

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.

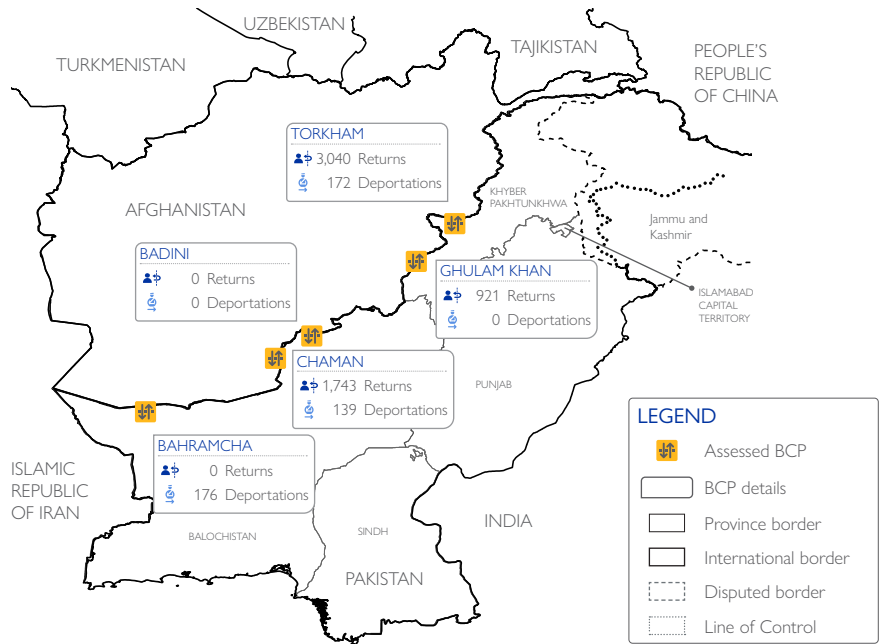
Between 16 and 28 February 2025, DTM border monitors (BMs) interviewed 254 heads of households through a Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) form, while 6,191 Afghan returnees were identified through five border crossing points (BCPs) (see map 1). For more information on FM methodology, see page 5.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Both returns and deportations have decreased by almost half (47% decrease in both) compared to the previous reporting period. During the last week of this reporting period, the Torkham border crossing point was closed due to cross-border hostilities which affected both returns and deportations.
- Cumulatively, since 15 September 2023, 842,429 individuals have returned to Afghanistan. Four per cent (36,438 individuals) of this total have returned since 1 January 2025.
- Fear of arrest (89%) and family member deported (25%) remain important reasons for Afghans to return to Afghanistan.

842,429		TOTAL RETURNS	
15 Sep 2023 – 28 Feb 2025			
6,191		TOTAL RETURNS	
16 – 28 February 2025			
Province	BCP	#	%
KP	Torkham	3,040	49%
Balochistan	Chaman	1,743	28%
KP	Ghulam Khan	921	15%
Balochistan	Badini	0	0%
Balochistan	Bahramcha	0	0%
Total deportations		#	%
Deportations		487	8%

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 – 28 February 2025)

