



A DDG Mine Risk Education Instructor gives Mine Risk Education training to returnees at Turkham Transit Centre © Abdul Qayum Sharafat / IOM Afghanistan

Highlights

21,936 total returns from Iran and Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

20,986 total returns from Iran since 01 Jan 2019

950 total returns from Pakistan since 01 Jan 2019

7,475 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran

320 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan

6% of returnees from Iran (477 individuals) assisted

81% of returnees from Pakistan (259 individuals) assisted

Return from Iran

A total of **7,475** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through the Milak (Nimroz) and Herat (Islam Qala) border crossings between 13—19 Jan 2019, **4% less** than in the previous week (7,790). This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran since 01 January 2018 to 20,986.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **477 (6%)** undocumented Afghans deported from Iran at its Transit Centers in Nimroz and Herat, including 114 Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC), 84 Medical Cases (MC), 11 members of Single Parent Families (SP), 13 Physically Disabled (PD), 40 Special Cases (SC), 23 Unaccompanied Elderly (UE), 49 Drug Addicted (DA), 3 members of a Poor Family (PF), 2 Single Females (SF) and 3 Mentally Ill (MI).

Protection Assistance for Returnees

The protection unit assessed a total of 129 PSN cases in Herat, Baghlan, Ghor, Kandahar, Sare Pul, Nimroz, Faryab, Balkh and Kabul provinces. Of the total assessed cases, 46 were unaccompanied migrant children (UMC), 40 female heads of households (FHH), 28 medical cases (MC), 10 Special cases (SC), 2 Single Females (SF), 2 Single Parents (SP), and 1 unaccompanied Elderly (UE)

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 **320** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham (Nangarhar) and Spin Boldak (Kandahar) border crossings from 13 –19 Jan 2019, according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Of the total returnees, 128 were members of poor families (PF), 27 UMC, 52 Special Cases and 52 were single parents (SP). This number marks an **56% increase** compared to the previous week (205). The total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan since 01 January 2019 is now 950. IOM provided post-arrival assistance to **81%** of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan (259 individuals).

Number of Undocumented Returnees vs. Assisted by IOM 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%

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

PSNs Assisted 13-19 Jan 2019	Persons							Total
	From Iran			From Pakistan				
	Islam Qala	Milak	Sub-Total	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Sub-Total		
Poor Family (PF)	3	0	3	54	74	128	131	
Unaccompanied Migrant Children	52	62	114	0	27	27	141	
Single Parents Family (SP)	0	11	11	0	52	52	63	
Special Cases (SC)	16	24	40	0	52	52	92	
Medical Case (MC)	40	44	84	0	0	0	84	
Physically Disabled (PD)	6	7	13	0	0	0	13	
Unaccompanied Elderly (UE)	18	5	23	0	0	0	23	
Drug Addicted (DA)	47	2	49	0	0	0	49	
Single Female (SF)	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	
Mentally Ill (MI)	0	3	3	0	0	0	3	
Chronically ill (CI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A: Total PSNs	183	159	342	54	205	259	601	
B: Deported Families	77	58	135	0	0	0	135	
Total (A&B)	260	217	477	54	205	259	736	

IOM Assisted Undocumented Afghans 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%
Total	215	735	11,712	9,274	21,936	143	627	561	561	1,892	9%

IOM Afghanistan has assisted a total of 56,693 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan in 2018 and 1,892 undocumented Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan since 01 January 2019, thanks to the dedication of our staff and the generosity of our donors.

