Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. At the Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a voluntary repatriation cash grant of approximately USD 200 per individual, as well as a range of services to support their reintegration.

Key observations during the reporting period:
◊ Only 17% of returnees in this period were children compared with close to 50% in last quarter of 2019.
◊ 12 of the 28 returnees from Pakistan were identified as recyclers who previously received the repatriation cash grant and were now disqualified from receiving it for the second time.
◊ 5 of the 233 returnees processed for return in Iran did not appear at the Encashment Centres to collect the grant.
◊ The decrease in return, compared to the same period in 2019, can be attributed to the gradual closure of the voluntary repatriation centers in Iran and Pakistan from mid-March due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Voluntary repatriation from Pakistan was suspended from December to February due to the winter season.

RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS (Jan-Mar 2020)

RETURN PROCESS AT ENCASHMENT CENTERS IN AFGHANISTAN

RETURNS PROCESSED AT ENCASHMENT CENTERS IN AFGHANISTAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Returns from</th>
<th>From Iran</th>
<th>from Pakistan</th>
<th>from other countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>278 Returns from Jan-Mar 2020*</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns in 2019</td>
<td>8,079</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>6,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberation or otherwise by the various sources. Arrows reflected in the map do not reflect the routes but only indicate return movement.

* The number of refugees processed for return in Pakistan and Iran may sometimes be higher than those processed at encashment centers in Afghanistan. This is due to the presence of recycled cases applying for voluntary repatriation a second time and also persons not presenting to collect the cash grant in Afghanistan.
ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTERS (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN

In addition to cash grants, a range of inter-agency services are provided for returning refugees, including basic health and malnutrition screening and vaccination, mine risk awareness, information on school enrolment, and overnight accommodation, if needed.

USD 58,000 was provided in cash assistance to returnees at ECs in Q1 of 2020. A total of 1.68M was provided in 2019.

REASONS AND INTENTIONS RELATED TO RETURN

Reasons for leaving Pakistan and Iran

- High costs of living/rent: 32% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- No employment opportunities: 11% in Pakistan, 32% in Iran
- Strict border entry requirements: 6% in Pakistan, 17% in Iran
- Fear of arrest/deportation: 16% in Pakistan, 21% in Iran
- Other: 16% in Pakistan, 21% in Iran

Reasons for return to Afghanistan (pull factors)

- UNHCR assistance package: 27% in Pakistan, 32% in Iran
- Reunion with family in Afghanistan: 24% in Pakistan, 23% in Iran
- Land allocation scheme/shelter program: 16% in Pakistan, 30% in Iran
- Employment opportunities: 7% in Pakistan, 7% in Iran
- Improvement in health & education facilities: 2% in Pakistan, 10% in Iran
- Other: 5% in Pakistan, 10% in Iran

Reasons for not returning to Province of Origin

- Perceived insecurity: 21.6% in Pakistan, 21.4% in Iran
- To re-unite with relatives: 18% in Pakistan, 16.2% in Iran
- Lack of income opportunities: 22.5% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran
- Lack of housing/shelter: 30% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- Lack of land: 13.3% in Pakistan, 16% in Iran
- Other: 9.5% in Pakistan, 10% in Iran

Upon return, how do you plan to spend the cash grant?

- Paying transportation costs: 36% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- Buying food and commodities: 11% in Pakistan, 5% in Iran
- Rent accommodation: 5% in Pakistan, 5% in Iran
- Building shelter: 8% in Pakistan, 5% in Iran
- Investment in livelihoods: 26% in Pakistan, 28% in Iran
- Other: 11% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran

After you spend your cash grant, how will you support your family?

- Rely on daily wage: 61% in Pakistan, 7% in Iran
- Borrow from relatives to start up a small business: 8% in Pakistan, 5% in Iran
- Will join army or police: 2.2% in Pakistan, 7% in Iran
- Will sell my asset(s): 1.1% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran
- Other: 0.3% in Pakistan, 5% in Iran

What will be your living arrangements after return?

- Rental: 39% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- Own house: 22% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- Relatives house: 35% in Pakistan, 35% in Iran
- Open area: 2% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran
- Makeshift shelter: 1% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran
- Tent: 0.6% in Pakistan, 15.6% in Iran

REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (2018, 2019, 2020)

For more information: