



IOM registers Afghan migrants at its border level reception and transit facilities in Nangahar, Kandahar, Nimroz and Herat on a daily basis within the IOM Beneficiary Screening and Assistance (BSAF) system. Since January 2021 more than 50,000 individuals have been registered. ©IOM, May 2021.

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **20,706** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 14-20 May 2021. **11,062** persons returned voluntarily and **9,644** were deported. Rates of return increased significantly ahead of Eid holidays making the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **439,668** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **829 (4%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

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 given present return trends— **IOM has only received 5% of its requirement.** **Without additional 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.

2021 Highlights

444,520 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

439,668 total returns from Iran in 2021

4,852 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **20,706** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **4%** of returnees from Iran (**829** individuals) assisted (**626** men and **203** women)

Over the past week **30** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **100%** of returnees from Pakistan (**30** individuals) assisted (**17** men and **13** women)

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, 169,069 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 2,719 patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of 2,022 outpatient consultations, health education sessions for 2,719 persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for 167 patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of 7,554 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centers in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, 186 presumptive TB cases were identified.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 1,490 undocumented returnee households (1,952 women, 1,846 men, 2,971 girls and 3,420 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 resort to negative coping mechanisms when referral pathways are exhausted.

With screening staff operating at the Herat and Nimroz border points and case workers in 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 73 new PSN households (92 women, 96 men, 174 girls, 180 boys) in Ghor, Nangarhar, Takhar, Herat, Kandahar, Sar-e-Pul, Badakhshan, Faryab, Nimroz, Kabul, and Balkh. These cases included 28 children at risk, 20 persons with serious medical conditions, 12 women at risk, 13 older persons at risk, 8 persons with disability, and 6 single parents, 4 separated children. 775 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR. 16 undocumented returnee households (16 women, 14 men, 17 girls, 23 boys) received Post-arrival support services (e.g. mobile phones, family tracing, and transportation) and 256 PSN cases received cash assistance. Case management assessments were conducted for 73 cases.

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **4,852** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **30** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**7** returnees) and Spin Boldak (**23** returnees) borders. The Afghan-Pakistan border closed on 05 May for a 2-week period to 19 May due to concerns over COVID-19 transmission rates over the Ramadan and Eid period – hence return figures this week are very low. The border reopened as scheduled on 20 May.

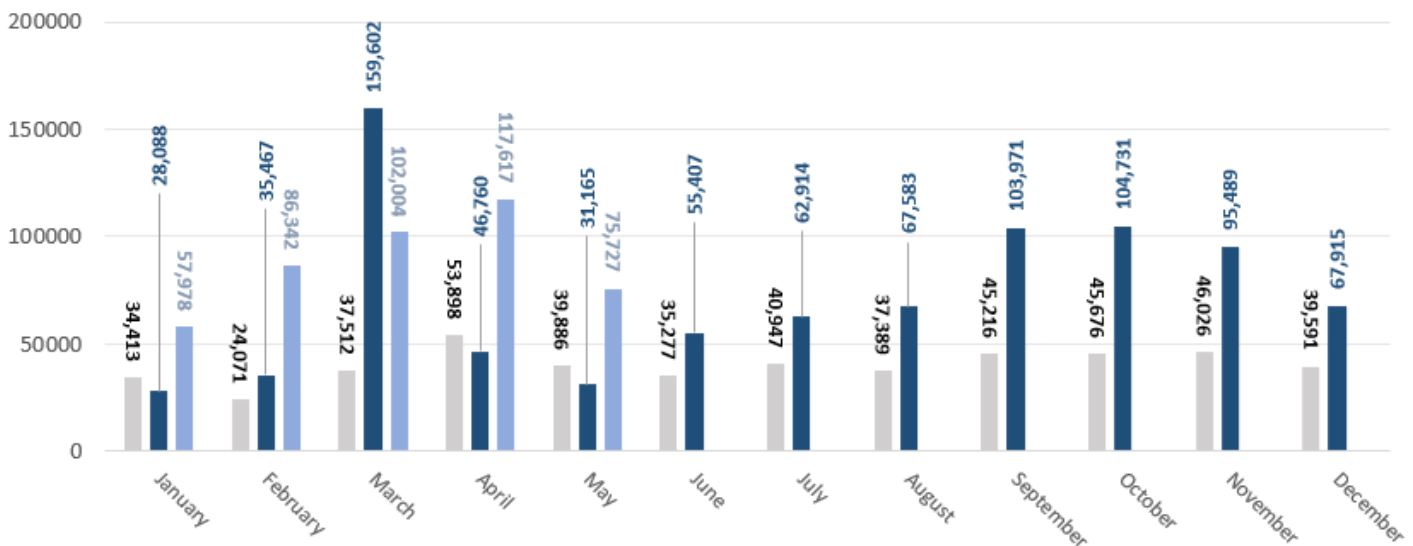
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-31 March	76,857	60,246	32,859	76,362	246,324	1663	132	1320	165	3280	249,604
1-22 April	31,404	20,411	9,237	33,710	94,762	176	34	731	59	1000	95,762
23-29 April	8,102	5,986	1,722	7,045	22,855	36	0	158	0	194	23,049
30 April-13 May	19,688	13,492	5,264	16,577	55,021	98	15	178	57	348	55,369
14-20 May	9,745	6,563	1,317	3,081	20,706	7	0	23	0	30	20,736
Total	145,796	106,698	50,399	136,775	439,668	1,980	181	2,410	281	4,852	444,520

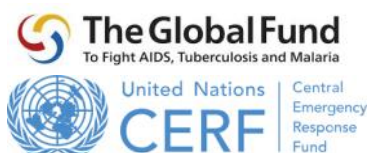
Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-31 March	902	4,849	638	7,250	13,639	247	160	2606	99	3112	16,751
1-22 April	251	1,708	56	1,792	3,807	166	33	724	58	981	4,788
23-29 April	4	145	7	316	472	36	0	158	0	194	666
30 April-13 May	94	877	25	451	1,447	98	15	178	43	334	1,781
14-20 May	18	470	4	337	829	7	0	23	0	30	859
Total	1,269	8,049	730	10,146	20,194	554	208	3,689	200	4,651	24,845

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 24,845 Afghan returnees in 2021.



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

