

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.

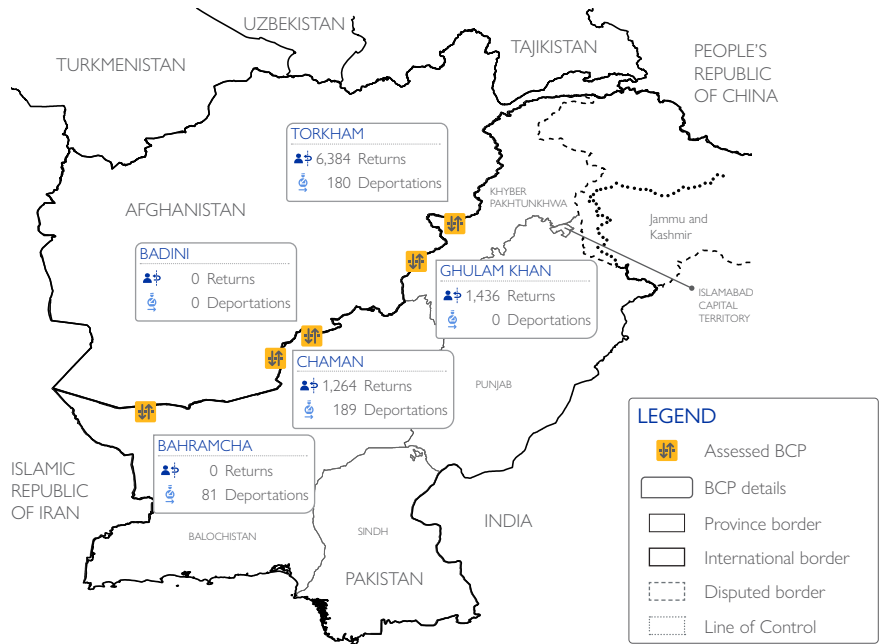
Between 16 and 31 March 2025, DTM border monitors (BMs) interviewed 240 heads of households through a Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) form, while 9,534 Afghan returnees were identified through five border crossing points (BCPs) (see map 1). For more information on FM methodology, see page 5.

854,033		TOTAL RETURNS	
15 Sep 2023 – 31 Mar 2025			
9,534		TOTAL RETURNS'	
16 – 31 March 2025			
Province	BCP	#	%
KP	Torkham	6,384	67%
Balochistan	Chaman	1,264	13%
KP	Ghulam Khan	1,436	15%
Balochistan	Badini	0	0%
Balochistan	Bahramcha	0	0%
Total deportations		#	%
Deportations		450	5%

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this reporting period, both deportations and returns increased significantly, mostly due to the reopening of the Torkham border crossing point at the end of March 2025. A relatively high number of returnees surveyed through the FMR originated from Karachi and Quetta.
- Cumulatively, since 15 September 2023, 854,033 individuals have returned to Afghanistan. Six per cent (48,042 individuals) of this total have returned since 1 January 2025.
- Fear of arrest (93%) remains the key reason to return to Afghanistan. Communal pressure to return (29%) and family member deported (18%) were also important reasons.

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 – 31 March 2025)

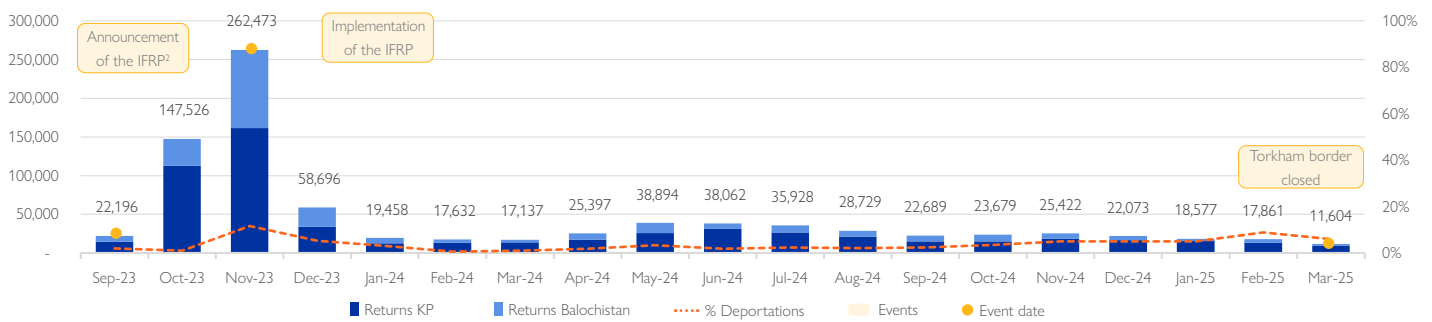
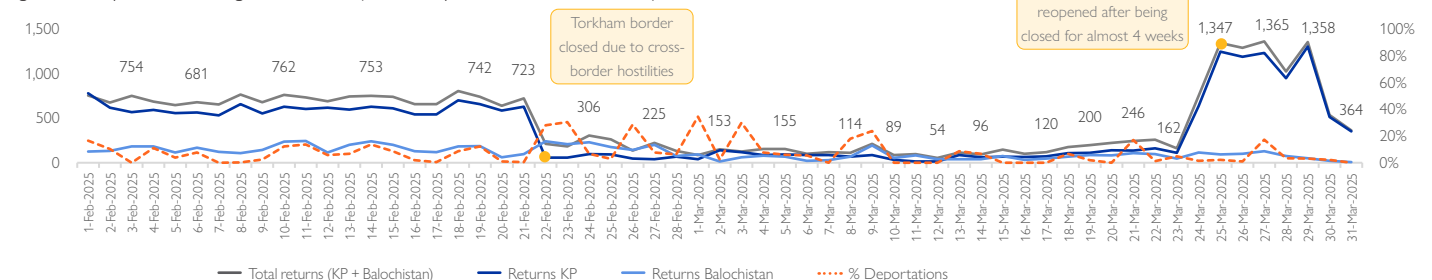


Figure 2. Daily returns of Afghan nationals (1 February 2025 – 31 March 2025)



<sup>1</sup> This number includes returnees who received post-arrival assistance by the IOM-led Border Consortium in Afghanistan at Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points. For more information and access to the consortium dashboard, visit [this link](#). Returnees assisted by the Border Consortium only include undocumented individuals and ACC holders but not individuals with other statuses such as PoR returnees, Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF) holders, UNHCR slip holders, asylum-seeker certificate holders, and their undocumented family members.  
<sup>2</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.

**DOCUMENTATION STATUS OF RETURNEES<sup>3</sup> \***

**Undocumented: 8,670 (95%)**

**ACC holder: 179 (2%)**

**PoR holder: 235 (3%)**

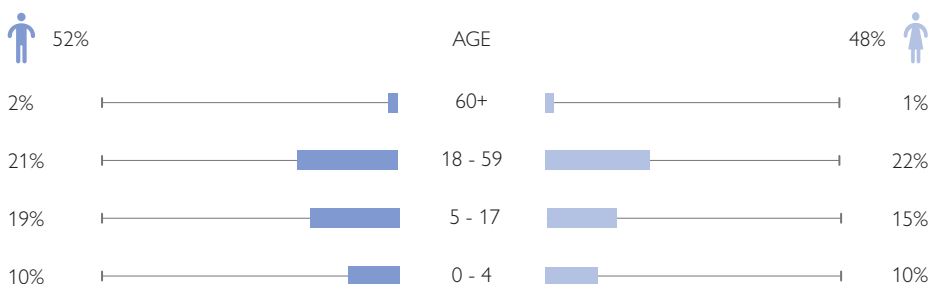
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**7%** Women-headed households

**0%** Child-headed households

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

Figure 3. Age and gender of returnees (N = 7,648)

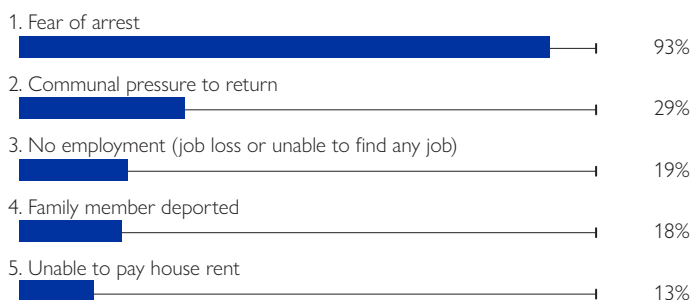


Seven per cent of the returnee households were women-headed households. During this reporting period, no child-headed households (<18 years) were recorded. Of the children (<10 years) who crossed the border, 266 had received polio vaccination. The majority of returnees are individuals between 18 and 59 years of age (43%) and individuals between 5 and 17 years of age (34%). More men (52%) than women (48%) returned during this reporting period.

**REASONS FOR MOVEMENT**

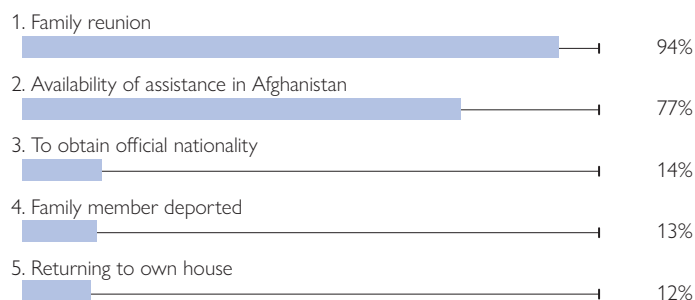
Fear of arrest (93%) increased compared to the previous reporting period (1 - 15 March). Additionally, nearly one in three respondents (29%) reported communal pressure to return as a reason to return to Afghanistan and 18 per cent reported that they returned because a family member was deported. No employment (19%) also become more important, while other economic reasons

Figure 4. Reasons for leaving Pakistan (Multiple answers, N = 240, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)\*



remained relatively stable compared to the previous reporting period. When looking at reasons for choosing the final destination, 94 per cent of Afghans have reported family reunion and 77 per cent noted the availability of assistance in Afghanistan as another reason. Fourteen 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 = 240, can exceed 100%) (Top 5)\*

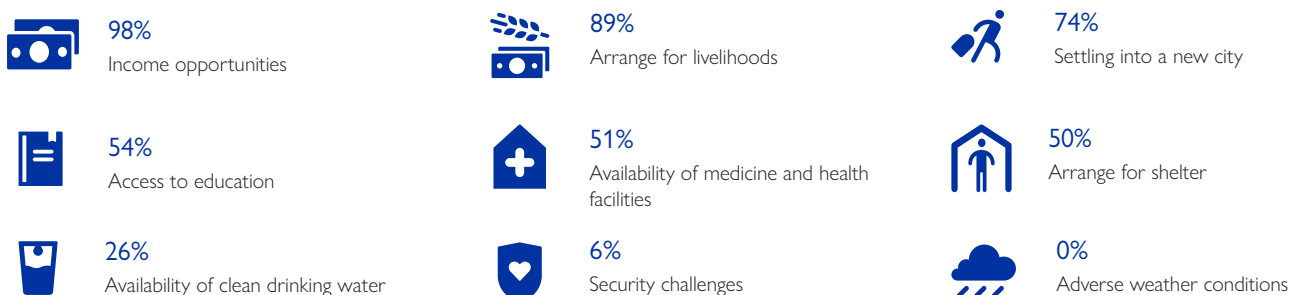


**FORESEEN CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN**

During the interviews, a large majority of respondents reported finding income opportunities (98%), arranging for livelihoods (89%), and settling into a new city (74%) as the most important challenges they foresee upon return in Afghanistan. Access to education (54%), availability of medicine and health facilities (51%) and arranging

for shelter (50%) were also considered important by around half of respondents. Twenty-six per cent reported availability of clean drinking water as an important challenge and only six per cent reported security challenges.

Figure 6. Foreseen challenges in Afghanistan (Multiple answers, N =240, 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 219 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 110) is slightly higher than the cost from their place of origin in Pakistan to the border (USD 109). The majority of returnees use pick ups (58%) to return. Twenty-five per cent use buses and 17 per cent trucks.

All Afghan returnees reported moving with personal belongings. Ninety-six per cent reported carrying household items and 94 per cent cash, followed by productive assets (36%).

### AVERAGE ESTIMATED AMOUNT PAID FROM ORIGIN TO DESTINATION: PKR 61,256 (USD 219)<sup>4</sup>\*

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

PKR 30,389                                  USD 109

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

PKR 30,867                                  USD 110

Figure 7. Main mode of transportation (N =240)\*

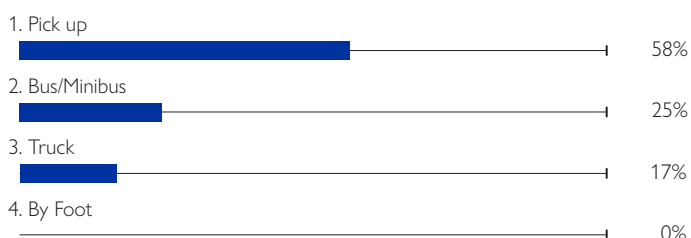
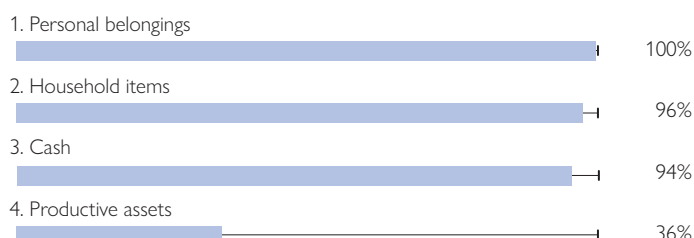


Figure 8. Belongings returnees are travelling with (Multiple answers, N = 240, can exceed 100%) (Top 4)\*

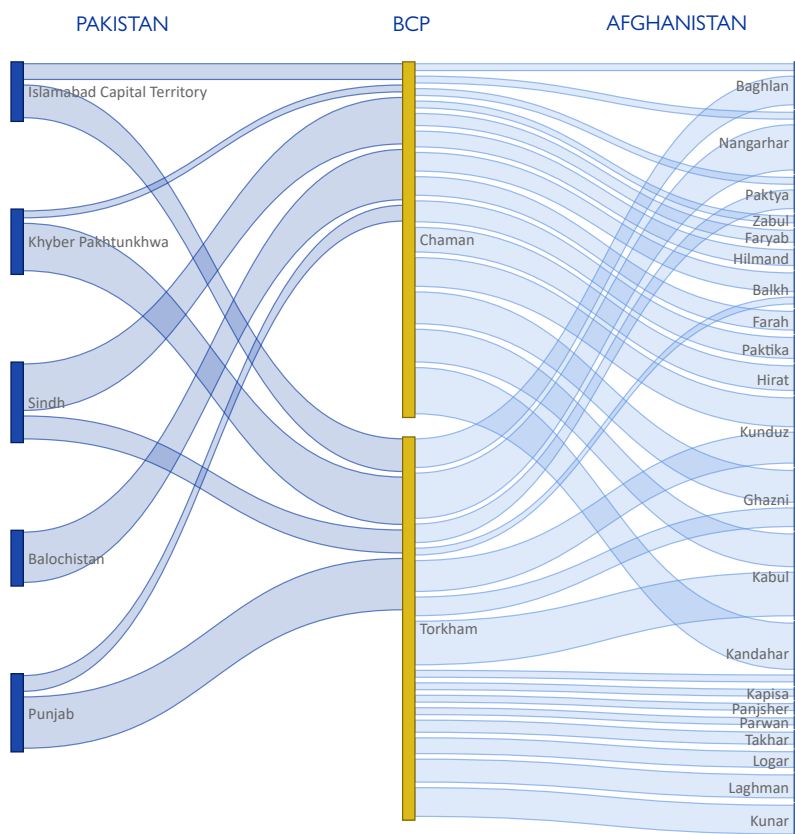


### AREAS OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

Most returnees came from Punjab (28%), Balochistan (24%), Sindh (21%), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (20%). A small share also came from ICT (7%). The districts of origin in Pakistan are Karachi (20%), Quetta (16%), Rawalpindi (14%) and Peshawar (12%). Other districts only account for a small share of returnees.

In Afghanistan, most returnees go to provinces that are located closer to the border, including Kabul (20%), Kandahar (18%) and Nangarhar (17%).

Figure 9. Areas of origin and destination through Chaman and Torkham BCP<sup>5</sup> (N = 240)\*

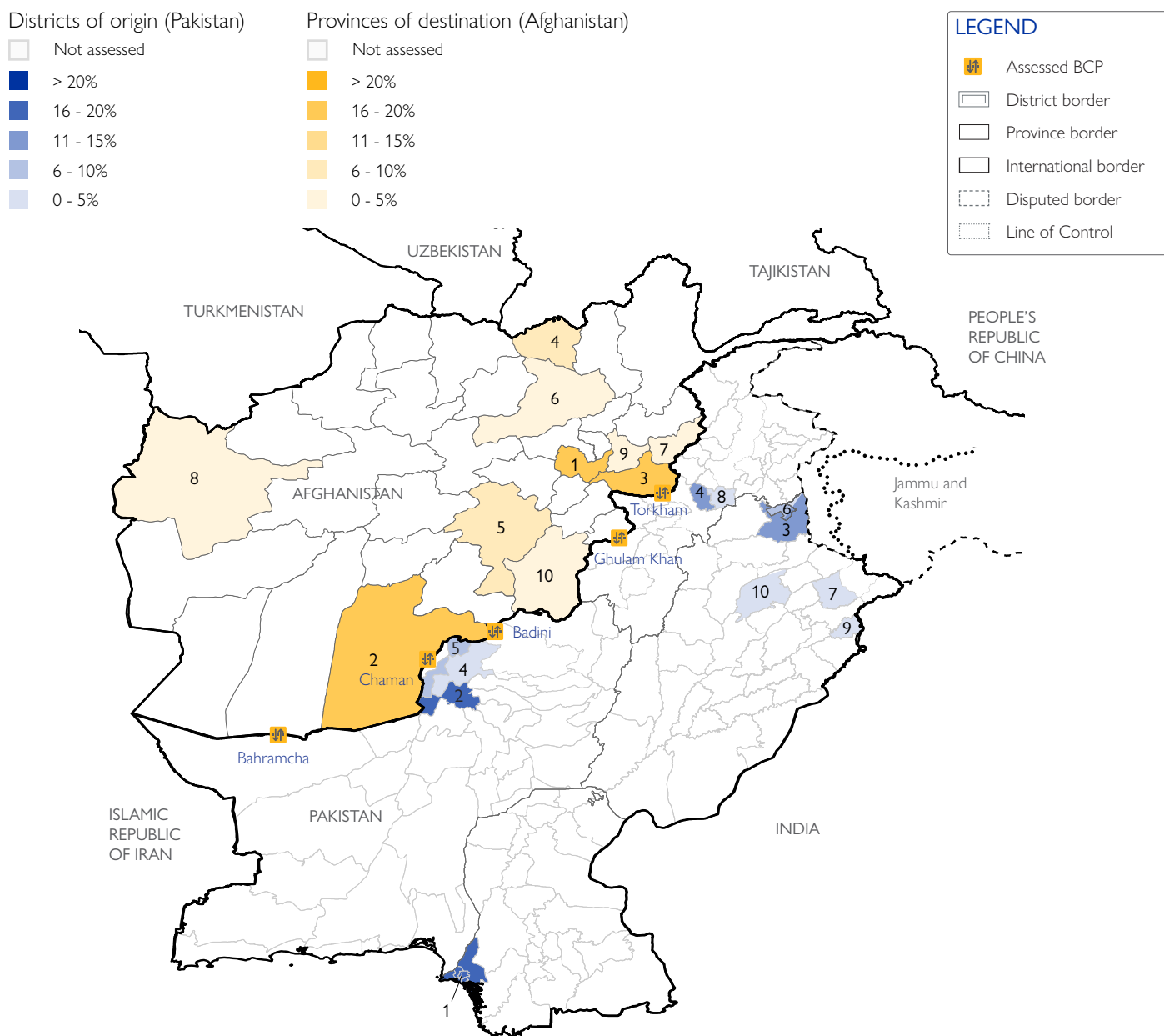


<sup>4</sup> Data was originally collected in Pakistani Rupee (PKR). Exchange rates are PKR 279.961 to USD 1 according to the UN Operational Rates of Exchange on 1 April 2025. Available online [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> This type of data is only collected by DTM at Torkham and Chaman BCPs.

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Map 2. Areas of origin and destination (N = 240)\*



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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	20%	Rented House	Skilled Labor
2.	Quetta	16%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
3.	Rawalpindi	14%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
4.	Peshawar	12%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
5.	Killa Abdullah	8%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
6.	Islamabad	7%	Rented House	Skilled Labor
7.	Gujranwala	4%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
8.	Nowshera	2%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
9.	Lahore	2%	Rented House	Unskilled Labor
10.	Sargodha	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.	Kabul	20%	Rented house	Skilled Labor
2.	Kandahar	18%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
3.	Nangarhar	17%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
4.	Kunduz	9%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
5.	Ghazni	7%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor
6.	Baghlan	5%	Living with relatives	Skilled Labor
7.	Kunar	4%	Living with relatives	Unskilled Labor
8.	Herat	3%	Rented house	Skilled Labor
9.	Laghman	3%	Living with relatives	Unskilled Labor
10.	Paktika	2%	Rented house	Unskilled Labor

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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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