

Brussels, 10 September 2025

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY
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PUBLIC (07.11.2025)**

WK 11308/2025 INIT

LIMITE

**JAI
MIGR
ASIM
RELEX
COASI**

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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 (IOM) in relation to item 5 of the agenda of EMWP on 10 September 2025: The current migratory situation in Afghanistan.

A stylized world map composed of small dots, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with a network of thin grey lines connecting various points across the continents.

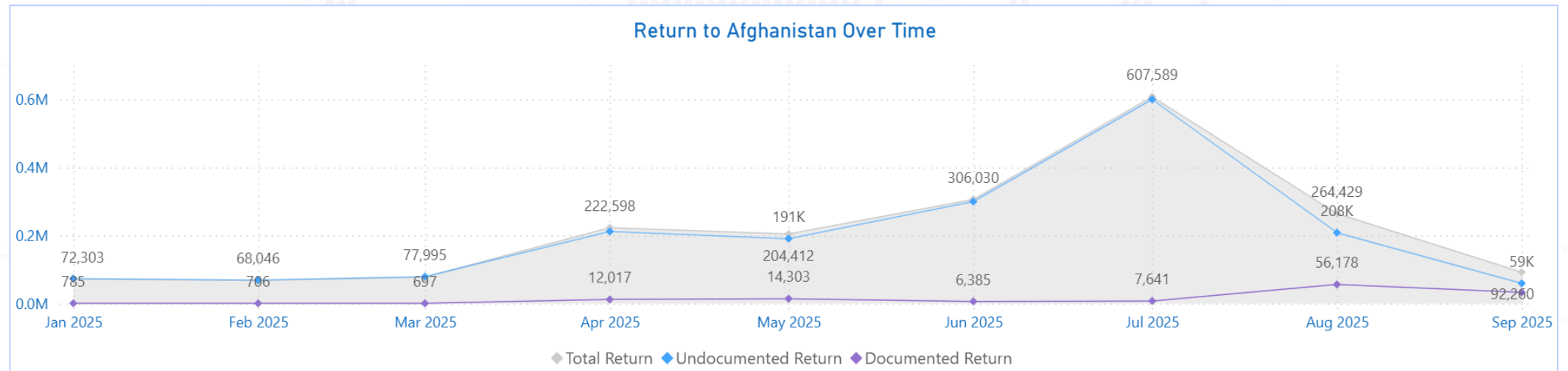
Impact of the current situation in Afghanistan on migratory flows

EMWP, 10 September 2025

Mihyung Park, Chief of Mission, IOM Afghanistan

Overall Return to Afghanistan (1st Jan to 6th Sep 2025)

- Over the period, more than 1.9 **million** Afghan migrant returned.
- **94% (1.78 million)** undocumented and **6% (131 K)** documented returns.
- **45%** spontaneous and **55%** expulsion cases.
- **81.1%** (1.5 million) are from Iran.
- **18.6%** (356 K) are from Pakistan.
- **0.3%** (5 K) are from Turkey.

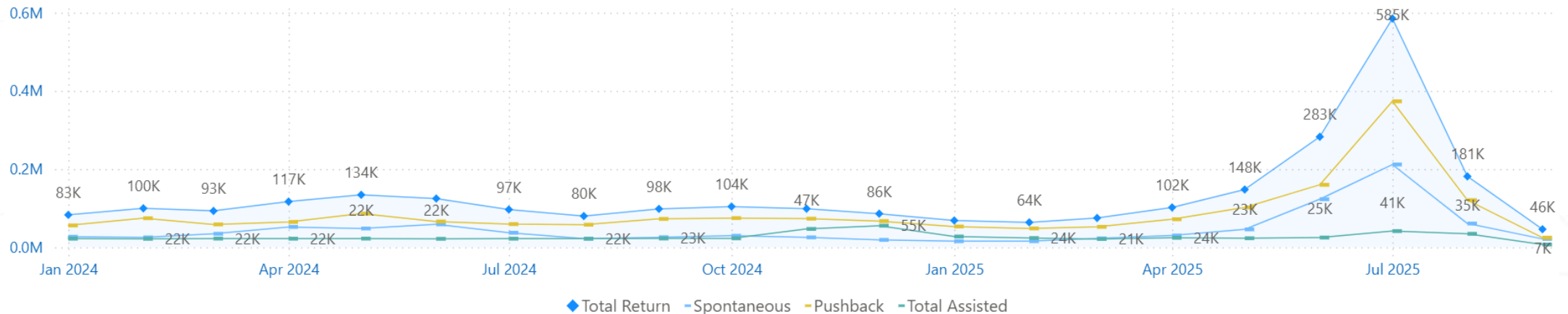


Undocumented Returns from Iran

(1 Jan 2024 - 6th Sep 2025)

- IOM AFG recorded more than **2.7 million** undocumented Afghan migrant returns.
- **66%** expulsions and **34%** spontaneous returns.
- **61%** single travelers and **39%** families.

