

RETURN OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHANS

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT
12-18 February 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

110,254 total returns from **Iran & Pakistan** since 01 January 2021

109,064 total returns from Iran in 2021

1,190 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week, **22,034** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with 6% of returnees from Iran (1,331 individuals) assisted

Over the past week, **314** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with 91% of returnees from Pakistan (287 individuals) assisted

Migration Health

*****As of February 2021, funding availability in Afghanistan for all major health stakeholders and COVID-19 response agencies is ending. It is critical that additional funding resources are made available to ensure that essential response functions inclusive of Rapid Response Teams, surveillance, support to laboratory testing, PPE provision and health education/community engagement can continue without a gap and vaccination preparedness towards eventual delivery and roll out can proceed.*****

In 2021, 91,429 patients have been served by IOM’s Migration Health Unit in Nimroz, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces with basic health care- outpatient consultations, maternal, child and neo-natal health care, reproductive health, family planning and COVID-19 response. Programming is supported by the UK’s FCDO, DG ECHO, CERF, and the United

States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM). During the past week a total of 11,282 patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of 3,731 outpatient consultations, health education sessions for 11,282 persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for 2,238 patients. Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of 7,297 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, 251 presumptive TB cases were identified and samples lab tested and 7 persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection

IOM's Protection programme has supported 431 undocumented returnee households comprising at least one person with specific needs (PSN) in 2021 through provision of timely information, facilitating safe and dignified access to services, and provision of assistance including cash to mitigate identified protection risks and avoid resorting to negative coping mechanisms when referral pathways are exhausted. With screening staff at the Herat and Nimroz border points as well as case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 106 new PSN households in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghor, Herat, Takhar, and Faryab. These cases included 18 children at risk, 13 persons with serious medical conditions, 6 single parents, 6 women at risk and 1 older

person at risk . Across all provinces, 2,271 cases are ongoing. 984 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at the Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR.

In addition, the Protection team conducted regular COVID-19 protection monitoring surveys in collaboration with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster. This week, 65 households were surveyed, all of whom received specific WHO information and RCCE messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention relevant to their location.



One of IOM's 5 Rapid Response Teams providing health services at the IDP settlement of Sharak e-Razi in western Herat province. Each RRT is composed of a doctor, a nurse and a lab technician in line with Ministry of Public Health standards. The teams circulate through urban and rural areas to provide health education, health consultations and COVID-19 screening for local communities. IOM's RRTs collect upwards of 90% of all samples in Herat. @IOM, February 2021 .

Return from Iran

*****On 13-14 February, a devastating fire led to the explosion of hundreds of fuel tankers at the Islam Qala customs depot in Herat resulting in 17 injuries according to the Government of Afghanistan. Fortunately, all humanitarian workers including IOM's field team were unharmed in the incident. However, the nearby reception center facility was partially damaged and assessments are ongoing.***

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of 22,034 Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders

between 12-18 Feb 2021. 5,650 persons returned voluntarily and 16,384 were deported. This represents a 27% increase in the total number of returns from the previous week. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **109,064 individuals- more than double the 2019 and 2020 rates of return through the months of January and February. In 2021 under the revised Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, IOM is projecting a return of 654,000 undocumented Afghans, 100% of whom will be in need of humanitarian assistance. IOM is seeking 29.7m USD to provide post arrival humanitarian support to this caseload.**

Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), 1,190 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week 314 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (21 returnees and 17 deportee) and Spin Boldak (276 returnees) borders. Returns are lower in the colder winter months.

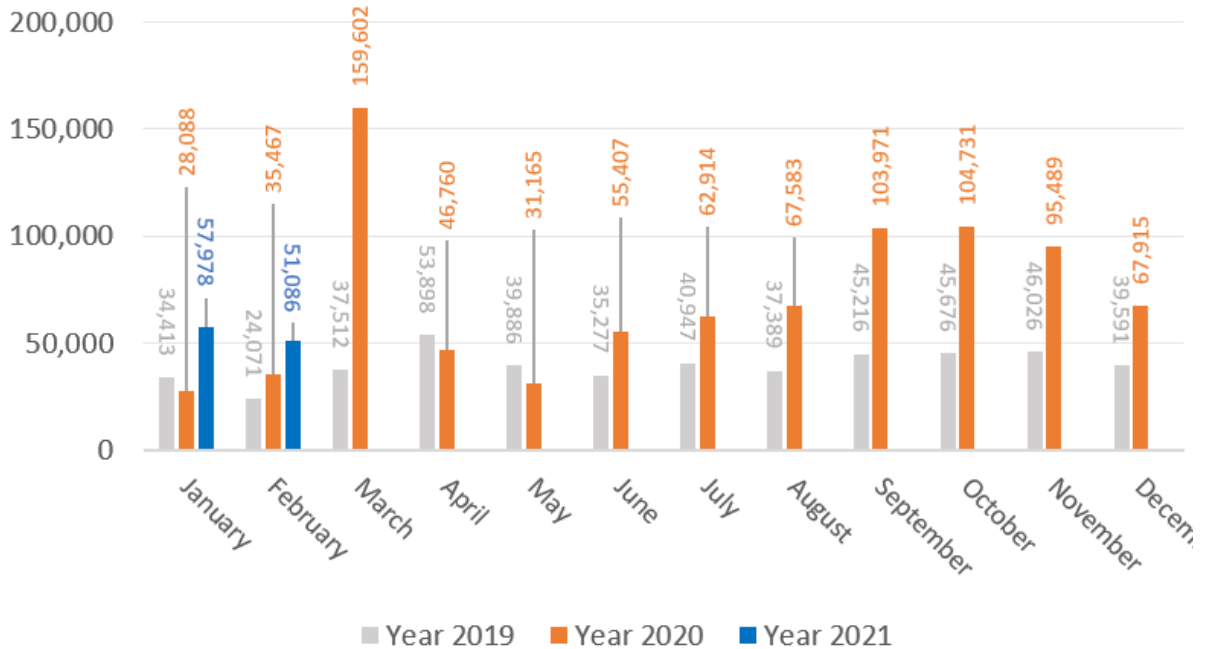
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01-31 January	20,293	12,099	10,343	15,243	57,978	22	58	520	47	647	58,625
01-04 Feb	5,649	2,186	1,946	1,905	11,686	0	20	57	2	79	11,765
05-11 Feb	5,629	5,014	2,644	4,079	17,366	7	1	142	0	150	17,516
12-18 Feb	2,479	6,784	3,171	9,600	22,034	21	17	276	0	314	22,348
Total	34,050	26,083	18,014	30,827	109,064	50	96	995	49	1,190	110,254

Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01-31 January	153	480	240	1,401	2,274	22	52	482	47	603	2,877
01-04 Feb	13	146	60	321	540	0	14	57	0	71	611
05-11 Feb	36	636	65	529	1,266	7	1	127	0	135	1,401
12-18 Feb	52	539	51	689	1,331	21	17	249	0	287	1,618
Total	254	1,801	416	2,940	5,411	50	84	915	47	1,096	6,507

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran - 2019 - 2021



**Coronavirus

Update**

Global Cases, deaths (as of 23 February 2021- source Johns Hopkins- WHO-CDC-ECDC, NHC, DXY)

- Globally: 112,281,005 Confirmed cases/
- 2,485,863 Deaths | 213 Countries
- 87,816,769 recovered
- USA cases: 28,382,177; 500,000 deaths; 18,481,341 recovered

Afghanistan (as of 23 February 2021; Source: Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health - MoPH)

- **People confirmed to have COVID-19: 55,646;**
- **Total recovered: 48,895;**
- **Total tests: 288,376;**
- **Deaths from COVID-19: 2,435**

IOM has been actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing emergency response actions through its Cross Border Return, Migration Health and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Units however **funding will end for COVID-19 interventions on 28 February 2021.** IOM support is focused across 4 of WHO's Response Pillars including 1. Coordination; 2. Risk Communication-Community Engagement; 3. Surveillance/DTM; 4. Points of Entry. Activities include training for frontline health workers, deployment of staff to areas of need including health facilities, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support of PPE and other equipment, ambulance based referral services, distribution of MOPH-WHO IEC materials and community level awareness raising and sensitization efforts through health education sessions including within Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions in over 12,600 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

For more information from WHO please refer to:

[General information: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus)

[Global surveillance for human infection with coronavirus disease:](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

[Global research on coronavirus disease:](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

[Advice for public: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public)

[Infection prevention and control during health care: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)

[Advice for international travel and trade: https://www.who.int/ith/2020-24-01-outbreak-of-pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/](https://www.who.int/ith/2020-24-01-outbreak-of-pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/)

[Introduction to COVID-19 online course: https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov](https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov)

IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to our donor partners whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 6,507 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2021.



The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, EU DG ECHO, United States of America's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



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