

Onward Movements of Afghan Refugees

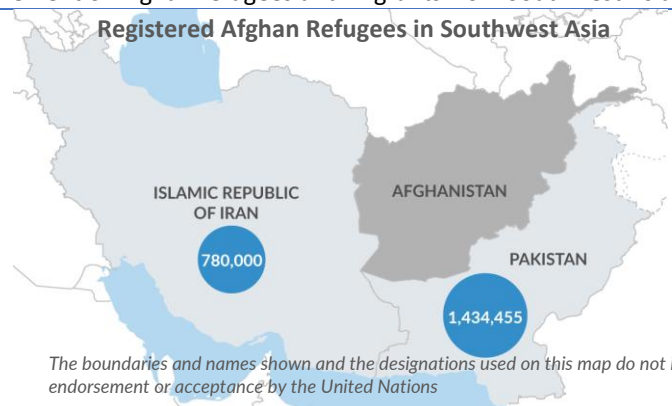
January-February 2021

This is a monthly update from the Regional Mixed Movement Monitoring Unit (R3MU) of UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presenting available key figures on the onward movement of Afghan refugees and migrants from Southwest Asia.

MONITORING AFGHAN MOVEMENTS

Limitations

- Information on Afghan movements, particularly within Southwest Asia, is difficult to obtain due to porous and remote border areas, and limited access to refugees and asylum-seekers. In addition, irregular movements are by nature clandestine and difficult to verify.



ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES WITH MOST AFGHANS

Top 3 Countries (other than Iran and Pakistan)¹

Country	Afghan refugees and asylum seekers hosted
India	15,689
Indonesia	7,692
Malaysia	2,478

- About **90%** of the world's Afghan refugees are hosted in Iran and Pakistan, though sizeable populations exist in other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

¹ Source: UNHCR Annual Statistical Report end-2019

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

Key Figures

- 116,403** Afghan asylum seekers and **980** Afghan refugees are residing in Turkey.²
- Roughly **4,400** Afghans in an irregular situation were arrested by Turkish authorities in January-February 2021.³
- 6,000** Afghans were deported from Turkey to Afghanistan from January to December 2020.

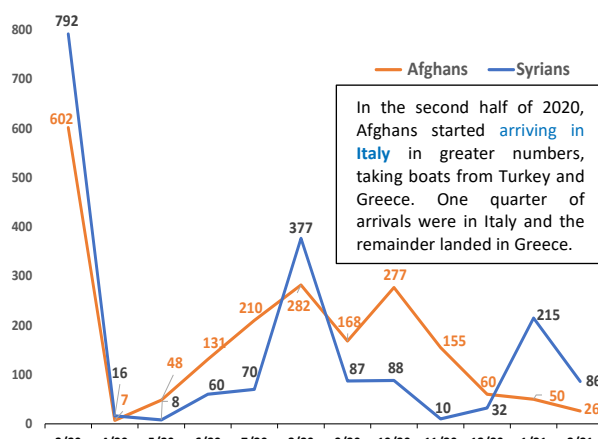
² Source: UNHCR Refugee Statistics (2020)

³ Source: Republic of Turkey – Directorate General of Migration Management, *Irregular Migration*

⁴ Source: OCHA, *Afghanistan Snapshot of Population Movements (January-December 2020)*

AFGHAN ARRIVALS IN EUROPE (LAST 12 MONTHS)

Afghans Arriving in Europe Compared to Syrian Arrivals⁵



⁵ Source: UNHCR Situation Portal for the *Mediterranean Situation*. Peak movements in early 2016 saw an average 16,000 Afghans arriving in Europe per month.

⁶ Source: Eurostat Database: *Asylum and Managed Migration*

⁷ Source: EASO Latest Asylum Trends

⁸ Out of the total number of arrivals, 26% are boys and 19% girls. Source: UNHCR Greece Sea Arrivals Dashboard July 2020

⁹ Source: E.K.K.A. *Unaccompanied Children in Greece December 2020/September 2020*

AFGHAN NEW ARRIVALS IN EUROPE

The route to Europe

- Afghans made up **6%** of all arrivals to Europe through the Mediterranean from 2020 – February 2021.⁵
- In January 2021, Afghans are the second most common citizenship to claim asylum in Europe (**3,900** claims), after Syrians (**10,400** claims).⁶ In November 2020, **61%** of Afghan asylum claimants in Europe were granted international protection, the highest level in 2020. In October and November 2020, Afghan children made up nearly half of all asylum applications by unaccompanied minors in Europe.⁷

Gender Age Breakdown of New Arrivals in Greece⁸

Men	Women	Children
34%	21%	45%

Key Figures – Greece⁹

- 1,530** Afghan Unaccompanied Children reported to be in Greece in January 2021 (**7%** lower than September 2020). Afghan Children make up **38%** of all Unaccompanied Children in Greece.