



Given rising COVID-19 infection rates around Afghanistan, IOM's mobile health teams continue to prioritize outreach and awareness sessions. This includes the systematic dissemination of COVID-19 messaging in public schools across southern Kandahar province linked to health consultations and testing for students showing symptoms. @IOM, November2020

Return from Iran

According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of **25,155** Afghans returned from Iran through the Nimroz (Milak) and Herat (Islam Qala) borders between 15-21 November 2020, a **11%** increase from the previous week (**22,747**). **15,523** persons returned voluntarily and **9,632** were deported. Since 01 January 2020, the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran is **767,230** individuals. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **1,334 (5%)** undocumented Afghans at the IOM Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz during the past week. **2020 is now on track to become the largest ever return year on record for undocumented Afghan migrants.**

COVID-19 Pandemic Update

IOM is actively supporting the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and WHO in addressing preparedness and emergency coordination actions through its Cross Border Return, Migration Health and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Units.

IOM support is primarily focused across 4 of WHO's Global Response Pillars include 1. Coordination; 2. Risk Communication and Community Engagement; 3. Surveillance/DTM; and 4. Points of Entry. Activities include training for frontline health workers, deployment of staffing to areas of need including placement in health facilities, secondment of staff to cross border surveillance, material support of PPE and other equipment, ambulance based referral services, distribution of MOPH-WHO IEC materials and community level awareness raising and sensitization efforts through health education sessions including within Displacement Tracking Matrix focus group discussions in over 12,300 settlements across 34 provinces. For more information please refer to <https://afghanistan.iom.int/IOM-COVID-19-Response>

Highlights

773,234 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2020

767,230 total returns from Iran

6,004 total returns from Pakistan

Over the past week **25,155** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran with **5%** of returnees from Iran (**1,334** individuals) assisted

Over the past week **89** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan with **97%** of returnees from Pakistan (**86** individuals) assisted

IOM Thematic Support

Migration Health:

In 2020, **489,157** patients have been reached by IOM's Migration Health Unit in Nimroz, Helmand, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces with basic health care services- outpatient consultations for general illnesses, maternal, child and neo-natal health care, reproductive health, family planning services and COVID-19 response. This programming is supported by the United Kingdom's FCDO, the Governments of Japan, Canada, Germany, DG ECHO, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund and the United States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

During the past week a total of **16,973** patients were served by IOM's 7 mobile health teams, inclusive of **3,722** outpatient consultations, health education sessions for **13,251** persons and psychosocial counselling sessions for **1,637** patients. Under the Global Fund multi-country TB grant in partnership with UNDP, a total of **16,062** undocumented Afghans were screened for tuberculosis at the Zero Point Reception Centres of Herat, Nimroz, Kandahar and Nangarhar. Of the total screened, **299** presumptive TB cases were identified and samples lab tested through GeneXpert and normal microscopy in coordination with the National TB Control Programme. **3** persons were confirmed positive for TB.

Protection: IOM's Protection programme has supported 3,892 undocumented returnee households comprising at least one person with specific needs (PSN) in 2020 through the provision of timely information, facilitating safe and dignified access to services, and provision of assistance including cash to mitigate identified protection risks and avoid resorting to negative coping mechanisms when referrals pathways are exhausted.

With screening staff present at the Herat and Nimroz border crossing points as well as case workers in 11 provinces of high return, this week the protection caseload included case management assessments for 110 new PSN households in Kunduz, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Balkh, Takhar, Ghor, Nangarhar, Sar-e-Pul. These cases included 13 women at risk, 11 children at risk, 8 people with serious medical conditions, 6 persons with disability, 5 older people at risk, and 1 separated or unaccompanied child. Across all provinces, 1,375 cases are ongoing, and 2,517 cases have been closed. 815 PSN individuals (and their households) were identified at the Milak and Islam Qala border points by Protection screeners in coordination with DoRR for support.

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Return from Pakistan

According to the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), **6,004** undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan since 01 January 2020. Over the past week **89** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan through the Torkham (**19** returnees) and Spin Boldak (**70** returnees) borders. The Afghan frontier with Pakistan at Spin Boldak officially reopened on 21 August and the border with Torkham on 29 September.

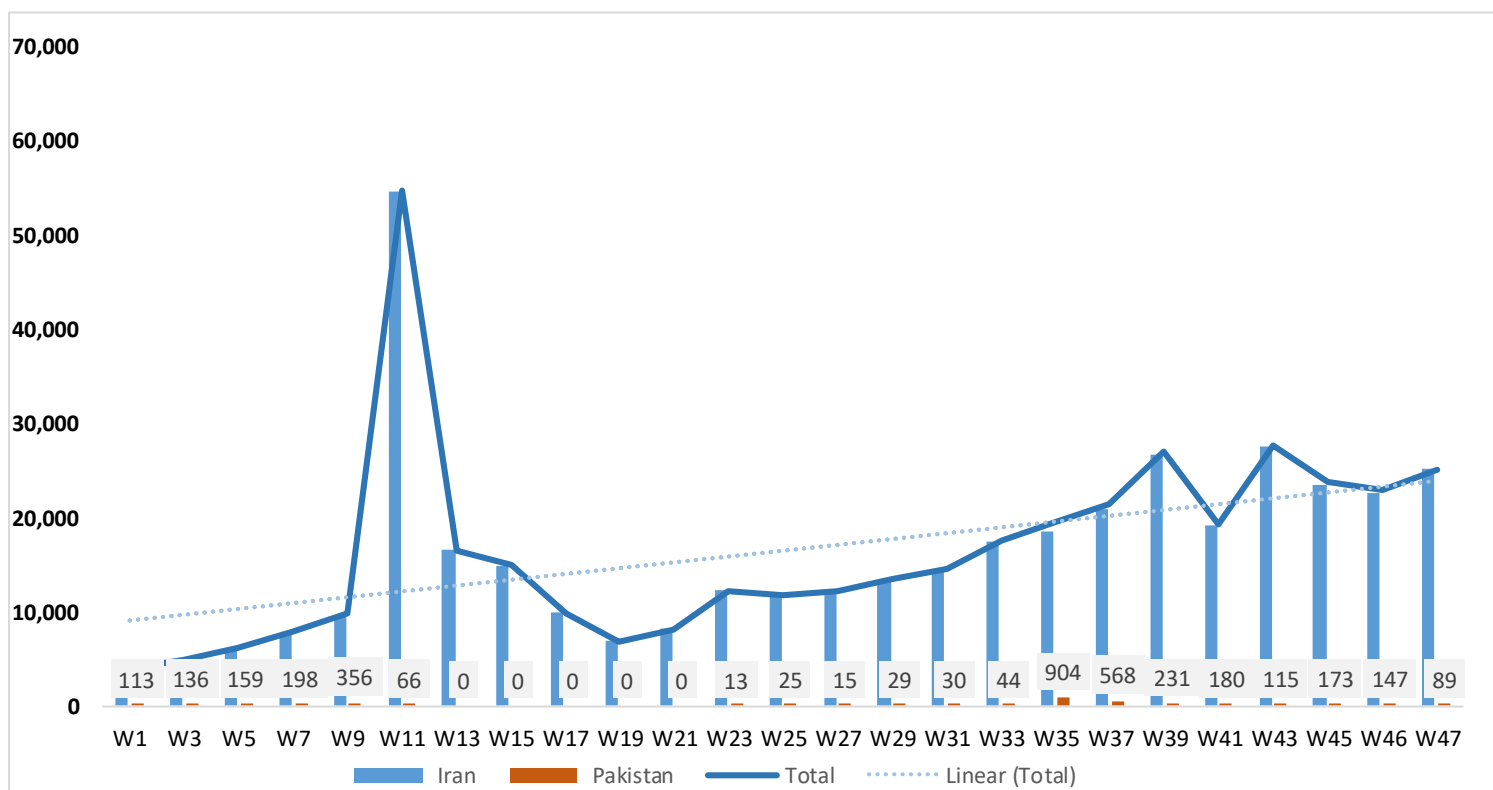
Total Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2020

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Return
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan - 31 Oct 2020	325,481	104,263	111,112	154,832	695,688	799	268	4,312	216	5,595	701,283
01-07 Nov 2020	9,987	5,375	3,833	4,445	23,640	50	10	113	0	173	23,813
08-14 Nov 2020	9,036	4,269	4,969	4,473	22,747	23	25	52	47	147	22,894
15-21 Nov 2020	9,682	4,799	5,841	4,833	25,155	19	0	70	0	89	25,244
Total	354,186	118,706	125,755	168,583	767,230	891	303	4,547	263	6,004	773,234

Total Number of Assisted Returnees in 2020

Date	Iran				Total Iran	Pakistan				Total Pakistan	Overall Assisted
	Herat		Nimroz			Torkham		Kandahar			
	Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		Spont	Deport	Spont	Deport		
01 Jan - 31 Oct 2020	15,441	15,680	9,354	29,729	70,204	799	189	3,784	51	4,823	75,027
01-07 Nov 2020	114	316	53	530	1,013	50	7	113	0	170	1,183
08-14 Nov 2020	57	461	56	739	1,313	23	20	52	28	123	1,436
15-21 Nov 2020	108	385	58	783	1,334	19	0	67	0	86	1,420
Total	15,720	16,842	9,521	31,781	73,864	891	216	4,016	79	5,202	79,066

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 79,066 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2020



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