



Under a private sector contribution from LifeBox, IOM's medical staff in Kandahar province measure a patient's oxygen saturation levels using a pulse oximeter without using needles or taking a blood sample. ©IOM/June 2021.

2021 Highlights

565,587 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

559,240 total returns from Iran in 2021

6,347 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **27,443** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **3%** of returnees from Iran (**942** individuals) assisted (**684** men and **258** women)

Over the past week **388** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **100%** of returnees from Pakistan (**388** individuals) assisted (**207** men and **181** women)

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **27,443** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 11-17 June 2021. **14,400** persons returned voluntarily and **13,043** were deported. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **559,240** individuals- a **66.4% increase over the same period in 2020**. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **942 (3%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week. **Assistance levels continue to be limited by a lack of funding and bear no relation to the vulnerability of the returning population.**

On 29 April, the Government of Iran announced a border closure with Afghanistan to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Afghan nationals including migrants will still be allowed to return home during this period.

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 during the summer— **IOM has only received 5% of its requirement**. **Despite urgent and growing humanitarian needs, without additional funding support humanitarian operations at border level transit centers face suspension on 31 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.

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, 185,298 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 CERF, US BPRM and the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund. During the past week a total of 4,461 patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of 3,201 outpatient consultations, health education sessions for 4,461 persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for 191 patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of 10,000 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centers in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, 225 presumptive TB cases were identified and 3 were detected as positive TB cases.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported supported 1,741 undocumented returnee households (2,310 women, 2,194 men, 3,565 girls and 4,074 boys) 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 one-off 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 borders and case workers in 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 41 new PSN households (125 women, 116 men, 188 girls, 198 boys) in Ghor, Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Faryab, Balkh and Takhar. These cases included 38 children at risk, 21 women at risk, 16 persons with serious medical conditions, 10 persons with disabilities, 10 older persons at risk, and 8 single parents. 82 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR. 10 undocumented returnee households (3 women, 8 men, 5 girls, 3 boys) received Post-arrival support services (e.g. provision of mobile phones, family tracing, and transportation) and case management assessments were conducted for all 41 cases.

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **6,347** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **388** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (73 returnees & 5 deportees) and Spin Boldak (310 returnees) borders.

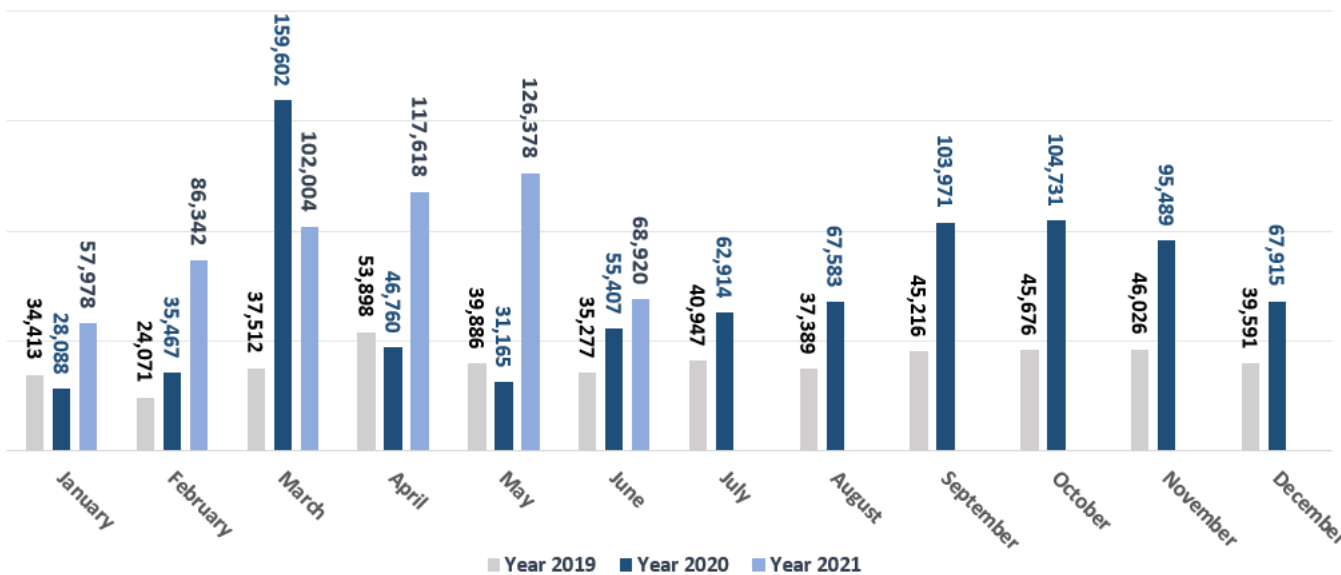
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-30 April	116,363	86,643	43,818	117,118	363,942	449	225	3,625	165	4,464	368,406
01-27 May	42,724	29,275	9,524	28,016	109,539	178	28	496	57	759	110,298
28 May-3 June	14,326	9,820	2,798	8,422	35,366	116	0	221	16	353	35,719
04-10 June	8,806	4,889	2,675	6,580	22,950	95	16	267	5	383	23,333
11-17 June	11,897	7,916	2,503	5,127	27,443	73	5	310	0	388	27,831
Total	194,116	138,543	61,318	165,263	559,240	911	274	4,919	243	6,347	565,587

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		
1 Jan-30 April	1,157	6,702	701	9,359	17,919	449	193	3,488	157	4,287	22,206
01-27 May	132	1,752	72	1,267	3,223	178	28	496	43	745	3,968
28 May-3 June	23	354	17	556	950	113	0	214	9	336	1,286
04-10 June	100	238	14	339	691	95	16	267	0	378	1,069
11-17 June	20	545	20	357	942	73	5	310	0	388	1,330
Total	1,432	9,591	824	11,878	23,725	908	242	4,775	209	6,134	29,859

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 29,859 Afghan returnees in 2021.



Japan, the United States, Switzerland, DG ECHO, CERF, the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF)

