IOM Afghanistan: Returns from Iran and Pakistan
Funding Needs

July 2018

Returns from Iran

As of 23 June 2018, 348,506 undocumented Afghan returnees have crossed back into Afghanistan from Iran. The months of April and May have witnessed an average of 20,000 returns each week. The total represents a 50% increase of returns over the same period in 2017. The larger return is associated with a major economic decline in Iran including the devaluation of the Iranian currency which has lost 30% of its value against the US dollar over the past year. The Iranian caseload contains thousands of special needs cases including Single Females, Unaccompanied Migrant Children and emergency medical needs cases. With improved service delivery it is anticipated that the in-need population will grow to as much as 30% of the return total per week where presently IOM is reaching 3% per week.

Returns from Pakistan

As of 23 June 2018, 15,772 undocumented Afghan returnees crossed from Pakistan into Afghanistan, a 60% drop over the same period from 2017- noting that the return is particularly low for the months of May-June as a result of Ramadan. The fall in return figures is a reflection of the ongoing political transition in Pakistan. Presently a caretaker government is in place until 25 July when new federal elections will be held. The result of these elections could have major implications for Afghans living in Pakistan.

Highlights

348,506 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2018
15,772 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018
28,079 total returns assisted since 01 Jan 2018
14,582 of returnees from Pakistan assisted
14,484 of returnees from Iran assisted
2,284 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) from Iran and Pakistan were assisted since 01 Jan 2018

Afghans returning from Iran crossing Melak border in Nimroz province. © IOM/A. Quilty

Unaccompanied minors in Nimroz © IOM/A. Quilty

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IOM Assists Returnees from Iran and Pakistan through the CBRR Programme

Cross-Border Return and Reintegration (CBRR):
Since 2007, IOM’s network of Reception and Transit Centres at major border crossing points with Pakistan and Iran has been providing 100,000s of returning undocumented Afghan returnees with lifesaving humanitarian post-arrival assistance including medical screening, temporary accommodation, food, non-food items (NFIs), transportation cash grants and referral services annually. Many returnees including single females, unaccompanied migrant children and emergency medical cases have serious vulnerabilities that require immediate assistance.
IOM in Afghanistan is the leading agency providing humanitarian assistance to undocumented Afghan returnees and populations affected by disasters. IOM is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team. In addition, IOM is active in several clusters (namely protection, multi-purpose cash transfer, coordination, emergency shelter and NFI, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), working groups, and is the co-chair for the emergency shelter ES-NFI Cluster while being a leading member of the Displacement and Return Executive Committee. IOM works very closely with the host government. The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and its respective provincial level directorates are IOM’s primary counterpart on regional returns.

IOM AFGHANISTAN | CBRR PROGRAMME PRESENCE

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IOM’s CBRR programme is currently only 6% funded. IOM urgently needs funding to maintain life-saving humanitarian operations at major border crossings in support of undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan.

Current operations in the southern region will cease on 01 July 2018.

2018 NEED: 52M *
CURRENT FUNDING: 3.2M / 6%

* This is in line with the 2018-21 Humanitarian Response Plan for Afghanistan which can be found here.

**Beneficiaries:** 20,000 individuals receiving cash for protection and 16,000 individuals receiving in-kind assistance, 36,000 total beneficiaries.

**The Displacement Tracking Matrix’s** baseline mobility mapping is completed in 34 provinces to provide baseline data to humanitarian actors.

**Beneficiaries:** 21,000 vulnerable Afghan returnee families receive hygiene kits.

**Beneficiaries:** 21,000 vulnerable Afghan returnee families receive shelters and three months of winterization support.

**Beneficiaries:** 400,000 returning Afghans from Iran and Pakistan to receive cash for transportation to their final destination; 50,000 returning families to receive cash for NFI.

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