

POPULATION MOVEMENT BULLETIN

The *Population Movement Bulletin*, published by the UN in Afghanistan, highlights issues of population movement as it relates to Afghanistan and is designed to consolidate the large amount of media coverage and many statistics into one place. The *Bulletin* includes trends in internal displacement, population movement to and from neighbouring countries and Europe, and policy developments and programme responses, drawing upon public sources as well as information gathered by the agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, particularly those working on issues related to population movement – nationally and internationally – and the challenges faced by these groups of people.

Commentary

More than a million newly displaced and newly returning 'people on the move' are estimated for 2016 in Afghanistan. The Government with the support of the humanitarian and development community will need to act urgently to help these Afghans to re-establish their lives, and avert a winter humanitarian emergency.

Since March 2002, UNHCR and IOM have facilitated the return of several millions of registered refugees and undocumented Afghans (considered as migrants, not refugees) respectively,¹ albeit with significant differences in the levels of material support provided based on registration status.²

Return trends in recent years have fallen significantly from their peak in the years immediately following the fall of the Taliban as second and third generation refugees in Iran and Pakistan proved reluctant to return in the midst of a gradually worsening security situation and dimming reintegration prospects. An estimated 2.5 million registered Afghan refugees remain in neighbouring countries of asylum, with a possibly equal number of undocumented Afghans—often with similar protection needs—in Iran and Pakistan.

During the first six months of 2016, only 7,804 registered Afghans returned and 33,892 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported. This trend was reversed following Eid celebrations in early July, when the return of registered refugees and undocumented Afghans increased dramatically: as of 6th September 98,000 registered Afghan refugees returned, while 135,000 undocumented Afghans and deportees also returned from Pakistan.

The dramatic increase in return to Afghanistan, predominantly from Pakistan, has coincided with a number of complex political and security developments within and between both countries. Overall, based on the protection monitoring of returnees upon arrival, the environment for Afghans in many parts of Pakistan has significantly deteriorated. According to returnees, the recent clashes at the Torkham border, which resulted in the deaths of many Pakistani soldiers (and Afghans) and the imposition of tight border controls have contributed to a dramatic increase in push factors, in the form of increased extortion, harassment and intimidation by local officials, contraction of freedom of movement and a subsequent limitation on income generation activities, and perhaps most significantly, as reported by returnees, a dramatic worsening of longstanding protective relations within host communities, which is consistently attributed to changes in complex regional political dynamics that has resulted in a wave of anti-Afghan sentiment within Pakistan. Of those returning from Pakistan, 75% of the registered Afghan refugees and 96% of the undocumented are coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Province that has so far registered the highest inci-

dence of reported push factors.

The surge in return of refugees and undocumented Afghans also comes in the midst of a significant deterioration of security within Afghanistan, which has affected many of the provinces of highest potential return, as noted elsewhere in this Bulletin. This leaves many with few options other than squatting in the already overcrowded informal settlements in Kabul and other urban areas.

It is anticipated that returns could occur in far greater numbers, including clustered family/community returns of large groups above 1,000 persons, following the September Eid celebrations and a November 15 cut-off date imposed by the Pakistani Government requiring all undocumented Afghans to have acquired documentation requested to be issued by the Government of Afghanistan, which could prompt a further surge in returns and/or deportations. Moreover, the expiration of the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards at the end of 2016, coupled with the Government of Pakistan's public insistence that no further extensions will be granted, could result in a further increase in the return of registered refugees. In short, more than a million people could be affected in the coming months by new political or security developments

dire conditions in the Kabul Informal Settlements resulted in the deaths of more than 100 children and a subsequent international outcry, it is essential that the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the humanitarian and development community, donors and other interlocutors take immediate action to mitigate induced population movements from Pakistan and secondary internal displacement and immediately begin planning for and coordination of a large-scale humanitarian assistance effort in the coming months.

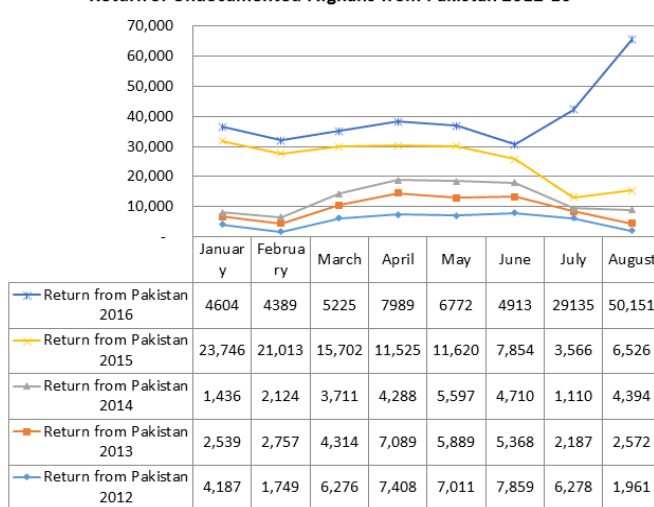
Not all returnees will require humanitarian assistance, but the complex nature of the current humanitarian landscape will require clear modalities for the provision of assistance after the initial return, the establishment of harmonized assistance criteria, and coordinated planning to ensure that returnees and IDPs are adequately assisted based on humanitarian needs. For the humanitarian community to support the Government of Afghanistan in smooth delivery of assistance, current impediments which impede effective humanitarian action and at times erode core humanitarian principles need to be looked at as a matter of priority. A balanced approach is needed to ensure that the needs of returnees are not prioritized above those of emergency and protracted internally displaced people, and vice versa.

To avert a crisis, collaborative strategies are needed among all stakeholders to promote the voluntary character of repatriation of refugees, in line with customary international law binding on all states. Respecting voluntariness is key to sustainability of reintegration and is therefore in the interests of all. For both registered refugees and undocumented Afghans, return should be humane and orderly and in conditions of safety and dignity, in line with international standards. In the current context of Afghanistan, return should also be gradual, to avoid over-stretching the country's absorption capacity. Protection/asylum space remains essential in asylum countries and therefore requirements and deadlines need to be realistic. In the longer term, mutually agreed migration management regimes are needed by the countries of this sub-region.

While global attention has focused on Afghan population movements to Europe, it is time to remember that the largest and most vulnerable displaced populations in need are right here in our midst. They need our collective support to realize the hope for a better future in Afghanistan.

The Humanitarian Country Team is formulating key advocacy messages on return of Afghans. For further information, please contact Maya Ameratunga, UNHCR Representative (ameratun@unhcr.org) or Laurence Hart, Chief of Mission IOM (lhart@iom.int).

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Pakistan 2012-16



A glimpse of the return figures of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan from 2012 to 2016.

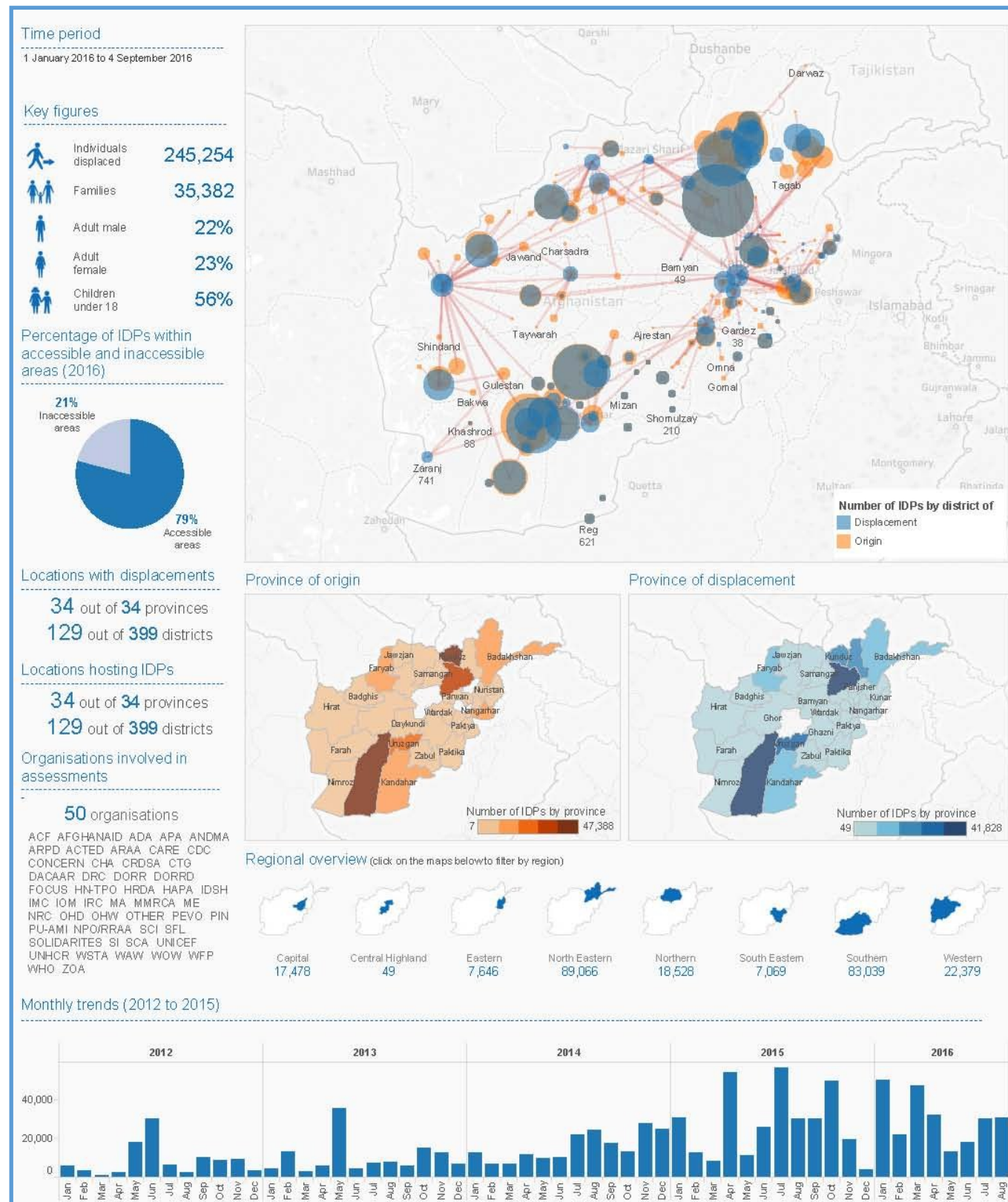
on either side of the border that have prompted sudden and unanticipated decisions to return or relocate. This population will add to an estimated 1.2 million previously displaced IDPs, the majority of whom are assumed to continue to face challenges in local integration, with an undetermined segment of this population likely highly vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance.

If the current trends persist and the security situation continues to remain the same or worsen, the new arrivals will likely compound the already overstretched housing and essential services capacity in many of the main urban centers. To avoid a repetition of the humanitarian crisis in 2012, when

1. In the case of Pakistan, registered refugees are Afghan refugees who participated in the census of 2005 and registration exercise in 2006-2007 leading to the issuance of Proof of Registration Cards (PoR cards), which were repeatedly renewed (currently until December 2016). Children of PoR card holders born after the registration can be included on the PoR cards by addressing the NADRA Offices in Pakistan. PoR card holders currently benefit from UNHCR/MoRR supported repatriation, receiving a cash grant as a support for their initial reintegration; 2. Undocumented Afghans are those Afghan citizens residing in Pakistan without a Proof of Registration either due to their non-participation in the registration exercise or failing to keep their registration status updated or due to their arrival after the registration was concluded. At present they have no document attesting their status in Pakistan. These families return spontaneously and have so far received limited assistance based on vulnerability through the support of IOM. Undocumented Afghans who wish to apply for refugee status have the possibility to do so through UNHCR Pakistan and, if recognized as refugees, are issued refugee documentation by UNHCR. Otherwise they are classified as migrants, not refugees. There are also significant differences between assistance packages for return of Afghan refugees from the sub-region and return of non-refugees from Europe (rejected asylum seekers or those who did not apply for refugee status or did not wish to await the outcome of refugee applications).

Population Movements: IDP Trends in 2016

From 1 January 2016 to 30 August 2016, 245,254 individuals fled their homes due to conflict. A total of 34 out of 34 provinces had recorded some level of forced displacement. Constrained humanitarian access hinders assessments, thus preventing verification of the full extent of displacement and undermining the provision of assistance and services. Displacement affects all individuals differently with needs, vulnerabilities and protection risks evolving over time due to exhaustion of coping mechanisms and only basic emergency assistance provided following initial displacement. Inadequate shelter, food insecurity, insufficient access to sanitation and health facilities, as well as a lack of protection, often result in precarious living conditions that jeopardises the well-being and dignity of affected families.



