

123

Individuals repatriated

It remains UNHCR's priority to ensure that refugees make the choice to return to their country of origin in a voluntary and informed manner. Following the UNHCR non-return advisory for Afghanistan, UNHCR remains cautious and continue to provide enhanced counselling to prospective returnees on the situation in their final destinations and routes thereto, particularly to those with more vulnerable profiles. Since 2002, UNHCR Iran has supported nearly 1 million refugees to voluntary repatriate in safety and dignity to Afghanistan and Iraq. UNHCR ensures that refugees make an informed decision taking risks and available opportunities into account. A significant risk remains with uncertainty in security and human rights situation in large parts of the country. In an agreement with the Government of Iran, the UNHCR VolRep supports only Amayesh and Hoviat card holders as eligible categories, on a condition that the refugees relinquish those status upon departure will negatively impact on interests among refugees in the program.

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Persons with Specific Needs



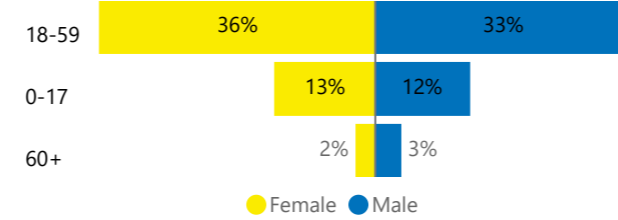
UNHCR helps returnees with specific needs including unaccompanied or separated children and elderly persons.

51%

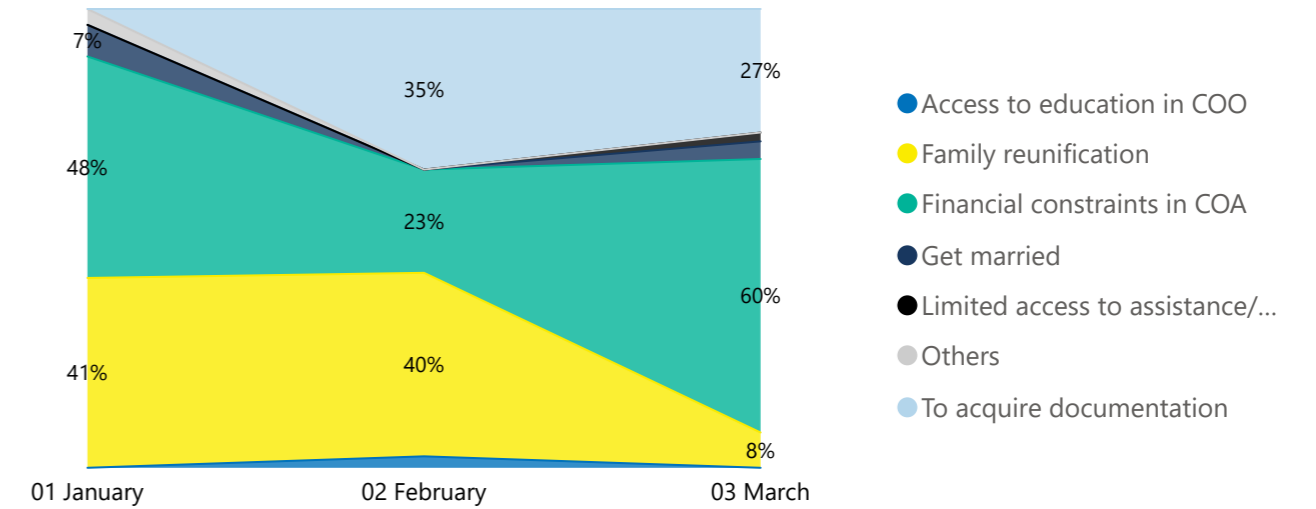
Females



Age gender breakdown

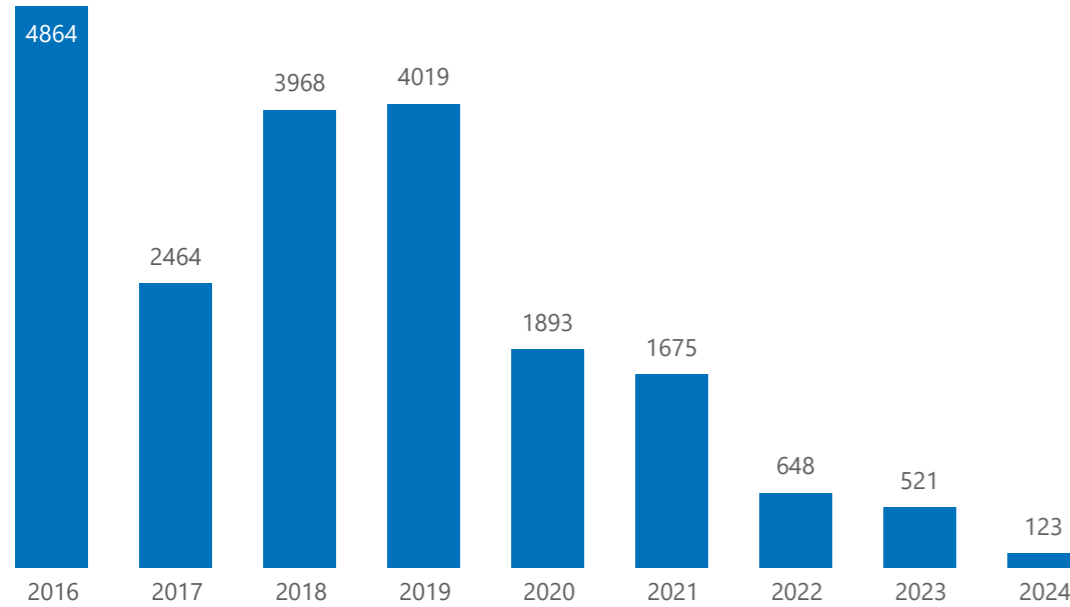


Reasons of return to Afghanistan by month (% of individuals)

