



A man who recently returned from Pakistan receives a shelter and winter supplies in Jalalabad.  
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## Highlights

**264** undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

**6,746** undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

**9,905** total returns from Pakistan since 1 January 2017

**53,582** total returns from Iran since 1 January 2017

**75%** of returnees from Pakistan (199 individuals) assisted

**3%** of returnees from Iran (250 individuals) assisted

## Returns from Pakistan

From 5-11 March 2017, a total of **264** undocumented Afghans 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 brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **9,905** since 1 January 2017.

During the reporting period, IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **199 (75%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including three unaccompanied migrant children and 48 special cases.

IOM continued its distribution of shelter and winterization kits for vulnerable returnee families during the reporting period, reaching 766 families in Nangarhar's Behsud (344 families), Surkhord (131 families) and Jalalabad (291 families) districts. A further 600 families will receive assistance in Kabul, Laghman and Kunar next week.

## Border Closures

Torkham and Spin Boldak borders closed on 17 February due to security concerns in Pakistan. From 7-8 March, the borders were temporarily reopened to allow stranded travelers with documents to cross. The borders are closed again as of 12 March.

Islam Qala border with Iran has been closed since 6 February due to flooding. It is not yet clear when the damaged infrastructure will be repaired and 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 755,000 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 **6,746** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Milak border crossing in Nimroz province from 5-11 March. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 205 (7%) were in family groups and 2,674 (93%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 336 (9%) were in family groups whereas 3,531 (91%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 1 January 2017 to **53,582**.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **250 (3%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Center in Nimroz.

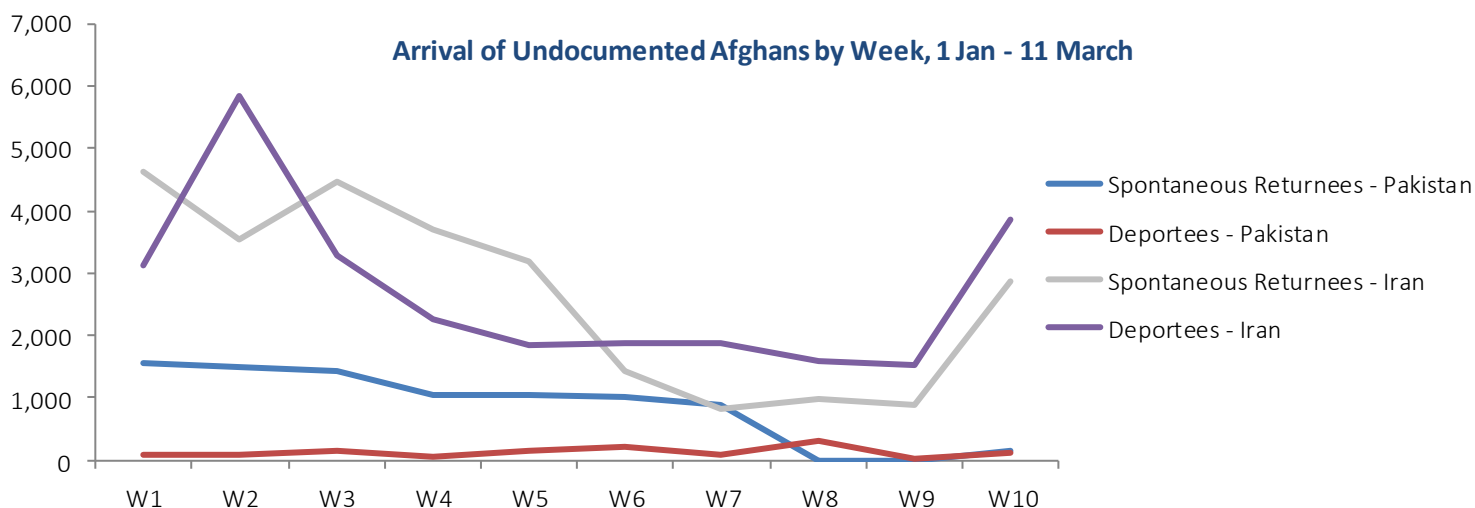


Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2017 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,596</b>	<b>3,007</b>	<b>17,072</b>	<b>9,431</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>10,242</b>	<b>16,837</b>	<b>9,905</b>	<b>53,582</b>	<b>63,487</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
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>10,348</b>



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