Since 15 September, there has been a notable surge in the number of returnees to Afghanistan, taking place primarily through the Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings. The announcement on 3 October by Pakistan’s national Apex Committee of the plan to repatriate over a million foreigners without valid documents, mostly Afghans triggered a consistent and steep increase in the number of undocumented and ACC-Card holders Afghan crossing the numbers. This culminated at the beginning of November in line with the ultimatum of 1 November given to illegal foreigners residing in Pakistan by Pakistan’s Minister of Interior.

There have been over 327,000 returnees recorded during this period, with numbers increasing from less than 200 per day in early October to more than 17,000 by early November. This influx, consisting largely of spontaneous returns, also includes a growing number of deportations.

Consortium Partners have progressively scaled up and adjusted operations at both Spin Boldak and Torkham Border Points to respond to the significant increase in returns since mid-September 2023. Since the beginning of October, the unprecedented and increasing number of daily returns have required the set-up of larger Reception Centers where returnees could wait to receive assistance before proceeding to intended areas of return.

**KEY FIGURES**

**ASSISTED RETURNEES TO AFGHANISTAN**

**NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES PROVIDED WITH ASSISTANCE**
In Spin Boldak and Torkham, a total of 3,552 individuals received assistance as part of the voluntary repatriation program.

Profile returnees

In line with previous weeks, the majority of assisted returnees are children and adolescents. Approximately 24% of returnees are children under 5 and 60% of the total returnees caseload are children and adolescent of 17 and younger. 48% of assisted returnees are women and 14% of them are female headed households.

BORDER CROSSING POINTS BENEFICIARIES AND SERVICES

At the Spin Boldak and Torkham border crossing points, a range of services are provided to ensure the safe and orderly management of migration. These include registration, health services, aid distribution, family unification, child protection, psychosocial support, and legal aid, among others. These services are delivered in coordination among the consortium, aiming to address humanitarian needs and ensuring dignified and safe passage for individuals at these critical crossing points.

Below is an overview of the number of beneficiaries provided with services and figures of particularly vulnerable beneficiary groups in the week referenced.

Post-Arrival assistance package changed to MPCA 100% in cash, from partially in-kind food on Nov-9 (Torkham) and Nov-10 (Spin Boldak/Kandahar)

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### SPIN BOLDAK, KANDAHAR

- 41,888 undocumented individuals were assisted with multipurpose cash assistance
- 532.11 MT of mixed food commodities were distributed to 30,308 individuals
- 5.39 MT of Wheat, Soya and Blend were distributed to 1,800 Pregnant LW
- 7.58 MT of Lipid-Based Nutrient were distributed to 5,231 children under the age of 5
- 11,580 individuals received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
- 573 female headed households were assisted
- 275/410 women received Antenatal Care/Postnatal Care
- Information, Counselling, Legal Assistance (ICLA) 3,347 and 9,084 received information sessions
- 5 unaccompanied minors were identified and supported

### TORKHAM, NANGARHAR

- 58,408 undocumented individuals were assisted with multipurpose cash assistance
- 651.8 MT of mixed food commodities were distributed to 31,507 individuals
- 4.71 MT of Wheat, Soya and Blend were distributed to 1,572 Pregnant LW
- 6.56 MT of Lipid-Based Nutrient were distributed to 4,374 children under the age of 5
- 26,901 individuals received Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
- 1,579 female headed households were assisted
- 451/164 women received Antenatal Care/Postnatal Care
- Information, Counselling, Legal Assistance (ICLA) 402 and 150 received information sessions; 12 received counselling
- 27 unaccompanied minors were identified and supported

In Spin Boldak and Torkham, a total of 3,552 individuals received assistance as part of the voluntary repatriation program.
The majority of returnees are from Nangahar provinces followed by Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz and Laghman. The vast majority of returnees (90%) aim to return to their provinces of origin, with 37% planning to resettle to their location of origin. 37% of returnees while returning to their Province of origins plan to resettle to another district. Logically, the majority of returnees aim to resettle in Nangahar, Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz and Laghman.

The Border Consortium is made of

- IOM
- UN Migration
- UNHCR
- International Organisation for Migration
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- Save the Children
- IFRC
- The Danish Refugee Council
- NRC