
Dear colleagues and partners,

Please find below the weekly update on the return of undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan for the week of 28 October - 03 November 2018, along with a brief media overview on current regional events that could potentially have an affect on Afghans migrating in the region. In Islamabad, Afghan and Pakistani authorities are holding talks on the fate of Afghan refugees in Pakistan on 06 November. Furthermore, the United States Government have implemented a second round of sanctions on Iran's oil and financial sectors on 05 November. New sanctions have the potential to further worsen the current economic crisis in Iran, hence will also affect millions of Afghans currently living there. Particularly in Afghanistan's Western region, tens of thousands of Afghan families depend on remittance payments from their family members in Iran. In 2018, one of the worst droughts in decades has destroyed livelihood opportunities in many of the country's rural areas, thus further putting pressure on breadwinners already struggling to ensure the survival of their families. Full articles below.

RETURN STATISTICS

687,194 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2018

658,590 total returns from Iran since 01 January 2018

28,604 total returns from Pakistan since 01 January 2018

12,402 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran between 28 October - 03

November 2018,

22% less than in the previous week (15,905). 6,751 returned spontaneously, 5,651 were deported.

680 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan between 28 October - 03

November 2018,

23% more than in the previous week (549). 600 returned spontaneously, 80 were deported.

4% of returnees from Iran (517 individuals) assisted

83% of returnees from Pakistan (561 individuals) assisted

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Pakistan, Afghanistan To Hold Talks on Refugees Tuesday (Daily Times, Pakistan)

November 6 - Pakistan and Afghanistan will hold talks on the fate of the Afghan refugees in Islamabad on Tuesday, officials and diplomats said on Monday. Pakistan still hosts some 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees who hold the proof of registration (PoR) cards, according to the UN refugee agency. The government has extended their stay until June 30, 2019. Besides the PoRcard holders, around 880,000 more were documented earlier this year who hold the Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC). Several thousand other Afghans with neither PoR nor ACC cards are also living in Pakistan, according to Afghan diplomats. The discussions will focus on the future of all the three categories of refugees, a diplomatic source told Daily Times. The talks will be held under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) – a joint action plan for cooperation in the key areas of counter-terrorism and reduction of violence, peace and reconciliation, refugees’ repatriation and joint economic development. Both countries have established a joint working group under the APAPPS. This will be the second meeting of the refugees’ working group. The first was held in Kabul. “These are preliminary meetings. Both sides will hold general discussions as there will be nothing specific at this stage,” an official told Daily Times. The Afghan delegation will be headed by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation Dr Alema. Pakistan and Afghanistan are holding talks after Prime Minister Imran Khan offered to grant Pakistani citizenship to the Afghans born in Pakistan. However, Afghan officials have disagreed with Khan’s idea and insist that Afghans want return to their homeland. [Read full article here.](#)

[US Reinstate Tough Iran Sanctions Amid Anger in Tehran \(Al Jazeera\)](#)

November 5 - The United States has reimposed oil and financial sanctions against Iran, significantly turning up the pressure on Tehran. The move on Monday, November 5, will restore US sanctions that were lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal negotiated by the administration of President Barack Obama, and will add 300 new designations in Iran's oil, shipping, insurance and banking sectors. (...) Trump announced in May that his administration was withdrawing from what he called the "worst ever" agreement negotiated by the US and reimposed a first round of sanctions on Iran in August. Other parties to the deal, including Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia, have said they will not leave. China, India, Italy Japan, Greece, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey - all top importers of Iranian oil - are the eight countries granted temporary exemptions from the sanctions to ensure crude oil prices are not destabilised, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on Monday. [Read full article here.](#)

IOM Afghanistan has assisted over 47,000 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan and over 68,000 Afghans displaced by natural disasters since 01 January 2018, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.

We would like to thank all our donors who support our work, more information on the rest of our portfolio can be found [here](#).

Migration for the benefit of all.



Copyright © IOM 2017, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

IOM Afghanistan
Chaharay-e Ansari, Shahr-e Naw
Kabul, Afghanistan

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to DRD@iom.int

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

IOM Afghanistan · Street 4 · Chahara-ye Ansari · Kabul 1001 · Afghanistan

