



Families that recently returned from Iran receive assistance at IOM's Transit Center in Nimroz. © IOM 2017

Highlights

- 23** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan
- 3,591** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran
- 9,928** total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017
- 57,173** total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017
- 65%** of returnees from Pakistan (15 individuals) assisted
- 12%** of returnees from Iran (440 individuals) assisted

Returns from Pakistan

From 12-18 March 2017, a total of **23** undocumented Afghans were deported from Pakistan through Torkham border (Nangarhar province), according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). No undocumented returnees arrived through Spin Boldak border in Kandahar. This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **9,928** since 1 January 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **15 (65%)** undocumented Afghan deportees from Pakistan, all of them special cases.

IOM continued its distribution of shelter and winterization kits for vulnerable returnee families during the reporting period, reaching 271 families in Kunar's Assadabad, Sawky, Narang, Khas Kunar and Nurgal districts; 236 families in Laghman's Mehtarlam and Qarghayee districts; and 85 families in Kabul district.

Border Closures

Torkham and Spin Boldak borders closed on 17 February due to security concerns in Pakistan. From 7-8 March, the borders were temporarily reopened to allow stranded travelers with documents to cross. The borders remain closed as of 18 March.

Islam Qala border with Iran was closed for one month due to flooding. The border has reopened for travelers with documents, but returns of undocumented Afghans have been halted. Milak border in Nimroz remains functional.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 759,000 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 **3,591** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran from 12-18 March, primarily through Milak border in Nimroz province. A small number of returnees (11) also returned through Islam Qala border in Herat province. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 86 (7%) were in family groups and 1,120 (93%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 343 (14%) were in family groups whereas 2,128 (86%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to **57,173**.

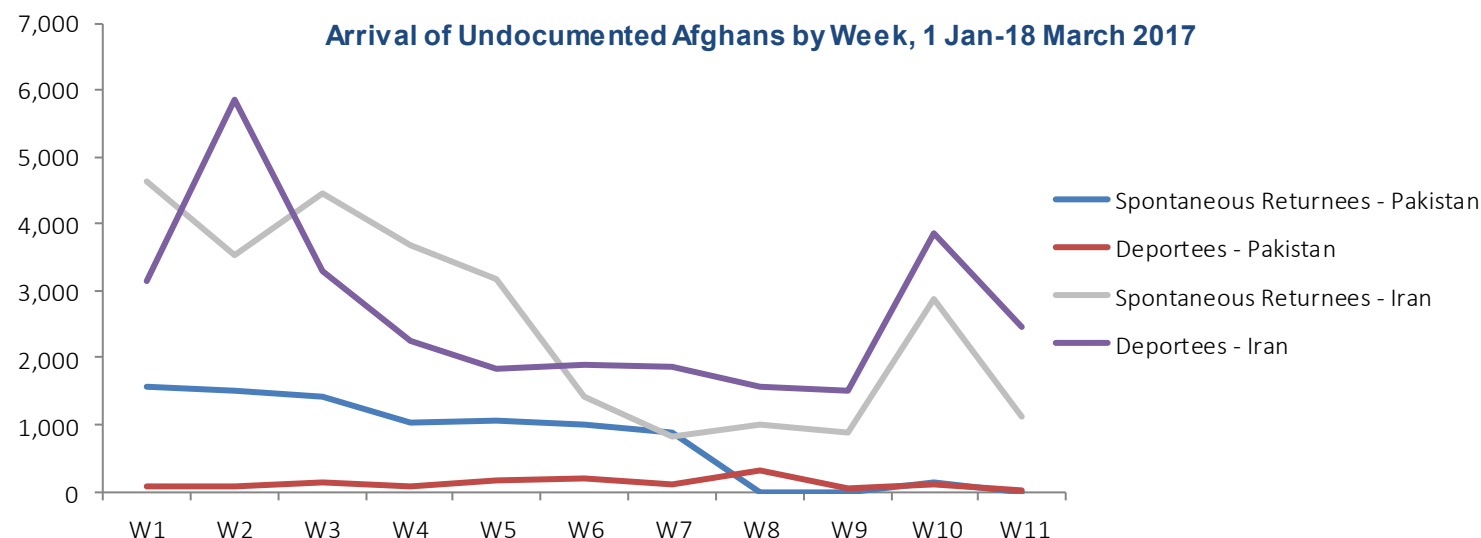
IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **440 (12%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz, including 46 unaccompanied migrant children, 17 medical cases and 14 unaccompanied elderly.

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 17	3,605	2,294	15,918	2,555	273	226	9,986	5,599	6,398	34,058	40,456
Feb 17	1,961	595	1,154	3,522	485	168	256	6,553	3,209	11,485	14,694
1-4 March	0	0	0	475	34	0	0	818	34	1,293	1,327
5-11 Mar	30	118	0	2,879	116	0	0	3,867	264	6,746	7,010
12-18 Mar	0	0	3	1,117	23	0	8	2,463	23	3,591	3,614
Total	5,596	3,007	17,075	10,548	931	394	10,250	19,300	9,928	57,173	67,101

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

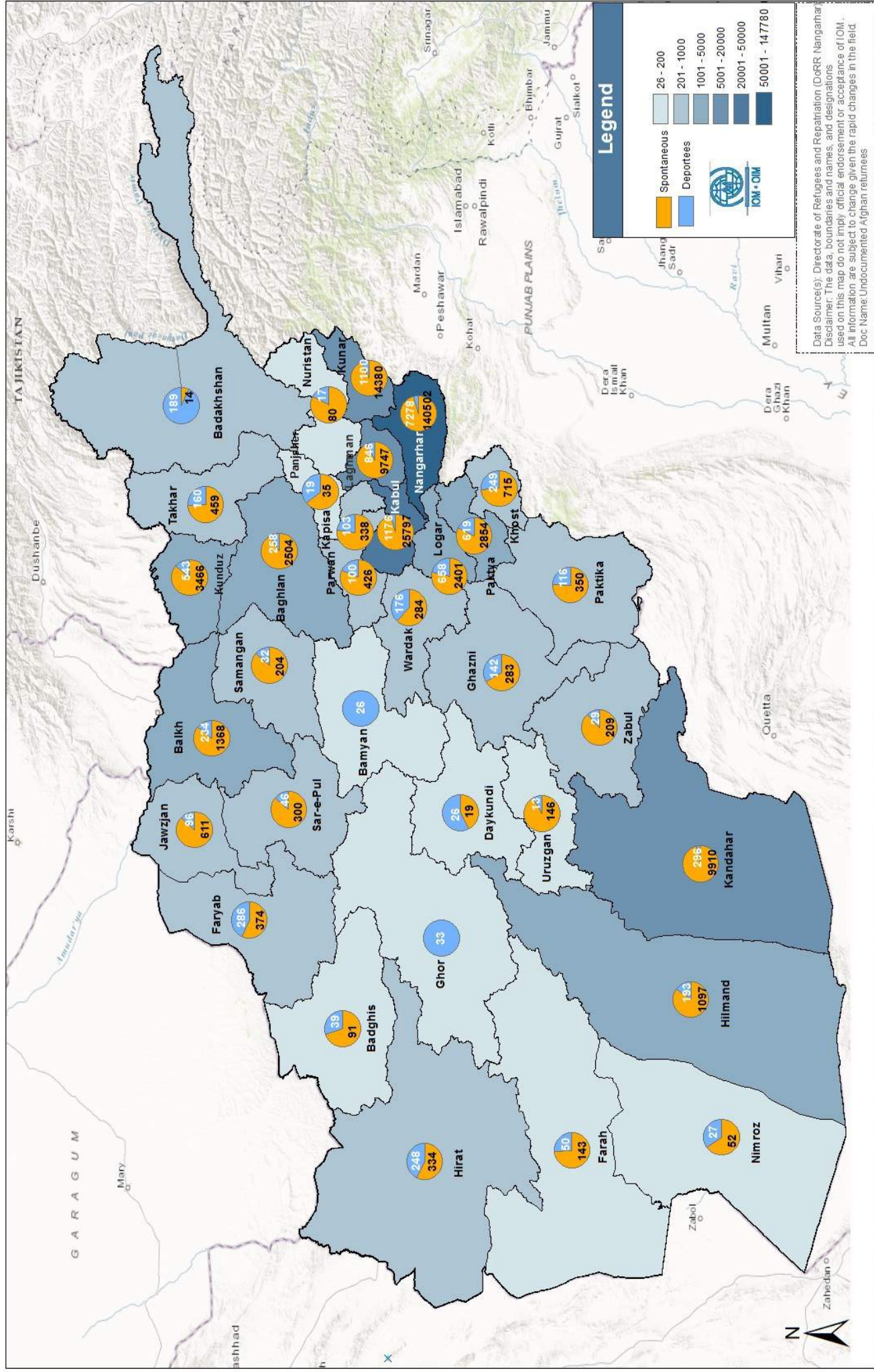
Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan 17	3,022	2,109	53	32	74	213	582	418	5,418	1,085	6,503
Feb 17	1,829	359	26	76	63	115	23	885	2,366	1,010	3,376
1-4 Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20	20
5-11 Mar	30	118	0	20	51	0	0	230	199	250	449
12-18 Mar	0	0	3	17	15	0	8	412	15	440	455
Total	4,881	2,586	82	145	203	328	613	1,965	7,998	2,805	10,803



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:



AFGHANISTAN Intended Final Destination of Undocumented Afghan Returnees and Deportees from Pakistan Jan 2017–8 Mar 2017



Data Source(s): Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), Nangarhar.
 Disclaimer: The data, boundaries and names, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance of IOM. All information are subject to change given the rapid changes in the field.
 Doc Name: Undocumented Afghan Returnees