

UNHCR STATISTICAL FACTSHEET

Onward Movements of Afghan Refugees

March-April 2021

This is a bi-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.



* According to the data received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in October 2020, on which consultations are ongoing. Source: UNHCR Situation Portal, Afghanistan

ASIA PACIFIC COUNTRIES WITH MOST AFGHANS

Top 3 Countries (other than Iran and Pakistan)¹

| Country | Afghan refugees and asylum seekers hosted |
|-----------|---|
| India | 15,806 |
| Indonesia | 7,629 |
| Malaysia | 2,661 |

 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.

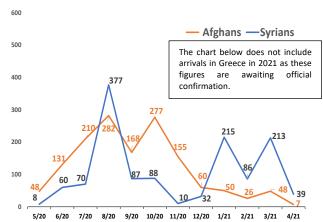
AFGHAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

Key Figures

- 116,403 Afghan asylum seekers and 980 Afghan refugees are residing in Turkey.²
- Roughly 12,818 Afghans in an irregular situation were arrested by Turkish authorities from January to April 2021.³
- 6,000 Afghans were deported from Turkey to Afghanistan from January to December 2020.⁴

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.

AFGHAN NEW ARRIVALS IN EUROPE

The route to Europe

- Afghans made up 6% of all arrivals to Europe through the Mediterranean from 2020 – April 2021.⁵
- In March 2021, Afghans are the second most common citizenship to claim asylum in Europe (2,670 claims), after Syrians (5,195 claims).⁶ In February 2021, 53% of Afghan asylum claimants in Europe were granted international protection. Afghan children made up 40% of all asylum applications by unaccompanied minors in Europe in the past 7 months and applications increased 17% from a year ago.⁷

Gender Age Breakdown of Arrivals in Greece8



Key Figures - Greece®

 1,159 Afghan Unaccompanied Children reported to be in Greece in April 2021. Afghan Children make up 32% of all Unaccompanied Children in Greece.

¹ Source: UNHCR Refugee Statistics (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)

⁶ Source: Eurostat Database: Asylum and Managed Migration

⁷ Source: EASO Latest Asylum Trends

⁸ Source: Aegean Islands Weekly Snapshot 26 April - 02 May 2021

⁹ Source: E.K.K.A. Unaccompanied Children in Greece April 2021

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