Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR’s facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. In the first three quarters of 2022, 3,677 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan, almost tripling the overall returns in 2021, and close to doubling those who returned in 2020. In September the daily average returns is at almost 50 individuals per day, reaching the highest monthly figure (1,465) since 2018.

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, reunification with family, the UNHCR assistance package and improved security situation in Afghanistan. So far this year, some 15% of the refugee returnees have returned to Kabul (558), 12% to Sar-e-Pul (458) and 10% Kunduz (353).

At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a revised cash grant of an average of USD 375 per individual since beginning of August, and may also access programmes and projects operated by UNHCR in priority areas of return and reintegration.

USD 917,727 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q3 of 2022. A total of USD 1.2M 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.

The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberation or otherwise by the various sources. Arrows reflected in the map do not reflect the routes but only indicate return movement.

* The number of refugees processed for return in Pakistan and Iran may sometimes be higher than those processed at encashment centres in Afghanistan. This is due to the presence of recycled cases applying for voluntary repatriation a second time and also persons not showing to collect the cash grant in Afghanistan.

**RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2022**

- **2,480** Returns from July to Sep. 2022
- **111** from Iran
- **2,368** from Pakistan
- **1** from Other Countries

**ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN**

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**PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2022**

- **5** returns from other Countries
- **279** returns from Iran
- **3,393** returns from Pakistan

**Afghan returnees by province of destination**

- 0
- 1-50
- 51-100
- 101-200
- 201-300
- >301

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REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Top 5 reasons for leaving Iran and Pakistan

- High costs of living/ high rent: 94%
- No employment opportunities: 78%
- Strict border entry requirements: 39%
- Seasonal weather conditions: 22%
- Fear of arrest and/or deportation: 8%

Top 5 reasons for not returning to District of Origin

- Place of return is the same as place of origin: 64%
- To re-unite with relatives: 19%
- Lack of housing/shelter: 16%
- Lack of income opportunities: 14%
- Lack of land: 10%

Upon return, how the cash grant will be spent

- Buy food and other commodities: 76%
- Paying transportation cost: 58%
- Rent accommodation: 25%
- Investment in livelihoods: 23%
- Build shelter: 13%

Living arrangements upon return

- I will stay in my own house: 25%
- I will rent a house: 38%
- I will stay with relatives: 36%

Top 5 reasons for return to Afghanistan

- Reunion with family/relatives in Afghanistan: 82%
- UNHCR assistance package: 79%
- Improvement in security situation: 64%
- Land allocation scheme and/or shelter program: 34%
- Family matters (marriage, funeral): 7%

Concerns related to the return to Afghanistan

- Lack of shelter: 54%
- Lack of job opportunities: 32%
- I don't have any concerns: 31%
- Lack of land: 26%
- Lack of document (ID/Tazkera): 19%

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

- Open a small business: 5%
- Borrow money from relatives to start up a small business: 4%
- Rely on daily wage work: 64%
- Rely on extended family: 31%

Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications

- No skill: 22%
- Tailoring: 18%
- Agriculture (Farming): 12%
- Cooking: 11%
- Shop keeper: 8%
- Unskilled daily wage labor: 7%
- Masonry (semi-skilled): 5%
- Teaching: 5%
- Transport / driver: 5%
- Livestock: 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 or please contact RBAPDIMA@unhcr.org.