



*Above, one of IOM's physicians in Kandahar province supports the movement of a critically ill COVID patient to a treatment facility. COVID-19 cases continue to reach daily record highs of between 1,500-2,000 cases with between 80-100 officially declared deaths— a significant increase on top of these figures is anticipated in the coming days and weeks. Given a deterioration in security and restricted access to remote and rural areas combined with limited testing capacity and willingness to be tested true daily totals are likely much higher. ©IOM/June 2021.*

## Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **25,009** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 18-24 June 2021. **15,589** persons returned voluntarily and **9,420** were deported. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **584,249** individuals- a **67% increase over the same period in 2020**. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **827 (3%)** 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 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.

## 2021 Highlights

**590,772** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

**584,249** total returns from Iran in 2021

**6,523** total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **25,009** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **3%** of returnees from Iran (**827** individuals) assisted (**607** men and **220** women)

Over the past week **176** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **97%** of returnees from Pakistan (**170** individuals) assisted (**83** men and **87** women)

## IOM Thematic Support

### Migration Health:

In 2021, 188,296 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 2,998 patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of 2,998 outpatient consultations, health education sessions for 500 persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for 148 patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of 1,760 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centers in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, 40 presumptive TB cases were identified.

### Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported supported 1,788 undocumented returnee households (2,368 women, 2,243 men, 3,672 girls and 4,177 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 47 new PSN households (58 women, 49 men, 107 girls, 103 boys) in Ghor, Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Kabul, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Faryab, Balkh and Takhar. These cases included 18 children at risk, 9 women at risk, 15 persons with serious medical conditions and 6 persons with disabilities. 77 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR. 25 undocumented returnee households (23 women, 26 men, 14 girls, 28 boys) received Post-arrival support services (e.g. provision of mobile phones, family tracing, and transportation) and case management assessments were conducted for all 47 cases.

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**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **6,523** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **176** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**48** returnees) and Spin Boldak (**121** returnees & **7** Deportee) borders.

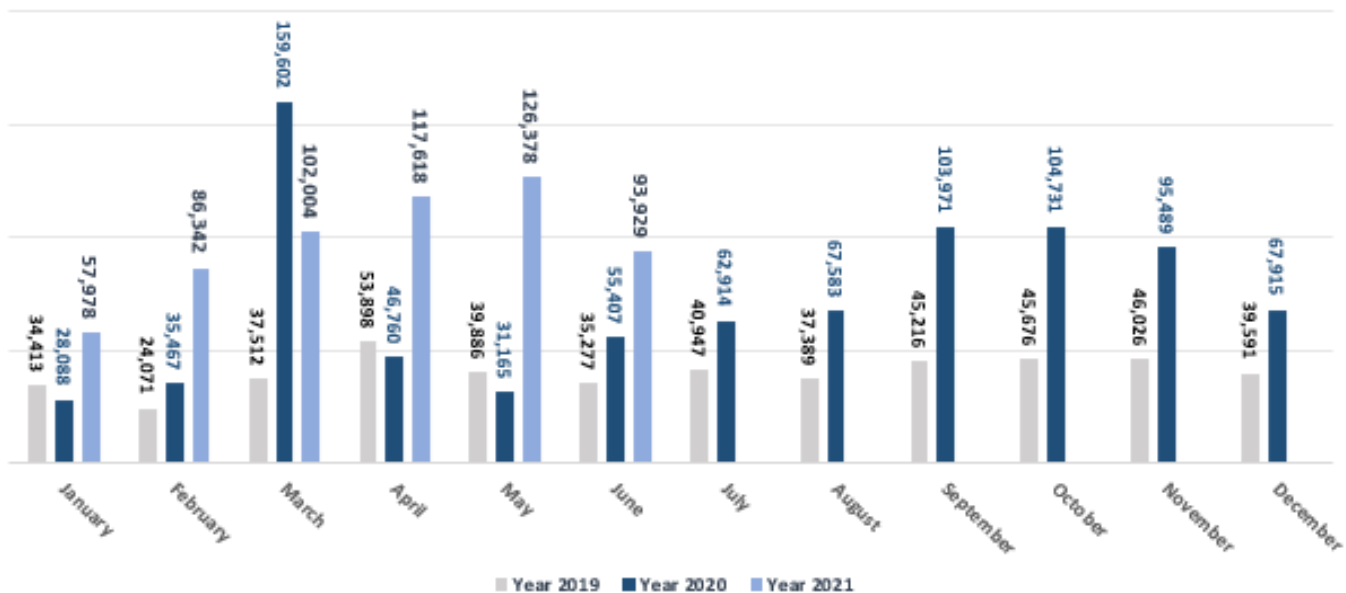
**Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1 Jan-31 May	164,485	121,893	54,654	149,288	490,320	678	253	4,269	236	5,436	495,756
1-10 June	17,734	8,734	4,161	10,848	41,477	160	16	340	7	523	42,000
11-17 June	11,897	7,916	2,503	5,127	27,443	73	5	310	0	388	27,831
18-24 June	13,475	4,920	2,114	4,500	25,009	48	0	121	7	176	25,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,591</b>	<b>143,463</b>	<b>63,432</b>	<b>169,763</b>	<b>584,249</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>5,040</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>590,772</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		
1 Jan-31 May	1,294	8,639	784	10,909	21,626	675	221	4,125	209	5,230	26,856
1-10 June	118	407	20	612	1,157	160	16	340	0	516	1,673
11-17 June	20	545	20	357	942	73	5	310	0	388	1,330
18-24 June	86	477	18	246	827	48	0	121	1	170	997
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>10,068</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>12,124</b>	<b>24,552</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>4,896</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>6,304</b>	<b>30,856</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 30,856 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)**

