



IOM's Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson together with the Humanitarian Coordinator, Toby Lanzer inaugurate the IOM Transit Center in Turkham on 20 May. ©IOM 2017

Highlights

4,564 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

5,609 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

59,985 total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017

133,544 total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017

98% of returnees from Pakistan (4,471 individuals) assisted

7% of returnees from Iran (402 individuals) assisted

Return from Pakistan

A total of **4,564** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham border (Nangarhar province) border crossing from 14-20 May 2017, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR).

Of the total returnees, 4,535 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 29 were deported individuals. This is a **3% increase** from the previous week and brings the total number of undocumented Afghans returnees from Pakistan since 1 January 2017 to 59,985.

IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **98%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (4,471 individuals), including 1,055 single parents and 15 special cases. The assistance provided includes meals, accommodation, Non-Food Items (NFIs), onward transportation and referral services, as well as support from partners (see Annex 1).

IOM's Deputy Director General, Ambassador Laura Thompson visited the Turkham border crossing together with the Humanitarian Coordinator, the IOM Chief of Mission, the Assistant Representative for UNHCR and donor counterparts from the EU and Switzerland, to inaugurate a substantial expansion of the IOM Turkham Transit Center in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province for undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan on Saturday, 20 May 2017.

Border Closures

The Spin Boldak/Chaman border closed on 05 May due to cross border fighting between Afghan and Pakistani security forces in the area. Media reports that at least 42 lives have been lost as a result of the hostilities. Government representatives from both sides are presently in negotiations however the border remains closed as of 20 May 2017.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2017, over 193,000 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. 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. IOM estimates that approximately 600,000 undocumented Afghans could return from Pakistan and Iran in 2017, and is working to scale up its support to returnees in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and other humanitarian partners.

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Returns from Iran

A total of **5,609** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings between 14 - 20 May, a **28% decrease** from the previous week ahead of an expected decline during the month of Ramadan. Of the total spontaneous returnees, 159 (9%) were in family groups and 1,641 (91%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 374 (10%) were in family groups whereas 3,435 (90%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to 133,544.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **402 (7%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz, including 31 unaccompanied migrant children and 16 special cases.

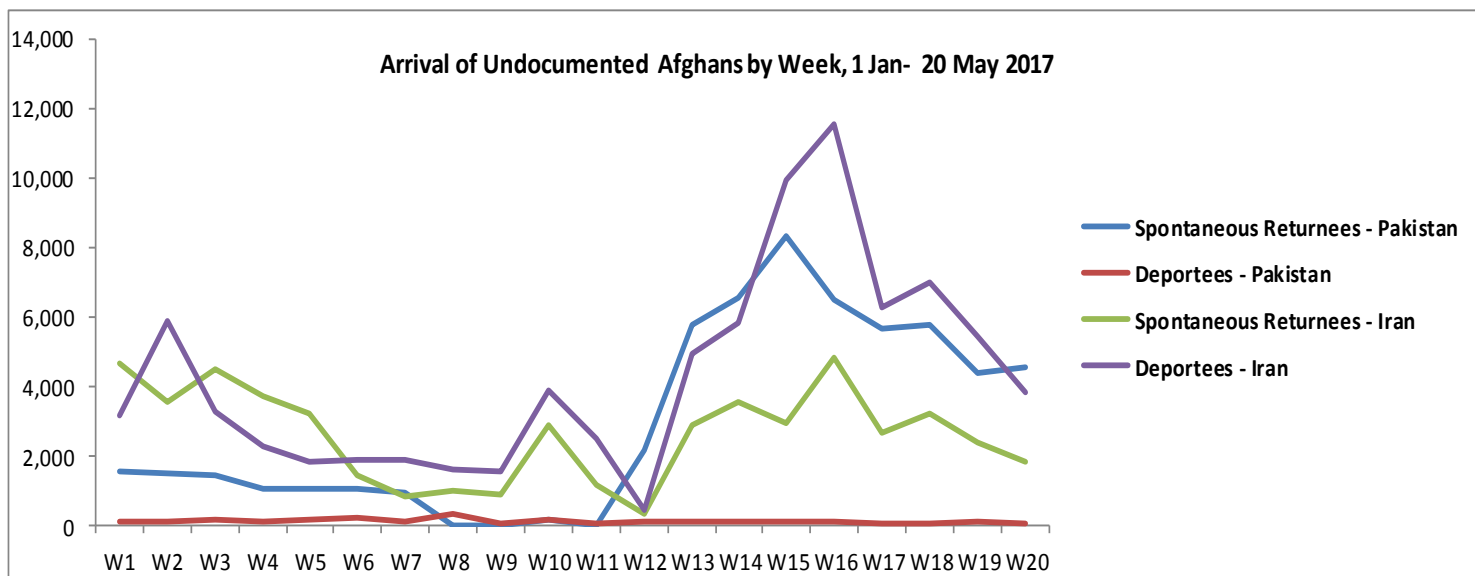


Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2017 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan-17	3,605	2,294	15,918	2,555	273	226	6,872	5,599	6,398	30,944	37,342
Feb-17	1,961	595	1,154	3,522	485	168	256	6,553	3,209	11,485	14,694
Mar-17	2,996	3,887	3	7,632	325	20	33	12,466	7,228	20,134	27,362
Apr-17	19,460	9,356	2	14,236	233	68	22	34,349	29,117	48,609	77,726
1-6 May 2017	3,787	1,230	7	2,824	42	0	7	6,123	5,059	8,961	14,020
7-13 May	4,348	0	2	2,387	62	0	2	5,411	4,410	7,802	12,212
14-20 May	4,535	0	8	1,792	29	0	0	3,809	4,564	5,609	10,173
Total	40,692	17,362	17,094	34,948	1,449	482	7,192	74,310	59,985	133,544	193,529

IOM Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2017 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan-17	3,022	2,109	53	32	74	213	583	405	5,418	1,073	6,491
Feb-17	1,829	359	26	80	63	115	24	839	2,366	969	3,335
Mar-17	2,905	2,477	3	66	115	0	20	952	5,497	1,041	6,538
Apr-17	17,946	4,976	2	26	44	41	12	1685	23,007	1,725	24,732
1 - 6 May	3,772	940	5	0	4	0	4	339	4,716	348	5,064
7-13 May	4,311	0	2	57	27	0	2	297	4,338	358	4,696
14-20 May	4,456	0	7	19	15	0	0	377	4,471	403	4,874
Total	38,241	10,861	98	280	342	369	645	4,894	49,813	5,917	55,730



Annex 1: Detailed Breakdown of Assistance Provided by Partners at Torkham BCP, 14-20 May 2017

Organization	Location	Type of Assistance	Families Assisted	Total Individual Assisted	Male	Female	Boys	Girls
WFP	Transit Center	Food Package	826	4,456	748	951	1,387	1,370
WHO	Transit Center	Medical Services	109	213	12	100	48	53
	Transit Center	OPV Vaccination for children (>10 years)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Transit Center	OPV Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	59				
	Transit Center	IPV Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	425			202	223
	Transit Center	Measles Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	428			202	226
UNICEF	Transit Center	Hygiene Kits	806	4,352	728	931	1356	1337
	Transit Center	Family Kit	144	803	125	159	274	245
	Transit Center	Hygiene Awareness Training	806	4,352	728	931	1356	1337
	Transit Center	Child Friendly Space		1,426			716	710
	Transit Center	Nutrition services for children 6-59 months, and pregnant women and lactating mothers	0	719				
UNFPA	Transit Center	Dignity kits	0	0	0	0	0	0
AADA/UNFPA	Zero Point	Medical Services	0	1070	359	338	180	193
	Zero Point	OPV Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	2,078				
	Zero Point	OPV Vaccination for children (>10 years)	0	1,775				
	Zero Point	IPV Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	379			212	167
	Zero Point	Measles Vaccination for children (<10 years)	0	365			197	168
	Zero Point	HIV/AIDS Awareness	0	885	485	0	400	0
AADA/UNICEF	Zero Point	Nutrition services for children (6-59 months), pregnant women and lactating mothers	0	508				
UNMAS-DDG	Transit Center	Mine Risk Education	0	4,989	698	719	1770	1802

Annex 2: Breakdown of Assistance Provided at all Border Crossings, 14-20 May 2017

Categories	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Total
Non-Food Item (NFI) Kits	826	0	0	35	861
Medical Care	213	0	0	0	213
Tuberculosis Screening	4471	0	6	275	4752
Overnight Accommodation	40	0	6	385	431
Total	5550	0	12	695	6257

IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:



AFGHANISTAN

Intended Final Destination of Undocumented Afghan Returnees and Deportees from Pakistan Jan 16–16 May 17

