

Dear colleagues and partners,

Please find below the weekly update on the return of undocumented Afghans from Iran and Pakistan for the week of 04 - 10 November 2018, along with a brief media overview on current regional events that could potentially have an affect on Afghans migrating in the region. Last week, government officials of Afghanistan and Pakistan met in Islamabad and agreed to follow a "decided timeline" for the repatriation of Afghans currently living in Pakistan. Currently, there are 1.4 million Afghans in Pakistan who hold Proof of Registration (PoR) cards as registered refugees, 327,000 Afghans who hold Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC), a further 552,000 Afghans who registered for ACC cards which have yet to be issued, and 300-400.000 Afghans who are undocumented. Although, ACC cards are set to expire by 31 December 2018. However, with the advent of winter weather, logistical challenges and ongoing state to state discussions, any large scale return is not likely to occur until spring 2019. Similarly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced on November 11 it would halt the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan for a three-month winter pause, as done in previous years.

RETURN STATISTICS

700,056 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2018

671,065 total returns from Iran since 01 January 2018

28,991 total returns from Pakistan since 01 January 2018

12,475 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran between 04-10 November 2018,

1% more than in the previous week (12,475). 6,502 returned spontaneously, 5,973 were deported.

387 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan between 04-

10 November 2018,

43% less than in the previous week (680). 345 returned spontaneously, 42 were deported.

4% of returnees from Iran (492 individuals) assisted

85% of returnees from Pakistan (328 individuals) assisted

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

[UNHCR To Hold Afghan Repatriation For Three Months Due To Cold Weather \(Dawn / Pakistan\)](#)

November 11 - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that it has decided to suspend the repatriation process of Afghan refugees in Pakistan for around four months due to cold weather, Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday. According to a spokesperson of the UNHCR, the repatriation process will be halted from Dec 1 till Feb 28 next year due to drop in temperature and severe cold.

The spokesperson further said that UNHCR centres in Pakistan and Afghanistan will remain closed during the winter.

It was also announced that registered refugees will not be given financial compensation in case of returning to Afghanistan during the period. The operation will resume from March next year.

[Pakistan, Afghanistan Agree To Follow Timeline For Refugees Return \(Dawn / Pakistan\)](#)

November 08 - Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday agreed to follow the “decided timeline” for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. The agreement was reached during the second meeting of the Refugee Working Group (WG) under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Stability (APAPPS).

Safron Secretary Muhammad Aslam led the Pakistani side at the meeting whereas the Afghan delegation was headed by Deputy Minister for Afghan Ministry of Refugee Affairs Dr. Alema. The two sides discussed ways to enhance mutual cooperation for “a dignified, gradual, time-bound and complete return of Afghan nationals to their country”.

“It was decided to observe the agreed timelines and procedures for repatriation of various categories of these people to Afghanistan,” a Foreign Office statement said.

Although there is no publicly known timeline for repatriation, it is generally believed that the Pakistani government wants Afghan refugees having Afghan citizen cards to be repatriated by December 2018, whereas the registered refugees, who are believed to be 1.4 million, are expected to return to their country by June 2019. There is a third category of undocumented Afghan citizens living in Pakistan for which efforts are being made to register and repatriate them.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had in February pledged to ensure the return of all Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to Afghanistan in “the next 24 months”.

IOM Afghanistan has assisted over 48,000 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