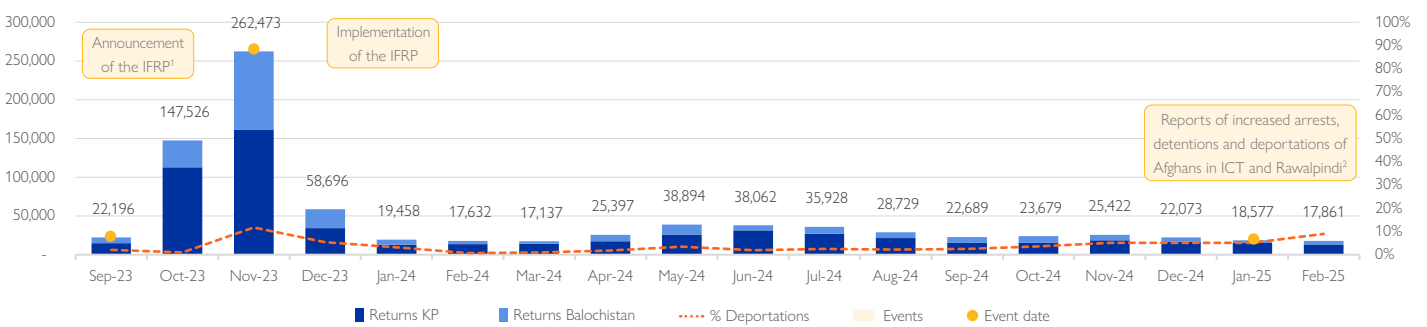
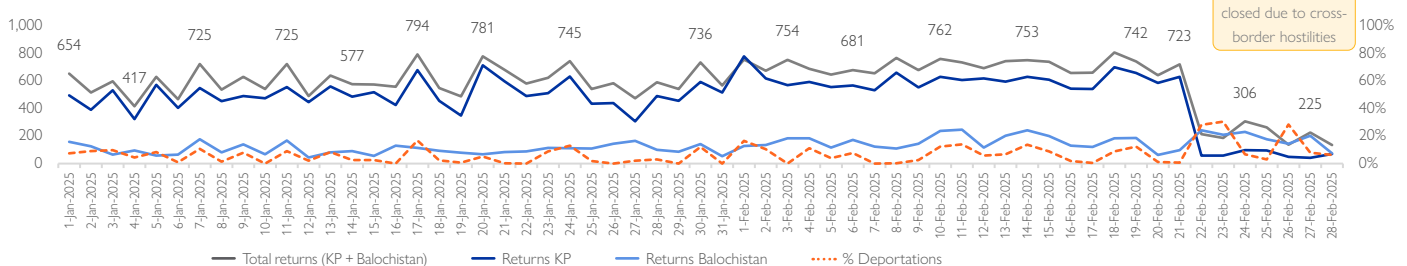


Figure 2. Daily returns of Afghan nationals (1 January 2025 – 28 February 2025)



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 RETURNEES<sup>3</sup> \***

**Undocumented: 5,400 (95%)**

**ACC holder: 24 (0%)**

**PoR holder: 280 (5%)**

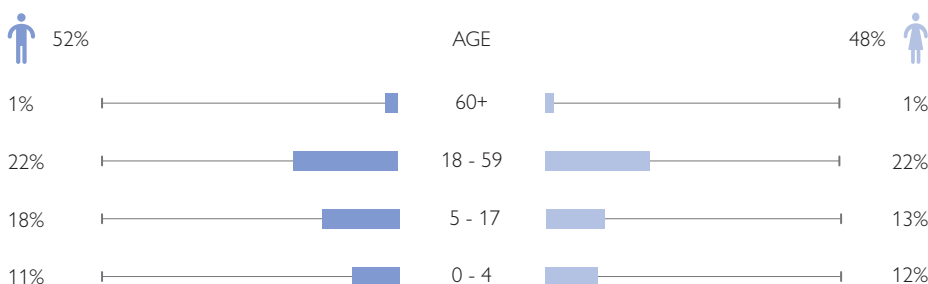
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**8%** Women-headed households

**0%** Child-headed households

**551** Polio vaccinated (<10 years)

Figure 3. Age and gender of returnees (N = 4,783)

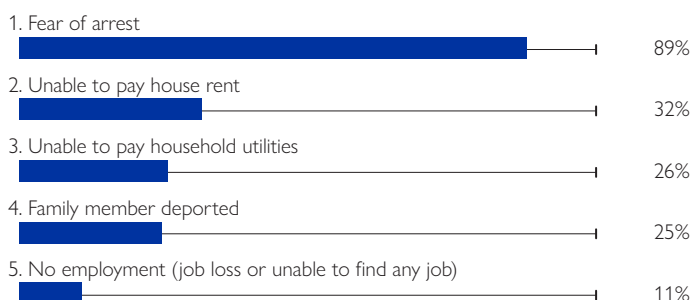


Eight per cent of the returnee households were women-headed households. During this reporting period, no child-headed households (<18 years) were recorded. Of the children (<10 years) who crossed the border, 551 had received polio vaccination. The majority of returnees are individuals between 18 and 59 years of age (44%) and individuals between 5 and 17 years of age (31%). More men (52%) than women (48%) returned during this reporting period.

**REASONS FOR MOVEMENT**

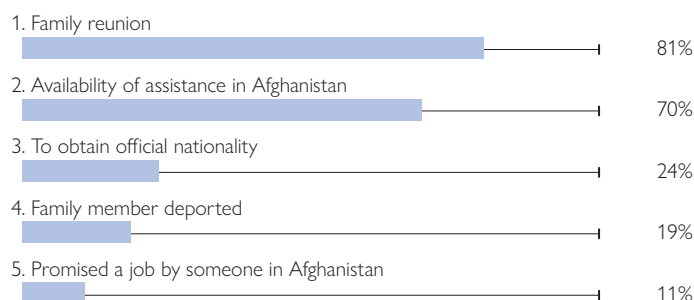
Similar to the previous reporting period, fear of arrest (89%) and the deportation of a family member (25%) remain key reasons for return. Economic factors, such as the inability to pay rent (32%) and utilities (26%), were also cited as important, though by a smaller share of respondents.

Figure 4. Reasons for leaving Pakistan (Multiple answers, N = 254, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)\*



On the other hand, 81 per cent of Afghans have reported family reunion as a reason for choosing their final destination and 70 per cent noted the availability of assistance in Afghanistan as another reason. Twenty-four 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 = 254, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)\*

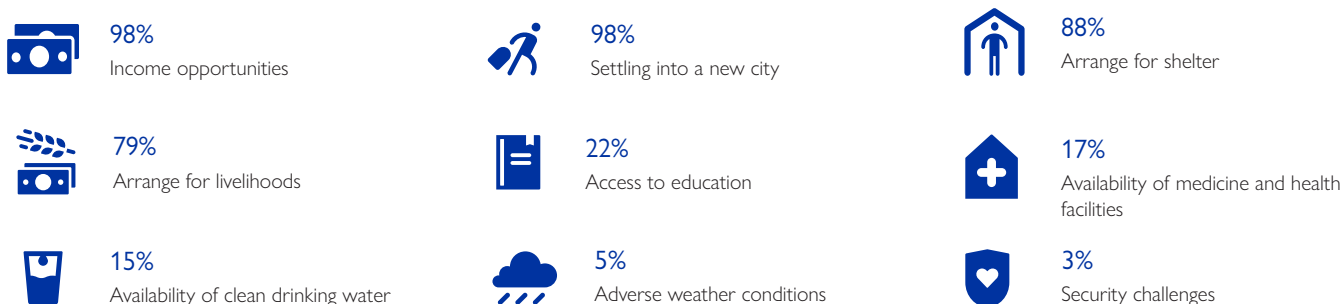


**FORESEEN CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN**

During the interviews, a large majority of respondents reported finding income opportunities (98%), settling into a new city (98%), arranging for shelter (88%), and livelihoods (79%) as the most important challenges they foresee upon return in Afghanistan.

A relatively lower percentage of respondents identified access to education (22%), availability of medicine and health facilities (17%) and clean drinking water (15%) as their primary challenges. Only a small number of respondents identified adverse weather conditions (5%) and security (3%) as a challenge.

Figure 6. Foreseen challenges in Afghanistan (Multiple answers, N = 254, can exceed 100%)\*



<sup>3</sup> 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 213 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 115) is higher than the cost from their place of origin in Pakistan to the border (USD 98). The majority of returnees use pick ups (63%) and trucks (20%) to travel to their final destination.

All Afghan returnees reported moving with personal belongings. Ninety-nine per cent reported carrying household items and 98 per cent cash, followed by productive assets (60%).

