



Total Number of Afghans facilitated for voluntary repatriation process in 2018:



10,749*

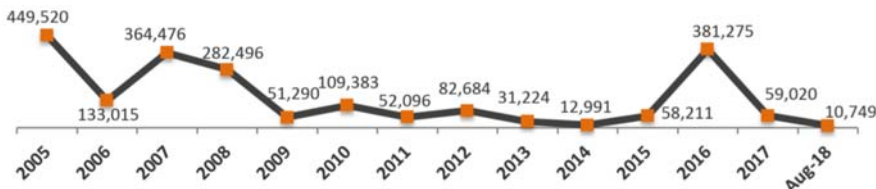
Overview of Voluntary Repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan

UNHCR facilitates the Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan refugees as part of its mandate to provide durable solutions. UNHCR's Voluntary repatriation program begins in March and ends in November every year.

UNHCR Pakistan operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta-Balochistan and Nowshera-KPK. 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.

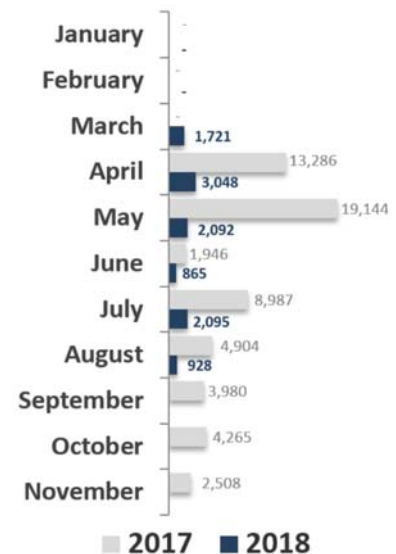
A scheduling system for returnee families from VRC Azakhel–KPK was established in 2016, as a result all returnee families have to obtain a scheduled date for their return. This year a total of 1,757 families were scheduled for return in KP by the end of August 2018. However, 1,472 families (84%) presented themselves at the VRCs for their departure to Afghanistan.

The voluntary repatriation trend in 2018 is generally low compared to previous years. This is primarily due to the ongoing security situation in Afghanistan. Strict border entry requirements was stated as a major push factor for return during August. Main areas of return are Kabul and Nangarhar provinces.

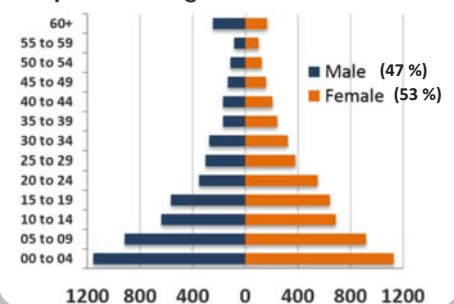


Since 2002, 4,370,940 Afghan refugees have repatriated from Pakistan with UNHCR's assistance (detailed in the graph above). The number of refugees repatriating to Afghanistan has fluctuated over the years, from around 450,000 in 2005 to 58,211 in 2015. A significant increase on the number of voluntary repatriation was observed in 2016 with over 381,275 returns.

Repatriation by month



Repatriating individuals

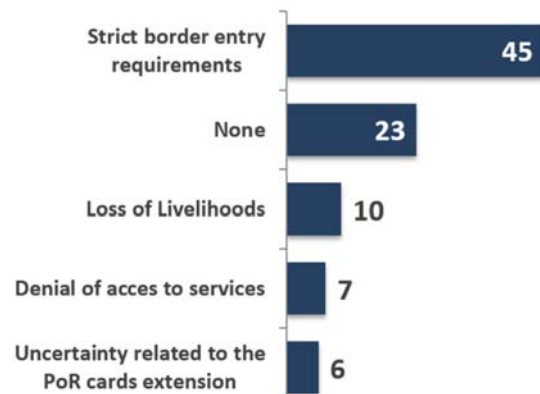


* A total of 10,749 individuals were facilitated for voluntary repatriation process between 1 March to 31 August 2018 from Pakistan with a total of 10,406 entitled for cash assistance. The remaining 343 have received UNHCR's cash assistance in the past.

Pull factors towards Afghanistan (%) **

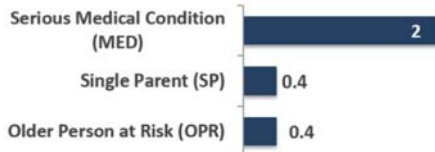


Push Factors from Pakistan (%) **

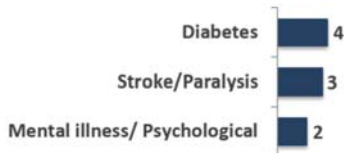


** The percentages presented in the graphs are based on 2,260 head of households interviews conducted from 1 March to 31 August 2018 at both VRCs. The revised exit questionnaire was placed at both VRC Azakhel and VRC Baleli which has also been aligned with UNHCR Afghanistan's new revised EC Monitoring form.

Families with at least one Vulnerable family member (%)



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

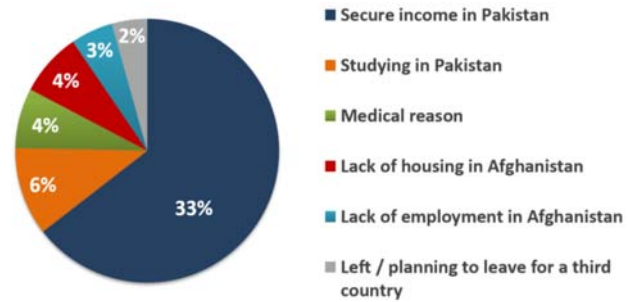


Families with at least one member with functional disabilities (%)



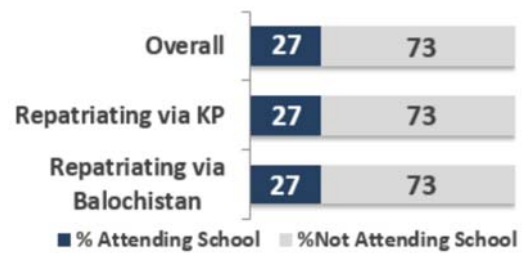
Reasons for staying in Pakistan

22% of members of repatriating families remained in Pakistan for the following reasons:



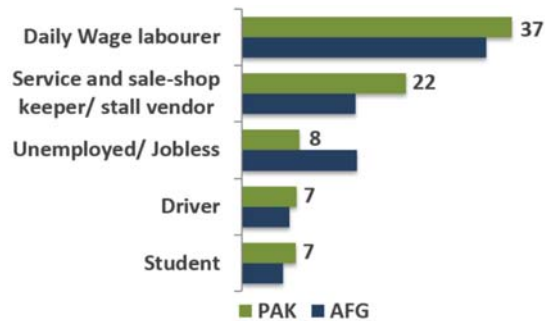
School enrolment (%)

Children of repatriating families that attended school in Pakistan:



Professions of heads of households

Male



Female



Issues of concern as expressed by repatriating families (%)

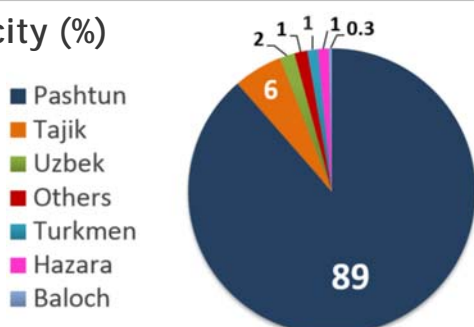
In Pakistan:

Recent arrests and detentions	1%
Lease agreement problems with landlords	0%
Bribery incidents on the way to the VRC	0%
Children attending schools	0%
Outstanding financial or legal problems	0%
Health / medical assistance	9%
Legal aid	0%
Documentation	0%

