PAKISTAN 2019

FLOW MONITORING OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN MIGRANTS

PAKISTAN 2019: Flow Monitoring of Undocumented Afghan Migrants

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DTM IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the last two decades millions of undocumented Afghan nationals have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan due to a diverse set of push factors. Many of those returning have lived outside Afghanistan for decades, and some were born in exile. This population will need support from the Afghan government and humanitarian actors, both on arrival, and as they seek to reintegrate into a country faced with widespread conflict, displacement and scarce economic opportunities. IOM collects information on the volume, profiles and vulnerabilities of documented and undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan at two official border points between the two countries

DTM IN PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, the Flow Monitoring component of the DTM has been implemented since 2017 and is used to track flows of migrant groups and individuals as they cross two transit locations, specifically the Torkham and Chaman border crossings. At these locations, information on the numbers, socio-economic profiles and vulnerabilities of undocumented Afghans and Afghan Citizen Card holding returnees is collected, analyzed and disseminated bi-weekly.

FLOW MONITORING DATA

This document is based on data from individuals passing through DTM flow monitoring points in 2019. As a result, data should not be generalized and may not represent a full picture of inter and intra-regional migration in the country, but rather is representative of migration flows at the specific locations monitored (in the case of Pakistan: Torkham and Chaman).

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Afghan Citizen Card (ACC)	Registration cards issued to undocumented Afghan individuals living in Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan during the 2017-18 documentation exercise. ACC holders are required to return to Afghanistan and can only return to Pakistan after receiving a Pakistani visa in an Afghan Passport.
Afghan Citizen Card Token	Receipt issued to undocumented Afghans who come to the documentation centers to register for an Afghan Citizen Card. This receipt acts as proof that the holder has completed the documentation process and can use the receipt to receive their card at a later date.
Children	Individuals below 18 years of age.
Family	A group of people travelling together (either related or not) who habitually live under the same roof and have luggage with them during the return journey.
Proof of Registration (POR)	Identification cards issued by the Pakistani National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. POR card holders are legally recognized as registered refugees by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR.
Returnee	Individuals returning to their place of origin.
Tazkira	Afghan National Identification Card.
Undocumented Individual	Individual of Afghan origin who falls within undocumented categories, including: 1) Individuals with no valid documents (POR, ACC, or visa), 2) Individuals with Tazkira (Afghan ID card) which comes under undocumented category, 3) Individuals with a Proof of Registration Card that has expired before 2015 and 4) Individuals with no passport or with a passport with an expired or no visa.
Vulnerable Individual	Elderly (60 years or above), disabled, chronically ill, widows, pregnant women, drug addicts, unaccompanied minors and female headed families.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AFGHAN RETURNEES, SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE: Between January 1 and 31 December 2019, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) recorded 17,286 undocumented Afghan nationals returning from Pakistan to Afghanistan through the Chaman and Torkham border crossings, each accounting for 74 per cent and 26 per cent of the total border crossings. The percentage of female undocumented Afghan returnees (53%) was higher than male undocumented Afghan returnees (47%). However, at 55 per cent, the highest returnee group was children. Seventy-four per cent of undocumented Afghan returnees were employed before returning to Afghanistan, while 26 per cent were unemployed. Out of the total returnees captured by DTM, 75 per cent were undocumented families. Finally, one out of ten returnees were identified as vulnerable.

REASONS FOR RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN, PUSH AND PULL FACTORS: In 2019, undocumented Afghan returnees interviewed by DTM indicated that the most important push factors to return to Afghanistan included returning home (51%), economic factors (27%), fear of arrest or deportation (9%) and communal pressure to return home (4%). The main pull factors identified were returning to their own country (66%), reunion with family and friends (33%) and availability of assistance in Afghanistan (1%).

TRAVEL INFORMATION: The undocumented returnees surveyed by DTM indicated that they travelled by either pick up (62%), truck (19%) or bus (19%). The total expected travel cost for Afghan returnees was on average 14,243 PKR. At the Chaman border crossing, the total average cost for Afghan returnees was 19,559 PKR, while the average cost at the Torkham border crossing was only 11,600 PKR. Most households bring almost all their household items, personal belongings and cash on their journey.

SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN: Almost half of the Afghan returnees surveyed by DTM reported that they expected to live in a rented house (49%) in Afghanistan. Thirty-two per cent expected to live independently while 11 per cent expected to live with family or relatives. In general, 73 per cent expected to gain employment upon arrival. Finally, returnees identified resettling in a new city (87.4%) and finding income opportunities (85.4%) as the main settling priorities in Afghanistan.

ORIGIN AND DESTINATION OF AFGHAN RETURNEES: In 2019, the main areas of origin of Afghan returnees were the four Pakistani provinces: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) (33%), Balochistan (32%), Punjab (20%) and Sindh (14%). On the other hand, the Afghan provinces of Kandahar (27%), Kabul (21%), Nangarhar (16%), Kunduz (9%) and Baghlan (5%), were identified as the main intended destination areas of undocumented Afghan returnees.

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UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In 2019, DTM recorded 17,286 undocumented Afghans returning from Pakistan. Twenty-six per cent returned through the Torkham border crossing and 74 per cent through the Chaman border crossing. The proportion of female returnees (53%) was higher than male returnees (47%). However, the highest proportion (55%) included children under the age of 18 , of which 21 per cent were between the age of 0 and 4, and 33 per cent between the age of 5 and 17. Forty-one per cent of the returnees were adults (18-59) while only 4 per cent was older than 60. The average household size was six. The largest flow of Afghan returnees was between March and May and July and September.

Figure 1: Gender distribution of returnees

Male 47%
Female 53%
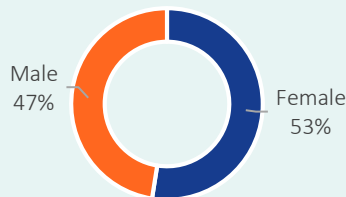
Figure 2: Respondents' sex distribution by border crossing

Chaman: Male 97%, Female 3%
Torkam: Male 64%, Female 36%

■ Male ■ Female
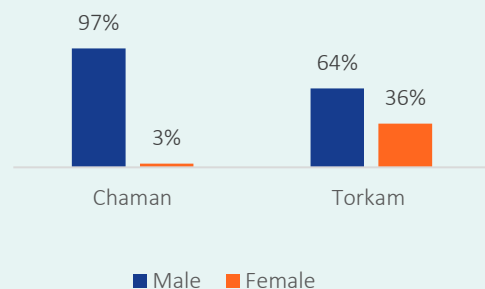
Figure 3: Respondents' population distribution

Age	Male	Female
60+	8%	2%
31-59	34%	11%
18-30	31%	12%
0-17	2%	0%

■ Male ■ Female
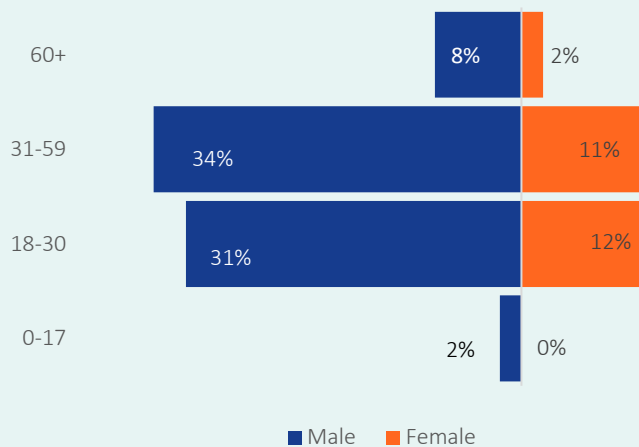
Figure 4: Undocumented returnees by border crossing and month

Month	Torkham	Chaman
Jan	215	827
Feb	200	812
Mar	556	1,128
Apr	640	2,126
May	334	745
Jun	381	1,072
Jul	646	1,406
Aug	383	1,023
Sep	304	1,370
Oct	406	888
Nov	353	631
Dec	108	732

