IRAN AFGHAN VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION - JAN TO SEP 2020

as of 30 September 2020

630 refugees repatriated in 2020

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, dignifed 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.

POPULATION PROFILE

18% are students

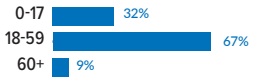
UNHCR facilitates the return of Afghan students from Iran to Afghanistan to obtain student visas to pursue their studies back in their country of asylum.

16 persons have specific needs

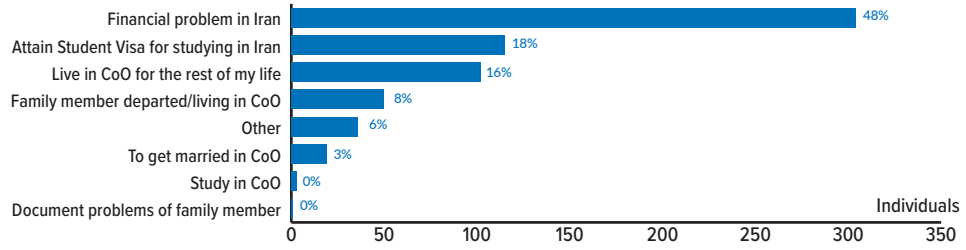
UNHCR helps returnees with specific needs including unaccompanied or separated children and elderly persons.

50% are women

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

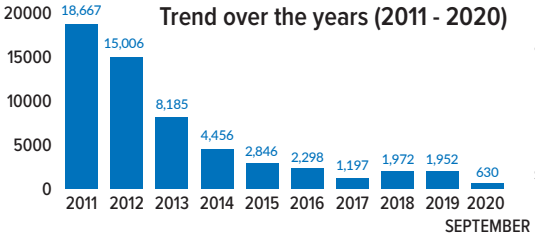


Reason of return to Afghanistan (% of individuals)



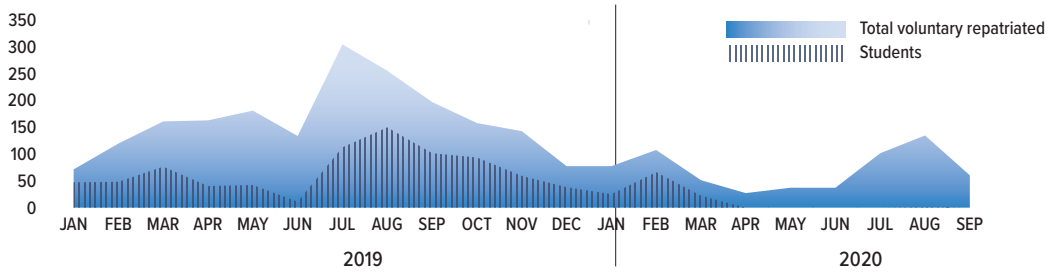
VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TRENDS

Trend over the years (2011 - 2020)



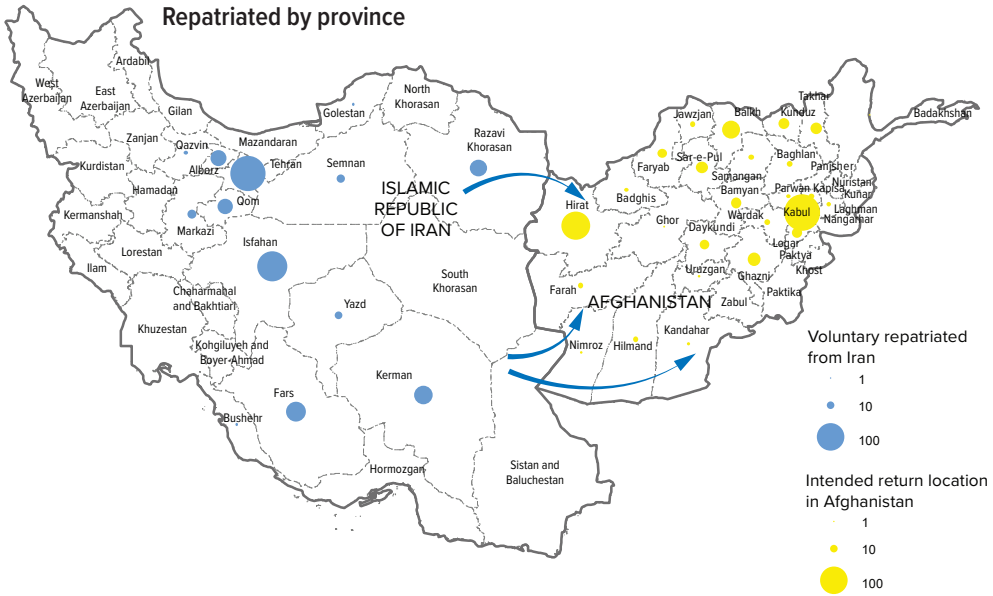
In March 2020, UNHCR suspended its VolRep activities as a preventive measure to reduce exposure of refugees, host communities and staff to COVID-19. In May, UNHCR partially resumed VolRep activities from its Field Unit in Dogharoun, in keeping with health and security measures, to assist refugees who have opted to return to Afghanistan.

Monthly trend (2019 and 2020)



VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION BY PROVINCE IN IRAN & INTENDED AREA OF RETURN IN AFGHANISTAN

Repatriated by province



Sources: UNHCR Iran. Updated: 30 Sep 2020. Contact: Patricia Delis-Gomez, Protection Officer, delis@unhcr.org; Farha Bhoyroo, Communications Officer, bhoyroo@unhcr.org.