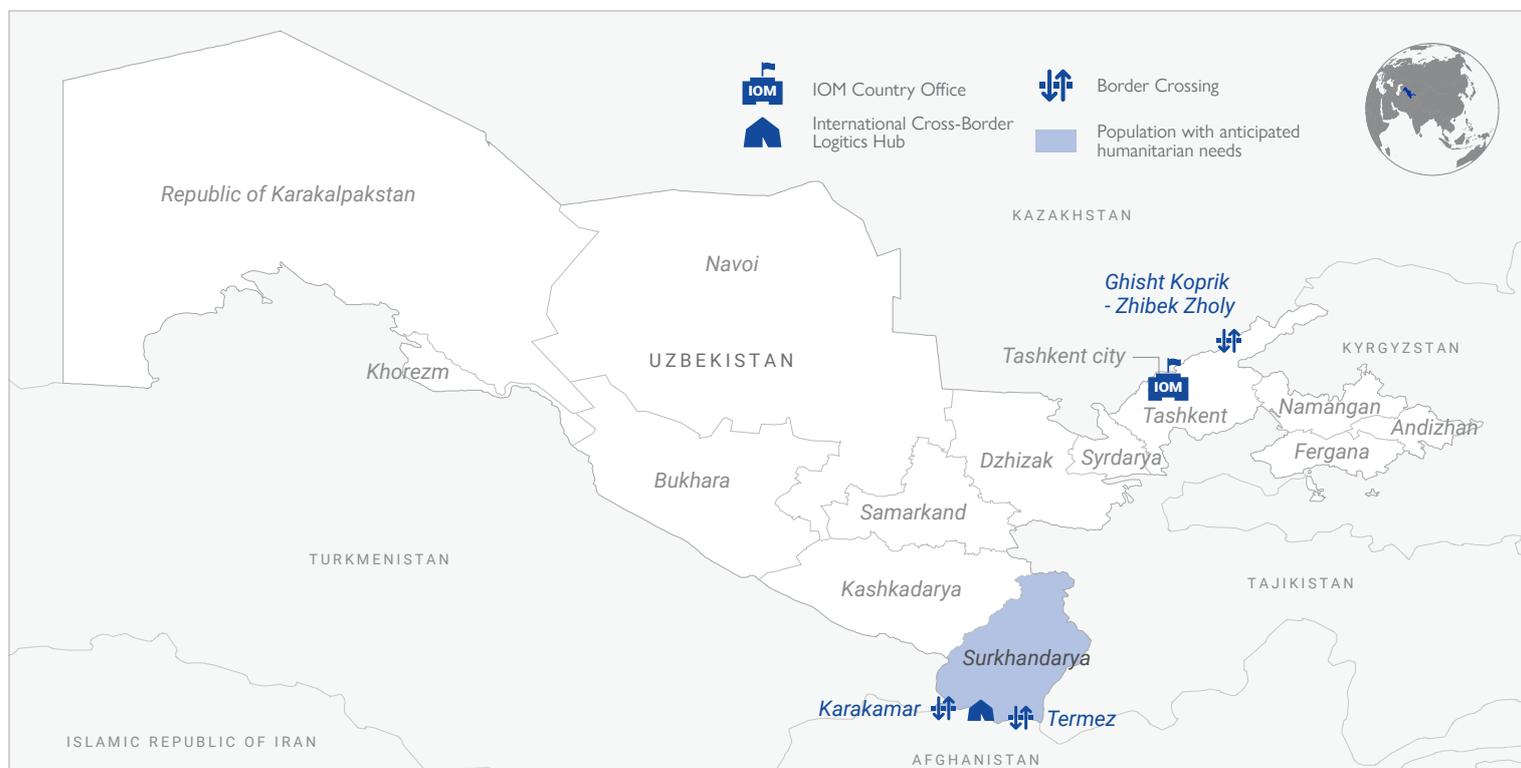


ABOUT US

Present since 2003 and accredited in April 2021, IOM Uzbekistan's main office is in Tashkent with a team of eight personnel. The country mission has multiple active programmes and leads the coordination of IOM Central Asia sub-regional initiatives responding to the Afghan

situation. IOM's non-resident Chief of Mission for Uzbekistan is located in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, as the accredited IOM Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

With over 2.2 million refugees and an estimated 4 million undocumented Afghan nationals currently hosted in neighboring countries, the prospect of receiving additional Afghan populations is increasing pressure on host communities and governments' reception capacities. To date, population movements of Afghans to Central Asia have remained relatively small in scale. However, in addition to the needs of the current caseload, the risk of a complete economic collapse in Afghanistan and a further deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country may drive larger numbers of Afghans to seek refuge in the region and beyond.

The Government of Uzbekistan has begun offering support, both in terms of providing goods, cross-border logistics for delivering aid into Afghanistan from Termez and increasing preparedness capacity by setting up a border level reception site in case larger displacements take place. Uzbekistan currently hosts the largest number of Afghan migrants in Central Asia with approximately 13,500 Afghans including an estimated caseload of 2,000 with immediate humanitarian needs mainly in the Surkhandarya region in the south of Uzbekistan. Afghans

are in large parts hosted in semi-urban settings already plagued by high rates of unemployment and declining income from remittances due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Afghan nationals—particularly those who are not registered with the authorities—have challenges in accessing specific services and assistance.

In 2021, IOM launched its *Comprehensive Action Plan for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries 2021-2024* to lay out its programmatic priorities for addressing the rapidly expanding crisis. Updated and reissued in February 2022, IOM Uzbekistan is seeking a total funding amount of USD 11,030,000 over the next three years, to scale up direct assistance provision to vulnerable Afghans and their host communities inclusive of protection, non-food items and cash-based assistance to help them to meet their immediate and essential needs; establish a sub-office on the border with Afghanistan at Termez and an associated Migrant Resource Center in line with Government of Uzbekistan priorities; and extend capacity building support on emergency preparedness and migration management to relevant Government of Uzbekistan agencies.

OUR DONORS

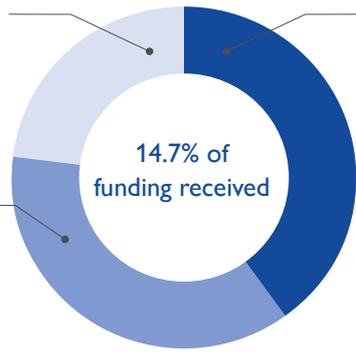


PRIORITIES AND FUNDING NEEDS

IOM priorities and support to the Afghan situation are aligned with the *IOM Comprehensive Action Plan - Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries* and the *IOM Central Asia Strategy for 2021-2025*, and are closely coordinated with the Government of Uzbekistan.

USD 2,500,000 (23%)
Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen institutional capacities for socio-economic recovery and inclusive development | (August 2021 to December 2024)

USD 4,115,000 (37%)
Strategic Objective 2: Address migration and displacement drivers and mitigate mid-term impacts of the crisis in Afghanistan across the region (August 2021 to December 2023)



USD 4,415,000 (40%) - USD 1.6m received
Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen preparedness capacity and respond to humanitarian and protection needs to save lives (January 2022 - December 2023)

OUR WORK

IOM maintains a strong network of government and non-government partners in Uzbekistan. The Mission assists the Government of Uzbekistan with implementation of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)*. IOM chairs the UN Network on Migration and provides coordination and secretariat support. Additionally, IOM has assisted the Government to:



Implement the Advance Passenger Information (API) System that is enabling immigration authorities to conduct and expedite advance checks of travellers, strengthening effectiveness of border control management and helping to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.



Establish a pilot skills development centre for potential labour migrants in Uzbekistan. The centre will organise skills development trainings and pre-departure orientation for prospective migrants, to encourage them to make safe and informed choices ahead of departure.



Build the capacity of health and border management authorities to respond to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. IOM supported training of trainers to address sanitary-epidemiological control and data collection at POE, adhering to International Health Regulations.

IOM also provides case management services for migrant groups including victims of trafficking, vulnerable or stranded migrants, resettlement, as well as voluntary return and reintegration beneficiaries. Assistance is provided in close partnership with government and non-government stakeholders.

OUR PARTNERS

IOM partnerships include: Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Emergency Situations, Health and Agency for Social and Medical Services, National Commission on Countering Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour, Mahalla and Family Support, 14 NGOs, universities, researchers, media and diaspora members. IOM also works closely with other UN agencies, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC and WFP.



A group of 16 epidemiologists from the Service of Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare learn skills to train health and non-health personnel at points of entry (PoE) to administer effective sanitary and epidemiological control.



IOM coordinated with the Uzbekistan Consular Office and the NGO, Kaisar, in Kazakhstan, to support a family of eleven. IOM organised their health screenings and return flights to Uzbekistan and provided them with food and sanitary and hygienic supplies.