

RETURNS PROCESSED AT THE ENCASHMENT CENTRES IN AFGHANISTAN



1,369

Returns from
Jan. to Mar. 2023

95 from Iran
1,245 from Pakistan
29 from Other Countries

131 returns in
the first Quarter
of 2022

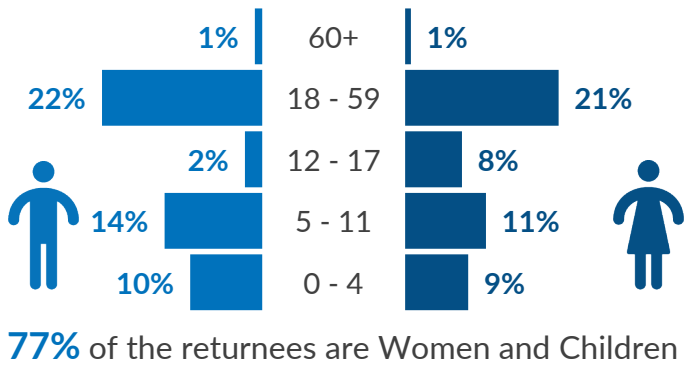
74 from Iran
57 from Pakistan
0 from Other Countries

Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. In 2023, **some 1,369 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan**, with March alone registering 806 returns. The 2023 return figure, is ten times higher than the one recorded during the same period in 2022 (131 individuals). 2022 registered a total 6,424 Afghan refugee returns (which was five times higher than the overall returns in 2021).

Returnees stated as the main reasons behind return movements from Iran and Pakistan the cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in host countries, improved security situation in Afghanistan and reunification with family. In 2023, 64% of the refugee returnees returned to 5 provinces: Kabul (21%), Nangarhar (13%), Kunduz (11%), Sar-e-Pul (10%) and Kandahar (10%). Furthermore, 66% of the returnees were in the country of asylum for over ten years.

At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a cash grant of USD 375 per individual. As of 1 August 2022, UNHCR adjusted the cash grant amount from USD 250 to USD 375 per person due to increase in living/transportation costs in Afghanistan. In addition, due to the current economic instability in Afghanistan, refugee families returned from 1 January 2023 will receive a one-time supplemental reintegration cash grant approximately 3 months after arrival in their areas of origin/intended destination. This grant is intended to support reintegration by extending financial support for three additional months. Returnee families will receive \$700 (for a family of two or more people) or \$350 (for single individuals). Returnees may also access programmes and projects implemented by UNHCR in priority areas of return and reintegration.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2023

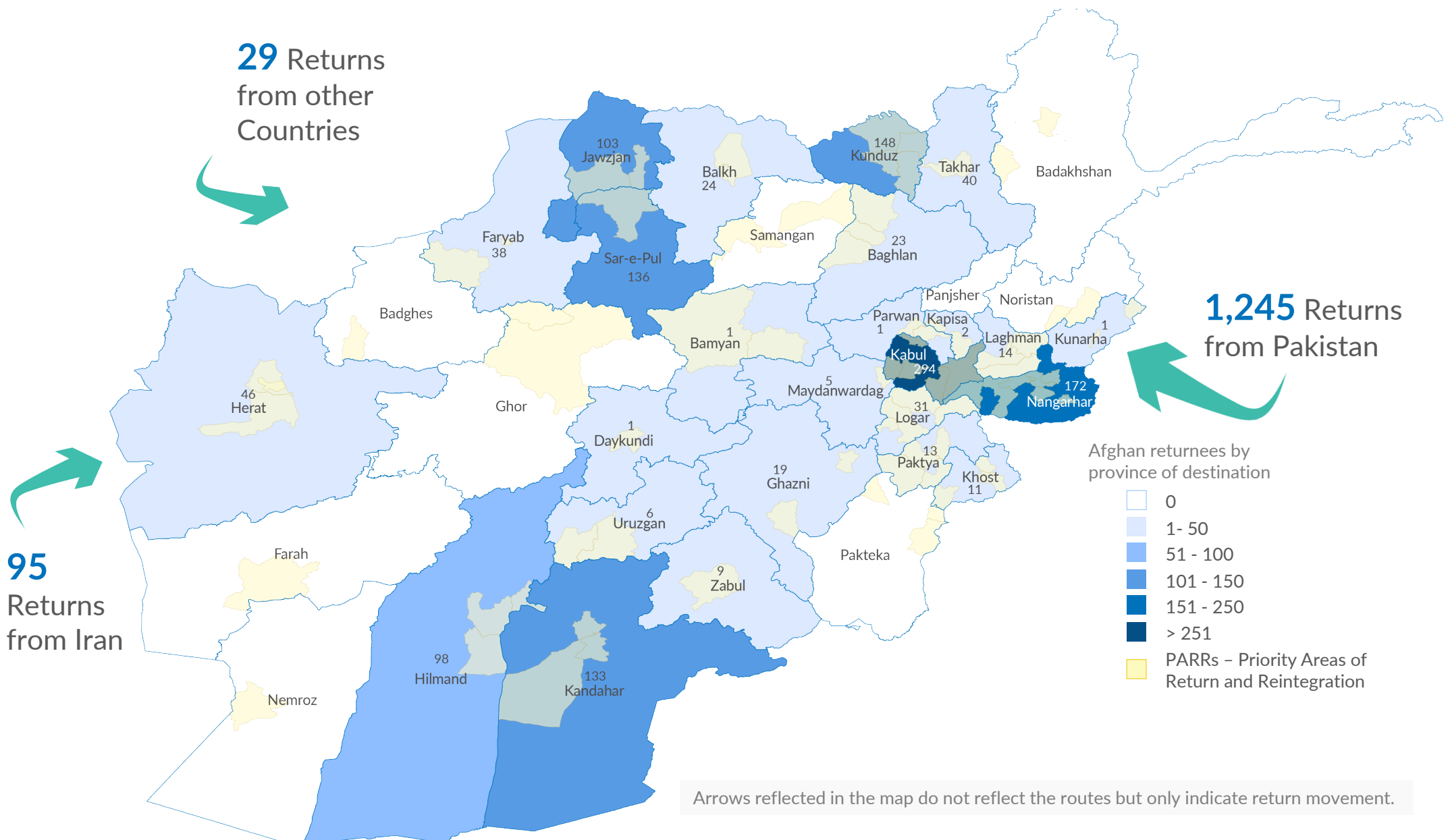


ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD 520,930 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q1 of 2023.

Beside cash grants, returning refugees will receive basic health care and overnight accommodation when needed. They may also receive other services, provided by other partners present in each EC.

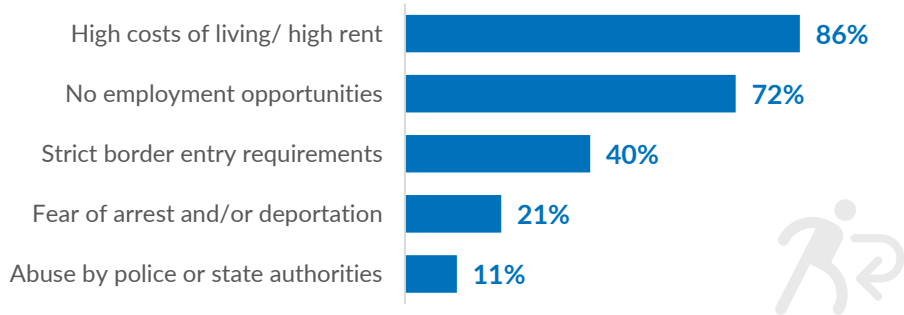
PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2023 (Figures reflect returns processed at Encashment Centres in Afghanistan)



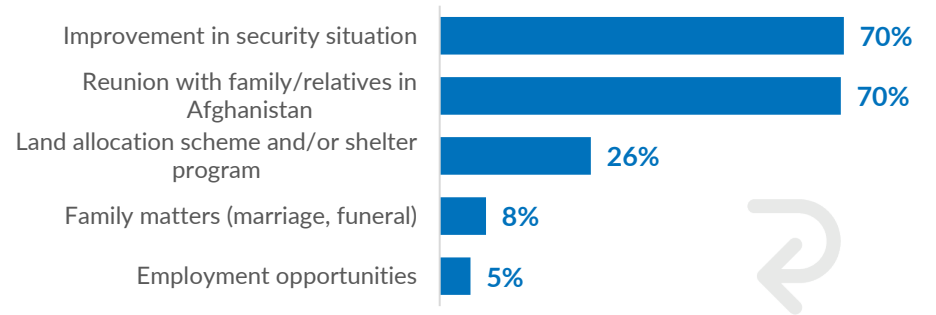
REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Source: UNHCR's returnee monitoring conducted at ECs. Timeframe: findings from Jan. to Mar. 2023. Multiple answer questions may add up to over 100%.

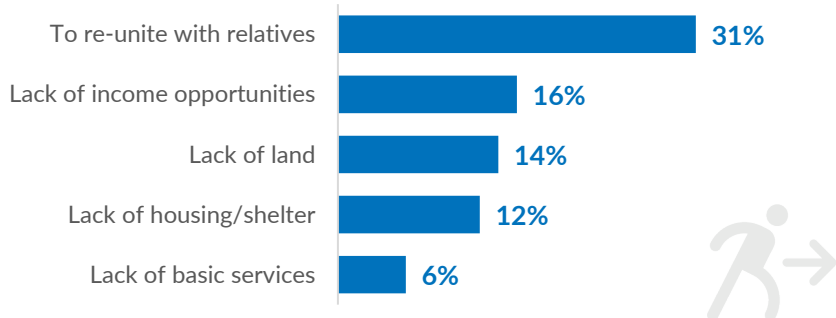
Top 5 reasons for leaving Iran and Pakistan



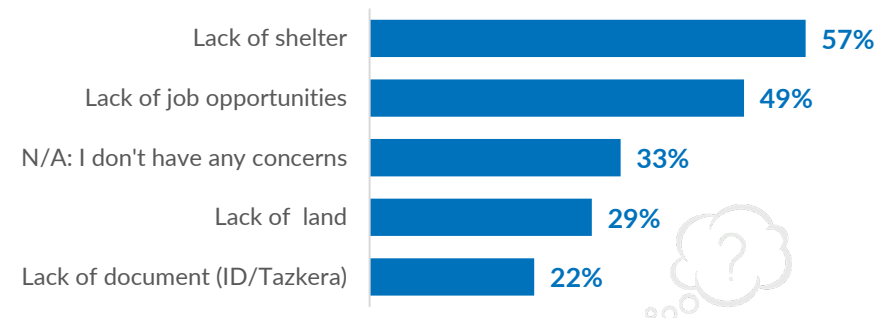
Top 5 reasons for return to Afghanistan



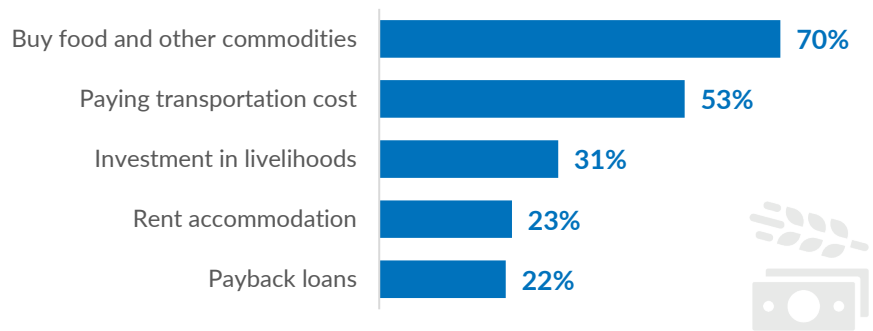
Top 5 reasons for not returning to Area of Origin



