



Distribution of core relief non-food items and emergency shelter repair kits to assist over 1,700 conflict displaced families in Badghis province. ©IOM 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

	5.5 million IDPs in Afghanistan
	634,800 people displaced between 1 January – 22 September 2021 (source: OCHA)
	Communities rank their priority needs as food, drinking water and immediate healthcare (DTM, 1 – 20 September)
	92% of communities report an increase in food prices (DTM, 1 – 20 September)
	22,143 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan between 16 - 22 September 2021 - cumulative total 912,869.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

While humanitarian activities resume and are ongoing in multiple locations across Afghanistan to meet life-saving needs, access challenges persist, including limited participation of female humanitarians. Humanitarian airbridges swung into operation this week, and there were reports of commercial airlines planning resumption. Limited cash availability remains the most severe impediment to operations, despite announcements on increased withdrawal limits from commercial accounts; alternative solutions continue to be sought. The security situation remained extremely fluid, and volatile in the Eastern Region.

It is estimated that 634,000 people have been internally displaced by conflict around the country between 1 January and 22 September (source: [OCHA](#), 22 September). Between 1 January and 22 September, IOM has recorded 912,869 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran (902,587) and Pakistan (10,282). Between 16 and 22 September, 22,143 undocumented Afghans arrived in Afghanistan of which 1,138 from Pakistan and 21,005 from Iran. These returnees are part of a cyclical flow of movement across the borders: inward and outward movement to and from Afghanistan is not a new phenomenon.

2021 FUNDING REQUIRED AND SECURED

Total Funding requirement:
humanitarian and
stabilization activities

54,024,000
Funding secured

61,806,000
Funding gap

 **115,830,000 USD**
Total Funding required

1 - The overall requirement for humanitarian and stabilization activities includes IOM Afghanistan's original ask (in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan) as well as the USD 24 million flash appeal released in August. Of these total requirements, USD 46 million covers the period from August - December 2021 (USD 22 million original ask plus USD 24 million in additional needs), in line with the coordinated Flash Appeal, which is an addendum to the HRP. The total requirement includes: health, emergency shelter and NFI, protection, multi-sector response in border areas, WASH, DRR, and DTM, and stabilization activities. This external sitrep does not report on the WASH or disaster risk reduction elements of the response plan.

IOM RESPONSE

IOM has re-started humanitarian and stabilization activities including multi-sector assistance at border crossing points, protection, health, and emergency shelter and non-food item (NFI) assessment and distribution, community development and livelihoods support across 17 Provinces, with more provinces to be initiated soon according to needs on the ground, security and access. The Displacement Tracking Matrix has conducted surveys with key informants in 33 Provinces.

In 2021 to date, IOM Afghanistan has delivered direct assistance to some 476,079 people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable undocumented returnees and host communities through emergency shelter and NFI, health, protection, and livelihoods promotion. IOM has a strong operational presence in the border provinces of Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Kandahar, where vulnerable migrants coming from and going to neighbouring

Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran receive assistance in reception and transit centres.

Over the reporting period (16 - 22 September), IOM provided direct assistance through essential health services, protection services, humanitarian post-arrival assistance for undocumented returnees, and emergency livelihoods creation. In addition, IOM's shelter programme delivered emergency support to 637 conflict displaced families in Badghis and Ghor. IOM's Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) screened a total of 28,307 persons for COVID-19 at the Milak and Spin Boldak border points and provided information on risk mitigation measures to 30,410 persons. In eight operational centres in Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar and Kandahar, 1,690 undocumented migrants were provided with humanitarian assistance such as temporary accommodation and hot meals.



Construction of causeway (disaster and risk mitigation infrastructure) in Nangarhar ©IOM 2021



3,640

people benefiting from
the NFI package assistance

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (ES/NFI)

Between 16 and 22 September, IOM distributed emergency shelter (ES) and NFIs to vulnerable families displaced by conflict. In Badghis, IOM assisted 520 families, estimated at 3,640 people (1,895 female, 1,745 male) and in Ghor, a total of 117 families, estimated at 819 people (394 female, 425 male) were provided with NFI kits containing household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and solar lamps, as well as emergency shelter support in the form of shelter tool kits, tents, and tarpaulins.

A joint assessment is ongoing to assess the needs of conflict displaced families in Balkh, Sari-e-Pul, Kunduz, Ghazni, Kabul, Takhar provinces, to inform IOM's emergency response.

To prevent future displacement induced by climate such as flooding, IOM continues to undertake Disaster Risk Mitigation activities in climate shock prone communities. During the reporting period, the construction of Disaster Risk Mitigation Infrastructures such as culverts were completed in Malik Shamhani, Injil District in Herat province, which will benefit 1,561 households (estimated 10,927 persons). Additionally, in Herat, the construction of a protection wall and a culvert are ongoing and will protect 500 houses, 2 schools, 2 clinics and other community infrastructures from flooding. In Nangarhar, works to construct a causeway and a stone masonry protection wall are ongoing and are offering short-term employment to 31 men from the community.

HEALTH

IOM's Migration Health Unit provides essential health services to mobile and hard-to-reach populations. This includes medical screening and assistance at border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and at reception/transit centres for returnees, and the deployment of Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) to provide essential services and Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) covering COVID-19 support.

During the reporting period, a total of 2,320 persons (1,620 female, 700 male) in Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz provinces were reached with basic health services, such as outpatient department (OPD) and reproductive health services. Of these people, 122 persons (88 female, 34 male) received psychosocial services in Herat and Nimroz. In addition, IOM's RRTs screened 28,307 people for COVID-19 in Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz, and together with the MHTs they have reached 30,410 persons during the reporting period with promotive health messaging on COVID-19 prevention measures and sensibilisation on other transmittable diseases.



2,320

persons were reached with basic health services



80

undocumented returnees supported

PROTECTION

From 16 to 22 September, protection post-arrival assistance was provided on the Iranian border by female and male staff at the reception and transit centre in Nimroz and by male staff in the centres in Herat. A total of 300 undocumented returnees were screened for protection concerns, and of these cases, a total of 166 undocumented returnees (79 female, 87 male) with specific needs received information on how to access basic services, referrals, and in-kind assistance including family tracing and reunification.

Additionally, protection case management is taking place either in person or remotely by phone in 11 provinces where IOM's protection team is present, namely Nimroz, Sar-E-Pul, Takhar and Faryab, Herat, Kandahar, Ghor, Balkh, Badakhshan, Nangahar and Kabul, and is for the moment focusing on follow-up, including preparation of cash distribution, and case closure. During the reporting period, 129 cases were closed. Additionally, protection monitoring, under the form of community consultations, is ongoing in these same provinces, and actively involved 59 people (18 female, 41 male) during the reporting period.

Furthermore, extensive work on the reactivation of referral pathway mechanisms and access negotiation is taking place to allow IOM's protection team to take on new cases. During the reporting period, IOM's protection team gained access to Herat province; the protection team now has access to communities in four provinces: Herat, Faryab, Sar-E-Pul, and Takhar. In all other provinces, case management and protection monitoring continue to take place under remote modalities.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

From 1 September 2021, IOM's DTM teams activated the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) tool in Afghanistan to monitor the displacement of individuals and conditions of communities following episodes of drought and rapid political changes. According to the latest report covering 1 - 20 September, IOM's DTM teams conducted data collection among 2,032 new communities, bringing the total number of assessed communities since the initiation of the EET to 4,664 and the total number of households assessed to 2,434,308. Data collection has covered 243 districts across 33 provinces in Afghanistan.

Community focal points in Helmand, Kunduz, and Zabul most frequently reported an increase of IDP arrivals in their communities. Meanwhile, communities in Baghlan, Faryab and Kunduz reportedly experienced an increase in departures more frequently than communities assessed in other provinces. Priority needs of those assessed remain 1) food, 2) drinking water, and 3) immediate health care.



4,664

Total number of assessed communities since the initiation of the EET



413

people actively participated in apprenticeships

STABILISATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE (SRR)

IOM's SRR programme continues to strengthen social cohesion and community resilience by improving access to basic services, offering technical and vocational training opportunities, and providing mental health and psychosocial assistance across nine provinces.

Community-based development projects (CDP) aim to improve access to essential socio-economic infrastructure while offering short-term employment and income-generating opportunities to communities, by hiring community members for skilled and unskilled labour for construction works. During the reporting period, 10 CDPs continue to be implemented, with construction works ongoing in Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Baghlan and Herat provinces, which focus on improved access to water, education and local markets and continue to offer temporary employment to over 100 people (male).

With the aim of creating sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs and returnees, IOM implements Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activities as well as apprenticeships. During the reporting period, these activities resumed, with 413 people (178 female, 235 male) actively participating in apprenticeships. The project also provides support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). Between 16 and 22 September, in Balkh, Herat and Kandahar, 27 jobs were created or safeguarded in SMEs that were supported such as a suits and dresses company, a gloves and socks producer and an edible oils business.

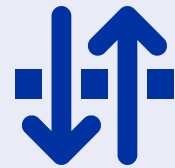
Finally, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) awareness campaigns continue to take place in Nangarhar and Kabul. These campaigns are organized in coordination with local organizations and allow community members in these provinces to increase their awareness on mental health psychosocial support services. These activities also allow for the referral of community members in need of MHPSS services.

MULTI-SECTORAL ASSISTANCE AT THE BORDERS

IOM and partners provide vulnerable undocumented Afghans returning from Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan with immediate humanitarian post-arrival assistance at the major border crossings with Pakistan at Torkham and Spin Boldak and with the Islamic Republic of Iran at Islam Qala and Milak through a network of IOM constructed and managed reception and transit centres.

Operations are up and running in all eight reception and transit centres providing immediate humanitarian assistance such as temporary accommodation, hot food, onward transportation, and distribution of food packages in Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces.

A total of 1,690 people (789 female, 901 male) received post-arrival assistance during the reporting period in Nimroz (835 individuals), Kandahar (663 individuals), Herat (171 individuals), and Nangarhar (21 individuals).



1,690

received post-arrival assistance

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



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CONTACT

Preparedness and Response Division

e. prd@iom.int

w. www.afghanistan.iom.int

Donor Relations Division

e. drd@iom.int

t. +41 22 717 92 71