



## Highlights

- 2,393 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan between 18-24 December 2016, a 15% increase from the previous week.
- 8,726 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran during the same period. This is a 20% increase from the previous week.
- 246,518 undocumented Afghans have spontaneously returned or been deported from Pakistan and 436,236 from Iran since the beginning of the year.

## Returns from Pakistan

From 18-24 December 2016, a total of **2,393** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through Torkham border (Nangarhar province) and Spin Boldak border (Kandahar province), according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total, 2,194 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 199 were deported individuals.

This brings the total number of Afghan undocumented returnees from Pakistan to **246,518** in 2016. This is a 15% total increase from last week, with deportations increasing by 78%. Based on the trends from the past week, it is projected that 10,484 more undocumented Afghans will return from Pakistan before the end of the year.

During the reporting period, IOM assisted **2,107 (88%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including 179 single parent families and three unaccompanied migrant children. The humanitarian support provided includes meals and accommodation at IOM's Transit Centers near the border, household supplies and other Non-Food Items (NFIs) for families, special assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), a one-month food ration from WFP, family and hygiene kits from UNICEF and dignity kits from UNFPA.

IOM has been conducting randomized surveys at Torkham border in order to better understand the livelihood conditions, socio-economic and reintegration needs of returnees from Pakistan. The latest survey round covers 242 households through 14 December. According to the survey, 72% of households intend to settle in Nangarhar province and 49% have indicated shelter as their primary need. The full survey results can be found on [IOM Afghanistan's website](#).

## Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since the beginning of 2016, over 682,000 undocumented Afghans have returned to Afghanistan, due to a number of diverse push factors including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. While returns have declined recently in line with seasonal trends as winter sets in, previous surges in returns have been unpredictable and IOM remains prepared to respond to increased needs.

Many of those returning have lived outside of Afghanistan for decades, and will need support from the government and humanitarian actors both on arrival and as they seek to reintegrate into a country already struggling with widespread conflict and displacement. IOM is currently providing post-arrival humanitarian assistance to returnees at its Transit Centers near the major border crossing points of Torkham and Spin Boldak (Pakistan) as well as Islam Qala and Milak (Iran).

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Returns from Iran

A total of **8,726** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR) from 18-24 December. This is a **20% increase** in returns from Iran compared with last week. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 159 (3%) were in family groups and 4,649 (97%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 173 (4%) were in family groups whereas 3,745 (96%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran in 2016 to **436,236**.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **267 (3%)** undocumented Afghans arriving from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz provinces, including 94 unaccompanied migrant children and 15 individuals with special medical needs. A gap in assistance remains, as DoRR estimates that approximately 10% of undocumented Afghans returning from Iran are in need of humanitarian assistance.

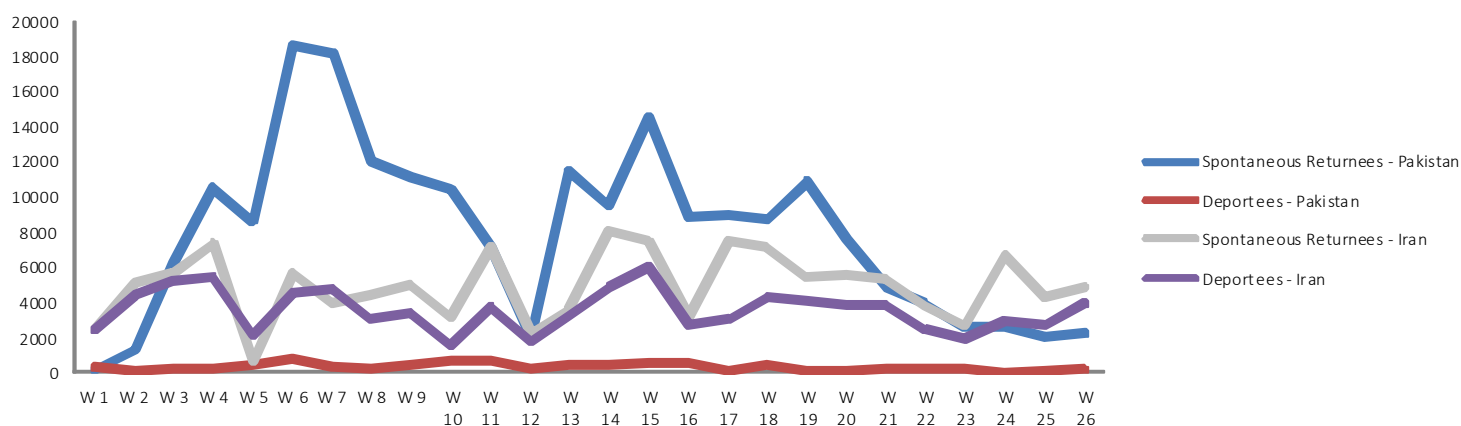
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

