

UNHCR Afghanistan Voluntary Repatriation

MONTHLY REPORT, JUNE 2017

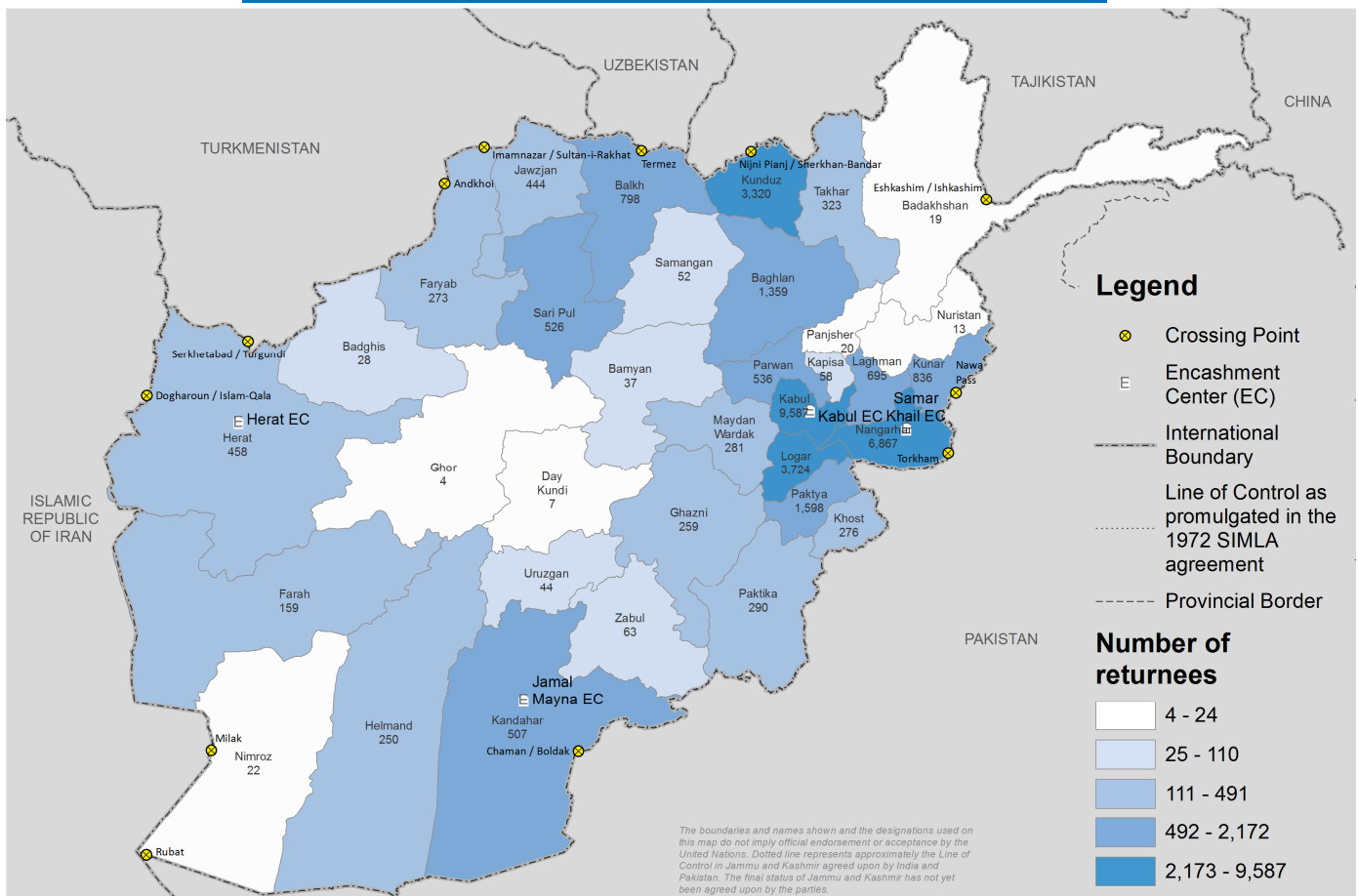
In June 2017, UNHCR facilitated the return to Afghanistan of a total of **2,207** Afghan refugees, including 2,161 from Pakistan, 27 from Iran and 19 from other countries. This figure is **89%** lower than the total number of returnees in May, largely due to the Ramadan period, during which refugees are generally less inclined to return. The UNHCR facilitated return programme was temporarily suspended from 25-27 June 2017 due to Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

Returns are expected to increase in the month of July and onward.

Between January and June 2017, a total of **33,733** Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated repatriation program, with the majority from Pakistan (**33,325**) followed by a smaller number from Iran (**319**) and other countries (**89**). This is higher (332%) in comparison to the 7,812 Afghans who returned during the same period in 2016, when the protection environment and asylum conditions in Pakistan were more favourable.

33,733 returnees	overwhelming majority (99%) from Pakistan
71%	of returnees from Pakistan returned from KPK
74% / 25,096 return to 5 provinces	Kabul, Nangarhar, Logar, Kunduz and Paktya
332% increase compared to last year	Return trend so far this year is 332% higher compared to 7,812 returnees from Jan-Jun 2016
100%	received repatriation cash grant (an average of USD 200 per person) at 4 Encashment centers - (over 6.6 million USD)
15% of returnees interviewed	978 household level interviews carried out at the ECs, representing 15% of the total returnees

ASSISTED RETURN BY PROVINCE OF DESTINATION – 01 JAN – 30 JUN 2017

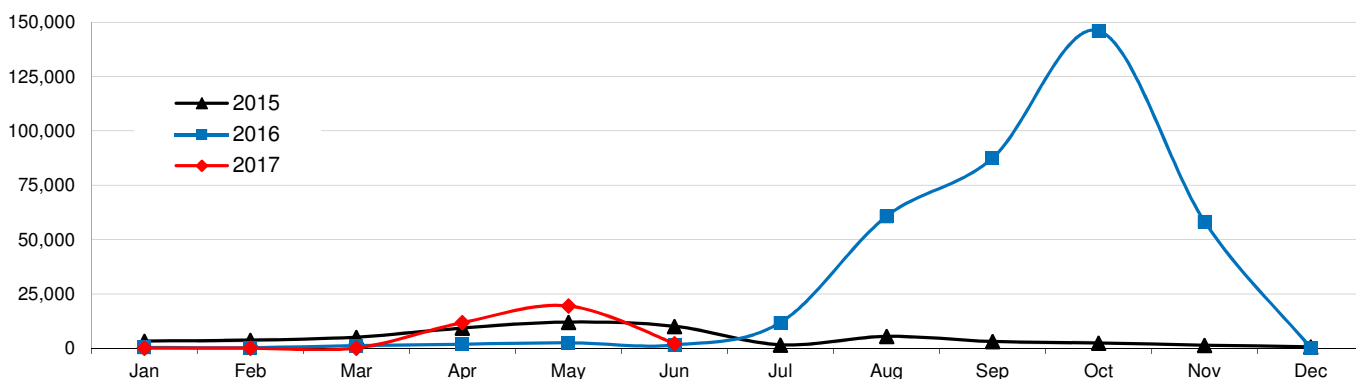
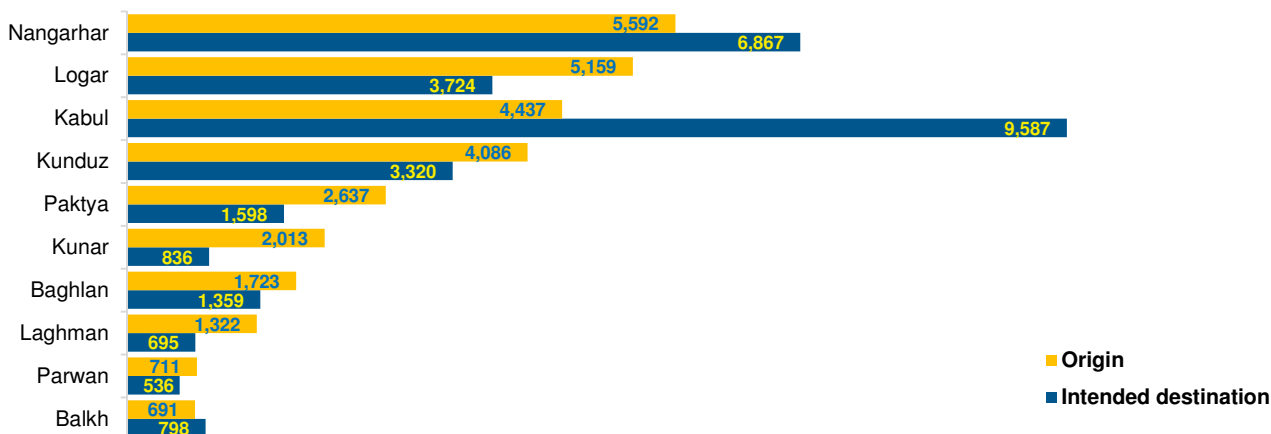
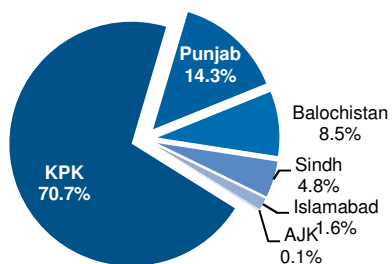


Printing date: 16 Jul 2017 Sources: UNHCR Author: UNHCR Kabul IM Unit Feedback: AFGKAIMU@unhcr.org Filename: afg_assisted_return_map

In 2017, almost 1,000 new returnees from Pakistan were interviewed during monitoring. The main reasons for leaving Pakistan include a lack of employment; harassment by the police and other State authorities; stricter border controls resulting in separation of families; fear of arrest/deportation; and high cost of living. Incentives for returning to Afghanistan include a perceived improvement in the security situation and a reduced fear of persecution (compared to the period of their initial flight); offers of land allocation, including government assurances of house/land through the Gul Watan campaign; reunification with family members; a perception of increased employment opportunities; and UNHCR assistance.

Assisted returns by region of destination in Afghanistan 2017 and 2016 (01 Jan - 30 Jun)

Region	No. of individuals returned - Comparison by year			
	Jan - Jun 2017		Jan - Jun 2016	
	No.	%	No.	%
Central	14,465	42.9%	2,442	31.3%
East	8,411	24.9%	1,429	18.3%
Northeast	5,021	14.9%	1,550	19.8%
Southeast	2,164	6.4%	507	6.5%
North	2,093	6.2%	1,037	13.3%
South	864	2.6%	421	5.4%
West	671	2.0%	369	4.7%
C. Highlands	44	0.1%	57	0.7%
Total	33,733	100.0%	7,812	100.0%

Monthly Return Trends from Pakistan and Iran - 01 January 2015 - 30 June 2017

Comparison of recorded province of destination with province of origin Top 10 provinces - 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017, ind.

Return by Province of Asylum - Pakistan 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017

Return from Pakistan - refugee villages/camps and non-camps 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017




RETURN PROCESS

UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs) in the countries of asylum are processing refugees willing to return to Afghanistan and issue a Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF) for each family. Two VRCs are located in Pakistan: Chamkani in Peshawar (KPK) and Baleli in Quetta (Baluchistan). Repatriation from Iran is facilitated through all UNHCR Offices, including the VRC in Soleimankhani and the UNHCR Office at Dogharoun.

Upon return to Afghanistan, returnees are assisted at four Encashment Centers (ECs) located in Kabul, Samarkhel (Nangarhar), Jamal Mayna (Kandahar) and Herat.

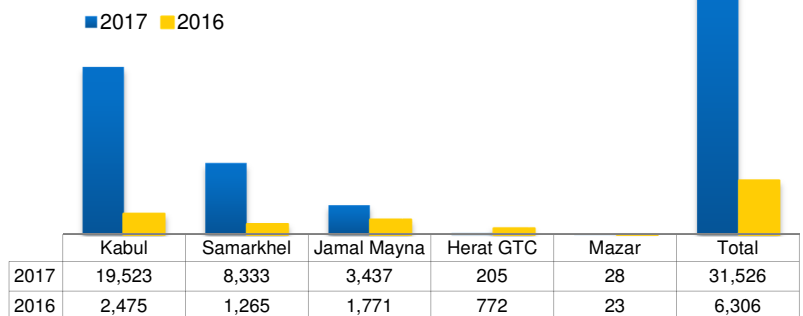
At the ECs all Afghan returnees with a valid VRF receive a grant of approximately USD 200 per person based on their area of origin to support returnees' immediate humanitarian and re-integration needs.

Besides cash grants, a range of inter-agency services including basic health care and vaccinations (Ministry of Public Health supported by WHO and UNICEF), mine risk awareness (Danish Demining Group (DDG) supported by UNMAS, back to school campaign (UNICEF/Ministry of Education), hygiene kits (UNFPA) and a transit facility for overnight accommodation (UNHCR/MoRR) are also provided for returning refugees.

At the ECs, UNHCR and MoRR/DoRRs also conducts returnee monitoring (household level) and identify persons with specific needs to service providers for assessment and potential assistance.

Mine risk education is important as a protection intervention for awareness of the threats associated with mines, improvised explosive devices (IED) and unexploded ordnance to prevent injury and loss of life, particularly for those returning to rural areas; UNAMA has reported a sharp increase in associated child casualties in the first quarter of 2017.

Assisted at ECs - comparison of 2017 and 2016



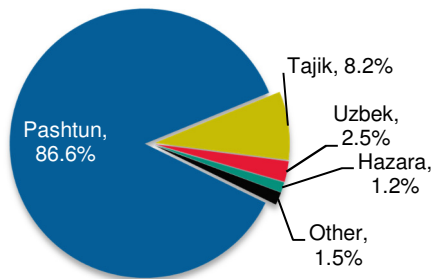
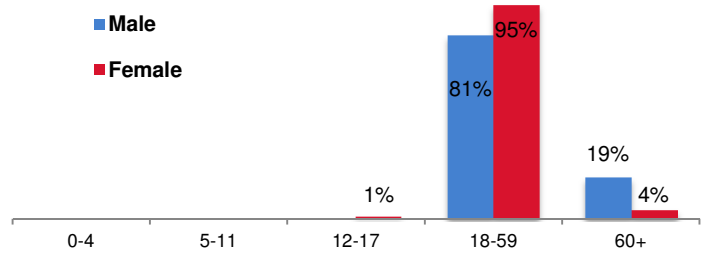
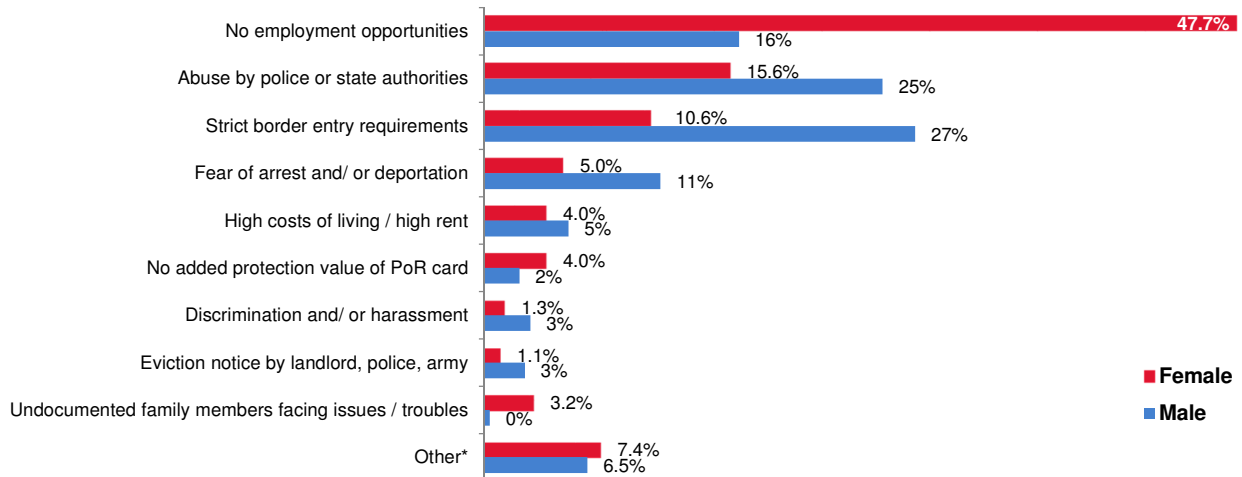
ENCASHMENT CENTRE RETURNEE MONITORING

Between 1 January and 30 June 2017, a total of **978** households (**958** with those returned from Pakistan and **20** from Iran) were interviewed including **60%(586)** male and **40% (392)** female respondents. This sample size representing **15%** of returnee families from Pakistan and Iran who were assisted upon arrival at the 4 ECs managed by UNHCR/MoRR. Interviewees were selected either randomly from the returning families (**890**) or purposively based on reporting of protection concerns (**88**) at the ECs, being the first point of contact in Afghanistan.

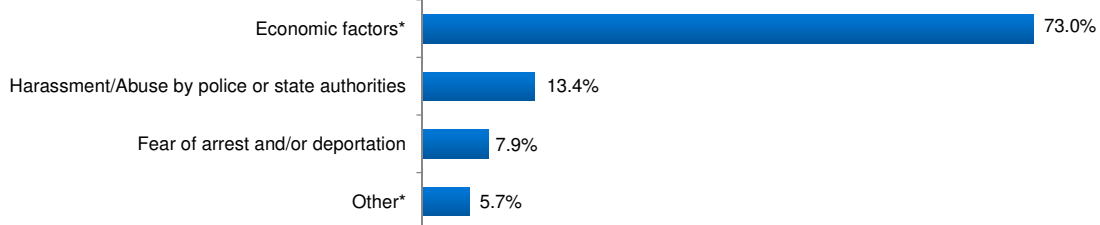
This regular monitoring identifies return trends; an assessment of the voluntariness of return, reasons for the decision to return (in Pakistan/Iran to Afghanistan), the level of information that returnees received in countries of asylum to make a well-informed choice to return home, and conditions and respect for the basic rights in the country of asylum. It also assists to detect harassment and violations that should be brought to the attention of responsible authorities.

The small sample size among returnees from Iran is due to the small number of returns from Iran, the majority who are single - individual students.

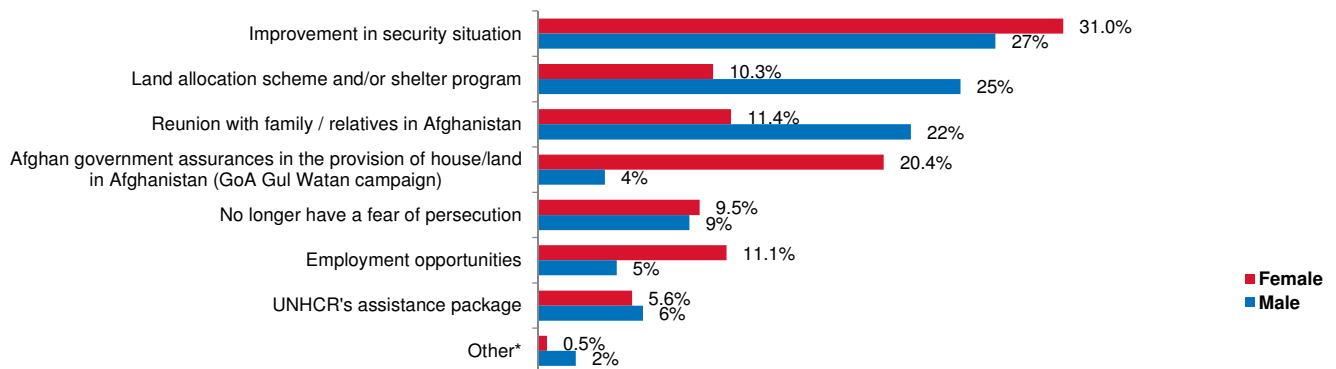
Findings shows as follows:

Interviewee Ethnicity (%) - returnees from Pakistan & Iran - 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017

Interviewee age/sex (%) - returnees from Pakistan & Iran 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017

Reasons for leaving Pakistan - by gender (03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017)


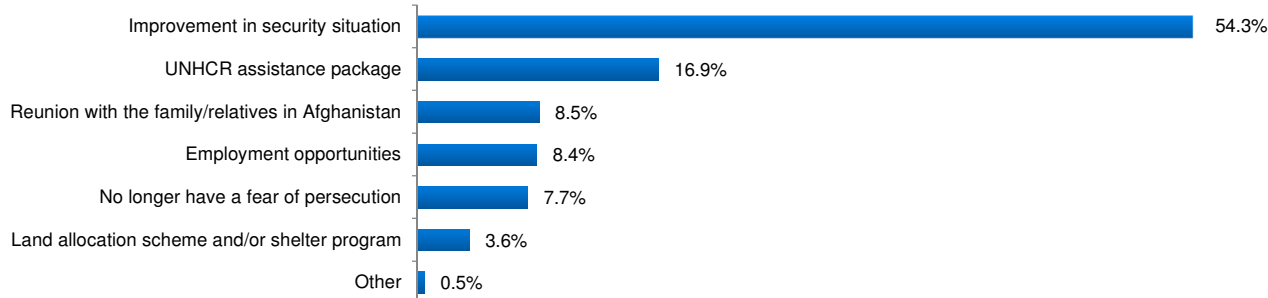
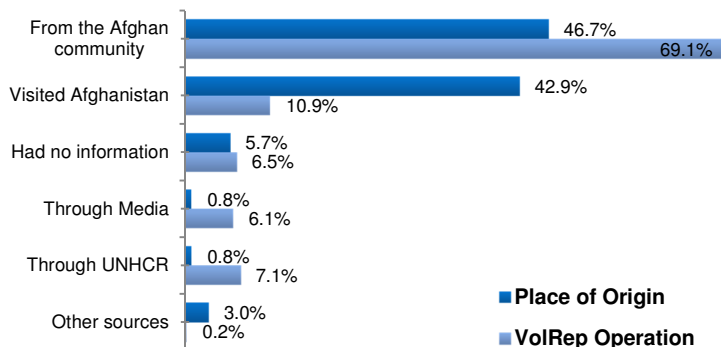
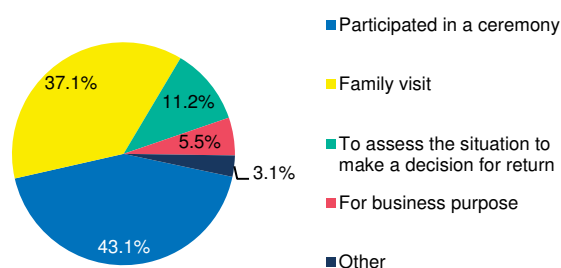
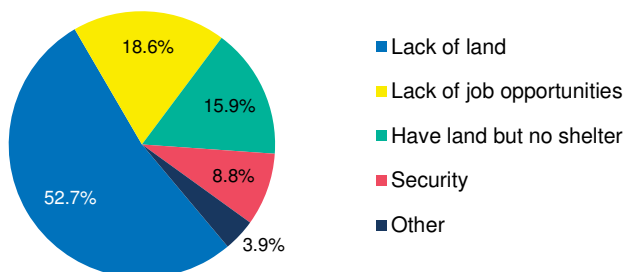
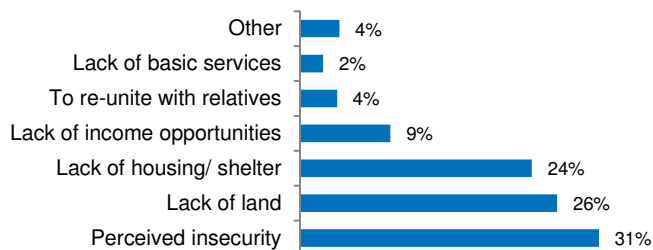
* Other: Uncertainty related to the PoR cards extension, overall deterioration in security conditions, discrimination by local community, camp / settlement closures or relocation campaigns, denied access to school and health facilities, night raids, no agricultural activities, etc.

Reasons for leaving Pakistan (%) - 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2016


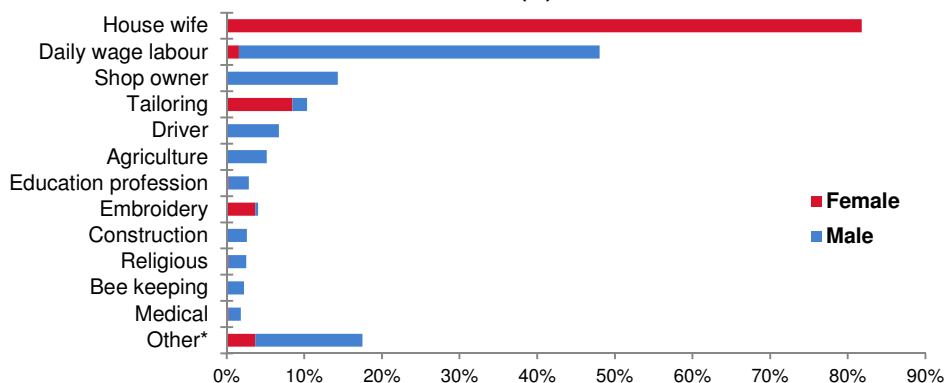
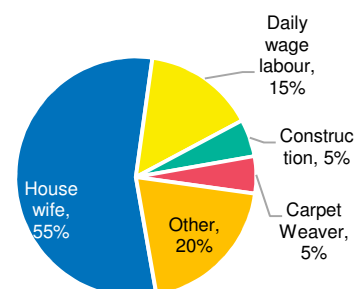
*During 2016 refugees witnessed increased pressure in Pakistan. Economic hardship linked to loss of access to job markets and the protection situation was regularly cited as the first factor influenced decision for return to Afghanistan.

Incentive for return to Afghanistan - Returnees from Pakistan - by gender - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017


* Other: Fear of land occupation in Afghanistan, improvement in health and education facilities, improved weather conditions for agriculture activities.

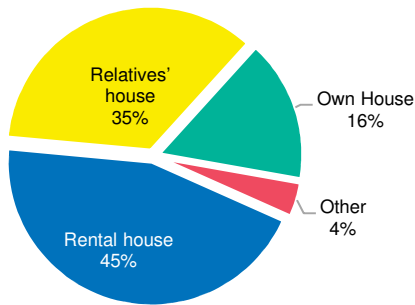
Incentive for return to Afghanistan - Returnees from Pakistan (%) - 01 Jan -30 Jun 2016

Sources of Information on Place of Origin & VolRep Program Returnees from Pakistan and Iran - 2017

Purpose of visit to Afghanistan before return Returnees from Pakistan and Iran - 2017

Concerns after return to Afghanistan 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017

Reasons for not returning to place of origin* 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017


* Out of 978 respondents, 427 returnees (44%) stated that they do not intend to return to their place of origin mainly due to insecurity, lack of housing/shelter, land and economic opportunities.

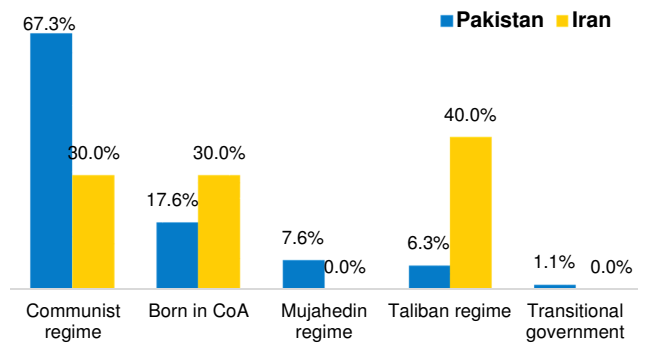
Professions of interviewed returnees (%) - Returnees from Pakistan - 2017

