



*Returns over the past week exceeded 30,000 persons for the first time in 2021 ahead of upcoming Nawroz religious holidays.
 Muse Mohammed/IOM, March 2021.*

2021 Highlights

224,098 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

221,659 total returns from Iran in 2021

2,439 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **32,229** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**1,640** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **348** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **92%** of returnees from Pakistan (**319** individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **32,229** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 12-18 March 2021. **15,150** persons returned voluntarily and **17,079** were deported. This represents a **15%** increase in the total number of returns from the previous week.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **221,659** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,640 (5%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

****COVID-19 Programming Update****

IOM has been 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 however funding will end for COVID-19 interventions on 31 March 2021.

IOM support is focused across 4 of WHO's Response Pillars including 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 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 12,600 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **130,559** 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 the UK's FCDO, DG ECHO, CERF, and the United States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

During the past week a total of **9,707** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,787** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **9,707** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,424** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **9,361** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **307** presumptive TB cases were identified and **7** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 778 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 116 new PSN households in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghor, Herat, Takhar, and Faryab. These cases included 46 children at risk, 14 persons with serious medical conditions, 11 single parents, 8 women at risk, and 8 older persons at risk. 961 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), **2,439** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **348** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**29** returnees and **9** deportee) and Spin Boldak (**297** returnees and **13** deportees) borders.

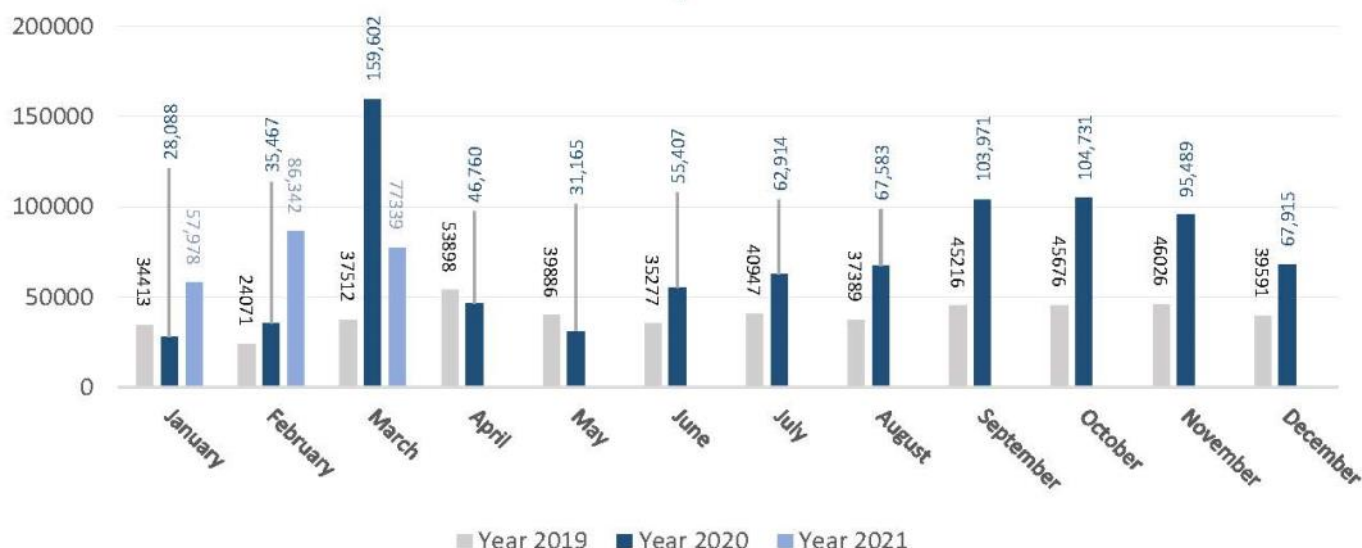
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

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 2021	43,410	36,814	21,244	42,852	144,320	97	110	1170	84	1461	145,781
01-04 March 2021	6,874	3,038	1,861	5,362	17,135	0	26	273	4	303	17,438
5-11 March 2021	8,361	6,122	2,715	10,777	27,975	46	23	256	2	327	28,302
12-18 March 2021	11,790	8,191	3,360	8,888	32,229	29	9	297	13	348	32,577
Total	70,435	54,165	29,180	67,879	221,659	172	168	1,996	103	2,439	224,098

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 2021	367	2,531	460	3,811	7,169	97	97	1079	81	1354	8,523
01-04 March 2021	122	325	5	315	767	0	21	270	4	295	1,062
5-11 March 2021	54	341	31	1,005	1,431	46	11	256	0	313	1,744
12-18 March 2021	183	446	74	937	1,640	29	8	269	13	319	1,959
Total	726	3,643	570	6,068	11,007	172	137	1,874	98	2,281	13,288

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 13,288 Afghan returnees in 2021.



The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, ECHO, United States of America, and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

