



A distribution of shelters and winterization packages for vulnerable returnee families in Nangarhar © IOM 2017

Highlights

- 34** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan
- 2,411** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran
- 9,641** total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017
- 46,836** total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017
- 29%** of returnees from Pakistan (10 individuals) assisted
- 3%** of returnees from Iran (62 individuals) assisted

Returns from Pakistan

From 26 February to 4 March 2017, a total of **34** undocumented Afghans were deported from Pakistan through Torkham border (Nangarhar province), according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). No undocumented Afghans returned through Spin Boldak border in Kandahar province. This is an **89% decrease** from the previous week, and brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **9,641** since 1 January 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **10 (29%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including one unaccompanied migrant child.

IOM has begun distributing shelters and winterization packages to vulnerable undocumented returnee families in Nangarhar province. A total of 134 families were assisted in the first distribution, which took place in Kuz Kunar district on 1 March, followed by 226 families in Rodat district on 2 March.

Border Closures

Torkham and Spin Boldak borders have been closed since 17 February due to recent security incidents in Pakistan. The borders remain closed as of 4 March.

Islam Qala border with Iran has been closed since 6 February due to flooding. Heavy mud (10-15 cm) and water levels have affected border infrastructure. It is not yet clear when the border will be reopened. Milak border with Iran in Nimroz remains functional.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. Since 1 January 2016, over 748,000 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 **2,411** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Milak border crossing in Nimroz province from 26 February to 4 March, a **6% decrease** compared with the previous week. Out of the total, 890 were spontaneous returnees and 1,521 were deportees. No returnees arrived through Islam Qala border. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to **46,836**.

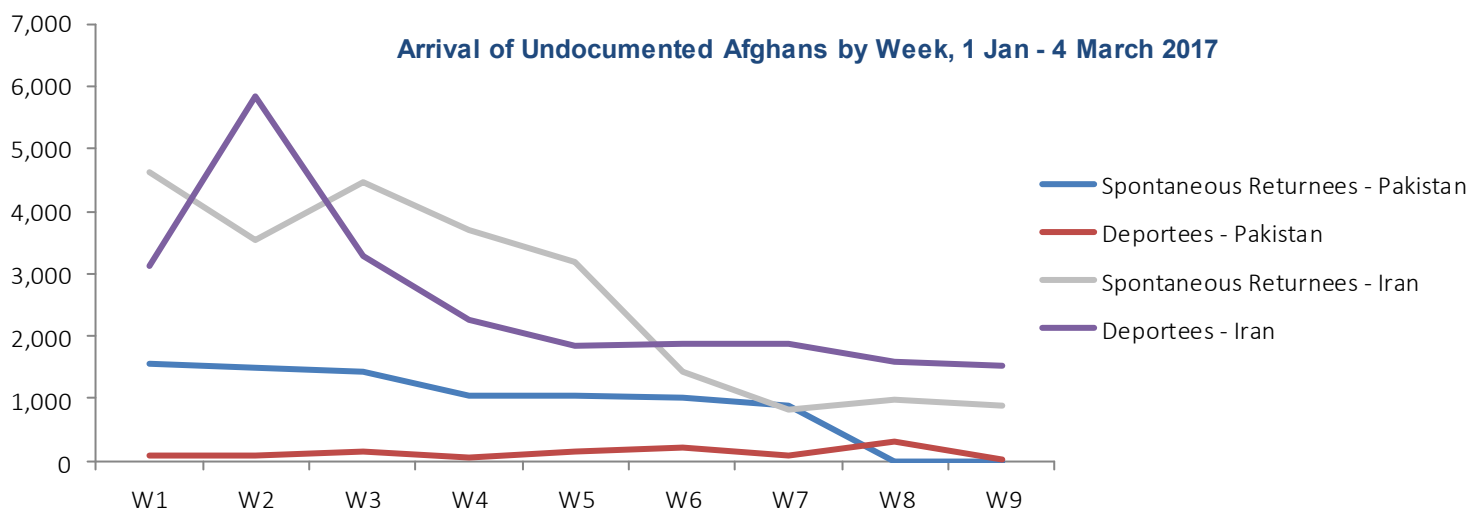
IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **62 (3%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Center in Nimroz.

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

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan 17	3,605	2,294	15,918	2,555	273	226	9,986	5,599	6,398	34,058	40,456
1-4 Feb	454	203	600	408	31	0	142	625	688	1,775	2,463
5-11 Feb	811	196	543	888	76	131	114	1,773	1,214	3,318	4,532
12-18 Feb	696	196	2	822	57	37	0	1,872	986	2,696	3,682
19-25 Feb	0	0	9	989	321	0	0	1,580	321	2,578	2,899
26 Feb - 4 Mar	0	0	0	890	34	0	0	1,521	34	2,411	2,445
Total	5,566	2,889	17,072	6,552	792	394	10,242	12,970	9,641	46,836	56,477

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

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan 17	3,022	2,109	53	32	74	213	582	418	5,418	1,085	6,503
1-4 Feb	421	112	1	14	0	0	20	63	533	98	631
5-11 Feb	733	149	14	27	17	97	3	281	996	325	1,321
12-18 Feb	675	98	2	17	10	18	0	241	801	260	1,061
19-25 Feb	0	0	9	18	26	0	0	258	26	285	311
26 Feb - 4 Mar	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	62	10	62	72
Total	4,851	2,468	79	108	137	328	605	1,323	7,784	2,115	9,899



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:

