



*Afghan migrants line up for temperature checks and symptom screening carried out by the Ministry of Public Health at the Islam Qala border on 14 March. IOM is actively supporting surveillance activities and data collection within the COVID-19 response. @IOM March 2020*

## Highlights

**138,013** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2020

**136,186** total returns from Iran

**1,827** total returns from Pakistan

Over the past week **53,069** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **2%** of returnees from Iran (**1,210** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **66** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **100%** of returnees from Pakistan (**66** individuals) assisted

## Return from Iran

**\*\*Due to coronavirus transmission fears in Iran, over the past week spontaneous returns from Iran have reached new record totals.** According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **53,069** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 08-14 March 2020, a **171%** increase from the previous week (**19,562**). **49,662** persons returned voluntarily and **3,407** were deported. Since 01 January 2020, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **136,186** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,210 (2%)** undocumented Afghans at its Transit Centers, including **58** Unaccompanied Migrant Children, **10** Medical Cases, **97** members of Single Parent Families, **5** Physically Disabled person, **6** Unaccompanied Elderly persons, **20** members of deported families, **8** single females and **1,006** members of poor families.

### \*\*Coronavirus Update\*\*

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing preparedness and emergency coordination actions through its Migration Health Unit. Support includes coordination on the Islam Qala border, deployment of additional staffing to areas of need, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support, publication of MOPH and WHO IEC materials and billboards and community level awareness raising and sensitization efforts through health education sessions and Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions. For more information please refer to <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

## IOM Thematic Support

### Migration Health:

IOM's Migration Health Unit provides basic health services through the deployment of 7 mobile health teams (35 staff) in 4 provinces- Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat and Nimroz in underserved areas for migrant populations and host communities. In close coordination with Provincial Public Health Directorates, WHO and UNICEF, IOM's teams are deployed in urban and rural communities.

Under Migration Health's Global Fund's multi-country TB grant, a total of **29,481** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis in IOM Transit Centers over the past week. Of the total screened, **1,461** persons were screened from OPD consultations and **19** persons were identified to be presumptive TB cases who have since been referred for treatment.

### Protection:

The Protection Unit completed case management assessments for 68 PSN cases in Ghor, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Sar-e Pul, Kabul, Herat, and Faryab provinces including 22 special cases, 15 unaccompanied migrant children, 15 poor families, 7 female-headed households, 6 single females, and 3 medical cases. In addition, 39 female-headed households, 37 poor families, 33 medical cases, 28 unaccompanied migrant children, 22 special cases, 19 elderly at risk, 16 deported families, 15 cases with substance abuse concerns, and 11 single females received protection assistance in Kunduz and Baghlan.

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**Return from Pakistan**

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **66** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan between 08-14 March 2020, a **43%** decrease compared to the previous week. **The Afghan frontier with Pakistan in Kandahar province is closed through 16 March due to coronavirus fears— a total border closure at all crossing points was effected on 16 March through the end of the month.** The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan from 01 Jan 2020 is now **1,827**.

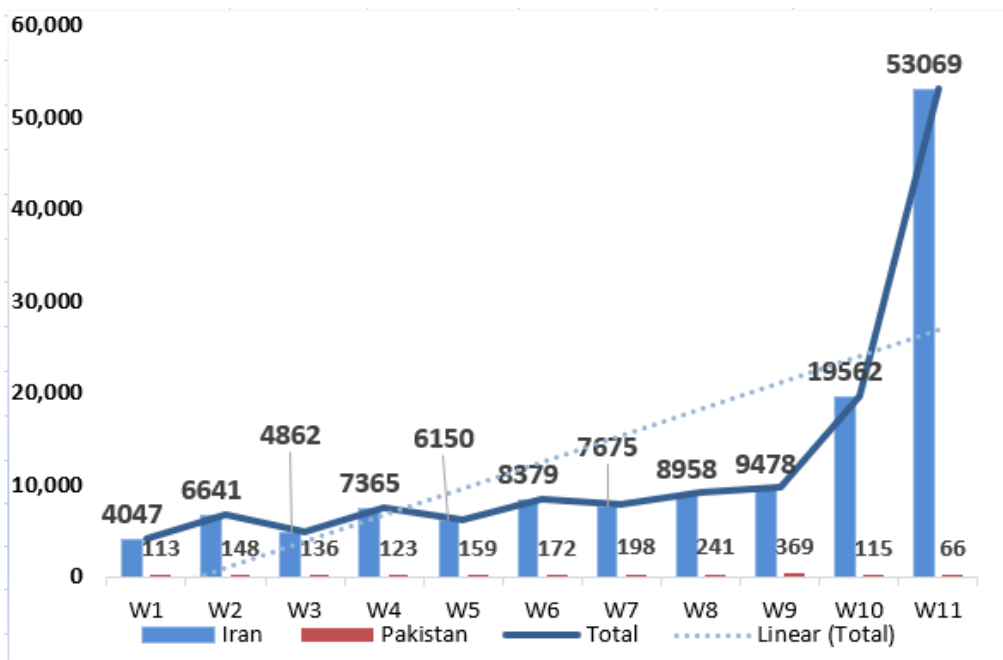
**Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2020**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Turkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01-31 Jan 2020	7,006	4,427	5,784	10,871	28,088	203	14	445	0	662	28,750
01-29 Feb 2020	10,146	6,246	6,297	12,778	35,467	306	14	664	0	984	36,451
01-07 March 2020	10,226	324	7,247	1,765	19,562	25	6	84	0	115	19,677
08-14 March 2020	37,609	191	12,053	3,216	53,069	66	0	0	0	66	53,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,987</b>	<b>11,188</b>	<b>31,381</b>	<b>28,630</b>	<b>136,186</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>138,013</b>

**Number of Assisted Returnees in 2020**

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Turkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01-31 Jan 2020	181	1,247	32	1,108	2,568	203	13	405	0	621	3,189
01-29 Feb 2020	232	2,818	84	1,360	4,494	306	13	549	0	868	5,362
01-07 March 2020	416	187	54	35	692	25	3	73	0	101	793
08-14 March 2020	954	19	73	164	1,210	66	0	0	0	66	1,276
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>8,964</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>10,620</b>

**Return of Undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan—Weekly Trends for 2020**



*IOM Afghanistan wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the below donors whose support has allowed IOM to assist a total of 10,620 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2020*



*The United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, ECHO, United States of America, the Central Emergency Response Fund, and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*