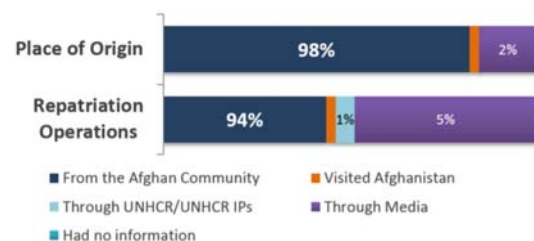
In Afghanistan:

Lack of shelter	0%
Lack of jobs	0%
Health / medical assistance	1%
Legal aid	0%
Assistance to person with specific needs	0%

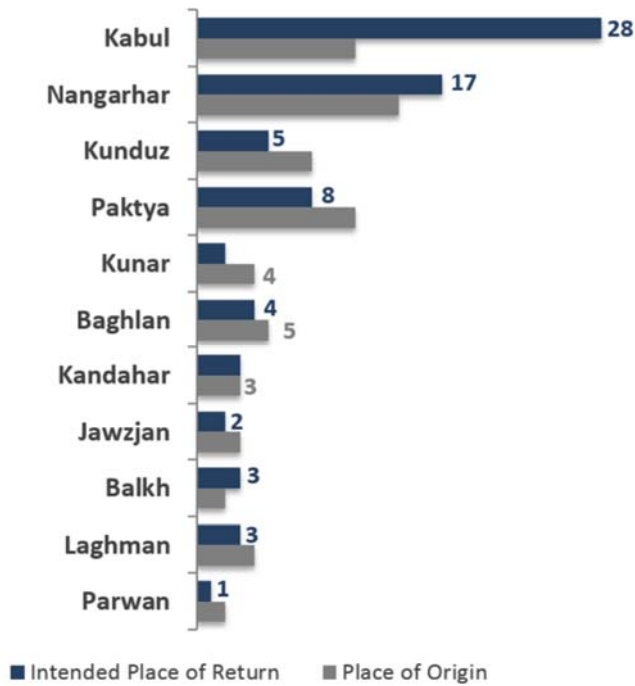
Ethnicity (%)



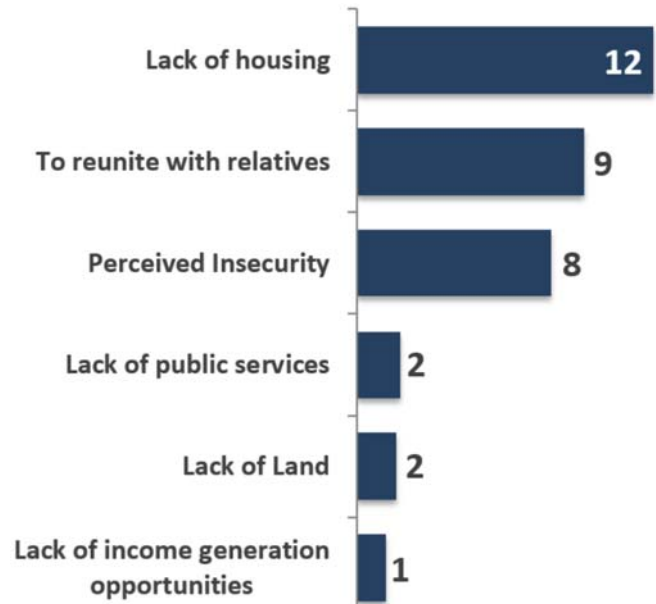
Information sources of refugees for their decision to return:



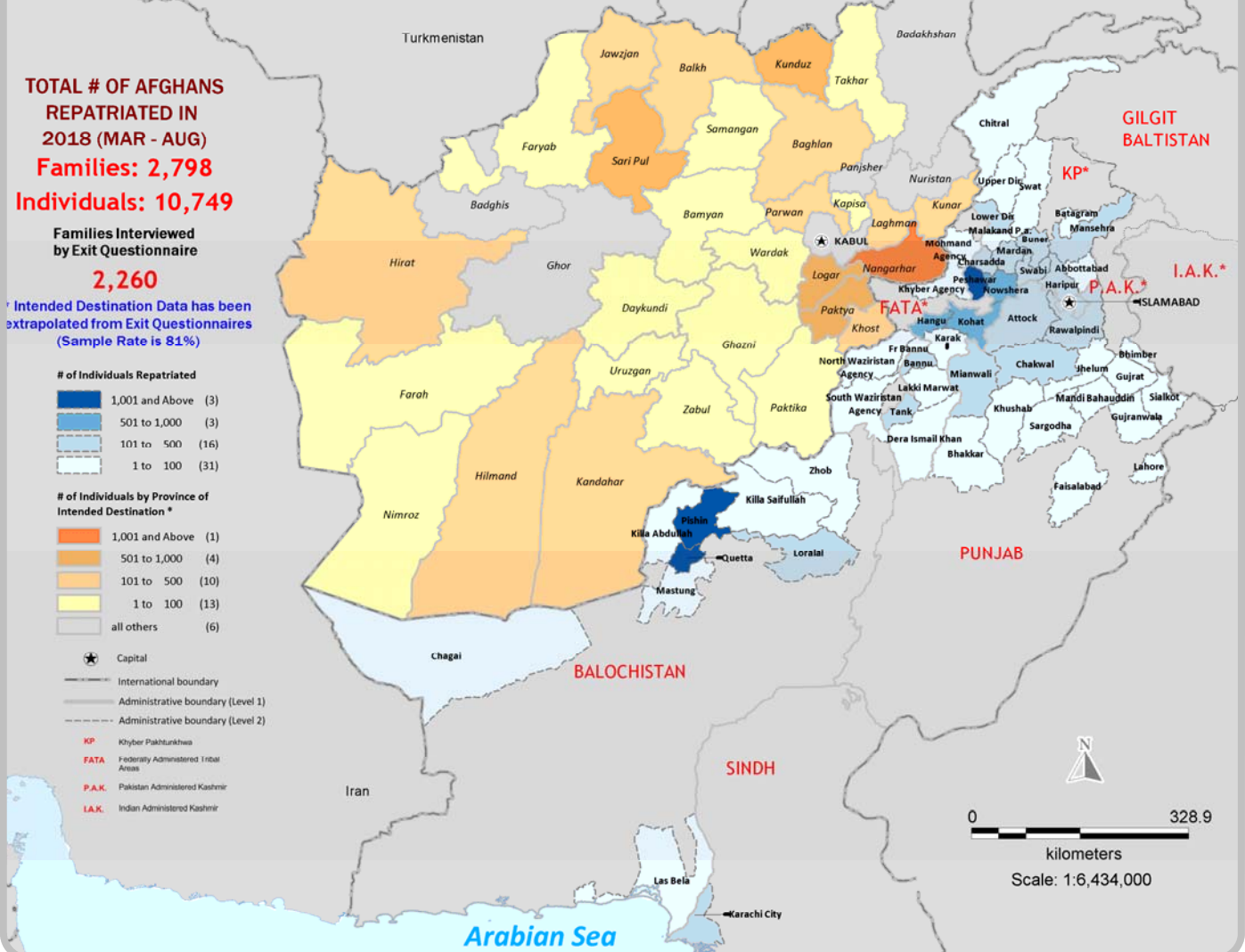
Comparison of intended place of return with place of origin (%)



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



Data Source: Afghan National Registration Database (ANR) - 2018 & Exit Questionnaire Database

For feedback : Information Management Unit: Jaber@unhcr.org / Zahoor@unhcr.org

More information available on UNHCR: data portal, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/pak> | website: <http://www.unhcrpk.org>