



Mohammad, 5, at the IOM Transit Center in Herat.

He and his family were deported from Iran © IOM Afghanistan

## Highlights

**421,935** total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

**402,213** total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2018

**19,722** total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

**848** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan between 15-21 July 2018

**17,962** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran between 15-21 July 2018

**46%** of returnees from Pakistan (386 individuals) assisted

**2%** of returnees from Iran (368 individuals) assisted

## Return from Iran

A total of **19,722** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 15—21 July 2018, **27% more** than in the previous week. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 402,213. Due current funding gaps, IOM was only able to provide post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **368 (2%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 39 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 20 Medical Cases (MC), 16 members of Single Parent Families (SP) 2 Single Females (SF), 5 Physical Disabled (PD) 3 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 12 Special Cases (SC), 1 Drug Addicted (DA) and 1 Mentally Ill. As of mid-July 2018, through funding re-allocation from the Government of Japan and threw new funding from the Government of Italy, operations on the Western border are continuing as usual. However, without additional funding resources, as of late August 2018, IOM operations may again be suspended.

## Ongoing Drought Forces Afghans To Migrate

Afghanistan is currently facing the worst drought in decades, threatening to destroy the livelihoods of 1.4 million Afghans in 20 provinces; with those in the North and West most severely affected. In a country where large parts of the population rely on agriculture as the sole source of income, the current situation puts an additional burden on breadwinners already struggling to feed their families. Due to chronic under development in rural areas, many working age Afghans seek economic opportunities in neighboring Iran. However, with an increasingly fragile Iranian economy, Afghans are returning home in large numbers. Without remittance payments from abroad, and no jobs at home, many families have no recourse but to migrate to urban areas like Herat. More than 8,000 families or 52,000 persons now live in 179 displacement sites on the outskirts of Herat city.

## Situation Overview

Since 01 January 2018, IOM is responding to the return of over 421,000 undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Undocumented returns from Iran in particular are seeing a massive increase of more than 200,000 in 2018 to over 402,000 total versus 187,000 in 2017. Largely driven by recent political and economic issues in Iran including massive currency devaluation. As Afghans primarily work in the informal economy in Iran the demand for this type of work is drastically reduced. Further as all Afghans typically send home their earnings in the form of monthly remittances, the Afghan economy itself, already evident in the drought affected provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor, is suffering direct and immediate effects.

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Return from Pakistan

A total of **848** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 15 –21 July 2018, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 777 were spontaneous returnees and 71 were deported. This number marks a **9% decrease** compared to the previous week (926). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2018 is now 19,722. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **46%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (386 individuals).

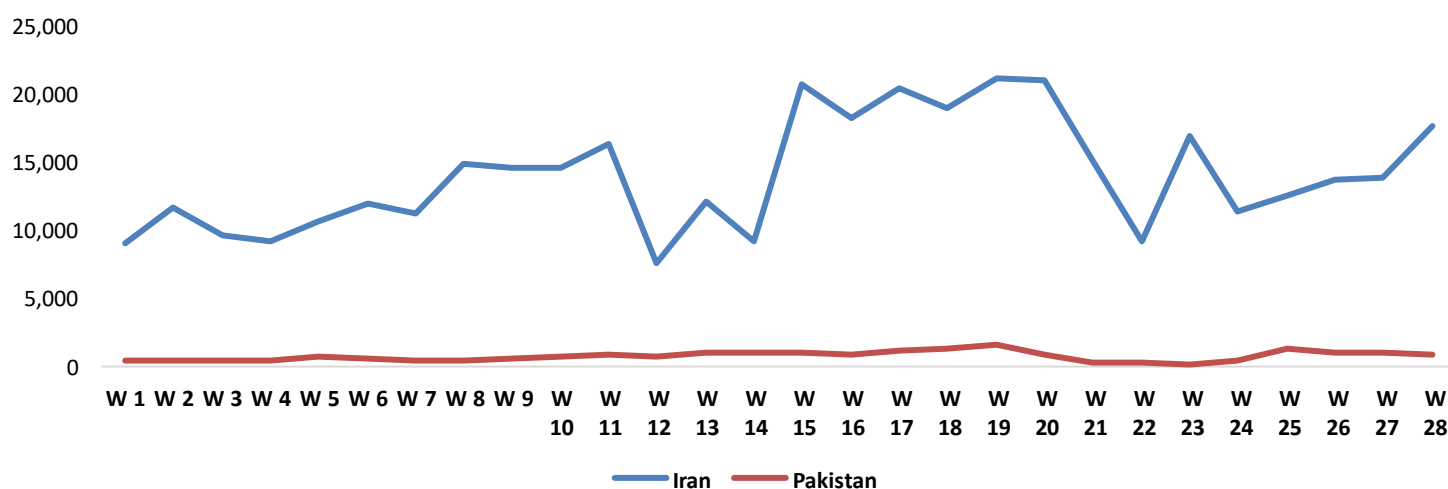
Number of Undocumented Returnees 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - June 18	8,355	7,613	113,434	38,115	560	479	75,597	129,740	17,007	356,886	373,893
01 - 07 July	473	420	4,495	1,641	48	0	2,604	4,949	941	13,689	14,630
08 - 14 July	489	376	4,382	1,674	60	1	3,923	3,967	926	13,946	14,872
15 - 21 July	297	480	5,934	2,119	71	0	5,158	4,481	848	17,692	18,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,614</b>	<b>8,889</b>	<b>128,245</b>	<b>43,549</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>87,282</b>	<b>143,137</b>	<b>19,722</b>	<b>402,213</b>	<b>421,935</b>

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

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - May 18	8,339	7,147	428	638	162	43	5,902	8,258	15,691	15,226	30,917
01 - 07 July	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	15
08 - 14 July	464	0	0	3	11	0	83	36	475	122	597
15 - 21 July	297	75	5	0	14	0	318	45	386	368	754
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>7,222</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6,318</b>	<b>8,339</b>	<b>16,552</b>	<b>15,731</b>	<b>32,283</b>

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week



IOM Afghanistan has assisted 32,283 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.

