

# CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

AUGUST 2013



## HIGHLIGHTS

Total July 2013	Increase August 2013	Decrease August 2013	Overall change August 2013	Total displaced as at 31 August 2013	Total recorded in 2013
583,705	6,569	90	6,479	590,184	113,241

- **IDPs overall:** As at 31 August, 590,184 persons (91,880 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **August 2013\*:** 6,569 individuals (991 families) have been recorded as newly displaced due to conflict of whom 2,668 individuals (41%) were displaced in August, while 2,730 individuals (42%) were displaced in July, 508 individuals (8%) in June, 406 individuals (6%) in May and the remaining 52 individuals (4%) were displaced in March 2013.

\*Since often displacement is only recorded several months after the displacement occurred, the monthly figures are continuously updated.

IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to, avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (*UN Secretary General, Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, 11 February 1998*).

## DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION 2013

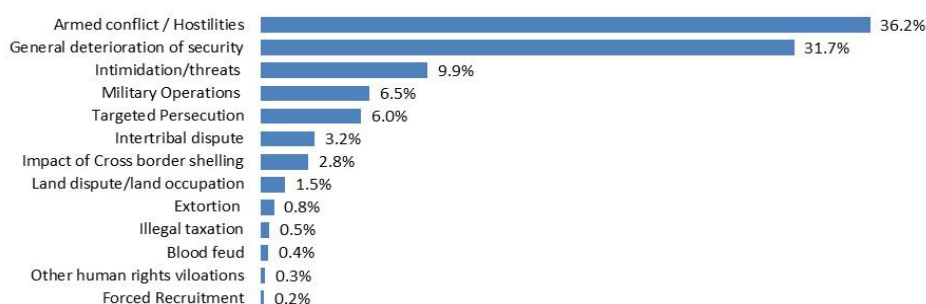
Of the total reported displacement in August 2013, the South-east region recorded the highest number of IDPs. The key causes of displacement in this region were reported to be military operation and intimidation by AGEs. Eastern region recorded the second highest increase in the number of IDPs in August, due largely to harassment and intimidation by AGEs. Northern region was placed in the third highest number of IDPs recorded for the reporting month, where people were displaced mainly due to generalized violence, armed conflict between AGEs and ALP, extortion and harassment by both ALP and AGEs. Finally western region recorded the lowest number of IDPs comparing to the three other regions where internal displacements have taken place. The main reasons for displacement in this region have been reported as military

Region	end-July 2013	Increase	Decrease	end-August 2013
North	73,784	1,386	-	75,170
South	180,960	-	90	180,870
Southeast	13,609	2,545	-	16,154
East	104,660	1,875	-	106,535
West	157,934	763	-	158,697
Central	51,618	-	-	51,618
Central Highlands	1,140	-	-	1,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>583,705</b>	<b>6,569</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>590,184</b>

operation, general deterioration of security, intimidation and illegal taxation by AGEs, inter-tribal dispute, armed conflict between AGEs and Governmental forces as well as occupation of private lands by AGEs. No verified displacement has been recorded for Central highlands, Central and Southern regions.

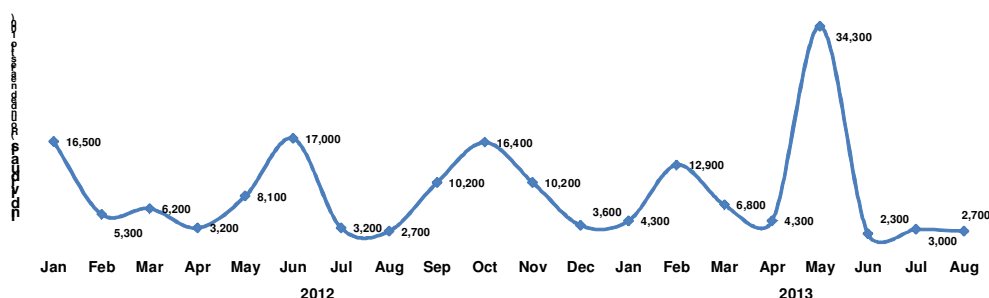
## CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

During assessments, IDPs are asked about the main reasons why they left their homes. Overall, most IDPs cite armed conflict as the main reason for their flight. However, general insecurity and AGE intimidation and / or threats are increasingly stated as the trigger to move.

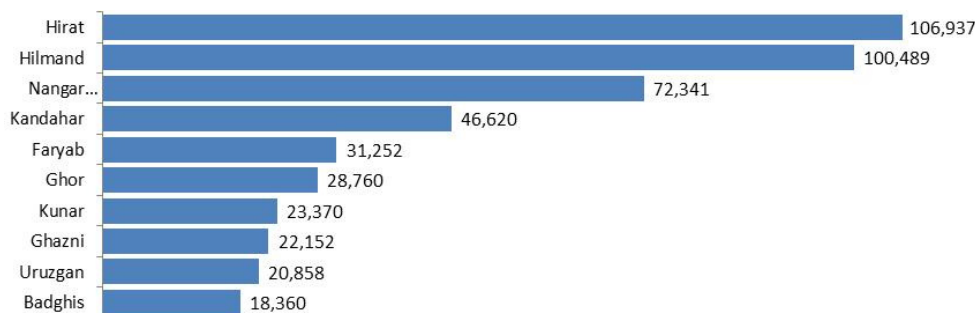


### COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS (2012-2013)

This chart describes the displacement trends by month in 2012 and 2013. Since often displacement is only recorded several months after the displacement occurred, the monthly figures are continuously updated.



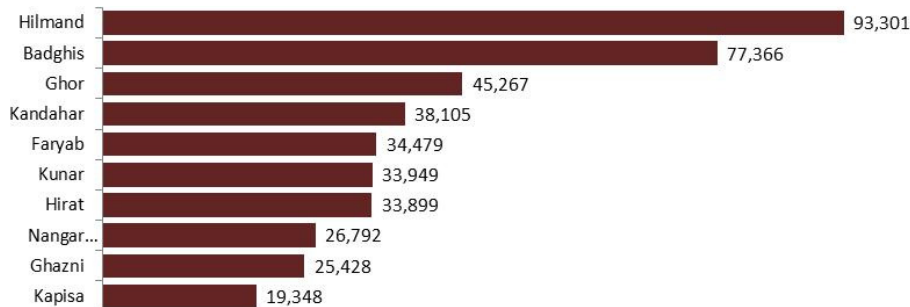
### TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT



The Province of Hirat in the West currently hosts the largest conflict-induced IDP population (18%) in the country, followed by Hilmand (17%), Nangarhar (12%), Kandahar (8%), Faryab (5%), Ghor (5%), Kunar (4%), Ghazni (4%), Uruzgan (4%), and Badghis (3%).

### TOP 10 PROVINCES OF ORIGIN OF IDPS

Overall, the province of Hilmand in the South has produced the largest number of displacements (16%), followed by Badghis (13%), Ghor (8%), Kandahar (7%), Faryab (6%), Kunar (6%), Hirat (6%), Nangarhar (5%), Ghazni (4%) and Kapisa (3%).



### EMERGENCY NFI ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS

Number of Individual Conflict-induced IDPs assisted with NFIs by Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster (January - August 2013)

Region	UNHCR	SCI	IOM	NRC	Total
North	16,472	1,846		1,392	19,710
Northeast	2,486	-			2,486
South	26,771	-			26,771
SouthEast	-	-			-
East	3,760	-		348	4,108
West	18,840	-		522	19,362
Central	14,088	-			14,088
Central Highlands	2	35	531		568
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,419</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>87,093</b>

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspices of the IDP Task Force 87,093 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members in 2013. In August 2013, a total of 22,102 conflict-induced IDPs received NFI packages which consist of a minimum of six blankets, one plastic sheet, two jerry cans, cooking gas cylinder, kitchen set and plastic buckets.

## KEY PROTECTION ISSUES BY REGION

### South-east region

#### Paktika

**Causes of displacement:** 298 families (2,533 individuals) have been displaced from Gayan district to Urgan district within Paktika province. The displacement has taken place during July 2013. The families have been visited and assessed by a joint team of UNHCR IP – APA and DoRR in August. The reasons for this displacement as cited by the IDPs have been military operation as well as intimidation and harassment by AGEs.

**Situation:** The living conditions of the families are very poor. More than 100 families are living under tents while many others are hosted by local population. Families are intended to return to their places of origin subject to the improvement of the security situation in their areas.

**Assistance:** More than 250 families have received food and non-food items from WFP and UNHCR. The distribution is ongoing and the rest of families are going to receive assistance in few days.

#### Paktya

**Causes of displacement:** 2 families (12 individuals) have been displaced from Jaji Aryob district to Gardez city within Paktya province. The displacement took place in August. The reasons for displacement have been reported as general insecurity in the area including intimidation by AGEs.

**Situation:** The families have access to basic social services available in Gardez city. They have managed to find rental accommodation.

**Assistance:** After the assessment, they were not considered for assistance.

### Eastern region

#### Nangarhar

**Causes of displacement:** 293 families (1,875 individuals) were displaced from different districts of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces to Bihsud and Rodat districts of Nangarhar. All the IDP groups were assessed by joint teams of UNHCR, DoRR, WFP, NRC and APA in late July – early August. The main reasons of displacement have been reported as harassment and intimidation by AGEs as well as armed conflict.

**Situation:** Majority of the IDPs are accommodated in houses of relatives. According to them, their regular means of livelihood (farming, livestock, shop keeping, employment) in their places of origin have been negatively affected by the conflict.

**Assistance:** All the IDP groups have been provided with non-food items, sanitary kits and in some cases tents by UNHCR and with food by WFP.

### Northern region

#### Faryab

**Causes of displacement:** 157 families (942 individuals) were displaced from different districts of Faryab province to those of Qaisar and Maimana within the province. The actual displacements have taken place during July 2013. Families have been visited and assessed in August by DoRR, NPO, WFP PAT, IDLG, UNHCR and in some cases NRC. The reasons of the displacement have been reported as military operation, conflict between AGEs and govern-

mental forces and general insecurity in their areas.

**Situation:** The assessment team found food and non-food items as main needs of IDPs. The majority of the families are living in rental houses. The security situation of the area is calm. IDPs have access to the basic social services available in the area. Local community has been so far supportive to the IDPs. The families are intending to return to their place of origin subject to the improvement of security situation.

**Assistance:** The request for food assistance for the entire IDP groups has been submitted to WFP, while UNHCR is planning to provide them with non-food items and also include them in the winterization assistance.

#### Kunduz

**Causes of displacement:** 52 families (273 individuals) have been displaced from different districts of Kunduz province to the center of Kunduz city. The displacements have taken place twice, once in March and then in July, but both groups have been visited and assessed in late July - early August 2013. The reasons for displacement were reported as generalized violence, armed conflict between AGEs and ALP, extortion and harassment by both ALP and AGEs.

**Situation:** IDPs have access to basic social services available in the area. The majority of the families are living in rental houses however two families are under tents.

**Assistance:** About 34 families were provided with food assistance in late August, they will be considered for winterization assistance as well. The rest of the families will receive assistance soon. The families are intended to return to their place of origin subject to the improvement of the security situation.

#### Saripul

**Causes of displacement:** 15 families (90 individuals) were displaced from different districts to Saripul center, within their province. The displacement took place in July and families were visited and assessed by a joint team of DoRR, NPO, WFP and NRC in late July - early August. Ongoing conflict between AGEs and ALPs has been reported as the main cause for their displacement.

**Situation:** Some of the families are living in rental houses while the majority of them are accommodated by the host community. The IDPs have access to the basic social services available in the area, however their living condition is very poor and their children are not attending school.

**Assistance:** All 15 families were assisted with Food and non-food items while 9 out of 15 families were assisted with direct cash by NRC during August.

#### Badakhshan

**Causes of displacement:** 18 families (81 individuals) were displaced from Warduj to Ishkashim district within Badakhshan province. The displacement has taken place gradually starting from March till July. The families have been visited and assessed in July 2013. The reasons for their displacement were reported as armed conflict and military operation.

**Situation:** Lack of appropriate shelter and adequate amount of food is the main concern for majority of these IDPs. They have access to the same services and facilities like the host community. The majority of families are living in rental houses; however their living condition is very poor.

**Assistance:** They are recommended for food, non-food items as well as winterization assistances.

## Western region

### Herat

**Causes of displacement:** 34 families (153 individuals) were displaced during July 2013 from Badghis to Herat. They were assessed and assisted during August 2013. The families have been visited jointly by UNHCR IP - ARAA, IRC and WFP. The main reason for displacement of this IDP group was reported as general deterioration of security, intimidation and illegal taxation by AGEs and also inter-tribal dispute.

**Situation:** Children are not enrolled in the school which is quite far from the location and meanwhile IDPs have not yet found access to labor market. They are living under tents and using the spring water which is not fully safe. The security situation around the area is calm.

**Assistance:** Families are recommended for food, NFI, tents and hygiene promotion materials.

**Note:** UNHCR Sub Office in Herat together with other IDP task force members are in the process of re-assessing the backlog of IDP groups included in previous records (approx. 1,300 families scattered around Herat City).

### Badghis

**Causes of displacement:** 27 families (137 individuals) have been displaced during July 2013 from different districts of Badghis to Qala Naw city, center of the province. The main reasons for displacement of these families have been cited as general insecurity and armed conflict between AGEs and Governmental forces. Extortion, illegal taxation and occupation of private lands by AGEs were also reported as causes of displacement.

**Situation:** The majority of the families are currently living in rented houses while few of them are living in half destroyed houses for free. They have access to basic social services available in the place of displacement; however their children are not yet enrolled in the schools. The security situation is calm. They have not yet found job opportunities.

**Assistance:** The IDPs have received emergency food and NFI by UNHCR and IRC.

### Ghor

**Causes of displacement:** 48 families (202 individuals) were displaced from different districts of Ghor province to center of Cheghcharan city from May to August 2013. They were all assessed in early August. Deterioration of security, armed conflict between AGEs and governmental forces, intimidation, illegal taxation and extortion by AGEs, and also inter-tribal conflict were reported as main causes of their displacement.

**Situation:** The security situation in the place of displacement is considered to be calm. The majority of the families are currently living in shared houses with the local community, while some of them are in half destroyed houses as well as under the tents in open area. They have access to the basic social services available in the area.

**Assistance:** The families have been provided with emergency assistance by UNHCR, ACF and WFP.

**Unverified reports:** Since mid-July an estimated 200 families have been reportedly displaced from Charsada district to Cheghcharan city within the province reportedly due to general insecurity attributed to AGEs. However, because it has been difficult for the assessment team to verify the exact causes of the displacements, these IDPs have not been added to the database. UNHCR Sub Office in Herat is trying to find a solution to the problem.

### Farah

**Causes of displacement:** 47 families (271 individuals) were displaced in June 2013 within Farah province from five different districts to Rigi and Chaharbagh districts. The families were visited and assessed by UNHCR IP - VARA, DoRR and WFP in late July - early August. The reasons IDPs have cited for their displacement have been intensified and increased AGEs' activities in their places of origin as well as occasional military operations and meanwhile being forced by AGEs to fight against governmental forces. They have also mentioned drought as a supporting factor of their flight beside insecurity.

**Situation:** So far the head of households have not managed to find jobs in the places of displacement; however they have access to the basic social services available in the area, although they have not yet enrolled their children in the schools.

**Assistance:** Majority of these IDPs have already been provided with emergency assistance in the form of food and non-food items.

## Southern region

### Helmand

15 IDP families (90 individuals) have voluntarily returned from Helmand province to their place of origin in Herat. The reasons for which these IDPs had been displaced were solved and they could manage to leave for their place of origin in Injil district of Herat. Consequently their number has been deducted from the overall IDPs data of UNHCR.

## Central Highlands

### Maidan Wardak

**Update on Behsud displacement:** It has been reported that the remaining IDPs, 190 families (75 from Behsud I and 115 from Behsud II) who were still in the place of displacement after the confrontation between locals and nomad Kuchis in Behsud district of Maidan Wardak, have returned to their places of origin in early August after the departure of Kuchis from the area. Presence of National Police and National Army with purpose of maintaining the peace and order in the area has been reported.

## Central region

### Logar

**Unverified reports:** Due to the recent military operation in Azra district of Logar, a number of families reportedly have been displaced from the mentioned district to various provinces including Kabul. UNHCR together with DoRR is in the process of verifying the information related to this displacement including exact number of families. This displacement is therefore not recorded in our database and only this very initial information is shared pending a final report.