**AVERAGE ESTIMATED AMOUNT PAID FROM ORIGIN TO DESTINATION: PKR 59,486 (USD 213)<sup>4</sup>\***

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

PKR 27,435                      USD 98

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

PKR 32,051                      USD 115

Figure 7. Main mode of transportation (N = 254)\*

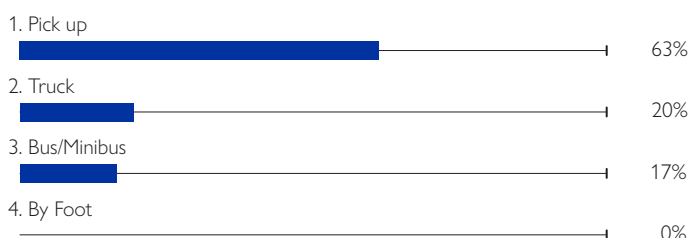
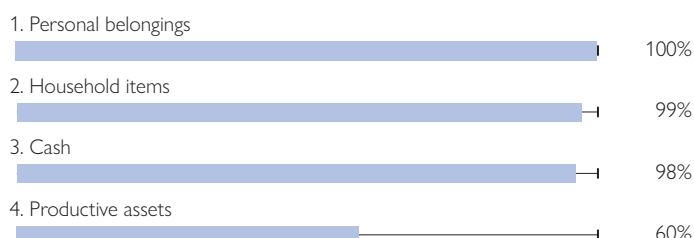


Figure 8. Belongings returnees are travelling with (Multiple answers, N = 254, can exceed 100%) (Top 4)\*

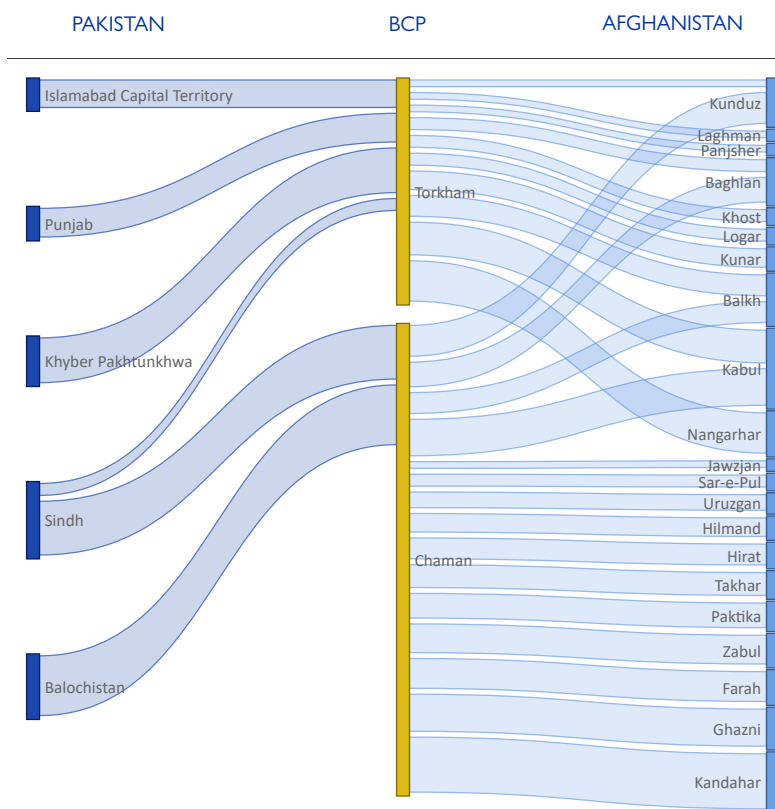


### AREAS OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

The majority of returnees came from Balochistan (47%), followed by Sindh (30%) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (15%). A small share also came from ICT (4%) and Punjab (4%). The districts of origin in Pakistan are Karachi (30%), which is located further away from the border and Quetta (29%), which is located close to the border in

the province of Sindh and Balochistan, respectively. A substantial share of returnees also come from Peshawar (10%) and Killa Abdullah (9%). In Afghanistan, most returnees also go to provinces that are located closer to the border, including Kandahar (33%), Kabul (13%) and Nangarhar (10%).

Figure 9. Areas of origin and destination through Chaman and Torkham BCP<sup>5</sup> (N = 254)\*

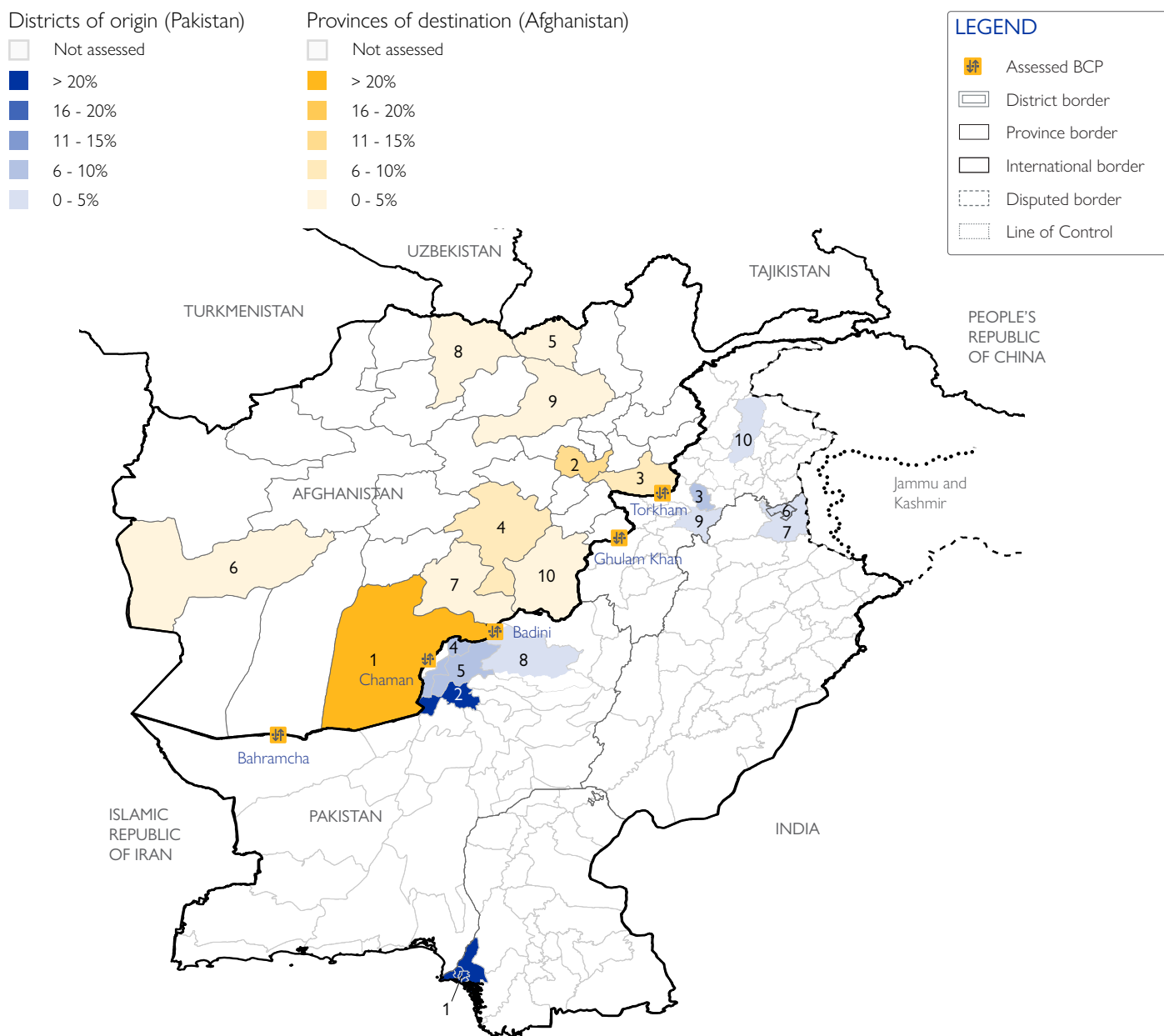


<sup>4</sup> Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Exchange rates are PKR 278.89 to USD 1 according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 February 2025. Available online [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Data is only presented for Torkham and Chaman as this type of data is only collected by DTM at these two BCPs.

\*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 = 254)\*



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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.	Karachi Central	31%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
2.	Quetta	29%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
3.	Peshawar	10%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
4.	Killa Abdullah	9%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
5.	Pishin	6%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
6.	Islamabad	4%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
7.	Rawalpindi	3%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
8.	Killa Saifullah	3%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
9.	Kohat	1%	Rented House	Unskilled labour
10.	Swat	1%	Rented House	Unskilled labour

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	33%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
2.	Kabul	13%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
3.	Nangarhar	10%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
4.	Ghazni	8%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
5.	Kunduz	5%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
6.	Farah	4%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
7.	Zabul	4%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
8.	Balkh	4%	Rented house	Skilled labour
9.	Baghlan	4%	Rented house	Unskilled labour
10.	Paktika	3%	Rented house	Unskilled labour

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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



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