



IOM's health education teams are continuing public outreach to encourage adherence to public health protocols which remains uneven around the country and heavily impacted by socio-economic considerations. @IOM, January 2021

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **11,367** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 15-21 January 2021. **5,707** persons returned voluntarily and **5,660** were deported.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **36,496** individuals.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **398 (4%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

****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 12,600 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

2021 Highlights

36,863 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

36,496 total returns from Iran in 2021

367 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **11,367** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **4%** of returnees from Iran (**398** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **196** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **88%** of returnees from Pakistan (**172** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **49,349** 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 **8,995** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,591** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **8,995** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,102** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **8,208** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **268** presumptive TB cases were identified and samples lab tested and **2** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 169 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 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 border points and case workers in 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 69 new PSN households in Nimroz, Ghor, Balkh, Kunduz, Herat, Badakhshan, Takhar, and Sar-e-Pol. These cases included 14 children at risk, 5 women at risk, 5 persons with serious medical conditions, and 2 older persons at risk. Across all provinces, 2,002 cases are ongoing. 233 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 conducted regular COVID-19 protection monitoring surveys in collaboration with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster. This week, 153 households were surveyed, all of whom received specific WHO information and RCCE messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention relevant to their location.

CONTACT US

IOM Kabul

✉ nbishop@iom.int

🌐 <http://afghanistan.iom.int>

[facebook.com/iomafghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/iomafghanistan)

twitter.com/iomafghanistan

Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **367** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **196** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (0 returnees and deportees) and Spin Boldak (196 returnees) borders. Returns are lower in the colder winter months.

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		
01-07 Jan 2021	5,919	2,686	2,238	2,383	13,226	0	46	17	35	98	13,324
08-14 Jan 2021	4,194	3,154	2,004	2,551	11,903	0	11	62	0	73	11,976
15-21 Jan 2021	3,567	2,556	2,140	3,104	11,367	0	0	196	0	196	11,563
Total	13,680	8,396	6,382	8,038	36,496	0	57	275	35	367	36,863

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		
01-07 Jan 2021	90	253	77	220	640	0	41	10	35	86	726
08-14 Jan 2021	13	54	53	294	414	0	11	62	0	73	487
15-21 Jan 2021	32	46	57	263	398	0	0	172	0	172	570
Total	135	353	187	777	1,452	0	52	244	35	331	1,783

	Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) Category							Total
	From Iran			From Pakistan				
	Herat	Nimroz	Sub-Total	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Sub-Total		
Poor Family	17	82	99	0	97	97	196	
Unaccompanied Migrant Children	30	79	109	0	0	0	109	
Single Parents Family	14	21	35	0	75	75	110	
Medical Case	10	20	30	0	0	0	30	
Physically Disabled	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	
Unaccompanied Elderly	2	1	3	0	0	0	3	
Substance abuse concerns	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Single Female	3	1	4	0	0	0	4	
Mental Health concerns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chronically ill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deported Families	0	115	115	0	0	0	115	
Total PSNs	78	320	398	0	172	172	570	

IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 1,783 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2021 Migration for the benefit of all.



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