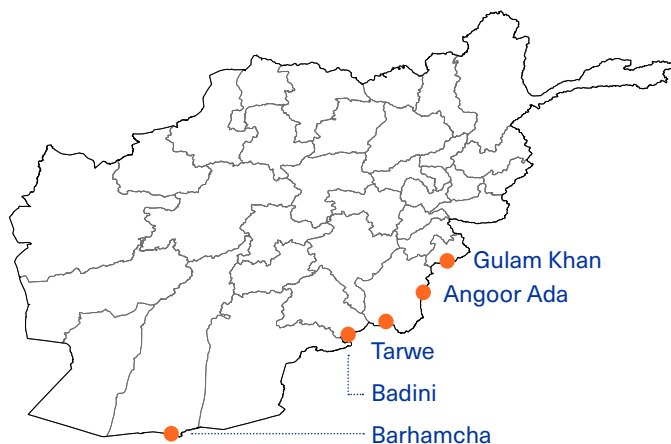


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Notes

This document is not an in-depth assessment of these locations. Visits were conducted to observe the overall situation on the ground and meet with the local partners and authorities. This report includes observations from these visits - some information may be partial and incomplete.

Additional visits will be conducted along the borders with Pakistan and Iran to observe other informal BCPs.

Assessment teams

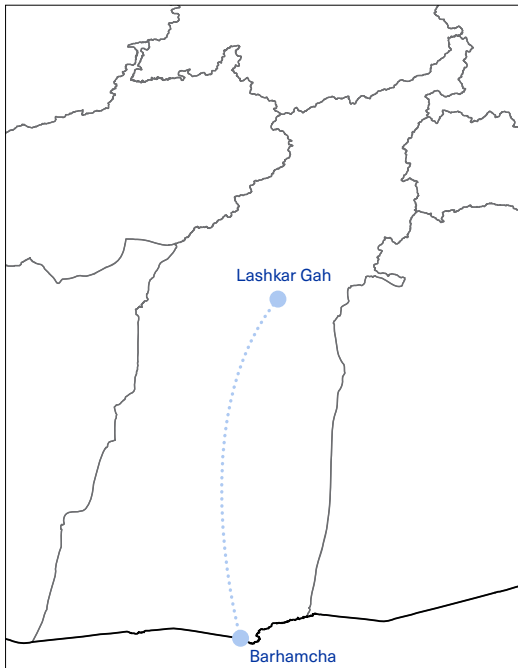
Gulam Khan, Angoor Ada and Tarwe were visited by a team from IOM Paktika sub-office.

Barhamcha and Badini were visited by a team from IOM Kandahar sub-office.

Timeframe

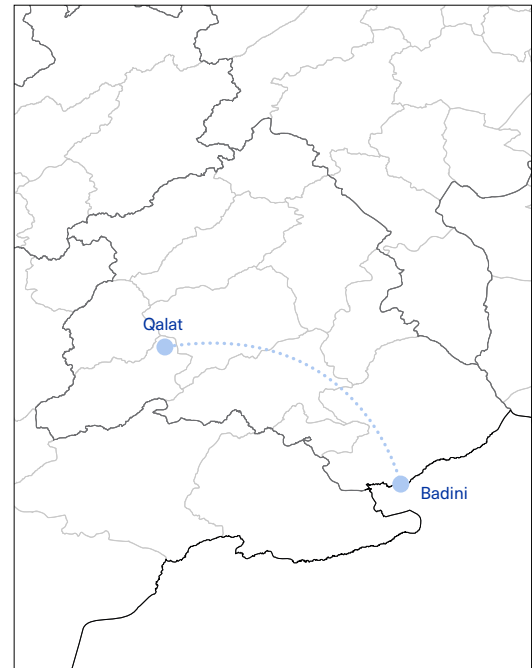
Visits were conducted between 10 and 27 December 2023.

Helmand



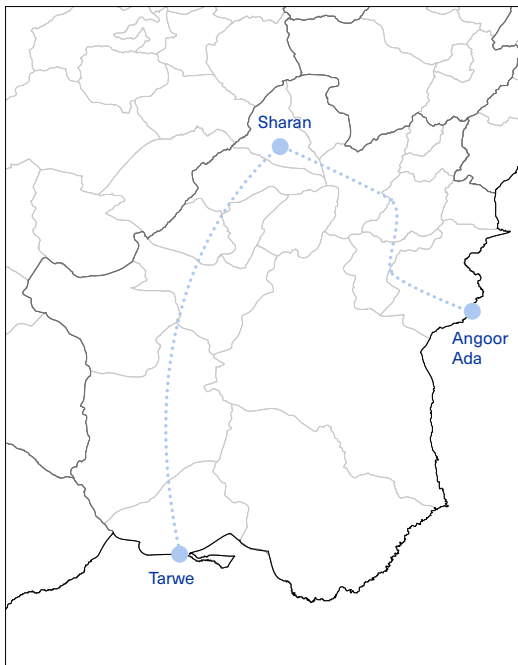
285 km | 8-10 hr | ↓ 978 ↑ 214

Zabul



147 km | 5 hr | ↓ 1,515 ↑ 1,040

Paktika

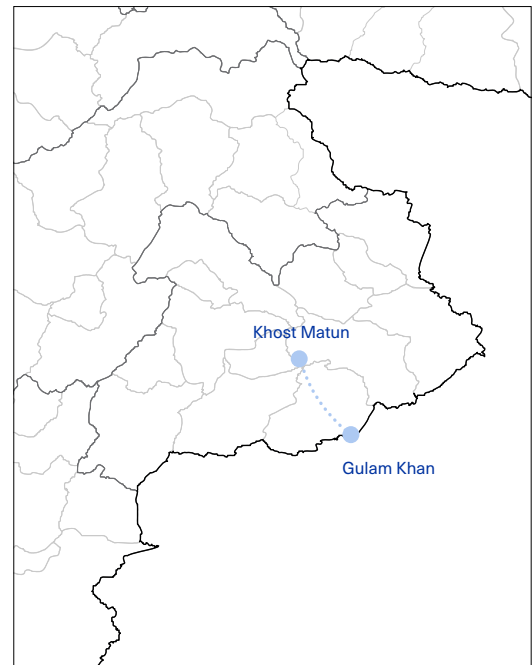
**Angoor Ada**

120 km | 3 hr | ↓ 995 ↑ 914

Tarwe

220 km | 4.5 hr | ↓ 613 ↑ 702

Khost



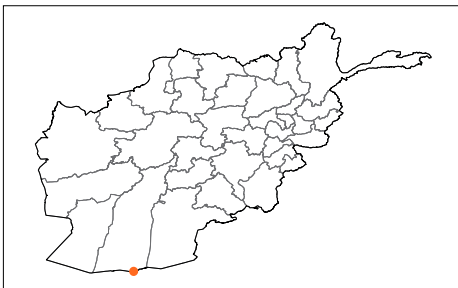
32 km | 45 min | ↓ 335 ↑ 520



Forward gate / Osmani gate



ABC gate / Mansoori gate



Coordinates
Multiple locations
Province
Helmand
District
Dishu/Bahramcha*
Pakistani name

Returns

85 families have crossed through Bahramcha from 10 Oct 2023 to 11 Dec 2023.

One day around 160 individuals who were trying to go to Iran through Pakistan were detained and deported through this border crossing point making the highest return in day.

BCP infrastructure *There are four border crossing points in Bahramcha*

ABC gate / Mansoori gate (DFA name)

 Currently closed

Main border crossing point with a gate located 4-5 KM away from Bahramcha center. This gate is currently closed for all movements by Pakistan Border Police. Pakistani border authorities to resume movements on this border but still not agreed. Some returnee families who previously returned to Bahramcha also used this gate. There is no facility (latrine, road, health and registration room in Afghanistan side of this border crossing point.

Gul e Gaz gate

Local/pendular crossings

Gul e Gaz Gate: located 15-17 KM away from Bahramcha center and it's only used as crossing point by people from the border villages. No returnees have returned through this crossing point yet.

Access

270-290 KM away from Lashkarga city in Helmand / 10 hour drive. Last bazar on the way is Binada Bazar. No bazar or other facility for the last 4-5 hours. Road starts paved, then unpaved. After Binada, sand starts with no road and no clear route until Baramcha.

Vehicles available for rent for individuals and luggage transportation. Transportation ticket Bahramcha -Lashkarga per person is around 1,300 AFG.

Demographics

No detailed information at this time.

Mode of passage

People are normally walking while crossing the border and use hand cart for luggage transportation.

Forward gate / Osmani gate (DFA name)

Preferred crossing for returns

Located 4-5 KM away from ABC gate and 7-8 KM away from Bahramcha center. This crossing point with no gate is currently open for crossing from both sides. Returnees would be using this crossing point. Normally people who live on both sides of the border use this gate for their daily crossings. There is a parking lot in Afghanistan side of border which people park vehicle and cross to Pakistan side. There is no any facility in the nearby area.

Charaban/Rabat

Trade

Charaban/Rabat crossing point which is 45-50 KM away from Bahramcha center is used for small export and import.

*Recently DFA has decided to make Bahramcha a separate district of Helmand.

Assistance



Bahramcha DFA authorities say they have allocated some houses (currently empty and located some 10 KM away from border) to be used as recovery center or temporary shelter for returnees. This facility needs rehabilitation works and equipment. This facility (after rehabilitation) will be able to host 300 individuals overnight.

UNHCR's implementing partner (WADAN) is the only NGO having presence in the border. They seem to only record all returning families (both documented and undocumented) with no assistance- confirmation to undocumented returnees.

The related health facility of Bahramcha which located in Bahramcha bazar has assigned two male vaccinators in Forward gate for provision of polio vaccination to children.

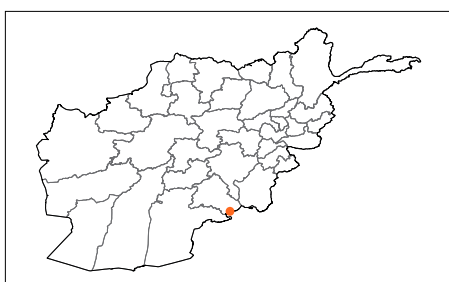
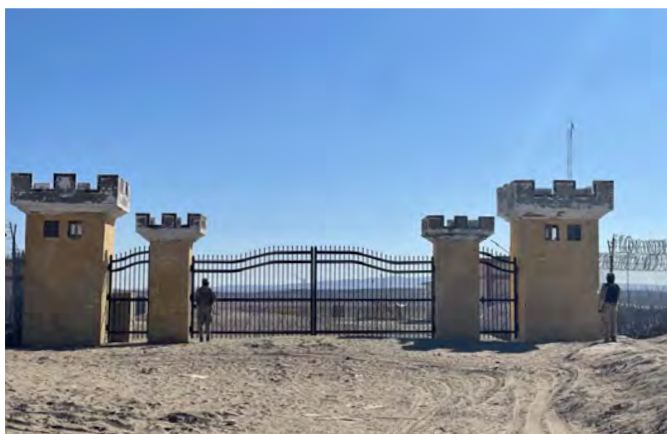
DoRR presence

No regular presence. Plans to create a branch with 5-6 staff.

Other observations

Entry Card is the required document for crossing border points in Bahramcha. And people who have Pakistan National Identity Card from Chaghi district or any migration card including Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) plus the Entry card can cross these crossing points.

In addition to the above-mentioned gates, it's possible that Pakistan would ask Afghan returnees to cross through Karwanra (previously belonged to Bahramcha and now belongs to Kandahar in its Registan district), Panj Reg and Dak border crossing points in Nimroz province.



Coordinates
31.522263, 67.837322
Province
Zabul
District
Shamulzai
Pakistani name
Badini

Access

Five-hour drive to reach Badini informal border from Qalat city. First 40 KM road from Qalat city is paved while the remaining 105 KM road is unpaved with bad condition.

There are rent-vehicles available for individuals and luggage transportation. The transportation ticket from Badini -Qalat per person is around 1,000 AFN.

The Badini crossing point is located 43 KM away from Shamulzai district administrative center and 4-5 KM away from Zanzeer Bazar (the nearest bazar) in Afghanistan side. This crossing point receives passengers and returnees from Muslim Bagh town in Kala e Saifullah district of Baluchistan in Pakistan which is around 170 KM away from this crossing point.

Returns

204 HH from 26 OCT to 26 DEC 2023

Returnees mostly intend to return to Zabul, Ghazni, Kandahar and Kunduz provinces. The returnees who return through Badini informal crossing point are mixed documented with proof of registration (POR), undocumented-some with Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) and some other with no documents.

Demographics

DFA reported that only families return through this BCP, no individuals.

Mode of passage

12pm-4pm Sun-Thu

The BCP can exceptionally open for returnees outside of normal hours/days). Returnees cross this border walking and using wheelbarrows for carrying their languages.

People with Pakistan NID can cross BCP freely.

Returnee assistance



On 10 Nov 2023 DFA established a returnee response committee at this BCP.

DoRR provides registration certificates to returnee families. Ministry of Interior (Mol) registers head of HH biometrically.

Among the 204 returnee families (see 'Returns'), 119 families have received cash assistance (10,000 AFN) from the returnee response committee, and this support continues regularly.

DFA formed a returnee temporary shelter/reception center 600 meters away from Badini crossing point next to the border police commissary. There are 85 small tents installed, 70 of them are allocated for returnees' accommodation (separate for males and females) and 15 more for service provision. Also some 10 latrines.

DFA is running the reception center, providing hot meals, cash assistance of 10,000 AFN per family, basic health services and transportation from the border to Qalat if required.

Among the NGOs, UNHCR implementing partner IP (WADAN) has one staff who records the returns, and WHO/UNICEF IP provides polio vaccination.

Other observations**DoE**

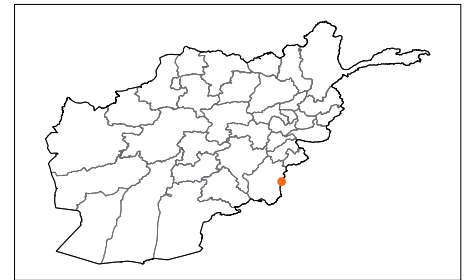
According to DoE director, the main need of returnees in Zabul province is shelter as they don't have housing or cash to pay for rent. DoE director asked for IOM support at the Badini BCP.

DoE director also requested follow-up assistance to returnees who received post arrival assistance as they are suffering in very bad economic situation.

DoRR

The DoRR director said that returnees use Badini BCP from Muslim Bagh (Pakistan) because it costs less for transportation.

MoRR reportedly approved a branch of DoRR for Badini border crossing point which will have 5 regular staff members.



Coordinates

32.519234, 69.268059

Province

Paktika

District

Barmal

Pakistani name

Angoor Ada

Returns

7-10 HH / week

Mode of passage

Truck in Pakistan to border point, then cross with the help wheelbarrows

Demographics

Families, rare cases of UAM - anecdotal.

Access

About 500 meter foot path to cross from Pakistan.

Other observations

Returnees go through GDI screening.

Pakistani border force usually keeps this crossing locked, limiting people and trucks entry to Pakistan. They allow spontaneous returnees to Afghanistan and individuals who went to Pakistan for treatment and work and would like to return.

Returnee assistance



2 containers, 40 feet each

MOPH - Health services

DoRR provides cash assistance 10,000 AFN and a sim card The sim is provided to keep contact with newly returned families as most of them don't have an Afghanistan number.

DoRR have installed 17 tents for newly returned families to stay until they find a truck and continue their journey.

DoRR registers these new returns and send the record back to their province office.

There was no UN-agency IP, INGO or national NGO seen around. Also we have not seen ARCS on border point.



Coordinates

31.793726, 68.410870

Province

Paktika

District

Wazakhawa

Pakistani name

Kamr-ud-din

Returns

 Closed - no returns at the moment

Currently the border is fully locked from both side. Local authorities and people said the crossing had been closed for the past 6 days, as DFA wants Pakistan to let 200 people cross the border per day to Pakistan. This is currently denied by Pakistan.

Per DFA, 3-30 HH were returning per day in November.

Mode of passage

One kilometer foot path to cross.

Demographics

Both families and single individuals (when open)

BCP infrastructure

There was no infrastructure seen on border point, only a few tents were seen and that is for registration process only. The nearest Bazaar after crossing the border is called Tarwe Bazaar located in 22 kilo meters and there are some hotel rooms available on rent for passengers. Also there is a military base near to Bazaar and a Basic Health Center.

Assistance

Not currently active



7 tents in different location on border inside Afghanistan side. On some tents there are vaccine signs and welcome notes. No one was present.

According to border soldiers these tents are related to MoPH and ARCS.

No DoRR or partners seen or present. According to local authorities only the ARCS people are present but only when the gate is open.

Access

This is the most remote border point of the Paktika province. It is located 186 kilometers away from the provincial center. The road is 60 kilometers highway and the rest is desert / mountainous roads. 4 wheel drive and heavy trucks are recommended for travel, Smaller cars often get stuck in the sand. It takes 7 - 8 hours to go from the provincial center to this border point.

Possible intervention



Coordinates

33.130730, 70.031678

Province

Khost

District

Gurbaz

Pakistani name

Angoor Ada

Returns

None observed at the moment*

No spontaneous returns recorded since a few weeks. Mostly transit trucks pass through this BCP, rarely families.

Other BCPs in Khost are easier for people to cross. Some people recorded by DoRR are returned through Paktya Pattan border point**.

Mode of passage

300 meters footpath to cross the border.

Demographics

Information not available.

Access

31 kilo meters from Khost provincial center, the road is high way with good condition and normally it take 40 minutes to reach from provincial center to this border point. There were no obstacle found in accessing this border point. All the road is high way with good condition.

Assistance



vaccination



Not currently active

Some tents for registration process - not active.

3 tents for vaccination.

No DoRR or partner on the ground.

BCP infrastructure

Several buildings for Custom and other transit activities.

Other observations

Mostly transit trucks were seen during visit, this is the 3rd largest transit point with Pakistan after Tour kham and Spin Boldak. Long lines of trucks were observed on both sides of the border, loaded with food, coal and other items. After DFA took control of Afghanistan, mostly coal is delivered to Pakistan through Ghulam Kan border point which is comparatively easy for traders to access central Pakistan.

*This is contradictory with information received from Pakistan (DTM and UNHCR) - will need to be reconciled.

** To be assessed in future visits.