



A deportee family from Iran at the IOM Center in Herat. The mother received medical support due to the stress of the journey. © Schwoerer / IOM Afghanistan

## Highlights

**286** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

**14,431** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

**14,860** total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2018

**299,158** total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2018

**96%** of returnees from Pakistan (275 individuals) assisted

**5%** of returnees from Iran (792 individuals) assisted

## Return from Pakistan

A total of **286** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 20—26 May 2018, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 271 were spontaneous returnees and 15 were deported. This number marks a **66% decrease** compared to the previous week (837). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2018 is now 14,860. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **96%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (275 individuals). In Nangarhar, Kandahar and Nimroz, IOM began to replace NonFood Items (blanket and family modules) with direct cash assistance of USD 100 per family to give undocumented Afghan returnees more agency upon return. This is in addition to cash for transportation. The other components of IOM's current assistance package- hot meals, overnight accommodation, basic medical screening and referral services - continues without change.

## Returns from Iran Remain High

Since the beginning of April 2018, there has been a dramatic increase in Afghans returning from Iran. Between 01 Jan and 26 May 2018, almost 300,000 Afghans have spontaneously returned or been deported from Iran, almost double than the same time period in 2017 (150,000). Reasons for the heightened return trend include a decrease in economic opportunities for Afghans in Iran associated with an economic downturn where the Iranian currency has devalued 30% in the past year and the re-imposition of sanctions.

## Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 01 January 2018, over 299,000 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan and Iran. 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. The Governments of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has now extended Proof of Registration cards for 1.4m Afghan refugees in Pakistan to 30 June 2018 and as of 26 May have issued 327,000 Afghan Citizenship Cards from a total of 878,000 applications. IOM is working to scale up its support to returnees in coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and other humanitarian partners in line with the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

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Return from Iran

A total of **14,431** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 20—26 May 2018, **31 % less** than in the previous week. This marks an anticipated decline during the holy month of Ramadan. Of the total deported undocumented Afghans, 4,313 individuals were deported through Islam Qala (Herat) and 3,843 were deported through Milak (Nimroz). Of those who spontaneously returned, 4,739 returned through Islam Qala (Herat) and 1,536 through Milak (Nimroz). Out of the total deportees, 815 individuals (10%) were deported with family members whereas 7,341 (90%) were deported as individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 299,158. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **792 (4%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 466 individuals in Deported Families (DF), 102 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 50 Special Cases (SC), 60 Single Parents Family (SP), 37 Medical Cases (MC), 30 members of poor families (PF), 25 Unaccompanied Elderly (UAE), 14 Physical Disabled (PD), 7 Drug Addicted (DA), and 7 Single Females (SF).

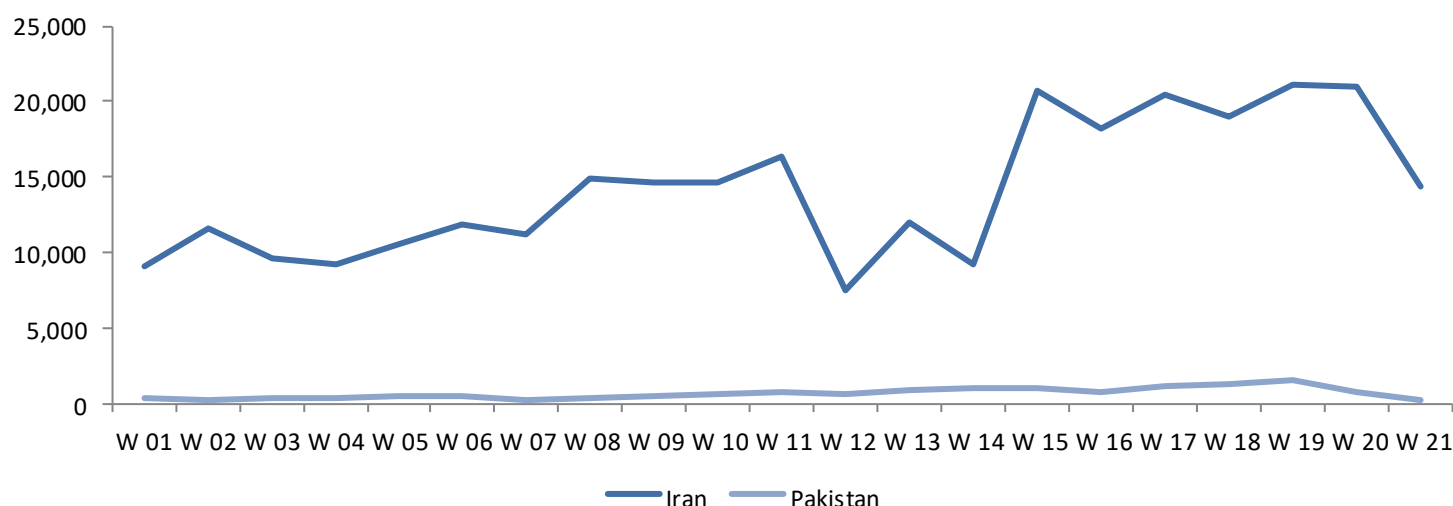
Number of Undocumented Returnees 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - Apr 18	5,222	5,391	71,822	24,806	369	388	43,452	87,810	11,370	227,890	239,260
01 - 12 May	1,413	858	12,725	4,981	25	71	6,521	11,559	2,367	35,786	38,153
13 - 19 May	533	293	6,159	1,801	11	0	5,262	7,829	837	21,051	21,888
20 - 26 May	193	78	4,739	1,536	12	3	4,313	3,843	286	14,431	14,717
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>6,620</b>	<b>95,445</b>	<b>33,124</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>59,548</b>	<b>111,041</b>	<b>14,860</b>	<b>299,158</b>	<b>314,018</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 Bold	Herat	Nimroz	Turkham	Spin Bold	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan - Apr 18	5,213	5,096	318	328	108	43	3,495	5,710	10,460	9,851	20,311
01 - 12 May	1,410	814	19	88	10	0	719	574	2,234	1,400	3,634
13 - 19 May	533	251	31	37	0	0	389	454	784	911	1,695
20 - 26 May	193	78	19	20	4	0	424	329	275	792	1,067
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>6,239</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>7,067</b>	<b>13,753</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>26,707</b>

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week



IOM Afghanistan has assisted 26,707 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.