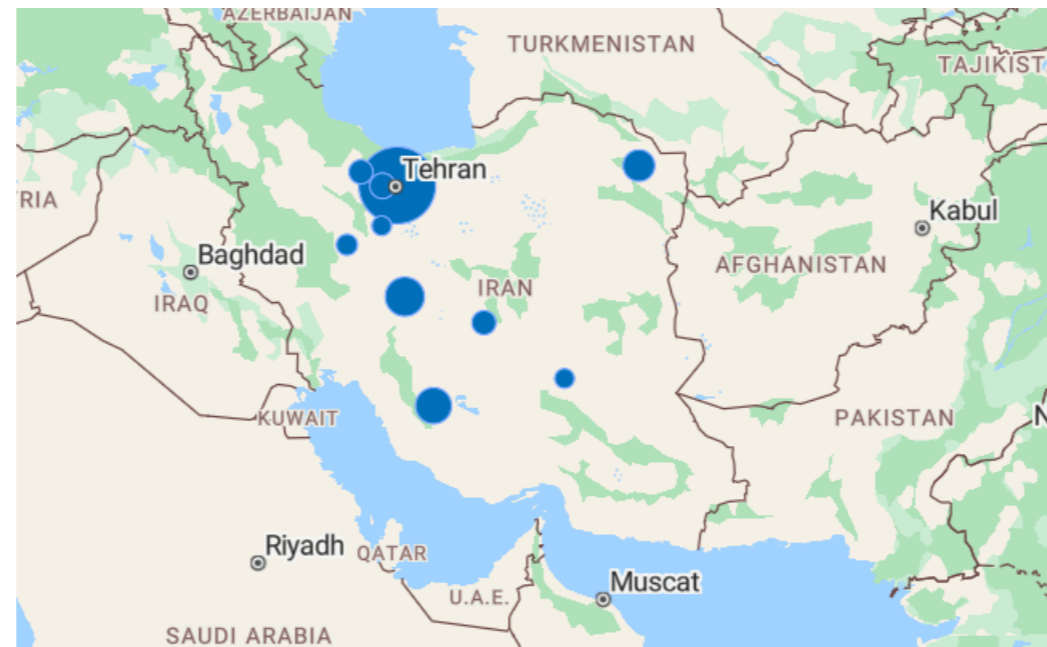


Between January and March 2024, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 123 Afghan individuals, which represents a 27% increase compared to the same period in 2023. Refugees claimed to have returned for various reasons including perceived financial constraints in Iran, acquiring documentation from Afghanistan or family reasons. The interviews with the refugees showed that an increasing number demonstrated the financial constraint in Iran as a reason of return to look for better livelihood opportunities and prospect for the family members. A total of 17 Afghan refugees who opted to return in order to obtain visas to continue their studies in Iran were also supported, attributing to the increased of returns for documentation requirement.

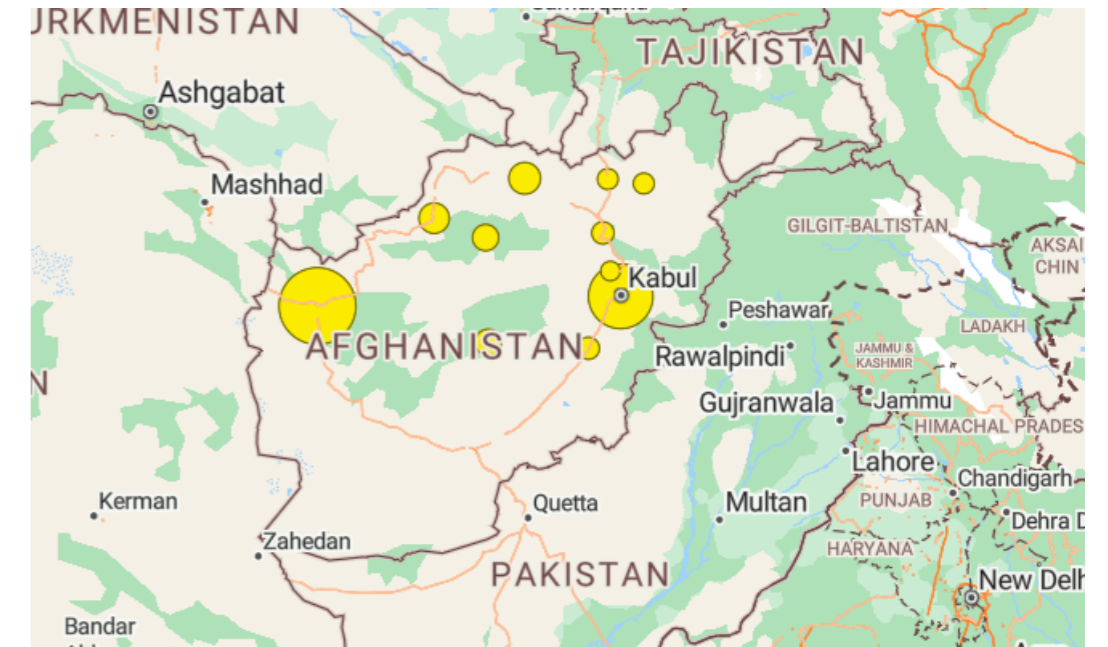
Trend over the years (2016-2024)



Province of residence in Iran



Intended return province in Afghanistan



Monthly trend

