



# Webinar on the Situation in Afghanistan – Implications for the Silk Routes region and what comes next?

## Regional Office – Silk Routes

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October 13, 2021

Virtual on Webex

### Background

The collapse of the national government in Afghanistan in mid-August and subsequent takeover of the country by the Taliban has made all previous scenario building, planning and risk forecasting redundant. The new socio- & geo-political paradigm has prompted the need for a new assessment in order to create a new and adaptive response framework.

If the ongoing humanitarian crisis persists<sup>1</sup> and governance remains weak, then the fallout from Afghanistan might end up severely affecting the migration and displacement situation in the region and beyond. Already there are a large number of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, Pakistan and Iran continue to host the bulk of Afghan refugees,<sup>3</sup> while other countries in the region such as Tajikistan have also received thousands of refugees in recent weeks, whereas Turkey remains the primary transit country for irregular Afghan migrants on their way to Europe.

Therefore, it is now critical to support neighbouring countries to anticipate substantial human displacement, and humanitarian challenges, therefore calling for the development of contingency plans accordingly. It is also important for law enforcement agencies to anticipate an increase in illicit activities in the region in relation to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Reintegration and resettlement programmes would also need to be reviewed and adapted to match the new circumstances on the ground. Community stabilisation via the temporary provision of basic services as well as ensuring sustainable return through livelihood schemes for displaced Afghans might have to be addressed within the region. This might involve the engagement of the new Afghan government by its neighbours to ensure that the socio-economic stability can be restored at the earliest possible and in a sustainable manner.

### Purpose

In such a special context, there is a need to inform one another and share a better understanding of the current uncertainty and anticipate the future impact of movements, in terms of migration and displacement. It is also imperative to hear the perspectives of the countries in Afghanistan's immediate neighbourhood. With this in mind, ICMPD's Silk Routes Regional Office is organising a meeting dedicated to the future of migration and displacement dynamics (both internal and external) from Afghanistan and addressing the concerns and the needs of its neighbours. This meeting would thus explore:

- what are the implications for migration management in the neighbourhood based on past experiences of displacement from Afghanistan;
- the challenges and prospects in the short to medium term – presentation of country agendas and strategies to tackle expected migratory flows;

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<sup>1</sup> [Afghanistan | Global Humanitarian Overview \(unocha.org\)](https://www.unocha.org/afghanistan)

<sup>2</sup> [Document - Afghanistan Situation External Update - 08 September 2021 \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan/situation-external-update-08-september-2021)

<sup>3</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/77284>



- the assessed needs of Afghanistan’s neighbours to offer a direct responsive action in the region as well as for countries along the Whole-of-Route.

The meeting hopes to aid in the coping process by providing a platform to discuss opportunities for cooperation and support, and present follow up steps that could enable timely and necessary support to be mobilised accordingly.

## Format

This meeting will be virtual and open to selected countries from the Silk Routes region and Europe. Held under Chatham House Rule, the meeting will be chaired by the Head of ICMPD’s Regional Office for the Silk Routes.

## Agenda

Opening Remarks	
10:00 – 10:10	Mr. Martijn Pluim Director, Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD
Presentations by Silk Routes Countries	
10:10 – 10:25	<b>Presentation of an expert on Afghanistan on the ongoing situation and its needs to address it / future agenda and strategy</b> Mr. Khyber Farahi - former senior adviser on migration and social development to the Office of the President of Afghanistan (2017-2019)
10:25 - 10:40	<b>Presentation of Iran on the ongoing situation and its needs to address it / future agenda and strategy</b> H.E. Mr. Hossein Dehghani, Ambassador of Iran to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union
10:40 – 10:55	<b>Presentation of Pakistan on the ongoing situation and its needs to address it / future agenda and strategy</b> H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador of Pakistan to Austria
10:55 – 11:40	<b>Discussion</b> Moderated by Ms. Sedef Dearing, Head of Region - Silk Routes & Head of the Budapest Process Secretariat, ICMPD
11:40 – 12:00	<b>Concluding remarks</b>

*Photos, video and audio recordings may be taken **during** the conference to be used for visibility purposes. Any participant not wishing to appear in these must inform the Silk Routes team.*