

Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees

South West Asia - Quarterly Update October - December 2020

RETURNS PROCESSED AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES IN AFGHANISTAN

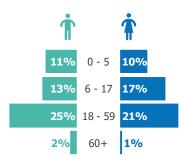
Returns from

314 from Iran 501 from Pakistan **67** from other Countries Returns in 2020

939 from Iran 1,092 from Pakistan **116** from other Countries

Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. At Encashment Centres (EC's) 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. Facilitated returns from Iran resumed on 30 April and from Pakistan and other countries on 10 August after a period of suspension due to COVID-19. Among the 630 persons processed for return in Iran 5 did not present themselves to collect the cash grant. 34% of registered returnees interviewed at EC's in 2020 reported that their children did not attend school in the country of asylum, 60% reported attendance. 68% of those interviewed noted that they sourced information regarding the situation in their place of origin from the Afghan community in their country of asylum, 13% from a visit to Afghanistan, 13% from the radio. 3% from UNHCR and 2% from TV.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS

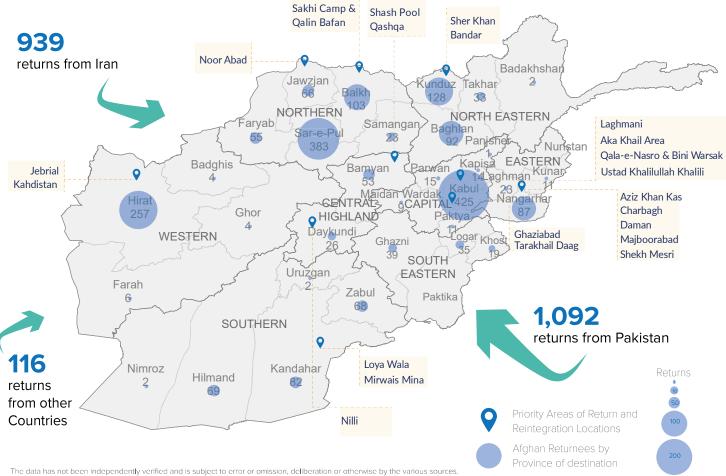


ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

USD \$225,139 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q4 of 2020. A total of \$538,816 was provided in 2020.

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 (Figures reflect returns processed at encashment centers in Afghanistan)



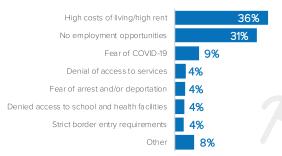
Arrows reflected in the map do not reflect the routes but only indicate return movement.

^{*} 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 presenting to collect the cash grant in Afghanistan.

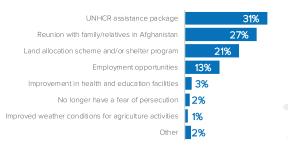
REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Source: Encashment Centres monitoring data. Timeframe: Findings from January to December 2020.

Reasons for leaving Pakistan and Iran



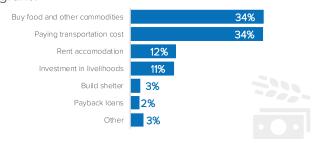
Reasons for return to Afghanistan (pull factors)



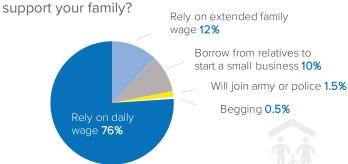
Reasons for not returning to Province of Origin



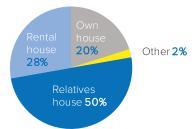
Upon return, how do you plan to spend the cash grant?



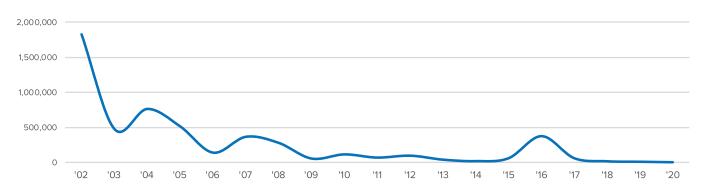
After you spend your cash grant, how will you



What will be your living arrangements after return?



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2020



REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in view 2018-2020)

