



Dr Tawoos Naderi, Director of the Public Provincial Health Directorate in Kandahar province presents IOM's Cross Border Response Field Coordinator and Migration Health Emergency Coordinator with a certificate of appreciation on 27 January for excellence in health service delivery. @IOM, January 2021

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **16,014** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 22-28 January 2021. **8,032** persons returned voluntarily and **7,892** were deported.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **52,510** individuals.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **554 (3%)** 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

53,051 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

52,510 total returns from Iran in 2021

541 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **16,014** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **3%** of returnees from Iran (**554** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **174** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **95%** of returnees from Pakistan (**166** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **60,515** 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 **11,166** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,945** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **11,166** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,016** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **8,864** 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 samples lab tested and **6** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 222 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 operating at the Herat and Nimroz border crossing points and case workers in 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 60 new PSN households in Nimroz, Ghor, Balkh, Kunduz, Herat, Badakhshan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Sar-e-Pol. These cases included 8 children at risk, 5 people with serious medical conditions, 4 women at risk, 3 persons with disabilities, and 3 older persons at risk. Across all provinces, 2,062 cases are ongoing. 130 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, 125 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), **541** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **174** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (22 returnees and 1 deportees) and Spin Boldak (151 returnees) borders. Returns are lower in the colder winter months.

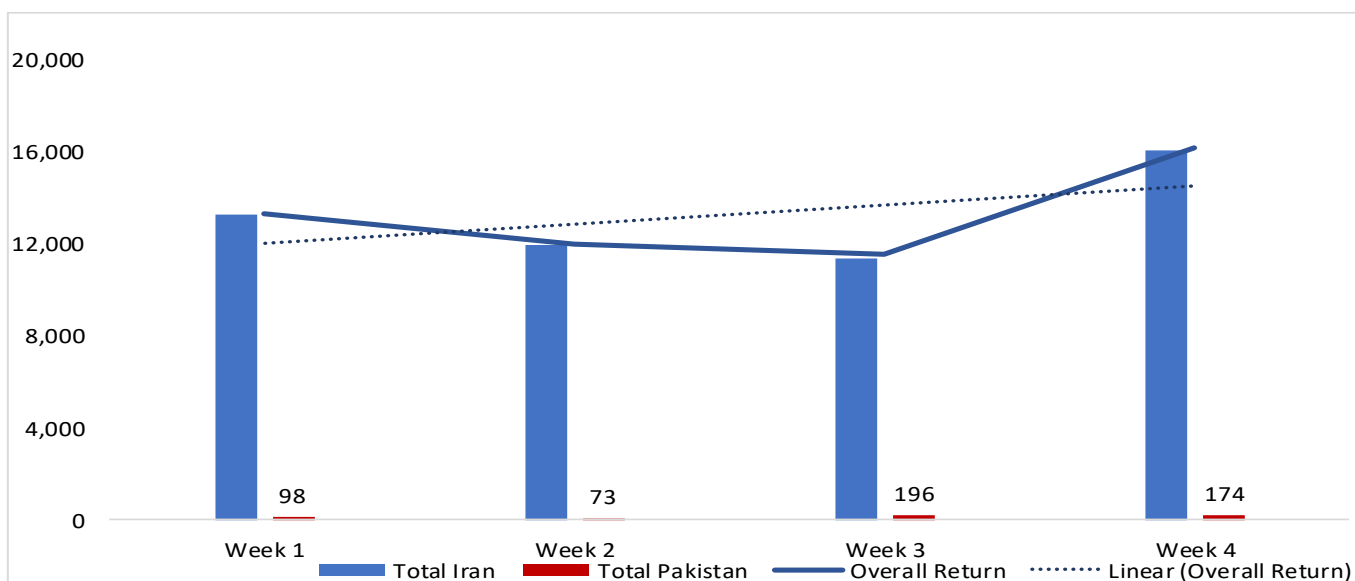
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

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
22-28 Jan 2021	5,013	2,778	3,019	5,204	16,014	22	1	151	0	174	16,188
Total	18,693	11,174	9,401	13,242	52,510	22	58	426	35	541	53,051

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	90	253	77	220	640	0	41	10	35	86	726
08-14 Jan	13	54	53	294	414	0	11	62	0	73	487
15-21 Jan	32	46	57	263	398	0	0	172	0	172	570
22-28 Jan	18	96	19	421	554	22	0	144	0	166	720
Total	153	449	206	1,198	2,006	22	52	388	35	497	2,503

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan—Weekly Trends for 2021



IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 2,503 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2021.



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