



Women in Balkh producing noodles as part of a female-run processing association, 27 September ©IOM Afghanistan 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

	5.5 million IDPs in Afghanistan
	664,000 people displaced between 1 January – 29 September 2021 (source: OCHA)
	Communities rank their priority needs as food, drinking water and immediate healthcare (DTM, 1 – 27 September)
	84% of communities report a reduction in the availability of drinking water (DTM, 1 – 27 September)
	20,209 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan arrived this week (cumulative total 933,078 from 1 January – 29 September) .

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Humanitarian activities continued in multiple locations across Afghanistan to meet life-saving needs. Access challenges persist, including limited participation of female humanitarians. Limited cash availability remains the most severe impediment to operations, though there are indications this is slowly beginning to ease with increased withdrawal limits from bank accounts; alternative solutions include use of hawalas, who facilitate informal money transfer. The security situation remains volatile and unpredictable, in particular in the Eastern Region.

It is estimated that 664,000 people have been internally displaced by conflict around the country between 1 January and 29 September (source: [OCHA](#), 29 September). Furthermore, IOM has recorded 933,078 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran (921,545) and Pakistan (11,533) between 1 January and 29 September. During the reporting period, 20,209 undocumented Afghans arrived in Afghanistan of which 18,958 from Iran and 1,251 from Pakistan.

2021 FUNDING REQUIRED AND SECURED

Total Funding requirement: humanitarian and stabilization activities



 **1,900,000**
People targeted

 **115,830,000 USD**
Total Funding required
(original ask + flash appeal)

1 - The overall requirement for humanitarian and stabilization activities includes IOM Afghanistan's original ask (in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan) as well as the USD 24 million flash appeal released in August. Of these total requirements, USD 46 million covers the period from August - December (USD 22 million original ask plus USD 24 million in additional needs), in line with the coordinated Flash Appeal, which is an addendum to the HRP. The total requirement includes: health, emergency shelter and NFI, protection, multi-sector response in border areas, WASH, DRR, DTM, and stabilization activities. This external sitrep does not report on the WASH or disaster risk reduction elements of the response plan.

IOM RESPONSE

Over the reporting period (23 - 29 September), IOM provided direct assistance through essential health services, protection services, humanitarian post-arrival assistance for undocumented returnees, and emergency livelihoods creation.

IOM continues to implement humanitarian and resilience activities including multi-sector assistance at border crossing points, protection, health, and emergency shelter and non-food item (NFI) assessment and distribution, community development and livelihoods support across 19 Provinces, with more provinces to be initiated soon according to needs on the ground, security, and access. The Displacement Tracking Matrix has conducted

assessments in 34 Provinces. The surge team continued to arrive in Islamabad and Kabul to support scale up, including health, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene experts .

In 2021, IOM Afghanistan has delivered direct assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable undocumented returnees and host communities through emergency shelter and NFI, health, protection, and livelihoods promotion. IOM has a strong operational presence in the border provinces of Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Kandahar, where vulnerable migrants coming from and going to neighbouring Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran receive assistance in reception and transit centres.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) teams have assessed **160,962** displaced persons through the Emergency Event **Tracking (EET) Tool** during the reporting period.

IOM's **shelter** programme delivered emergency support to **1,245** conflict displaced families in Badghis and Kapisa.

IOM's COVID-19 **Rapid Response Teams** (RRTs) screened a total of **43,220** persons for COVID-19 at the Milak and Spin Boldak border points and provided information on risk mitigation measures to 38,716 persons.

In eight operational centres at the borders in Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar and Kandahar, **2,239 undocumented migrants** were provided with **humanitarian assistance** such as temporary accommodation and hot meals.



8,715

people benefiting from the ES/NFI package assistance

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

Between 23 and 29 September, IOM distributed ES/NFI to vulnerable families displaced by conflict. In Badghis, IOM assisted 1,214 families, estimated at 8,498 people (3,578 female, 4,920 male) and in Kapisa, a total of 31 families, estimated at 217 people (95 female, 122 male) were assisted. IOM provided them with NFI kits containing household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and solar lamps, as well as emergency shelter support in the form of shelter tool kits, tents, and tarpaulins.

A joint needs assessment conducted in Kabul by IOM in coordination with partner organizations (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, UNHCR, WFP and Norwegian Refugee Council) was completed on 28 September. The assessment reviewed the needs of 775 conflict displaced families, estimated at 5,425 people (2,575 female, 2,850 male). Assessments of the needs of people displaced by conflict in Balkh, Sari-e-Pul, Kunduz, Ghazni, Kabul, Takhar, and Helmand provinces are ongoing and will inform IOM's emergency response.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

In 2019, 36,168 families were affected by floods and heavy rain falls; some of these communities are impacted by flooding every year. IOM, besides the continuation of construction of protection/retention walls, has expanded infrastructure activities under DRR which includes small rehabilitation/upgrades and construction of water irrigation systems such as culverts, canals, water intakes, and small check dams. Disaster Risk Mitigation (DRM) infrastructures will protect lives, houses, livelihoods, and other assets in thousands of households in target communities through flood risk prevention activities, and will thereby prevent future displacement.

During the reporting period, IOM continued to undertake DRM activities in disaster prone areas through construction of small-scale DRM infrastructures and irrigation systems including protection walls and culverts. The on-going construction works in Herat and Nangarhar will protect an estimated 7,500 families and increase their resilience against flooding.



7,500

families benefiting from on-going construction works

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 COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) covering COVID-19 support. During the reporting period, IOM gained access for the MHT and RRT teams to Ghor and Nangahar.

During the reporting period, a total of 2,333 persons (1,648 female, 685 male) in Herat, Kandahar, Nangahar and Nimroz provinces were reached with basic health services, such as out-patient department (OPD) and reproductive health services. Of these people, 104 persons (82 female, 22 male) received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in Nimroz. In addition, IOM's RRTs screened 43,220 people for COVID-19 in Herat, Kandahar, Nimroz and the newly reached provinces of Ghor and Nangahar, and together with the MHTs they have reached 38,716 persons during the reporting period with promotive health messaging on COVID-19 prevention measures and sensibilisation on other transmittable diseases.



2,333

persons were reached with basic health services



156

undocumented returnees supported

PROTECTION

From 23 to 29 September, protection post-arrival assistance was provided on the Iranian border by female and male staff at the reception and transit centre in Nimroz and by male staff in the centres in Herat. A total of 156 undocumented returnees were screened for protection concerns, and of these cases, a total of 104 undocumented returnees (46 female, 58 male) with specific needs 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, Badakhstan, Nangahar and Kabul, and is for the moment focusing on follow-up, including preparation of cash distribution, and case closure. During the reporting period, 105 cases were closed. Additionally, protection monitoring, under the form of community consultations, is ongoing in these same provinces, and actively involved 74 people (12 female, 62 male) during the reporting period.

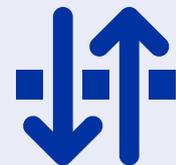
Furthermore, extensive work on the reactivation of referral pathway mechanisms and access negotiation continues to place to allow IOM's protection team to take on new cases and to extend IOM's physical reach beyond the provinces of Herat, Faryab, Sar-E-Pul, and Takhar. In all other provinces, case management and protection monitoring continue, but 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 2,239 people (1,039 female, 1,200 male) received post-arrival assistance during the reporting period in Nimroz (811 individuals), Kandahar (1,258 individuals), Herat (83 individuals), and Nangarhar (87 individuals).



2,239

received post-arrival assistance



413

people actively participated in apprenticeships

STABILISATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE (SRR)

IOM's SRR programme continues to strengthen social cohesion and community resilience by improving access to basic services, offering technical and vocational training opportunities, and providing MHPSS services across nine provinces.

Community-based development projects (CDP) aim to improve access to essential socio-economic infrastructure while offering short-term employment and income-generating opportunities to communities, by hiring community members for skilled and unskilled labour for construction works. Eleven CDPs continue to be implemented, with construction works ongoing in Kabul, Kunar, Herat, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces, which focus on improved access to water, education and protection of agricultural land, and offer temporary employment to 147 people (male).

With the aim of creating sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations, particularly IDPs and returnees, IOM continued and resumed its support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Balkh, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kunar and Kabul, with 22 SMEs currently receiving support, which create or safeguard jobs for 146 people (8 female, 138 male). The support to 413 people (178 female, 235 male) participating in apprenticeships continues in Kandahar, Balkh, Kabul, Nangarhar and Herat, with beneficiaries strengthening their skills on for example tailoring and repairing mobile phones.

Finally, MHPSS awareness campaigns have continued to be organized in Nangarhar, with 167 people (male) participating up to date . These campaigns are organized in coordination with local organizations and allow community members in these provinces to increase their awareness on mental health psychosocial support services. These activities also allow for the referral of community members in need of MHPSS services, which was done for 36 people (15 female, 21 male).

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

According to the latest [EET report](#) report covering 1 - 27 September, IOM's DTM teams conducted data collection among 1,996 new communities this week, bringing the total number of assessed communities since the initiation of the EET to 6,660. Data collection has covered 322 districts across 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

Community focal points in Helmand, Kunduz and Zabul most frequently reported an increase of IDP arrivals in their communities. Meanwhile, communities in Baghlan, Faryab and Kunduz reportedly experienced an increase in departures more frequently than communities assessed in other provinces. Priority needs of those assessed remain 1) food, 2) drinking water, and 3) immediate health care.



6,660

Total number of assessed communities since the initiation of the EET

IOM ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:



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