

Voluntary Repatriation Update

March 2016



Number of voluntarily repatriated refugees in 2016:

For reference, the Tripartite Commission target for 2016 is 150,000 but UNHCR has prioritised funds for 60,000 returns in 2016.

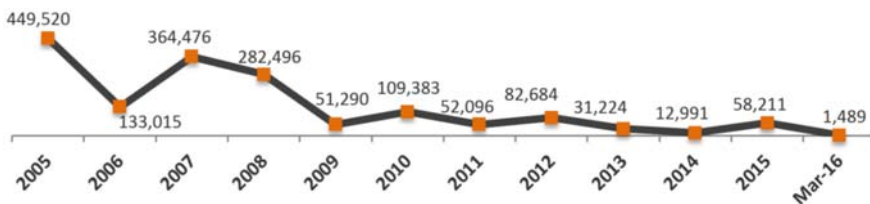
Note: 1,489 is the 2% of the 2016 target of 60,000 returns.

1,489

Overview of Voluntary Repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan

UNHCR facilitates the Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan refugees as part of UNHCR's mandate to provide comprehensive durable solution options. This also includes the submission for resettlement to third countries of approx. 1,500 refugees predominantly from Afghanistan in 2016.

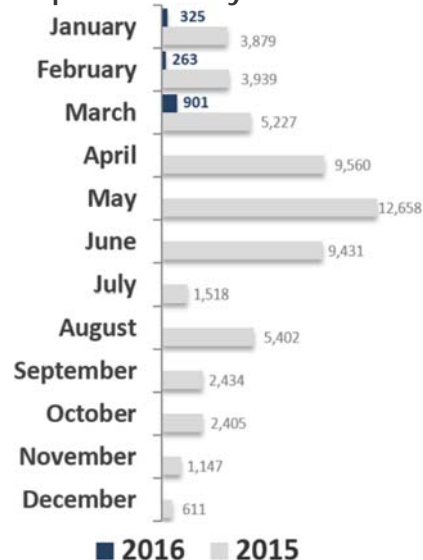
UNHCR Pakistan operates two Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRC) in Quetta and Peshawar. Families wishing to repatriate are de-registered at the VRC and give up their Proof of Registration card, an identity card for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and receive a cash grant of approximately 200 USD per family member once they have reached one of the three UNHCR Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.



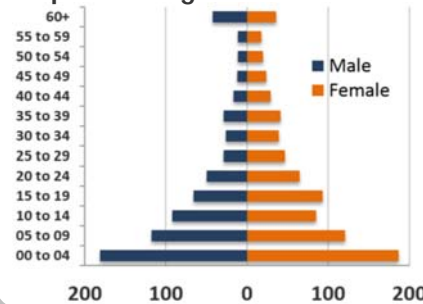
Since 2002, 3,921,385 Afghan refugees have repatriated from Pakistan with UNHCR's assistance (see chart above). The number of refugees repatriating to Afghanistan with UNHCR's assistance has fluctuated over the years and has decreased substantially, from around 450,000 in 2005 to 13,000 in 2014. 2015 saw an increase of over 58,000 returns, particularly from areas in which elevated numbers of arrests, detentions and evictions were reported after the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Counter-Terrorism.

Up until the end of March 2016, only 1,489 refugees repatriated, consisting of 316 families of which 20% were headed by women, most of whose husbands have remained in Pakistan (see note in Professions section on Page 2). The decrease in returns from 2015 is substantial, as the returns in March 2016 are 83% less than the reported figure during the same timeframe last year (901 returned in March 2016 and 5,227 returned in March 2015). This can be attributed to the decrease in harassment/pressures by law enforcement agencies than compared to the same period last year (a month after the Peshawar army public school attack) as well as the fact that the Prime Minister's Office has issued an ad-interim extension of PoR cards until 30 June 2016.

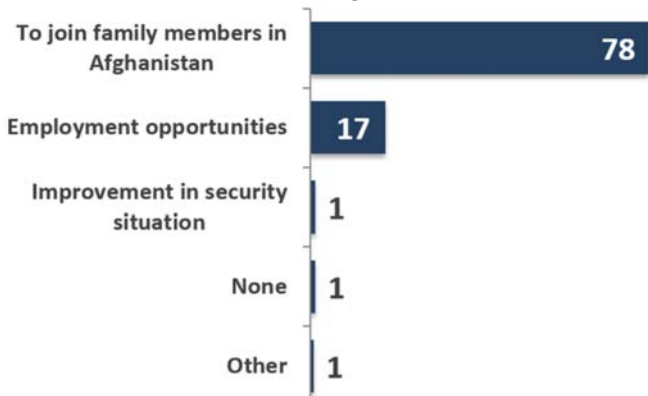
Repatriation by month



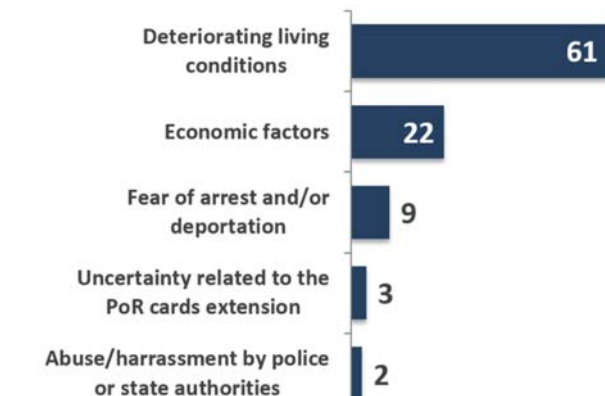
Repatriating individuals



Pull factors towards Afghanistan (%) *



Push Factors from Pakistan (%) *

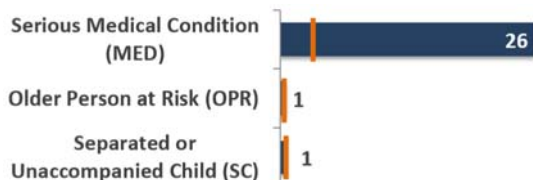


* From June 2013 exit interviews have been conducted with returnees in the VRCs in order to better understand the reasons for returning to Afghanistan and the analysis in this report is derived from these interviews. Data shown in this report is until the end of March 2016.

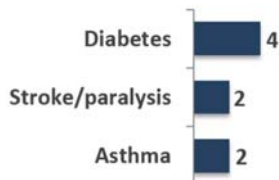
** The Tripartite Commission meets on the basis of the 2007 Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Citizens between the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan and, UNHCR.



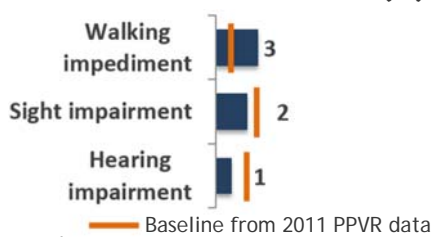
Vulnerable families (%)*



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



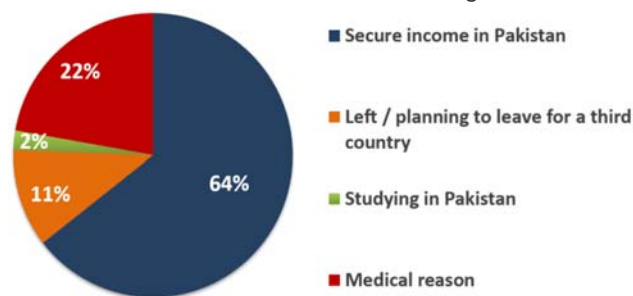
Families with at least one member with functional disabilities (%) *



* Most common three

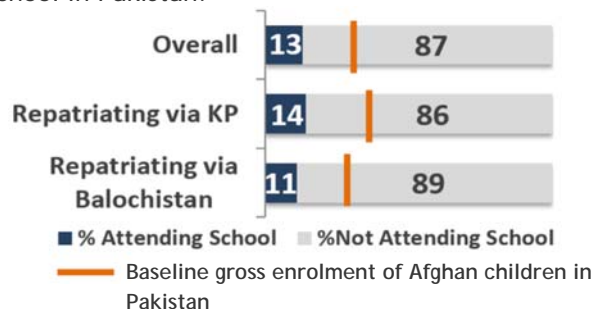
Reasons for staying in Pakistan

13% of members of repatriating families remained in Pakistan for the following reasons:



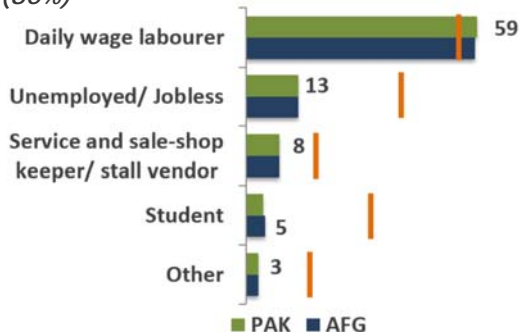
School enrolment

Children of repatriating families that attended school in Pakistan:

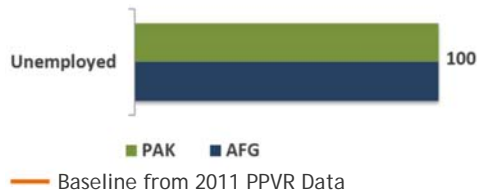


Professions of heads of households

Male (80%)



Female (20%) *

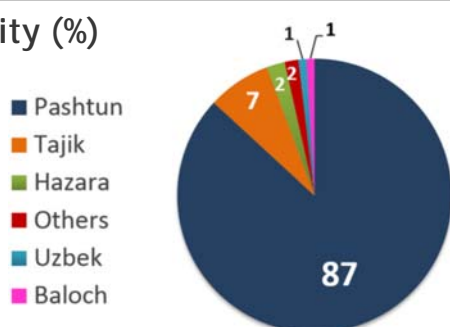


* Note that 10% of female headed households repatriated to join their husband in Afghanistan and 75% have a husband remaining in Pakistan.

Issues of concern as expressed by repatriating families (%)

In Pakistan:	
Recent arrests and detentions	1%
Lease agreement problems with landlords	1%
Bribery incidents on the way to the VRC	3%
Movement restricted outside of the refugee villages	3%
Outstanding financial or legal problems	0%
Health / medical assistance	15%
Legal aid	0%
Documentation	0%
In Afghanistan:	
Land and property disputes	1%
Lack of shelter	58%
Lack of jobs	9%
Health / medical assistance	25%
Legal aid	0%
Assistance to person with specific needs	0%

Ethnicity (%)

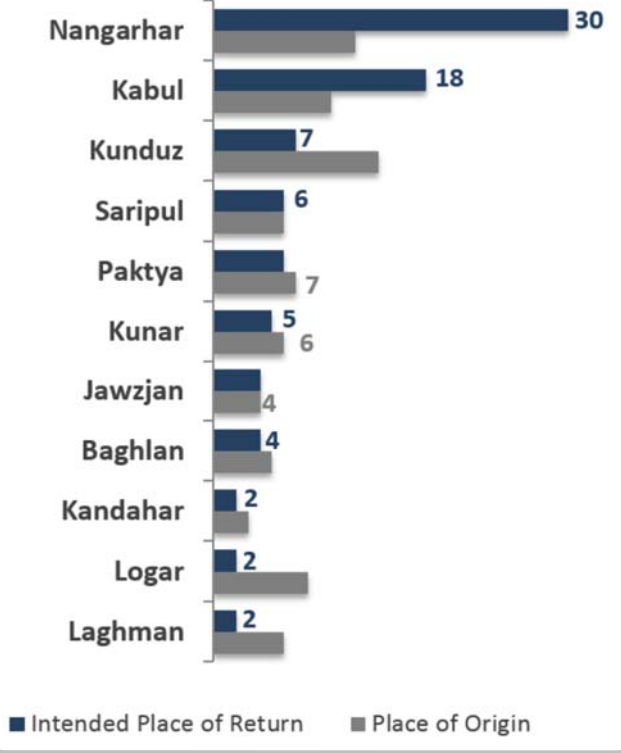


Information sources of refugees for their decision to return:

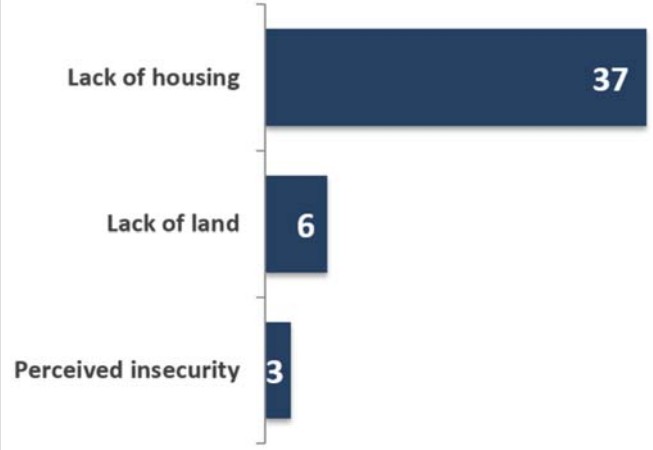




Comparison of intended place of return with place of origin (%)



46% 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

TOTAL # OF AFGHANS REPATRIATED IN 2016 (JAN - MAR)
Families: 316
Individuals: 1,489
Families Interviewed by Exit Questionnaire: 316

* Intended Destination Data has been extrapolated from Exit Questionnaires (Sample Rate is 100%)

of Individuals Repatriated

- 101 to 500 (3)
- 1 to 100 (34)

of Individuals by Province of Intended Destination*

- 101 to 500
- 1 to 100

★ Capital
 --- International boundary
 --- Administrative boundary (Level 1)
 --- Administrative boundary (Level 2)
 KP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
 FATA Federally Administered Tribal Areas
 P.A.K. Pakistan Administered Kashmir
 I.A.K. Indian Administered Kashmir

