

A boy from a returnee family carries a tarpaulin at the IOM Torkham Transit Center. © IOM 2017

## Highlights

**1,562** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

**7,729** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

**252,973** total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2016

**468,841** total returns from Iran since 1 January 2016

**85%** of returnees from Pakistan (1,332 individuals) assisted

**4%** of returnees from Iran (305 individuals) assisted

### Returns from Pakistan

From 15-21 January 2017, a total of **1,562** 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 roughly equal to the number of returns during the previous week. Of the total, 1,423 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 139 were deported individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **252,973** since 1 January 2016.

During the reporting period, IOM assisted **1,332 (85%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including 91 members of single parent families and 22 special cases. The 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), and other assistance from partners as per the adjacent table.

Organization	Type of Assistance	People Assisted
WFP	Food Package	682
WHO	Medical Services	85
UNICEF	Hygiene Kit	437
UNICEF	Family Kit	508
UNICEF	Hygiene Awareness Training for Kit Recipients	437
UNFPA	Dignity Kit	245
AADA	Medical Services	296

## Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 721,000 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 1.1 million 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.

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Returns from Iran

A total of 7,729 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings from 15-21 January, a 17% decrease compared with the previous week. Out of the total, 4,449 were spontaneous returnees and 3,280 were deportees. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2016 to 468,841.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to 305 (4%) undocumented Afghans arriving from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz, including 69 unaccompanied migrant children (UMC) and 30 persons in need of special medical assistance.



Returnees wait for registration at the Herat Transit Center. © IOM 2017

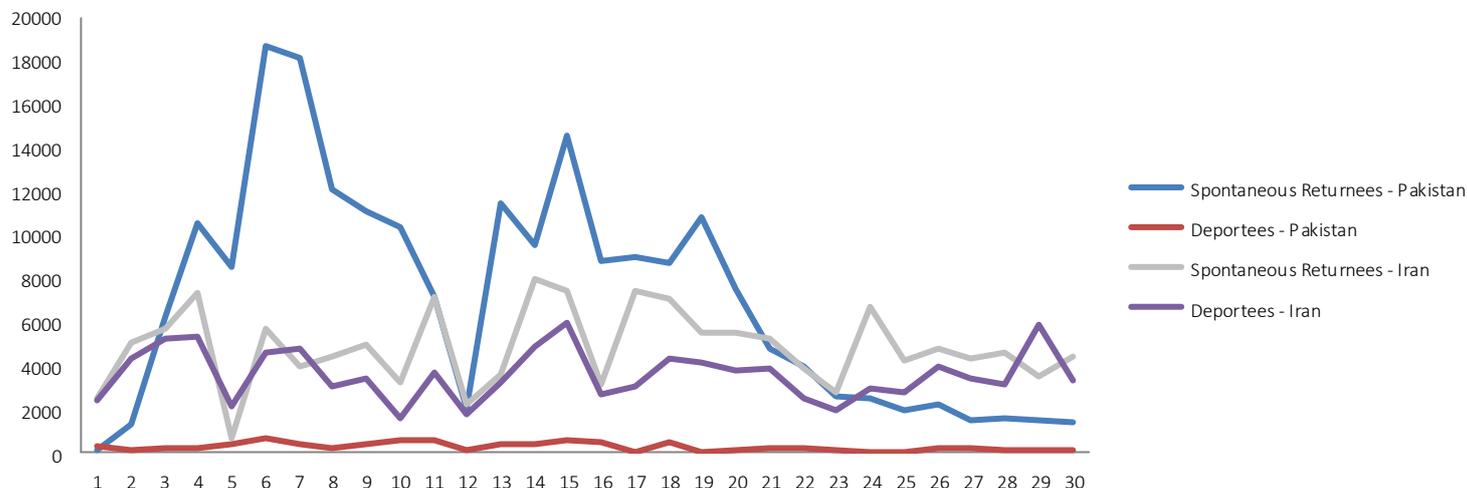
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2016-17 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
2016	198,973	26,657	212,017	36,636	12,731	9,828	123,936	71,379	248,189	443,968	692,157
1-7 Jan 17	717	836	4,008	625	20	70	1,786	1,347	1,643	7,766	9,409
8-14 Jan 17	1,008	493	3,114	417	78	0	4,845	1,002	1,579	9,378	10,957
15-21 Jan 17	854	569	3,771	678	69	70	1,623	1,657	1,562	7,729	9,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>201,552</b>	<b>28,555</b>	<b>222,910</b>	<b>38,356</b>	<b>12,898</b>	<b>9,968</b>	<b>132,190</b>	<b>75,385</b>	<b>252,973</b>	<b>468,841</b>	<b>721,814</b>

IOM-Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2016-17 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
2016	58,504	5,781	940	1,084	1,832	167	10,213	7,034	66,284	19,271	85,555
1-7 Jan 17	636	779	2	2	5	70	110	85	1,490	199	1,689
8-14 Jan 17	763	467	5	4	13	0	172	50	1,243	231	1,474
15-21 Jan 17	682	557	31	20	23	70	148	106	1,332	305	1,637
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,585</b>	<b>7,584</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>10,643</b>	<b>7,275</b>	<b>70,349</b>	<b>20,006</b>	<b>90,355</b>

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week, 1 July 2016 to 21 January 2017



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:

