

53

individuals repatriated

UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation for Afghan refugees who wish to return to their home country, once it is established that their return is voluntary, safe, dignified and durable. Since 2002, UNHCR Iran has supported nearly 1 million refugees to return to Afghanistan. However, as the situation in Afghanistan remains fragile, only a small number of Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran have shown willingness and ability to return to their home country. For as long as they have to remain in Iran, UNHCR supports the host government in providing Afghans with health, education and livelihoods opportunities. Individuals who are healthy, educated and have marketable-skills are typically more likely to return to their country of origin and feel capable of rebuilding their lives. Nonetheless, ultimately, a longer-term, political solution for Afghanistan's protracted crisis is the only way to ensure safe, sustainable and voluntarily return of refugees.

43%

students



UNHCR facilitates the return of Afghan students from Iran to Afghanistan to obtain student visas to pursue their studies back in their country of asylum.

5

persons with specific needs



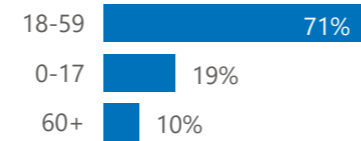
UNHCR helps returnees with specific needs including unaccompanied or separated children and elderly persons.

47%

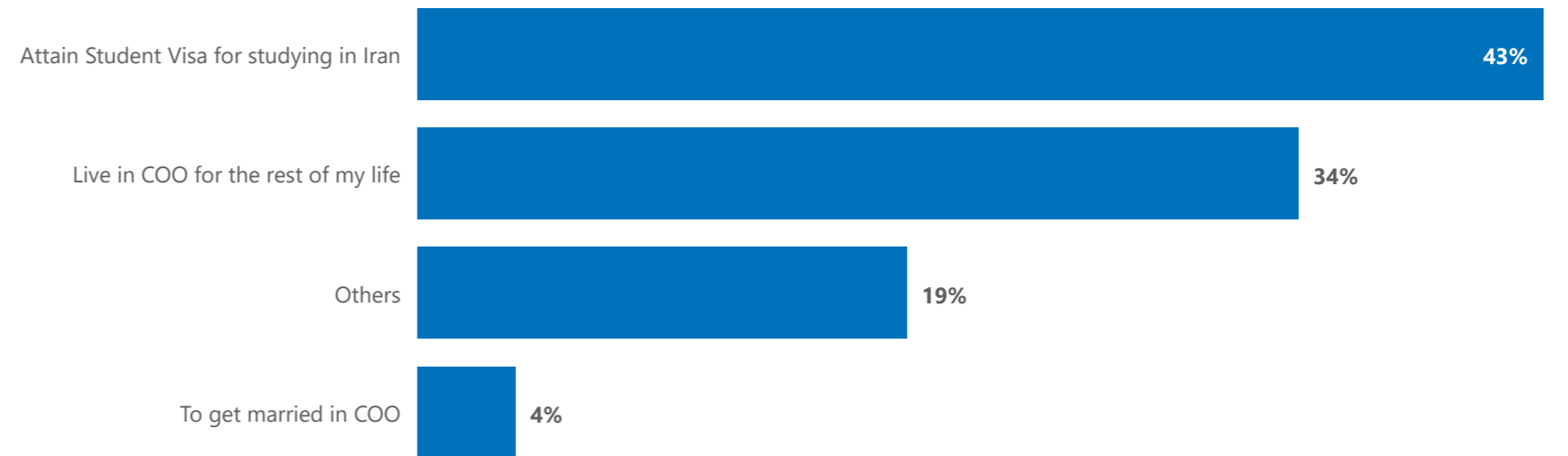
females



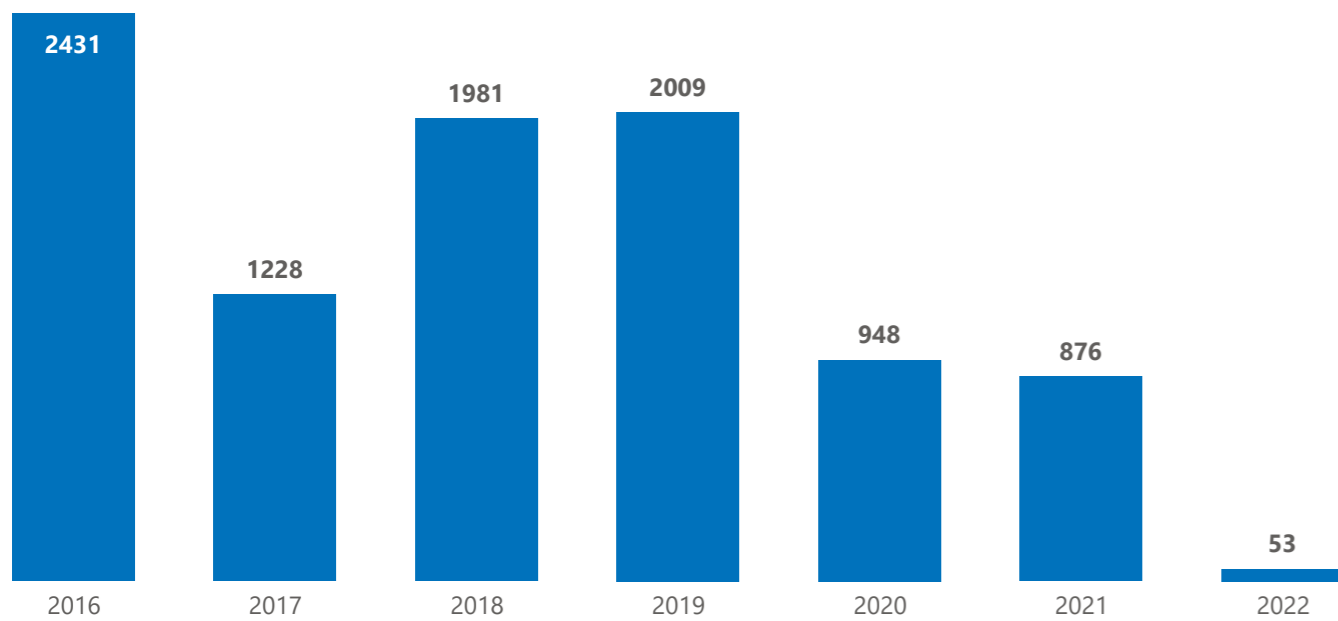
Students excluded, the age distribution for men and women combined:



Reason of return to Afghanistan (% of individuals)

