



A bus carrying returnee families at Spin Boldak border crossing in Kandahar province.
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Highlights

- 1,643 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan between 1-7 January 2017, a 2% decrease from the previous week.
- 7,776 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran between 1-7 January 2017, a minor increase from the previous week.
- Since 1 January 2016, a total of 701,556 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan (249,832) and Iran (451,734).

Returns from Pakistan

From 1-7 January 2017, a total of **1,643** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through Torkham border (Nangarhar province) and Spin Boldak border (Kandahar province), according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). This is a 2% total decrease from last week, with deportations decreasing by 50%. Of the total, 1,553 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 90 were deported individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **249,832** since 1 January 2016. It is projected that approximately 495,000 undocumented Afghans will return from Pakistan before the end of 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM assisted **1,490 (90%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including 100 single parent families, 70 special cases and 5 accompanied migrant children. The support provided includes meals and accommodation at IOM's Transit Centers near the border, household supplies and other Non-Food Items (NFIs) for families, special assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), a one-month food ration from WFP, family and hygiene kits from UNICEF and dignity kits from UNFPA.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 701,000 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. Many 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 into a country already struggling with widespread conflict and displacement.

While returns have declined in line with seasonal trends during winter, previous surges in returns have been unpredictable and an estimated 1.1 million Afghans still remain in Pakistan. IOM is prepared to respond to increased needs and is appealing for additional funding to continue its emergency response programming.

IOM currently provides post-arrival humanitarian assistance to returnees at its Transit Centers near the major border crossing points of Torkham and Spin Boldak (Pakistan) as well as Islam Qala and Milak (Iran). In 2017, IOM aims to expand its post-arrival assistance for returnees and to support sustainable reintegration at their final destination, working in close partnership with the Government of Afghanistan. As a first step toward better understanding the reintegration needs of returnees, a socio-economic survey of returnee households has been launched at Torkham border. Additional data collection mechanisms, including IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and Community Response Mapping (CRM) platforms, will be rolled out in key provinces of return later this month.

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Returns from Iran

A total of **7,766** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings from 1-7 January, according to the DoRR Border Monitoring Team. This is a slight increase compared with returns from Iran last week. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 130 (3%) were in family groups and 4,503 (97%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 157 (11%) were in family groups whereas 1,245 (89%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran in 2016 and 1-7 Jan 2017 to **451,734**.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **199 (2.5%)** undocumented Afghans arriving from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz provinces, including 53 unaccompanied migrant children and 25 individuals with special medical needs. A gap in assistance remains, as DoRR estimates that approximately 10% of undocumented Afghans returning from Iran are in need of humanitarian assistance.



Returnees from Iran at the IOM Transit Center in Herat. © IOM 2017

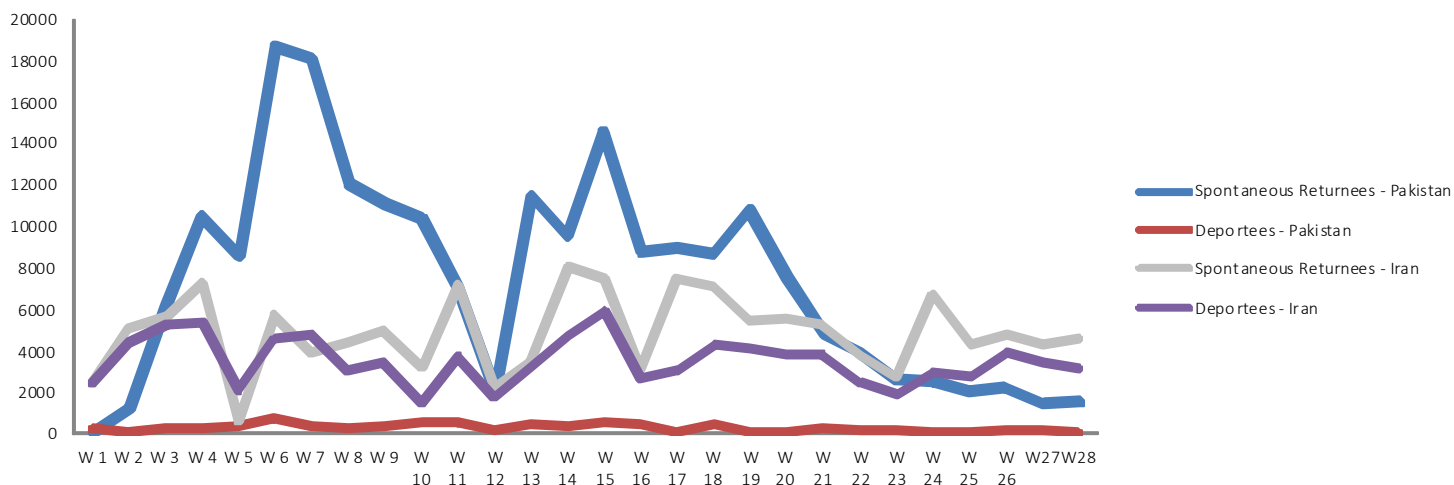
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak			
2016	198,973	26,657	212,017	36,636	12,731	9,828	123,936	71,379	248,189	443,968	692,157
1-7 Jan 17	717	836	4,008	625	20	70	1,786	1,347	1,643	7,766	9,409
Total	199,690	27,493	216,025	37,261	12,751	9,898	125,722	72,726	249,832	451,734	701,566

IOM-Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak			
2016	58,504	5,781	940	1,084	1832	167	10213	7034	66,284	19,271	85,555
1-7 Jan 17	636	779	2	2	5	70	110	85	1,490	199	1,689
Total	59,140	6,560	942	1,086	1,837	237	10,323	7,119	67,774	19,470	87,244

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week, 1 July 2016 to 7 January 2017



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:



AFGHANISTAN Intended Final Destination of Undocumented Afghan Returnees and Deportees Jan 2016–31 Dec 2016

