

RETURNS PROCESSED AT THE ENCASHMENT CENTRES IN AFGHANISTAN



6,959
Returns from
July-Sep. 2023

130 from Iran
6,773 from Pakistan
56 from Other Countries

12,795
returns in
2023

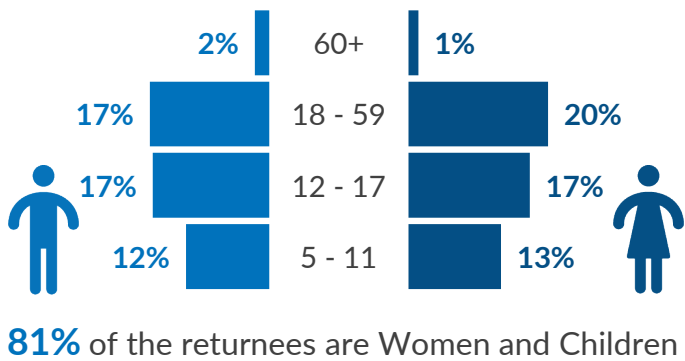
395 from Iran
12,283 from Pakistan
117 from Other Countries

In 2023, 12,795 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan (97% from Pakistan), with the third quarter alone registering 54% of this year's returns. The 2023 overall return figure, is over three times higher than the one recorded during the same period in 2022 (3,717 individuals). 2022 registered a total of 6,424 Afghan refugee returns (which was five times higher than the overall returns in 2021).

Returnees stated that even if the economic reasons for return movements still mean a lot in decision-making, the statements on shrinking protection space, continuous harassment and bribing by police, and negative media coverage, influenced the decision to return. In 2023, 60% of the refugees returned to 5 provinces: Kabul (20%), Kunduz (14%), Kandahar (10%), Balkh (8%) and Nangarhar (8%). 95% of the interviewed returnees obtained information about the situation in Afghanistan, including on security in areas of origin, before deciding to return. Considering the current asylum context in Pakistan, this will show the level of informed decision among Voluntary Repatriation cases.

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 an increase in living/transportation costs in Afghanistan. In addition, due to the current economic instability in Afghanistan, refugee families returning after 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 (of two or more people) receive USD 700 or USD 350 (for single individuals, or if part of the family arrived, the remaining USD 350 will be issued, if/when the family arrives). Returnees may also access programmes and projects implemented by UNHCR in priority areas of return and reintegration. In the first 3 months of 2023, 1,377 individuals who have returned, received CARE grants. Distribution of CARE grants for those who returned between April - June is currently ongoing.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2023

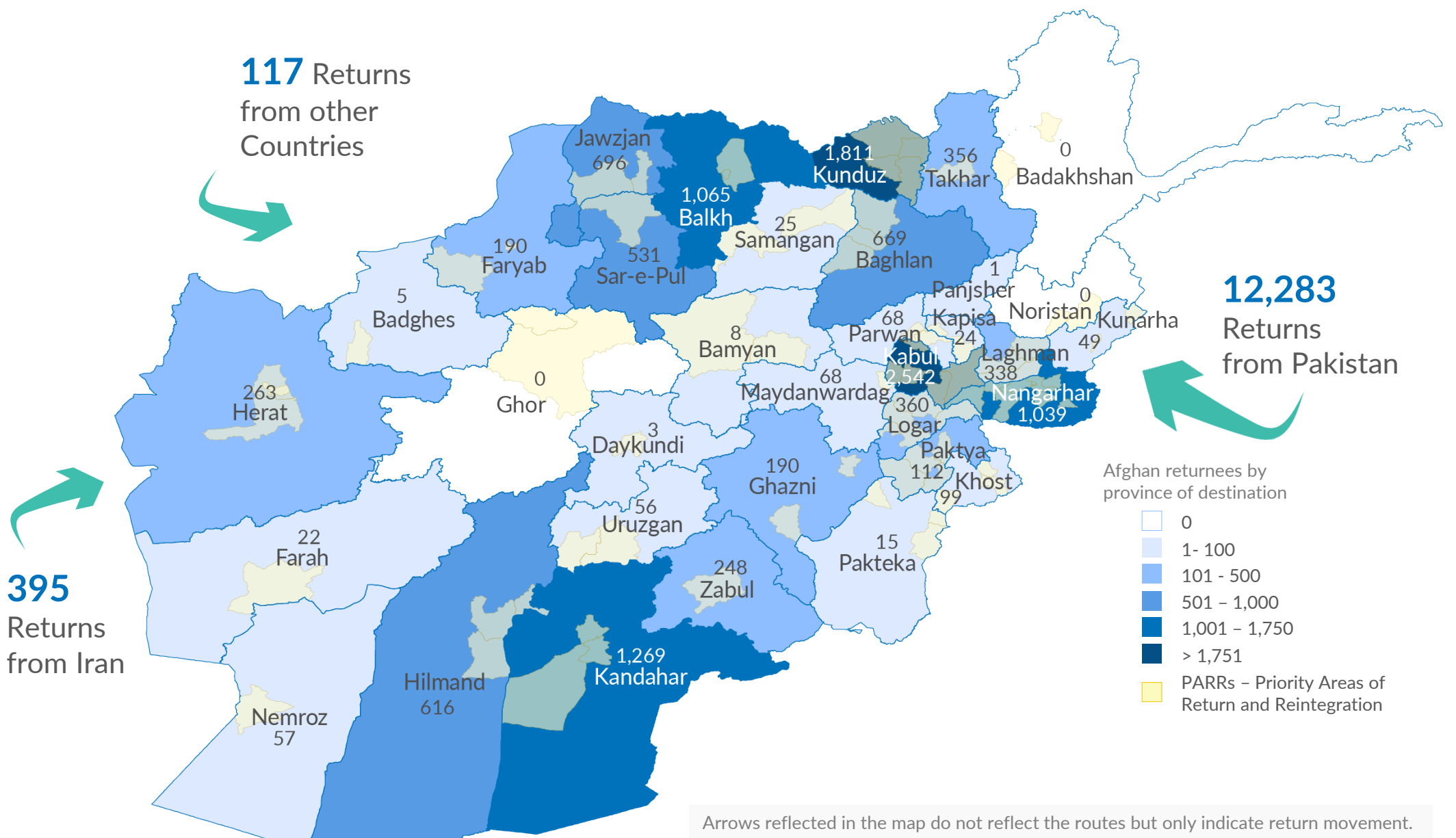


ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD 2.7M was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q3 of 2023. A total of **USD 4.9M** was provided in 2023.

Besides cash grants, returning refugees receive basic health care, vaccination for children, mine risk education, access to waiting areas and playgrounds for children, as well as, overnight accommodation when needed. They may also receive other services, provided by other partners present in each EC.

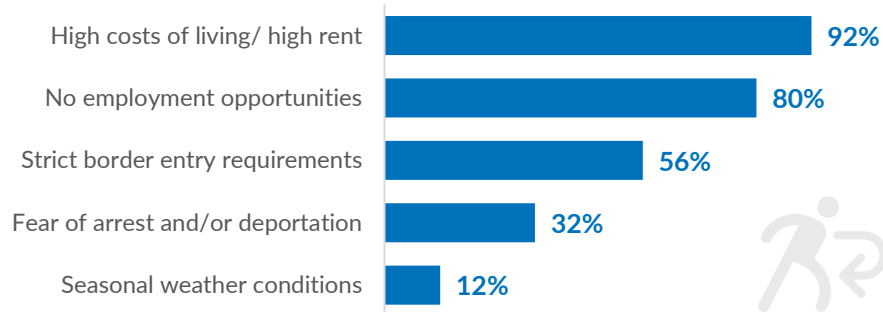
PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2023 (Figures reflect returns processed at Encashment Centres in Afghanistan)



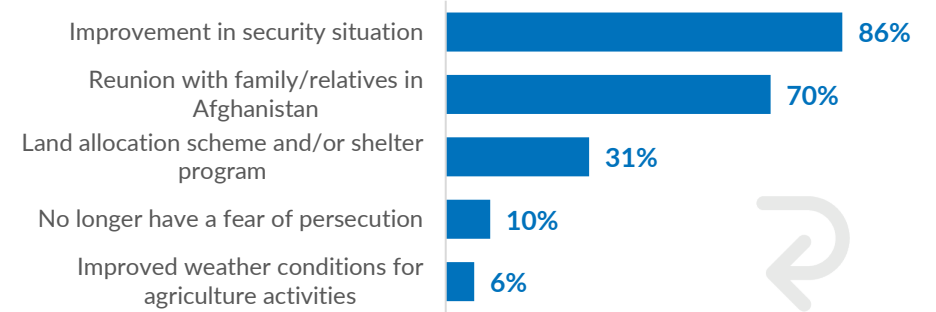
REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

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

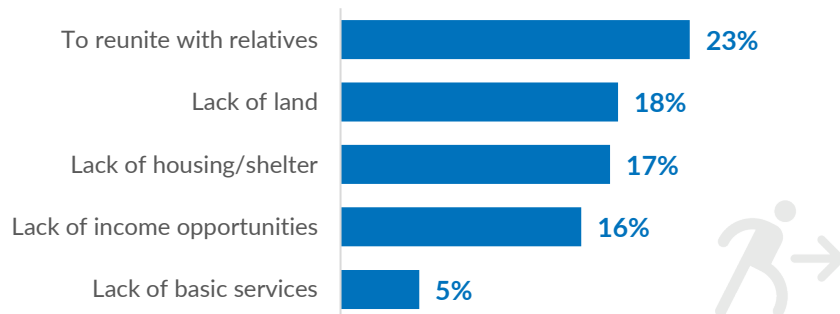
Top 5 reasons for leaving Iran and Pakistan



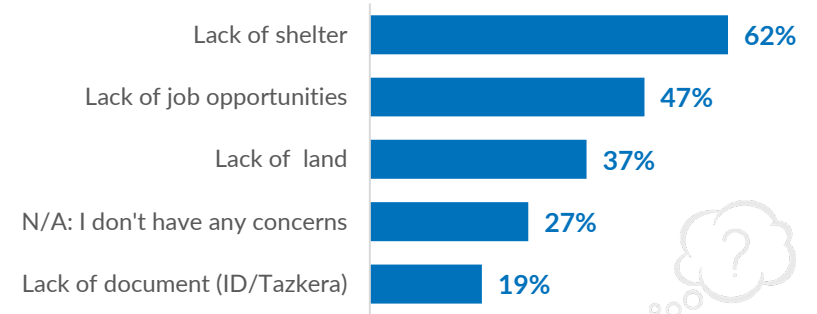
Top 5 reasons for return to Afghanistan



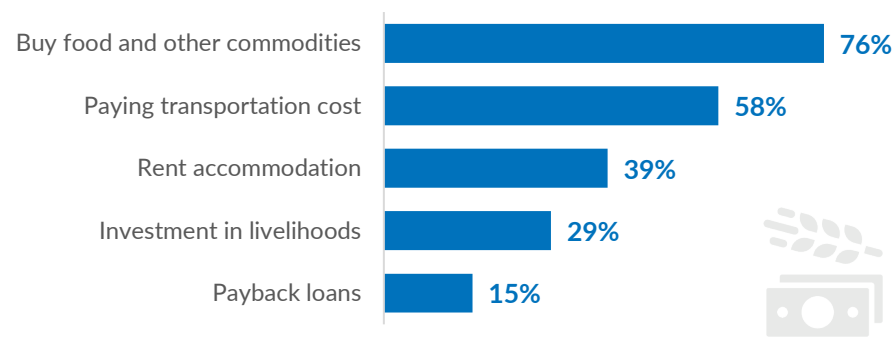
Top 5 reasons for not returning to Area of Origin



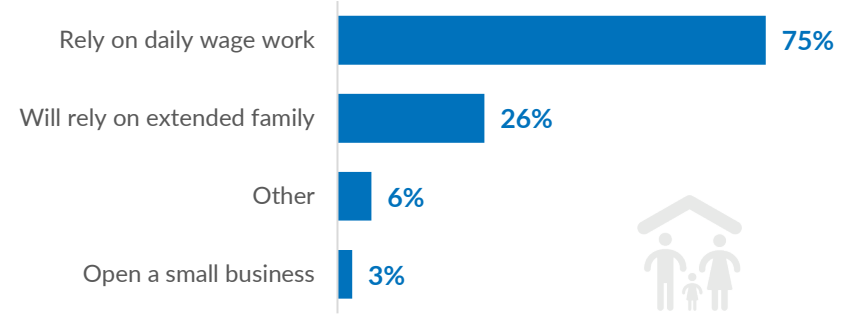
Concerns related to the return to Afghanistan



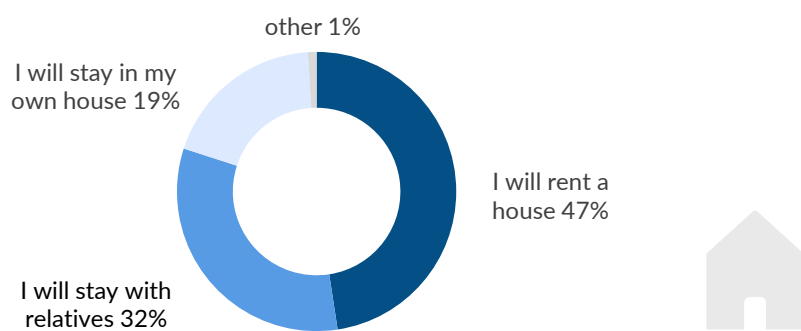
Upon return, how the cash grant will be spent



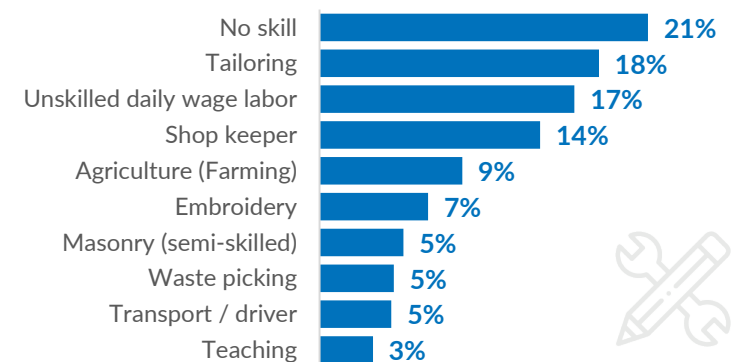
After cash grant is spent, how you plan to support your family?



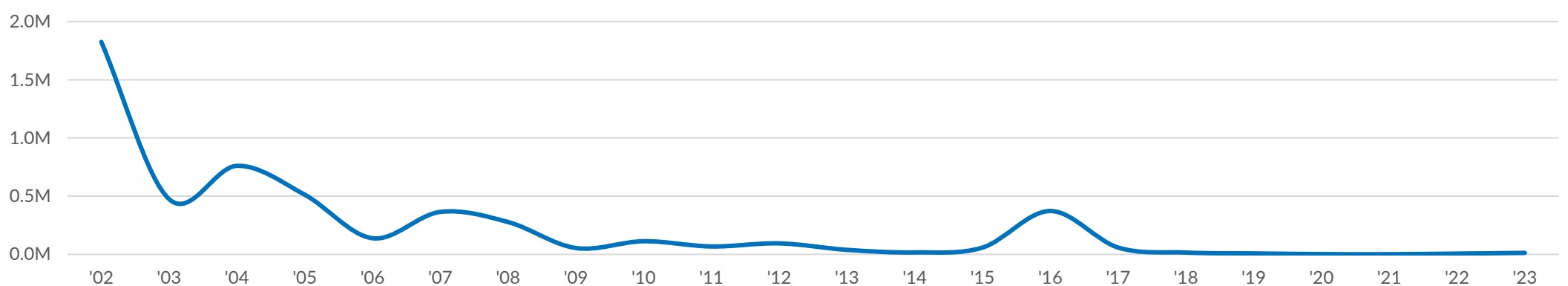
Living arrangements upon return



Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2023



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in 2020-2023)

