



IOM's Migration Health Team at the Garzagah Transit Center in Herat city continues to provide basic health education and awareness on Covid-19 prevention to returnees and host community members. @IOM, February 2021

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **17,154** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 29 Jan-04 Feb 2021. **10,137** persons returned voluntarily and **7,017** were deported.

Since 01 January 2021, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **69,664** individuals. **This figure is more than double the rate of return in January 2020 and January 2019.**

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **808 (5%)** 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

70,390 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2021

69,664 total returns from Iran in 2021

726 total returns from Pakistan in 2021

Over the past week **17,154** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**808** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **185** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **96%** of returnees from Pakistan (**177** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2021, **71,312** 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 **10,797** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,828** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **10,797** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,265** patients.

Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **9,113** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres in Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **325** presumptive TB cases were identified and samples lab tested and **4** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection:

IOM's Protection programme has supported 276 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 11 provinces of return, the Protection team caseload this week included case management assessments for 54 new PSN households in Sar-e-Pul, Kunduz, Ghor, Takhar, Faryab, Balkh, Herat, Nimroz, and Badakhshan. These cases included 12 children at risk, 4 single parents, 3 older persons at risk, and 3 persons with serious medical conditions. Across all provinces, 2,116 cases are ongoing. 182 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, 51 households were surveyed, all of whom received specific WHO information and RCCE messaging on COVID-19 awareness and prevention relevant to their location.

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), 726 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2021. Over the past week 185 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (20 deportees) and Spin Boldak (151 returnees and 14 deportees) borders. Returns are typically lower during the colder winter months.

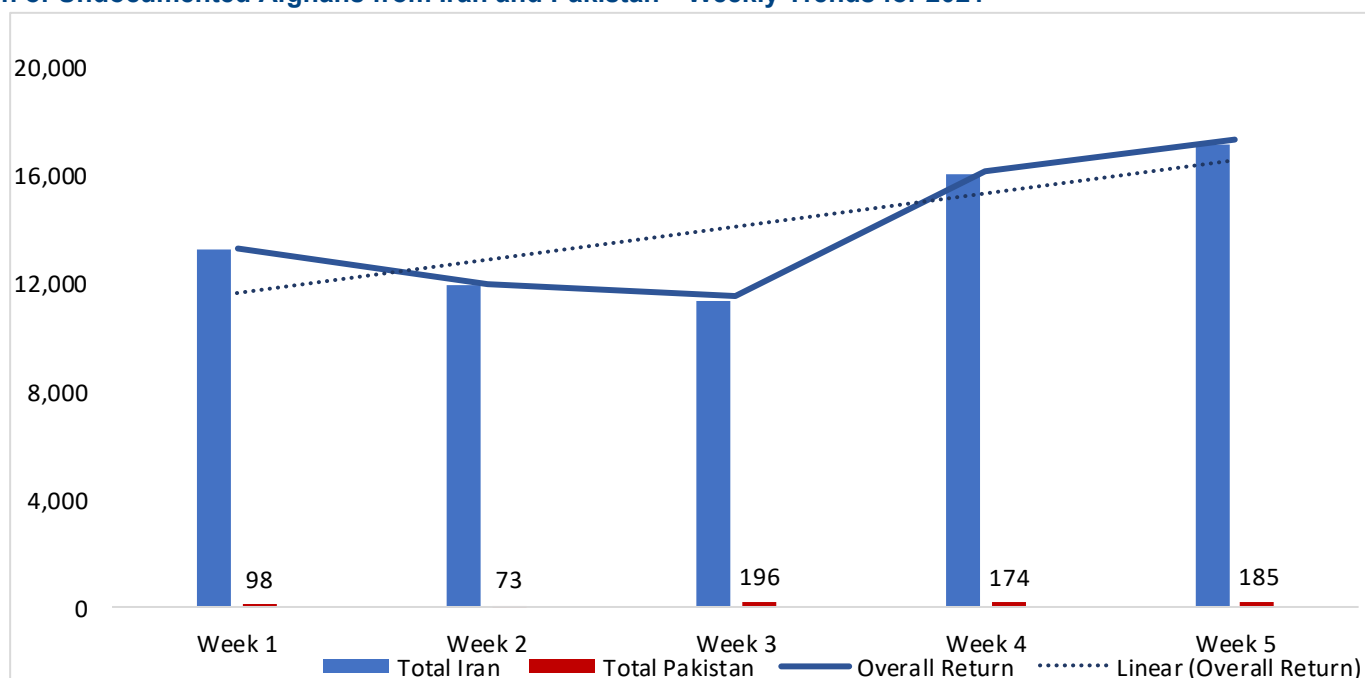
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2021

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01-21 Jan	13,680	8,396	6,382	8,038	36,496	0	57	275	35	367	36,863
22-28 Jan	5,013	2,778	3,019	5,204	16,014	22	1	151	0	174	16,188
29 Jan-04 Feb	7,249	3,111	2,888	3,906	17,154	0	20	151	14	185	17,339
Total	25,942	14,285	12,289	17,148	69,664	22	78	577	49	726	70,390

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		
01-21 Jan	135	353	187	777	1,452	0	52	244	35	331	1,783
22-28 Jan	18	96	19	421	554	22	0	144	0	166	720
29 Jan-04 Feb	13	177	94	524	808	0	14	151	12	177	985
Total	166	626	300	1,722	2,814	22	66	539	47	674	3,488

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



IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to our donor partners whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 3,488 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

