



HIGHLIGHTS



5.5 million
IDPs in
Afghanistan



592,500
People displaced
between 1 January
– 8 September 2021
(source: OCHA)



850,805
Undocumented Afghan
returnees from Iran and
Pakistan Between 1 January
– 8 September 2021



People are on the move internally: In a round of surveys this week with **507** key informants across **9** Provinces, **65%** reported arrivals of new IDPs, and **82%** reported departures. Priority needs were identified as food, cash, and drinking water.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On **9 September**, the Taliban announced an interim government, and have been in communication with a 'coordination council' formed by Afghan leaders to manage the transfer of power.

Assessments and humanitarian operations are underway to meet critical, life-saving needs, but humanitarian agencies remain engaged in access negotiations to urge for alignment with joint operating principles in many provinces, including full participation of women.

Between 1 January and 8 September 2021, it is estimated that over 592,500 people have been internally displaced by conflict around the country (source: OCHA, 5 September). Between 1 January and 8 September 2021, IOM has

recorded 850,805 undocumented Afghan returnees from Iran (843,072) and Pakistan (7,733).

A coordinated inter-agency flash appeal was released on 5 September, seeking urgent support to reach 10.8 million people in need by the end of the year. To meet life-saving needs, IOM's own financial requirements for 2021, in line with the HRP and Flash Appeal, are USD 108.5M, targeting 1.9 million people. This is inclusive of the USD 24 million IOM flash appeal released in the second half of August*.

IOM's DTM launched its first Emergency Event Tracking Report this week, which will share up to date information on movement trends and needs (<https://dtm.iom.int/afghanistan>).

*https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg_flash_appeal_2021.pdf

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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 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.

Over the reporting period (31 August - 8 September), IOM has provided direct assistance through essential health services, protection services, humanitarian post-arrival assistance for undocumented returnees and emergency

livelihoods creation. In addition, the humanitarian assistance programme assessed the needs of displaced persons in Balkh, Takhar, Badghis, Daykundi, and Sar-e-Pul provinces. IOM's Rapid Response Teams (RRT) screened 103,981 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, 1,903 undocumented migrants were reached with humanitarian assistance.

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



Joint aid distribution of IOM and WFP to conflict displaced families in Kabul, 07 September 2021.

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

During the reporting period, IOM conducted several needs assessments together with partners, and distributed emergency ES/NFI. On 8 September, IOM distributed in-kind ES/NFI including blankets, kitchen sets, construction tools and solar lamps benefiting 350 individuals (211 females, 139 males) in Ghazni. In Kabul, assistance to IDPs is ongoing with 4,039 people (2,035 females, 2,004 males) benefiting

from the NFI package assistance provided.

In addition, between 31 August and 8 September, needs assessments took place in Balkh, Takhar, Badghis, Daykundi, Sar-e-Pul province to inform future ES/NFI distribution activities. Needs assessments are planned in Parwan and in Samangan and Badakhshan, if the security situations allows.

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.

During the reporting period, a total of 2,536 persons (1,982 females, 554 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, 103,981 people were screened for COVID-19 in Herat, Kandahar, and Nimroz.

STABILISATION, REINTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE (SRR)

Implementation of IOM's reintegration and resilience activities is ongoing. Construction of community development projects (CDP) projects such as schools, irrigation canals, water supply infrastructure are ongoing in target provinces and implemented by service providers. These include:

- Construction of two school buildings, one Kabul and one Kandahar province.
- Construction of three irrigation canals, and a water supply project in Laghman province.
- Construction of an intake and irrigation canal in Kunar province.

- Construction of a marketplace with flourmill and oil processing unit in Baghlan province.
- Construction of an irrigation canal and a protection wall in Herat province.
- Construction of two intake and irrigation canals in Kandahar province.

Between 31 August and 8 September, the programme supported 9 young men in the setup of their businesses. In Balkh, 5 young men started their own gas stove production company, and in Herat, 4 young men set up a gas stove company called Mumtaz.

PROTECTION

During the reporting period, protection post-arrival assistance was provided by IOM's female and male staff at the reception and transit centres in Nimroz and Herat on the Iranian border, with a total of 80 undocumented returnees (45 females, 35 males) receiving referrals, in-kind assistance, information on access to basic service, and family tracing and reunification support.

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, Nangahar and Kabul, and is for the moment focusing on

follow-up, including preparation of cash distribution, and case closure. Extensive work on reactivation of referral pathway mechanisms and access negotiation is taking place to allow the protection team to take on new cases. The male staff of the protection team have so far have physical access to communities in three provinces: Faryab, Sar-E-Pul, and Takhar. In all other provinces, case management and protection monitoring take place under remote modalities.

Furthermore, protection monitoring in the form of community consultations is ongoing across the 11 provinces where protection staff are present, for 144 people (36 females, 78 males).

MULTI-SECTORAL ASSISTANCE AT THE BORDERS

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. Operations have now resumed 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, Nimruz, Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces. During this reporting period, Islam Qala, Spin Boldak and Torkham resumed full operations. Nimroz resumed earlier.

From 31 August to 8 September, 1,751 people (750 females, 1,001 males) were assisted in Nimruz, and 152 people (52 females, 100 males) in Herat. On 8 September, operations resumed in Nangarhar and Kandahar, and IOM has started welcoming the first vulnerable migrants.

IOM activities are supported by:

