
 **423,784** Total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

 **418,962** Total returns from Iran in 2021


 **4,822** Total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Photo caption- IOM's mobile health teams continue to support Afghans living in displacement in southern Kandahar province. As hot summer weather descends upon many regions of Afghanistan, living conditions and health outcomes will deteriorate. Greater investment in extension of basic primary care is urgently required. Given the expansion of conflict many health facilities have been closed and a significant number of mobile mobile teams have ceased operation due to funding constraints and access issues. ©IOM/May 2021.



A series of videos on IOM's integrated package of humanitarian interventions in Afghanistan inclusive of cross border response for undocumented migrants; specialized protection monitoring and case management; migration health; and data collection under IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix.

Context Update- Border Closures due to COVID-19

- Given a rapid rise in COVID-19 infections and concerns over the Indian strain of the virus, the Government of Pakistan has imposed a 2-week lockdown from 05-19 May during which its borders with Iran and Afghanistan will be closed for incoming passenger traffic and international flights will be reduced by 80%. Commercial movements will be permitted and the return to Afghanistan of Afghan nationals inclusive of migrants will be allowed.
- On 29 April, the Government of Iran imposed lockdown measures to stem the spread of COVID-19. The Afghan-Iranian border will be closed but commercial traffic will continue and Afghan nationals will be allowed to return home.

- Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan are all experiencing limited receipt of vaccination supplies- Pakistan has administered 2.1m doses from a population of over 220m (0.5% of population); Afghanistan has administered 330,000 doses out of 40m persons (0.8%); Iran has administered 1m doses from 80m persons (0.6% of population).

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR)

Return from Iran



418,962
Total returns from Iran in 2021



55,021 Returns during the past 2 weeks
(**24,952** returned voluntarily and **30,036** were deported)



1,447 (3%) Assisted (949 men and 498 women)

Return from Pakistan



4,822
Total returns from Pakistan in 2021



348 Returns during the past 2 weeks
(276 returned voluntarily and 72 were deported)



334 (96%) Assisted (200 men and 134 women)

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran - 2019 - 2021



Protection

IOM's Protection programme has supported 1,417 undocumented returnee households (1,860 women, 1,750 men, 2,797 girls and 3,240 boys) with 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 operating at the Herat and Nimroz border points and case workers in 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 154 new PSN households (218 women, 213 men, 347 girls, 384 boys) in Ghor, Nangarhar, Takhar, Herat, Kandahar, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, Faryab, Nimroz, Kabul, and Balkh. These cases included 60 children at risk, 26 persons with serious medical conditions, 18 women at risk, 14 older persons at risk, 13 persons with disability, and 10 single parents. 500 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR. 30 undocumented returnee households (21 women, 12 men, 18 girls, 20 boys) received Post-arrival support services (e.g. mobile phones, family tracing, and transportation) and 256 PSN cases received cash assistance. Case management assessments were conducted for 154 cases.

Over the past week, IOM provided the following assistance:



154 new PSN households



60 children at risk
26 persons with medical conditions
18 women at risk
14 older persons at risk
13 persons with disabilities
10 single parents

Migration Health

In 2021, 166,350 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 DG ECHO, and CERF. During the past 2 weeks, a total of 6,882 patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of 4,827 outpatient consultations, health education sessions for 6,882 persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for 413 patients. Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of 15,698 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, 402 presumptive TB cases were identified and tested and 6 person were confirmed positive.



166,350 Patients served in 2021
6,882 Patients served during the past 2 weeks



4,827 Out patient consultation



6,882 Health education sessions



413 Psychosocial counselling



15,698 Screened for Tuberculosis

402 Samples tested

6 Confirmed positive for TB

Cross Border Response Funding Needs in 2021

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. As of late April, return trends suggest a much higher rate of return and total returns in 2021 are likely to significantly exceed the HRP estimation and potentially outpace 2020 as the highest ever return year.

IOM is seeking USD 29.7 M to ensure continuity of services. As of 04 May, IOM's Cross Border Return Response is only 5% funded with new contributions in 2021 from the Governments of Norway, Japan and Switzerland.

At current levels of funding week on week assistance to returnees is extremely constrained and does not reflect the identified needs of the returning caseload. In addition, failure to receive new funding may result in suspension of cross border return operations as early as July.

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall R
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-31 March	76,857	60,246	32,859	76,362	246,324	1663	132	1320	165	3280	249,604
01-15 April	21,681	13,329	7,500	25,760	68,270	158	15	683	59	915	69,185
16-22 April	9,723	7,082	1,737	7,950	26,492	18	19	48	0	85	26,577
23-29 April	8,102	5,986	1,722	7,045	22,855	36	0	158	0	194	23,049
30 April-13 May	19,688	13,492	5,264	16,577	55,021	98	15	178	57	348	55,369
Total	136,051	100,135	49,082	133,694	418,962	1,973	181	2,387	281	4,822	423,784

Total Overall Weekly Return Figures in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Over Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-31 March	902	4,849	638	7,250	13,639	247	160	2606	99	3112	16,744
01-15 April	213	1,311	45	1,501	3,070	148	15	676	58	897	3,967
16-22 April	38	397	11	291	737	18	18	48	0	84	821
23-29 April	4	145	7	316	472	36	0	158	0	194	666
30 April-13 May	94	877	25	451	1,447	98	15	178	43	334	1,781
Total	1,251	7,579	726	9,809	19,365	547	208	3,666	200	4,621	23,986

Total Assisted Returnees in 2021



Global COVID-19 Update

As of 19 May 2021

source Johns Hopkins- WHO-CDC-ECDC, NHC, DXY

- Total confirmed cases: 164,964,298
- Deaths: 3,420,849
- Recovered: 143,952,773



COVID-19 in Afghanistan

As of 19 May

Source: Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health - MoPH)

- Confirmed, COVID-19 cases: **64,575**
- Total recovered: **55,529**
- Total samples tested: **437,568**
- Deaths: **2,772**
- Vaccinations administered: **497,402 doses from 968,000 available doses (as of 10 May)**

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing preparedness and emergency response actions through its Cross Border Return, Migration Health and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Units. **Unfortunately the majority of all COVID-19 funding across partners agencies came to a close on 28 February 2021. New funding sources are urgently being sought. On 25 March, IOM launched its new 2021 global COVID-19 appeal– the Strategic Response and Recovery Plan. IOM Afghanistan is seeking 17m USD in 2021 to continue response efforts. The press release for the launch of the SRRP in addition to several relevant documents is available [here](#).**

IOM engagement on COVID-19 is primarily focused on the following in Afghanistan:

1. Coordination;
2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE);

3. Surveillance/DTM; and
4. Points of Entry.
Activities include training for frontline health workers, deployment of staffing to areas of need including placement in health facilities, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support of PPE/equipment, ambulance based referral services and community level awareness raising efforts through health education sessions including within Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions in over 12,600 settlements via a network of more than 72,000 key informants, community leaders and change makers with RCCE and hygiene awareness across all 34 provinces.

For more information please refer to: <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donor partners whose generous support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 23,986 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2021.



Japan, Norway, Switzerland, DG ECHO, the Central Emergency Response Fund and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



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