

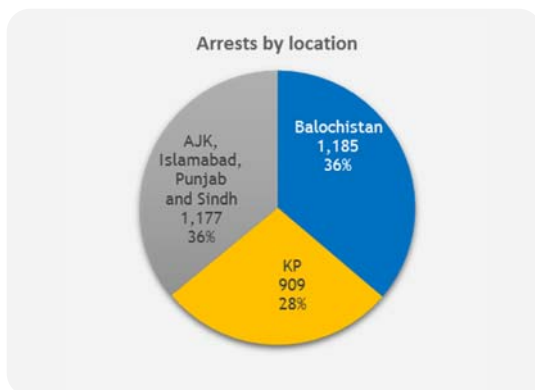
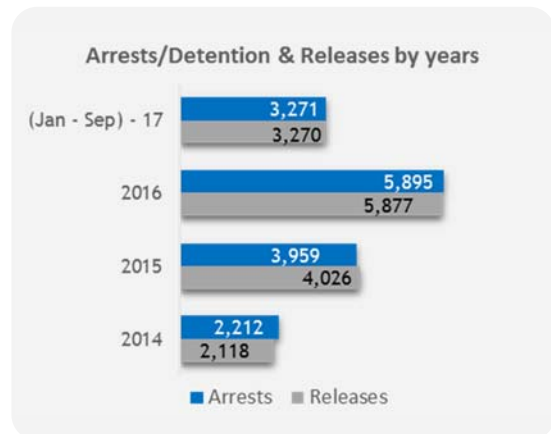
UNHCR Pakistan Monthly Protection Trends Reporting Concerning Afghan Refugees | September 2017

Repatriation had increased dramatically in 2016 for several reasons, including positive pull and negative push factors. In order to more systematically monitor these factors and provide an analysis of the situation, UNHCR Pakistan compiles a monthly note to inform key stakeholders of emerging trends and to raise formally and consistently any protection concerns that may arise.

Trends

Voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees continued with 3,980 Afghan refugees (903 families) returning in September compared to 4,904 Afghan refugees (1,179 families) who repatriated in August. Numbers of refugees repatriating have been decreasing, possibly due to the upcoming winter. Since repatriation commenced in 2017, 12,459 families (52,247 individuals) have returned to Afghanistan. According to IOM, 87,984 undocumented Afghans have also returned to Afghanistan since the start of the year.

The documentation exercise of undocumented Afghans living in Pakistan is also ongoing, with significant numbers of Afghans presenting themselves to be registered at 21 registration centers across the



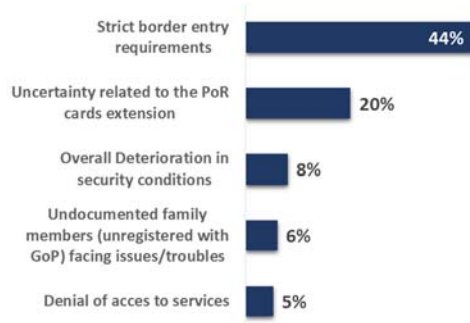
country. According to NADRA, **148,093** Afghans have been processed for Afghan Citizenship Cards (ACC) since the start of the exercise on 16 August. NADRA, and the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees are leading the exercise with support from MoRR and IOM. UNHCR is a participant in the Federal Task Force as well as supporting the MI campaign and ensuring that Afghans who present international protection needs are referred to UNHCR.

Summary of Events

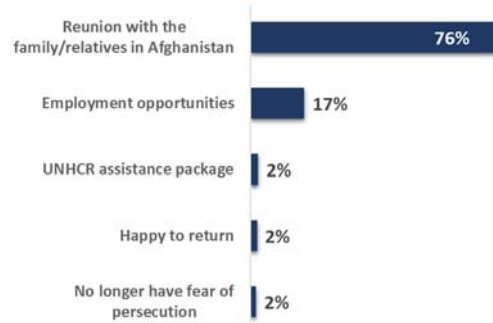
1. Reports from Exit Interviews/Encashment Centre Reporting

During interviews conducted at Baleli and Azakhel VRCs, returnees cited “strict border entry requirements” as the major factor influencing their return (44 percent). The percentage of returnees expressing fear of uncertainty to the PoR cards extension beyond 2017 increased significantly from (9 percent in August) to (20 percent in September). This likely reflects the fact that PoR cards are set to expire in December 2017 and no extension has been granted yet. UNHCR is following up on an extension with the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and hopes that it will be granted before the next Tripartite Commission meeting on 30 November 2017.

Push Factors



Pull Factors



2. Arrests & Detention

In September, 78 PoR card holders were arrested compared to 101 in August. Most of the PoR cardholders arrested were released without being formally charged through timely ALAC interventions while a few refugees who were charged under Section 107/151 of the Criminal Procedures Code and were released through court interventions by the ALAC legal team.

3. Evictions/ Eviction Notices

Afghan refugees living in rented houses in Nawasher, Abbottabad district in KP received verbal eviction notices from the police. Since 2015, the authorities have imposed restrictions on acquisition of rented properties by foreigners in Abbottabad and adjacent areas. This has affected the Afghan refugees who are not able to rent accommodation in the district. The existing rent agreements, on expiry, are not being renewed thus leaving the refugees without housing. UNHCR and partners have taken up this issue with the authorities at various levels, however, so far there has not been any change in the regulations.