



Miriam, 38, her six children and 11 other family members at the IOM Herat Transit Center in November. Originally from Jawzjan, the family left Mazar-e-Sharif to join Miriam's husband in Turkey, however in route they were accosted by kidnappers. After being held in captivity for 8 days the family was only released after paying a substantial ransom. The family returns home to uncertainty after selling all of their assets ahead of travel. 2019 © IOM/K.Hayeri

### Situation Overview

Between 2016-19, more than 3 million Afghans have returned home. During this period IOM's Cross Border Return programme has assisted over 360,000 returning undocumented Afghans with post-arrival assistance inclusive of in-kind and cash based programming through 8 IOM managed transit facilities on the borders with Iran and Pakistan. *In 2019, IOM has assisted more than 43,000 returning undocumented Afghans yet due to funding constraints in spite of overt humanitarian needs each week IOM is only assisting between 7-10% of total returns.*

### Returns from Iran

In 2019, over 440,000 undocumented Afghan returnees crossed back into Afghanistan from Iran. The ongoing returns and movements to Turkey are associated with a major economic decline in Iran. The Iranian caseload contains thousands of special needs cases including Single Females, Unaccompanied Migrant Children and emergency medical cases. With improved service delivery it is anticipated that the in-need population will grow to as much as 30% of the return total per week where presently IOM is reaching 7-8% per week on average. *In 2020, given ongoing tensions in the region and using regression trend analysis of annual returns since 2012, IOM is projecting an estimated return 400,000 undocumented returnees with 120,000 in need of humanitarian assistance.*

### Returns from Pakistan

In spite of negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan to facilitate the return of 50,000 Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders early in 2019, this return has not materialized and 2019 represents a significantly low return year. *However, given renewed peace negotiations and pending presidential election results the possibility for large cross border returns remains high. IOM is projecting an estimated return in 2020 of up to 80,000 undocumented returnees.*

## 2019 Highlights

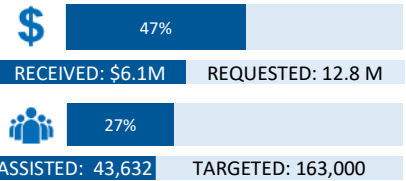
**461,239** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

**442,340** total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2019

**18,899** total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

**43,632 (9.5%)** total returnees assisted

**27,620/16,012** total returnees assisted from Iran/Pakistan



## IOM APPEAL (USD)

(January-December 2020)



Post Arrival Assistance at IOM Transit facilities **6 M**



Cash based assistance for transportation **6 M**



Health services at IOM clinics **3 M**

IOM and its humanitarian partners provide undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan with immediate humanitarian assistance. In partnership with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), IOM has supported MoRR to develop a registration platform for all returning Afghans—the Afghanistan Returnee Information System (ARIS) - which has registered over 600,000 Afghans since 2016 and links them to Reintegration Information Centers— physical registration points in DoRR offices around the country- and Provincial Reintegration Committees in 25 provinces of high return for provision of reintegration assistance through facilitation of multi-stakeholder forums with attendance from a range of government departments, UN agencies and NGOs. In 2020, IOM will support the DoRR to increase registration rates by initiating mobile registration teams in the provinces and by registering those persons moving into hard to reach districts at the border.

**2020 Return Projections and Funding Needs**

In 2020, IOM is projecting a return of approximately 200,000 undocumented returnees from Iran (120,000 = 30% of the anticipated return total of 400,000) and Pakistan (80,000 = 100% of all projected returns) who will be in need of post-arrival humanitarian assistance. This number is based on return trend analysis from 2012-2019, **however return figures can rapidly shift as the result of internal and external political, security and economic conditions. IOM is seeking USD 15,000,000** to continue delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the course of 2020.



*Miriam and her relatives spent hours on the phone talking to family who could not believe they had made it back to Afghanistan alive after spending 8 days in captivity. IOM in partnership with MTN provides SIM cards with credit to all returnees. 2019 © IOM/K.Hayeri*



*Mirwais (17) and his cousin left their village in Robat Sangin district of Herat to search for work in Iran due to a lack of jobs in their home community only to be deported back to Afghanistan where they were met by IOM at the Islam Qala border. 2019 © IOM/K.Hayeri*

Intervention	Monthly cost	Total for 2020	Beneficiaries/Activities
1. Post-arrival assistance (delivery of soft services at IOM Reception/ Transit facilities)	500,000 USD- Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat and Nimroz	6,000,000 USD	200,000 individual returnees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration/screening/support to DoRR</li> <li>• Hot meals</li> <li>• Overnight accommodation</li> <li>• Transportation from ZP to TC</li> <li>• IOM partner assistance distribution</li> </ul>
2. Cash-based assistance (transportation)	500,000 USD total per month	6,000,000 USD	200,000 individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash for transportation from point of entry to final destination averaging 30 USD per person</li> </ul>
3. Health services at IOM clinics	250,000 USD	3,000,000 USD	30,000 returnees Basic medical screening at IOM clinics; provision of essential medicines; ambulatory services; referrals; Mobile Health Teams
<b>2020 Total</b>		<b>15,000,000 USD</b>	<b>200,000 beneficiaries</b>

In 2019, IOM’s Cross Border Return Response activities are supported by:



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