Notes: Newly displaced population due to conflict as of All compiled by OCHA sub offices based on inter- agency assessment results. Assessments are ongoing in the field and these numbers are expected to change as new information becomes available. IDPs data for 2015 and earlier from IDP Task Force / UNHCR Population Movement Tracking System (PMT). Datasets used to create this dashboard can be downloaded from the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) website: <http://goo.gl/KBcgzO> Feedback: <mailto:ocha-afg@un.org> Website: <http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info>

Population Movements

Return of Undocumented Afghans from Pakistan

From 28 August to 03 September, a total of **10,972** undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan through Nangarhar and Kandahar Province's Turkham and Spin Boldak border crossing points according to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR). Out of the total, **10,387** were spontaneous returnees in family groups and **585** were deported **individuals including four families with 13 members**.

The total number of returnees and deported Undocumented Afghans in Week 5 (W5) of August (**10,972**), represents a **33% decrease** in comparison with W1, a **31% decline** compared to W2 and a **11% drop** in comparison with W3, and final a 4% in comparison with the W4. Anecdotal evidence related to the decrease points to a Government of Pakistan intervention ending police expulsions within KPK after demonstrations by the local population following negative economic fall out as a result of the expulsions.

During W4, IOM assisted **3,519 (32%) Undocumented Afghans** from the total number of returnees through the Turkham crossing with post-arrival humanitarian assistance including refreshments, meals, special transportation for PSNs, NFIs for families, a one-month food ration from WFP and family and hygiene kits from UNICEF. During August IOM was able to assist **15%** out of the total returnees (**65,676**) through Turkham border.



Returnee children at Turkham. Photo: IOM

Average Daily Totals: 2015 vs. 2016

	2015	2016	Comparison
Spontaneous Undocumented Individuals	366/day	476/day	23% Increase
Deported Undocumented Individuals	49/day	74/day	34% Increase

Number of Undocumented Returnees in 2016 (Turkham & Spin Boldak)

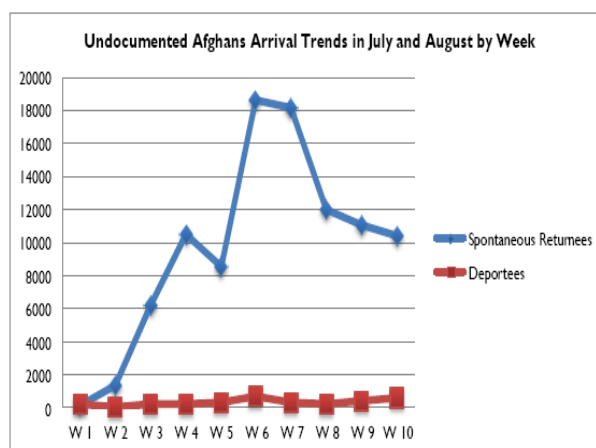
Date	Spontaneous Returnees		Deportees		Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Turkham	Spin Boldak	
Jan - 2016	676	1,090	1,448	1,390	4,604
Feb - 2016	930	886	1,172	1,401	4,389
Mar - 2016	1,784	1,092	1,613	736	5,225
Apr - 2016	3,901	678	2,262	1,148	7,989
May - 2016	3,605	1,377	1,121	669	6,772
Jun - 2016	1,803	1,446	1,033	631	4,913
Jul - 2016	26,724	1,139	1,133	339	29,335
Aug - 2016	64,284	1,517	1,392	524	67,717
Sep 1 - 3	4,334	188	131	211	4,864
Totals	108,041	9,413	11,305	7,049	135,808

Number of Assisted Undocumented Afghans at the Turkham crossing:

Date	Spontaneous Returnees		Deportees		Total
	Turkham	Spin Boldak	Turkham	Spin Boldak	
Jan - 2016	527	0	249	0	776
Feb - 2016	755	0	185	0	940
Mar - 2016	1,368	0	233	0	1,601
Apr - 2016	2,724	0	316	0	3,040
May - 2016	2,218	0	125	0	2,343
Jun - 2016	1,033	0	89	0	1,122
Jul - 2016	3,446	0	169	0	3,615
Aug - 2016	9,668	0	221	0	9,889
Sep 1 - 3	1,001	0	8	0	1,009
Totals	22,740	0	1,595	0	24,335

Returnee Projections from August—December 2016:

The daily average return from 1 August to 3 September stands at a combined 2,135 from Turkham and Spin Boldak crossings. If this trend continues, the total projection for September would be 64,042 and 256,168 for the remainder of 2016. The most vulnerable population from the total for the coming 4 months would equal 102,467. As reported in W4, IOM can assist up to 19,000 individuals over the coming 4 months at current funding levels.



Partners Assisting Returnees in IOM Transit Center:

WFP: from 1 August to 03 September WFP provided one-month food ration to 921 families (6,447 individuals) in addition to those 904 families that have received the full package of post-arrival assistance from IOM which includes an NFI kit in addition to WFP's food package.

UNICEF: provided 715 families (5,005 persons) with Emergency Family Kits that include bed nets, tarpaulins and jerry cans.

Repatriation of Registered Afghan Refugees

Assisted return to Afghanistan - 01 Jan - 30 Aug 2016

Breakdown of return by country of asylum

Country of Asylum	Individuals	Individuals %
Pakistan	78,495	97.6%
Iran	1,786	2.2%
India	55	0.1%
Tajikistan	41	0.1%
Azerbaijan	10	0.0%
Russia	2	0.0%
Total	80,389	100.0%

Monthly trend from Pakistan only 2016

Assisted return from Pakistan

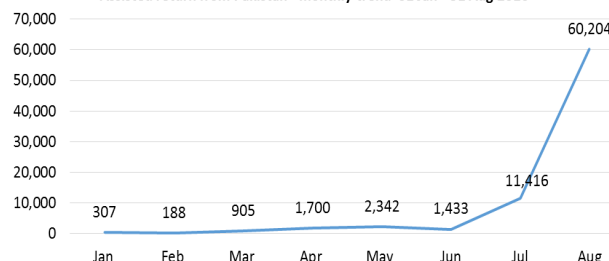
Monthly breakdown - 2014 - 2016 (01 Jan - 31 Aug)

Month	2014	2015	2016
Jan	170	3,154	307
Feb	419	3,608	188
Mar	524	4,724	905
Apr	1,118	9,087	1,700
May	2,311	11,794	2,342
Jun	2,297	9,927	1,433
Jul	329	1,241	11,416
Aug	1,497	5,103	60,204
Total	8,665	48,638	78,495

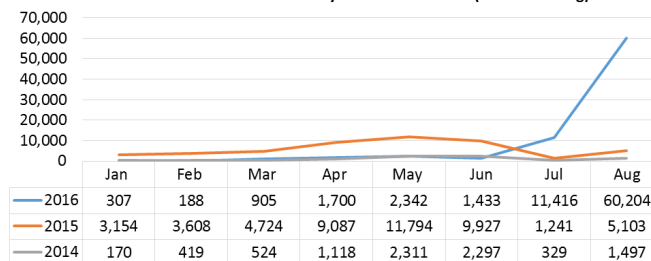
Top five provinces of Origin in 2016 (based on VRF)		Top 5 provinces of Destination in 2016 making 75% of returnees (based on VRF)		Top five provinces of Destination during the week under reporting (based on VRF)	
Province	Individuals	Province	Individuals	Province	Individuals
Nangarhar	15,766	Kabul	21,667	Kabul	4,926
Kabul	11,956	Nangarhar	20,038	Nangarhar	4,916
Kunduz	9,841	Baghlan	7,685	Baghlan	1,972
Baghlan	8,776	Kunduz	6,528	Kunduz	1,464
Logar	5,857	Logar	4,384	Logar	1,125
Total	52,196	Total	60,302	Total	14,403

According to Voluntary Repatriation Form (VRF), the majority of registered Afghan refugees are returning to Kabul (37%), Nangarhar (32%), Baghlan (12%) and Kunduz (11%). These places of resettlement are in turn areas where many of the new IDPs displaced by conflict in 2016 and other conflict-induced IDPs from the previous years have also settled, increasing pressure on already overstretched services.

Assisted return from Pakistan - monthly trend 01 Jan - 31 Aug 2016

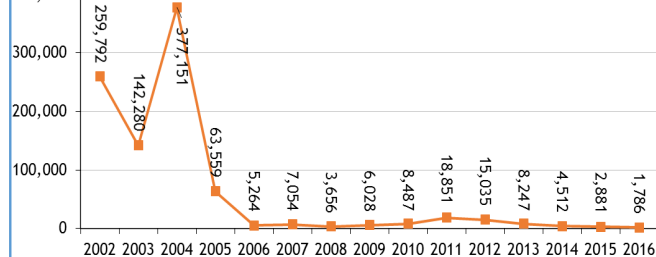


Assisted return from Pakistan - monthly trend 2014 - 2016 (01 Jan - 31 Aug)

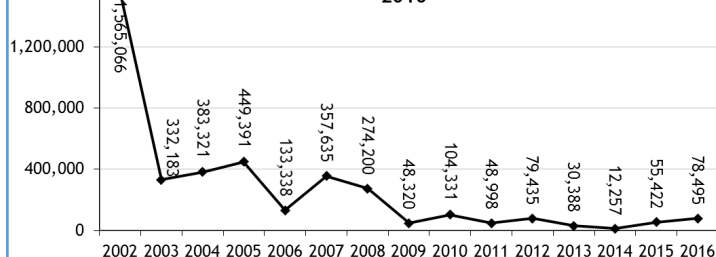


Assisted Repatriation Operation to Afghanistan Monthly Return Trends - 03 Mar 2002 to 31 Aug 2016

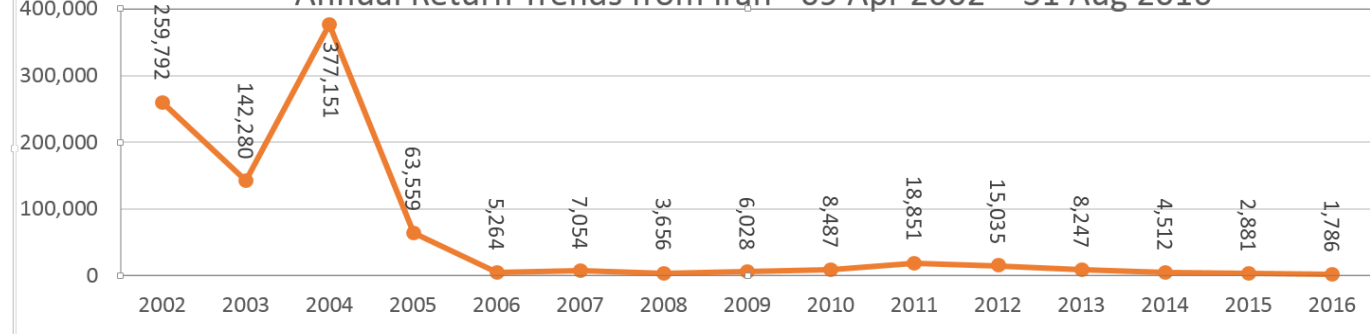
Annual Return Trends from Iran - 09 Apr 2002 - 31 Aug 2016



Annual Return Trends from Pakistan - 03 Mar 2002 - 31 Aug 2016



Annual Return Trends from Iran - 09 Apr 2002 - 31 Aug 2016



Policy Development

Communicating with Communities: Key findings from UNHCR's monitoring of social media traffic in Pashto and Dari

UNHCR's *Communicating with Communities* initiative, which monitors social media traffic in Dari and Pashto to better understand trends and changes in popular opinion regarding migration options, has found that, as winter approaches, smugglers are now encouraging larger numbers of Afghans to depart for Europe.

However, tactics for advertising the journey have altered from previous ones. In an attempt to win trust, smugglers depict more accurate scenarios of the journey, including its dangers and perils. In addition, smugglers have added legitimacy to their business by recounting their own first-hand experiences with asylum. Another new development has been the erasure of online public Facebook messages between smugglers and potential

clients. These conversations are deleted by the smuggler account shortly after they are posted. Smuggling routes have remained the same, with the notable exception of Bulgaria as a new destination. Scholarships to Bulgarian universities, along with the possibility of primary and secondary education for children, are advertised to both young adults and families alike. Selling fake Turkish citizenship to Afghans and Iranians has also become more popular.

Among Afghans currently in Europe, there are increasing signs that Afghans are fatigued by the lengthy asylum procedures. Many of them consider the waiting period worse than the actual journey to Europe. In Greece there are continued reports of underage prostitution by unaccompanied Afghan and Iranian mi-

nors. Sweden's toughening stance on the asylum procedure is a trending topic of vigorous discussion. Many Afghans believe their old passports will no longer be valid in Sweden due to rumors that suggest they only accept "electronic passports."

Afghans criticize songs that encourage Afghan youth to remain in the country. They assume that these songs are an effort by their government and foreign embassies to dissuade them from leaving. There is significant traffic regarding the current high levels of return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan, particularly in light of Pashto BBC reports on the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in Afghanistan, which suggests increasing internal displacement in the near future.

Refugee elders from Pakistan plead with President, CEO for more time, and government advocacy, to ensure their return in safety and dignity.

With funding support from UNHCR, 120 refugee elders from Pakistan attended a first-of-its-kind jirga convened by President Ashraf Ghani on 31 August to discuss their



President Ashraf Ghani with refugee elders from Pakistan
Photo: UNHCR

concerns regarding their return to and future in Afghanistan, as the climate for Afghan refugees continues to worsen in many parts of Pakistan. President Ghani pledged the full support of the Government to ensure that returning Afghans could obtain land and housing, invest in small businesses, send children to school, have access to basic services and settle in any part of the country.

Refugee elders, speaking on behalf of large constituencies throughout Pakistan and representing also occupational groups such as doctors, teachers, businessmen, traders, carpet factories, transport unions, student associations and others, highlighted their desire to return in light of the sudden crackdown on Afghans in many parts of Pakistan.

All pleaded with the President, and with the CEO the following day, to intervene at the highest levels of the Pakistani government to mitigate the current push factors to allow refugees more time to wrap up affairs and prepare for return in safety and dignity. A representative of the transportation sector noted that many Afghans had purchased trucks in the name of Pakistani counterparts, and needed time to transfer titles of key assets. Likewise, a representative of Afghan tradesmen

highlighted the fact that the bank accounts of many joint businesses were held by Pakistanis and that untangling longstanding and complex business affairs would take time and pleaded

for the government to intervene. Teachers, student and doctors requested for educational certificates and professional qualifications to be given equivalent recognition, while doctors called for reforms in the health sector. Several elders also raised the issue of arbitrary arrests and detention of Afghans, including registered refugees, and asked both the President and CEO for their intervention with Pakistani authorities. President Ghani, himself a former refugee, expressed empathy for the hardships endured by refugees and pledged the full support of the Government and the

allocation of unspent funds in the national budget to facilitate their safe return and sustainable reintegration. Noting the importance of land, he pledged to help returning families to legally obtain land and announced that five sites, with a combined settlement capacity of 50,000 families, had been identified to assist landless returnees or those not able or willing to return to areas of origin. Several elders cited the highly complex processes for land distribution in Afghanistan, stressing that many people who had returned several years ago had still not received plots of land. Others expressed concern that their properties and other assets had been usurped by warlords.

The President, with much of his Cabinet assembled for the jirga, requested his Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, to establish a committee to ensure that the issues of returning refugees are tabled for discussion within the Cabinet, the National Security Council and the Supreme Economic Council for approval. President Ghani also suggested that Ambassador Zakhilwal and Minister of Finance, Aklil Ahmad Hakimi, establish a joint committee with Pakistani counterparts to resolve the complex economic and legal issues per sector tabled by the refu-

gee elders. Among many initiatives, he called for expediting registration of the undocumented Afghans.

CEO Abdullah, during his Jirga together with Ministers a day after that of President Ghani, also expressed his solidarity and determination to help refugees returning in difficult conditions. He recalled his own experiences as a refugee in a former era of respect for refugee status, which was now more and more eroded, and pledged to follow up on their concerns. Refugees told the CEO that "the Proof of Registration card is losing its value to protect us in the current crisis, so something has to be done to save our dignity." Others noted that "If we are allowed to return with dignity, we could bring our assets and not be dependent on others." In response to such concerns, the CEO pledged to soon visit Pakistan to advocate with senior government officials on the issues raised by elders, but sought to manage expectations noting that, in the current context, it would be difficult



CEO Abdullah with refugee elders from Pakistan
Photo: UNHCR

to fully address all of the obstacles and challenges.

The CEO noted his intention to address UNHCR's annual meeting of the Executive Committee of member states during the first week of October, at the invitation of High Commissioner Filippo Grandi, and planned to reflect many of the issues tabled by the elders during the two jirga.

Programmatic Responses

Humanitarian Assistance for Undocumented Afghan Returnees

The rate of return and deportation of Undocumented Afghans from Pakistan has dramatically increased in the months of July and August 2016 as the result of a drastic deterioration of the protection space and an increase in push factors. This situation has the potential to upend an already fragile humanitarian context within Afghanistan.

From January to June 2016 a total of 33,892 undocumented Afghans spontaneously returned or were deported from Pakistan. From 01 July to 27 August 2016, a total of 90,944 undocumented Afghans returned or were deported from Pakistan through the Turkham border crossing in Nangarhar province and Kandahar provinces' Spin Boldak border (closed to traffic on 18 August and reopened on 01 September 2016), out of which 96% (87,306) were spontaneous returnees and 4% (3,638) were deportees and a majority (95%) crossed through Turkham into Afghanistan.

It is anticipated that returns could occur in far greater numbers, including clustered family returns of large groups above 1,000 persons, following the mid-September Eid celebrations and a November 15 cut-off date imposed by the Pakistani Government requiring all undocumented Afghans to have acquired machine readable passports and valid visas.



IOM Turkham Transit Centre, Nangarhar. Photo: IOM

RETURNEE PROJECTIONS FROM PAKISTAN:

IOM has projected **two plausible scenarios** regarding the total returnee and deportation figures of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan- **1)** The overall trend from January 2016 with a lower overall rate of return where **216,707** undocumented Afghans return from Pakistan. Based on the estimates of the Border Monitoring team of the Directorate for Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), among the spontaneous returning families from Pakistan **40% or 86,000** persons will be vulnerable and in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.

Province	Scenario 1: Returnee Projection based on the rate of return Jan-Aug 2016					
	Monthly Average Trends - Jan - Aug		Estimated # of Spontaneous Returnees	Estimated # of Deportees	Total Spontaneous Returnees & Deportees	People in Need for 12 Months (Iran 10%) & (Pakistan 40%)
	Deportees	Spontaneous Returnees				
Nangarhar	1,380	14,475	173,696	16,560	190,256	76,102
Kandahar	913	1,291	15,495	10,956	26,451	10,580
Total	2,293	15,766	189,191	27,516	216,707	86,683

2) The second scenario based on the much higher rate of return in July and August suggests that if the current flow continues until the end of 2016, a total returnee and deportation figure of **407,218** individuals from Pakistan, with **162,887** categorized as vulnerable.

Province	Scenario 2: Returnee Projection based on the higher rate of return in July and August 2016							
	Average Daily Trends from 1 July - 14 August		Monthly Projection of Spontaneous Returnees	Monthly Projection of Deportees	Projection of Return & Deportation		Total Spontaneous Returnees & Deportees	People in Need for 12 Months (Iran 10%) & (Pakistan 40%)
	Deportees	Spontaneous Returnees			Aug – Dec 2016			
	Deportees	Spontaneous Returnees			Deportees	Spontaneous Returnees		
Nangarhar	42	2,546	76,374	1,258	6,289	381,868	388,157	155,263
Kandahar	33	94	2,822	990	4,950	14,111	19,061	7,624
Total	75	2,640	79,196	2,248	11,239	395,979	407,218	162,887

Latest News Headlines

Refugee crisis, a year after

September 5 - It's been a little more than a year since the unprecedented refugee crisis started provoking discord among the EU member states and fuelling a rise in xenophobia and feeding the far-right.

More at New Europe <http://bit.ly/2caUxFW>

8,000 Afghan refugees to be repatriated every day after Eidul Azha

September 2 - Around 240,000 Afghan refugees will be repatriated to their homeland every month after Eidul Azha, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Dr Imran Zaib said on Friday.

More at Express Tribune <http://bit.ly/2coF9lr>

Europe 'close to limit' on refugee numbers, EU president says

September 4 - Europe is "close to limit" on accepting refugees, EU President Donald Tusk said Sunday, as he urged the international community to do more to step up resettlement of those seeking refuge.

More at CCN <http://cnn.it/2c97vms>

'If I can help, I must': meet the volunteers working with refugees

September 2 - When three-year-old Alan Kurdi's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach not far from holidaymakers, Europe's refugee crisis took on a new urgency.

More at the Guardian <http://bit.ly/2c3AKnz>

Is Merkel paying the price for the refugee crisis?

September 5 - Not long ago, Angela Merkel's dominant position in Germany and her status as the most influential leader in Europe seemed secure. Is this still the case? :

More at CNN <http://cnn.it/2cjgEXW>

Afghan refugees returning home being fully facilitated: UNHCR

August 31 - UN High Commissioner for Refugees has said that Afghan refugees are being facilitated during repatriation to their homeland. Those willingly returning are also being provided cash amount.

More at APP <http://bit.ly/2c2yw7g>

Pressing issues: Unregistered Afghans can stay till Nov 15, says CM

August 31 - Khyber-Paktunkhwa Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak has said that unregistered Afghan refugees will not be bothered until November 15, while those registered could stay till December.

More at : <http://bit.ly/2cd3lLs>

Afghan government urged to help returning refugees

August 24 - A socio-political leader from Afghanistan, Haji Hayatullah, has urged Afghan President Dr Ashraf Ghani and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to help Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan.

More at: <http://bit.ly/2bSqKw9>

Relief Web provides the latest humanitarian and development information on Afghanistan.
<http://reliefweb.int/country/afg>