



Highlights

545,708 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

522,046 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2018

23,662 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

14,235 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

895 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

4% of returnees from Iran (580 individuals) assisted

77% of returnees from Pakistan (687 individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

A total of **14,235** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 02—08 September 2018, **8% less** than in the previous week. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 522,046.

IOM was able to provide post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **580 (4%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 89 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 23 Medical Cases (MC), 92 members of Single Parent Families (SP), 8 Single Female (SF), 5 Physical Disabled (PD), 1 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 17 Special Cases (SC), 18 member of poor families (PF), 4 Drug Addicted (DA) and 1 Mentally Ill (MI).

Iranian Returns Linked To Drought

In just 9 months, more than 522,000 undocumented Afghans have returned from Iran. The size of the return and the devaluation of the Iranian Rial means that remittance payments from Afghans working in Iran have dropped greatly. The World Bank estimates that between 3-6% of Afghanistan's GDP is derived from remittance payments by Afghans in neighboring countries. As an estimated 20-30% of drought affected communities send family members to work in Iran, the socio-economic impacts are significant. With over 150,000 persons now displaced in the Western Region by drought, direct competition for jobs with returnees and host community members could trigger additional displacement.

Situation Overview

Since 01 January 2018, IOM is responding to the return of over 545,000 undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Undocumented returns from Iran in particular are seeing a massive increase of more than 200,000 to over 460,000 total between January-July 2018 versus 187,000 during the same time period in 2017, largely driven by recent political and economic issues in Iran including massive currency devaluation. As Afghans primarily work in the informal economy in Iran the demand for this type of work is drastically reduced. Further as all Afghans typically send home their earnings in the form of monthly remittances, the Afghan economy itself, already evident in the drought affected provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor, is suffering direct and immediate effects.

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Return from Pakistan

A total of **895** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 02 –08 September 2018, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 812 were spontaneous returnees and 83 were deported. This number marks a **27% increase** compared to the previous week (705). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2018 is now 23,662. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **77%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (687 individuals).

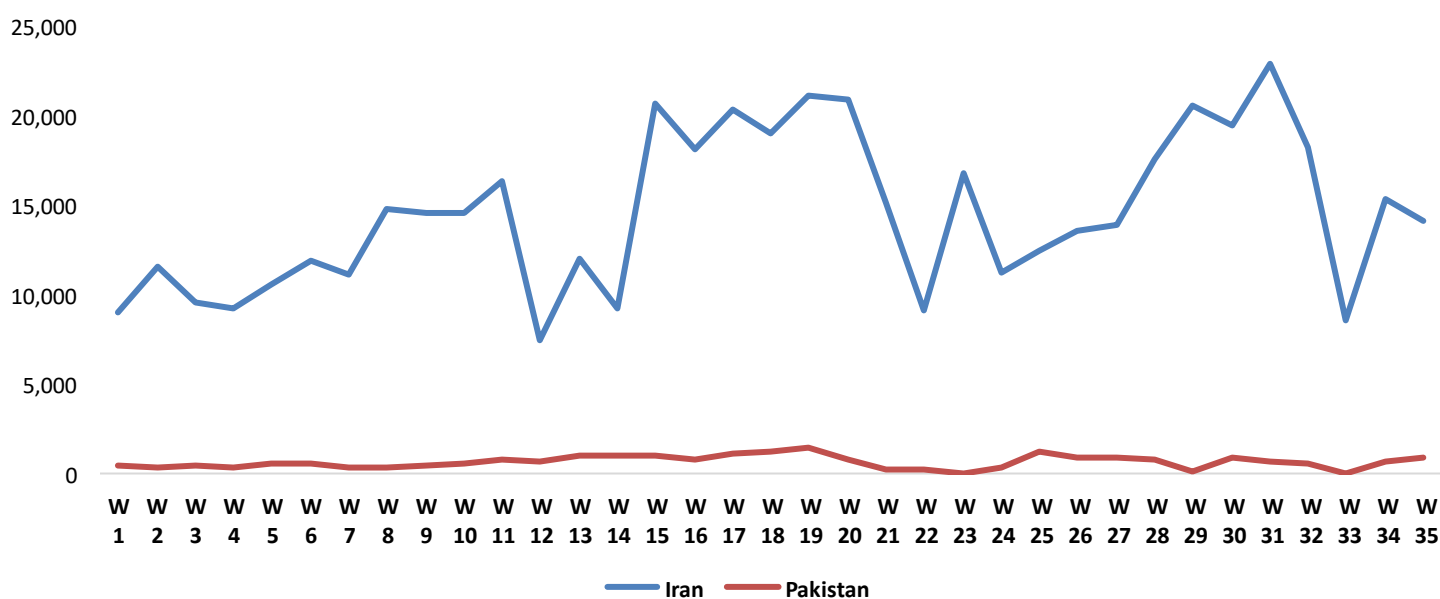
Number of Undocumented Returnees 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - June 18	9,896	9,139	135,947	46,659	764	502	94,554	151,781	20,301	428,941	449,242
01 - 18 Aug	677	808	25,657	6,135	221	0	11,312	11,636	1,706	54,740	56,446
19 - 25 August	26	0	4,215	641	29	0	3,062	744	55	8,662	8,717
26 Aug - 01 Sep	268	330	6,444	2,263	102	5	4,564	2,197	705	15,468	16,173
02 - 08 Sep	423	389	4,736	3,212	83	0	3,346	2,941	895	14,235	15,130
Total	11,290	10,666	176,999	58,910	1,199	507	116,838	169,299	23,662	522,046	545,708

IOM Assisted Undocumented Afghans 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - June 18	9,382	7,457	437	827	189	43	6,761	8,780	17,071	16,805	33,876
01 - 18 Aug	677	747	27	196	41	0	951	583	1,465	1,757	3,222
19 - 25 August	26	0	0	21	5	0	41	0	31	62	93
26 Aug - 01 Sep	254	259	11	87	22	0	335	144	535	577	1,112
02 - 08 Sep	244	443	9	27	0	0	331	213	687	580	1,267
Total	10,583	8,906	484	1,158	257	43	8,419	9,720	19,789	19,781	39,570

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week



IOM Afghanistan has assisted 39,570 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2018, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.

Migration for the benefit of all.

