



The Islam Qala reception center on 10 November 2020. This year returns from Iran through Herat province of undocumented Afghan migrants have remained exceptionally high with over 458,000 migrants returning via the Islam Qala border crossing. @ IOM, November2020

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **22,747** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 08-14 November 2020, a **4%** decrease from the previous week (**23,640**). **14,005** persons returned voluntarily and **8,742** were deported. Since 01 January 2020, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **742,075** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,313 (6%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week. **2020 is now on track to become the largest ever return year on record for undocumented Afghan migrants.**

COVID-19 Pandemic Update

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing preparedness and emergency coordination actions through its Cross Border Return, Migration Health and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Units.

IOM support is primarily focused across 4 of WHO's Global Response Pillars include 1. Coordination; 2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement; 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 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 12,300 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

Highlights

747,990 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2020

742,075 total returns from Iran

5,915 total returns from Pakistan

Over the past week **22,747** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **6%** of returnees from Iran (**1,313** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **147** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **84%** of returnees from Pakistan (**123** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2020, **472,184** patients have been reached by IOM's Migration Health Unit in Nimroz, Helmand, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces with basic health care services- outpatient consultations for general illnesses, maternal, child and neo-natal health care, reproductive health, family planning services and COVID-19 response. This programming is supported by the United Kingdom's FCDO, the Governments of Japan, Canada, Germany, DG ECHO, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund and the United States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

During the past week a total of **21,563** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,358** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **18,205** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **562** patients. Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **12,980** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres of Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **265** presumptive TB cases were identified and samples lab tested through GeneXpert and normal microscopy in coordination with the National TB Control Programme. **3** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection: IOM's Protection programme has supported 3,782 undocumented returnee households comprising at least one Person with Specific Needs (PSN) in 2020 through the provision of timely information, facilitating safe and dignified access to services, and provision of assistance including cash to mitigate identified protection risks and avoid negative coping mechanisms when referrals pathways are exhausted.

With screening staff operating at the Herat and Nimroz border points as well as case workers operational across 11 provinces of return, the Protection team completed case management assessments for **63** new PSN households in Nimroz, Kunduz, Kabul, Ghor, Faryab, Takhar, Herat, Balkh, and Kandahar. These cases included **13** persons with serious medical conditions, **6** women at risk, **5** children at risk, **5** single parents, **4** older persons at risk, **2** separated or unaccompanied children, **2** persons with disabilities. Across all provinces, **1,265** cases are under case management, and **2,517** cases have successfully been closed. **715** 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 conducts regular COVID-19 protection monitoring surveys in collaboration with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster. This week, 74 households were surveyed, all of whom received specific information and RCCE messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention relevant to their location.

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), 5,915 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2020. Over the past week 147 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (23 returnees and 25 deportees) and Spin Boldak (52 returnees and 47 deportees) borders. The Afghan frontier with Pakistan at Spin Boldak officially reopened on 21 August and the border with Torkham on 29 September.

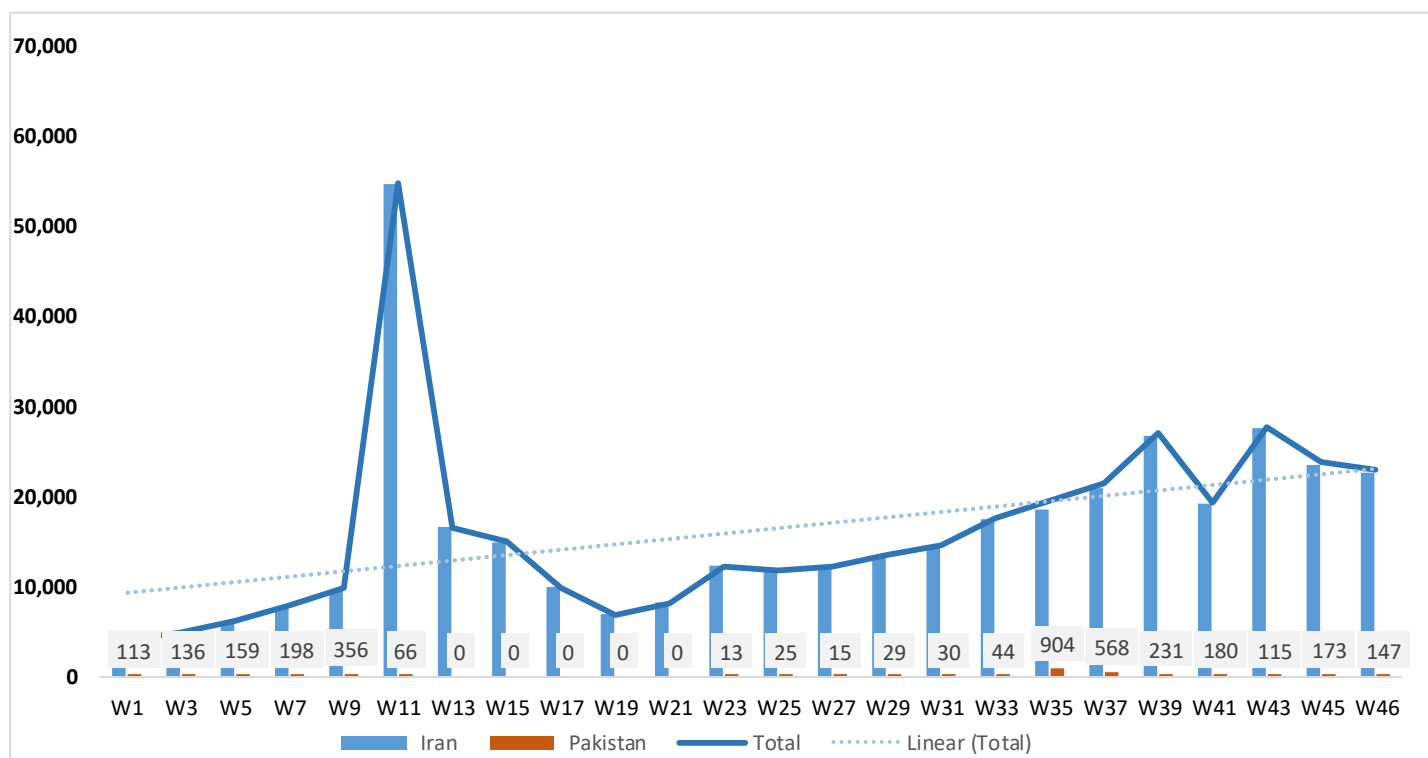
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2020

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-30 Sep 2020	276,669	81,121	96,509	136,658	590,957	649	190	4,008	212	5,059	596,016
01-31 Oct 2020	48,812	23,142	14,603	18,174	104,731	150	78	304	4	536	105,267
01-07 Nov 2020	9,987	5,375	3,833	4,445	23,640	50	10	113	0	173	23,813
08-14 Nov 2020	9,036	4,269	4,969	4,473	22,747	23	25	52	47	147	22,894
Total	344,504	113,907	119,914	163,750	742,075	872	303	4,477	263	5,915	747,990

Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2020

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-30 Sep 2020	15,075	13,480	9,162	26,959	64,676	649	122	3,499	51	4,321	68,997
01-31 Oct 2020	366	2,200	192	2,770	5,528	150	67	285	0	502	6,030
01-07 Nov 2020	114	316	53	530	1,013	50	7	113	0	170	1,183
08-14 Nov 2020	57	461	56	739	1,313	23	20	52	28	123	1,436
Total	15,612	16,457	9,463	30,998	72,530	872	216	3,949	79	5,116	77,646

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan—Weekly Trends for 2020



IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 77,646 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2020



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