Since 2002, UNHCR Iran has supported nearly 1 million refugees to voluntary repatriate in safety and dignity to Afghanistan and Iraq, taking into account the UNHCR Non-Return Advisory[1] and UNHCR Global Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan[2]. However, as the situation in Afghanistan remains fragile, only a small number of Afghan refugees in Iran have shown willingness to return to their home country. Repatriation of Afghan students to obtain visas to continue their studies in Iran has significantly declined to 10% of the repatriates in 2023. UNHCR supports the Iranian 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 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.

As of end of August 2023, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of 388 individuals which includes 386 Afghans and 2 Iraqis – 66 individuals repatriated in the month of August. This represents a 56% increase compared to the same period in 2022. Amongst the main reasons for return, returnees stated facing financial difficules in Iran, and family reunification.

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**Top 5 reason of return to Afghanistan by month (% of individuals)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Family reunification</th>
<th>Financial constraints in COA</th>
<th>Get married</th>
<th>Improved situation in COA</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>To acquire documentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 January</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 February</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 March</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 April</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 May</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 June</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 July</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 August</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Trend over the years (2016-2023)**

- **2016**: 2432
- **2017**: 1232
- **2018**: 1984
- **2019**: 2010
- **2020**: 947
- **2021**: 879
- **2022**: 379
- **2023**: 388

**2022 monthly trend**

- **January**: 32
- **February**: 22
- **March**: 25
- **April**: 34
- **May**: 50
- **June**: 52
- **July**: 21
- **August**: 4
- **September**: 37
- **October**: 52
- **November**: 26
- **December**: 16

**2023 monthly trend**

- **January**: 10
- **February**: 22
- **March**: 65
- **April**: 38
- **May**: 83
- **June**: 74
- **July**: 30
- **August**: 66

**Province of residence in Iran**

**Intended return province in Afghanistan**

[1] UNHCR, UNHCR Position on Returns to Afghanistan, August 2021, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/611a4c5c4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/611a4c5c4.html);