——Individuals crossing through Torkham   ——Individuals crossing through Chaman

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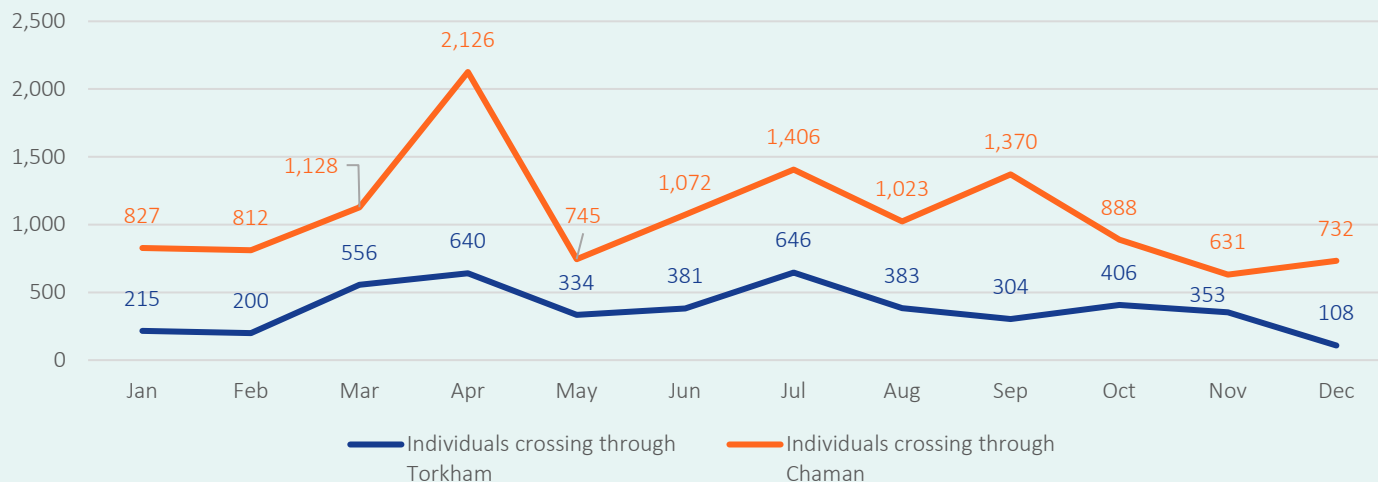
UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

EMPLOYMENT: Almost three out of four Afghan returnees (74%) that were interviewed by DTM in 2019 indicated that they were employed in Pakistan before returning to Afghanistan. The main sources of income in Pakistan included daily labour (44%), skilled labour (17%) and business (9%).

DOCUMENTATION STATUS: Eighty-one per cent of the Afghan returnees surveyed by DTM in 2019 were in no possession of any legal documentation. The remaining 29 per cent had some sort of documentation such as a Tazkira (Afghan ID card) (14%), an Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) (4%), an ACC token (0.5%)[A] or an expired POR card (0.5%). Seventy-five per cent of the total returnees recorded by DTM were identified as undocumented families, 18 percent were undocumented individuals travelling with a family that has one or more members with Proof of Registration (POR) card and 6 per cent were ACC card holder families or individuals. The final one per cent were undocumented individuals travelling alone

VULNERABILITIES: One out of ten Afghan returnees were identified as vulnerable. The largest vulnerable groups were elderly (44%), chronically ill (31%) and widowed people (13%).

Figure 5: Returnee employment situation prior to departure

- Student 1%
- Business 9%
- Skilled Labour 17%
- Salaried Job 3%
- Unemployed 26%
- Daily Labour 44%
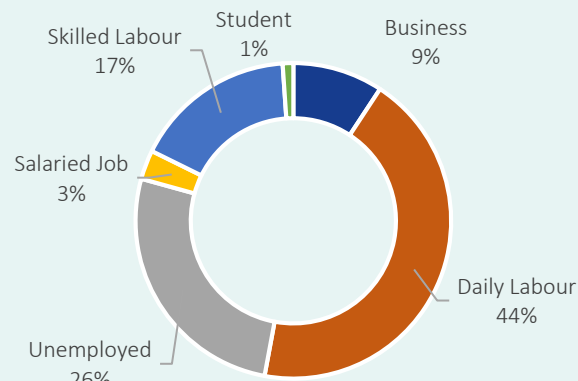
Figure 6: Returnees by type of document

- Expired POR Card 0.5%
- ACC Card Holder 4%
- Tazkira 14%
- ACC Token Holder 0.5%
- No Documents 81%
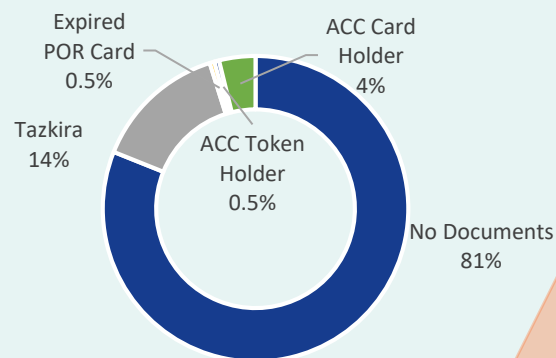
Figure 7: Document status by type of document and group

Undocumented Family	75%
Undocumented Traveling with POR Card Holding Families	18%
ACC Card Holder Family/Individuals with ACC Card	6%
Undocumented (s) Travelling Alone	1%
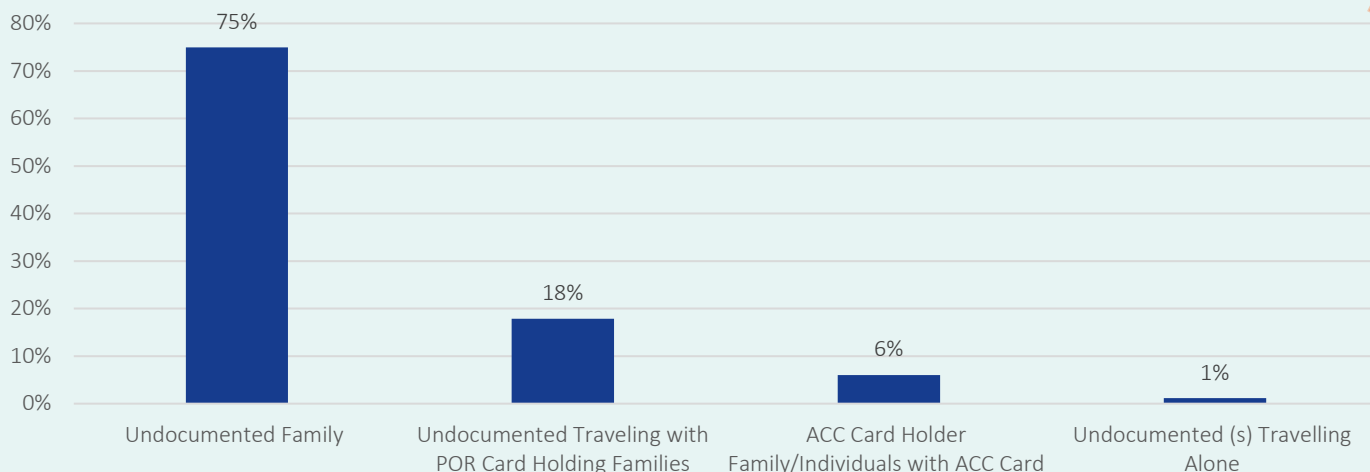
[A] token used to obtain the ACC card.

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UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – REASONS FOR RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN

PUSH FACTORS: In 2019, 51 per cent of the undocumented Afghan returnees that were interviewed by DTM indicated that returning home was the most important factor. Other important push factors included economic factors (27%), fear of arrest or deportation (9%) and communal pressure to return home (4%).

Figure 8: Top three push factors for return by month

Economic Factors — Fear of Arrest or Deportation — Returning Home
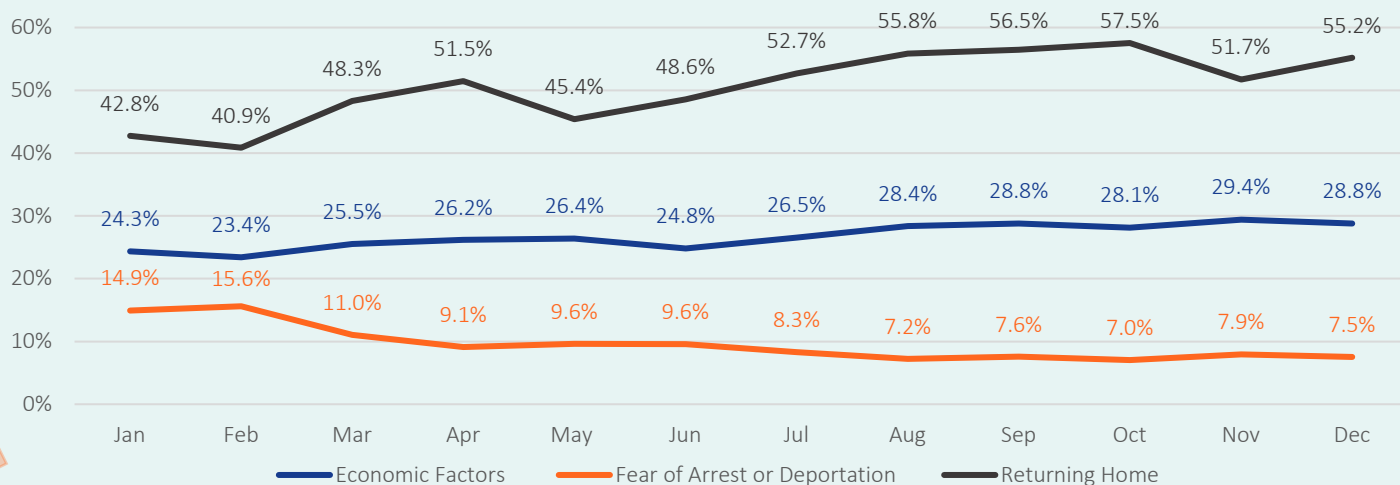
UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – REASONS FOR RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN

PULL FACTORS: Around two out of three undocumented Afghan returnees (66%) that were interviewed by DTM in 2019 indicated that the desire for return to their own country was the most important pull factor to return to Afghanistan. Other reasons or pull factors included reuniting with family or friends (33%) and the availability of assistance in Afghanistan (1%).

Figure 9: Top three pull factors for return by month

Availability of Assistance in Afghanistan — Reunion with Family/Relatives — Own Country
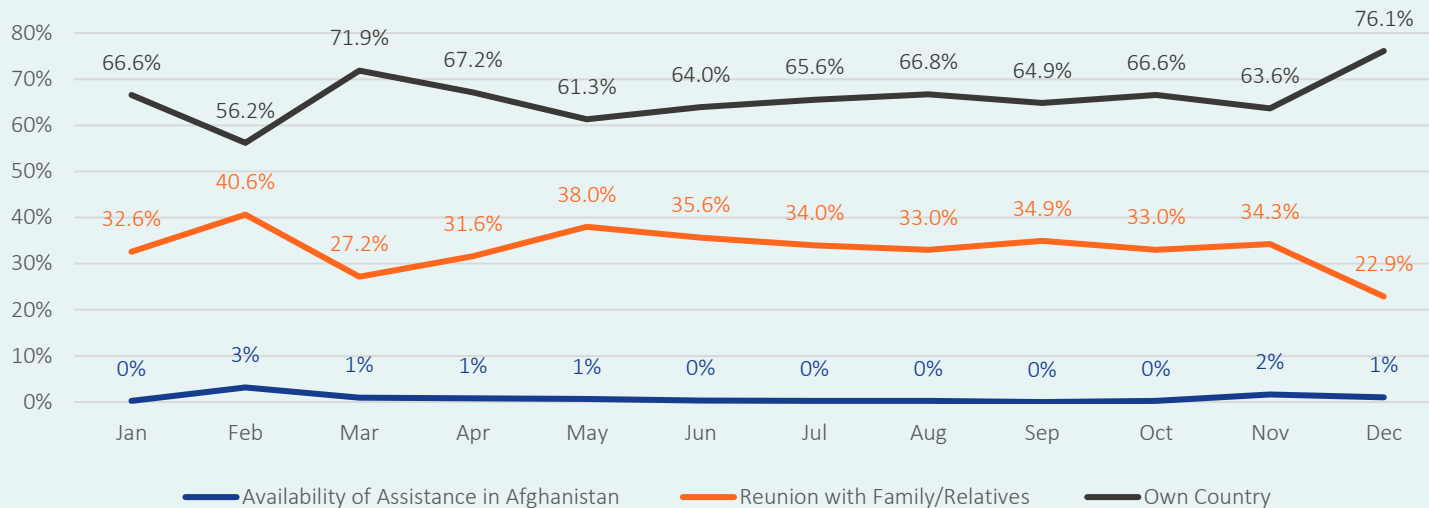
Figure 10: Mode of transport by border crossing (*multiple answers possible*)

UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – TRAVEL CONDITIONS

In 2019, most returnees (62%) captured by DTM indicated that they travelled by pick up, followed by truck (19%) and bus (19%). There are however some differences between the two border crossings. In Torkham a large majority (73%) travels by pick up, while in Chaman returnees choose either a truck (23%), a pick up (40%) or a bus (38%). On average, Afghan returnees expect that the total cost of their journey from Pakistan to Afghanistan will be 14,243 PKR. The Chaman border crossing is considered more expensive than the Torkham border crossing, more specifically with 7,959 PKR. When returning to Afghanistan, returnees usually bring their household items, personal belongings and cash.

Figure 11: Expected total cost of the journey by border crossing

Figure 12: Migration cost (PKR) by border crossing and month
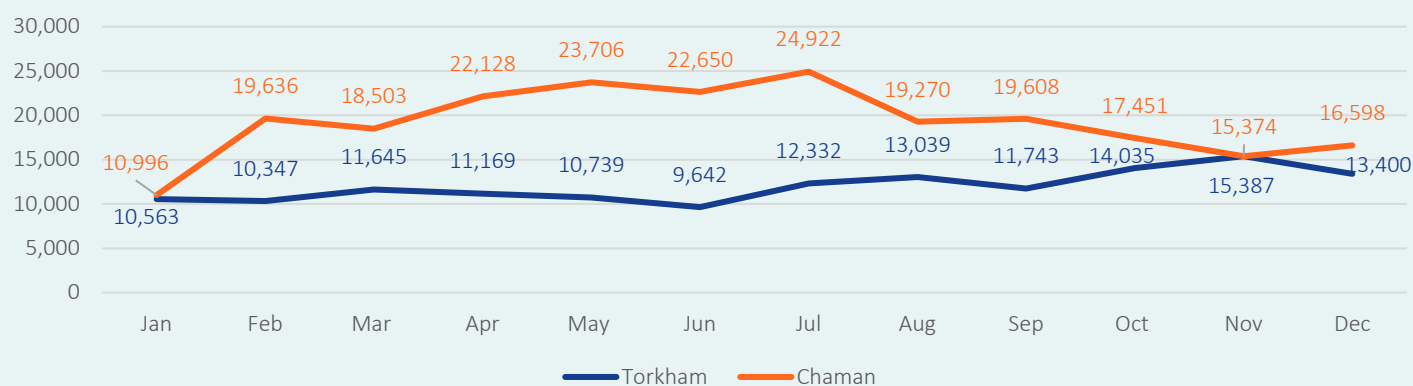
Figure 13: Goods brought from Pakistan to Afghanistan (*multiple answers possible*)
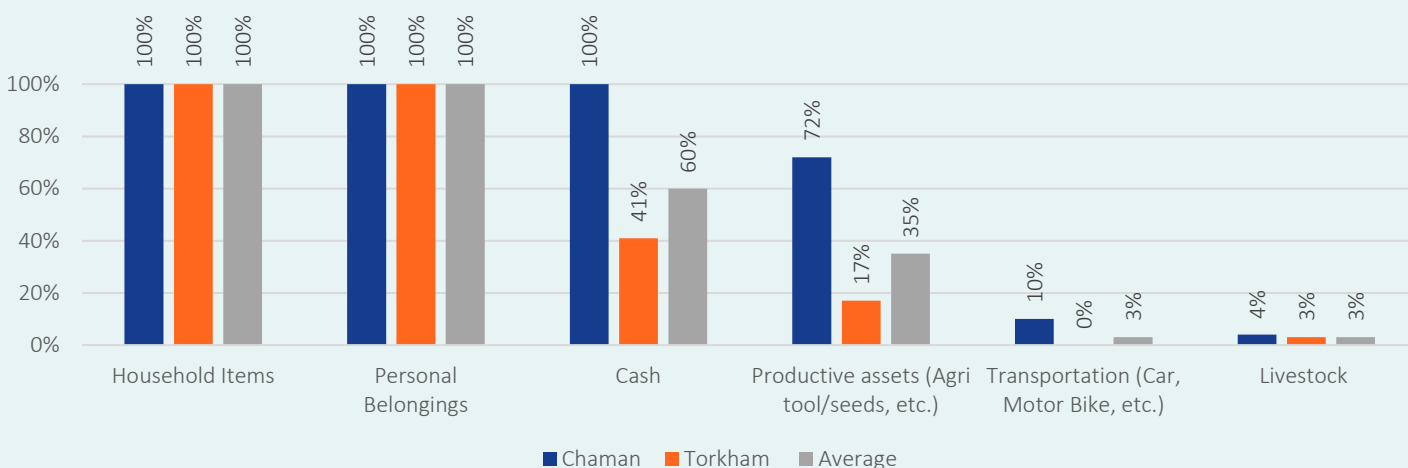
UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Almost half of the undocumented Afghan returnees (49%) surveyed by DTM indicated that they expected to live in a rented house. Other commonly reported settlement types included living independently (32%), living with their relatives (11%) or a spontaneous settlement (7.5%). Seventy-three per cent of undocumented returnees expected to be employed or seek education once they return to Afghanistan. The main settling priorities indicated included resettling in a new city (87%), finding income opportunities (85%), arranging for livelihood (69%) and arranging for shelter (68%).

Figure 14: Returnees by expected type of settlement in Afghanistan

Spontaneous Settlement 7.5%
Camp 0.5%
Own House 32%
Rented House 49%
Living with Relatives 11%
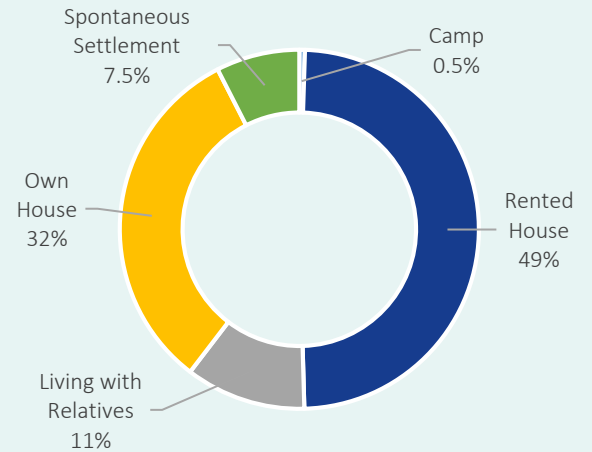
Figure 15: Returnees by main settling priorities upon returning to Afghanistan (*multiple answers possible*)

Priority	%
Security Challenges	39%
Income Opportunities	85%
Education	47%
Availability of Clean Drinking Water	28%
Availability of Medicine and Health Facilities	47%
Resettle in a New City	87%
Arrange for Livelihood	69%
Arrange for Shelter	68%

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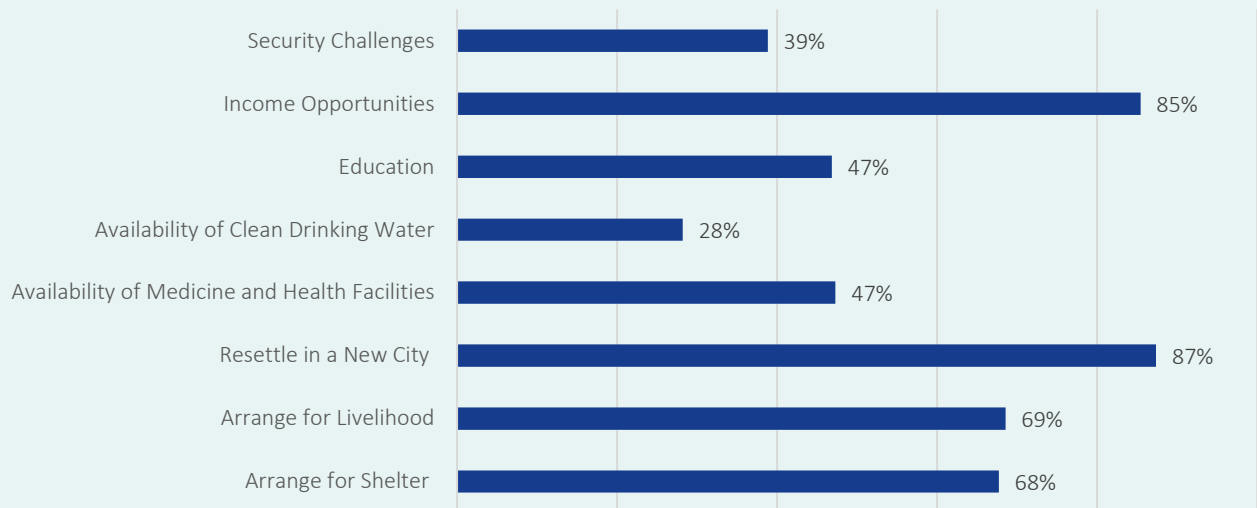
UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – HIGH RETURN AREAS AND DESTINATIONS

Nearly all the Afghan returnees recorded by DTM in 2019 came from four provinces in Pakistan. These were Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) (33%), Balochistan (32%), Punjab (20%) and Sindh (14%). The main intended destination provinces in Afghanistan of undocumented returnees were Kandahar (27%), Kabul (21%), Nangarhar (16%), Kunduz (9%), and Baghlan (5%).

Figure 16: Main origin and intended destinations of Afghan returnees

Data source: Population Census Organization, UNOCHA

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. 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.

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UNDOCUMENTED AFGHAN RETURNEES – TYPE OF SETTLEMENT IN PAKISTAN

Eighty-six per cent of the Afghan returnees reported that they lived in a rented house in Pakistan. The remaining 14 per cent lived in either a camp (9%), a spontaneous settlement (4%) or with relatives (1%). There are, however, some differences between the provinces. Living in rented houses is less prevalent in KPK (78%) and Punjab (85%) in comparison to Sindh (100%) and Balochistan (92%)

Figure 17: Type of settlement in Pakistan of Afghan returnees

Legend
- International border
- Province border
- District border
- Line of control (LOC)
- Disputed border
- P.A.K. Pakistan Administered Kashmir
- I.A.K. India Administered Kashmir

Districts without Returnees

Districts with Returnees
- 1- 100
- 101- 500
- 501- 1,000
- 1,001- 5,000
- 5,001- 10,000

Type of settlement of undocumented Afghan returnees in Pakistan (top 4 answers)
- Rented House
- Spontaneous settlement
- Camp
- Living with relatives

Data source: Population Census Organization, UNOCHA

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. 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.

DISTRICTS IN BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE

District	Rented House	Spontaneous	Camp	Relatives
1. Nushki	100%			
2. Quetta	98%		2%	
3. Killa Abdullah	91.8%		7.6%	0.6%
4. Pishin	75%		25%	
5. Killa Saifullah	67%		33%	
6. Loralai			100%	

DISTRICTS IN KHYBER PAKTUNKHWA PROVINCE

District	Rented House	Spontaneous	Camp	Relatives
7. Dera Ismail Khan	90%	10%		
8. Lakki Marwat	71%		29%	
9. Bannu	65%		35%	
10. Karak			100%	
11. Hangu	43%	15%	42%	
12. Kurram Agency			100%	
13. Kohat	39%	2%	56%	3%
14. Nowshera	73%	5%	21%	2%

DISTRICTS IN KHYBER PAKTUNKHWA PROVINCE

District	Rented House	Spontaneous	Camp	Relatives
15. Peshawar	88%	4%	7%	1%
16. Khyber Agency	73%	17%	4%	8%
17. Charsadda	84%	2%	12%	2%
18. Mardan	67%	3%	27%	3%
19. Swabi	55%	2%	42%	2%
20. Buner	41%	7%	52%	
21. Swat	59%		41%	
22. Lower Dir	50%	15%	35%	
23. Chitral	100%			
24. Haripur	37%	2%	60%	1%
25. Manshera	74%	4%	24%	
26. Abbottabad	100%			

DISTRICTS IN SINDH PROVINCE

District	Rented House	Spontaneous	Camp	Relatives
27. Karachi City	100%			

DISTRICTS IN PUNJAB PROVINCE

District	Rented House	Spontaneous	Camp	Relatives
28. Haripur	86%	6%	5%	3%
29. Attock	85%	5%	9%	1%
30. Mianwali	77%	20%	3%	
31. Chakwal	73%	3%	24%	
32. Jhelum	100%			
33. Gujrat	89%	9%		2%
34. Mandi Bahauddin	52%	48%		
35. Sargodha	78%	17%		4%
36. Sialkot	89%	10%		1%
37. Gujranwala	92%	8%		
38. Lahore	86%	11%	0.5%	2.5%
39. Faisalabad	97%			3%
40. Multan	96%		4%	
41. Bahawalpur	100%			

METHODOLOGY

Flow monitoring (FM) is a component of IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which was developed to track the flows of groups and individuals through key points of origin, transit and destination. The purpose of Flow Monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the scale of population flows and profiles of mobile populations (documented and undocumented Afghan migrants) through specific locations. The information and analysis provided through the flow monitoring methodology also helps to define shortcomings and priorities in the provision of assistance along migration routes and upon destination.

The FM exercise in Pakistan provides key insights into the overall return migration trends of Afghan migrants by monitoring flows at two official border crossing points. The data collected by IOM also provides an overview of the situation of Afghan returnees and their mobility patterns, exploring routes, vulnerabilities and demographic and social characteristics.

DTM experts in the field identify strategic locations for the establishment of monitoring locations/points where the data collection will take place. IOM's DTM team in Pakistan identified two key transit locations: Torkham and Chaman. DTM teams collect and analyze data at the selected official border crossings through weekly rounds of assessment to map information on Afghan returnees.

Pakistan DTM experts conduct Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) with Afghan returnees at FMPs. These surveys collect information on the number, demographic breakdown, vulnerabilities, migration intentions, reasons for migration and nationality of migrants at a given location.

Data quality checks are rigorously conducted by the team during the data collection, processing and analysis processes. The methodology, as it develops, will employ multi-layered data collection with various levels of granularity to allow for further consistency checks.

Data protection and data management is governed by IOM Data Protection Principles. For publicly released data (non-personal and non-sensitive), data will be under the Creative Commons Attribution for Intergovernmental Organizations.