MOVEMENT SUMMARY - AFGHANISTAN TO AND FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

Acknowledging the deep rooted generosity of the people and the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan migrants and refugees for over 4 decades, this document captures present mobility trends amongst Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

- The reporting week witnessed an increase in outflow movement between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, with 28,158 individuals leaving Afghanistan compared to 27,785 last week. The inflows decreased from 12,547 last week to 11,458 during this reporting period.
- Crossings between Afghanistan and Pakistan remained steady with an average of 11,000 outflows and close to 10,000 inflows per day.
- No movements were observed to or from central Asian countries bordering Afghanistan.

TRENDS OF MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF AFGHANISTAN IN 2021 (1 JAN - 31 DEC)

- From IRN to AFG in 2021: 1,235,523
- From AFG to IRN in 2021: 1,450,748
- From PAK to AFG in 2021: 3,372,329
- From AFG to PAK in 2021: 3,508,289
FROM ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The weekly movements from the Islamic Republic of Iran into Afghanistan decreased by 9%. As predicted last week, the overall outflow figure for January (57,396) did not reach the volume reported in December (77,197). There are several factors that can be attributed to the decrease in inflows - change in government and to a certain extent, harsh winter conditions. IOM assisted 2,554 returnees, of which 2,007 (79%) were male and 547 (21%) were female. In the reporting period, two-thirds (8,335) of all crossings of Afghan nationals from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan were deportations. The returns of 20 migrants, who reportedly died due to accidents and natural causes, were repatriated in the week of 29 January to 4 February.

TO ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Movements into the Islamic Republic of Iran increased when compared to the last reporting period (22 to 28 January 2022), from 27,785 to 28,158. An average crossing of 4,023 people were reported, less than 2% increase from the previous reporting period. At this pace, approximately 300,000 Afghans, of which one out of five are of circular nature, are expected to cross into the Islamic Republic of Iran by the first quarter of 2022. A breakdown of available gender data indicates that 69% were male and 31% were female. The percentage of female crossing out of Afghanistan through Dogharon/Islam Qala were higher (44%) than that of Milak/Zaranj crossing point (12%).

The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The Line of Control: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan.

FROM PAKISTAN

During this reporting period, 68,162 crossings from Pakistan to Afghanistan were observed, averaging a daily inflow of 9,737 individuals. Among the 18,462 crossings from Torkham, 1,399 were Pakistanis with Afghan visa, 13,147 Afghans with valid passport and Pakistani visa, 3,524 Afghans with Tazkira, and 392 ACC/POR card holders, along with 221 undocumented individuals. Meanwhile, 11 individuals were deported due to lack of legal documentation during the reporting period. Pakistani nationals travelled to Afghanistan for business trips and family visits. The percentage of female crossing through Torkham is higher (40%) compared to Chaman (24%).

TO PAKISTAN

Movements from Afghanistan into Pakistan decreased when compared to last week and the reporting period saw a total of 77,141 crossings. Among them were 1,350 Pakistani nationals, 17,985 Afghans with valid visa (which includes 531 individuals sponsored by different embassies), five individuals with third country passport, 475 Afghan patients and 426 attendants, were reported crossing from Torkham. Of the total, 72% were male and 28% female. The percentage of female crossing through Torkham is higher (37%) compared to Chaman (26%). This is similar to the inflow movement pattern.

^The number of individuals crossing into Islamic Republic of Iran from Afghanistan can vary from those reported by IOM. This can be attributed to the difference in data collection processes. UNHCR data is derived from mechanisms recording population(s) approaching UNHCR in Iran, whereas IOM data relies on information received by community focal points in cooperation in Afghanistan.

²Spontaneous returns: Individuals crossing the border to Afghanistan willingly and without being forced or coerced. These individuals can be documented or undocumented.

³Undocumented individual: An individual of Afghan origin in Pakistan or Islamic Republic of Iran who does not have valid documentation during the reporting period. Pakistani nationals travelled to Afghanistan for business trips and family visits. The percentage of female crossing through Torkham is higher (40%) compared to Chaman (24%).

4,023 decrease in weekly outflow average outflow per day

11,458 decrease in weekly inflow average inflow per day

1% increase in weekly outflow average outflow per day

77,141 increase in weekly outflow average outflow per day

16,039