Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR’s facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. In 2022, 1,178 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan, surpassing the 1,148 Afghans who came back during the same period in 2021, and more than triple the number who returned up to this point in 2020. Returnees stated as the main reasons behind return movements from Iran and Pakistan the UNHCR assistance package, cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in host countries, reunification with family, improved security situation, and government land allocation programme in Afghanistan.

So far this year, some 19% of the refugee returnees have returned to Kabul (218), 11% to Kunduz (125) and 9% Herat (104). At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a cash grant of an average USD 250 per individual, while also running programmes and projects in priority areas of return and reintegration.

USD $266,729 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q2 of 2022. A total of $301,456 was provided in 2022. 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. In addition, UNHCR, in line with the measures recommended by MoPH and WHO, adopted a SOP in all ECs, aiming to prevent the spread of transmission of COVID-19.
AFGHANISTAN SITUATION
Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees | Quarterly Update

REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Top 5 reasons for leaving Iran and Pakistan
- High costs of living/high rent: 83%
- No employment opportunities: 65%
- Fear of COVID-19: 41%
- Lack of Amayesh card: 18%
- Denial of access to services: 15%

Top 5 reasons for not returning to District of Origin
- Place of return same as place of origin: 59%
- To re-unite with relatives: 30%
- Lack of income opportunities: 8%
- Perceived insecurity: 7%
- Lack of basic services: 4%

Upon return, how the cash grant will be spent
- Paying transportation cost: 58%
- Buy food and other commodities: 53%
- Rent accommodation: 23%
- Investment in livelihoods: 20%
- Build shelter: 7%

Living arrangements upon return
- I will stay in my own house: 22%
- I will rent a house: 31%
- I will stay with relatives: 4%

Top 5 reasons for return to Afghanistan
- UNHCR assistance package: 97%
- Reunion with family/relatives in Afghanistan: 78%
- Land allocation scheme and/or shelter program: 52%
- Employment opportunities: 26%
- Family matters (marriage, funeral): 14%

Concerns related to the return to Afghanistan
- No concerns: 34%
- Security: 33%
- Lack of shelter: 30%
- Lack of land: 20%
- Lack of job opportunities: 16%

After cash grant is spent, how you plan to support your family?
- Start a small business: 6%
- Will rely on extended family: 25%
- Will join army/police: 3%
- Rely on daily wage work: 61%

Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications
- No skill: 30%
- Tailoring: 23%
- Unskilled daily wage labor: 13%
- Other: 13%
- Shop keeper: 7%
- Agriculture (Farming): 4%
- Embroidery: 4%

REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2022

REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in 2018-2022)

For further information please visit the [Afghanistan Situation Operational Portal](https://www.unhcr.org/africa/ioc/afghanistan-situation-operational-portal.html) or please contact [RBAPDIMA@unhcr.org](mailto:RBAPDIMA@unhcr.org).