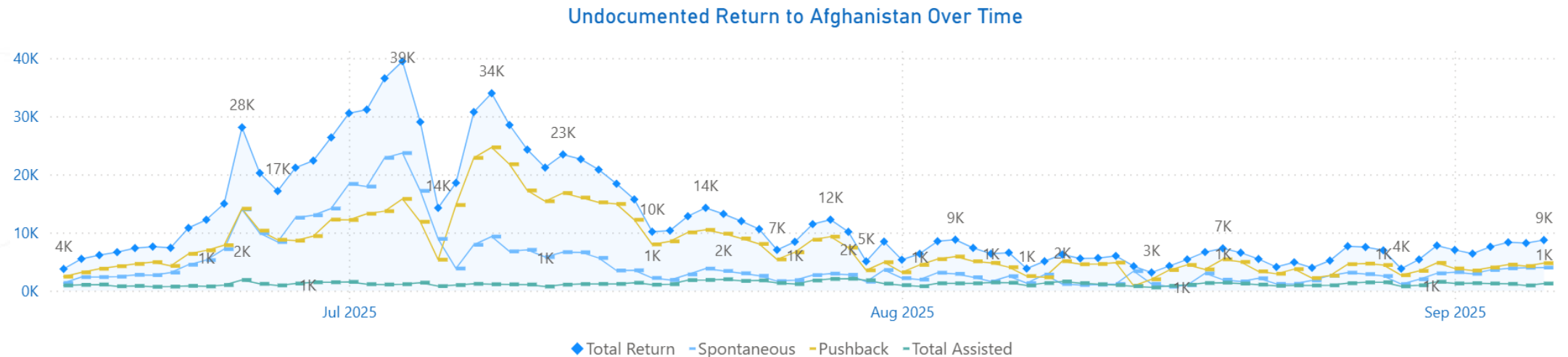
Undocumented Return to Afghanistan Over Time



Undocumented Returns from Iran

(15 Jun - 6th Sep 2025 – influx)

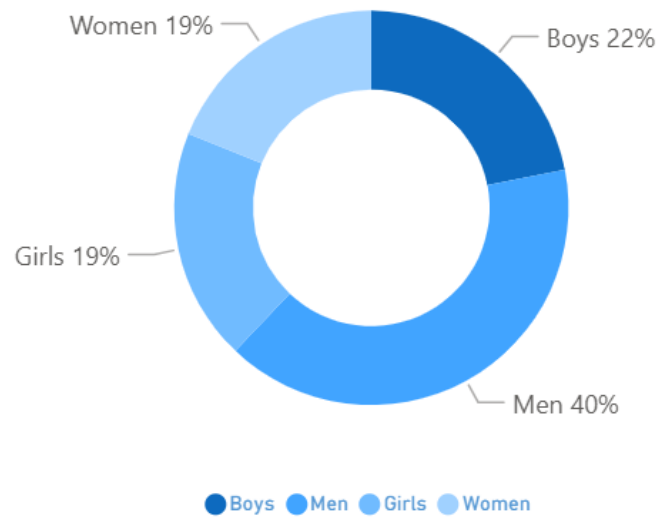
- IOM AFG recorded more than **1.03 million** undocumented Afghan migrant returns.
- **61%** expulsion and **39%** spontaneous returns.
- **26%** single travelers and **74%** families.



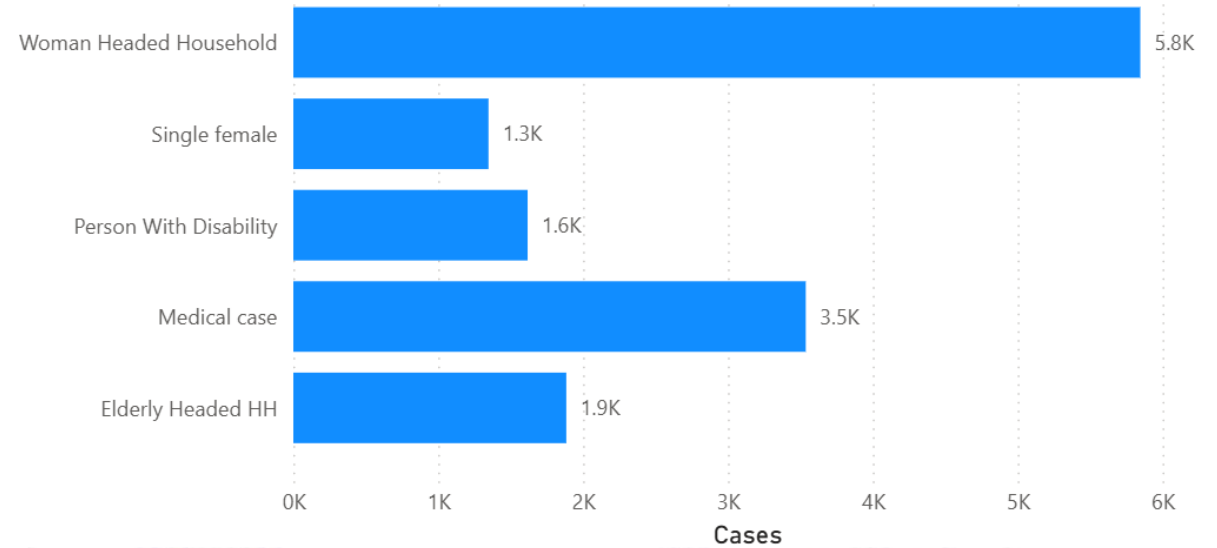
Undocumented Returns from Iran - Profile

(15 Jun - 6th Sep 2025 - influx)

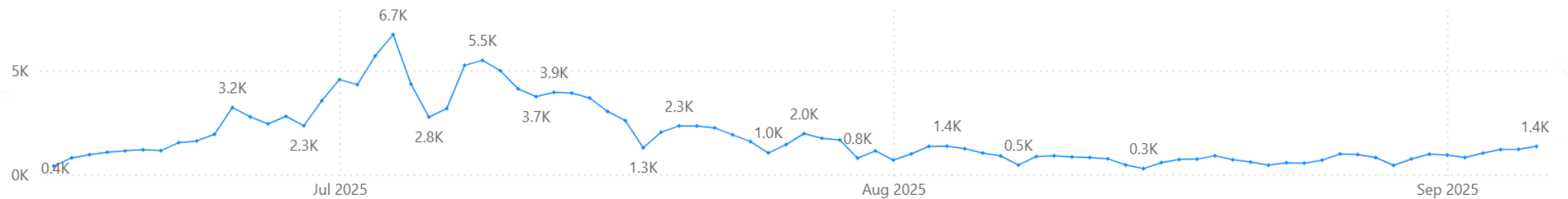
Gender & Age Breakdown - Undocumented Returnees



Vulnerabilities - Assisted Returnees



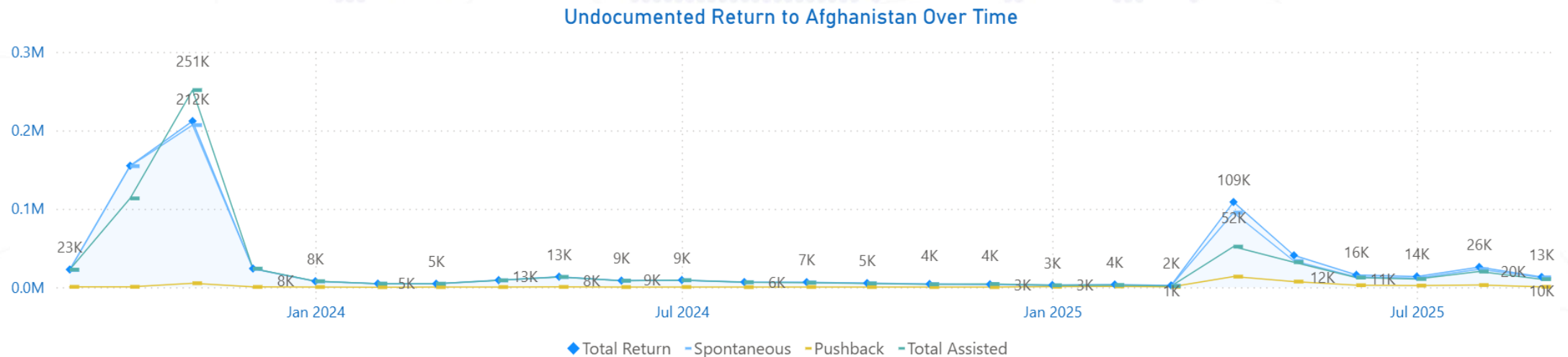
Undocumented Return from Over Time - Number of Families



Undocumented Returns from Pakistan

(Sep 2023 - 6th Sep 2025)

- IOM AFG recorded more than **723 K** undocumented Afghan migrant returns (including ACC holders).
- **6%** expulsions and **94%** spontaneous returns.
- **97%** families and **3%** single travelers.

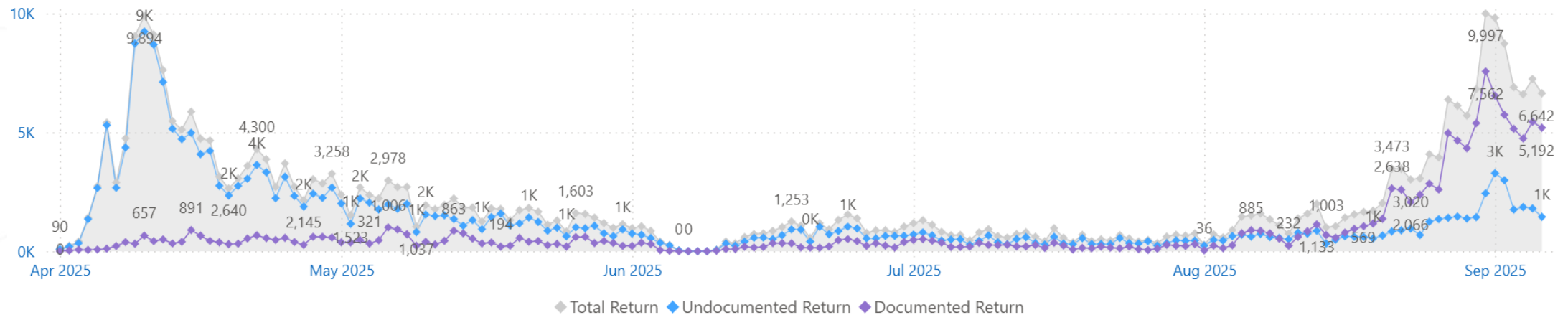


Returns from Pakistan

(1 Apr - 6th Sep 2025 IFRP 2 & 3)

- Over the period, more than 345 K Afghan migrant returned.
- **63% (218 K)** undocumented and **37% (127 K)** documented returns.
- **91%** spontaneous and **9%** expulsions.
- 1st Apr to 31 Jul **82%** undocumented and **18%** documented
- 1st Aug to 6th Sep **31%** undocumented and **69%** documented

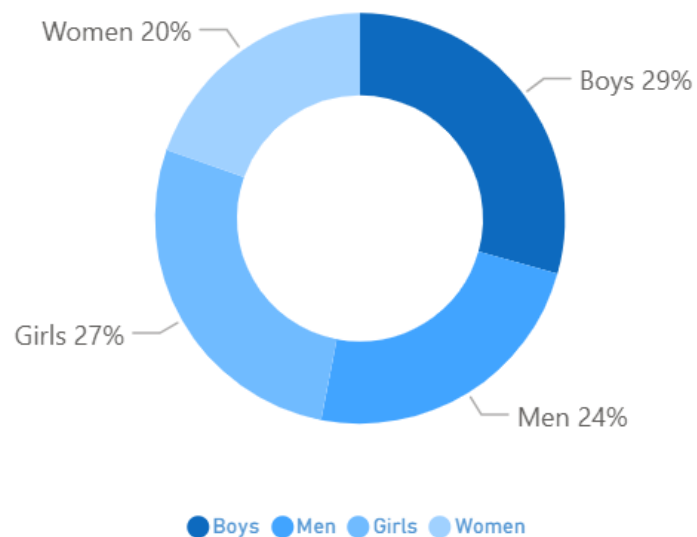
Return to Afghanistan Over Time



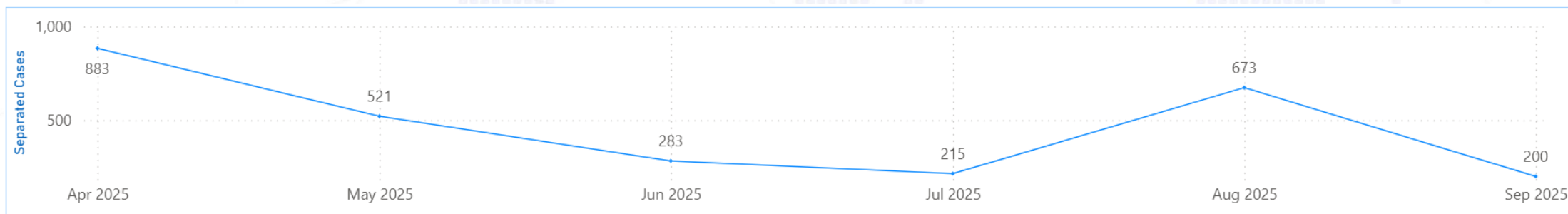
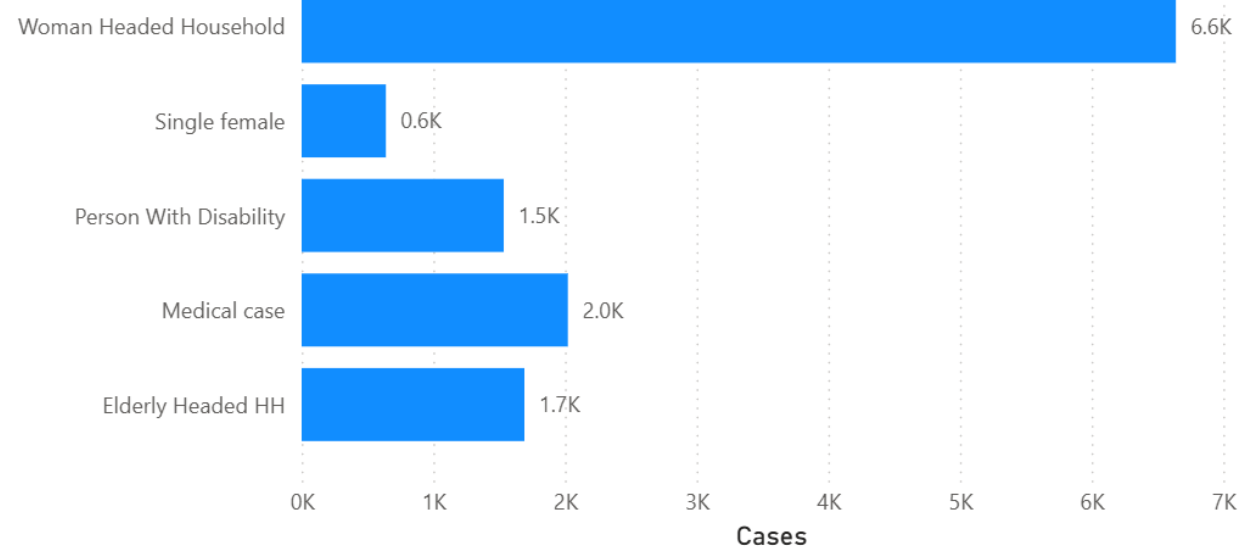
Undocumented Returns from Pakistan - Profile

(Apr – 6th Sep 2025)

Gender & Age Breakdown - Undocumented Returnees



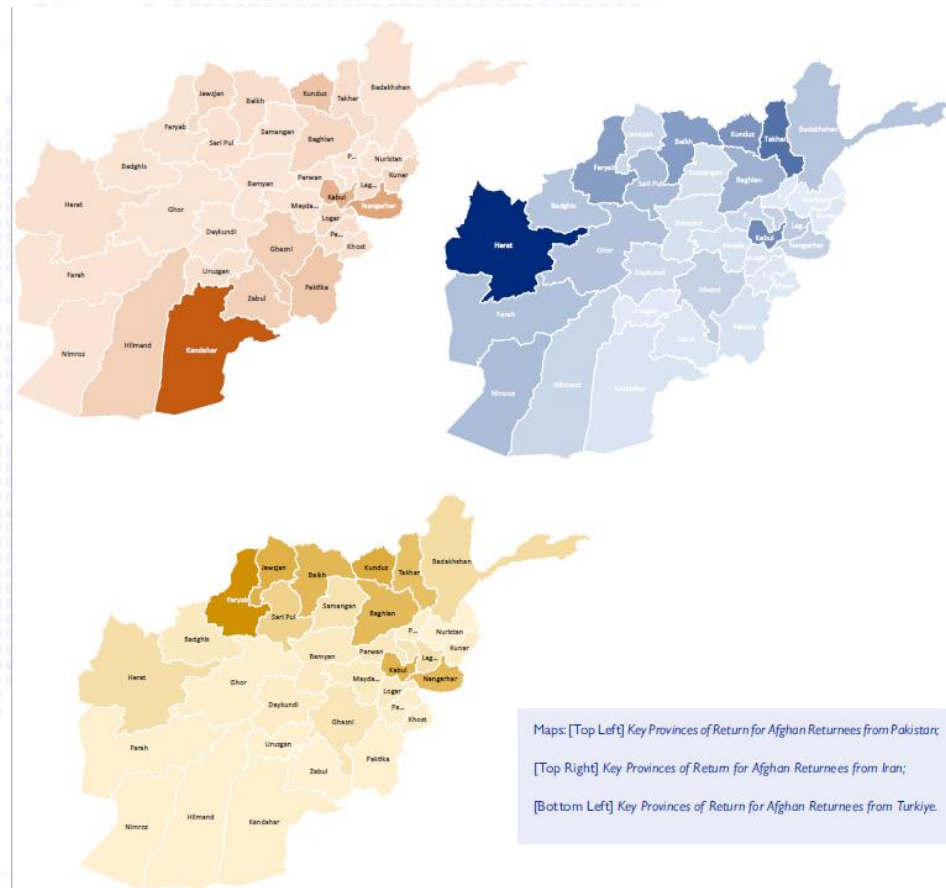
Vulnerabilities - Assisted Returnees



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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



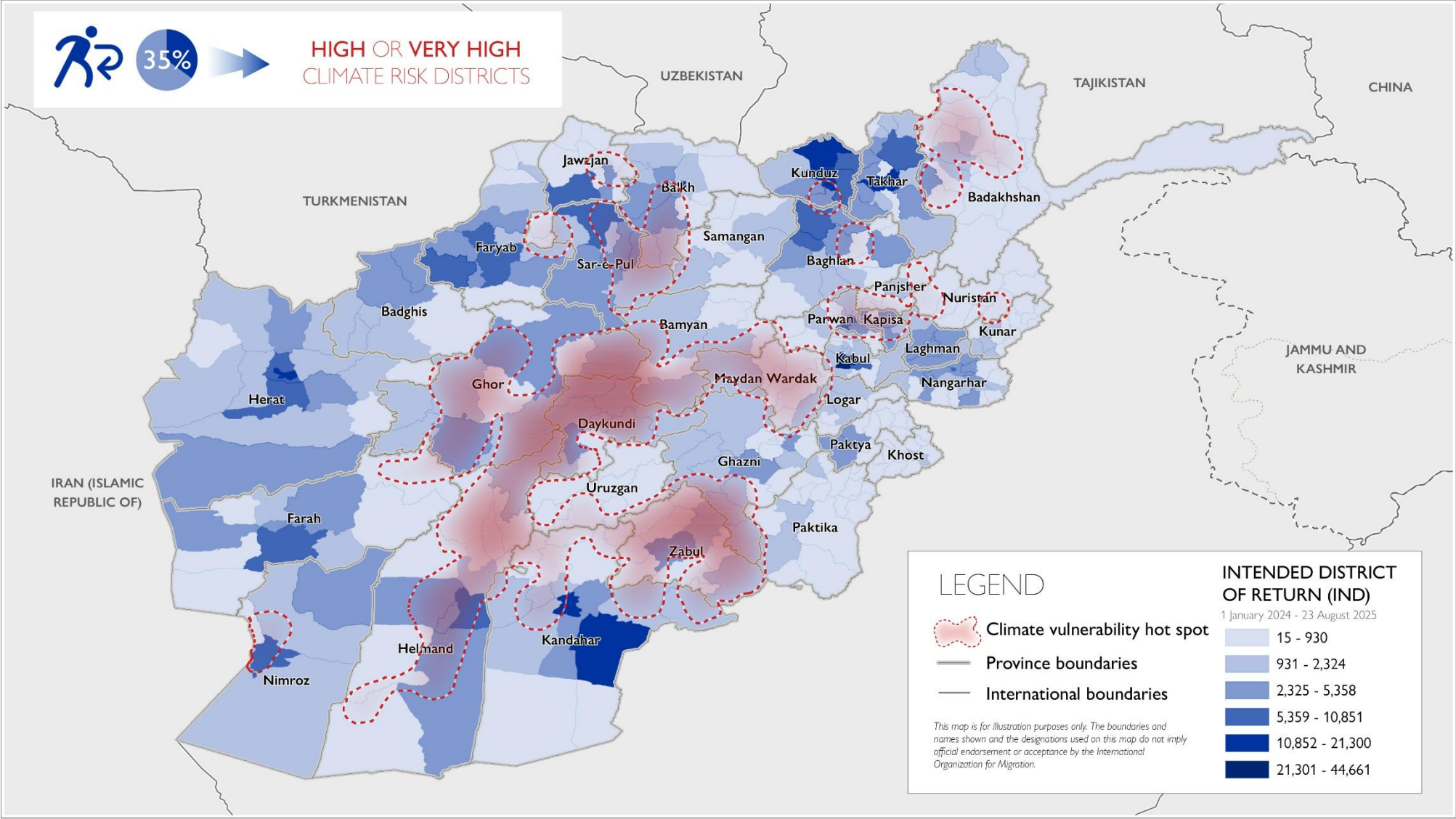
Negative Cycle of Migration

- Drivers of migration – social, economic, political and safety-related push and pull factors
- Challenging socio-economic reintegration environment
- Negative coping mechanisms
 - Majority of returnee HHs report accruing debt (80%)
 - Key coping strategy for Afghans against economic insecurity is to borrow money / take loans
 - Other key coping strategies include reducing food intake and sending children to work within Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries.
- Secondary displacement including climate change-induced displacement
- Limited regular pathways and high associated costs and time-consuming process for regular migration
- Available irregular channels

RETURNEES FROM ABROAD vs CLIMATE VULNERABILITY HOT SPOTS

3.8 M
Returned
From Abroad
Since Sep. 23

1.75 M
Returned
from Abroad
Since Jan. 25



Earthquake Impacted Areas of Return

EARTHQUAKE IMPACTED AREAS OF RETURN



TOTAL RETURNEES (IND)
Nangarhar, Kunur, and Laghman provinces

104,382
Individuals

INTENDED DISTRICT OF RETURN (IND)
(1 January – 23 August 2025)

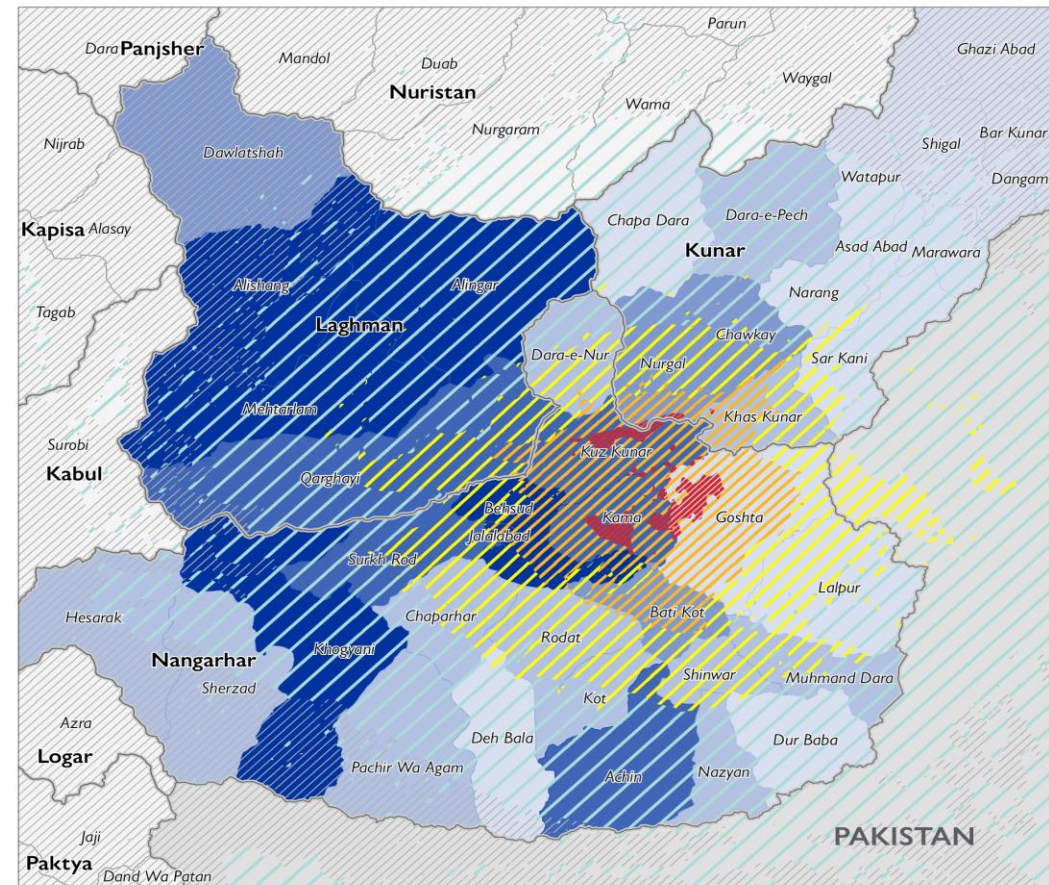
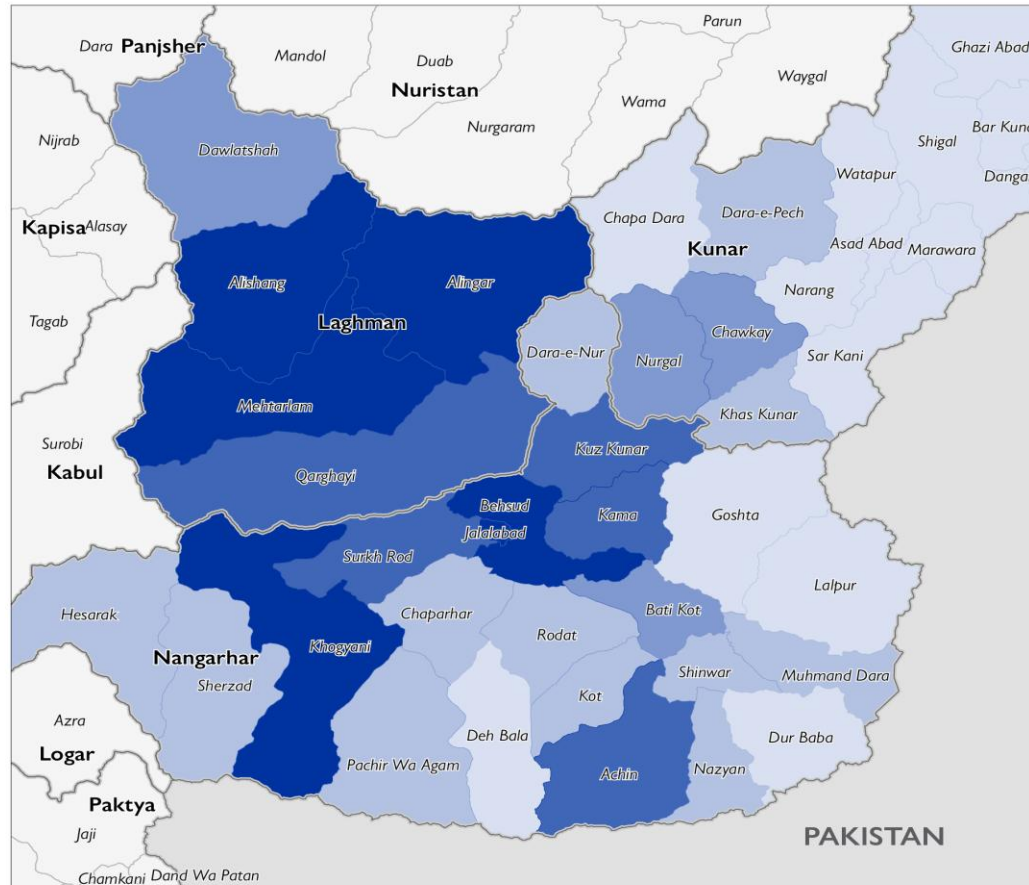


MODIFIED MERCALLI SCALE (MMI)
(2-3: Weak; 4: Light; 5: Moderate; 6: Strong; 7: Very Strong)



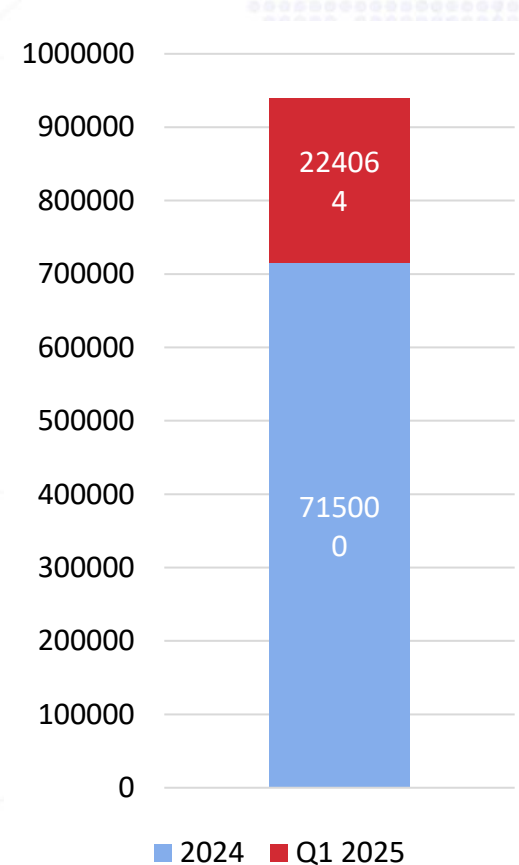
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

10 Km

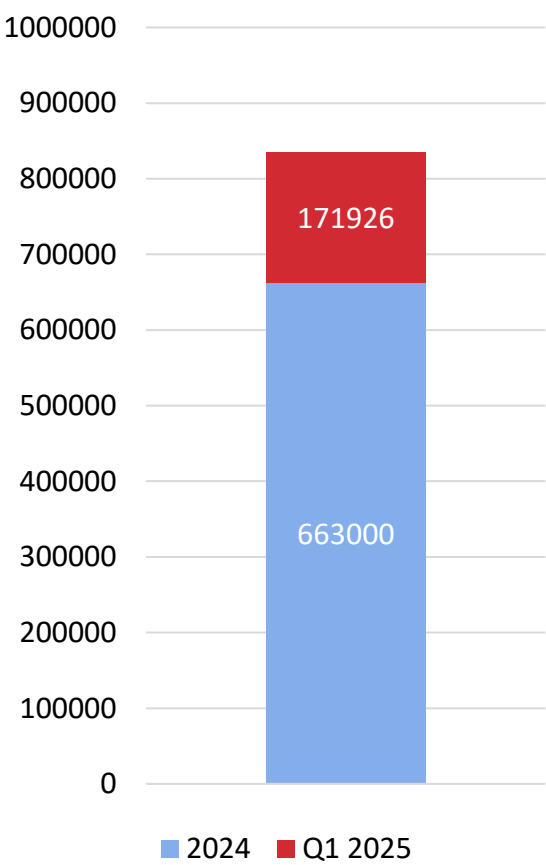


Climate-Induced Mobility As a Result of Loss of Livelihood

Number of individuals forced to move internally



Number of individuals forced to move abroad

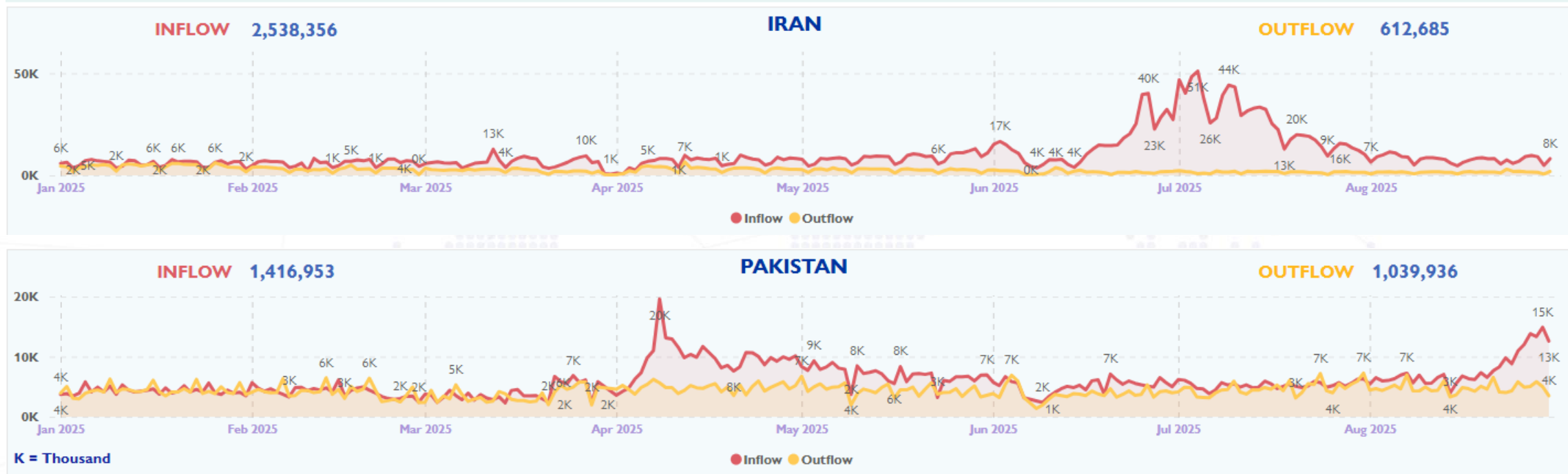


Top destinations include:
Saudi Arabia,
Germany,
France,
Europe (general),
UAE, Türkiye,
Tajikistan

Movements in and out of Afghanistan (Jan.2025 – Aug.2025)



HEADCOUNT - CUMULATIVE INFLOW AND OUTFLOW TRENDS



For more information on the Human mobility on the borders of Afghanistan please check the [link](#), and for the FM dashboard please click the link [FM Dashboard](#)

Reasons for Leaving Afghanistan (Jun. – Aug.2025)

Top Main Reasons For Departures To Iran

To Work In IRN

46.26%

Loss of Work-AFG

10.89%

Visit Family Abroad

8.26%

Traveling Residence

28.87%

Living Cost Better-IRN

2.95%

Health Services

6.27%

Top Main Reasons For Departures To Pakistan

Health Services

56.95%

Family Visit

25.15%

Event (Socials)...

11.85%

To work IN Pak

10.75%

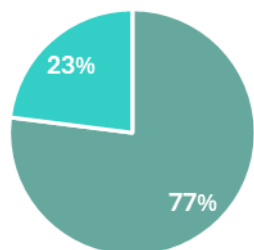
Traveling Residence

7.13%

Attend School

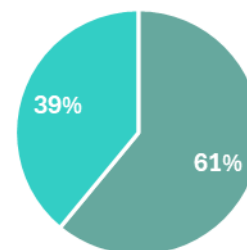
3.48%

Work Status In Afghanistan



■ Was not working in AFG ■ Was working in AFG

Work Status In Afghanistan



■ Was not working in AFG ■ Was working in AFG

Out Migration Routes

Afghanistan as a Major Country of Origin

- Afghanistan is one of the top five countries of origin for international migrants globally, with **7.5 million** Afghans living abroad in 2024.

Indicator	Value / Trend	Main European Destinations
Irregular arrivals to Europe (Eastern Mediterranean)	20,028 (85% Afghans)	Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria
Irregular transits (Western Balkans Route)	14,767 (70% Afghans)	Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia
Irregular arrivals (Central Mediterranean Route)	20,302 (Afghans among key groups)	Italy, Malta
Irregular arrivals (Western African Atlantic Route)	519 (majority Pakistan, some Afghans)	Canary Islands, Spain
Irregular arrivals (Belarus Route)	278 (55% Afghans)	Poland, Lithuania, Latvia
Migrant deaths (Afghans)	1,575	Iran, Türkiye, Mediterranean

Actions for Durable Solutions

- In neighbouring countries:
 - Expansion and simplification of regularization schemes
 - Expansion of regular pathways
 - Promote complementary pathways
 - Advocacy for voluntary return process and against pushbacks and deportations
- In Afghanistan:
 - Support across the spectrum of mobility
 - Evidence-based targeting of returnee locations for assistance
 - Multipartner and multisectoral coordinated responses in target locations
 - Continued advocacy for women and girls
 - Engagement with the DfA
 - Monitoring progress towards durable solutions



Thank you.