



Voluntary Repatriation of Afghans from Pakistan

April 2017 | Update



Number of voluntarily repatriated refugees in 2017:

In 2017, UNHCR prioritised funds for 250,000 returns.

13,289 Facilitated for Voluntary Repatriation Process in April, 2017 from Pakistan, out of 13,289 the total number of individuals entitled for cash assistance is **12,841**. Remaining **448** either IRIS recycler/rejected.

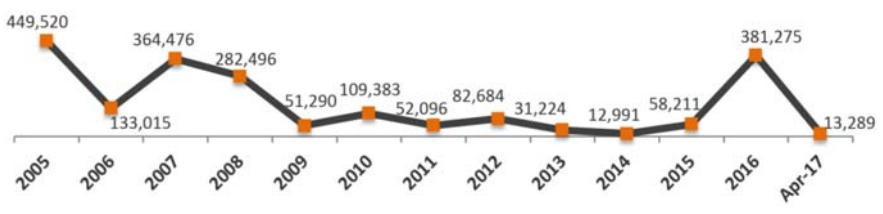
13,289

Overview of Voluntary Repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan

UNHCR facilitates the Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan refugees as part of its mandate to provide comprehensive durable solutions.

UNHCR Pakistan operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Families who want to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC, and their Proof of Registration (PoR) card, an identity card for Afghan refugees that grants their temporary legal stay in Pakistan and protection against *refoulement*, is cut in the corner. Returnees receive a cash grant of approximately 200 USD per family member once they have reached one of the three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan. UNHCR facilitated Voluntary Repatriation recommenced on 3 April after a four month winter break.

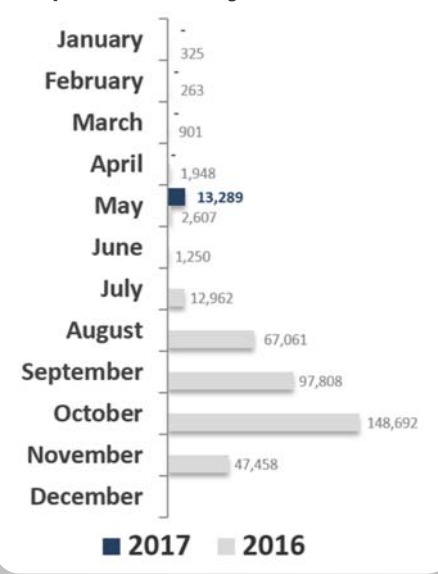
In 2016, a scheduling system for returnee families from VRC Chamkani (Peshawar) was established. All returnee families must now provide a scheduled date for their return. In April 2017, 3,822 families were scheduled for return in KP. Only, 2,503 families (65%) presented at the VRCs for their departure to Afghanistan with UNHCR's assistance. The main reasons for no-shows during the month of April were that the majority of refugees were waiting for the modified PoR cards to be delivered to them, in addition to some medical emergencies and a reduced cash grant.



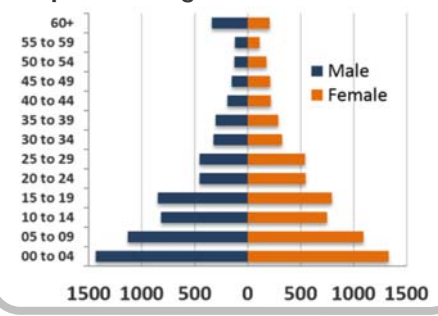
Since 2002, 4,314,460 Afghan refugees have repatriated from Pakistan with UNHCR's assistance (see chart above). The number of refugees repatriating to Afghanistan with UNHCR's assistance has fluctuated over the years and has decreased substantially, from around 450,000 in 2005 to 58,211 in 2015. 2016 saw an increase of over 381,275 returns which was the highest recorded number of returns since 2005.

In April 2017, 13,289 refugees repatriated to Afghanistan, consisting of 3,132 families. The vast majority of returns during the month are from KP(68%), followed by Balochistan(13%) and Punjab(10%) provinces. The returns in April 2017 saw a substantial increase (82%) compared to the first half of 2016, during which 7,294 individuals repatriated while, 13,289 individuals repatriated in the month of April 2017 alone.

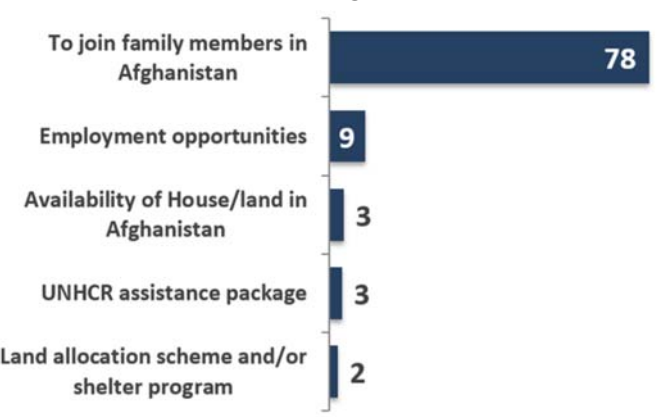
Repatriation by month



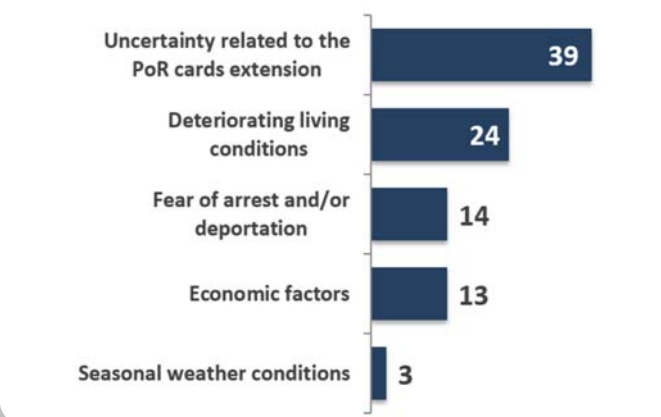
Repatriating individuals



Pull factors towards Afghanistan (%) *



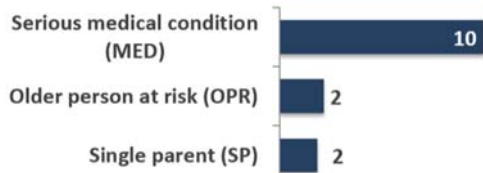
Push Factors from Pakistan (%) *



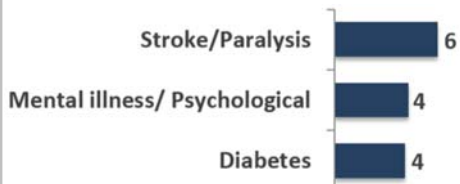
* From June 2013 exit interviews have been conducted with returnees in the VRCs in order to better understand the reasons for returning to Afghanistan and the analysis in this report is derived from these interviews. Data shown in this report is until the end of April 2017.



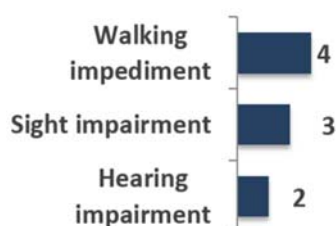
Vulnerable families (%)*



Families with at least one member with a serious medical condition (%)*

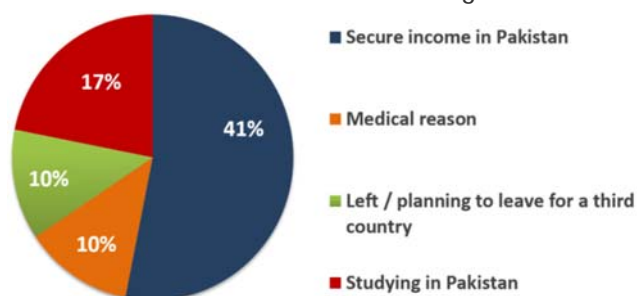


Families with at least one member with functional disabilities (%) *



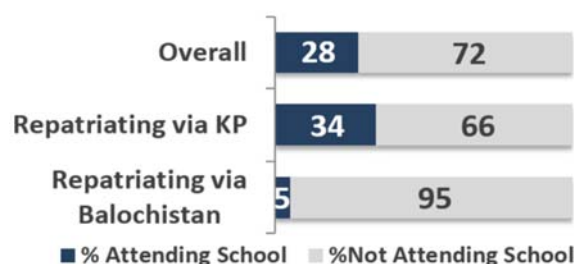
Reasons for staying in Pakistan

4% of members of repatriating families remained in Pakistan for the following reasons:



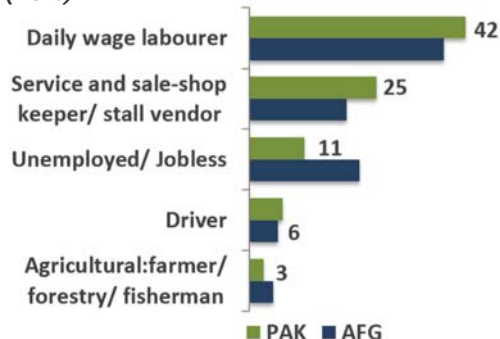
School enrolment

Children of repatriating families that attended school in Pakistan:



Professions of heads of households

Male (75%)



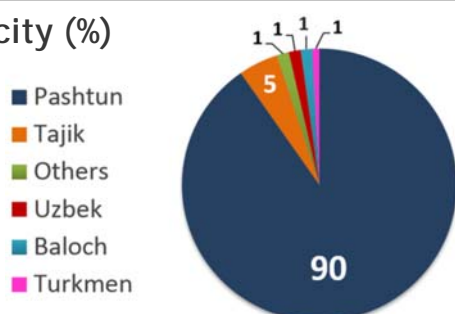
Female (25%)



Issues of concern as expressed by repatriating families (%)

In Pakistan:	
Recent arrests and detentions	2%
Lease agreement problems with landlords	1%
Bribery incidents on the way to the VRC	1%
Movement restricted outside of the refugee villages	1%
Outstanding financial or legal problems	0%
Health / medical assistance	8%
Legal aid	0%
Documentation	0%
In Afghanistan:	
Land and property disputes	1%
Lack of shelter	69%
Lack of jobs	15%
Health / medical assistance	17%
Legal aid	1%
Assistance to person with specific needs	0%

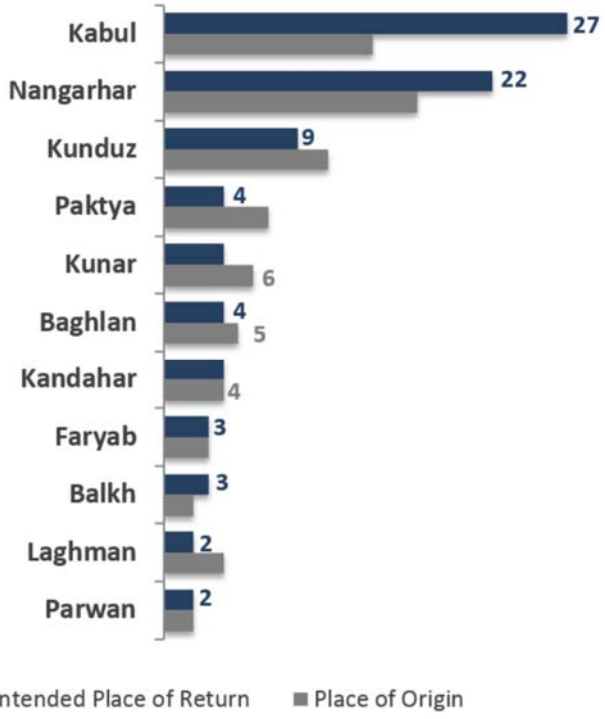
Ethnicity (%)



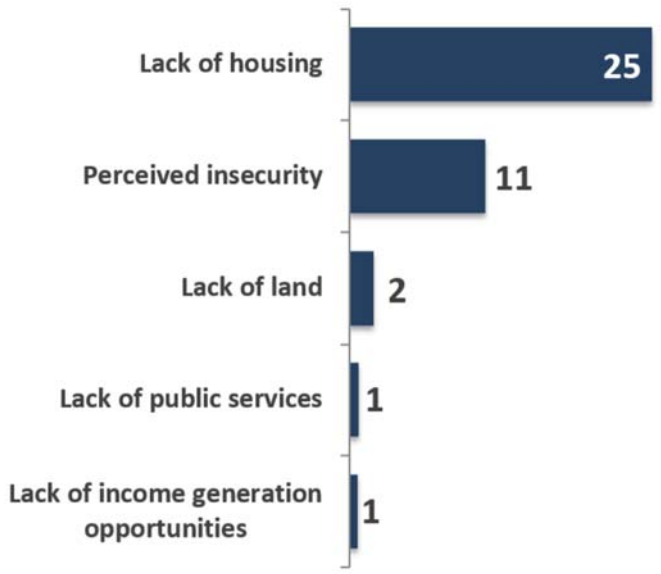
Information sources of refugees for their decision to return:



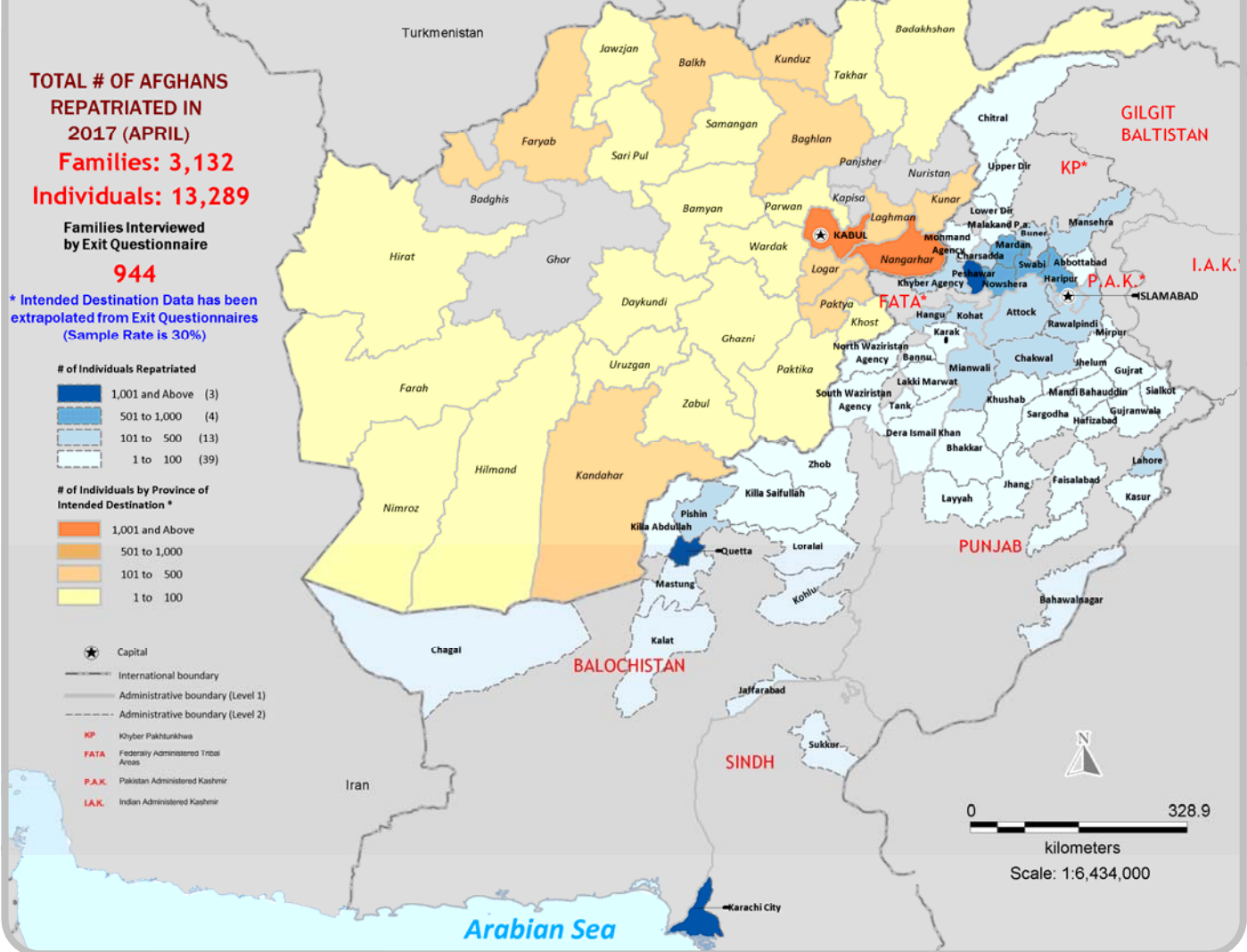
Comparison of intended place of return with place of origin (%)



40% of families did not intend to return to their place of origin for the following reasons (%):



Place of Residence in Pakistan and Intended Place of Return



Data Source: Afghan National Registration Database (ANR) - 2017 & Exit Questionnaire Database
 For feedback : Information Management Unit: Jaber@unhcr.org / Zahoor@unhcr.org
 More information available on <http://www.unhcrpk.org>