



*IOM's Migration Health programme provides psychosocial support as a part of its basic primary healthcare services. In 2021, more than 4,300 migrants and underserved host communities received PSS from IOM's mobile health teams including to 1,206 persons in western Herat province – 76% of whom are girls and women. As conflict and climate change continue to drive internal and external migration flows in the region continued provision of supportive PSS will be critical. ©IOM, April 2021.*

## Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **31,295** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 02-08 April 2021. **12,489** persons returned voluntarily and **18,806** were deported. This represents a **42%** increase in the total number of returns from the previous week. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **282,761** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,519 (5%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

## \*\* COVID-19 Programming Update \*\*

IOM is 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. 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. More information is available [here](#).

IOM support is focused on 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/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 across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

## 2021 Highlights

**286,618** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

**282,761** total returns from Iran in 2021

**3,857** total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **31,295** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**1,519** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **557** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **98%** of returnees from Pakistan (**544** individuals) assisted

## IOM Thematic Support

### Migration Health:

In 2021, **148,068** 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 week a total of **4,195** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **4,195** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **3,877** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,115** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **10,039** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **336** presumptive TB cases were identified and **5** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

### Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 937 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 and case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 59 new PSN households in Herat, Ghor, Nimroz, Balkh, Takhar, Faryab, Badakhshan, Kunduz, and Kabul. These cases included 30 children at risk, 11 persons with serious medical conditions, 4 single parents, 2 women at risk. 722 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR.

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**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **3,857** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **557** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (77 returnees and 5 deportee) and Spin Boldak (475 returnees) borders.

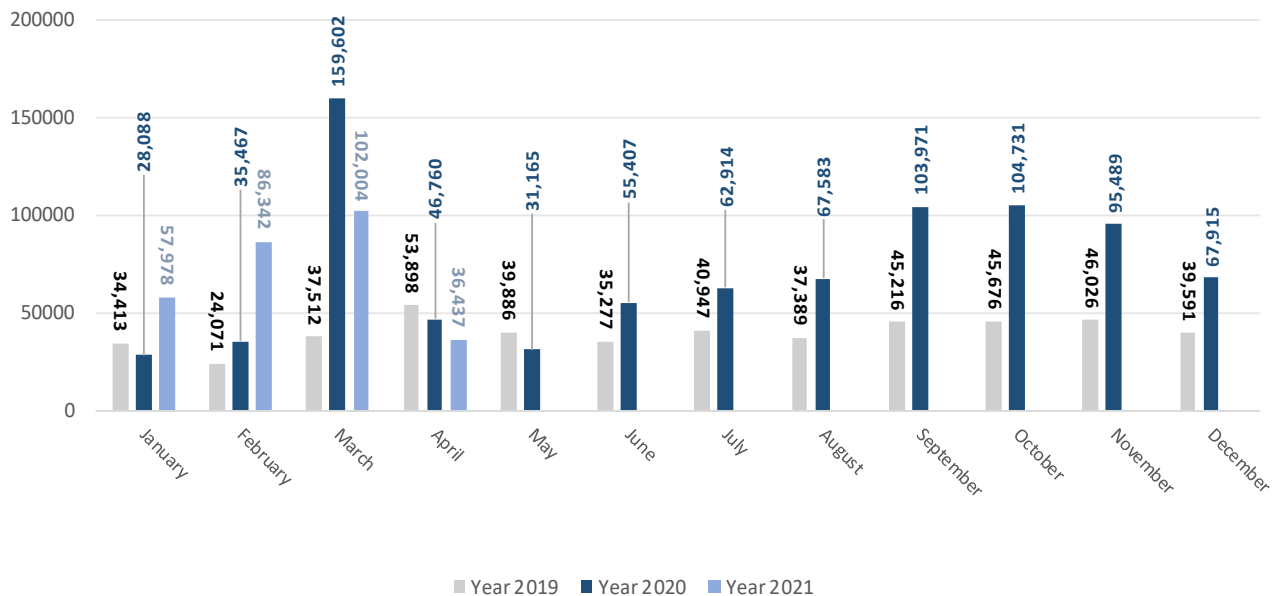
**Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-28 Feb	43,410	36,814	21,244	42,852	144,320	97	110	1,170	84	1,461	145,781
01-25 March	27,130	21,092	8,725	28,165	85,112	120	67	1,264	20	1,471	86,583
26 March - 01 April	8,808	3,304	3,144	6,778	22,034	41	14	311	2	368	22,402
02-08 April	8,041	6,331	4,448	12,475	31,295	77	5	475	0	557	31,852
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,389</b>	<b>67,541</b>	<b>37,561</b>	<b>90,270</b>	<b>282,761</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>3,857</b>	<b>286,618</b>

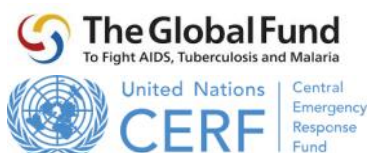
**Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-28 Feb	367	2,531	460	3,811	7,169	97	97	1,079	81	1,354	8,523
01-25 March	386	1,796	124	2,836	5,142	120	49	1,225	18	1,412	6,554
26 March - 01 April	175	681	54	726	1,636	41	14	311	0	366	2,002
02-08 April	104	555	40	820	1,519	77	5	462	0	544	2,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>8,193</b>	<b>15,466</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>19,142</b>

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran - 2019 - 2021



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 19,142 Afghan returnees in 2021.



Norway, Japan, Switzerland, DG ECHO, CERF and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

