



Pakistan: Voluntary Repatriation of Afghans from Pakistan



April - November 2017 | Update

Total Number of Afghans facilitated for voluntary repatriation process in 2017: **59,020**

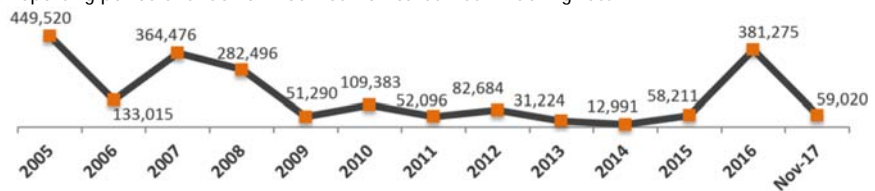
59,020 Facilitated for Voluntary Repatriation Process from April to November, 2017 from Pakistan with **57,426** entitled for cash assistance. The remaining **1,594** have received UNHCR's cash assistance in the past.

Overview of Voluntary Repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan

UNHCR facilitates the Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan refugees as part of its mandate to provide durable solutions.

UNHCR Pakistan operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card is cut in the corner. A PoR card is an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants their temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against *refoulement*. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately 200 USD per family member once they have reached one of the three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.

In 2016, a scheduling system for returnee families from VRC Azakhel (Nowshera) was established. All returnee families must now obtain a scheduled date for their return. UNHCR facilitated Voluntary Repatriation recommenced on 3 April after a four month winter break. From April to November 2017, 13,310 families were scheduled for return in KP. However, 11,283 families (85%) presented at the VRCs for their departure to Afghanistan due to number of factors. There is a slight increase (1%) has been observed compared to previous months for the scheduled number of families as the majority have received their modified PoR card during the reporting period and lack of modified PoR cards was hindering return.

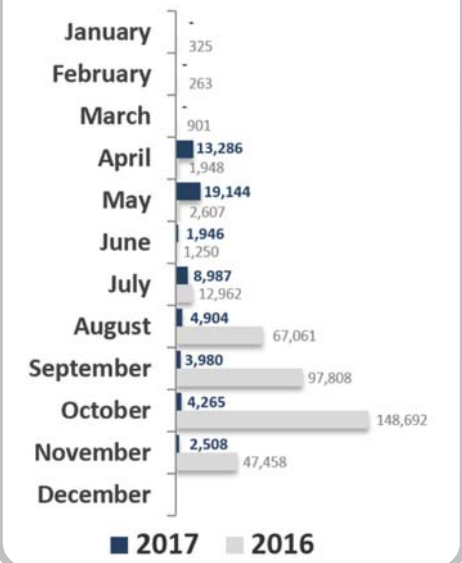


Since 2002, 4,360,191 Afghan refugees have repatriated from Pakistan with UNHCR's assistance (see chart above). The number of refugees repatriating to Afghanistan has fluctuated over the years and has decreased substantially, from around 450,000 in 2005 to 58,211 in 2015. 2016 saw an increase of over 381,275 returns which was the highest recorded number of returns since 2005.

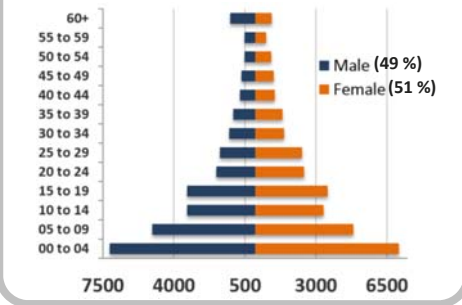
In 2017, 59,020 refugees (14,068 families) repatriated to Afghanistan which is 85% less compared to 2016 repatriation. Factors affecting the decision to return in 2016 primarily included: (1) introduction of a tight border management regime at the Torkham border (2) short-term extensions of the validity of PoR cards (3) intimidation and harassment by the authorities (particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and lesser acceptance of Afghans by local communities (5) doubling of the voluntary repatriation and reintegration cash grant.

Voluntary repatriation program has been suspended from 30 November 2017 due to winter break.

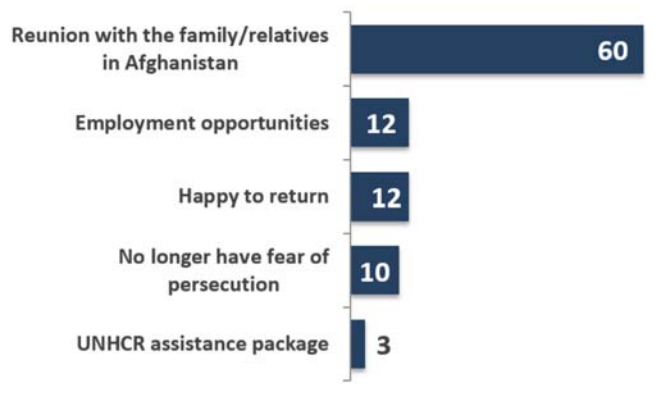
Repatriation by month



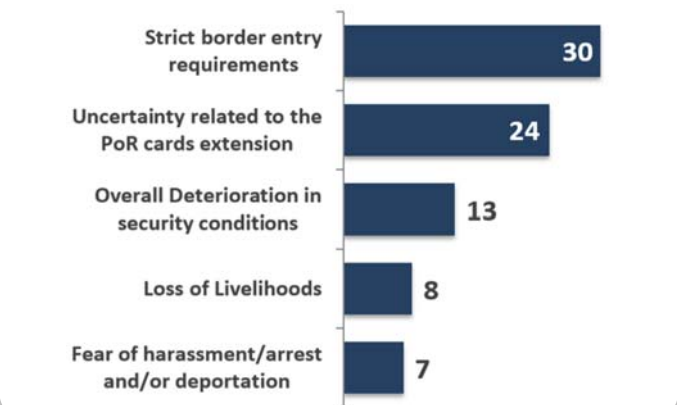
Repatriating individuals



Pull factors towards Afghanistan (%) *



Push Factors from Pakistan (%) *



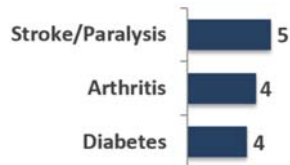
* Exit interviews conducted have been conducted with refugees in the VRCs and data shown in this report is from April to November 2017. The revised Exit Questionnaire was deployed to both VRC Chamkani and VRC Baleli. The new exit questionnaire has also been aligned with UNHCR Afghanistan's new revised EC Monitoring form. The VolRep infographic for May incorporates the revised version of the Exit Questionnaire data collected at the end of the month. Percentages presented above mentioned graphs are extrapolated from Exit Questionnaire database deployed at VRCs.



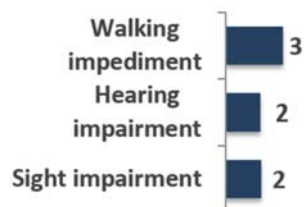
Families with at least one Vulnerable family member (%)



Families with at least one member with a serious medical condition (%)

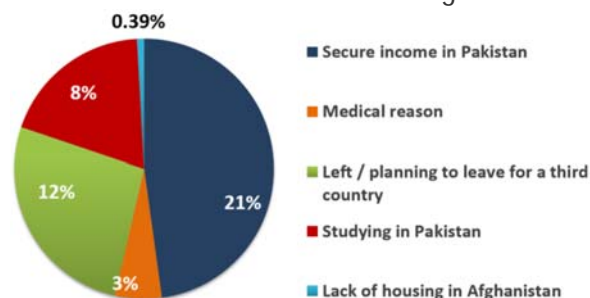


Families with at least one member with functional disabilities (%)



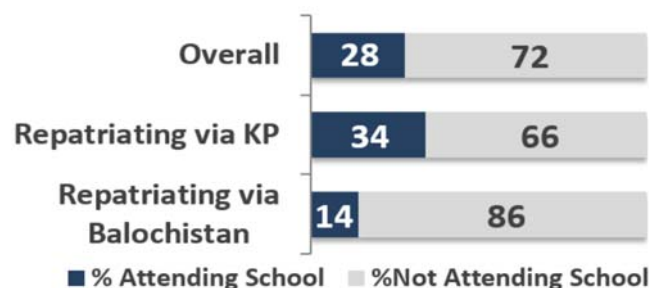
Reasons for staying in Pakistan

16% of members of repatriating families remained in Pakistan for the following reasons:



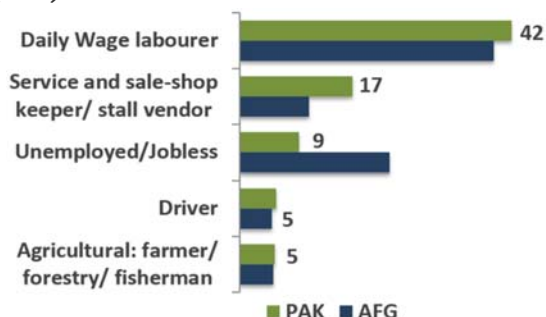
School enrolment (%)

Children of repatriating families that attended school in Pakistan:

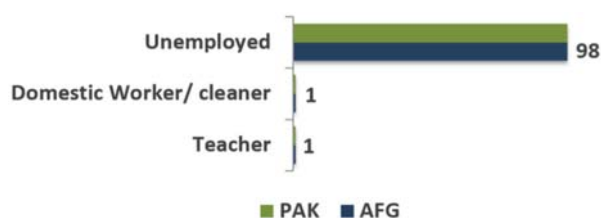


Professions of heads of households

Male (75%)



Female (25%)

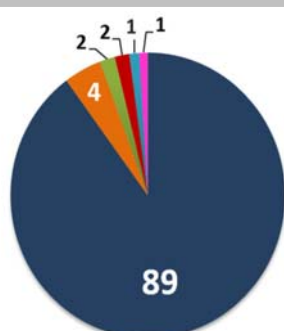


Issues of concern as expressed by repatriating families (%)

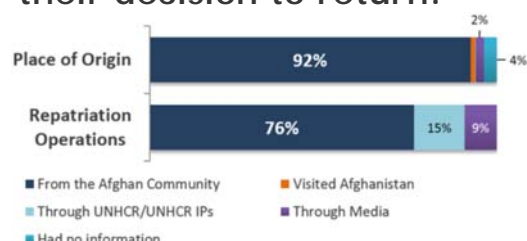
In Pakistan:	
Recent arrests and detentions	1%
Lease agreement problems with landlords	0%
Bribery incidents on the way to the VRC	1%
Outstanding financial or legal problems	0%
Health / medical assistance	11%
Legal aid	0%
Documentation	0%
In Afghanistan:	
Lack of shelter	21%
Lack of jobs	28%
Health / medical assistance	12%
Legal aid	0%
Assistance to person with specific needs	1%

Ethnicity (%)

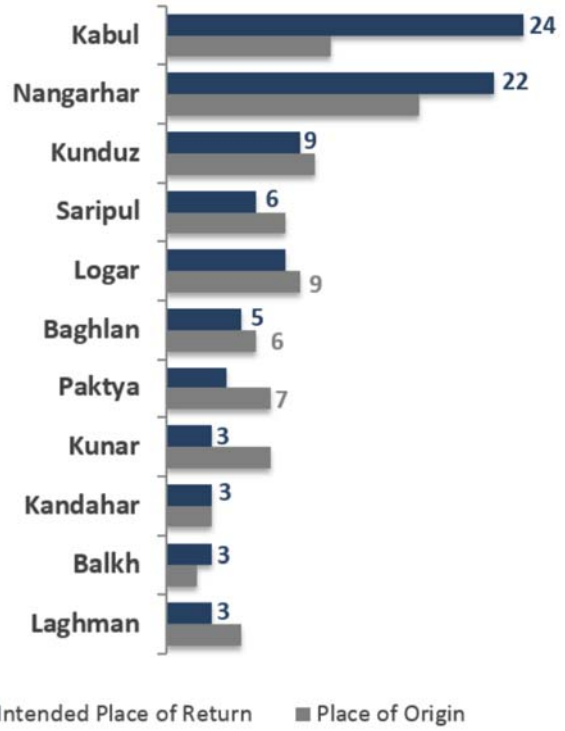
- Pashtun
- Tajik
- Others
- Uzbek
- Baloch
- Turkmen



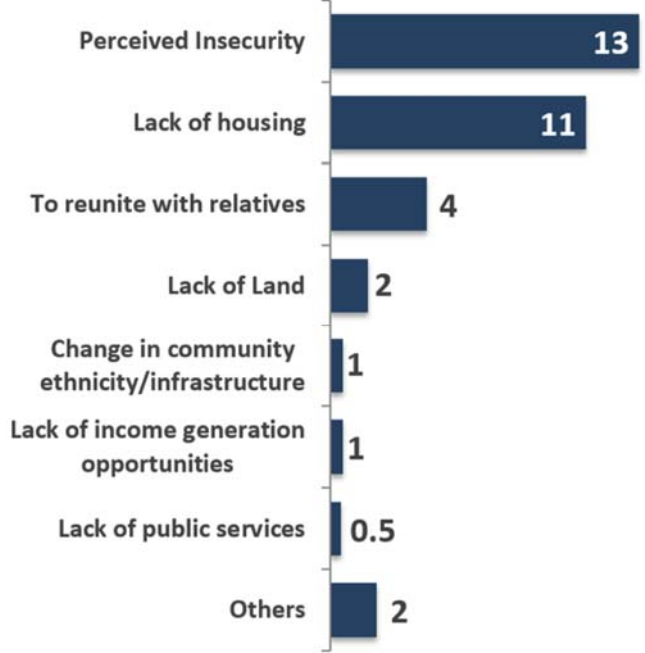
Information sources of refugees for their decision to return:



Comparison of intended place of return with place of origin (%)



34% of families did not intend to return to their place of origin for the following reasons (%):

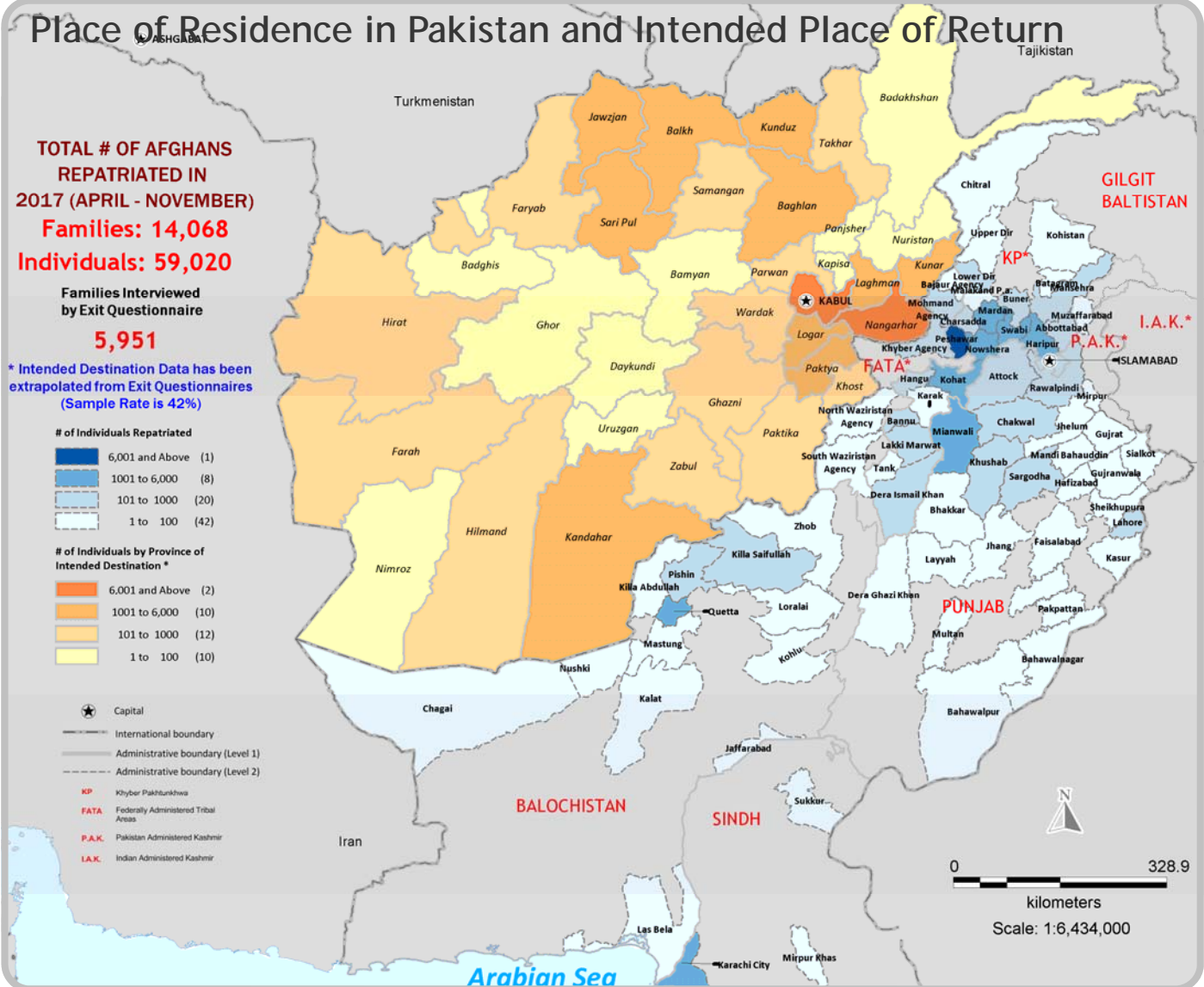
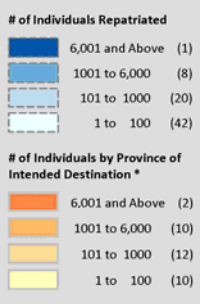


Place of Residence in Pakistan and Intended Place of Return

TOTAL # OF AFGHANS REPATRIATED IN 2017 (APRIL - NOVEMBER)
Families: 14,068
Individuals: 59,020

Families Interviewed by Exit Questionnaire
5,951

* Intended Destination Data has been extrapolated from Exit Questionnaires (Sample Rate is 42%)



Data Source: Afghan National Registration Database (ANR) - 2017 & Exit Questionnaire Database
 For feedback : Information Management Unit: Jaber@unhcr.org / Zahoor@unhcr.org
 More information available on <http://www.unhcrpk.org>