



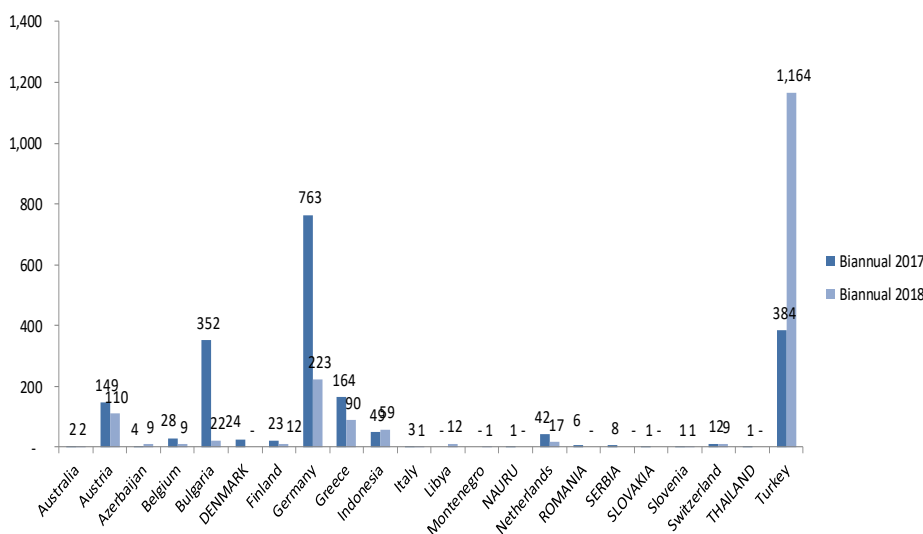
HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY—JUNE 2018

- 1741** voluntary returns under AVRR
- 66** families among those returning
- 1,598** males among those returning
- 143** females among those returning
- 65%** of returnees (1,127 individuals) are between the age 18-26
- 11%** of returnees (139 individuals) were assisted with tailored reintegration packages
- 61%** of those assisted (85 individuals) opted for self-employment / small business projects
- Balkh and Herat** received the highest number of returns under AVRR (177 and 120)

OVERALL RETURN FROM EUROPE

In the first six months of the year 2018, a total of 1741 voluntary returnees including 66 families (1598 male and 143 female) arrived under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR) to Afghanistan. Compared with the first six months of 2017, where a total of 2,017 voluntary returnees including 147 families (1704 male and 313 female) arrived, there is a significant decrease in both the overall number of returns as well as the number of returning families. The highest returns recorded from Turkey (1164) followed by Germany (223). The table below indicates the number of returns by sending country, comparing the first six months of 2018 to the previous year.

Figure 1: Number of Returns, By Sending Country



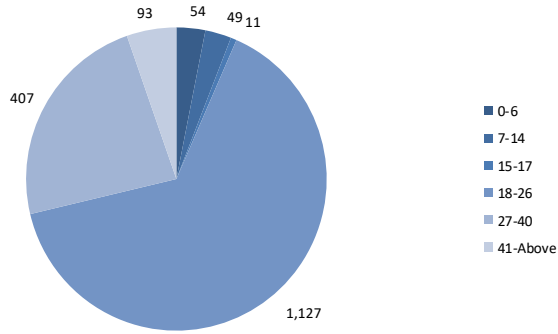
A WIDOWED MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTER IN ISTANBUL BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN © IOM 2018



A RETURNEE FROM NORWAY SPEAKING TO IOM IN HIS MOBILE SHOP © IOM 2018 / E.SCHWOERER

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Figure 2: AVRR assisted returnees, by age group



1.2 AGE BREAKDOWN

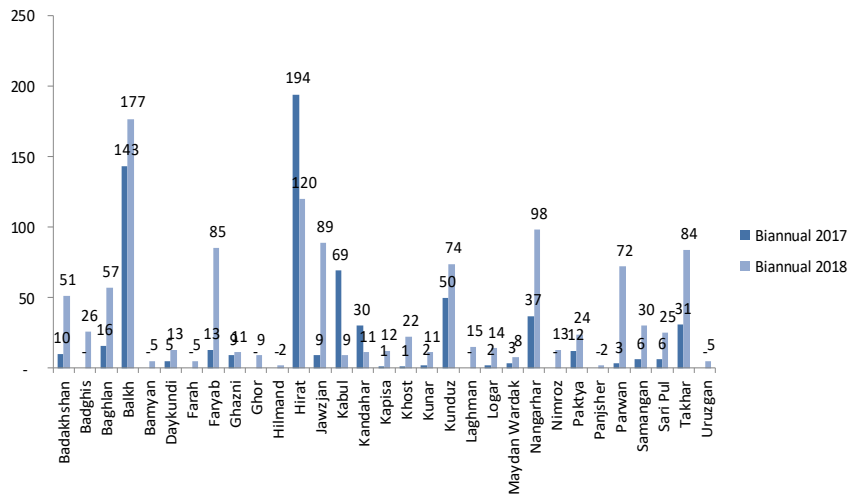
The majority of the returnees are in the age group of 18-26 (65%) followed by 27-40 (22%). It is important to highlight that the age groups below 18 are not unaccompanied minors but children within returning families.

1.3 PROVINCES OF FINAL DESTINATION

1179 returnees requested and received onward transportation. Balkh received the highest number of returns (177) followed by Herat (120). It is important to highlight that the data below is

based on the final destination where IOM has facilitated onward transportation. The chart below (Figure 3) indicates the final destination of returnees in the first six months of the years 2017 and 2018.

Figure 3: Province of final destination in Afghanistan



A RETURNEE FROM AUSTRIA IN HIS GROCERY SHOP
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FARID, 39, RETURNEE FROM AUSTRIA

Abdul returned from Austria after realizing that getting granted asylum as easy as he initially accepted. He has a son in Iran whom he wants to come to live with him in Afghanistan.

Read full story: <https://bit.ly/2AAaiGH>



A RETURNEE FROM GERMANY IN HIS MOBILE SHOP
© IOM 2018/ E. SCHWOERER

ZABIH, 55, RETURNEE FROM GERMANY

Hamed was once a successful businessman, but then decided to sell all his possessions to bring his family to Germany. Through IOM, he was at least able to get back on his feet once back in Afghanistan.

Read full story: <https://bit.ly/2OB4hIA>



A RETURNEE FROM SWEDEN IN HIS GROCERY STORE
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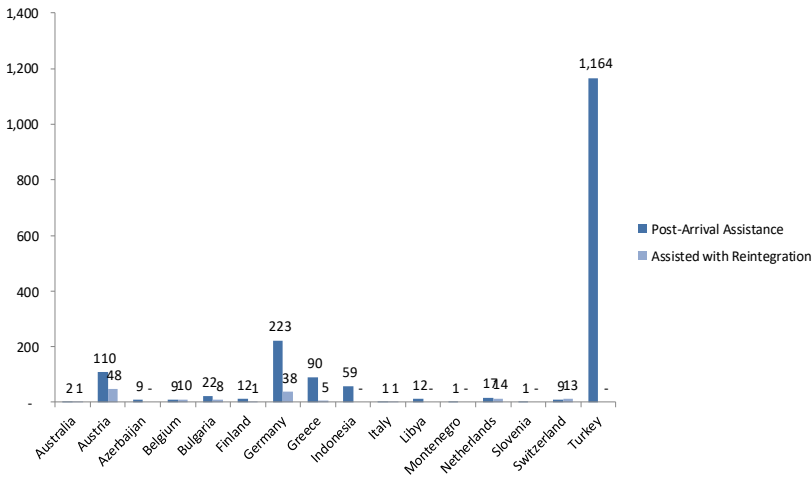
RAHMAT, 24, RETURNEE FROM SWEDEN

After waiting for 1.5 years in a camp for his asylum case to get approved, Rahmat grew tired of life in Europe and decided to return to his home town Herat. IOM assisted him with setting up a grocery store together with a partner.

1.5 INDIVIDUAL REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

During the first six month of the year 2018, IOM provided 139 returnees with tailored reintegration assistance. IOM reintegration assistance is aimed at helping returnees achieve sustainable reintegration into their home society. These packages may include: self-employment/small business projects; educational/vocational training; job placement; on-the-job training, housing allowance, household items, rebuild and renovation depending on each project's scope of assistance. Reintegration assistance is limited and is not available for all returnees.

Figure 4: Individual reintegration assistance



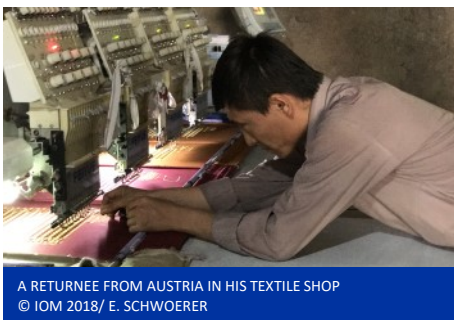
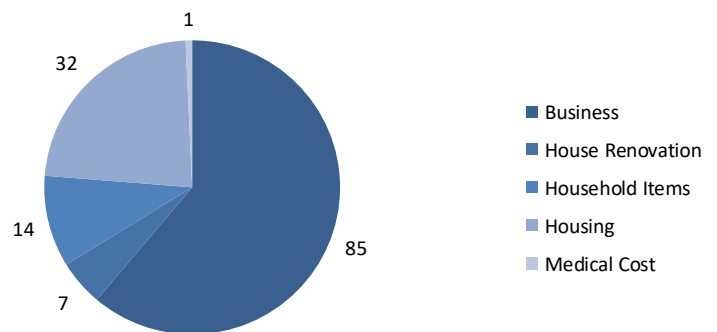
Note: The above chart indicates the number of returns by country in the first six month of the year 2018 and the number of individual reintegration projects established by IOM during the same period. As reintegration assistance is provided to eligible

returnees within a set timeframe, it does not indicate the reintegration assistance provision rate for returnees arriving in the period.

1.6 TYPE OF REINTEGRATION PROJECT

Most of the returnees opted for self-employment/small business projects (61%) during the first six month of 2018, and the remaining returnees selected purchasing household items, house renovation and support for housing rent.

Figure 5: Type of Reintegration Assistance



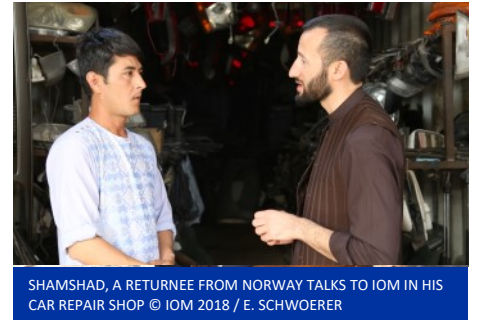
A RETURNEE FROM AUSTRIA IN HIS TEXTILE SHOP
© IOM 2018 / E. SCHWOERER

AHMAD SET UP A TEXTILE SHOP IN HIS HOME TOWN HERAT WITH THE HELP OF IOM.



TWO RETURNEES FROM TURKEY IN THE IOM AIRPORT OFFICE
© IOM 2018 / E. SCHWOERER

ZUHAL AND HER DAUGHTER RETURNED FROM TURKEY WITH THE HELP OF IOM.



SHAMSHAD, A RETURNEE FROM NORWAY TALKS TO IOM IN HIS CAR REPAIR SHOP © IOM 2018 / E. SCHWOERER

AFTER HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE, BASIR COULDN'T RETURN HOME. IOM HELPED HIM TO SET UP A NEW LIFE.

READ FULL STORY: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/205BPH1](https://bit.ly/205BPH1)