



Highlights

- 1,671 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan between 25-31 December 2016, a 30% decrease from the previous week.
- 7,732 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran between 25-31 December 2016, an 11% decrease from the previous week.
- In total, 248,189 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan and 443,968 spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran in 2016.

Returns from Pakistan

From 25-31 December 2016, a total of **1,671** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or 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 is a 30% total decrease from last week, with deportations decreasing by 9%. Of the total, 1,493 were spontaneous returnees in family groups and 178 were deported individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan to **248,189** in 2016.

During the reporting period, IOM assisted **1,415 (84%)** undocumented Afghan returnees from Pakistan, including 101 single parent families. The support provided includes meals and accommodation at IOM's Transit Centers near the border, household supplies and other Non-Food Items (NFIs) for families, special assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), a one-month food ration from WFP, family and hygiene kits from UNICEF and dignity kits from UNFPA.

A recent IOM survey of returning families (covering 242 households through 14 December) at Torkham border indicates that the majority (60% of households interviewed) have at least some level of debt, usually between 10,000-20,000 Pakistani Rupees (USD \$96-191). This will create an additional challenge for families as they seek to reintegrate in Afghanistan. In addition, the survey highlights that most returnee heads of household (33%) plan to seek work as daily wage laborers, which may cause strains in already crowded local labor markets. For more information and analysis, visit [IOM Afghanistan's website](#) to download the survey. Updates to the survey are published on a regular basis.

Situation Overview

IOM is responding to a substantial increase in the return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and Iran. In 2016, over 692,000 undocumented Afghans returned to Afghanistan, due to diverse push factors including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan. While returns have declined recently in line with seasonal trends as winter sets in, previous surges in returns have been unpredictable and IOM remains prepared to respond to increased needs.

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. IOM is currently providing post-arrival humanitarian assistance to returnees at its Transit Centers near the major border crossing points of Torkham and Spin Boldak (Pakistan) as well as Islam Qala and Milak (Iran).

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Returns from Iran

A total of **7,732** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Iran through Islam Qala (Herat) and Milak (Nimroz) border crossings from 18-24 December, according to the DoRR Border Monitoring Team. This is an **11% decrease** in returns from Iran compared with last week. Out of the total spontaneous returnees, 195 (5%) were in family groups and 4,096 (95%) were individuals. Similarly, out of the total deportees, 148 (4%) were in family groups whereas 3,293 (96%) were individuals. This brings the total number of undocumented returnees from Iran in 2016 to **443,968**.

IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to **264 (3.4%)** undocumented Afghans arriving from Iran at its Transit Centers in Herat and Nimroz provinces, including 86 unaccompanied migrant children and 18 individuals with special medical needs. A gap in assistance remains, as DoRR estimates that approximately 10% of undocumented Afghans returning from Iran are in need of humanitarian assistance.

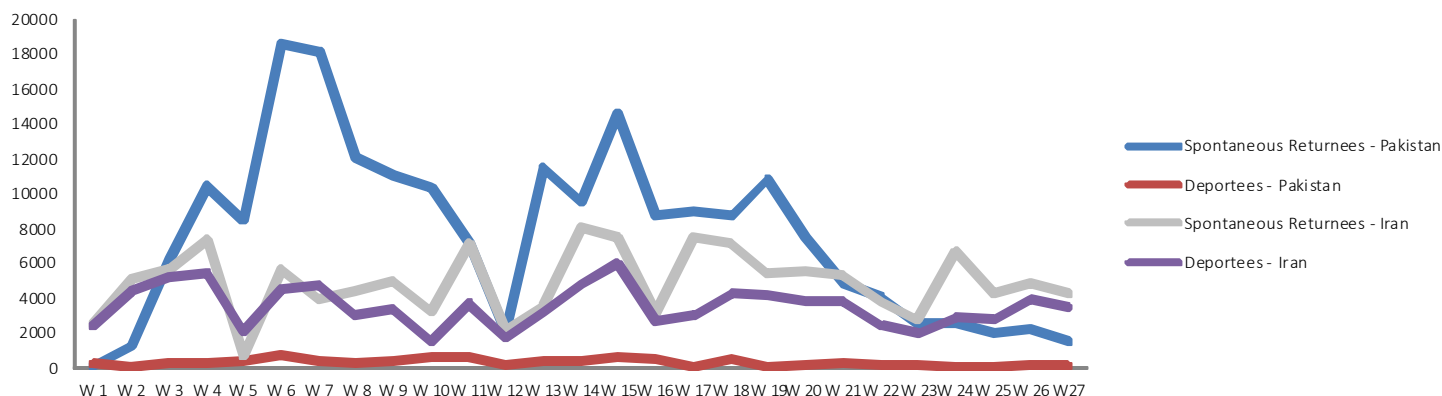
Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan-Nov 16	194,015	22,273	193,592	33,856	12,297	9,816	116,541	65,218	238,401	409,207	647,608
1-3 Dec	724	420	717	451	5	9	0	539	1,158	1,707	2,865
4-10 Dec	1,306	1,216	6,123	550	12	0	1,535	1,390	2,534	9,598	12,132
11-17 Dec	963	1,026	3,739	526	43	0	1,547	1,186	2,032	6,998	9,030
18-24 Dec	1,138	1,056	4,248	560	196	3	2,446	1,472	2,393	8,726	11,119
25-31 Dec	827	666	3,598	693	178	0	1,867	1,574	1,671	7,732	9,403
Total	198,973	26,657	212,017	36,636	12,731	9,828	123,936	71,379	248,189	443,968	692,157

IOM-Assisted Undocumented Afghans in 2016 (Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala and Milak)

Date	Spontaneous Returnees				Deportees				Total	Total	Grand Total
	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Torkham	Spin Boldak	Islam Qala	Milak	Pakistan	Iran	
Jan-Nov 16	53,934	1,654	904	1,008	1704	155	9746	6579	57,447	18,237	75,684
1-3 Dec	700	291	0	0	1	9	0	67	1,001	67	1,068
4-10 Dec	1,120	1,201	1	42	6	0	69	120	2,327	232	2,559
11-17 Dec	932	1,026	7	8	29	0	107	82	1,987	204	2,191
18-24 Dec	1,051	970	2	12	83	3	152	101	2,107	267	2,374
25-31 Dec	767	639	26	14	9	0	139	85	1,415	264	1,679
Total	58,504	5,781	940	1,084	1,832	167	10,213	7,034	66,284	19,271	85,555

Arrival of Undocumented Afghans by Week, July to Dec 2016



IOM Afghanistan's Returnee Response is generously supported by:

