

RETURNS PROCESSED AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES IN AFGHANISTAN



575

Returns from
Apr-Jun 2021*

273 from Iran
266 from Pakistan
36 from other Countries

1,148

Returns in
2021

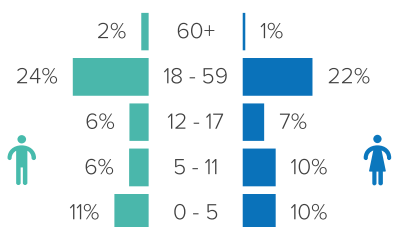
706 from Iran
396 from Pakistan
37 from other Countries

Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. During the second quarter of 2021, a total of 575 Afghans have returned, adding to a total of 1,139 in the first half of the 2021. This represents a 200% increase when compared to similar period of 2020, however a reduction of 60% if compared to 2019. This large increase in number of returnees, when compared to 2020, is largely due to the temporary suspension of UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation linked to COVID-19 in 2020, while security and economic situation across Afghanistan deteriorates.

During the first half of the year, some 76% of the returnees have returned to five locations, Herat (33%), Kabul (18%), Sar-e-Pul (10%), Kunduz (10%) and Balkh (6%) provinces.

At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a cash grant of approximately USD 250 per individual, as well as a range of services to support their reintegration.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS 2021



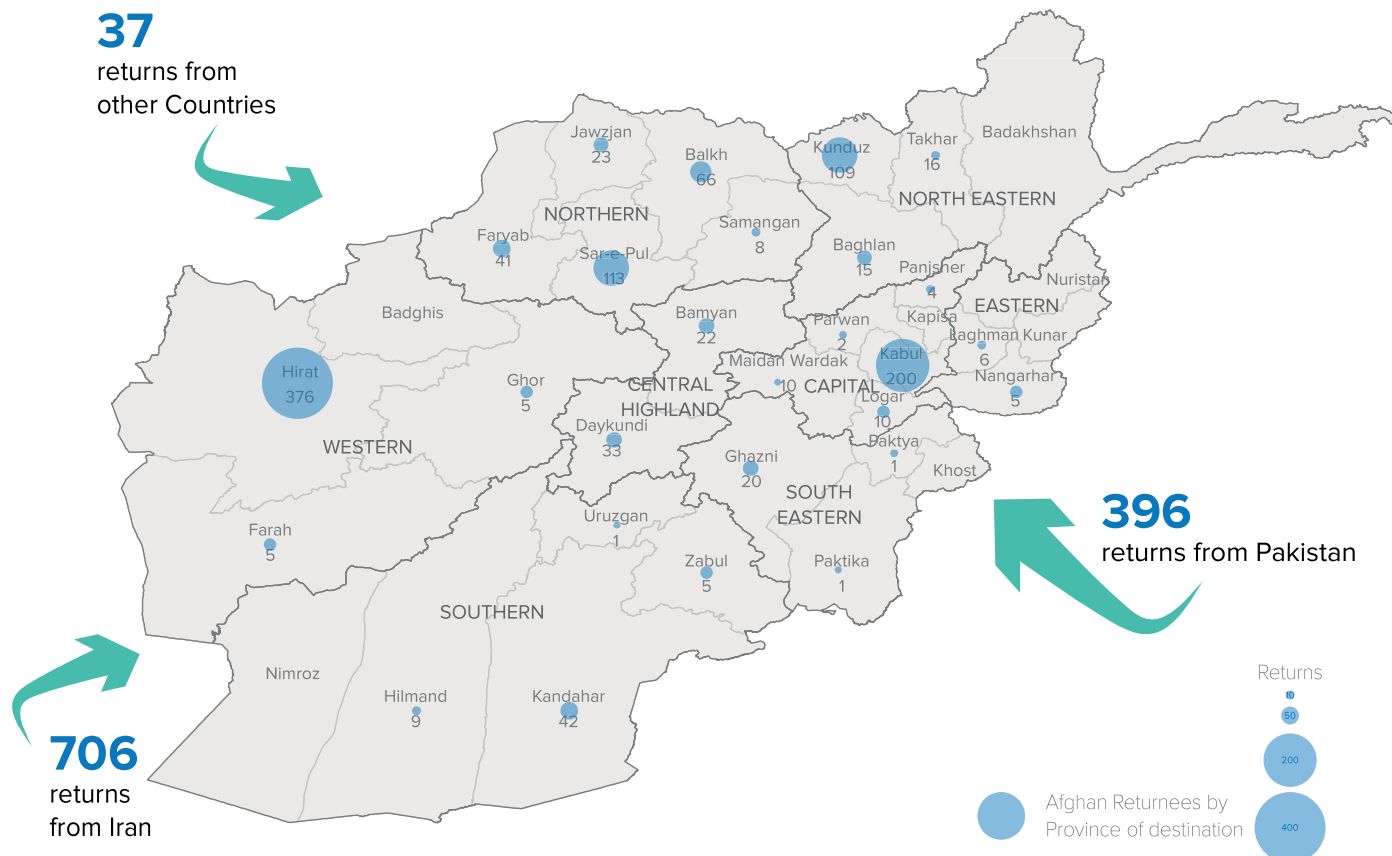
ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD \$148,230 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q1 of 2021.

A total of **\$296,256** was provided in 2021.

Beside cash grants, a range of inter-agency services are provided for returning refugees, including basic health and malnutrition screening and vaccination, mine risk awareness, information on school enrolment, and overnight accommodation, if needed. In addition, UNHCR, in line with the measures recommended by MoPH and WHO, adopted a new SOP in all ECs, aiming to prevent the spread and transmission of COVID-19.

PROVINCE OF DESTINATION 2021 (Figures reflect returns processed at encashment centers in Afghanistan)



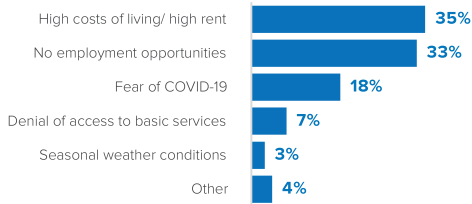
The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberation or otherwise by the various sources. Arrows reflected in the map do not reflect the routes but only indicate return movement.

* 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.

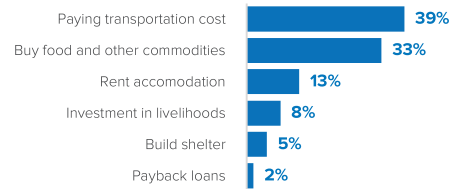
REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Source: Encashment Centres monitoring data.
Timeframe: Findings from January to June 2021.

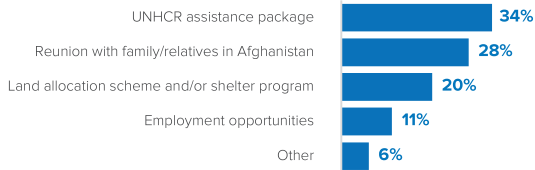
Reasons for leaving Pakistan and Iran



Upon return, how do you plan to spend the cash grant?

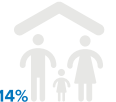
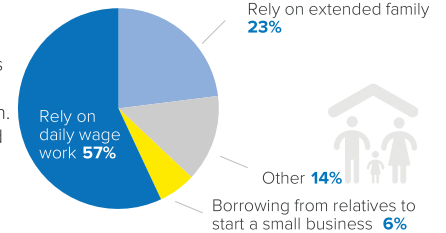


Reasons for return to Afghanistan

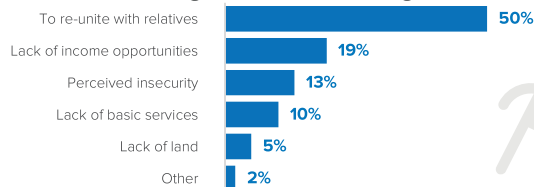


After you spend your cash grant, how will you support your family?

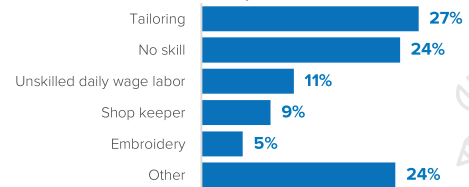
87% of the respondents were aware of cash grants prior to the return. However, only 35% had actual information regarding its amount.



Reasons for not returning to Province of Origin

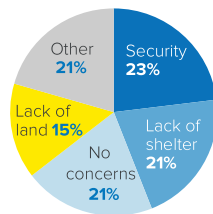


Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications

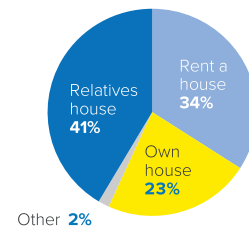


Concerns related to the return to Afghanistan

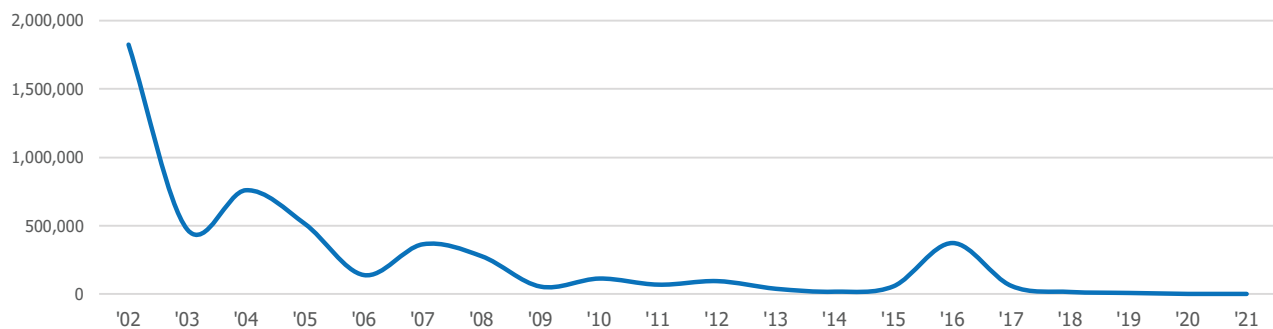
81% of the respondents have information regarding the situation in their place of origin while in the Country of Asylum.



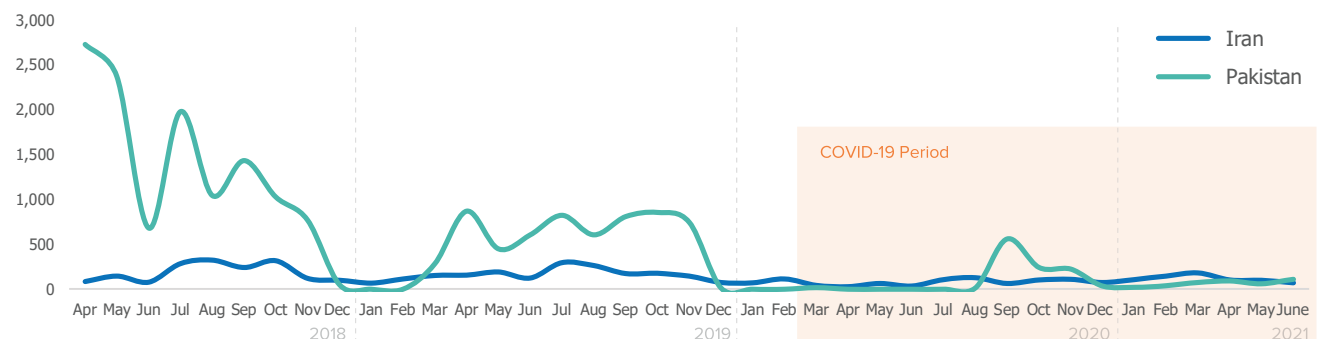
What will be your living arrangements after return?



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2021



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in view 2018-2021)



For more information: Afghan Situation Portal - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan>
For feedback and clarifications, please write to UNHCR RBAP at rbapdima@unhcr.org