



DoRR staff interview the head of a returnee family at Turkham Zero Point
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Highlights

29,215 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

28,049 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2019

1,166 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

7,063 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

216 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

7% of returnees from Iran (487 individuals) assisted

80% of returnees from Pakistan (172 individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

A total of **7,063** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 20—26 Jan 2019, **6% less** than in the previous week (7,475). **3,392** returned voluntarily, **3,671** were deported. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 28,049. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **487 (7%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 130 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 62 Medical Cases (MC), 43 members of Single Parent Families (SP), 15 Physically Disabled (PD), 60 Special Cases (SC), 13 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 45 Drug Addicted (DA), 2 members of a Poor Family (PF), 3 Single Females (SF) and 1 Chronically Ill (CI).

Protection Assistance for Returnees

The protection unit assessed a total of 145 PSN cases in Ghor, Kabul, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat, Takhar, Faryab, Badakhshan and Balkh provinces. Of the total assessed cases, 50 were unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), 26 female heads of households (FHH), 40 medical cases (MC), 20 Special cases (SC), 3 Physical Disabled (PD), 2 Single Females (SF), 2 Elderly at risk and 2 Drug Addicts (DA).

During the reporting period, 10 Single Females and 4 female headed household were assisted in Balkh province.

Situation Overview

In 2018, more than 800,000 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan. Whereas the return from Pakistan witnessed a significant decrease of 70% compared with 2017: 98,000, returns from Iran increased by over 300,000 persons up from 462,000 in 2017. This sharp rise is largely driven by recent political and economic issues in Iran. As Afghans primarily work in the informal economy in Iran the demand for this type of work has drastically reduced. Further as all Afghans send home monthly remittances representing as much as 6% of Afghanistan total GDP, Afghan families are increasingly struggling to make ends meet, particularly in the drought affected provinces of Herat, Badghis and Ghor. In 2019, IOM is projecting a return of over 570,000 returnees from Iran linked to the ongoing challenges there and a minimum of 50,000 returns from Pakistan, a figure which has already been endorsed by the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The remaining undocumented and Afghan Citizenship Card holding caseloads of more than 1,000,000 people may also face deportation from Pakistan in 2019.

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Return from Pakistan

A total of **216** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 20–26 Jan 2019, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 193 were spontaneous returnees and 23 were deported undocumented Afghans. This number marks an **32% decrease** compared to the previous week (320). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2019 is now 1,166. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **80%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (172 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%
Total	256	910	15,786	12,263	29,215	165	777	799	810	2,551	9%

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

PSNs Assisted 20-26 Jan 2019	Persons						Total
	From Iran			From Pakistan			
	Islam Qala	Milak	Sub-Total	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Sub-Total	
Poor Family (PF)	2	0	2	5	110	115	117
Unaccompanied Migrant Children	61	69	130	0	0	0	130
Single Parents Family (SP)	2	41	43	17	40	57	100
Special Cases (SC)	32	28	60	0	0	0	60
Medical Case (MC)	36	26	62	0	0	0	62
Physically Disabled (PD)	10	5	15	0	0	0	15
Unaccompanied Elderly (UE)	12	1	13	0	0	0	13
Drug Addicted (DA)	40	5	45	0	0	0	45
Single Female (SF)	1	2	3	0	0	0	3
Mentally Ill (MI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Ill (CI)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
A: Total PSNs	197	177	374	22	150	172	546
B: Deported Families	41	72	113	0	0	0	113
Total (A&B)	238	249	487	22	150	172	659

IOM Afghanistan has assisted a total of 56,693 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan in 2018 and 2,551 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2019, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.

