

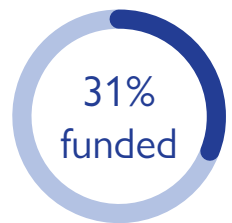
SITUATION REPORT JULY 2023



Returnee children participate in recreational activities in the IOM transit center in Herat.
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Over 568,000 people
reached with assistance



USD 450 million
Total IOM Appeal amount

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Afghanistan is grappling with an unprecedented and growing humanitarian and economic crises, following a turbulent takeover of power in August 2021. Drought conditions continue to drive displacement both internal and abroad, with 61% of communities lacking sufficient drinking water. The political changes have led to the suspension of direct international development assistance to the country, creating further economic instability that exacerbates humanitarian needs as well as reliance on aid, creating a ripple effect on the social fabric of the country. The need for durable solutions is more critical than ever, with 84% of Afghan nationals currently unemployed.

This crisis was further exacerbated by the De facto Authorities' (DfA) decree, issued on 24 December 2022, barring Afghan women from working with international and national NGOs. This ban was later extended to the United Nations on 4 April 2023, marking a series of regressive measures against women's and girls' rights. This ban constitutes an unparalleled violation of their rights and a breach of humanitarian principles.

Despite the ban, IOM is committed to ensuring the meaningful engagement of women through continued advocacy with the DfA at all levels to preserve women's inclusion and participation, for both staff and beneficiaries, to ensure an all-principled response approach. Negotiations are ongoing to obtain reassurances to operate in a principled manner across the country. IOM will continue to work where possible without discrimination and where the safety of our staff, both female and male, is guaranteed.

SECURITY UPDATE

The security environment in Afghanistan remains unpredictable. Crime remains high in most security areas. A large proportion of crime-related incidents relate to the De facto Security Forces (DfSF) carrying out arrests across the country as well as seizures of narcotics and destruction of poppy fields and factories.

An uptick in alleged but unconfirmed attacks by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) has been seen across the country. DfSF operations are likely to continue targeting suspected AOG sympathizers and weapon caches including through the implementation of search and arrest operations, particularly in the run-up to the two-year anniversary.

JULY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS



SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

In July 2023, IOM assisted 1,212 families (8,991 people) affected by floods, heavy rainfall, fire, and riverbank erosion with Non-Food Items (NFIs), cash for Emergency Shelter (ES) construction, cash for transportation, and cash for NFI across 10 provinces in the country. All affected families received family, blanket, solar, and winter clothing modules, alongside family tents and tarpaulins. Of these, 207 (1,540 people) flood-affected families received cash for NFI and transportation, and 67 families (525 people) received their last cash instalment for transitional shelter construction.



1,212

families affected
by disasters assisted

The immediate needs of these disaster-affected people were captured by the joint assessment teams comprising UN and I/NGOs partners via multi-sectorial rapid assessment, in which IOM is one of the first responders. Other sectorial needs were referred to concerning cluster leads and co-leads.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

IOM's WASH team distributed 3,195 water kits to 2,606 families in Kabul City, and conducted hygiene promotion sessions for 9,400 people, focusing on Acute Watery Diarrhoea awareness and prevention methods in private and public schools, mosques, and other gathering areas in Kabul.



2,606

families provided
with water kits

Recognising the importance of accessible handwashing facilities, IOM also installed 28 handwashing stations (with an estimated reach of 7,000 people) in Kabul province in July. These stations have been strategically placed in key locations, encompassing both private and public schools, mosques, and other pivotal gathering points.



9,400

people reached with
hygiene promotion sessions

IOM provided 1,303 hygiene kits to 6,987 highly vulnerable IDPs, returnees, and underserved host community members in villages adjacent to the CRCs. Of these, 2,772 heads of households (including 440 female headed-households) attended hygiene promotion sessions on topics like how to keep water safe and hand washing and sanitation practices.



CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM operates two Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in underserved host communities in two provinces. CRCs serve as platforms for two-way communication, providing feedback and complaint mechanisms, referrals, and community engagement activities. In July 2023, 1,652 IDPs, returnees and host community members attended these CRCs.



1,652

people visited the CRCs

IOM organised AWAAZ awareness campaigns in Jawzjan province, which reached nearly 2,000 people with information about its services, including how to register complaints and feedback.



2,000

people reached with
AWAAZ awareness
campaigns



IOM's health response efforts made a significant impact by providing primary healthcare services including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), disease surveillance, COVID-19 vaccination, and routine immunization in 15 provinces across Afghanistan. In July, 51,297 individuals (18,677 males and 32,620 females) received medical consultations, which included specialized services for 7,872 women and girls.

IOM teams screened 3,538 children for malnutrition and their caregivers received health promotion messages. Among them, 2,533 children under five years old identified and referred to specialized services, such as for acute malnutrition.

The teams reached 65,638 people with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) messages.

IOM also vaccinated 12,604 for COVID-19 and 722 children under five through its routine immunization programme.

The Organization referred 632 critical cases to higher level health facilities for life-saving healthcare services.

The teams also provided MHPSS support to 4,764 individuals.

 **51,297**
people received
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 **4,764**
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MHPSS support

 **12,604**
people vaccinated



A member of the IOM's health team provides psychosocial consultation to a woman in a remote area in Nangarhar.
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CROSS-BORDER & POST-ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

IOM assisted 25,687 vulnerable undocumented Afghan migrants (17,145 men, 2,746 women, 3,148 boys, and 2,648 girls) from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan with post-arrival humanitarian assistance. This support included essential provisions such as refreshments, hot meals, temporary accommodation, cash for transportation, and referrals to relevant programs. These programmes included case management through the Protection team, basic health services through collaboration with partner organizations for referrals and specialized services.



25,687
undocumented Afghan
migrants assisted



PROTECTION

IOM teams provide protection services to vulnerable people in 10 provinces. IOM teams screened 13,108 individuals for protection concerns (1,153 women, 10,186 men, 760 girls, and 1,009 boys) in the border provinces of Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz. Of these, 131 household cases (or 464 undocumented returnees) were identified and referred for protection and post-arrival assistance at IOM's transit centres. This assistance included communication support, 159 care kits, as well as flights for family reunification and emergency accommodation.



13,108
people screened
for protection concerns



1,160
undocumented returnees
received protection case
management



A person with disabilities who recently returned from Iran receives health consultation in the IOM transit center in Herat.
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DURABLE SOLUTIONS & RESILIENCE

LIVELIHOODS

In July, IOM continued to support 104 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with marketing and branding, including training in marketing strategy and promotional materials. Through IOM's apprenticeship programme, 710 apprentices were selected and given placements in SMEs. An additional 168 apprentices were given post-graduation toolkits to help improve their employability and boost entrepreneurship skills.

To complement this, 36 businesses received asset replacement support. Meanwhile, IOM planned to distribute cash to 1,669 employees of the businesses selected by IOM for employment retention support, due to take place in August. Lastly, 70 SMEs received Quality Management Standards (QMS) certification support, of which 12 received certificates.

 104

SMEs received marketing and branding support

 1,669

employees selected to receive cash assistance

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

IOM completed the construction of and handed over one Basic Health Centre, a community development project, in Nangarhar province. Around 3,000 households (or 20,000 people) will benefit from this health centre as both direct and indirect beneficiaries.

In partnership with UNFPA and UNDP, IOM started the construction of nine Family Health Houses (FHHs). Midwives from these local communities will operate each FHH, providing much-needed health services to underserved community members. In addition, site assessments and technical surveys have been conducted for a further 10 FHHs.

Lastly, IOM supported the Deh-e-Araban School in Kabul by providing the water supply system, including a borehole and solar panel systems. The school was also provided with new blocks of latrines and a set of benches and desks.



Woch Tangi Basic Health Center constructed by IOM in Nangarhar.
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COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING AND SOCIAL COHESION

IOM, through a local partner, is enhancing the capacities of vulnerable communities to resolve disputes and lead socio-cultural activities that foster cohesion, such as poetry or sports competitions. To ensure that activities are locally-led and evidence-based, six Focus Group Discussions were conducted with 60 people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

In Balkh, communities gathered to discuss and identify multi-sectoral projects that will serve displaced and host communities alike, including irrigation canals, vocational training, green spaces and a school library.

A SWEET SUCCESS: COOKIES AND CAKES CREATE A RAY OF HOPE

In the face of the challenging economic conditions and widespread unemployment, Nargis*, a mother of four children, was driven to seek a solution when her husband lost his job, leaving the family without any source of income. Recognizing her talent for cooking, she decided to invest 1,000 AFNs into purchasing raw materials and utilizing her own kitchen supplies to bake a few cakes.

She approached a grocery store owner in her community who accepted to sell the cakes. The cakes received positive feedback from customers, which inspired Nargis to set up a small business and pursue production despite the limited budget and equipment at her disposal.

In 2020, IOM conducted an assessment in Baghlan and identified Nargis's business for scale-up support. Based on a business development plan, IOM with the support of European Union provided the business with additional equipment and tools which allowed it to expand and hire four women returnees.

Amidst a weakened economy, small businesses, like Nargis's, were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. IOM provided a second round of support to the business, including the provision of raw materials which enabled the business to continue operation and sustain the jobs created.

Thanks to Nargis's management and talent, the business recovered and currently has 20 production lines to make cakes, cookies, jam, pickles, and pepper sauce. This expansion created full-time jobs for seven women, and part-time employment for 13 more. The business also provided apprenticeships to seven girls to help them gain new skills and improve their chances of finding employment.

"IOM's support helped me expand the business and create jobs for women so they can support their families. I have plans to expand the business further and add new products like tomato paste, dairy and dried fruit, and this will create more jobs for women," said Nargis, the business owner.

**Name changed for protection purposes*

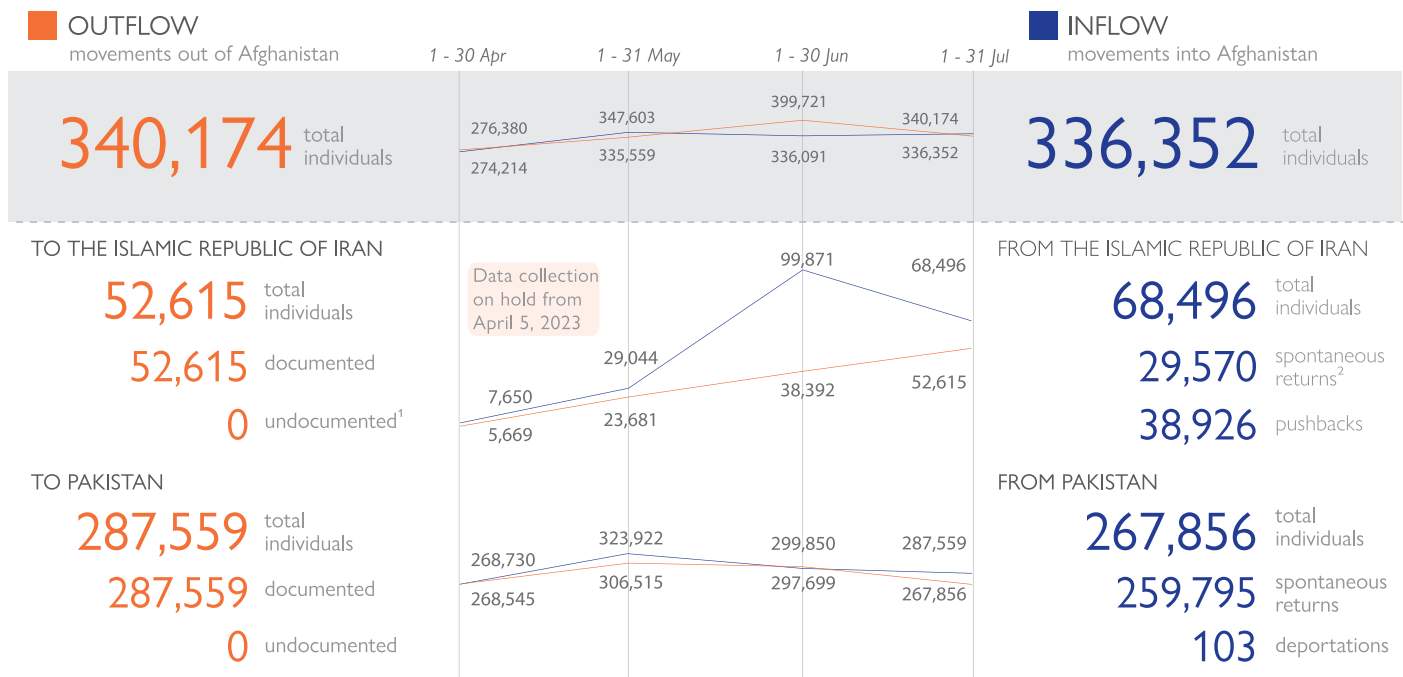


Nargis prepares cookies with her coworkers. © IOM 2023

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team completed the first round of the Afghanistan Mobility Needs Assessment (AMNA) in July 2023. In total, IOM surveyed 2,848 locations and 6,944 community focal points (19% women and 81% men). Data collection and assessment for Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS) began in July as well, with nearly 5,000 households now registered.

Movement summary - Afghanistan to and from neighboring countries (April - July 2023)



¹Undocumented individual: An individual of Afghan origin in Pakistan or Islamic Republic of Iran who does not have valid documents. Valid documentation includes: a valid Proof of Registration (PoR) card issued by the Government of Pakistan, an Afghan Citizen Card (ACC), and either a valid Pakistan visa, an Amayesh card, or a valid Iranian visa to remain/ stay in Pakistan or the Islamic Republic of Iran.

²Spontaneous returns: Individuals crossing the border to Afghanistan willingly and without being forced or coerced. These individuals can be documented or undocumented.

IOM AFGHANISTAN'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023 ARE SUPPORTED BY

