

527
refugees
repatriated
in 2021

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.

71 %
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.

7 person have
specific needs



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

49%
are women

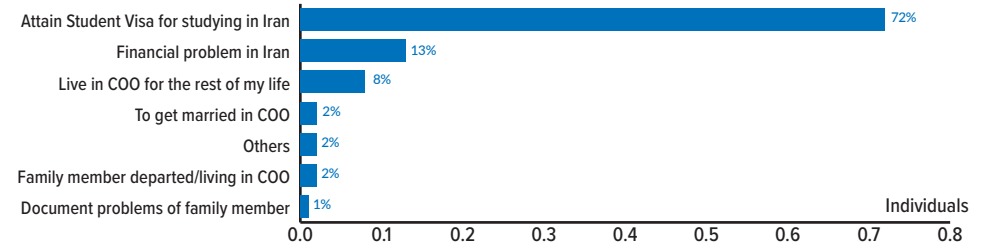


Students excluded, the age distribution for men and women combined:

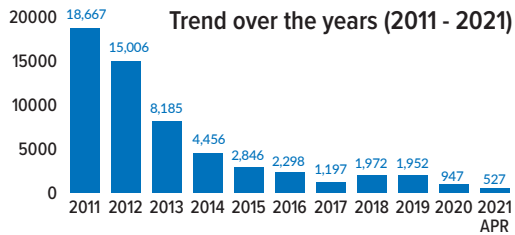
0-17	39%
18-59	53%
60+	8%

POPULATION PROFILE

Reason of return to Afghanistan (% of individuals)

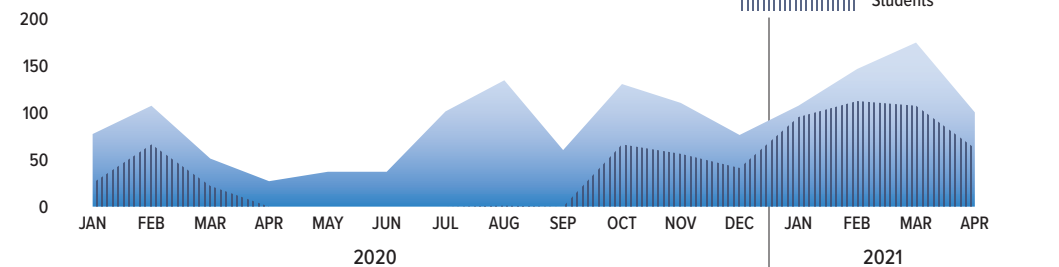


VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TRENDS

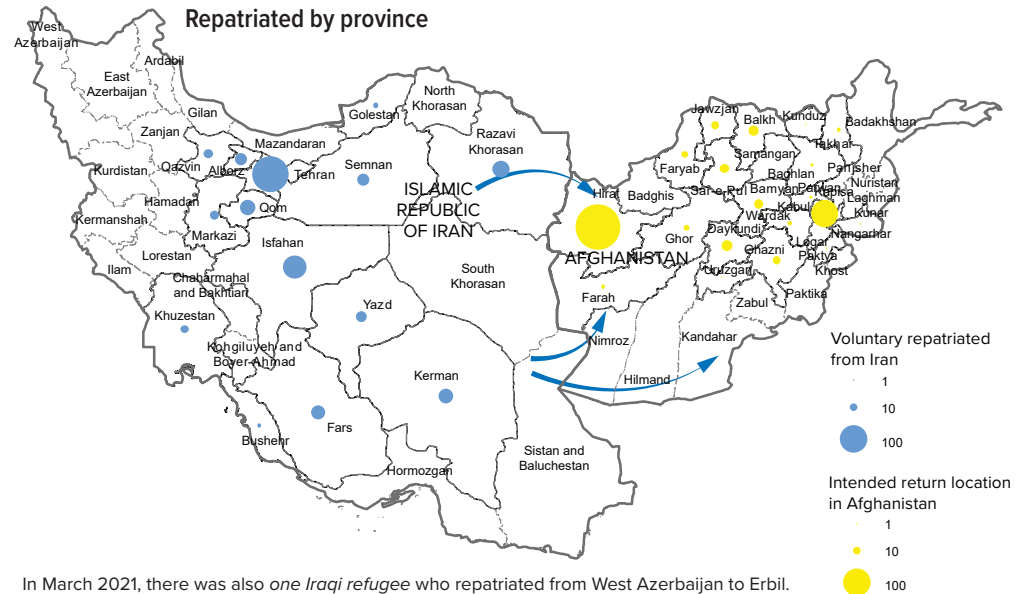


Covid-19 had a clear impact on the low VolRep trend due to internal movement restrictions, fear of spreading the disease/contagion during travel and better access to health services in Iran. Those who nevertheless opt to repatriate have seen their livelihoods severely impacted in Iran and/or are willing to reunify with family members in Afghanistan.

Monthly trend (2019 and 2021)



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



In March 2021, there was also one Iraqi refugee who repatriated from West Azerbaijan to Erbil.