

UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation for Afghan refugees who wish to return to their home country, once it is established that their return is voluntary, safe, dignified and durable. Since 2002, UNHCR Iran has supported nearly 1 million refugees to return to Afghanistan. However, as the situation in Afghanistan remains fragile, only a small number of Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran have shown willingness and ability to return to their home country. For as long as they have to remain in Iran, UNHCR supports the host government in providing Afghans with health, education and livelihoods opportunities. Individuals who are healthy, educated and have marketable-skills are typically more likely to return to their country of origin and feel capable of rebuilding their lives. Nonetheless, ultimately, a longer-term, political solution for Afghanistan's protracted crisis is the only way to ensure safe, sustainable and voluntarily return of refugees.

125
individuals repatriated

29%

students



UNHCR facilitates the return of Afghan students from Iran to Afghanistan to obtain student visas to pursue their studies back in their country of asylum.

10

persons with specific needs



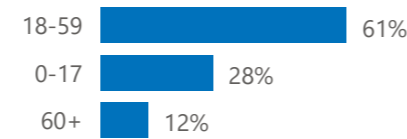
UNHCR helps returnees with specific needs including unaccompanied or separated children and elderly persons.

53%

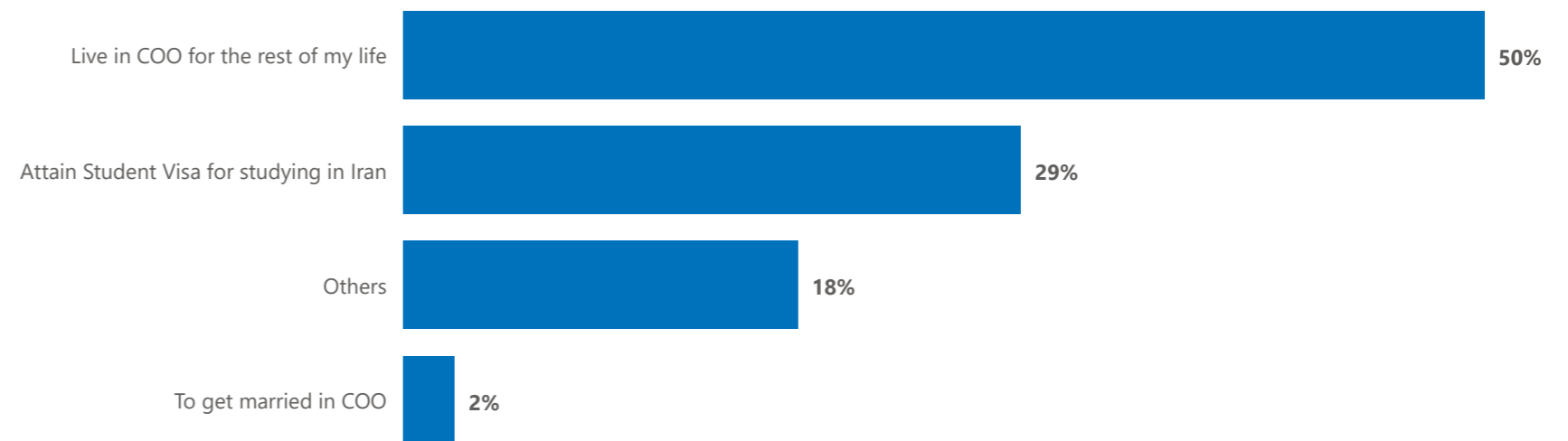
females



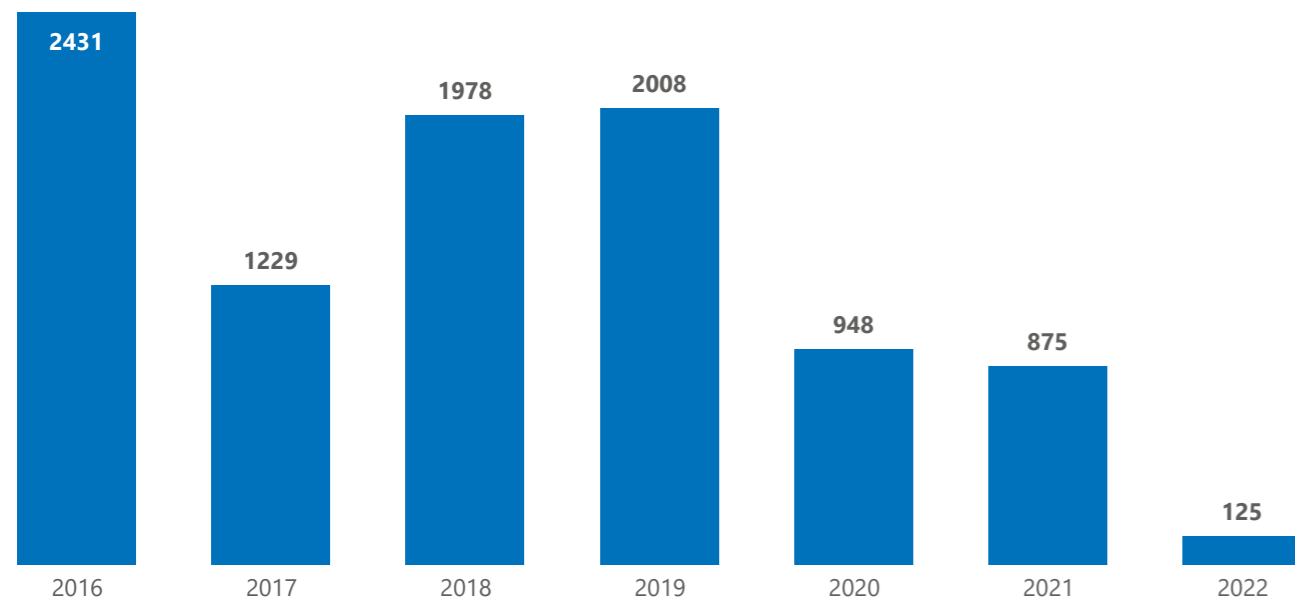
Students excluded, the age distribution for men and women combined:



Reason of return to Afghanistan (% of individuals)

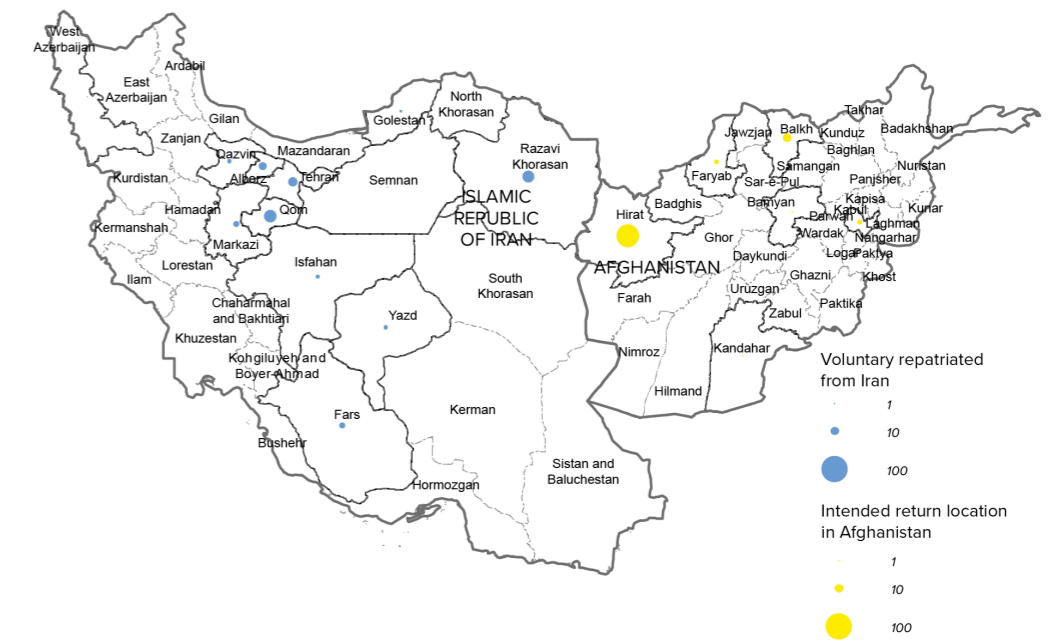


Trend over the years (2016-2022)

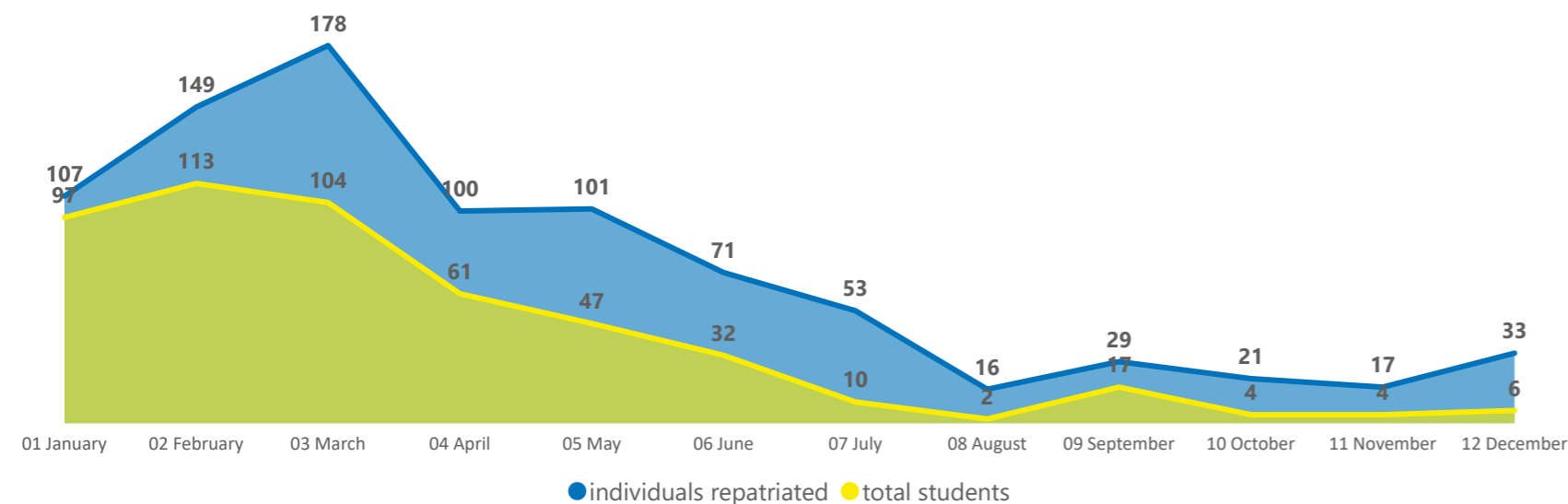


By the end of May, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 124 returnees to Afghanistan and one returnee to Iraq. This represents a substantial decrease compared to the 635 returns facilitated in the same period in 2021. Voluntary repatriation declined by 80% compared to the same period in 2021. This decrease is due to the instability and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Voluntary repatriation by province in Iran & intended area of return in Afghanistan



2021 monthly trend



2022 monthly trend

