



Travelers waiting to cross into Pakistan at Torkham border on 21 March © IOM 2017

## Highlights

- 2,221** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan
- 699** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran
- 12,149** total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017
- 57,872** total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017
- 86%** of returnees from Pakistan (1,919 individuals) assisted
- 7%** of returnees from Iran (52 individuals) assisted

## Returns from Pakistan

On 21 March, Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings were fully reopened. A total of **2,221** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through these border crossings from 19-25 March, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **12,149** since 1 January 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **86%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (1,919 individuals), including 135 single parents and 39 special cases. At the Transit Center in Kandahar, IOM has begun providing cash grants for onward transportation. A total of 135 families received the grants during the reporting period. Assistance from partners was provided as per the adjacent table.

Distribution of shelter and winterization kits for vulnerable returnee families continued, reaching 115 families in Kabul district on 19 March.

Organization	Type of Assistance	People Assisted
WFP	Food Package	822
WHO	Medical Services	71
UNICEF	Hygiene Kit	595
UNICEF	Family Kit	577
UNICEF	Hygiene Awareness Training for Kit Recipients	595
UNFPA	Dignity Kit	227
AADA	Medical Services	0

## Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 762,000 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 million undocumented 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.

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Returns from Iran

A total of **699** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran from 19-25 March, primarily through Milak border in Nimroz province. A small number of returnees (25) were deported through Islam Qala border in Herat province. The substantial decline in returns from the previous week (699 vs. 3,591) can be attributed to the Nowruz holiday as well as the continued closure of Islam Qala border to those without documents. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 26 (9%) were in family groups and 256 (91%) were individuals. Out of the total deportees, 35 (8%) were in family groups and 382 (92%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to **57,872**.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **52 (7%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz, including 7 unaccompanied migrant children, 7 medical cases, 5 special cases and one drug-addicted individual.

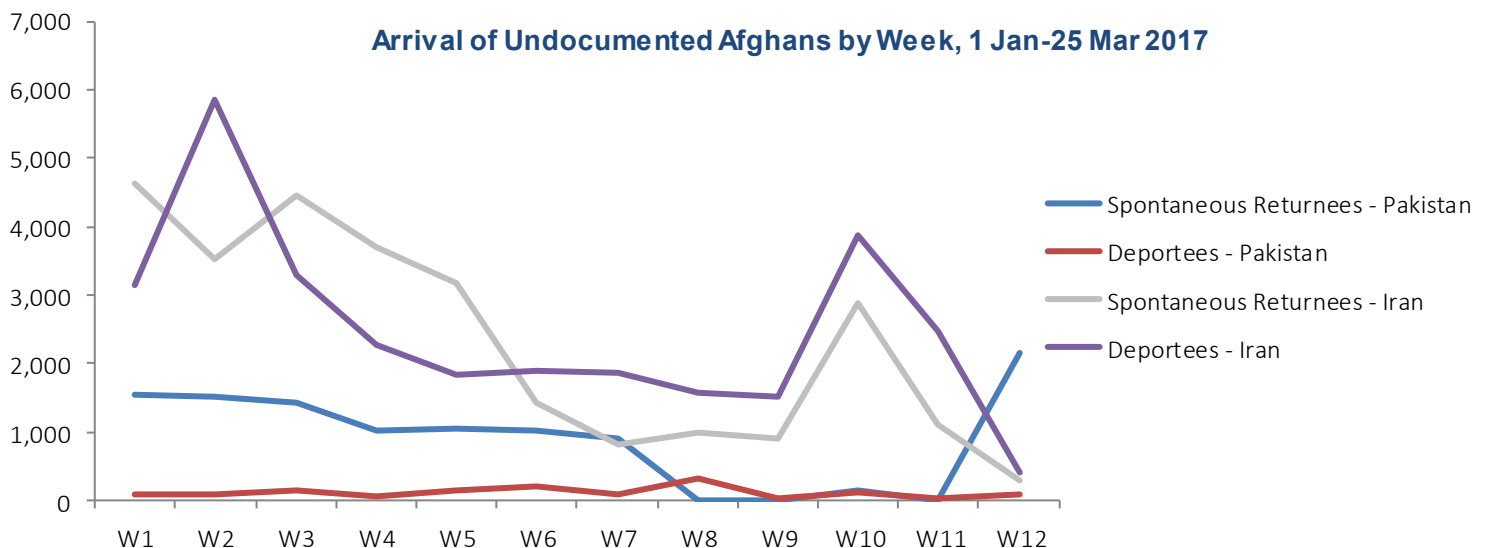
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2017 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan 17	3,605	2,294	15,918	2,555	273	226	9,986	5,599	6,398	34,058	40,456
Feb 17	1,961	595	1,154	3,522	485	168	256	6,553	3,209	11,485	14,694
1-4 March	0	0	0	475	34	0	0	818	34	1,293	1,327
5-11 Mar	30	118	0	2,879	116	0	0	3,867	264	6,746	7,010
12-18 Mar	0	0	3	1,117	23	0	8	2,463	23	3,591	3,614
19-25 Mar	832	1,310	0	282	59	20	25	392	2,221	699	2,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,428</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>17,075</b>	<b>10,830</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>10,275</b>	<b>19,692</b>	<b>12,149</b>	<b>57,872</b>	<b>70,021</b>

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

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total Pakistan	Total Iran	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan 17	3,022	2,109	53	32	74	213	582	418	5,418	1,085	6,503
Feb 17	1,829	359	26	76	63	115	23	885	2,366	1,010	3,376
1-4 Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20	20
5-11 Mar	30	118	0	20	51	0	0	230	199	250	449
12-18 Mar	0	0	3	17	15	0	8	412	15	440	455
19-25 Mar	822	1,058	0	1	39	0	12	39	1,919	52	1,971
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>9,917</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>12,774</b>

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week, 1 Jan-25 Mar 2017





**Annex 1: Cash Grants for Transportation at Kandahar Transit Center, 19-25 March 2017**

No. of Families	No. of Individuals	Province of Final Destination	Transportation Grant (Per Person)	Total
5	26	Baghlan	\$40	\$1,040
6	46	Balkh	\$40	\$1,840
18	143	Farah	\$30	\$4,290
11	93	Helmand	\$40	\$3,720
6	36	Kabul	\$30	\$1,080
67	533	Kandahar	\$25	\$16,375
8	48	Kunduz	\$50	\$2,400
2	15	Laghman	\$40	\$600
2	10	Logar	\$35	\$350
3	26	Nimroz	\$40	\$1,040
2	23	Paktya	\$50	\$1,150
1	4	Panjshir	\$30	\$120
2	17	Sar-e-Pul	\$50	\$850
1	10	Urozgan	\$50	\$500
1	10	Wardak	\$30	\$300

**Annex 2: Breakdown of Assistance Provided at all Border Crossings, 19-25 March 2017**

Categories	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Total
Non-Food Item (NFI) Kits	131	137	0	9	277
Family Winter Kits	131	137	0	0	268
Medical Care	71	127	2	0	200
Tuberculosis Screening	861	1,058	12	35	1,966
Overnight Accommodation	42	980	12	38	1,072
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>3,783</b>

IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:

