



*In Kandahar province's Dand district, one of IOM's migration health teams provides basic primary healthcare services including awareness on COVID-19 to over 700 conflict displaced families. @Muse Mohammed/IOM, February 2021 .*

## 2021 Highlights

**131,397** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

**129,975** total returns from Iran in 2021

**1,422** total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **20,911** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**1,063** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **232** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **99%** of returnees from Pakistan (**230** individuals) assisted

## IOM Thematic Support

### Migration Health:

In 2021, **100,927** 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 **9,498** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,846** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **9,498** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,464** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **9,423** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **308** presumptive TB cases were identified, 304 were tested for sputum and **7** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

### Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 546 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 as well as case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 115 new PSN households in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Nangarhar, Ghor, Herat, Takhar, and Faryab. These cases included 26 children at risk, 15 persons with serious medical conditions, 8 single parents, 5 women at risk, and 3 persons with disabilities. Across all provinces, 2,386 cases are ongoing. 984 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, 149 households were surveyed, all of whom received specific WHO information and RCCE messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention relevant to their location.

## Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **20,911** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 19-25 February 2021. **7,132** persons returned voluntarily and **13,779** were deported. This represents a **5%** decrease in the total number of returns from the previous week.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **129,975** individuals- more than double the rate of return in 2019 and 2020 through January and February. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,063 (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 28 February 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>

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**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **1,422** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **232** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**47** returnees and **14** deportee) and Spin Boldak (**144** returnees and **27** deportees) borders. Returns are lower in the colder winter months.

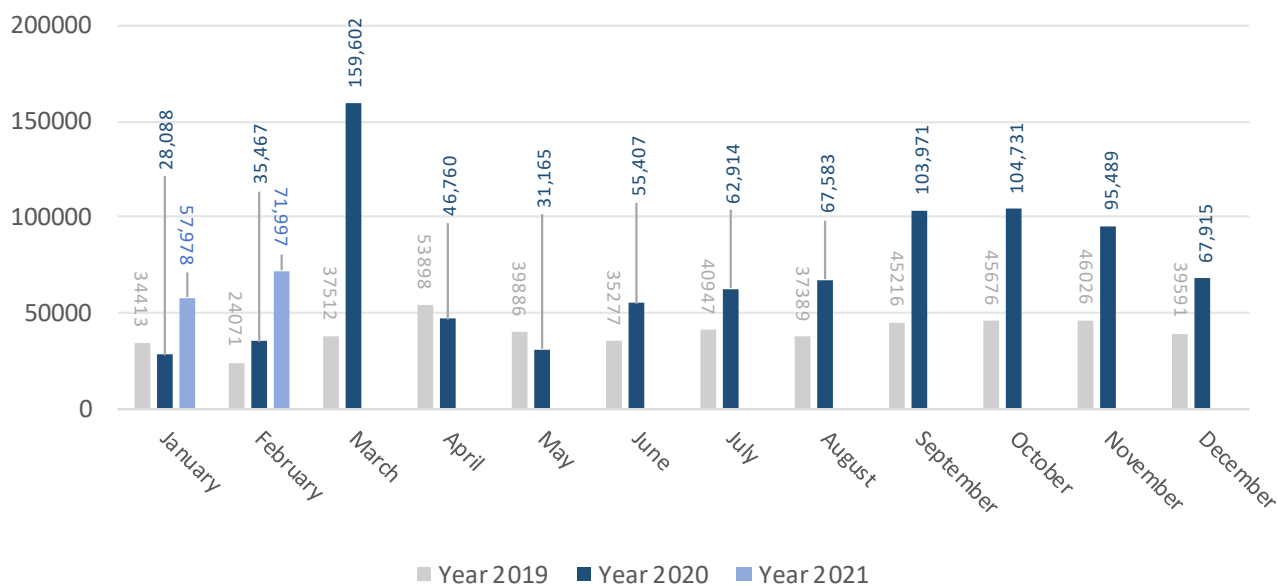
**Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1-31 Jan 2021	20,293	12,099	10,343	15,243	57,978	22	58	520	47	647	58,625
01-11 Feb 2021	11,278	7,200	4,590	5,984	29,052	7	21	199	2	229	29,281
12-18 Feb 2021	2,479	6,784	3,171	9,600	22,034	21	17	276	0	314	22,348
19-25 Feb 2021	5,194	6,050	1,938	7,729	20,911	47	14	144	27	232	21,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,244</b>	<b>32,133</b>	<b>20,042</b>	<b>38,556</b>	<b>129,975</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>131,397</b>

**Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021**

	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
1-31 Jan 2021	153	480	240	1,401	2,274	22	52	482	47	603	2,877
01-11 Feb 2021	49	782	125	850	1,806	7	15	184	0	206	2,012
12-18 Feb 2021	52	539	51	689	1,331	21	17	249	0	287	1,618
19-25 Feb 2021	82	375	36	570	1,063	47	13	144	26	230	1,293
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>7,800</b>

**Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran - 2019 - 2021**



**IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 7,800 undocumented 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**

