



Children with their father carry the assistance items at TTC

Photo by Dr. Qayum Sharafat @ IOM 2018

Highlights

987 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

12,047 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

6,998 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

153,539 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2018

96% of returnees from Pakistan (946 individuals) assisted

4% of returnees from Iran (537 individuals) assisted

50 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) from Iran among those assisted, 1 from Pakistan

33 Medical Cases (MC) from Iran among those assisted, 0 from Pakistan

Return from Pakistan

A total of **987** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 25—31 March 2018, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 955 were spontaneous returnees and 31 were deported. This number marks a **37% increase** compared to the previous week (720). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2018 is now 6,998. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **96%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (946 individuals), including 710 individuals in poor families, 231 individuals in single parent families, 4 Special Cases and 1 Unaccompanied Migrant Child. The assistance provided includes meals, accommodation, basic medical screening, Non-Food Items (NFIs), onward transportation cash grants and referral services, as well as support from partners.

Extension of PoR cards and Issuance of ACC Cards

The Government of Pakistan has extended the validity of Proof of Registration cards to 1.4m Afghan refugees until 30 June 2018 pending further review after the upcoming Pakistani Federal election and appointment of a new Cabinet. In addition, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has begun the issuance of Afghan Citizen Cards for over 878,000 undocumented Afghans who applied to register since 16 August 2017 at 21 registration points across Pakistan. The registration process for ACCs was completed on 28 February. ACC registration centers remain open to continue card distribution. ACCs have a validity of 30 June 2018 and holders are required to return to Afghanistan to regularize by registering for civil documentation including a passport and a Pakistani visa before returning to Pakistan. The approximately 200,000 Afghans who remain undocumented may face deportation. As of 26 March, 2018, 284,964 individuals have received their Afghan Citizen Card.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 01 January 2018, over 160,537 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan and Iran. Most 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. As the rate of return is influenced by a number of political, security and other related factors both in Afghanistan and neighboring countries, another surge in returns could occur at any time. The governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan together with UN counterparts have now extended Proof of Registration cards for 1.4m Afghan refugees in Pakistan to 30 June 2018 and have begun the issuance of Afghan Citizenship Cards on 16 February for more than 850,000 undocumented Afghans. IOM is working to scale up its support to returnees in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and other humanitarian partners in line with the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

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Return from Iran

A total of **12,047** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 25—31 Mar 2018, **60 % More** than in the previous week, which marks an anticipated increase at the end of the Nowrooz holidays. Of the total deported undocumented Afghans, 1,428 individuals were deported through Islam Qala (Herat) and 5,236 were deported through Milak (Nimroz). Of those who spontaneously returned, 4,090 returned through Islam Qala (Herat) and 1,293 through Milak (Nimroz). Out of the total deportees, 632 individuals (9%) were deported with family members whereas 6,032 (91%) were deported as individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 153,539. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **537 (4%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 347 individuals in Deported Families (DF), 50 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 40 Special Cases (SC), 24 Single Parents Family (SP), 33 Medical Cases (MC), 22 poor families (PF), 9 Unaccompanied Elderly (UAE), 3 Physical Disabled (PD), 1 Drug Addicted (DA), 7 Single Female (SF) and 1 Mental Ill.

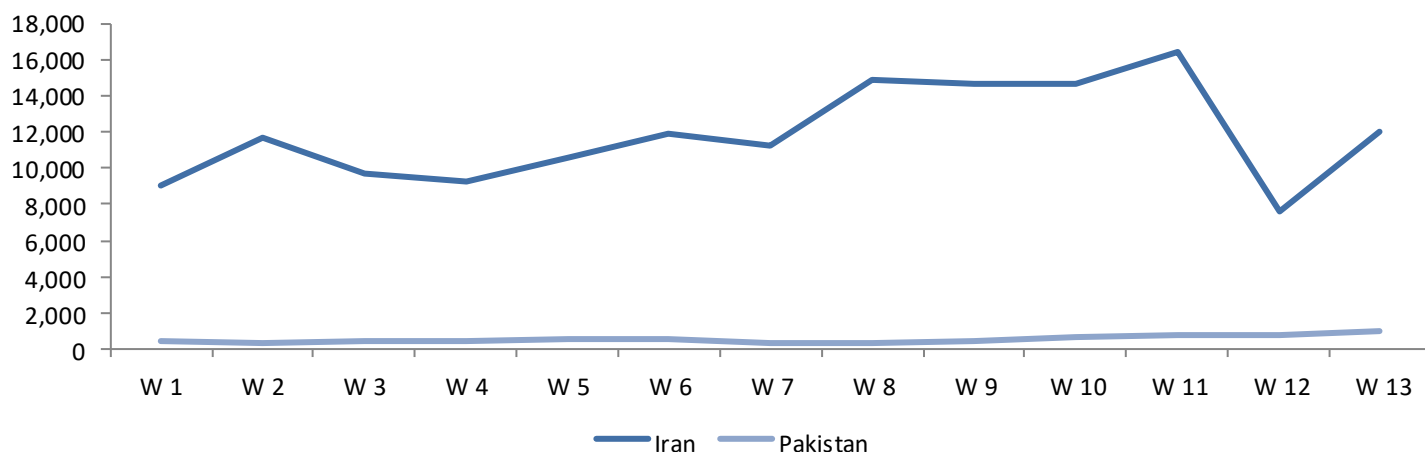
Number of Undocumented Returnees 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz			
January	774	889	17,688	5,720	170	48	9,323	14,535	1,881	47,266	49,147
February	633	768	13,576	4,758	69	237	8,747	25,676	1,707	52,757	54,464
01 - 17 March	631	963	10,561	4,070	21	88	5,468	13,824	1,703	33,923	35,626
18 - 24 March	347	354	3,030	1,128	16	3	644	2,744	720	7,546	8,266
25 - 31 March	422	533	4,090	1,293	16	16	1,428	5,236	987	12,047	13,034
Total	2,807	3,507	48,945	16,969	292	392	25,610	62,015	6,998	153,539	160,537

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

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz			
January	774	854	56	24	21	16	389	1,542	1,665	2,011	3,676
February	633	750	81	59	30	11	463	1,558	1,424	2,161	3,585
01 - 17 March	631	880	62	76	11	16	823	758	1,538	1,719	3,257
18 - 24 March	347	324	7	8	5	0	19	167	676	201	877
25 - 31 March	422	519	14	21	5	0	291	211	946	537	1,483
Total	2,807	3,327	220	188	72	43	1,985	4,236	6,249	6,629	12,878

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week



IOM Afghanistan has assisted 12,878 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.

