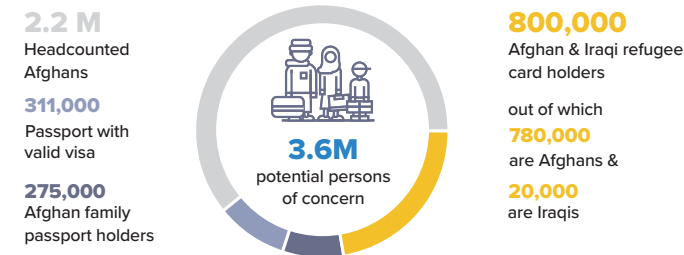


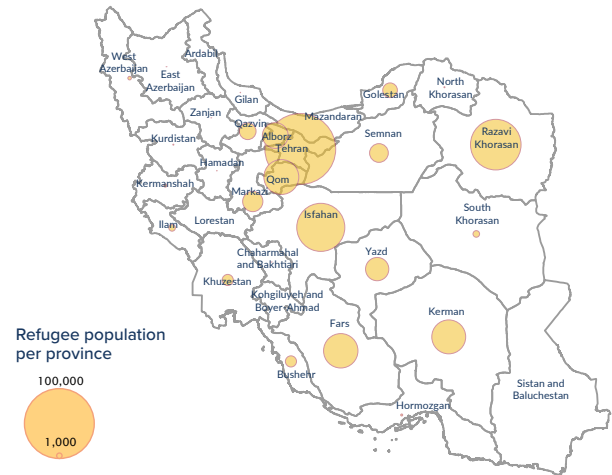
The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, first opened its office in Iran in 1984 and has since maintained an uninterrupted field presence countrywide. UNHCR's main government counterpart in Iran is the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR also collaborates with other government ministries and organizations, as well as local and international NGOs and other UN agencies, to help ensure that all refugees have covered their basic needs and can access services. UNHCR works with refugee communities and assists the most vulnerable. Through the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR works with the government to support the inclusive refugee policies, in particular in health and education.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (PoC)

In view of widespread instability in Afghanistan, as part of its protection mandate, UNHCR continues to advocate for an open and accessible asylum system for all. Some among the undocumented population may have international protection needs, particularly as the situation deteriorates in Afghanistan, for which they need to be properly screened and identified. Meanwhile, UNHCR continues to advocate for the extension of temporary protection and documentation to this group, in particular the most vulnerable, who are also indirectly supported through the existing inclusive education and health programmes put in place by the Iranian Government and supported by UNHCR.



REFUGEE POPULATION PER PROVINCE



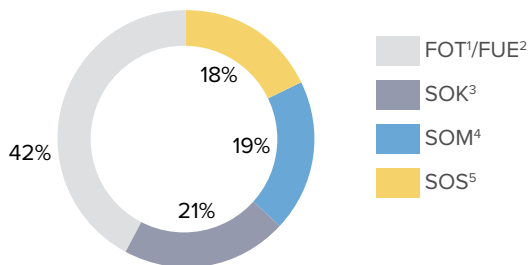
RECEPTION

By the end of Sep 2022, **31,605** individuals contacted UNHCR more than one time (57,594 approaches), out of which 13,558 were newly registered in proGres. The large majority of them were asylum-seekers (asylum-seekers 76%, *Amayesh* card holders 23% and other of concern 1%). In addition to Afghan nationals approaching UNHCR for support, some Iraqis and other nationalities also contacted the offices.



2% of the PoCs used other means of approach to UNHCR.

APPROACHES BY OFFICES

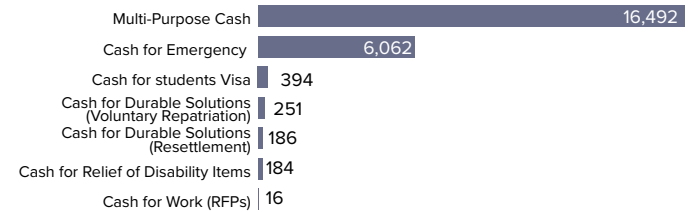


1. FOT stands for Field office Tehran
2. FUE stands for Field unit Esfahan
3. SOK stands for Sub-office Kerman
4. SOM stands for Sub-office Mashhad
5. SOS stands for Sub-office Shiraz

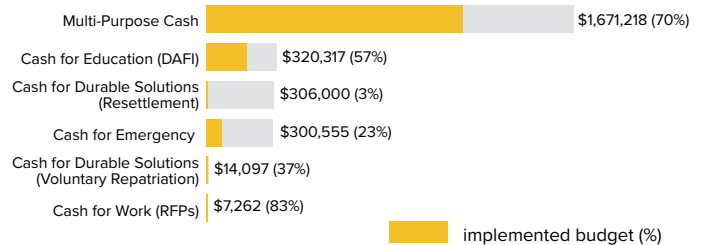
CASH BASED INTERVENTIONS

23,329 individuals related to 6,416 households in total received cash assistance from January to end of September 2022 from UNHCR. Due to different vulnerabilities, some households received cash assistance more than one time.

ASSISTED POPULATION BY ASSISTANCE TYPE



BUDGET BY ASSISTANCE TYPE



* It also includes Cash for Students Visa and Cash for Relief of Disability Items.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION (CBP)

AWARENESS RAISING AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

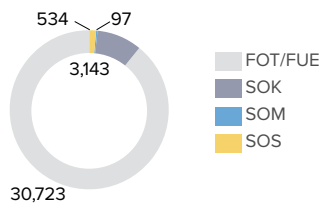
Participatory community engagement is key to improving the efficiency, legitimacy, and transparency of the program planning which are the core values of Community Based Protection (CBP). The community-based protection seeks to ensure that refugees are empowered, and their capacities and resilience are strengthened, enabling them to minimize their exposure to protection risks and improve their overall protection environment. Furthermore, the CBP interventions intend to see communities with enhanced capacities and better access to services through meaningful participation of individuals and groups of ages, genders, and backgrounds, particularly by women and youth.

In total, 31,510 individuals were reached out in person and 2,987 PoCs were approached virtually from January to September 2022. In this regard, the CBP team of UNHCR Iran conducted various missions, including 10 participatory assessments, 140 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and 530 awareness-raising and information dissemination activities, focused on the celebration of World Refugee Day, providing information regarding UNHCR services, headcount exercise, resettlement, hygiene awareness raising, parenting issues, and communication skills.

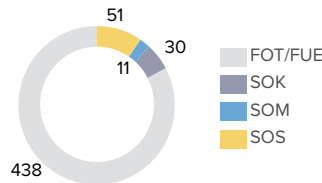
In order to better streamline UNHCR feedback and response mechanism, the standard operating procedure for the hotline is being currently reviewed following which, dedicated operators would be assigned to maximize UNHCR interaction with refugees/ PoCs. Furthermore, offices are coordinating to enhance face-to-face outreach, which will be more focused on providing information on thematic protection areas and ensuring UNHCR presence at the ground level.

Furthermore, in September, the CBP team conducted a two days workshop cum training for the CBP focal person for all the offices. The main objective of the session was to share the basic understanding of CBP and draft an action point to be incorporated in the Community Based Protection and Urban Outreach strategy.

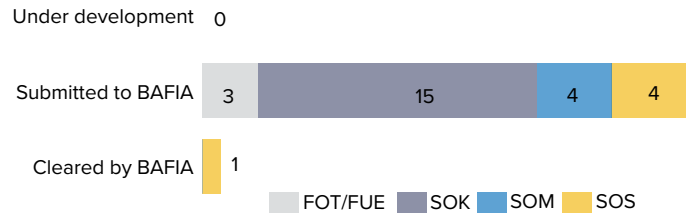
POCS ENGAGED BY OFFICES



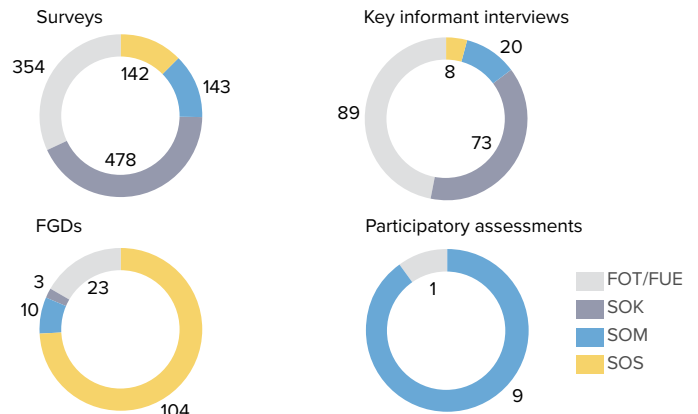
NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES BY OFFICES



COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS



NUMBER OF PARTICIPATORY DATA COLLECTION EXERCISES CONDUCTED



During this period, there was one community workshop and one interagency meeting in SOM. Another participatory data collection took place in FOT, it was regarding child protection with the presence of 5 NGOs and one refugee.

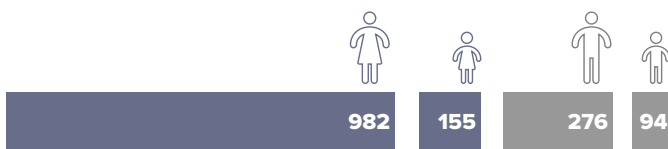
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Displacement has a profound impact on people and their communities. People who flee their homes are particularly vulnerable to emotional stress. It is estimated that one in five people in conflict-affected settings suffers from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, complicated grief, or other mental health conditions. To address the mental health needs of refugees approaching us, UNHCR Iran has contracted one Psycho-Social Counsellor (PSC) per office, to provide part-time individual counseling to PoCs in need.

Priority is given to survivors of GBV, but also survivors of torture and trauma, cases of attempted suicide, survivors and perpetrators of child abuse, substance users, and others. In consultation with UNHCR, and with the consent of PoCs, the PSCs may make referrals to the other specialists and/or the national system, if needed. UNHCR is working on strengthening the network of PSCs in the country to harmonize their approach, services and capacitate them for a better service delivery.

1,507

Psycho-social support beneficiaries



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

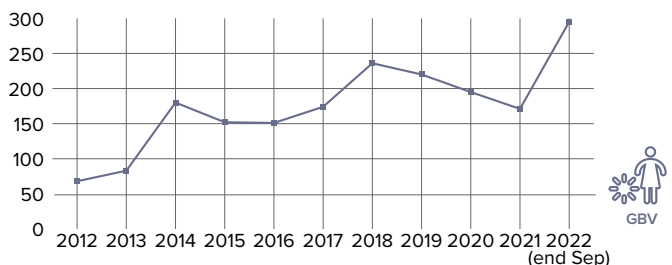
From January to September 2022, there has been an overall 74% rise in the number of services provided to GBV survivors compared to the same period in the previous year. This increase may be attributed to amplified identification by the frontline staff as well as having dedicated GBV staff who receive the cases and conduct in-depth interviews and address the needs. The most prevalent category of GBV incidents is physical assault (35%), confirming the trend in the previous quarters followed by psychological/emotional abuse (19%) and rape (15%). The overwhelming majority of the GBV survivors (96%) continue to be women and girls. In addition to the services that are directly offered by UNHCR, such as case management, legal and psychosocial supports, and CBI, a new Partnership Agreement (PA) was signed with one of the national organizations ODVV (Organization for Defending Victims of Violence) to provide psychological counseling for GBV survivors residing in the remote areas.

295

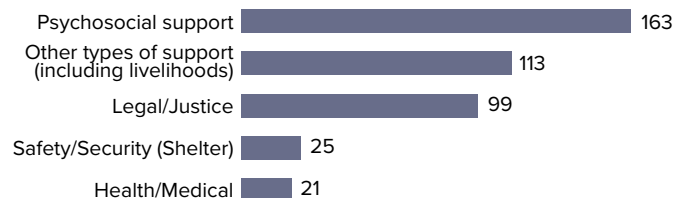
Reported GBV survivors



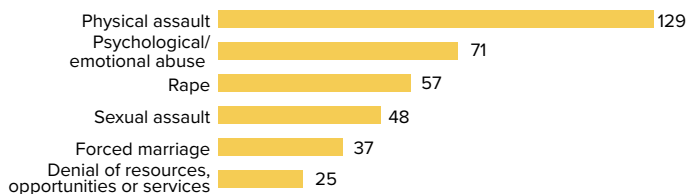
TREND: REPORTED GBV SURVIVORS OVER THE YEARS



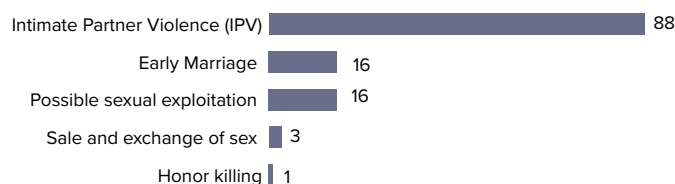
GBV TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED



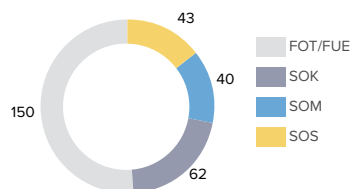
INCIDENT TYPES



GBV CASE CONTEXT



NUMBER OF GBV SURVIVORS IDENTIFIED BY OFFICES



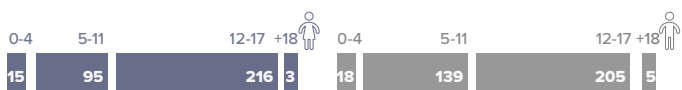
CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

UNHCR field offices' reports and collected data prove that a significant number of child POCs are facing risk in the areas of access to education, documentation and child labor, among others. On September 23rd 2022, school years started in Iran. While Iran's government issued several announcements on the enrollment of undocumented Afghan children, the scope of implementation of them remained limited. Some undocumented children did not manage to successfully complete the pre-registration processes, due to lack of information or administrative challenges. Others were not enrolled due to lack of capacity in schools. UNHCR offices recorded 1462 child at risk of not attending school since the beginning of 2022, 543 (37%) of them identified in Q3.

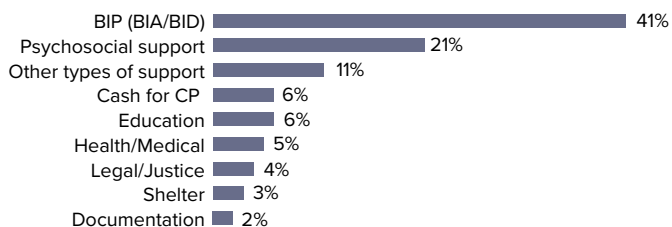
Since the amendment of Nationality Bill in favor of Children Born to Iranian mothers and non-Iranian fathers, more than 80,000 applications have been filed, majority of them for children born to Iranian mothers and Afghan fathers. The Iranian authorities announced in September 2022, that 14,000 children have already obtained nationality, which is almost double the number announced in September 2021. Although, the number of the child laborers identified remained limited (88 in Q3 and 285 since the beginning of 2022), field reports confirm how widespread is the phenomenon in the Iranian context. Government authorities also raised concerns in this regard, especially in the face of more Afghan families arriving in Iran without much economic opportunities available to them in the country.

696

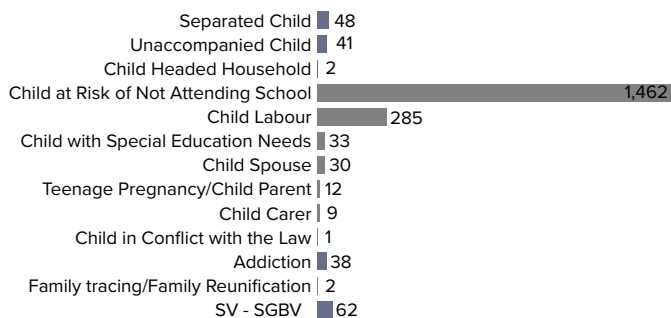
Reported children at risk



TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED/REFERRALS

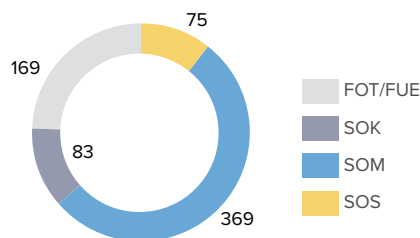


TYPES OF SPECIFIC NEEDS



In the chart above, one child may fall under several of these specific needs categories.

CHILD AT RISK BY OFFICES

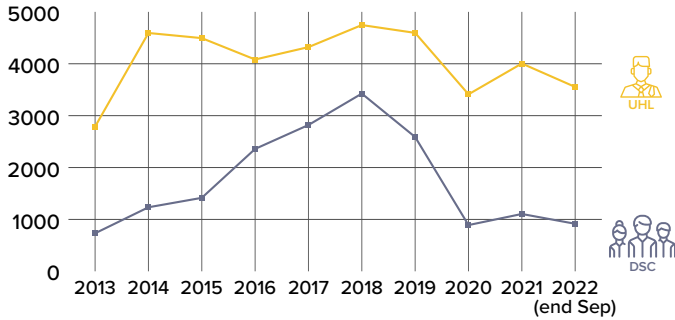


LEGAL SERVICES

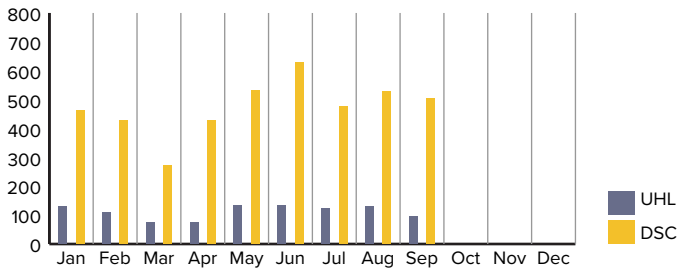
By the end of September 2022, the number of consultations provided by UNHCR Hired Lawyers (UHLs) represents an increase (15%) compared to the same period last year. The majority of the cases that UHLs supported, concerned "Family law matters", "Criminal matters" and "Civil and financial matters". Dispute Settlement Committees (DSCs) approaches increased by 17% compared to the same period in 2021 mostly due to a more limited number of active DSCs due to Covid-19 restrictions last year. "Family disputes", followed by "Financial disputes" and "Wage-related disputes" were the three most frequent areas that DSCs intervened in. Although refugees have access to Iranian courts, the DSCs offer an alternative and free-of-charge dispute resolution mechanism that complements judicial processes by finding amicable solutions in civil matters involving refugees.

916 PoCs supported through **3,553** PoCs supported by
16 Dispute Settlement Committees **17** UNHCR Hired Lawyers

TREND: UHL & DSC BENEFICIARIES OVER THE YEARS



TREND: UHL & DSC INDIVIDUALS IN 2022

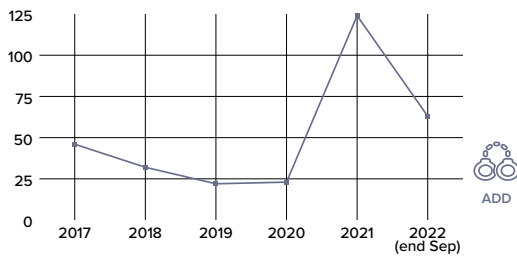


ARREST, DETENTION & DEPORTATION (ADD)

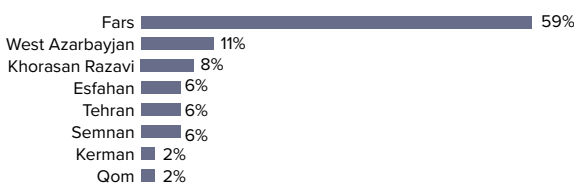
ADD incidents directly reported to UNHCR by affected PoCs (or relatives on their behalf) represent a minimal portion of the total number of ADD incidents taking place in Iran. During the reporting period, only 49 ADD incidents concerning 63 individuals were directly reported to UNHCR on grounds of irregular border crossing and lack of valid documentation. Indeed, Afghans without valid documentation are at risk of arrest, detention, and deportation in Iran. *Amayesh* Card holders must obtain a *Laissez-Passer* (travel permit) from BAFIA authorities for traveling outside their designated province of residence. During the reporting period, undocumented Afghans and also those not carrying their documentation at the time of apprehension, continued to be the target of roundup operations by law enforcement authorities. Key informants reported that detainees are not abruptly deported but undergo a screening process following which some are released and allowed to remain in the country. Key informants also reported an increase in the deportation trend as an increasing number of Afghans succeed to enter Iran. This increasing deportation trend is believed to be linked to deteriorating perceptions around Afghans negatively impacting the economy and local populations' access to job opportunities. Furthermore, xenophobic messages circulated in media outlets seem to have exacerbated a pattern by which law enforcement authorities apply legal stay/residency regulations more strictly.

63 individuals

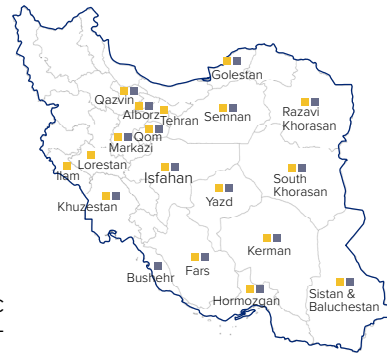
TREND: ADD CASES OVER THE YEARS



PLACE OF ARREST

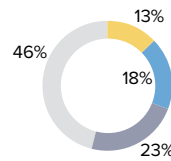


UHL & DSC LOCATIONS

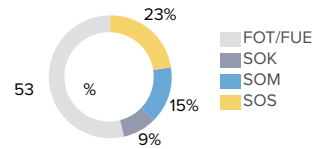


Note: The markers on the map indicate presence of UHL and/or DSC in provinces.

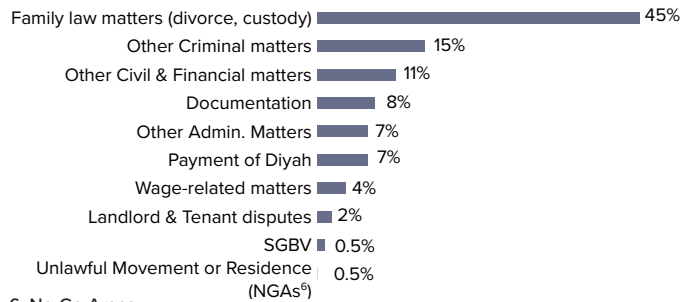
DSC BENEFICIARIES/OFFICES



UHL BENEFICIARIES/OFFICES

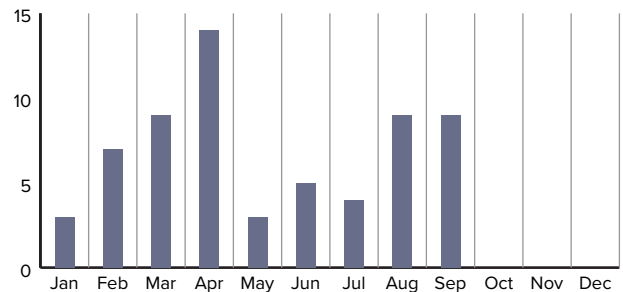


UHL TYPE OF CASES



6. No-Go Areas

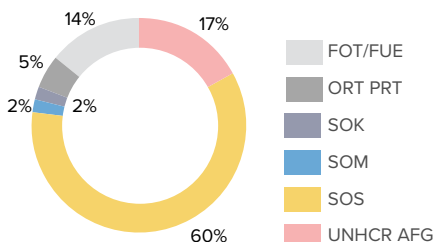
TREND: ADD CASES IN 2022



REASON OF ARREST



ADD CASES PER OFFICES



VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

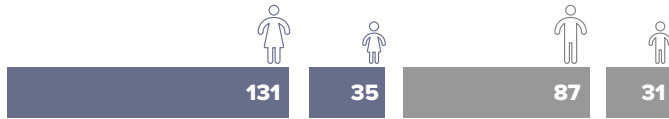
By the end of September, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 283 returnees to Afghanistan (37 in the month of September) and one returnee to Iraq. This represents a substantial decrease compared to the 806 returns facilitated in the same period in 2021. Voluntary repatriation declined by 65% compared to the same period in 2021. This decrease is due to the instability and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

283

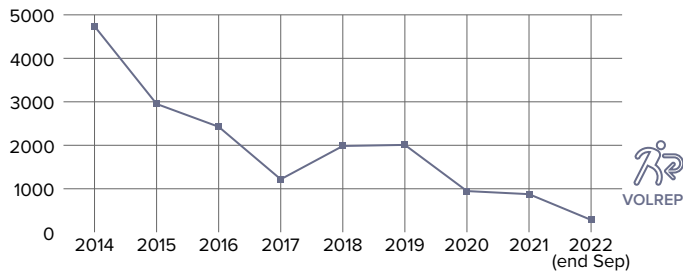
Afghan refugees voluntarily repatriated (including students)

1

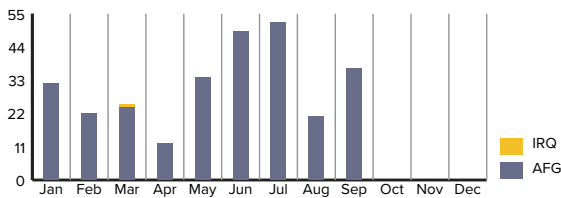
Iraqi refugee voluntarily repatriated



TREND: VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OVER THE YEARS



TREND: VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IN 2022



RESETTLEMENT

UNHCR Iran has tentatively received 3,000 resettlement quotas for 2022. From January to end September 2022, the office submitted 1,721 individuals for resettlement consideration to third countries. In the same reporting period, 70 individuals departed on resettlement.

1,721

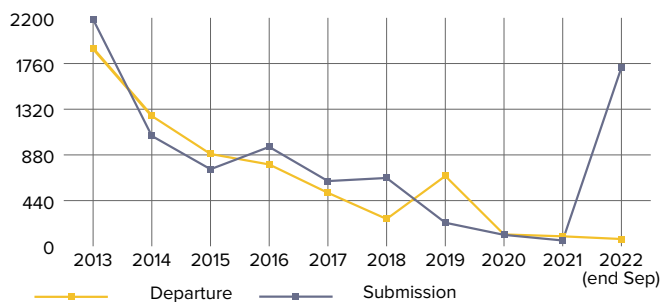
refugees submitted to resettlement countries for consideration

70

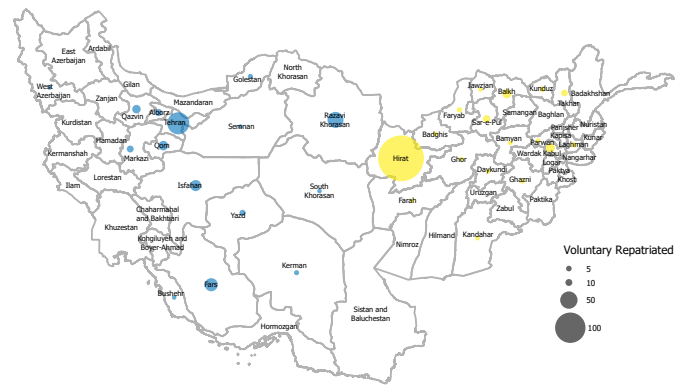
refugees departed to the resettlement countries



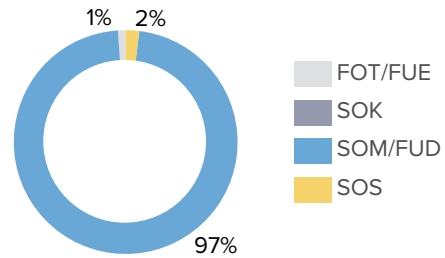
TREND: RESETTLEMENT OVER THE YEARS



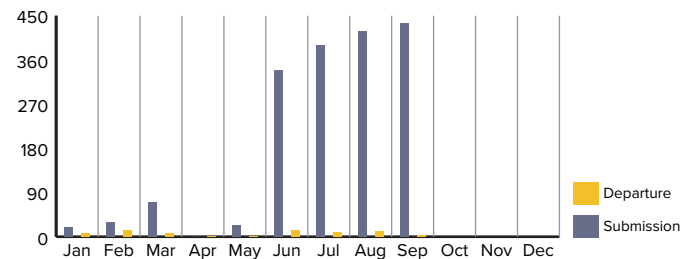
REPATRIATED BY LOCATION IN IRAN & INTENDED DESTINATION IN AFGHANISTAN



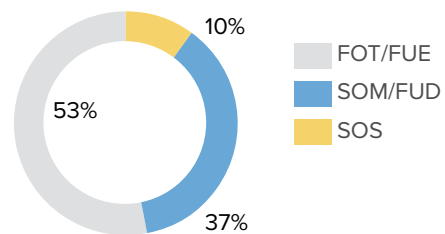
PROCESSED BY OFFICES



TREND: RESETTLEMENT IN 2022



DEPARTED INDIVIDUALS BY UNHCR OFFICES



PRIORITY OF SUBMISSION:

62 urgent/1,659 normal