

ABOUT FLOW MONITORING (FM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Pakistan's FM provides key insights into cross-border migration trends, returning Afghan nationals to Afghanistan, their profiles, mobility patterns, routes, vulnerabilities, demographics and other social characteristics.

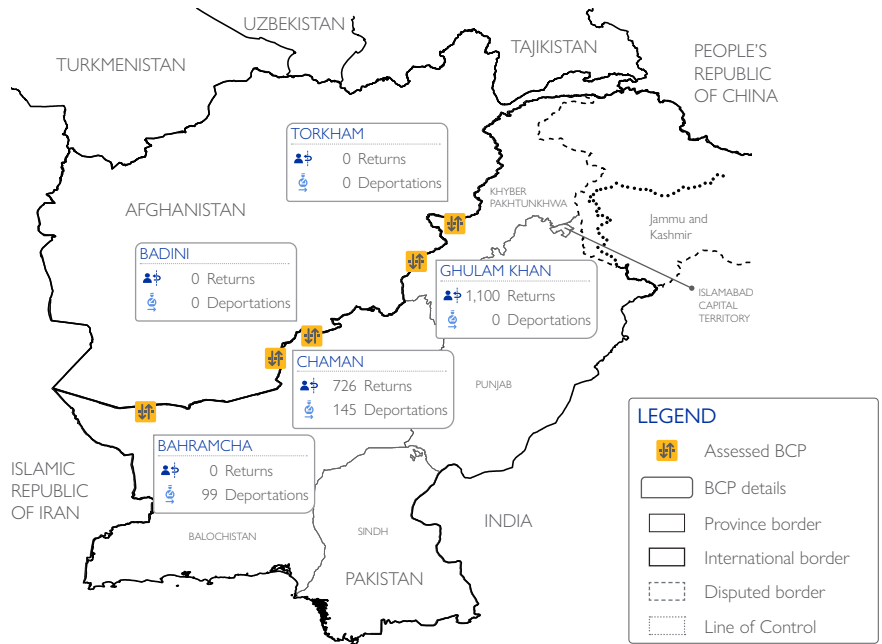
Between 1 and 15 March 2025, DTM border monitors (BMs) interviewed 80 heads of households¹ through a Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) form, while 2,070 Afghan returnees were identified through five border crossing points (BCPs) (see map 1). For more information on FM methodology, see page 5.

844,499 TOTAL RETURNS 15 Sep 2023 – 15 Mar 2025			
2,070 TOTAL RETURNS 1 – 15 March 2025			
Province	BCP	#	%
KP	Torkham	0	0%
Balochistan	Chaman	726	35%
KP	Ghulam Khan	1,100	53%
Balochistan	Badini	0	0%
Balochistan	Bahramcha	0	0%
Total deportations		#	%
Deportations		244	12%

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both returns and deportations have decreased significantly (67% decrease in returns and 50% decrease in deportations) compared to the previous reporting period (16 – 28 February). This decrease is mostly due to the Torkham border closure as well as a general slowdown in returns during Ramadan.
- Cumulatively, since 15 September 2023, **844,499** individuals have returned to Afghanistan. Five per cent (38,508 individuals) of this total have returned since 1 January 2025.
- Fear of arrest (86%) remains the key reason for Afghan nationals to return to Afghanistan.

Map 1. Assessed border crossing points in Pakistan



Disclaimer: The 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.

Figure 1. Monthly returns of Afghan nationals (1 September 2023 – 15 March 2025)

