



HRDA- UNICEF provides psychosocial awareness to deportees in Kandahar Transit Centre © Patialy/ IOM Afghanistan

Highlights

41,999 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

40,305 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2019

1,694 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

5,387 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

361 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

6% of returnees from Iran (319 individuals) assisted

89% of returnees from Pakistan (321 individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

A total of **5,387** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 03—09 Feb 2019, **22% less** than in the previous week (6,869). **2,386** returned voluntarily, **3,001** were deported. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 40,305. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **319 (6%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 44 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 32 Medical Cases (MC), 39 members of Single Parent Families (SP), 8 Physically Disabled (PD), 31 Special Cases (SC), 2 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 5 Drug Addicted (DA), 3 members of a Poor Family (PF) and 1 Single Female (SF).

Protection Assistance for Returnees

The protection unit assessed a total of 107 PSN cases in Sare Pul, Faryab, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Kabul and Kunar provinces. Of the total assessed cases, 61 were unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), 21 female heads of households (FHH), 10 medical cases (MC), 4 Special cases (SC), 1 Physical Disabled (PD), 4 Single Females (SF), 4 Elderly at risk, 4 Drug Addicts and 2 Single Females.

During the reporting period, 19 Unaccompanied Migrant Children, 12 Female Headed household, 5 Single Females, 2 Medical Cases and 1 Elderly at risk were assisted in Balkh and Kunduz province.

REGIONAL UNDOCUMENTED RETURN PROJECTIONS 2019

‘Undocumented’ Afghans are defined as those Afghans not in possession of documentation issued by the country where they are residing. In Pakistan this refers to Afghans who do not hold PoRs. In the Islamic Republic of Iran undocumented refers to Afghans who reside irregularly in the country and without Amayesh cards or valid visas. The designation as ‘undocumented’ does not refer to the possession of civil documentation in Afghanistan such as Tazkera and/or passports.

In Iran, Afghan nationals are represented in three distinct categories- Amayesh card holders and therefore refugees, visa holders or undocumented. Iran hosts approximately 950,000 Afghan refugees (Amayesh card holders), 600,000 visa holders and 1.5-2 million undocumented Afghans. In 2018, returns from Iran increased by over 70% from 462,000 in 2017 to 770,000. Annually, Afghan undocumented returns from Iran average between 400-500,000 persons, but 2018 saw an all-time high, driven mainly by recent political and economic issues in Iran. Using regression trend analysis for the years 2012-18, IOM is projecting a return of 570,000 undocumented Afghan returnees in 2019. An estimated 20% or 114,000 persons are expected to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

In Pakistan, Afghans can be categorized as Proof-of-Registration (PoR) Card holders or the undocumented. Among those who are ‘undocumented’, there are Afghan-Citizenship-Card holders (ACC), those who registered for ACC but haven’t yet been issued with their cards, and those who hold no documentation from the Government of Pakistan at all. Currently, Pakistan hosts 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees (PoR-Card holders) and 1.1 million Afghans who either hold ACCs or are truly undocumented. Among those ‘undocumented’ Afghans, 330,000 hold an ACC, a further 550,000 have registered for an ACC and are in possession of tokens, and another 300-400,000 Afghans hold no legal documentation from the Government of Pakistan at all. In 2018, the return of undocumented Afghans decreased by over 70% from 98,000 in 2017 to 32,000 in 2018. In 2019, IOM Afghanistan predicts the return of 49,000 undocumented Afghans based on an analysis of return trends from 2012-18.

Return from Pakistan

A total of **361** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 03—09 Feb 2019, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 229 were spontaneous returnees and 132 were deported undocumented Afghans. This number marks an **116% increase** compared to the previous week (167). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2019 is now 1,694. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **89%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (319 individuals).

Number of Undocumented Returnees vs. Assisted by IOM in 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Overall Return - 2018				Total Return	Overall Assisted by IOM - 2018				Total Assisted	% Assisted
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		
Jan - Mar 2018	3,099	3,879	75,678	78,984	161,640	2879	3370	2,205	4,427	12,881	8%
Apr - Jun 2018	5,816	4,241	113,353	88,871	212,281	5,622	3,820	4,125	4,469	18,036	8%
Jul - Sep 2018	4,658	4,325	137,400	82,247	228,630	3,306	2,733	3,068	2,805	11,912	5%
Oct - Dec 2018	2,412	4,322	94,824	101,768	203,326	2,096	3,802	3,790	4,176	13,864	7%
Total	15,985	16,767	421,255	351,870	805,877	13,903	13,725	13,188	15,877	56,693	7%

Number of Undocumented Returnees vs. Assisted by IOM in 2019 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Return of Undocumented Afghan				Total Return	Assisted Returnee by IOM				Total Assisted	% Assisted
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		Turkham	Spin Boldak	Herat	Nimroz		
01 - 05 Jan 2019	40	385	3,267	2,454	6,146	40	317	81	145	583	9%
06 - 12 Jan 2019	100	105	4,056	3,734	7,995	49	105	220	199	573	7%
13 - 19 Jan 2019	75	245	4,389	3,086	7,795	54	205	260	217	736	9%
20 - 26 Jan 2019	41	175	4,074	2,989	7,279	22	150	238	249	659	9%
27 Jan - 02 Feb 19	111	56	3,292	3,577	7,036	89	45	217	225	576	8%
03 - 09 Feb 2019	79	282	2,136	3,251	5,748	62	259	108	211	640	11%
Total	446	1,248	21,214	19,091	41,999	316	1,081	1,124	1,246	3,767	9%

PSNs Assisted by IOM 2018 (Turkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

PSNs Assisted 03-09 Feb 2019	Persons							Total
	From Iran			From Pakistan				
	Islam Qala	Milak	Sub-Total	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Sub-Total		
Poor Family (PF)	3	0	3	39	153	192	195	
Unaccompanied Migrant Children	9	35	44	1	3	4	48	
Single Parents Family (SP)	0	39	39	11	20	31	70	
Special Cases (SC)	6	25	31	10	83	93	124	
Medical Case (MC)	21	11	32	0	0	0	32	
Physically Disabled (PD)	3	5	8	0	0	0	8	
Unaccompanied Elderly (UE)	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	
Drug Addicted (DA)	4	1	5	0	0	0	5	
Single Female (SF)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	
Mentally Ill (MI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chronically Ill (CI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A: Total PSNs	47	118	165	62	259	321	486	
B: Deported Families	61	93	154	0	0	0	154	
Total (A&B)	108	211	319	62	259	321	640	

IOM Afghanistan has assisted a total of 56,693 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan in 2018 and 3,767 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2019, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.

