



IOM's Rapid Response Teams continue to work within communities to provide surveillance support and ongoing testing for COVID-19. In March, in the province of Herat, IOM's RRTs tested 2,573 individuals and detected 546 positive cases— a test positivity rate of just over 21% in the areas where IOM works. Wider testing results showed a total positivity rate of 38% in Herat during March. @IOM, March 2021.

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **22,034** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 26 March—01 April 2021. **11,952** persons returned voluntarily and **10,082** were deported. This represents a **183%** increase in the total number of returns from the previous week as returns have resumed there previous pace prior to the advent of Nawroz holidays. Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **251,466** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,636 (7%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week.

COVID-19 Programming Update

IOM is 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. 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](#).

IOM support is focused on 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/equipment, ambulance based referral services and community level awareness raising 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

254,766 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

251,466 total returns from Iran in 2021

3,300 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **22,034** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **7%** of returnees from Iran (**1,636** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **368** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **99%** of returnees from Pakistan (**366** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **143,873** 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 **7,926** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,758** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **7,926** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,177** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **10,032** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **278** presumptive TB cases were identified and **2** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 878 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 and case workers in 12 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 40 new PSN households in Faryab, Balkh, Ghor, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Nimroz, Badakhshan. These cases included 16 children at risk, 7 persons with serious medical conditions, 3 women at risk, 2 older persons at risk. 671 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR.

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), **3,300** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week **368** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**41** returnees and **14** deportee) and Spin Boldak (**311** returnees and **2** deportees) borders.

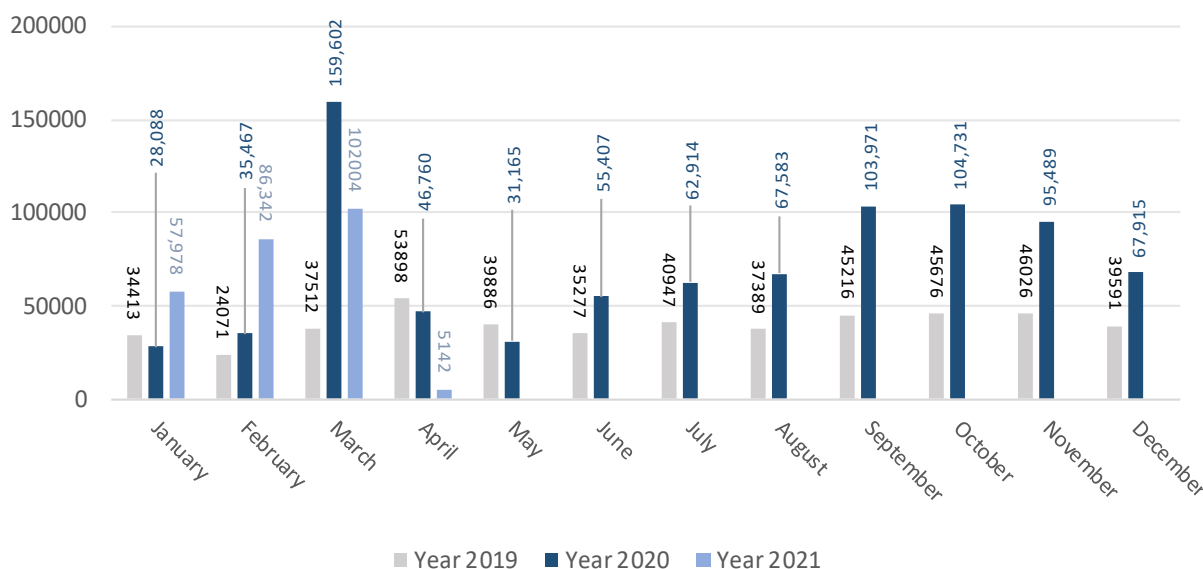
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-28 Feb 2021	43,410	36,814	21,244	42,852	144,320	97	110	1170	84	1461	145,781
01-18 March 2021	27,025	17,351	7,936	25,027	77,339	75	58	826	19	978	78,317
19-25 March 2021	105	3,741	789	3,138	7,773	45	9	438	1	493	8,266
26 March - 01 April	8,808	3,304	3,144	6,778	22,034	41	14	311	2	368	22,402
Total	79,348	61,210	33,113	77,795	251,466	258	191	2,745	106	3,300	254,766

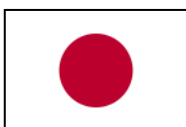
Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan-28 Feb 2021	367	2,531	460	3,811	7,169	97	97	1079	81	1354	8,523
01-18 March 2021	359	1,112	110	2,257	3,838	75	40	795	17	927	4,765
19-25 March 2021	27	684	14	579	1,304	45	9	430	1	485	1,789
26 March - 01 April	175	681	54	726	1,636	41	14	311	0	366	2,002
Total	928	5,008	638	7,373	13,947	258	160	2,615	99	3,132	17,079

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 17,079 Afghan returnees in 2021.



The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Norway, Japan, Switzerland, ECHO, United States of America, and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