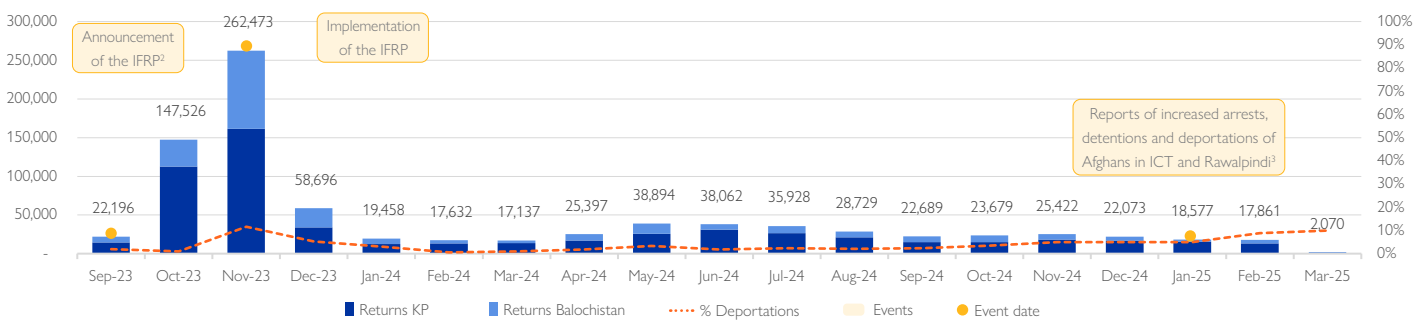
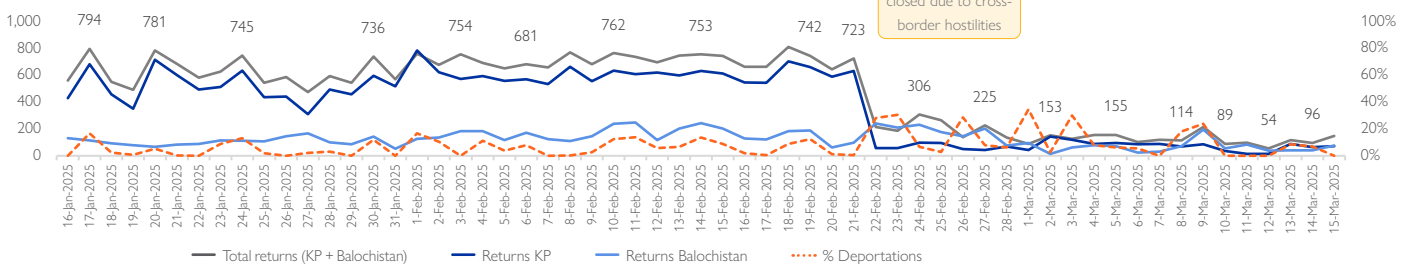


Figure 2. Daily returns of Afghan nationals (16 January 2025 – 15 March 2025)



¹ Due to the Torkham border closure, DTM, during this reporting period, was only able to conduct interviews with returnees at the Chaman border crossing point (BCP). Therefore, results are only representative for these 80 individuals interviewed at the Chaman BCP.

² On 3 October 2023, Pakistani authorities formally announced the implementation of the "Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP)", demanding that all undocumented foreigners residing in Pakistan leave the country by 1 November 2023 or face deportation.

³ These arrests and detentions occurred following news reports on 27 November 2024, indicating a Ministry of Interior (MoI) requirement of a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) for Afghan nationals residing in ICT after 31 December 2024. Deportations of Afghan nationals started in January 2025.

DOCUMENTATION STATUS OF RETURNEES⁴ *

Undocumented: 1,756 (96%)

ACC holder: 22 (1%)

PoR holder: 48 (3%)

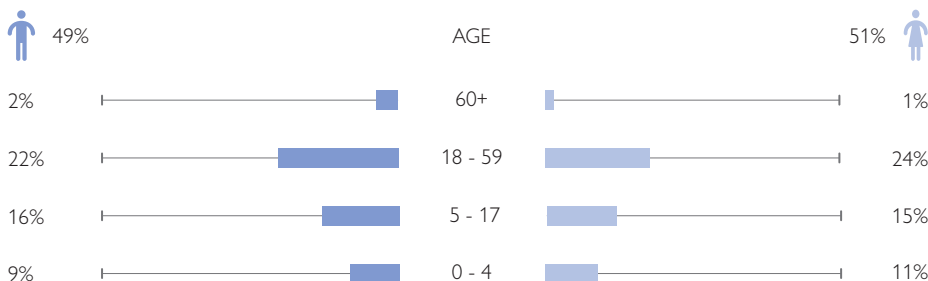
DEMOGRAPHICS

4% Women-headed households

0% Child-headed households

140 Polio vaccinated (<10 years)

Figure 3. Age and gender of returnees (N = 2,070)

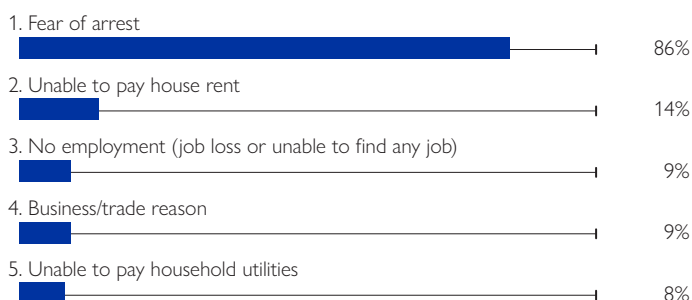


Four per cent of the returnee households were women-headed households. During this reporting period, no child-headed households (<18 years) were recorded. Of the children (<10 years) who crossed the border, 140 had received polio vaccination. The majority of returnees are individuals between 18 and 59 years of age (46%) and individuals between 5 and 17 years of age (31%). More women (51%) than men (49%) returned during this reporting period.

REASONS FOR MOVEMENT

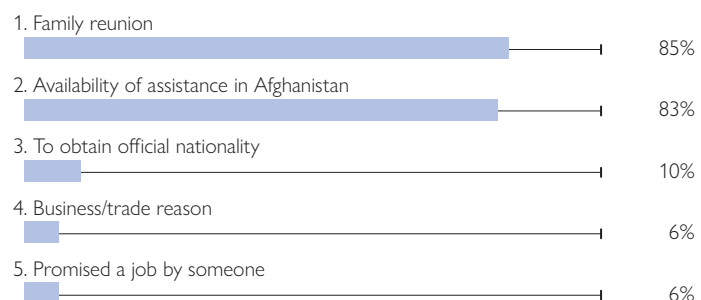
Similar to the previous reporting period, fear of arrest (86%) remains key reasons for return. Economic reasons such as the inability to pay house rent (14%) and inability to pay household utilities (8%) have decreased significantly compared to the previous reporting period. No employment (9%) and business/trade reason (9%) were also cited as important reasons, though by a smaller

Figure 4. Reasons for leaving Pakistan (Multiple answers, N = 80, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)*



share of respondents. On the other hand, 85 per cent of Afghans have reported family reunion as a reason for choosing their final destination and 83 per cent noted the availability of assistance in Afghanistan as another reason. Ten per cent of returnees also indicated that they want to obtain official nationality in Afghanistan.

Figure 5. Reasons for choosing final destination (Multiple answers, N = 80, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)*

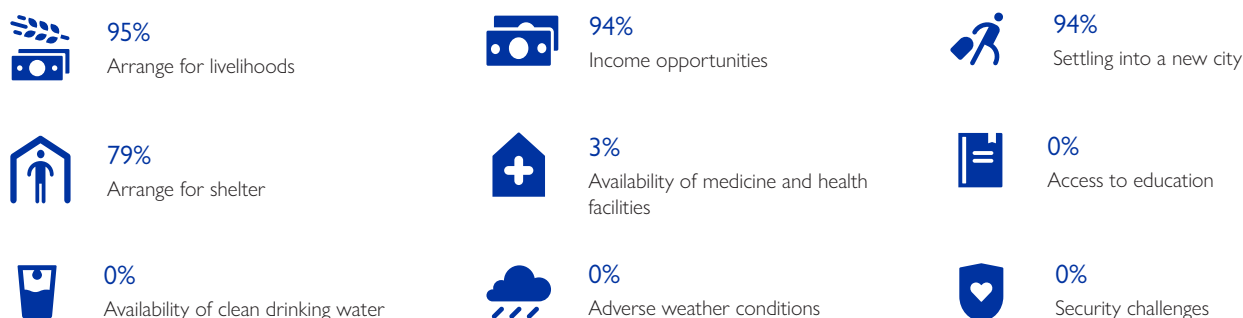


FORESEEN CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN

During the interviews, a large majority of respondents reported arranging for livelihood (95%), finding income opportunities (94%), settling into a new city (94%), and arranging for shelter (79%) as the

most important challenges they foresee upon return in Afghanistan. Three per cent also indicated the availability of medicine and health facilities as a foreseen challenge upon return.

Figure 6. Foreseen challenges in Afghanistan (Multiple answers, N = 80, can exceed 100%)*



⁴ Documentation status is not available for returnees who were deported.

* An asterisk indicates that the visual data pertains exclusively to ACC holders and undocumented Afghan nationals returning through the Torkham and Chaman BCPs. Data was not collected from the Badini and Bahramcha BCPs, and excludes deportees as well as data gathered by UNHCR at the Ghulam Khan BCP.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

On average, returnees pay USD 186 from their place of origin in Pakistan to their final destination in Afghanistan. The cost from the border to their final destination in Afghanistan (USD 106) is higher than the cost from their place of origin in Pakistan to the border (USD 80). The majority of returnees use pick ups (66%) to return.

Seventeen per cent also use buses or minibuses and another 17 per cent use trucks.

All Afghan returnees reported moving with personal belongings, household items and cash, followed by productive assets (96%).

AVERAGE ESTIMATED AMOUNT PAID FROM ORIGIN TO DESTINATION: PKR 51,947 (USD 186)⁵*

Average estimated amount paid from origin (PAK) to border:

PKR 22,447 USD 80

Average estimated amount paid from border to destination (AFG):

PKR 29,500 USD 106

Figure 7. Main mode of transportation (N = 80)*

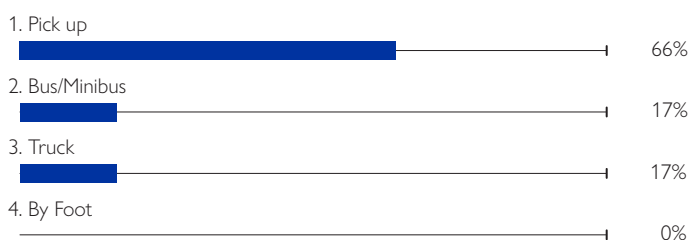
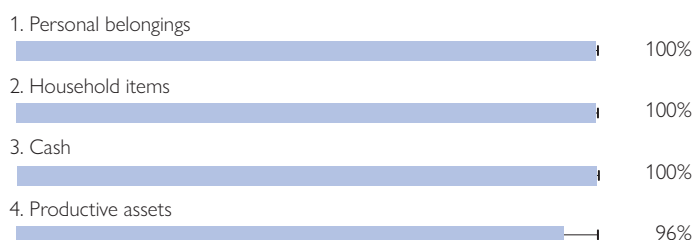


Figure 8. Belongings returnees are travelling with (Multiple answers, N = 80, can exceed 100%) (Top 4)*

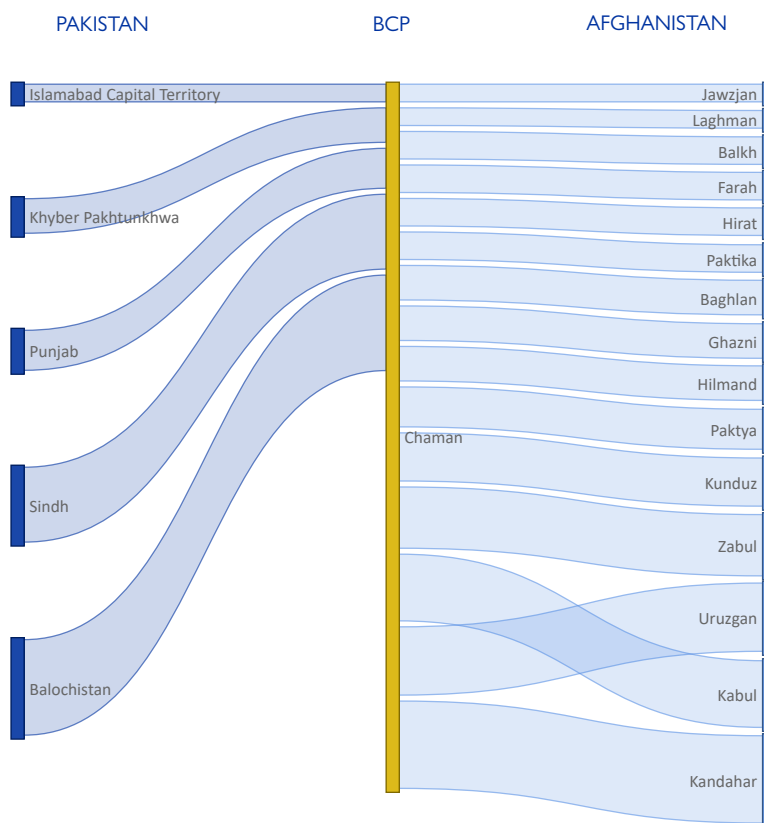


AREAS OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

Due to the Torkham border closure, the majority of returnees came from Balochistan (63%) and Sindh (26%). Only four per cent of returnees came from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Five per cent came from Punjab and one per cent from ICT. In line with

the provinces of origin, the districts of origin are mostly located in Balochistan and Sindh, such as Quetta (32%), Karachi Central (26%) and Killa Abdullah (24%). In Afghanistan, most returnees returned to Kandahar (45%) and Kabul (18%).

Figure 9. Areas of origin and destination through Chaman and Torkham BCP⁶ (N = 80)*

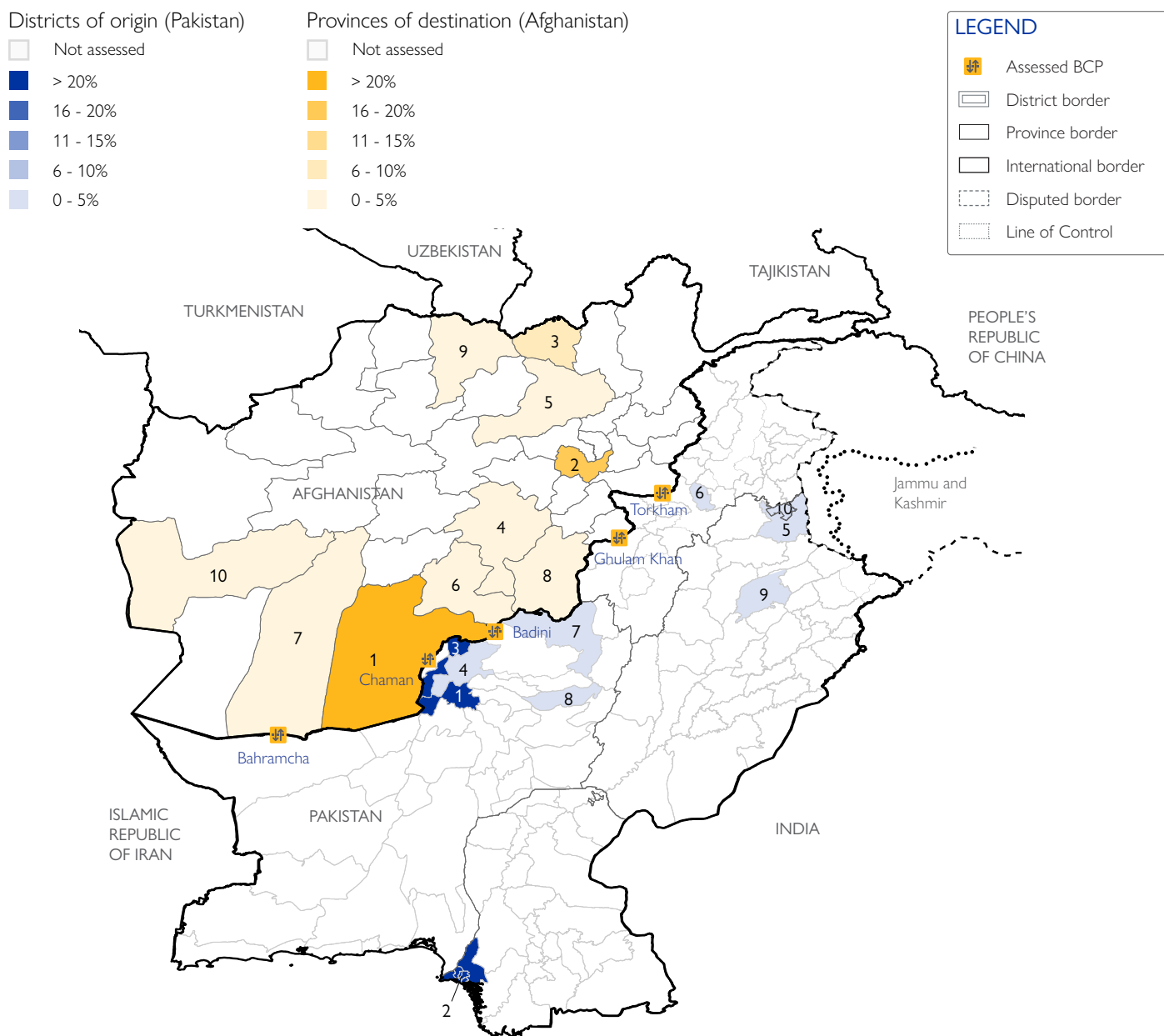


⁵ Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Exchange rates are PKR 279.45 to USD 1 according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 March 2025. Available online [here](#).

⁶ This type of data is only collected by DTM at Torkham and Chaman BCPs. However, Torkham is not included because of the border closure.

*An asterisk indicates that the visual data pertains exclusively to ACC holders and undocumented Afghan nationals returning through the Torkham and Chaman BCPs. Data was not collected from the Badini and Bahramcha BCPs, and excludes deportees as well as data gathered by UNHCR at the Ghulam Khan BCP.

Map 2. Areas of origin and destination (N = 80)*



Disclaimer: The 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.

Table 1. Top 10 districts of origin, main type of residence and main source of income of Afghan returnees in Pakistan

	Districts of origin (top 10)	% of returns	Main type of residence	Main source of income
1.	Quetta	32%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
2.	Karachi Central	26%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
3.	Killa Abdullah	24%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
4.	Pishin	5%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
5.	Rawalpindi	4%	Rented House	Skilled Labor
6.	Peshawar	3%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
7.	Zhob	1%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
8.	Duki	1%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
9.	Sargodha	1%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
10.	Islamabad	1%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor

Table 2. Top 10 provinces of destination, main type of residence and main source of income of Afghan returnees in Afghanistan

	Province of destination (top 10)	% of returns	Main type of residence	Main source of income
1.	Kandahar	45%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
2.	Kabul	18%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
3.	Kunduz	8%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
4.	Ghazni	4%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
5.	Baghlan	4%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
6.	Zabul	4%	Rented house	Skilled Labor
7.	Hilmand	4%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
8.	Paktika	3%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
9.	Balkh	3%	Living with relatives	Unskilled Labor
10.	Farah	3%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor

* An asterisk indicates that the visual data pertains exclusively to ACC holders and undocumented Afghan nationals returning through the Torkham and Chaman BCPs. Data was not collected from the Badini and Bahramcha BCPs, and excludes deportees as well as data gathered by UNHCR at the Ghulam Khan BCP.

FM METHODOLOGY

To retrieve information on returnees' profiles and mobility patterns, BMs use a Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) form to interview heads of households of Afghan families returning to Afghanistan. Whilst conducting the FMR, they also obtain information on all family members travelling with the head of household, including gender, age, documentation status and vulnerabilities. Information on the number of Afghan returnees is obtained through different sources which goes through a data harmonization process. This process is outlined in the below figure (see figure 10).

Figure 10. Sources of data and process of data harmonization



DTM IN PAKISTAN IS FUNDED BY



© 2025 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The opinions expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). 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. The following citation is required when using any data and information included in this information product: 'International Organization for Migration (IOM), March 2025. *Bi-Weekly Flow Monitoring of Afghan Returnees | 1 – 15 March 2025*. IOM, Pakistan.' For more information on terms and conditions of DTM information products, please refer to: <https://dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions>.

Contact: DTMPakistan@iom.int