing points, to better understand the protection environment and movements of Afghan nationals returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan.

While the Government of Pakistan has yet to halt the “IFRP”, the rate of arrest, detention, deportation, and returns has decreased significantly since its peak in October and November 2023. Furthermore, on 7 January 2024, the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) issued a notification that the validity of the POR cards has been extended until 31 March 2024.

KEY FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS

It is important to note that prior to 2023, there was no data collected on the arrest and detention of ACC holders or undocumented Afghan nationals. Since January 2023, IOM has started to collect this data, which should be considered indicative at this point. The figures, particularly of undocumented Afghans, should be considered underreported.

- The period from 1 to 20 April 2024 saw the overall reported rates of arrest and detention decrease by approximately 32 per cent compared to 1 to 31 March 2024.
- From 1 to 20 April, the rate of arrest and detention for ACC holders and undocumented Afghans was 25 per cent higher than for PoR holders and asylum seekers.
- Since the start of 1 October 2023, the overall reported rate of arrest remains highest for the province of Balochistan. However, between January 1st and April 20th, the highest reported rate of arrest for Afghan nationals has been in the province of Sindh.
- Across Pakistan, the top four districts for arrest and detention between April 1st and April 20th are Karachi (Sindh), Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Pishin and Killah Abdullah (Balochistan).

NO. OF ARRESTS BY PROVINCE (1 January – 20 April 2024)

Sindh 551
Balochistan 302
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 236
Islamabad/AJK 44
Punjab 27

NO. OF ARRESTS BY DISTRICTS (1 January – 20 April 2024)

MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION TRENDS 2022 – 2024 (PoR HOLDERS)

MONTHLY ARRESTS AND DETENTION ANALYSIS 2023 – 2024
During the last three weeks, UNHCR and IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) estimate 12,198 Afghans returned through the Torkham, Ghulam Khan (located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Chaman, Badini and Brahamsha (located in Balochistan) border crossing points to Afghanistan.

Cumulatively, from 15 September 2023 to 20 April 2024, 557,316 individuals have returned.

The number of returns in the first three weeks of April (12,198) increased by thirty per cent compared to returns in the last three weeks of March (9,381). The overall return figures remain low in comparison to the first weeks of November 2023.

Most of the returnees were undocumented Afghans (89%), followed by PoR holders (9%) and ACC holders (2%). Majority of the POR returns are facilitated by UNHCR.

Vulnerable persons including chronically ill people, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and others account for four percent of the population.

Fear of arrest (89%) remains the most common reason to return to Afghanistan among undocumented/ACC holders while PoR holders cite social economic challenges.

Returnees were most likely to return from Quetta (19%) and Peshawar (17%) in Pakistan and intend to go to Nangarhar (26%), Kandahar (23%) and Kabul (16%) in Afghanistan.
**UNHCR-IOM FLASH UPDATE #18**

**ARREST AND DETENTION**

FLOW MONITORING (15 September 2023 – 20 April 2024)

This section only applies to ACC holders and undocumented Afghans

**TYPE OF VULNERABILITY**

(Expressed as a percentage of the total numbers of vulnerable persons)

- **(7,444) 41%** Serious Medical Conditions
- **(5,51) 30%** Elderly (60+)
- **(1,884) 10%** Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
- **(1,251) 7%** Female Widows
- **(746) 4%** Pregnant Women
- **(1,440) 8%** Other

**AGE AND GENDER**

- **Female**
  - 49.7% 196,707
  - (10.5%) 41,596 0 – 4
  - (18.7%) 74,086 5 – 17
  - (19.0%) 75,298 18 – 59
  - (1.5%) 5,727 60+

- **Male**
  - 50.3% 199,311
  - 39,796 (10.0%)
  - 79,860 (20.2%)
  - 73,555 (18.6%)
  - 6,100 (1.5%)

**REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)**

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 22,176)

- Fear of arrest 89%
- Loss of livelihood 21%
- Communal pressure 14%
- Unable to pay house rent 6%

This section only applies to PoR holders

**TYPE OF VULNERABILITY**

(Expressed as a percentage of the total numbers of vulnerable persons)

- **(672) 41%** Serious Medical Conditions
- **(292) 18%** Elderly (60+)
- **(169) 10%** Persons with Disabilities (PwD)
- **(328) 21%** Other

**AGE AND GENDER**

- **Female**
  - 49.0% 13,923
  - 2,651 (20.2%)
  - 5,546 (20.3%)
  - 2,508 (8.8%)
  - 483 (1.7%)

- **Male**
  - 51.0% 14,513
  - 328 (9.4%)
  - 5,768 (19.5%)
  - 5,754 (20.2%)
  - 483 (1.7%)

**REASONS FOR LEAVING PAKISTAN (TOP 5)**

(Multiple answers can exceed 100%, N = 2,311)

- Socio-economic challenges 27%
- Fear of harassment/arrest 20%
- Loss of livelihood 12%
- Strict border entry requirements 12%
- Other 30%

**DISTRICT OF ORIGIN IN PAKISTAN AND PROVINCE OF DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN**

**DISTRICT OF ORIGIN (TOP 5)**

1. Quetta 19%
2. Peshawar 17%
3. Karachi Central 14%
4. Pishin 9%
5. Killa Abdullah 6%

**PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (TOP 5)**

1. Nangarhar 26%
2. Kandahar 23%
3. Kabul 16%
4. Kunduz 12%
5. Helmand 5%

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 document was produced jointly by IOM and UNHCR. The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM or UNHCR. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever 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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