



Children from a returnee family carry assistance received from IOM at the Torkham Transit Center. © IOM 2017

Highlights

986 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

2,696 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

9,286 total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017

41,847 total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017

81% of returnees from Pakistan (801 individuals) assisted

10% of returnees from Iran (260 individuals) assisted

Returns from Pakistan

From 12-18 February 2017, a total of **986** 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). This is a **19% decrease** in returns from the previous week. The decrease is the result of the indefinite closure of Torkham border on 17 February, and Spin Boldak border the following day, in response to the recent attack in Lahore. Of the total returnees, 892 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 94 were deported individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **9,286** since 1 January 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM assisted **801 (81%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including 110 single parents and 28 special cases. The assistance provided includes meals, accommodation, Non-Food Items (NFIs), onward transportation and referral services, as well as support from partners as per the adjacent table.

Organization	Type of Assistance	People Assisted
WFP	Food Package	675
WHO	Medical Services	144
UNICEF	Hygiene Kit	289
UNICEF	Family Kit	289
UNICEF	Hygiene Awareness Training for Kit Recipients	289
UNFPA	Dignity Kit	386
AADA	Medical Services	196

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 743,000 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. 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.

While returns have declined in line with seasonal trends during winter, previous surges in returns have been unpredictable and an estimated 1 million undocumented Afghans still remain in Pakistan. IOM is prepared to respond to increased needs and is appealing for additional funding to continue its emergency response programming.

CONTACT US

IOM Kabul

✉ iomkabul@iom.int

🌐 <http://afghanistan.iom.int>

[facebook.com/iomafghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/iomafghanistan)

twitter.com/iomafghanistan

Returns from Iran

A total of **2,696** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings from 12-18 February, a **19% decrease** compared with the previous week. Out of the total, 824 were spontaneous returnees and 1,872 were deportees. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to **41,847**.

Only one family (2 persons) returned through Islam Qala border during the reporting period. The border was temporarily closed during the week due to floods in Iran as well as a security incident.

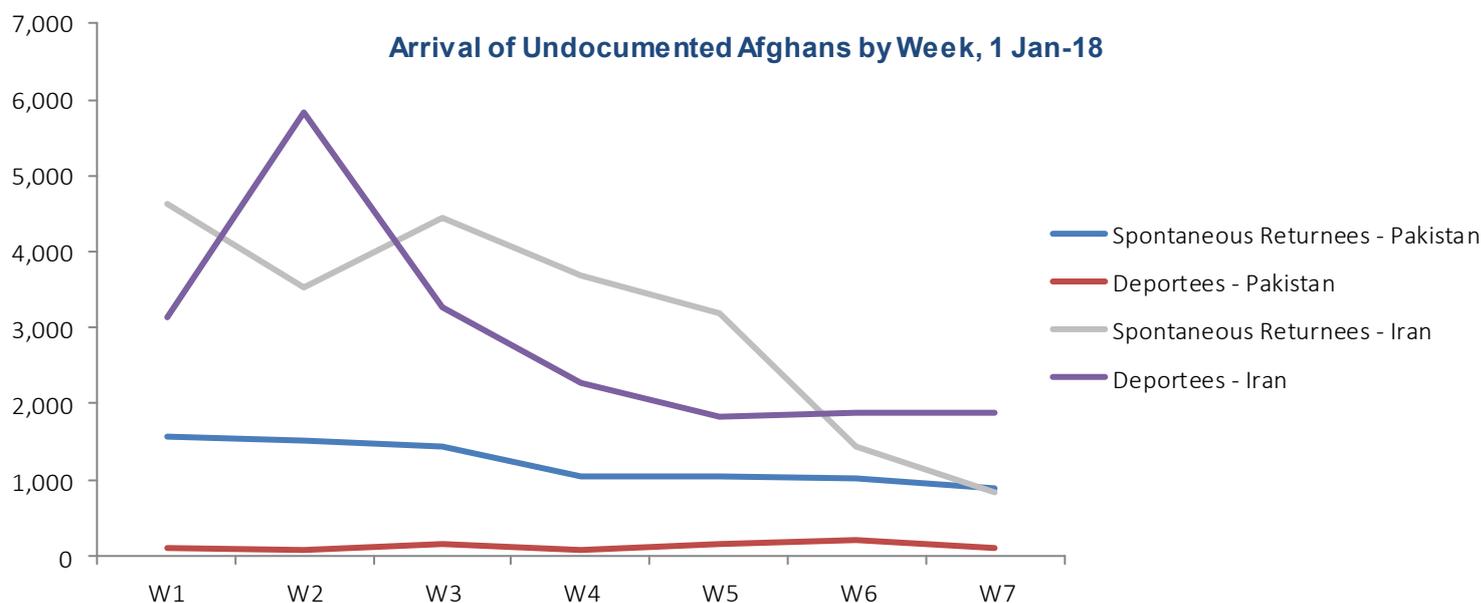
IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **260 (10%)** undocumented Afghans arriving from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz, including 45 unaccompanied migrant children and 14 persons with medical assistance needs.

Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2017 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan 2017	3,605	2,294	15,918	2,555	273	226	9,986	5,599	6,398	34,058	40,456
1-4 Feb	454	203	600	408	31	-	142	625	688	1,775	2,463
5-11 Feb	811	196	543	888	76	131	114	1,773	1,214	3,318	4,532
12-18 Feb	696	196	2	822	57	37	-	1,872	986	2,696	3,682
Total	5,566	2,889	17,063	4,673	437	394	10,242	9,869	9,286	41,847	51,133

IOM-Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2017 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan 2017	3,022	2,109	53	32	74	213	582	418	5,418	1,085	6,503
1-4 Feb	421	112	1	14	0	0	20	63	533	98	631
5-11 Feb	733	149	14	27	17	97	3	281	996	325	1,321
12-18 Feb	675	98	2	17	10	18	0	241	801	260	1,061
Total	4,851	2,468	70	90	101	328	605	1,003	7,748	1,768	9,516



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:

