



Voluntary Repatriation Operation Weekly Statistical Update

**Statistical overview of Afghan refugees repatriating from Pakistan
for period 07 November - 20 November 2003
in comparison to cumulative for 2003**

Contents:

ABOUT CONTENTS: 3

OBSERVATIONS MADE COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS WEEKLY REPORT: 4

OVERALL OBSERVATION: 5

1. NUMBER OF RETURNS 7

 ➤ DAILY RETURN FIGURES BY PROVINCE OF REGISTRATION IN PAKISTAN FOR WEEK, 07 NOV – 20 NOV. 2003 7

 ➤ CUMULATIVE RETURN FIGURES BY PROVINCE OF REGISTRATION IN PAKISTAN FOR PERIOD 01 JAN – 20 NOV 2003

2. IRIS RECOGNITION PROCESSING STATISTICS* 8

3. RETURNEES REPATRIATING FROM CAMPS VS OUTSIDE CAMPS (1 JAN – 20 NOV 2003) 10

4. ETHNICITY AND GENDER 12

5. WEEKLY TRENDS – ETHNIC BREAKDOWN COMPARED TO 2002 13

6. ETHNICITY AND PROVINCE OF RETURN 14

 ➤ CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR PERIOD 01 JAN – 20 NOV 2003 14

7. AGE BREAKDOWN OF RETURNEES IN 2002 AND 2003 15

8. AFGHAN RETURNEES BY EDUCATION COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY (JANUARY – 20 NOVEMBER 2003) 16

9. PROVINCE OF RETURN AND DEPARTURE 17

 ➤ CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR PERIOD 01 JAN – 20 NOV 2003 17

Attachments:

- MAP – ETHNIC BREAKDOWN AND TOTALS**
- MAP – BREAKDOWN PER PROVINCES OF RETURN AND DEPARTURE**

About the contents of this report

All the figures shown in this report refer to Afghans registered in Pakistan by UNHCR for the Voluntary Repatriation Operation in 2003. In 2002, UNHCR registered 1.56 million returns not counting the spontaneous (not assisted) returns. Repatriation continued throughout the winter, stopping only for the month of February, and resuming on 9 March 2003. As a result, cumulative figures refer to those Afghans assisted from 9 March 2003 to 20 November 2003, as well as those registered in January 2003.

All refugees approaching UNHCR for return assistance are verified by repatriation staff, to determine i) whether their intent to return is genuine and voluntary; ii) whether their family composition is genuine; and iii) whether they are being registered and processed by UNHCR for the first time (since the start of the operation on 1 March 2002).

Based on a decision reached by UNHCR and the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the Tripartite Commission on 14 May 2003, the Chaman waiting area was definitively closed in July 2003. Refugees had the option of returning voluntarily with UNHCR assistance, relocating to the Moh. Kheil camp in Balochistan, or relocating to the Zhare Dasht settlement outside of Kandahar. Once this exercise was complete, 10,757 refugees had relocated to Zhare Dasht, and are thus included in the cumulative return total for 2003, i.e. 342,945 refugees. The relocated population, however, is not included in some parts of the analytical tables and graphs shown in this report since it was group repatriation and its details on individuals were not captured.

During immediate daily reporting, one Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF) is counted as one “family”. This includes, however, single persons registering for return, who do not actually constitute a “family.” As UNHCR registered some 1,199 single persons in 2003, the total number of “families” returning this year is actually 61,299 (as opposed to 62,498, which appears in this report).

In addition to assisted returns, spontaneous returns also occurred in 2003, i.e., those Afghans repatriating without seeking UNHCR’s assistance. UNHCR has been monitoring these returns at official border crossings only (Torkham border crossing in NWFP and Chaman border crossing in Balochistan). According to border monitors 4,218 families/26,529 Afghans returned spontaneously through Torkham and 1,913 families/12,492 Afghans returned through Chaman, in 2003. Although monitored, these returns are not included in this statistical update.

Figures shown in this report are taken from the UNHCR repatriation databases maintained in Sub Office Quetta and Peshawar, and subsequently consolidated in the central database in Islamabad. The information contained in the report is the best information made available up to the date the report is being compiled – 20 November 2003.

Full information about assisted repatriating families is recorded manually at first in the field during the process of pre-registration and then finally validated upon departure at the Iris Validation Center (IVCs). VRFs are then forwarded to the Sub Offices for further data processing. Because of this process of data transfer, delays can occur and hence result in discrepancies. In other words, should repatriation staff at IVCs be prevented in transferring VRFs (because of security reasons, for example) to their Sub-Offices, the total number of returns recorded may in fact be lower than what was actually registered on any given day.

Observations made compared to the previous weekly report:

- **General:** The total number of returns reported for the previous week (07 to 13 Nov 03) was 1,248 individuals. Total for this week (14 to 20 Nov 03) is 1,347, 7 percent lower. (on page 7)
- **Province of registration:** Repatriation has decreased in NWFP by 42 percent, Sindh by 9 percent and Punjab/Islamabad by 49 percent, it has increased in Balochistan by 23 percent thus resulting to the overall decrease of 7 percent for the whole country as compared to the last week. (on page 7). Cumulatively, since beginning of March, 54 percent of the refugees have returned from NWFP, 10 percent from Sindh, 19 percent from Balochistan (of which 3 percent departed the Chaman waiting area), 12 percent from Punjab and 2 percent from Islamabad. Percents for NWFP, Sindh and Punjab/Islamabad this week were in lower rate as for the year opposed to Balochistan which have higher rate of participation to the country total as compared to the figures for the whole year 2003. The pattern for last two weeks was that most of the refugees are repatriating from Balochistan (57%) which is higher than the average for the year 2003 (22 percent). (on page 7).
- **Province of return:** Main area of return for the year continues to be Kabul (Central) which is 27 percent followed by Nangarhar (East) with 22 percent, Kanduz (North) and Gahzni (Cent) are 7 percents each, Baghlan (North) is 5 percent, Jawzjan (North), Balkh (North), Kandahar (South) and Logar (Cent) have participated in the country by 3 percent each. The rest of provinces all participate with 2 or less than 2 percent. (on page 17)
- **Ethnicity:** Figures have decreased in absolute numbers for all ethnicities except for Uzbeks and Turkmen. However the ethnic composition of the returnees is a bit different from the year average. Statistics of returns broken by ethnicity as compared to the year average are significantly higher for Pashtuns (73% vs. 67%) and Turkmen. (0.3% vs. 2%). Participation of Tajiks for the last couple of week was significantly lower (13 percent) than the year average (20%). Pashtuns continue to have a higher participation in the country total (73 percent) (on page 12).
- **Age and gender:** Age and gender breakdown of the returnees has a similar steady pattern as last year. Percentage of women this week was 50 same as for total in 2002 and/or 2003. Median age is at around 12, population under 5 is 24 percent, 5 to 18 and over 18 are 38 percent, which is almost identical to previous week and the rest of the year (on page 15)
- **Education:** Twenty-six percent of the age group 5 to 12 were attending primary education and 9 percent in the age group of 13 to 18 were attending the secondary school in Pakistan. In age group of over 13, 8 percent have completed the primary education and 6 percent have completed the secondary education in the age group of over 18. Only 2 percent of over 18 have completed university education and 0.3 percent of returnees aged over 18 have their university studies underway, this group obviously reluctant to return to Afghanistan (on page 16)
- **Repatriation from Camps:** Returnees repatriating from camps made 31 percent of the overall number since January (on page 10)
- **Iris recognition statistics.** The rate of persons being recognized in the Iris recognition database is 0.33 percent out of total or 0.5 per cent out of those that have undergone the test (SCE excluding children and others that do not undergo the test). In other words 50 out 10,000 persons of age 6 and above are being identified in the IRIS database as people that have been registered for assistance in the past already. ***Until 21 July the lower age limit of those that were undergoing the IRIS recognition test was 12 and above. This was changed due to the phenomenon observed by UNHCR staff of some refugees misusing children under 12 for recycling purposes. Iris recognition technology as part of the verification procedures is proving to be a deterrent factor for the recycling phenomenon in the repatriation operation (on page 8)***

Overall observation:

The return week (14 to 20 Nov 03) has gone down by 7 percent as compared to the previous week. Along with the continuously falling trend due to seasonal reasons repatriation was low also due to the fact that UNHCR has temporarily closed its voluntary repatriation centers for Afghan refugees in Peshawar and Quetta on Monday 17th Nov until further notice because of the brutal killing of a UNHCR officer, Bettina Goislard on Sunday 16 Nov 2003. Because of this incident most of the encashment centers in Afghanistan have closed down until the security situation of UNHCR staff is properly assessed.

Repatriation has decreased in NWFP by 42 percent, Sindh by 9 percent and Punjab/Islamabad by 49 percent, it has increased in Balochistan by 23 percent thus resulting to the overall decrease of 7 percent for the whole country as compared to the last week.

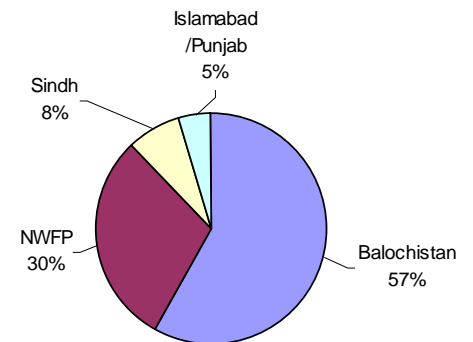
Participation of Tajiks was lower in percent this week whereas for the Pashtuns it was higher than the year average.

For queries please contact Merkur Beqiri at BEQIRIME@UNHCR.CH or Bilal Ashraf at ASHRAFB@UNHCR.CH

1. NUMBER OF RETURNS

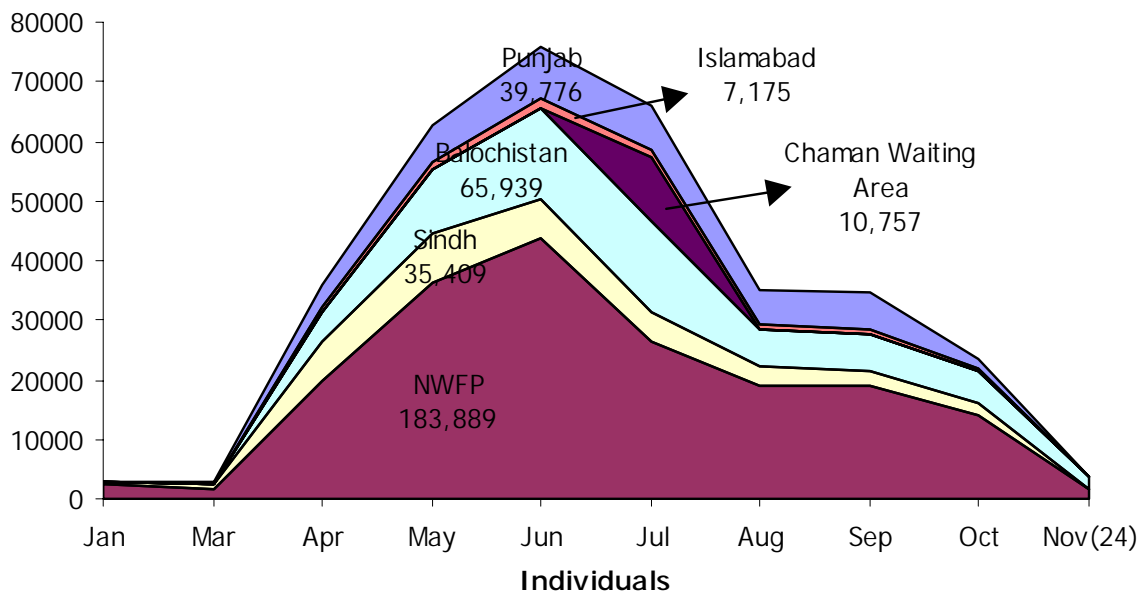
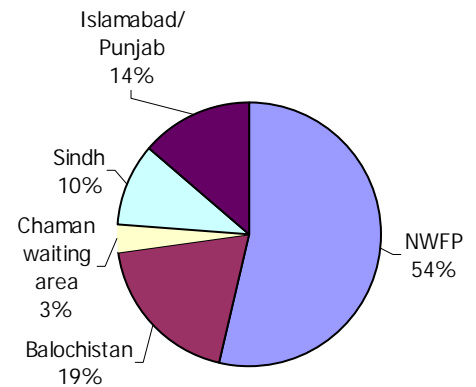
➤ Weekly return figures by province of registration in Pakistan for period 07 November – 20 November 2003¹

Weekly total	Fam.	Ind.	Figures From last week (07-13)	Figures from this week (14-20)	Compared to last week
NWFP	157	778	287	491	-42%
Balochistan	282	1,497	825	672	23%
Sindh	46	202	96	106	-9%
Islamabad/Punjab	26	118	40	78	-49%
Country total	511	2,595	1,248	1,347	-7%



➤ Cumulative return figures by province of registration in Pakistan for period 01 January – 20 November 2003

Province	Fam.	Ind.	In percent
NWFP	32,777	183,889	54
Balochistan	11,583	65,939	19
Chaman waiting area	2,358	10,757	3
Sindh	7,650	35,409	10
Islamabad/Punjab	8,130	46,951	14
Grand total	62,498	342,945	100

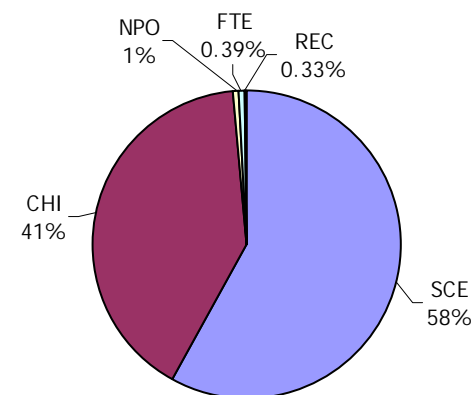


¹ Iris Validation Centers do not operate Fridays and Saturdays.

2. IRIS RECOGNITION PROCESSING STATISTICS*

Individuals undergoing IRIS verification – for period March to November (20) 2003.

IVC (Iris Validation Center/s)	Cumulative total (March - November 20 2003)				
	SCE	CHI	FTE	NPO	REC
Hayat Abad (Old Takhta Baig)	-	-	-	-	-
Ali Zai	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Team	-	-	-	-	-
NWFP sub total	151,283	94,180	1,200	1,946	1,014
Chaman	37,147	37,453	65	582	62
Balochistan sub total	37,147	37,453	65	582	62
Grand total	188,430	131,633	1,265	2,528	1,076



Iris recognition statistics. The rate of persons being recognized in the Iris recognition database is 0.33 percent out of total or 0.5 % out of those that have undergone the test (SCE excluding children and others that do not undergo the test). In other words 50 out 10,000 persons of age 6 and above are being identified in the IRIS database as people that have been registered for assistance in the past already. Until 21 July the lower age limit of those that were undergoing the IRIS recognition test was 12 and above. This was changed due to the phenomenon observed by UNHCR staff of some refugees misusing children under 12 for recycling purposes. Iris recognition technology as part of the verification procedures is proving to be a deterrent factor for the recycling phenomenon in the repatriation operation

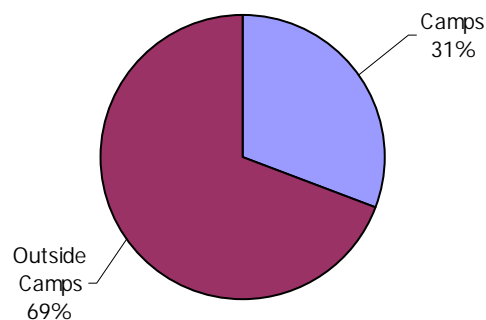
*

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
SCE	Successfully enrolled, i.e., refugees passed the IRIS test, get enrolled in the database for the first time.
CHI	Children do not undergo the IRIS test. Until 20 th July the lower limit of those being tested was 12. As of 21 st July the lower limit was set to 6.
FTE	Failure to enroll. This is not a rejection. A refugee may not undergo the IRIS test because of medical reasons, e.g., blind or extreme cataracts.
NPO	Not performed for other reasons i.e. women may choose to forego the test for cultural reasons, in which case they are exempt from the cash grant.
REC	Recognized. The IRIS technology recognized the individual's iris. This is treated as attempt to apply for assistance twice.

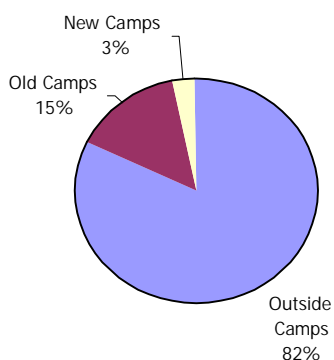
3. RETURNEES REPATRIATING FROM CAMPS VS OUTSIDE CAMPS (01 January – 20 November 2003)

	Jan	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov (20)	Total
Camps	1,539	1,756	13,003	19,116	20,236	23,708	8,792	8,803	6,571	1,450	104,974
Outside camps	1,324	926	22,805	43,579	55,533	42,453	26,190	25,733	17,036	2,392	237,971
Grand total	2,863	2,682	35,808	62,695	75,769	66,161	34,982	34,536	23,607	3,842	342,945

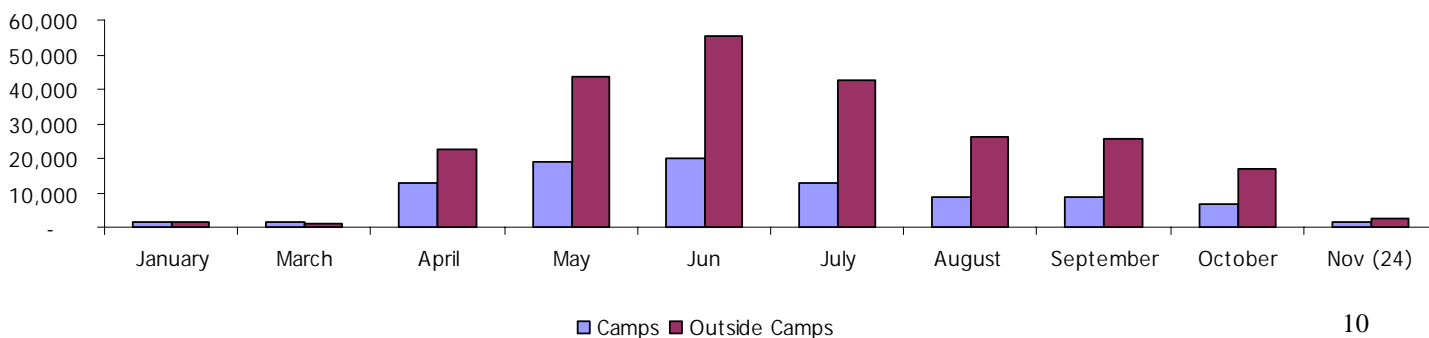
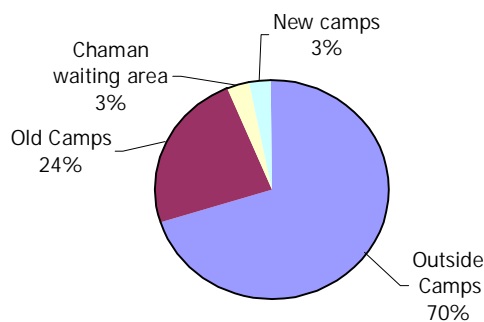
Balochistan	Dara I	368
	Dara II	108
	Landi Karez	681
	Latifabad	972
	Mohammad Kheil I	264
	Roghani	1,150
	Roghani II	4
NWFP	Asgharo 1	851
	Barkilli	504
	Basu	515
	Kotkai	701
	Katkai 1,2	1,095
	Olg Bagzai	1,916
	Shelman	1,049
New Camps		10,178
Chaman Waiting Area		10,757
Old Camps		82,513
Total from Camps		103,448



2002

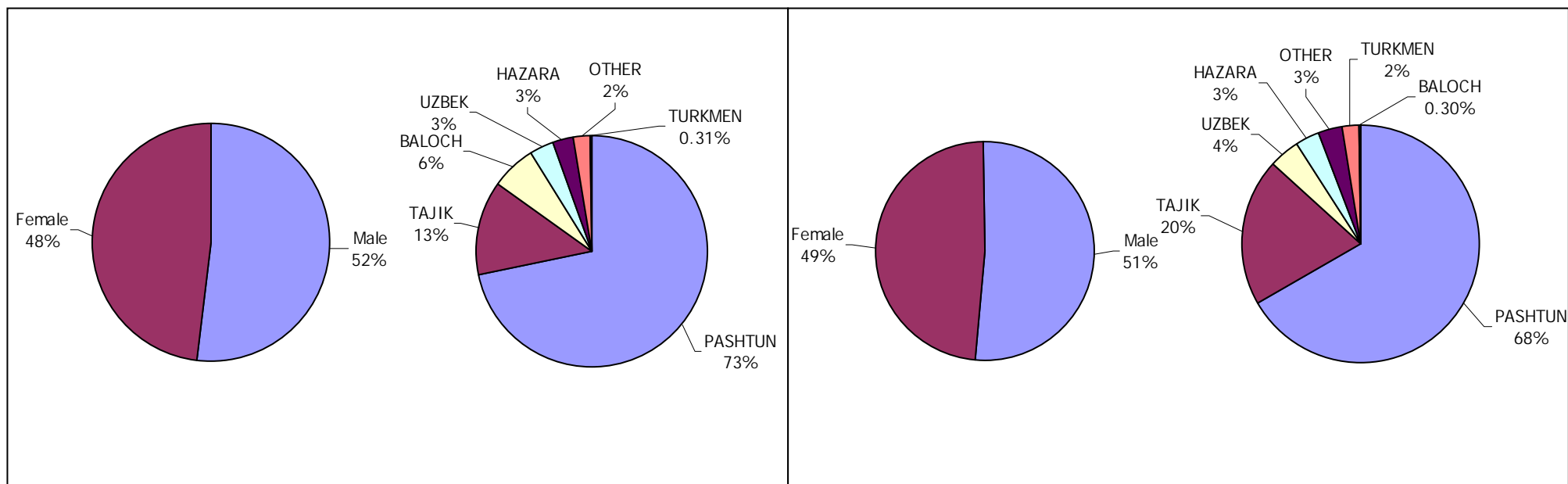


2003

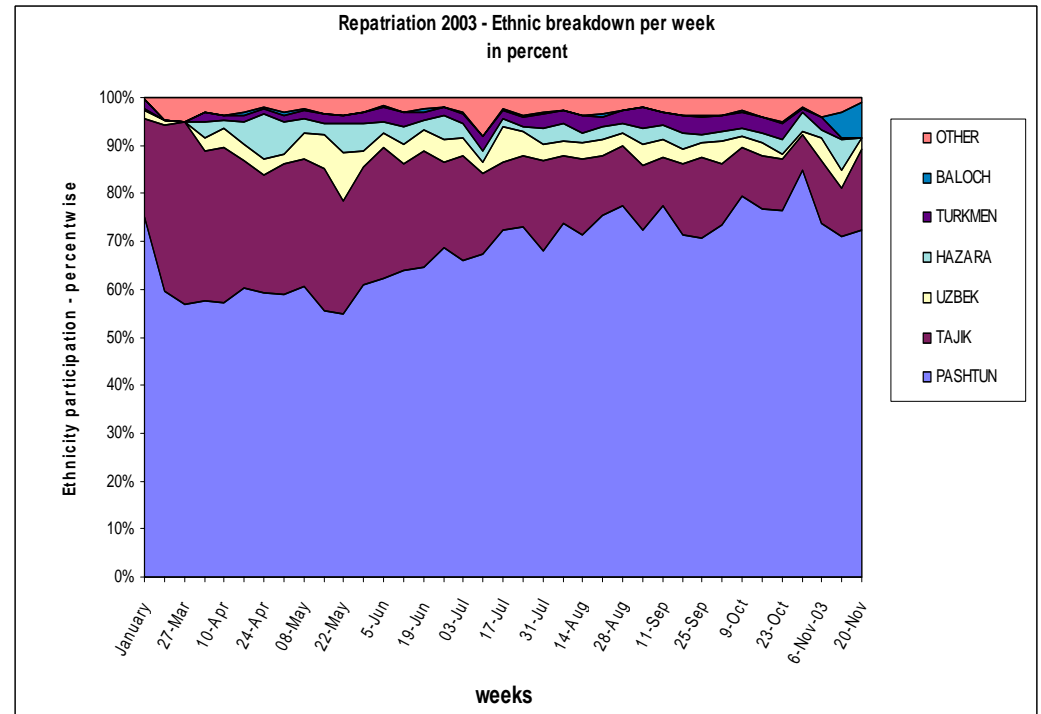
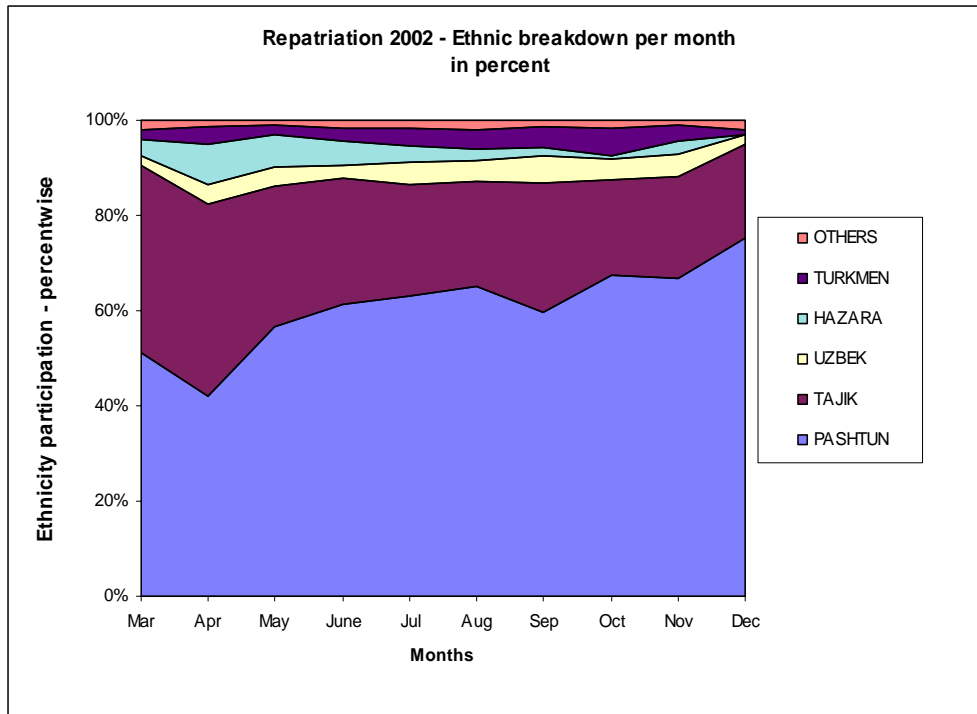


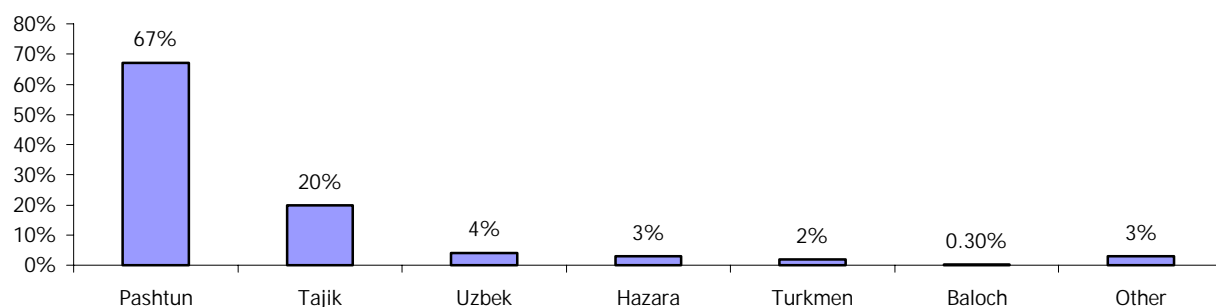
4. ETHNICITY AND GENDER

Weekly total (07 November - 20 November 2003)							Cumulative total (01 Jan - 20 Nov 2003)			
Ethnicity	Returnees (For two weeks)	Figures From last week (07-13 Nov)	Figures from this week (14-20 Nov)	Compared to last week	F %	M %	Ethnicity	Returnees	F %	M %
PASHTUN	1,859	903	956	-6%	46	54	PASHTUN	221,502	49	51
TAJIK	345	210	135	56%	49	51	TAJIK	66,786	49	51
HAZARA	83	0	83	-100%	46	54	HAZARA	11,223	50	50
UZBEK	85	32	53	-40%	46	54	UZBEK	13,586	47	53
OTHER	55	13	42	-69%	49	51	OTHER	10,400	48	52
TURKMEN	8	0	8	-100%	63	37	TURKMEN	7,679	51	49
BALOCH	160	90	70	29%	49	51	BALOCH	1,012	48	52
Grand total	2,595	1,248	1,347	-7%	48	52	Grand total	332,188	49	51



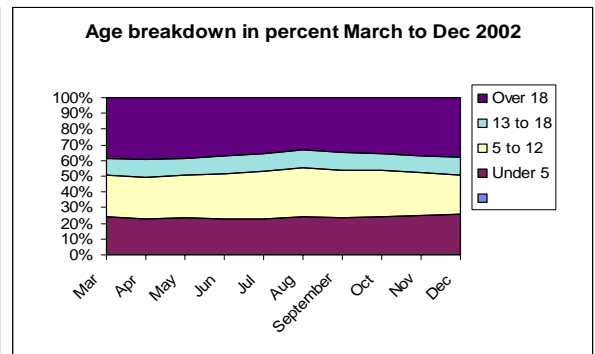
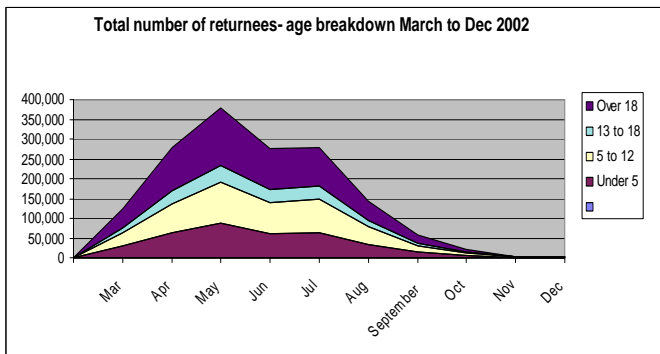
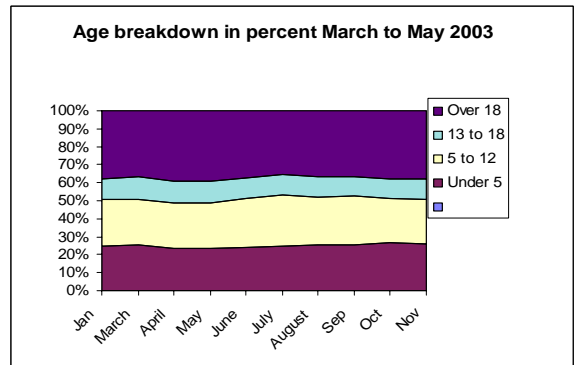
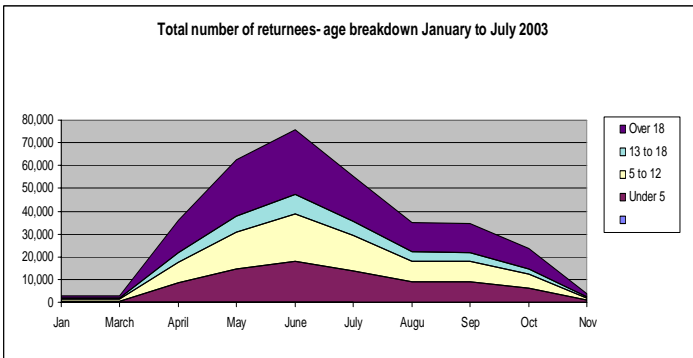
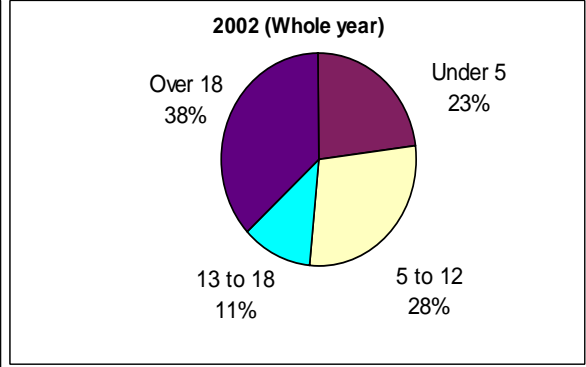
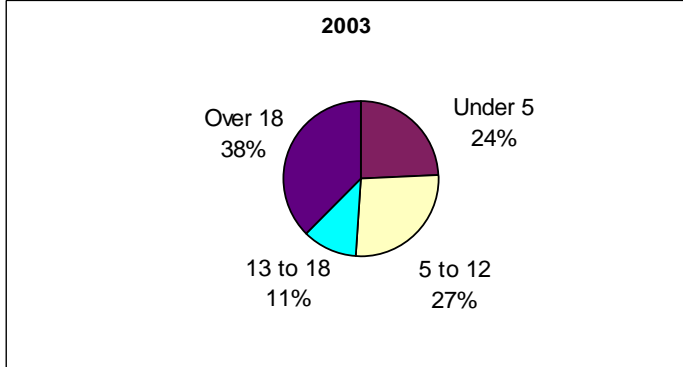
5. WEEKLY TRENDS – ETHNIC BREAKDOWN COMPARED TO 2002



6. ETHNICITY AND PROVINCE OF RETURN➤ **Cumulative figures for period 01 January – 20 November 2003**

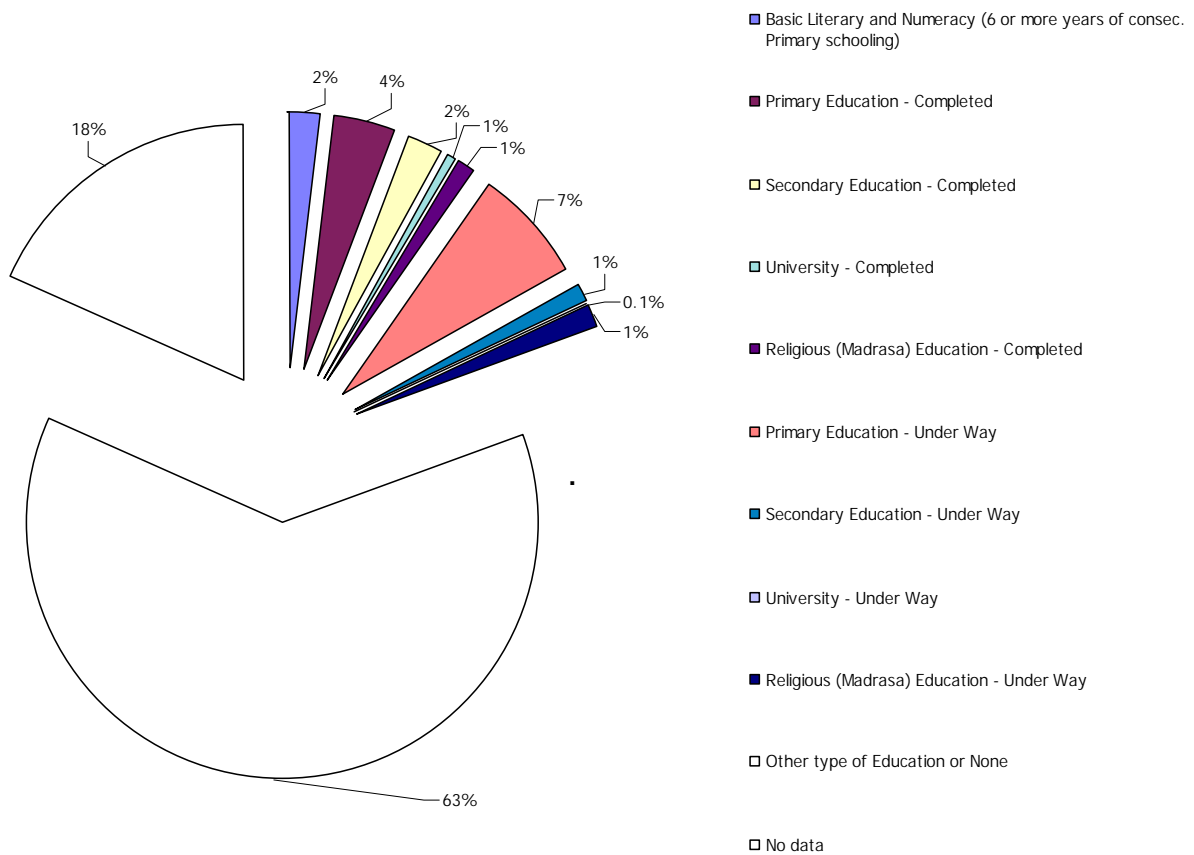
Region	Pashtun	Tajik	Uzbek	Hazara	Turkmen	Baloch	Others	Total	%
Eastern	88,229	9,143	10	0	34	4	3,695	101,115	30.44
Kunar	7,721	52	10	-	-	4	42	7,829	2.36
Khost	3,770	24	-	-	-	-	-	3,794	1.14
Laghman	8,439	1,307	-	-	-	-	620	10,366	3.12
Nangarhar	61,093	7,435	-	-	34	-	2,966	71,528	21.53
Nuristan	4	-	-	-	-	-	33	37	0.01
Paktika	1,107	269	-	-	-	-	34	1,410	0.42
Paktya	6,095	56	-	-	-	-	-	6,151	1.85
Central	81,545	39,149	170	9,152	132	16	1,326	131,490	39.58
Bamyan	-	29	-	221	-	-	12	262	0.08
Ghazni	18,956	1,008	-	1,734	-	6	104	21,808	6.56
Kabul	48,840	32,003	170	6,796	132	10	1,075	89,026	26.80
Kapisa	1,174	344	-	-	-	-	45	1,563	0.47
Logar	6,577	1,957	-	-	-	-	60	8,594	2.59
Parwan	2,316	3,737	-	85	-	-	23	6,161	1.85
Wardak	3,682	71	-	316	-	-	7	4,076	1.23
Northern	27,611	17,822	13,384	1,667	7,513	475	5,103	73,575	22.15
Badakhshan	41	996	163	8	-	-	169	1,377	0.41
Baghlan	6,338	7,419	973	734	45	57	657	16,223	4.88
Balkh	3,285	2,520	1,793	498	848	15	723	9,682	2.91
Faryab	1,096	77	853	31	1,058	-	139	3,254	0.98
Jawzjan	1,041	853	2,640	3	4,714	32	785	10,068	3.03
Kunduz	12,989	4,224	2,936	187	843	152	893	22,224	6.69
Samangan	322	262	196	175	5	-	59	1,019	0.31
Sari Pul	1,078	468	1,598	4	-	212	1,584	4,944	1.49
Takhar	1,421	1,003	2,232	27	-	7	94	4,784	1.44
Southern	19,218	459	22	275	0	496	192	20,662	6.22
Hilmand	8,771	207	14	112	-	274	46	9,424	2.84
Kandahar	9,098	247	8	90	-	211	137	9,791	2.95
Nimroz	142	-	-	-	-	11	-	153	0.05
Uruzgan	458	5	-	73	-	-	9	545	0.16
Zabul	749	-	-	-	-	-	-	749	0.23
Western	4,899	213	0	129	0	21	84	5,346	1.61
Badghis	1,032	-	-	-	-	-	15	1,047	0.32
Farah	2,950	30	-	-	-	-	10	2,990	0.90
Ghor	-	6	-	7	-	-	-	13	0.00
Hirat	917	177	-	122	-	21	59	1,296	0.39
Total	221,502	66,786	13,586	11,223	7,679	1,012	10,400	332,188	100
%	67	20	4	3	2	0.30	3	100	

7. AGE BREAKDOWN OF RETURNEES IN 2002 AND 2003



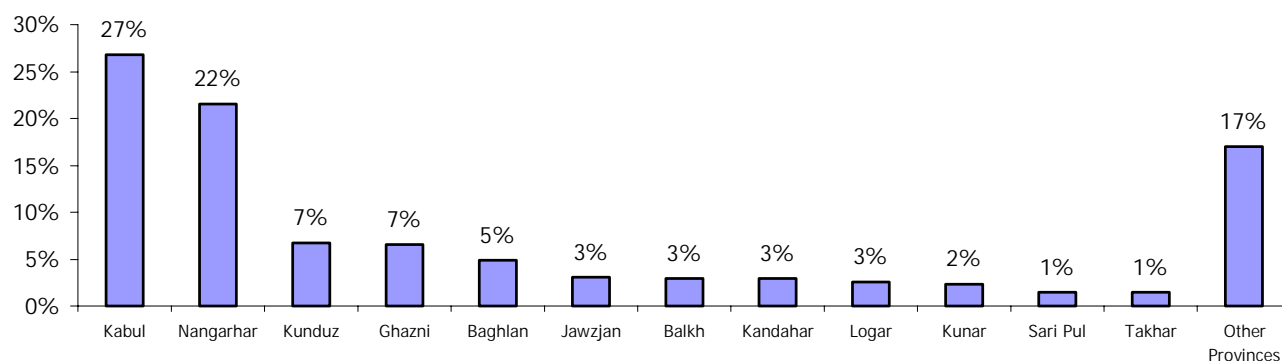
8. AFGHAN RETURNEES BY EDUCATION COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY (01 January – 20 November 2003)

Education Description	Returnees	in % to total	in % to age group:	
Basic Literary and Numeracy (6 or more years of consec. Primary schooling)	6,353	2%	4%	over 13
Primary Education – Completed	12,947	4%	8%	over 13
Secondary Education – Completed	7,602	2%	6%	over 18
University – Completed	1,914	1%	2%	over 18
Religious (Madrasa) Education - Completed	3,933	1%	2%	over 13
Primary Education - Under Way	23,433	7%	26%	5 to 12
Secondary Education - Under Way	3,380	1%	9%	13 to 18
University - Under Way	387	0.1%	0.3%	over 18
Religious (Madrasa) Education - Under Way	4,216	1%	3.3%	5 to 18
Other type of Education or None	207,071	62%	82.0%	over 5
No data	60,952			
in a total of	332,188			



9. PROVINCE OF RETURN AND DEPARTURE

➤ Cumulative figures for period January – 20 November 2003



	NWFP		Balochistan		Punjab/Islamabad		Sindh		Total		%
	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	
Eastern	15,559	89,156	22	143	1,635	9,284	453	2,532	17,669	101,115	30.44
Kunar	991	5,827	-	-	290	1,608	76	394	1,357	7,829	2.36
Khost	653	3,691	1	12	12	85	1	6	667	3,794	1.14
Laghman	1,428	8,211	-	-	254	1,451	132	704	1,814	10,366	3.12
Nangarhar	11,217	64,372	7	52	1,033	5,877	213	1,227	12,470	71,528	21.53
Nuristan	9	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	37	0.01
Paktika	235	1,279	5	31	1	6	15	94	256	1,410	0.42
Paktya	1,026	5,739	9	48	45	257	16	107	1,096	6,151	1.85
Central	12,734	71,241	4,435	26,941	4,415	26,399	1,518	6,909	23,102	131,490	39.58
Bamyan	14	62	28	132	2	11	15	57	59	262	0.08
Ghazni	270	1,503	3,068	19,954	10	50	62	301	3,410	21,808	6.56
Kabul	10,337	57,734	1,195	6,083	3,282	19,556	1,237	5,653	16,051	89,026	26.80
Kapisa	140	810	4	23	102	619	17	111	263	1,563	0.47
Logar	1,364	7,659	71	392	85	518	5	25	1,525	8,594	2.59
Parwan	430	2,397	16	92	542	3,035	158	637	1,146	6,161	1.85
Wardak	179	1,076	53	265	392	2,610	24	125	648	4,076	1.23
Northern	4,405	23,044	3,654	19,831	2,071	11,222	4,498	19,478	14,628	73,575	22.15
Badakhshan	200	1,017	5	29	9	35	93	296	307	1,377	0.41
Baghlan	1,163	6,261	559	3,124	344	1,948	1,193	4,890	3,259	16,223	4.88
Balkh	592	2,971	696	3,775	309	1,591	302	1,345	1,899	9,682	2.91
Faryab	289	1,387	111	566	92	494	154	807	646	3,254	0.98
Jawzjan	563	2,746	361	1,860	816	4,155	336	1,307	2,076	10,068	3.03
Kunduz	1,063	5,949	1,239	6,804	394	2,365	1,546	7,106	4,242	22,224	6.69
Samangan	59	327	22	123	26	158	111	411	218	1,019	0.31
Sari Pul	316	1,524	399	2,188	17	93	264	1,139	996	4,944	1.49
Takhar	160	862	262	1,362	64	383	499	2,177	985	4,784	1.44
Southern	42	221	3,243	17,799	6	31	488	2,611	3,779	20,662	6.22
Hilmand	23	126	1,570	8,572	3	16	128	710	1,724	9,424	2.84
Kandahar	13	59	1,446	8,024	3	15	318	1,693	1,780	9,791	2.95
Nimroz	1	10	15	80	-	-	14	63	30	153	0.05
Uruzgan	1	5	86	481	-	-	14	59	101	545	0.16
Zabul	4	21	126	642	-	-	14	86	144	749	0.23
Western	37	227	229	1,225	3	15	693	3,879	962	5,346	1.61
Badghis	2	12	77	389	-	-	112	646	191	1,047	0.32
Farah	9	52	58	282	-	-	483	2,656	550	2,990	0.90
Ghor	-	-	1	6	-	-	3	7	4	13	0.00
Hirat	26	163	93	548	3	15	95	570	217	1,296	0.39
Total	32,777	183,889	11,583	65,939	8,130	46,951	7,650	35,409	60,140	332,188	100