RETURN OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHANS

WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT
12-18 JULY 2020

**Coronavirus 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 11,000 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response

**Highlights**

388,103 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2020

386,176 total returns from Iran

1,927 total returns from Pakistan

Over the past week 13,495 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with 10% of returnees from Iran (1,332 individuals) assisted

Over the past week 29 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through Spin Boldak border. The border remains formally closed.

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of 13,495 Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 12-18 July 2020, a 27% increase from the previous week (10,604). 5,660 persons returned voluntarily and 7,835 were deported. Since 01 January 2020, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is 386,176 individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to 1,332 (10%) of all undocumented Afghans from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week. IOM is highlighting the high level of deportations of Afghans from Iran in recent weeks linked to a marked increase in cross border flows back into Iran.

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**IOM Thematic Support**

**Migration Health:**

During the past week, IOM’s Mobile Health Teams served 10,532 patients in need of health services with 192,069 total patients served since late January under DFID and CERF funding. 15 health staff are presently deployed to major border crossing points with Iran to provide support to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts inclusive. Over 500 community health workers have also been trained on COVID awareness and personal protective measures in Nimroz, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar and new trainings are planned in the coming weeks in Kandahar and Helmand.

Under Migration Health’s Global Fund multi-country TB grant, a total of 7,191 undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis in IOM Transit Centers over the past week. Of the total screened, 2,461 persons were screened during OPD consultations, 122 suspects were identified, 121 were tested and 5 persons were confirmed as positive TB cases.

**Protection:**

The Protection Unit completed case management assessments for 32 PSN cases in Ghor, Balkh, Sar-i-Pul, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Nimroz, Faryab and Kabul including 14 special cases, 11 separated and at risk children, 4 single parents, and 3 women at risk. In addition, COVID-19 protection monitoring assessments were conducted for 69 cases and all these cases received specific information related to COVID-19 prevention.

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IOM’s Mobile Health Teams continue to provide comprehensive COVID-19 awareness sessions to vulnerable group in remote villages in border provinces. Although rates of infection appear to be subsiding additional rounds of infection require consistent preparedness and information sharing. July 2020
**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation’s Border Monitoring Team, 1,927 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2020. The Afghan frontier with Pakistan at Spin Boldak (closed on 02 March) and at Torkham (closed on 16 March) is closed due to coronavirus related restrictions however exemptions have been granted for the return of Afghan and Pakistani nationals from Afghanistan and Pakistan back to their respective countries. As of 22 June, commercial vehicles are permitted to cross in both directions Sunday through Friday. During the past week a total of 29 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Spin Boldak border.

### Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Herat</th>
<th>Nimroz</th>
<th>Total Iran</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Overall Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Jan-31 March 2020</td>
<td>128,800</td>
<td>51,288</td>
<td>17,057</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 April-31 May 2020</td>
<td>39,122</td>
<td>16,771</td>
<td>77,903</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-27 June 2020</td>
<td>13,910</td>
<td>2,713</td>
<td>48,813</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June-04 July 2020</td>
<td>5,002</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>12,204</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-11 July 2020</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>10,604</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 July 2020</td>
<td>4,082</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>13,495</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>194,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>74,398</strong></td>
<td><strong>368,176</strong></td>
<td><strong>616</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Herat</th>
<th>Nimroz</th>
<th>Total Iran</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Overall Assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Jan-31 March 2020</td>
<td>5,173</td>
<td>2,051</td>
<td>15,605</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>1,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 April-31 May 2020</td>
<td>6,442</td>
<td>5,456</td>
<td>22,508</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-27 June 2020</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>11,229</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June-04 July 2020</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-11 July 2020</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 July 2020</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1,332</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,844</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,688</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,572</strong></td>
<td><strong>616</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan—Weekly Trends for 2020**

IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 53,297 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2020.