UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | CORE

IRAN-AFGHANISTAN

Returns Emergency Response

as of 7 May 2025

Key figures

472,400
total returns[1]

207,800
44%

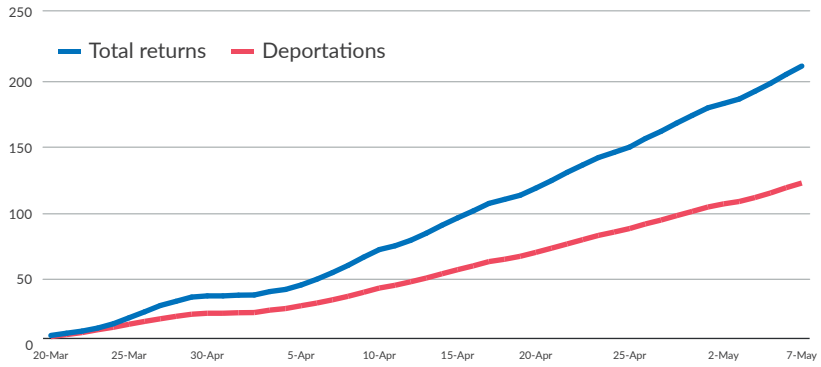
274,100
deportations

118,600
43%

The **blue figures** above correspond to the period 1 January 2025 to 7 May 2025. While the **navy figures** refer only to those who arrived from 20 March 2025 to 7 May 2025.

Total returns (cumulative since 20 March 2025)

Number of people in thousands



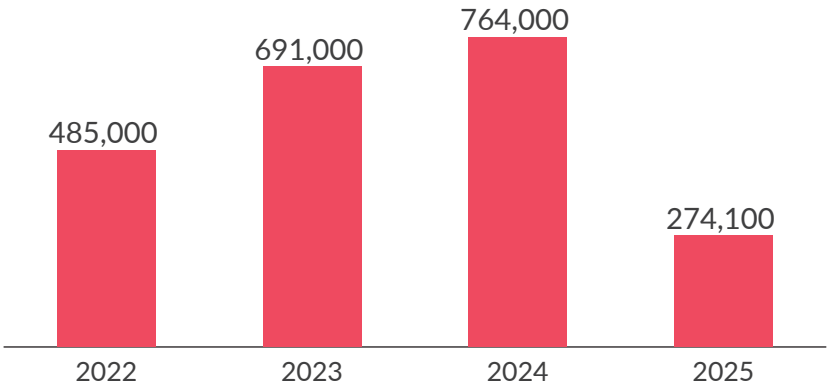
Context

On 23 February 2025, the Government of Iran announced that headcount slips will not be extended beyond 20 March 2025. After this date, the headcount slip holders are treated as individuals holding the same documentation status as undocumented foreigners and with no access to healthcare, medical services, real estate transactions, and other public services, marking a significant shift from previous policies toward Afghans.

However, exemptions apply to certain groups, including mixed-status families (e.g., Amayesh/headcount holders), family members of Amayesh card holders, passport holders with expired visas who can re-enter with a new visa, individuals with work permits or job IDs if they obtain legal residency within the deadline, former Afghan government employees and military personnel referred to international organizations for protection assessment, and individuals who leave Iran and return with a valid passport.

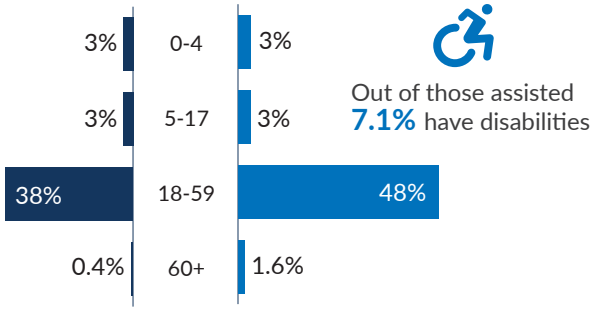
Since 20 March 2025 over 207,800 have returned.

Deportations (from 2022 up to 7 May 2025)



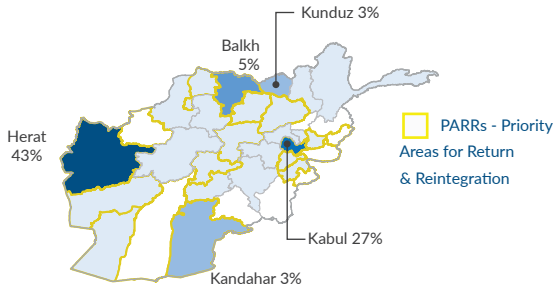
Returns assisted by UNHCR Afghanistan

50% of assisted the are **women & children**
41% are **Female headed households**



Out of those assisted **7.1%** have disabilities

Top 5 provinces of intended destination



Situation map

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

[1] Includes deportations, assisted VolRep and other returns of Afghans of all statuses such as Amayesh cardholders and the undocumented, excluding passport holders.

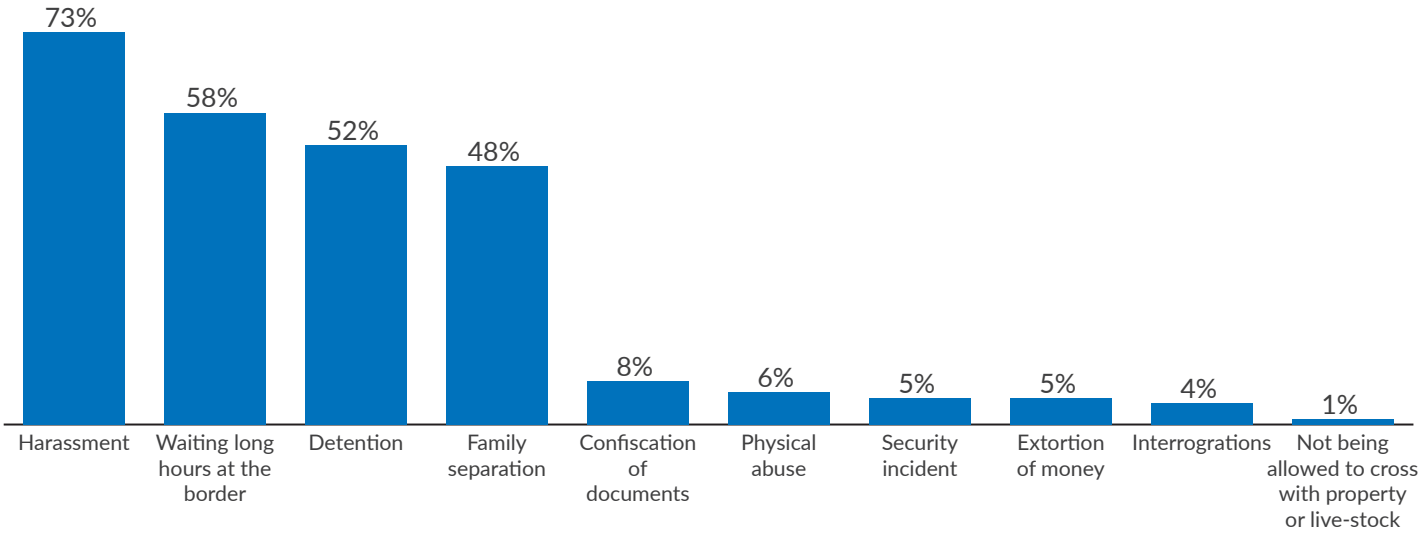
Sources: UNHCR, DoRR

Border Protection Monitoring

UNHCR and its border partners WADAN and CHA in Afghanistan have scaled up protection activities at the border (Islam Qala, Zaranj and Abo Nasr Farahi) with Iran. Daily presence consists of Border Protection monitoring through interviews with returnees and deportees in order to identify protection concerns and risks, as well as their intended areas of return in Afghanistan. Help desks have been set up to boost protection screening interviews, identification and referral of individuals to be assisted by UNHCR in the Encashment Centers.

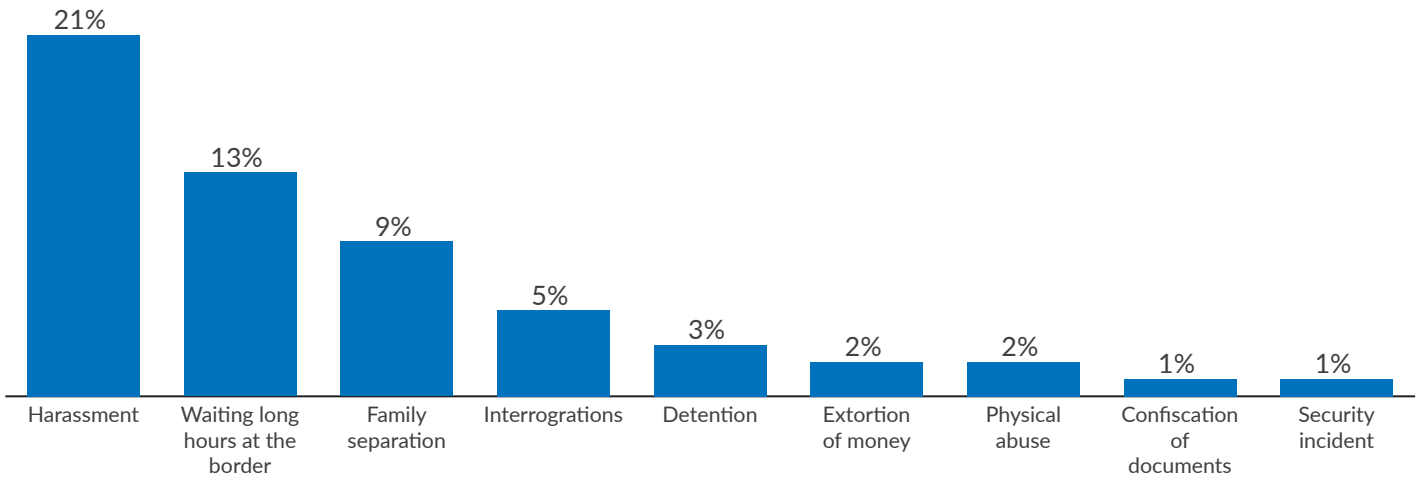
Top problems experienced in Iran prior to the cross-border movement

Percentage of interviews reporting problems | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



Problems experienced at the Iran border point

Percentage of interviews reporting problems | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%



Top 3 Needs upon arrival

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%

92% Food

74% Water

73% Financial support

Top 3 Protection services requested in Afghanistan

Percentage of interviews | Multiple choice questions may add up to over 100%

59% Support with family reunification

56% Documentation / Legal assistance

22% Protection services for girls & women