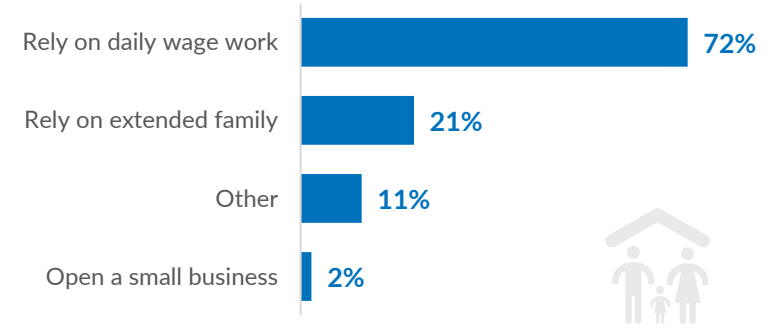
Concerns related to the return to Afghanistan



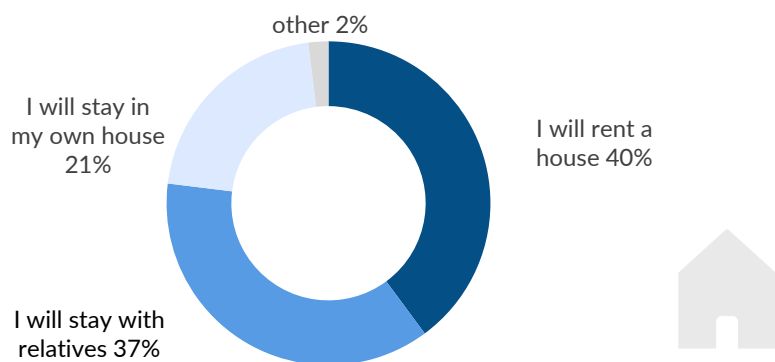
Upon return, how the cash grant will be spent



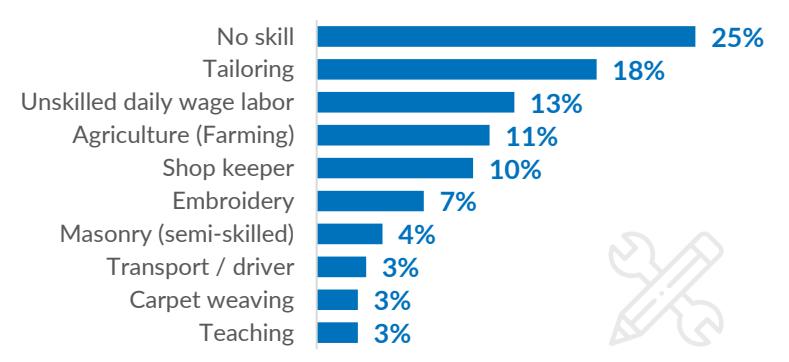
After cash grant is spent, how you plan to support your family?



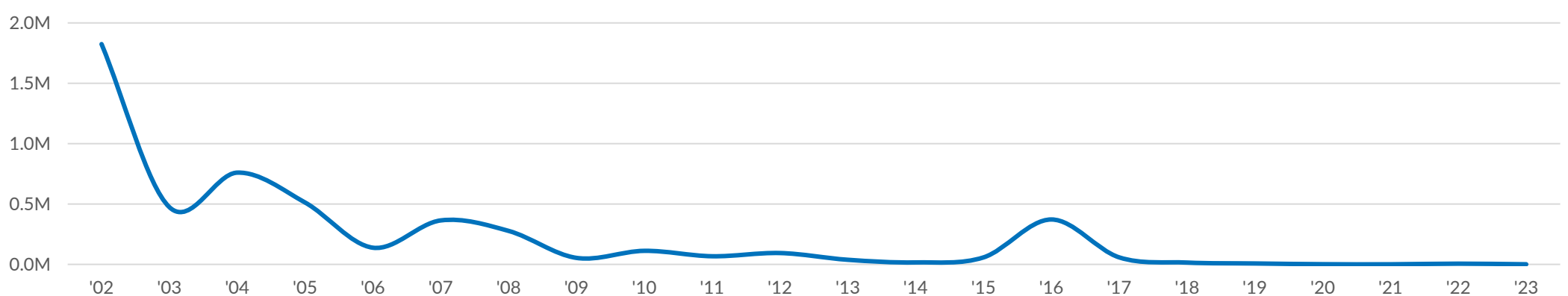
Living arrangements upon return



Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2023



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in 2018-2023)

