



IOM Afghanistan presence and delivery of assistance, as of 19 September 2021

Sources: IOM, UNHCR, OCHA | The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM | Line of Control: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

HIGHLIGHTS

5.5 million
IDPs in Afghanistan

634,800
People displaced between 1 January – 15 September 2021 (source: [OCHA](#))

890,726
Undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan Between 1 January – 15 September 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian operations continue to face challenges, and the participation of female humanitarian remains extremely limited at the moment. It is estimated that 634,000 people have been internally displaced by conflict around the country between 1 January and 15 September 2021 (source: [OCHA](#), 15 September). Between 1 January and 15 September, IOM has recorded 890,726 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran (881,582) and Pakistan (9,144).



Distribution of non-food items in Nangarhar © IOM 2021

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IOM RESPONSE

In 2021, IOM Afghanistan has delivered direct assistance to some 476,079 people including internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable undocumented returnees and host communities through emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI), health, protection, and livelihoods promotion. IOM has a strong operational presence in the border provinces of Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Kandahar, where significant out- and in-flows of persons occur with neighbouring Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Over the reporting period (9 - 15 September), IOM provided direct assistance through essential health services, protection services, humanitarian post-arrival

assistance for undocumented returnees, and emergency livelihoods creation. In addition, IOM shelter programme assessed the needs of over 2,500 displaced persons in Kabul, Sar-e PI, Balkh, Kunduz and Takhar. IOM's Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) screened a total of 58,988 persons for COVID-19 at the Milak and Spin Boldak border points and provided information on risk mitigation measures. In eight operational centres in Herat, Nimruz, Nangarhar and Kandahar, 1,836 undocumented migrants were provided with humanitarian assistance such as temporary accommodation and hot meals.

This past week, IOM continued to resume activities in more provinces across IOM's humanitarian and stabilization programming.

DTM

From 1 September 2021, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams activated the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) tool in Afghanistan to monitor the displacement of individuals and conditions of communities following episodes of drought and rapid political changes. According to [the latest report](#) covering 1 - 12 September, IOM's DTM teams conducted data collection among 2,032 new communities, bringing the total number of assessed communities since the initiation of the EET to 2,539. Data collection has covered 177 districts across 30 provinces in Afghanistan. Priority needs of those assessed are 1) food, 2) drinking water, and 3) immediate health care.



Distribution of non food items in Nangarhar © IOM 2021

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (ES/NFI)

Between 9 and 15 September, IOM conducted several joint needs assessments together with partners, and distributed emergency shelter (ES) and NFIs.

During the reporting period, in Nangarhar province, IOM assisted 204 families, estimated at 1,428 people (678 females, 750 males), who had been displaced by conflicts in Kunar with the distribution of NFI kits containing household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and solar lamps. In the same province, a group of 26 families estimated at 182 people (85 females, 97 males) that have been affected by flooding received emergency shelter support in the form of shelter tool kits, tents, and tarpaulins.

Similarly, in Kunar, 200 families estimated at 1,400 people (640 females, 760 males) displaced by conflict from Asmar and Ghazi Abad districts received NFI kits.

Additionally, seven families estimated at 42 people (24 females, 18 males) displaced by flooding received ES support equipment.

Joint assessments are ongoing, in partnership with Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and WFP, to assess the needs of conflict displaced families in Kabul, Sar-e Pol and Balkh provinces. Furthermore, needs assessments of conflict displaced families are taking place in Kunduz and Takhar.

To prevent future displacement induced by climate such as flooding, IOM is undertaking Disaster Risk Mitigation activities as well. The construction works of Disaster Risk Mitigation Infrastructures resumed during this reporting period. Culverts are being constructed in Nangarhar and Herat by skilled and unskilled labourers from the local communities.

HEALTH

IOM's Migration Health Unit provides essential health services to mobile and hard-to-reach populations. This includes medical screening and assistance at border crossing points with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and at reception/transit centres for returnees, and the deployment of Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) to provide essential services and Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) covering COVID-19 support.

During the reporting period, a total of 1,372 persons (905 females, 467 males) in Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz provinces were reached with basic health services, such as out-patient department (OPD) and reproductive health services. In addition, 58,988 people were screened for COVID-19 in Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz.

STABILISATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE (SRR)

In Baghlan, the construction of a community-based vegetable and agriculture produce collection center that is used by farmers to market their harvest collectively, which offered temporary employment to 31 males, was completed over the past week, and will benefit an estimated 700 households. In Nangarhar, the service provider finalized the construction of an irrigation and drainage canal. This project has temporarily employed 15 males for the construction works, and will benefit an estimated 3,500 households in the community.

Furthermore, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) awareness campaigns took place in Balkh (55 male participants), and Baghlan (67 male participants). These campaigns were organized in coordination with local organizations and allowed community members in these provinces to increase their awareness on mental health psychosocial support services. These activities also allowed for the referral of community members in need of MHPSS services. This was the case in Balkh for 19 people (7 females, 12 males) and in Baghlan for 20 people (11 females, 9 males).

PROTECTION

From 9 to 15 September, protection post-arrival assistance was provided on the Iranian border by female and male staff at the reception and transit centres in Nimroz and Herat. A total of 440 undocumented returnees were screened for protection concerns, and of these cases, a total of 119 undocumented returnees with specific needs (54 females, 65 males) received information on how to access basic services, referrals, and in-kind assistance including family tracing and reunification.

Additionally, protection case management is taking place either in person or remotely by phone in 11 provinces where IOM's protection team is present, namely Nimroz, Sar-E-Pul, Takhar and Faryab, Herat, Kandahar, Ghor, Balkh, Badakhshan, Nangarhar and Kabul, and is for the

moment focusing on follow-up, including preparation of cash distribution, and case closure. During the reporting period, 107 cases were closed. Protection monitoring, under the form of community consultations, is ongoing in these same provinces, and actively involved 108 people (31 females, 77 males) during the reporting period.

Furthermore, extensive work on the reactivation of referral pathway mechanisms and access negotiation is taking place to allow IOM's protection team to take on new cases. The male members of the protection team have access to communities in three provinces so far: Faryab, Sar-E-Pul, and Takhar. In all other provinces, case management and protection monitoring continue to take place under remote modalities.

MULTI-SECTORAL ASSISTANCE AT THE BORDERS

IOM and partners provide vulnerable undocumented Afghans returning from Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan with immediate humanitarian post-arrival assistance at the major border crossings with Pakistan at Torkham and Spin Boldak and with the Islamic Republic of Iran at Islam Qala and Milak through a network of IOM constructed and managed reception and transit centres.

Operations are up and running in all eight reception

and transit centres providing immediate humanitarian assistance such as temporary accommodation, hot food, onward transportation, and distribution of food packages in Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces.

A total of 1,836 people (797 females, 1,039 males) in Nimroz (1,144 individuals), Kandahar (409 individuals), Herat (175 individuals), and Nangarhar (108 individuals) received post-arrival assistance during the reporting period.

IOM activities are supported by:

