



*IOM's migration health teams continue to provide post-arrival screening, basic primary services with free medicines and referrals for advanced care to tertiary hospital partners around the country including in southwestern Nimroz province where health service delivery is increasingly under strain. ©IOM, April 2021.*

## 2021 Highlights

**318,789** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

**314,594** total returns from Iran in 2021

**4,195** total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **31,833** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **4%** of returnees from Iran (**1,244** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **338** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **97%** of returnees from Pakistan (**327** individuals) assisted

## IOM Thematic Support

### Migration Health:

In 2021, **152,180** 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 **4,112** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,348** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **4,112** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **711** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **11,112** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **357** presumptive TB cases were identified and **4** persons were confirmed positive.

### Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 1,053 undocumented returnee households 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 at the Herat and Nimroz border points and case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team case-load this week included case management assessments 116 new PSN households in Herat, Nimroz, Ghor, Kandahar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Takhar, Badakhshan, Faryab, and Balkh. These cases included 42 children at risk, 16 persons with serious medical conditions, 10 women at risk, 8 persons with disabilities, 6 older persons at risk, 5 single parents. 274 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR. 28 undocumented returnee households (109 individuals) received Post-arrival assistance (e.g. mobile phones, family tracing, and transportation) and case management assessments were conducted for 116 cases.

## Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **31,833** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 09-15 April 2021. **13,947** persons returned voluntarily and **17,886** were deported. This represents a **2%** increase in the total number of returns from the previous week. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **314,594** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,244 (4%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

## Cross Border Response Funding Needs 2021

Against a funding request of **USD 29.7M** in 2021 to serve an estimated return caseload of **654,000 Afghan migrants**— a figure which is likely to be exceeded given present return trends— **IOM has only received 5% of its requirement.** Without additional support humanitarian operations at border level transit centers face suspension in July with week on week assistance levels already extremely constrained despite humanitarian needs.

## COVID-19 Programming Update

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in provision of [COVID-19 response interventions](#). 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](#). Activities include training for frontline health workers, deployment of staff to areas of need including health facilities and cross border surveillance, material support of PPE/equipment, ambulance based referral services and community level awareness raising efforts including within Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions in over 12,600 settlements across 34 provinces.

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**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **4,195** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **338** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**70** returnees and **10** deportees) and Spin Boldak (**199** returnees and **59** deportees) borders.

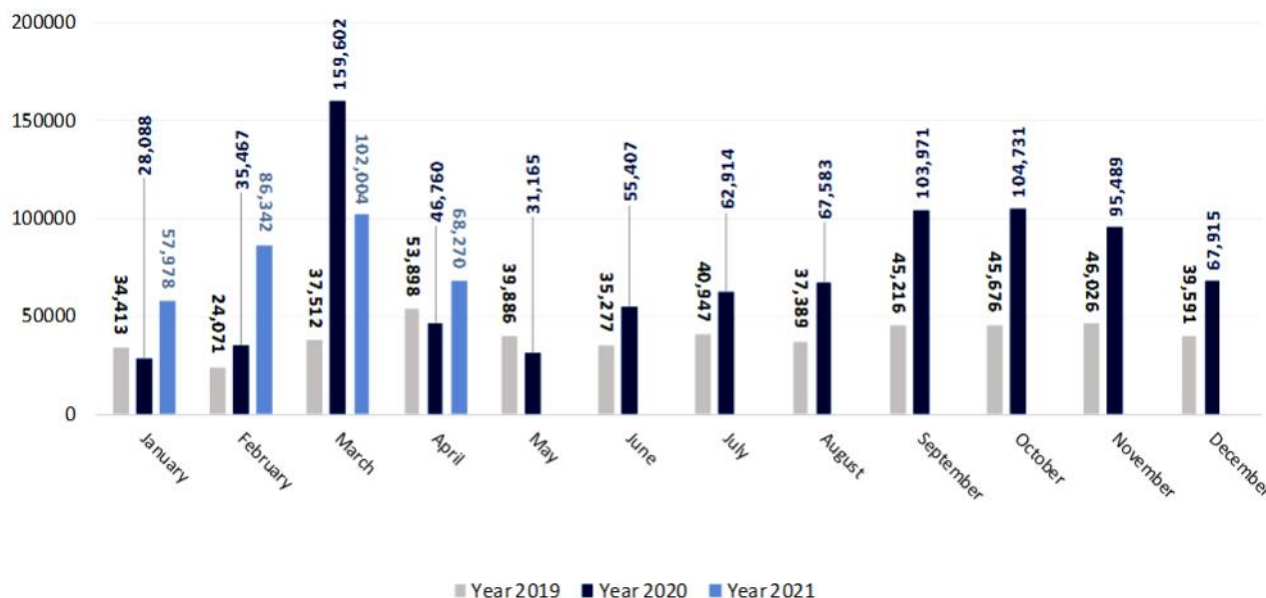
**Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021**

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	1170	84	1461	145,781
01 March- 01 April	35,938	24,396	11,869	34,943	107,146	161	81	1575	22	1839	108,985
02-08 April	8,041	6,331	4,448	12,475	31,295	77	5	475	0	557	31,852
09-15 April	11,149	6,034	2,798	11,852	31,833	70	10	199	59	338	32,171
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,538</b>	<b>73,575</b>	<b>40,359</b>	<b>102,122</b>	<b>314,594</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>318,789</b>

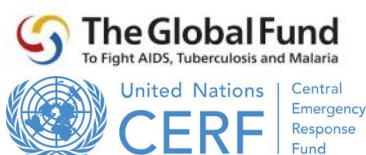
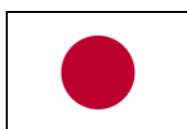
**Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021**

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	1079	81	1354	8,523
01 March- 01 April	561	2,477	178	3,561	6,777	161	63	1536	18	1778	8,555
02-08 April	104	555	40	820	1,519	77	5	462	0	544	2,063
09-15 April	83	597	5	559	1,244	60	10	199	58	327	1,571
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>8,751</b>	<b>16,709</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>4,003</b>	<b>20,712</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 20,712 Afghan returnees in 2021.



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

