RETURN OF UNDOCUMENTED AFGHANS
WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT
15-21 MARCH 2020

**Highlights**

**200,360** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2020

**198,527** total returns from Iran

**1,833** total returns from Pakistan

Over the past week **62,341** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**3,300** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **6** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **100%** of returnees from Pakistan (**6** individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

**Due to coronavirus transmission fears in Iran, over the past week spontaneous returns from Iran have reached new record totals.** According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **62,341** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 15-21 March 2020, a **17%** increase from the previous week (**53,069**). **60,125** persons returned voluntarily and **2,216** were deported. Since 01 January 2020, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **198,527** individuals.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **3,300** (5%) undocumented Afghans at its Transit Centers, including **104** Unaccompanied Migrant Children, **34** Medical Cases, **167** members of Single Parent Families, **1** Physically Disabled person, **9** Unaccompanied Elderly persons, **173** members of deported families, **2** single females and **2,810** members of poor families.

**Coronavirus Update**

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing preparedness and emergency coordination actions through its Migration Health Unit. Support includes coordination on the Islam Qala border, deployment of additional staffing to areas of need, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support, publication of MOPH and WHO IEC materials and billboards and community level awareness raising and sensitization efforts through health education sessions and Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions. For more information please refer to [https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus)

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of 6 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15-21 March 2020, a 91% decrease compared to the previous week. The Afghan frontier with Pakistan in Kandahar and Nangarhar province is closed through 16 March due to coronavirus fears—a total border closure at all crossing points was effected on 16 March through the end of the month. The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan from 01 Jan 2020 is now 1,833.

Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2020

Number of Assisted Returnees in 2020

IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 13,926 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2020

The United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, the Nederlands, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, ECHO, United States of America, the Central Emergency Response Fund, and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Global Fund