



## HIGHLIGHTS

- \* **10,355** conflict and natural disaster affected IDPs provided with emergency shelters and non-food items since 1 July.

*Between 26 and 30 August:*

- \* **138,004** persons screened by IOM teams for COVID-19.
- \* **733** undocumented returnees provided with humanitarian assistance.
- \* **926** persons reached with basic health services.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The overall security situation was more settled in most of the provinces during the reporting period. Businesses and markets have reopened in some provincial capitals.

The economic situation continues to be of major concern in terms of the continuity of basic services and impact on the most vulnerable people. Price increases of staples continue to be reported along with scarcity of basic commodities which will impact overall humanitarian needs going forward. Additionally, bank closures and limitations in the provision of cash during the reporting period have worrying consequences if they continue.

Evacuation operations at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul have concluded: the final airlift operations ended on 30 August. More than 123,000 people have been evacuated from Kabul by the U.S and other foreign governments over the past two weeks.

Between 1 January and 9 August 2021, it is estimated that **over 570,000 people were internally displaced by conflict** around the country, with 32 out of 34 provinces recording some level of forced displacement (source: [OCHA, 29 August](#)). Between 1 January and 30 August 2021, IOM has recorded **791,995 undocumented Afghan returnees** from Iran (784,962) and Pakistan (7,033).

IOM has launched its Priority Response and Requirements for Afghanistan to raise urgent funds for its response to the current situation in Afghanistan. IOM is seeking USD 24 million for an initial period of three months (August to November 2021) to fill emerging gaps as well as meet current priority needs for humanitarian and protection activities. These additional financial requirements are in addition to the financial needs outlined in the existing Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 and will be reflected in the upcoming HRP Addendum.

## CONTACTS

## IOM RESPONSE



IOM's Humanitarian Assistance Program has re-started joint assessments on the multi-sectoral needs of IDPs in Kabul. © IOM 2021

IOM Afghanistan has delivered direct assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable undocumented returnees and host community members— through provision of emergency shelter and non-food items (NFI), health, protection, and livelihoods promotion. IOM has a particularly 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.

In the past week (26-30 August), IOM has provided **direct assistance to 1,724 people** through essential health services, protection services, humanitarian post-arrival assistance for undocumented returnees and livelihoods creation. In addition, the humanitarian assistance programme **assessed the needs of 1,000 displaced persons** in Kabul and Ghazni. IOM's Rapid Response Teams screened **138,004 persons** for COVID-19 and provided information on risk mitigation measures.

This past week also saw critical preparatory steps required for the resumption of activities across IOM's humanitarian and stabilization programming, which will be reported on in coming weeks.



## SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

In the past week, IOM resumed multi-sectoral needs assessments of displaced populations alongside partners in Kabul and Ghazni provinces, covering a total of 1,000 persons. This included the participation of female staff. Distributions are planned for 69 families in Ghazni (49 families), Kunar (20

families), and Kabul provinces next week. IOM's provincial level teams are prepared to resume operations, as access and partner collaboration for assessments become feasible.

Since 1 July 2021, IOM has been participating in joint needs assessments and distributing emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI), as well as providing multi-purpose cash assistance, reaching **10,355 conflict and natural disaster affected IDPs** in Kabul (3,976), Kunduz (1,997), Nuristan (1,631), Takhar (1,008), Wardak (679), Nangarhar (595), Khost (203), Kapiesia (161), and Laghman (105) provinces. In 2021, a total of **21,612 IDPs** in need have been reached with in-kind or cash for ES/NFI.

Crucially, IOM has Emergency Shelter kits and NFIs pre-positioned across 16 warehouses throughout the country, with stocks to cover 15-20,000 families. The available stocks and associated personnel will be mobilized to address the most pressing needs as soon as access allows and assessments are able to move forward. Pre-positioning of additional stocks to meet forecasted winterization needs is a current priority.



IOM's RRT member collecting samples from a suspected COVID-19 case. © IOM 2021



## HEALTH

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

Between 26 and 30 August, a total of **926 persons were reached with basic health services**, inclusive of psychosocial and reproductive health services, in Herat, Kandahar, Nimroz and Ghor provinces. In addition, **138,004 persons were screened by IOM teams for COVID-19.**

IOM RESPONSE

IOM’s health team has resumed preparatory measures for rolling out vaccines to mobile and displaced populations in border provinces and areas with high levels of displacement and mobility, as well as to expand operations into several provinces in Northern and Western Afghanistan. With the World Bank’s recent announcement of the freezing of health funding in Afghanistan, IOM is looking at ways it can increase capacity and adapt its support to fill gaps, in coordination with the Health Cluster.

 **STABILISATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE (SRR)**

Implementation of IOM’s reintegration and resilience activities is ongoing. Between 26 and 30 August, IOM continued the construction of an irrigation canal and a water supply project in **Laghman** province, benefitting an estimated 8,500 individuals; and resumed the construction of an intake and irrigation canal in Kunar province benefitting 6,200 individuals.

Apprenticeship training in **Kabul, Balkh, Nangahar** and **Kandahar** provinces has resumed, with 6 new jobs being created in the reporting period. However, female apprentices have not resumed their training in Balkh and Kabul provinces due to concerns for their safety. Alternative means to continue trainings are being explored.

In addition, given the ambiguity around women’s participation in workforce, most of the women run businesses supported by IOM remained closed.

 **PROTECTION**

IOM’s protection team resumed activities on the Iranian border and was able to provide protection post-arrival assistance to **59 undocumented returnees facing protection risks**, including forced re-migration, violence and harassment and forced

recruitment. Unaccompanied children and single women are at a heightened risk overall, and also lack of access to appropriate services due to limited female service providers currently providing face-to-face support.

In addition, case management continues with already engaged beneficiaries experiencing protection risks, linking them with other humanitarian actors on the ground that provide a variety of services from food assistance to health and psychosocial care. This includes assistance in Heart, Nimroz, Kandahar, Ghor, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Takhar, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Kabul, and Faryab provinces. Protection monitoring remains on-going across all 11 provinces.

 **CROSS-BORDER AND RETURN REINTEGRATION**

IOM and partners provide vulnerable undocumented Afghans returning from 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 Nimroz through a network of IOM constructed and managed reception and transit centres. This support is particularly critical at this moment, when commodity prices are rising steeply, particularly in border areas which are witnessing significant population influxes, and where returnees typically re-enter the country with few, if any, resources to support themselves and their families. Reports from field staff indicate there has been an increase in forced returns from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is expected to continue.

While cross border returnee assistance operations were temporarily paused across all locations, they have resumed in Nimroz, where between 26 and 30 August, 733 **undocumented returnees** were reached with humanitarian assistance, including temporary accommodation and hot meals. Teams in the other three provinces are prepared to re-start when feasible.

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY :

