## RETURNS PROCESSED AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES IN AFGHANISTAN <br> R <br> 573 <br> Returns from <br> Jan-Mar 2021* <br> 433 from Iran <br> 134 from Pakistan <br> 6 from other Countries <br> 278 <br> Returns in <br> Jan-Mar 2020 <br> 228 from Iran <br> 16 from Pakistan <br> 34 from other Countries

Since 2002, nearly 5.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation programme. During the first quarter of 2021, a total of 573 Afghans have returned, this is $106 \%$ more than in the similar period of 2020. This increase in the number of returnees, compared to 2020, was largely due to the temporary suspension of UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation linked to COVID-19 in 2020, while worsening security and economic situation across Afghanistan remain unchanged. Voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees through Torkham crossing point remain suspended as a result of customs formalities imposed by the Pakistan authorities since November 2020. UNHCR Office in Pakistan is following-up on this issue.

At Encashment Centres in Afghanistan, returning refugees receive a cash grant of approximately USD 250 per individual, as well as a range of services to support their reintegration.

## RETURNEE DEMOGRAPHICS



## ASSISTANCE AT ENCASHMENT CENTRES (ECs) IN AFGHANISTAN <br> USD \$141,816 was provided in cash

 assistance to returnees at ECs in Q1 of 2021.A total of $\mathbf{\$ 5 7 , 9 0 5}$ was provided in the same period of 2020.
Beside 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. In addition, UNHCR, in line with the measures recommended by MoPH and WHO, adopted a new SOP in all ECs, aiming to prevent the spread and transmission of COVID-19.

PROVINCE OF DESTINATION (Figures reflect returns processed at encashment centers in Afghanistan)


[^0]Reasons for leaving Pakistan and Iran

| High costs of living/rent |  | $\mathbf{3 5 \%}$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| No employment opportunities |  | $\mathbf{3 4 \%}$ |
| Fear of COVID-19 |  | $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ |
| Denial of access to basic services | $\mathbf{7 \%}$ |  |
| Fear of arrest and/or deportation | $\mathbf{2 \%}$ |  |
| Other | $\mathbf{2 \%}$ |  |

Reasons for return to Afghanistan (pull factors)


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


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

85\% of the respondents were aware of the cash grants prior to the return However, only $\mathbf{4 1 \%}$ had information regarding the amount.


Interviewed returnees' skills/qualifications


What will be your living arrangements after return?


Other 3\%

REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO AFGHANISTAN 2002-2021


REGISTERED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION (zoomed in view 2018-2021)



[^0]:    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 centres 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.