| Date         | Spontaneous Returnees |               |                |               | Deportees     |              |                |               | Total Pakistan | Total Iran     | Grand Total    |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|              | Torkham               | Spin Boldak   | Islam Qala     | Milak         | Torkham       | Spin Boldak  | Islam Qala     | Milak         |                |                |                |
| Jan-Nov 16   | 194,015               | 22,273        | 193,592        | 33,856        | 12,297        | 9,816        | 116,541        | 65,218        | 238,401        | 409,207        | 647,608        |
| 1-3 Dec      | 724                   | 420           | 717            | 451           | 5             | 9            | 0              | 539           | 1,158          | 1,707          | 2,865          |
| 4-10 Dec     | 1,306                 | 1,216         | 6,123          | 550           | 12            | 0            | 1,535          | 1,390         | 2,534          | 9,598          | 12,132         |
| 11-17 Dec    | 963                   | 1,026         | 3,739          | 526           | 43            | 0            | 1,547          | 1,186         | 2,032          | 6,998          | 9,030          |
| 18-24 Dec    | 1,138                 | 1,056         | 4,248          | 560           | 196           | 3            | 2,446          | 1,472         | 2,393          | 8,726          | 11,119         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>198,146</b>        | <b>25,991</b> | <b>208,419</b> | <b>35,943</b> | <b>12,553</b> | <b>9,828</b> | <b>122,069</b> | <b>69,805</b> | <b>246,518</b> | <b>436,236</b> | <b>682,754</b> |

IOM-Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

| Date         | Spontaneous Returnees |              |            |              | Deportees    |             |               |              | Total Pakistan | Total Iran    | Grand Total   |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|              | Torkham               | Spin Boldak  | Islam Qala | Milak        | Torkham      | Spin Boldak | Islam Qala    | Milak        |                |               |               |
| Jan-Nov 16   | 53,934                | 1,654        | 904        | 1,008        | 1704         | 155         | 9746          | 6579         | 57,447         | 18,237        | 75,684        |
| 1-3 Dec      | 700                   | 291          | 0          | 0            | 1            | 9           | 0             | 67           | 1,001          | 67            | 1,068         |
| 4-10 Dec     | 1,120                 | 1,201        | 1          | 42           | 6            | 0           | 69            | 120          | 2,327          | 232           | 2,559         |
| 11-17 Dec    | 932                   | 1,026        | 7          | 8            | 29           | 0           | 107           | 82           | 1,987          | 204           | 2,191         |
| 18-24 Dec    | 1,051                 | 970          | 2          | 12           | 83           | 3           | 152           | 101          | 2,107          | 267           | 2,374         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>57,737</b>         | <b>5,142</b> | <b>914</b> | <b>1,070</b> | <b>1,823</b> | <b>167</b>  | <b>10,074</b> | <b>6,949</b> | <b>64,869</b>  | <b>19,007</b> | <b>83,876</b> |

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week, July-Dec 2016



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:



