



Unaccompanied migrant children received seasonal clothes in IOM's Zaranj Transit Center in Nimroz province © A Shah/ IOM Afghanistan

## Highlights

- 1,4141** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019
- 13,511** total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2019
- 630** total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019
- 7,790** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran
- 205** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan
- 5%** of returnees from Iran (419 individuals) assisted
- 75%** of returnees from Pakistan (154 individuals) assisted

### Return from Iran

A total of **7,790** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 06—12 Jan 2019, **22% less** than in the previous week (9,956). This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 13,511.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **419 (5%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 91 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 78 Medical Cases (MC), 46 members of Single Parent Families (SP), 18 Physically Disabled (PD), 44 Special Cases (SC), 14 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 29 Drug Addicted (DA), 11 members of a Poor Family (PF) and 1 Single Female (SF).

### Protection Assistance for Returnees

The protection unit assessed a total of 85 PSN cases in Herat, Takhar, Kunduz, Ghor, Sare Pul, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces. Of the total assessed cases, 26 were unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), 22 female heads of households (FHH) and 31 medical cases (MC) and 6 Single Females (SF)

## Situation Overview

In 2018, more than 800,000 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan. Whereas the return from Pakistan witnessed a significant decrease of 70% compared with 2017: 98,000, returns from Iran increased by over 300,000 persons up from 462,000 in 2017. This sharp rise is largely driven by recent political and economic issues in Iran. As Afghans primarily work in the informal economy in Iran the demand for this type of work has drastically reduced. Further as all Afghans send home monthly remittances representing as much as 6% of Afghanistan total GDP, Afghan families are increasingly struggling to make ends meet, particularly in the drought affected provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor. In 2019, IOM is projecting a return of over 570,000 returnees from Iran linked to the ongoing challenges there and a minimum of 50,000 returns from Pakistan, a figure which has already been endorsed by the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The remaining undocumented and Afghan Citizenship Card holding caseloads of more than 1,000,000 people may also face deportation from Pakistan in 2019.

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**Return from Pakistan**

A total of **205** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 06 –12 Jan 2019, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 111 were member of poor families (PF) and 43 were single parents (SP). This number marks an **69% decrease** compared to the previous week (667). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2019 is now 630. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **75%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (154 individuals).

**Number of Undocumented Returnees vs. Assisted by IOM 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)**

Date	Overall Return - 2018				Total Return	Overall Assisted by IOM - 2018				Total Assisted	% Assisted
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		
Jan-18	944	937	27,011	20,255	49,147	795	870	445	1,566	3,676	7%
Feb-18	702	1,005	22,323	30,434	54,464	663	761	544	1,617	3,585	7%
Mar-18	1,453	1,937	26,344	28,295	58,029	1,421	1,739	1,216	1,244	5,620	10%
Apr-18	2,492	1,900	39,596	33,632	77,620	2,442	1,769	1,608	1,611	7,430	10%
May-18	2,273	1,393	42,144	35,466	81,276	2,228	1,230	1,887	1,786	7,131	9%
Jun-18	1,051	920	31,613	19,773	53,357	952	821	630	1,072	3,475	7%
Jul-18	1,745	1,549	41,470	30,585	75,349	1,070	310	868	711	2,959	4%
Aug-18	1,276	1,069	52,020	22,940	77,305	1,025	921	1,351	1,021	4,318	6%
Sep-18	1,637	1,705	43,910	28,722	75,974	1,211	1,502	849	1,073	4,635	6%
Oct-18	1,115	1,262	38,932	31,923	73,232	1,024	1,086	869	1,065	4,044	6%
Nov-18	826	1,426	29,750	43,480	75,482	712	1,215	1,122	1,260	4,309	6%
Dec-18	471	1,634	26,142	26,365	54,612	360	1,501	1,799	1,851	5,511	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,985</b>	<b>16,737</b>	<b>421,255</b>	<b>351,870</b>	<b>805,847</b>	<b>13,903</b>	<b>13,725</b>	<b>13,188</b>	<b>15,877</b>	<b>56,693</b>	<b>7%</b>

**PSNs Assisted by IOM 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)**

PSNs Assisted 06 - 12 Jan 2019	Persons						Total
	From Iran			From Pakistan			
	Islam Qala	Milak	Sub-Total	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Sub-Total	
Poor Family (PF)	11	0	11	31	80	111	122
Unaccompanied Migrant Children	43	48	91	0	0	0	91
Single Parents Family (SP)	14	32	46	18	25	43	89
Special Cases (SC)	22	22	44	0	0	0	44
Medical Case (MC)	44	34	78	0	0	0	78
Physically Disabled (PD)	10	8	18	0	0	0	18
Unaccompanied Elderly (UE)	9	5	14	0	0	0	14
Drug Addicted (DA)	26	3	29	0	0	0	29
Single Female (SF)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mentally Ill (MI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically ill (CI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>A: Total PSNs</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>B: Deported Families</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Total (A&amp;B)</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>573</b>

**IOM Assisted Undocumented Afghans 2019 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)**

Date	Return of Undocumented Afghan				Total Return	Assisted Returnee by IOM				Total Assisted	% Assisted
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		
01 - 05 Jan 2019	40	385	3,267	2,454	6,146	40	317	81	145	583	9%
06 - 12 Jan 2019	100	105	4,056	3,734	7,995	49	105	220	199	573	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>6,188</b>	<b>14,141</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>8%</b>

*IOM Afghanistan has assisted a total of 56,693 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan in 2018 and 1,156 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2019, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.*