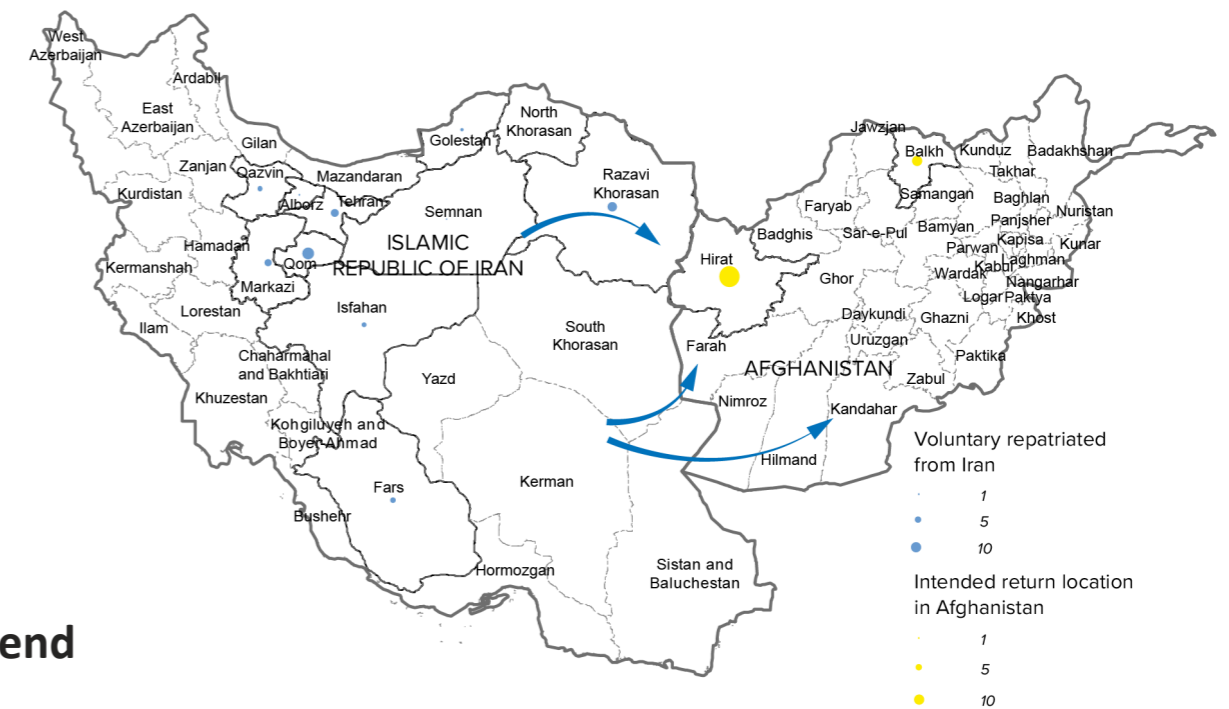


Trend over the years (2016-2022)

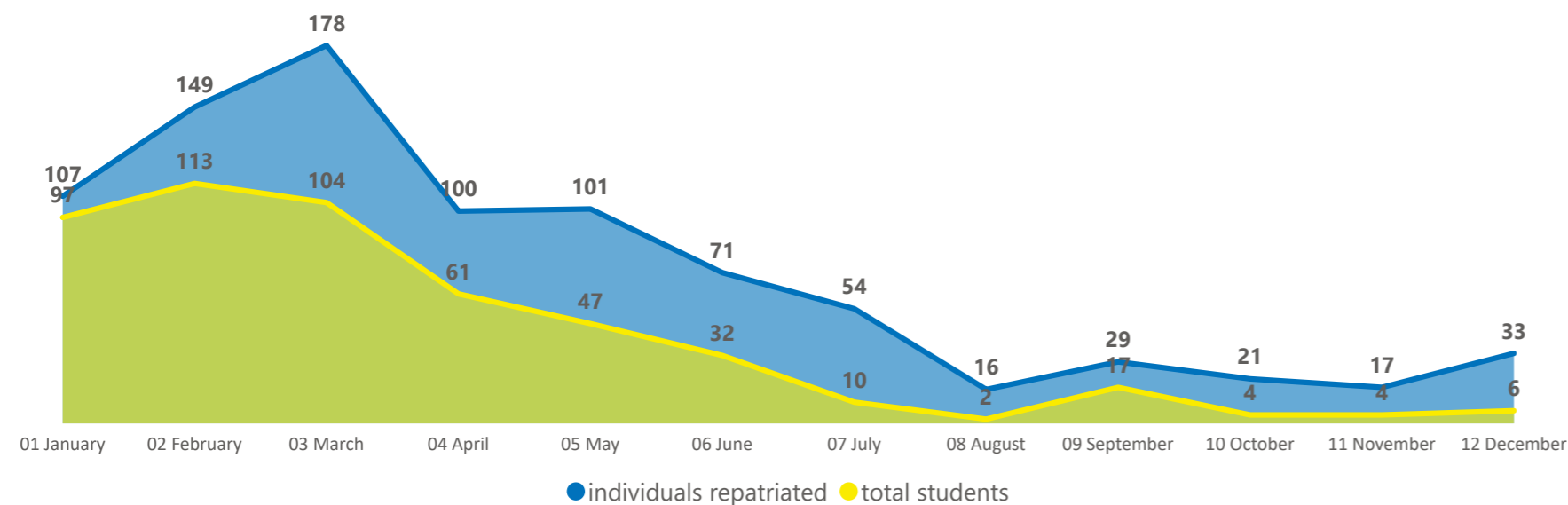


By the end of February UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 53 returnees to Afghanistan. This represents a decrease compared to the 256 repatriations facilitated in the same period in 2021. Voluntary repatriation declined to its lowest recorded numbers with -79% decrease of repatriations facilitated compared to the same period in 2021. Following the issuance of the non-return advisory for Afghanistan on 16 August 2021, UNHCR remains cautious and continues to provide enhanced counselling to prospected returnees on the situation in their final destinations and routes thereto, particularly to those with more vulnerable profiles, on a case by case basis.

Voluntary repatriation by province in Iran & intended area of return in Afghanistan



2021 monthly trend



2022 monthly trend

