



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 14 May 2025

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)

Subject: Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)
- presentation

Delegations will find enclosed the presentation given by the International Organisation for Migration (OIM) during the meeting of the EMWP held on 14 May 2025, Item 2 agenda CM 2348/25.

Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration Brussels, 14 May 2025

Impact of the current situation in Afghanistan on migratory flows in neighbouring countries: prospects and support for Afghan migrants in hosting countries

Mihyung PARK – IOM Chief of Mission to Afghanistan



Afghans in the neighboring countries

Iran

- Over 2 million Afghans targeted for deportation by March 2025
- At least 250,000 Afghans detained in 2024
- Intensifying negative public sentiments and discrimination for Afghans
- Afghans banned from residing in 16 provinces
- Restricted access to education, healthcare, and housing
- Barriers to livelihoods increasing labor exploitation and child protection risks

Pakistan

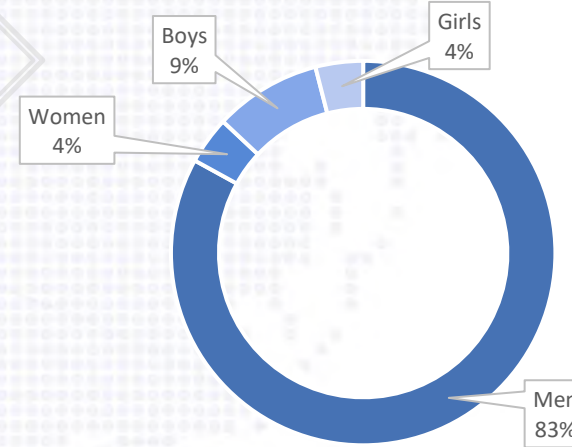
- April 2025 IFRP 2nd Phase targeting undocumented individuals and ACC holders
- 28,000 Afghan nationals arrested and detained since 1 Jan 2025
- Detention in holding sites with poor conditions
- Lack of due process
- Limiting movements within the country
- Spontaneous returns driven by fear of arrest
- Increased cases of family separation

Undocumented Returns from Iran (1 Jan 2024-7 May 2025)

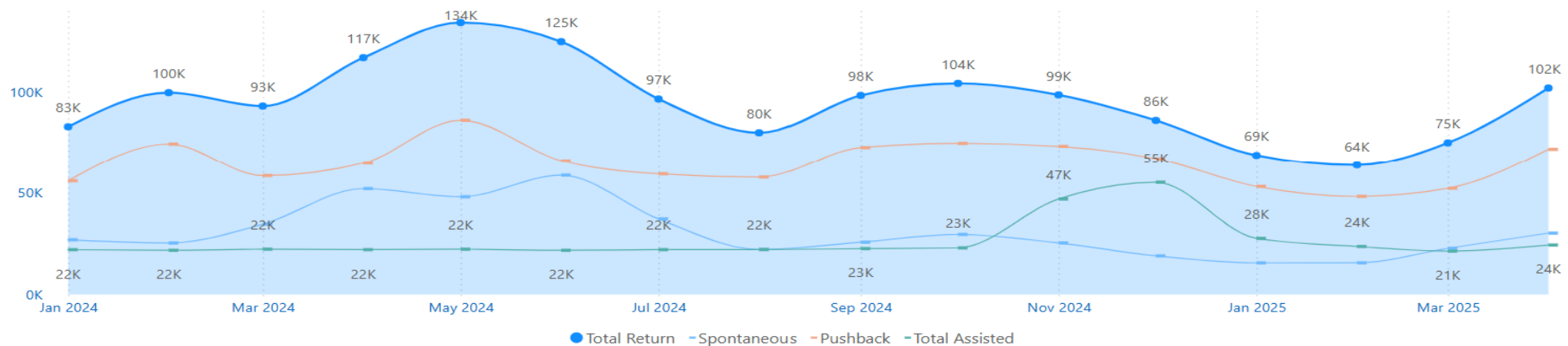
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- IOM AFG recorded more than **1.5 million** undocumented Afghan migrant returns.
- **68%** expulsions and **32%** spontaneous returns.
- **85%** single travelers and **15%** families.

Sex and Age Breakdown



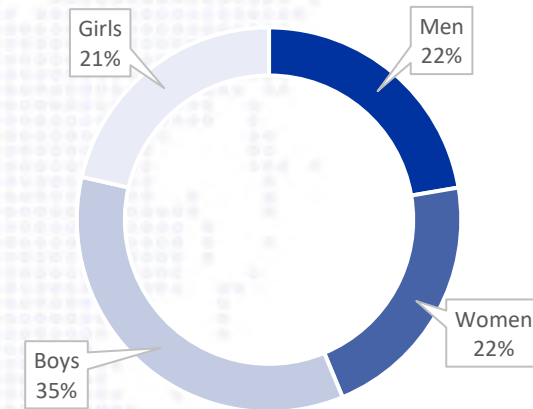
Undocumented Return to Afghanistan Over Time



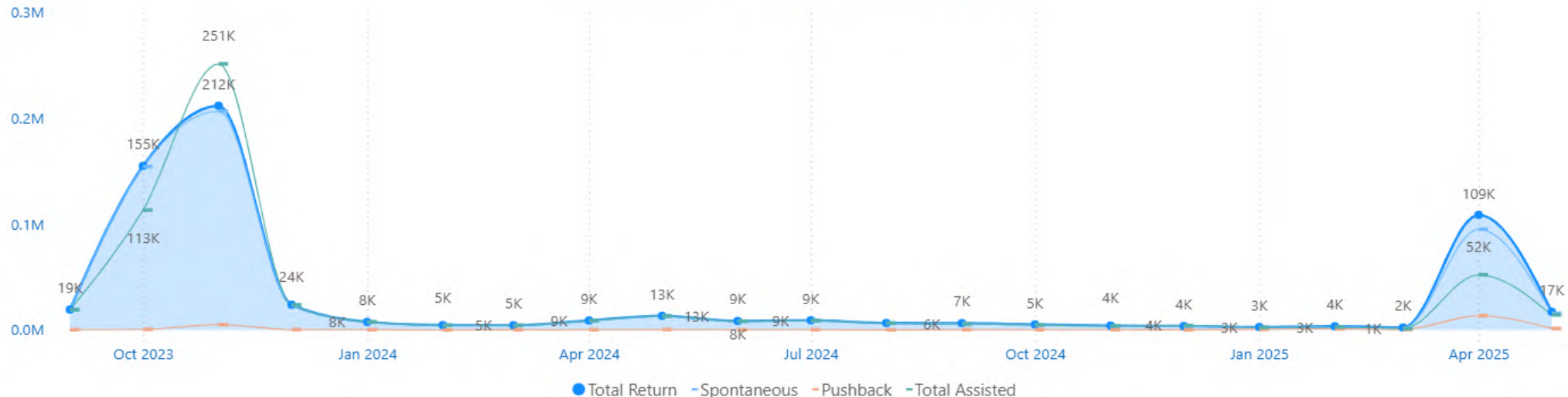
Undocumented Returns from Pakistan (Sep 2023-7 May 2025)

- IOM AFG recorded more than **626,000** undocumented Afghan migrant returns (including ACC holders).
- **4%** expulsions and **96%** spontaneous returns.
- **98%** families and **2%** single travelers.

Sex and Age Breakdown

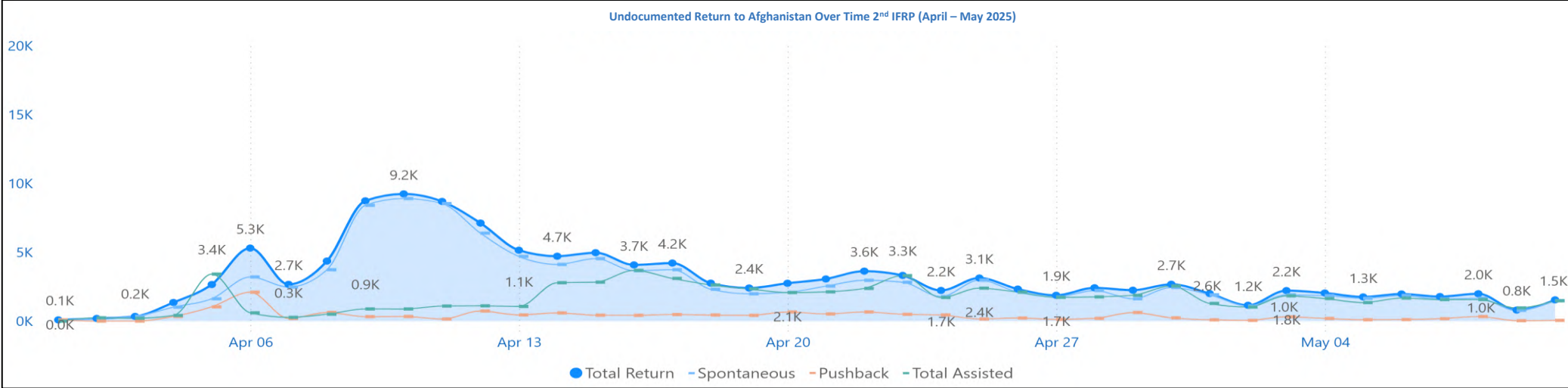
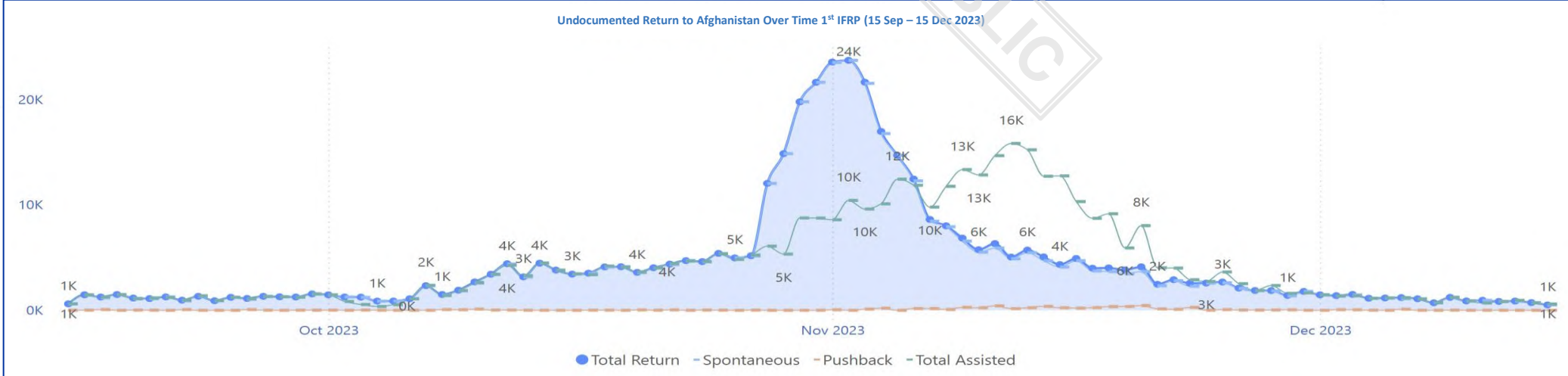


Undocumented Return to Afghanistan Over Time



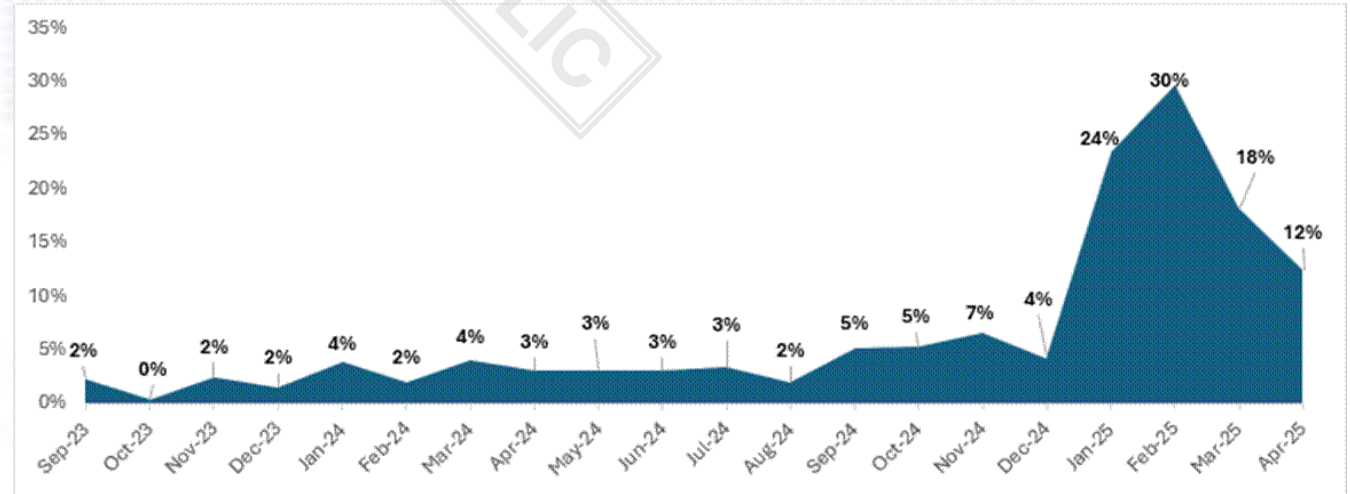
Return Trends from Pakistan IFRP 1 vs. IFRP 2

(Different Timeframe)

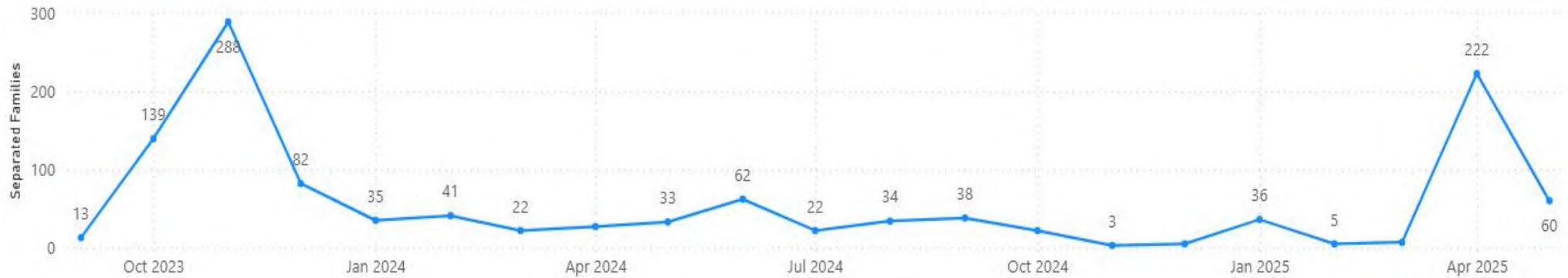


Expulsions and Separated Families -IFRP 1 vs. IFRP 2

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PSN by Number of Cases

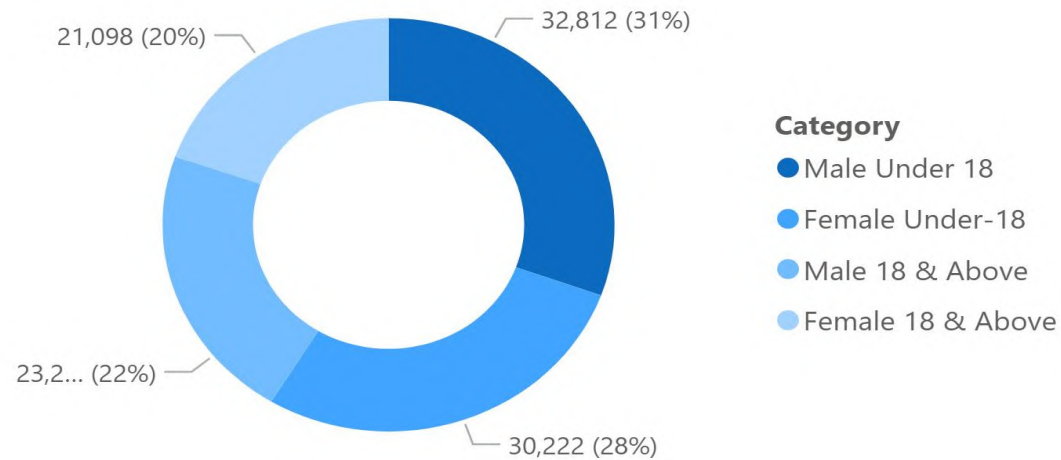


Undocumented Returnees from Pakistan Profiles (Apr 2025)

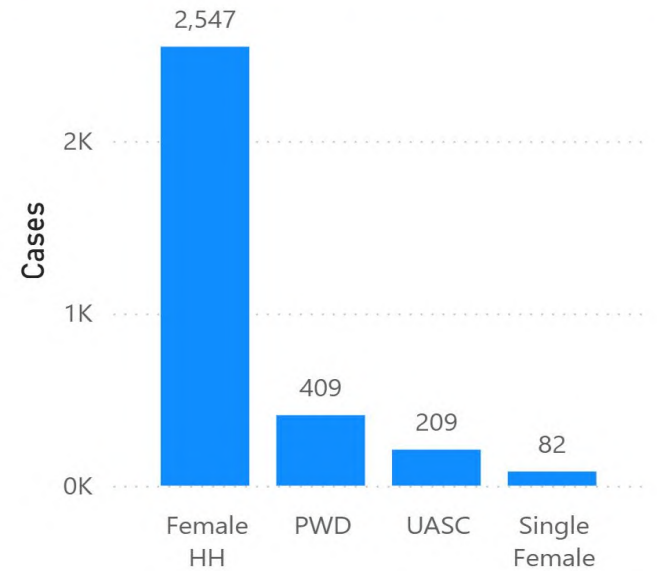
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107,408
Undocumented Returns

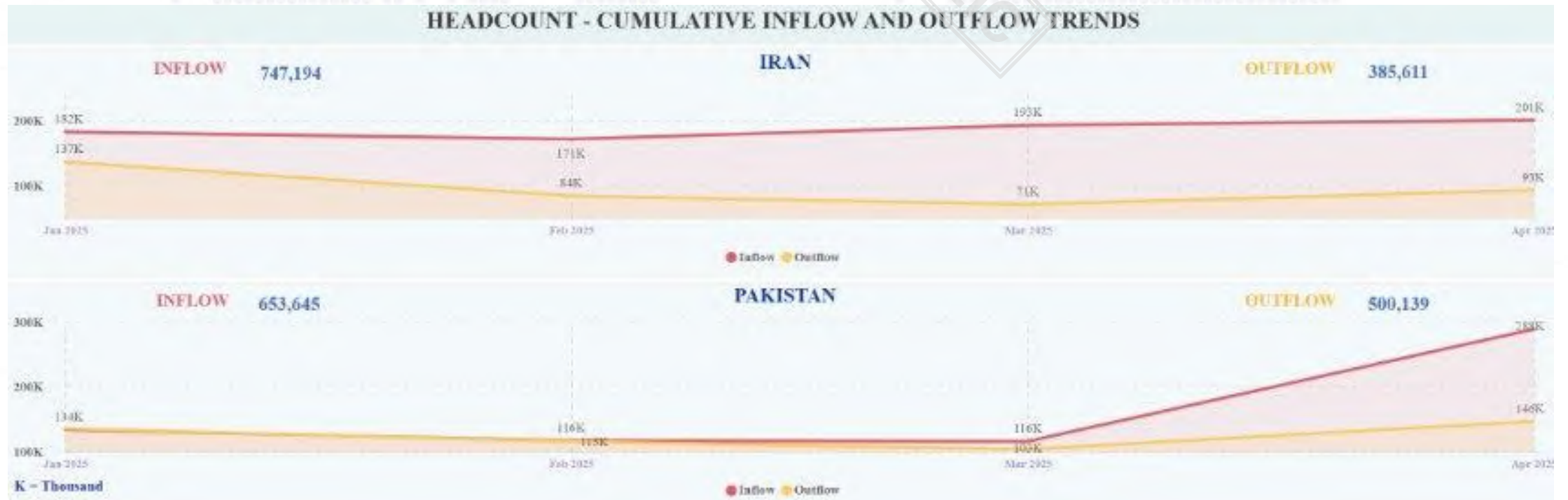
Gender and Age Categories



Vulnerabilities



Movements in and out of Afghanistan (Jan –Apr 2025)



For more information on the Human mobility on the borders of Afghanistan please check the [link](#)

Reasons for Departures (Jan – Apr 2025)

Top Main Reasons For Departures To Iran

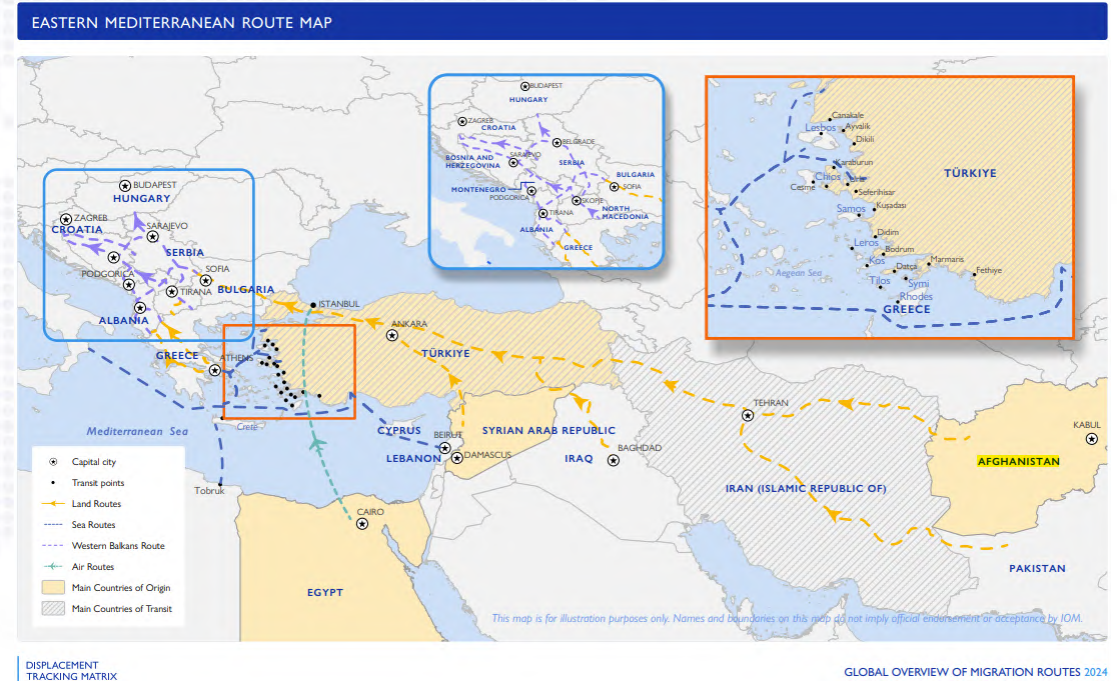


Top Main Reasons For Departures To Pakistan



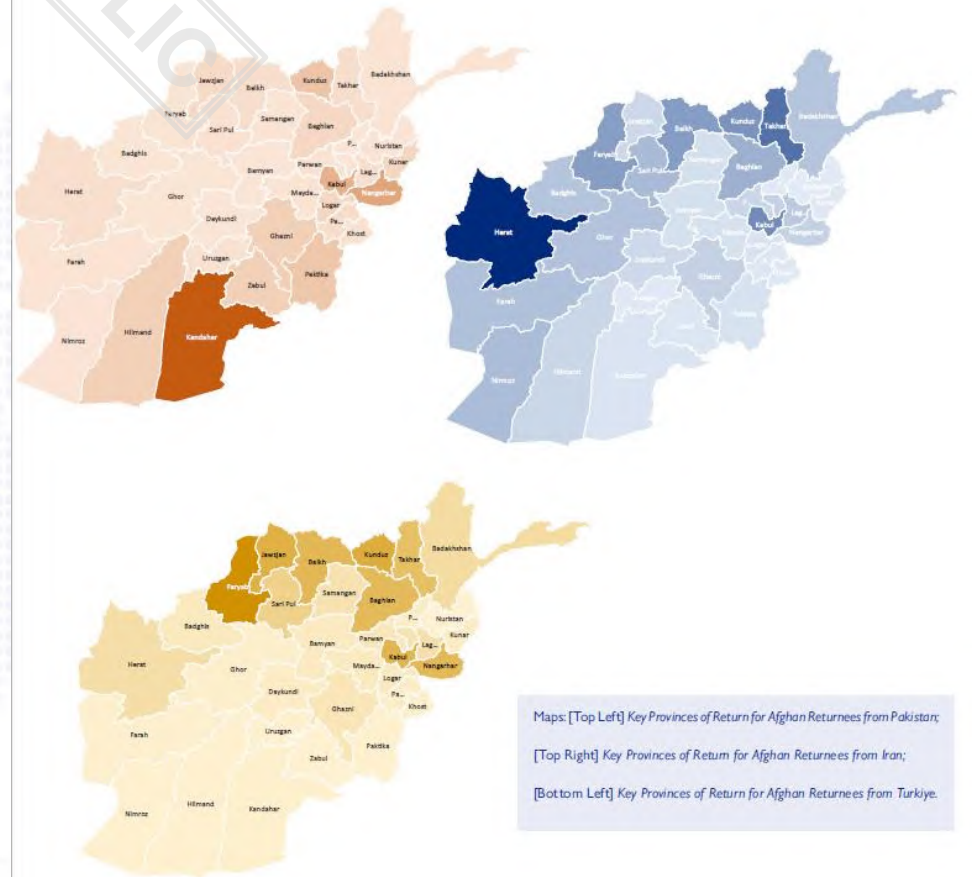
Returns from Turkey

- About **40,000** undocumented Afghan migrant returns since Oct 2023.
- **96%** expulsions and **4%** spontaneous returns.
- **97%** single travelers and **3%** families.
- Majority are individual males (18-30 years)
- Turkey remains a key gateway to Europe
- Lack of legal status and documentation
- High unemployment and reliance on daily labor
- Reports of detentions and abusive conditions



Challenges upon Return

- Further straining fragile areas of returns already burdened by existing returnees, IDPs, host communities and new IDPs (climate impacts)
- Lack of civil documentation and livelihood opportunities
- Inadequate shelter, access to education and health-care services
- Social exclusion and discrimination
- Negative coping mechanisms often leading to cycles of debt
- Heightened risks for women and girls

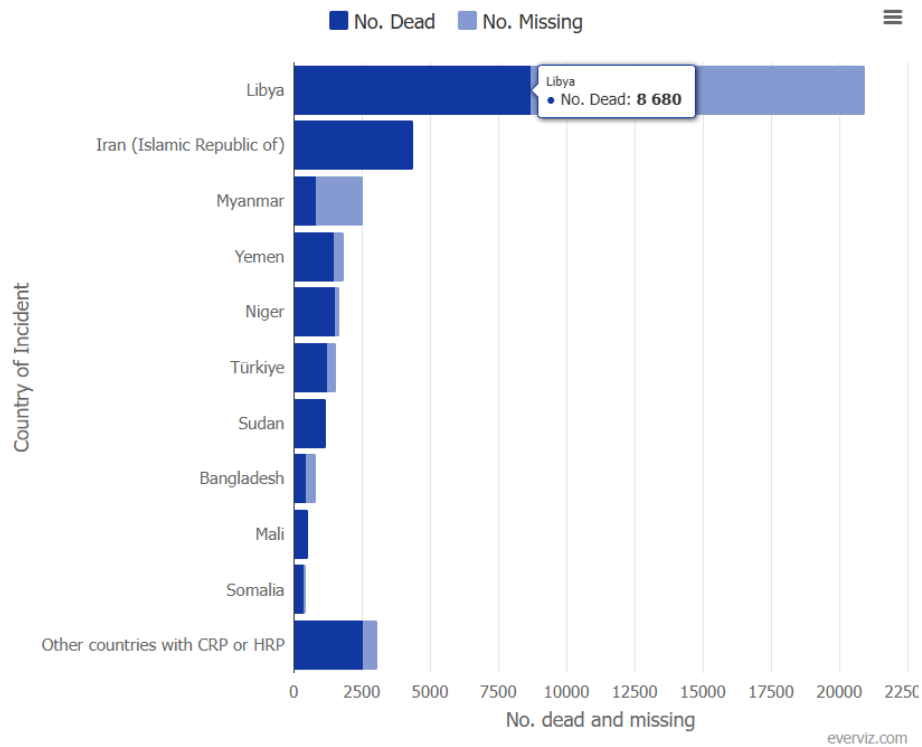


Negative Cycle of Migration

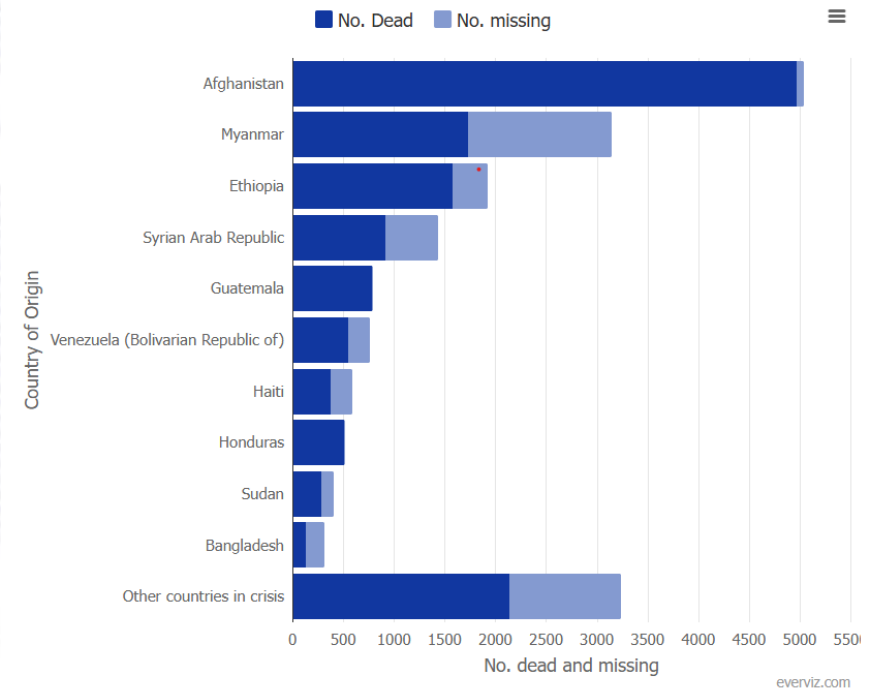
- Drivers of migration – social, economic, political and safety-related push and pull factors
- Challenging socio-economic reintegration environment
- Negative coping mechanisms
- Secondary displacement including climate change-induced displacement
- Limited regular pathways and high associated costs and time-consuming process for regular migration
- Available irregular channels

Afghan Migrants at Risk

Deaths and disappearances recorded in transit in crisis-affected countries, 2014-2024



Top 10 countries of origin of missing migrants fleeing crisis, 2014-2024



Note: the majority of deceased persons recorded by MMP lack data on country of origin. The identities of these tens of thousands of people remains unknown.

Actions for Durable Solutions

- In neighboring countries:
 - Expansion and simplification of regularization schemes
 - Expansion of regular pathways
 - Promote complementary pathways
 - Advocacy for voluntary return process and against expulsions and deportations
- In Afghanistan:
 - Support across the spectrum of mobility
 - Continued advocacy for women and girls:
 - Engagement with the DfA
 - Strengthening local ownership
 - Monitoring progress towards durable solutions



Thank you.