Professions of interviewed returnees (%) Returnees from Iran - 2017*


*Male and female breakdown for the profession of returnees from Iran is not available

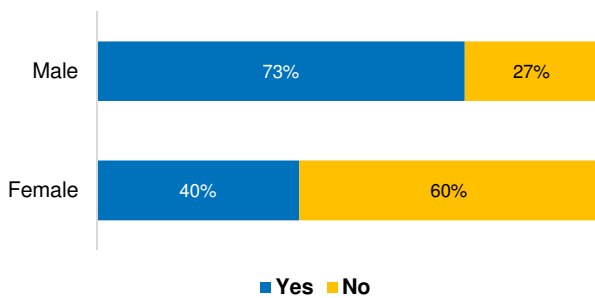
Stay arrangement after return - 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017



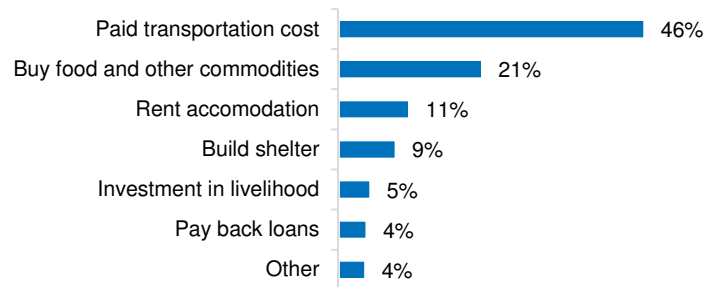
Years in Exile - 01 Jan - 30 Jun 2017



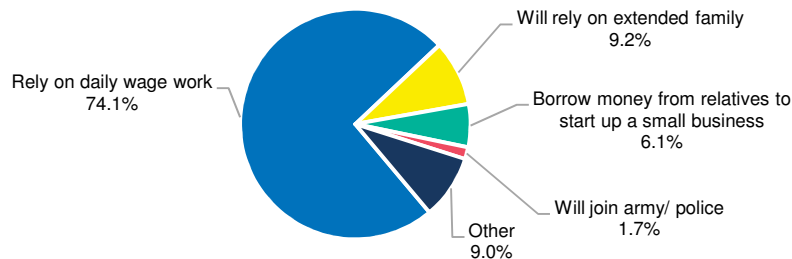
Awareness about cash grant returnees from Pakistan - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017



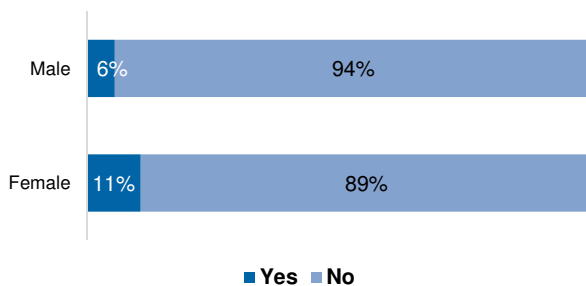
Plan, upon return, how to spend the cash grant returnees from Pakistan - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017
multiple response



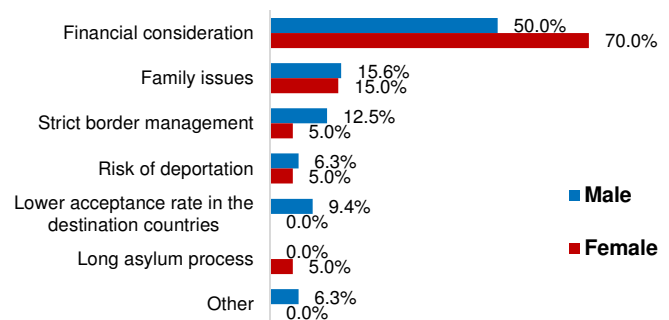
After you spend your cash grant, how will you support your family? returnees from Pakistan - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017



Did you, your family members or your relatives consider moving to Europe? returnees from Pakistan - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017



If yes, what made you change your decision? returnees from Pakistan - 03 Apr - 30 Jun 2017





Kabul EC verification area

UNHCR/M.Haroon

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation (as at 15 July 2017).

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