

# CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

JULY 2013



## HIGHLIGHTS

Total June 2013	Increase July 2013	Decrease July 2013	Overall change July 2013	Total displaced as at 31 July 2013	Total recorded in 2013
574,327	13,304	3,926	9,378	583,705	106,672

- **IDPs overall:** As at 31 July, 583,705 persons (90,904 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **July 2013\*:** 13,304 individuals (2,282 families) have been recorded as newly displaced due to conflict of whom 297 individuals (2%) were displaced in July, while 1,680 individuals (13%) were displaced in June, 1,432 individuals (11%) in May, 7,343 individuals (55%) in April 2013. The remaining 2,552 individuals (19%) were displaced before April 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*).

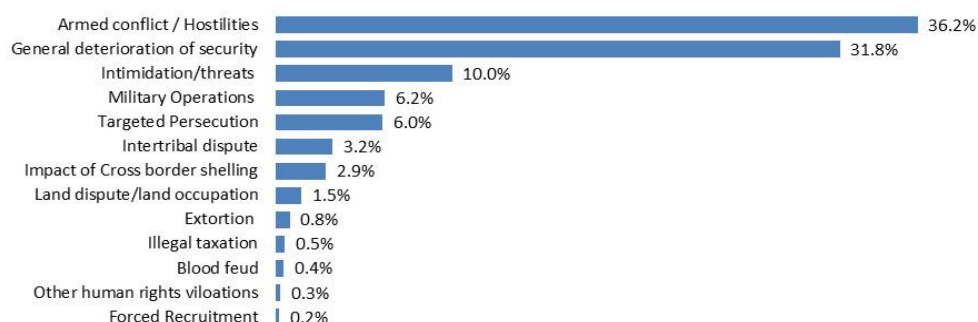
## DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION 2013

Of the total reported displacement in July 2013, the Northern region recorded the highest number of displaced persons. The key causes of displacement in the Northern region were reported to be general deterioration of the security situation, armed conflict between the ANSF/ALP and AGEs, and forced recruitment by both AGEs as well as the ALP. The Central Region and Central Highlands together recorded the second highest increase in the number of IDPs in July, due largely to armed confrontation between local populations and Nomad Kuchis in the Behsud district of Maidan Wardak. The Eastern and Western regions reported similar numbers of displaced persons, placing them jointly as the regions with the third highest levels of displacement for July. In both the East and West regions, people moved mainly due to harassment and intimidation by AGEs, general deterioration of the security situation, armed conflict between governmental forces and AGEs, and occasional military operations. Finally, the main reason for displacement in the South-east region during July 2013 was reported to be harassment and intimidation by AGEs. No displacement was reported in the Southern region during July 2013.

Region	end-June 2013	Increase	Decrease	end-July 2013
North	66,176	7,788	180	73,784
South	180,960	-	-	180,960
Southeast	12,490	1,119	-	13,609
East	103,841	819	-	104,660
West	159,422	818	2,306	157,934
Central	51,438	180	-	51,618
Central Highlands	-	2,580	1,440	1,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>574,327</b>	<b>13,304</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>583,705</b>

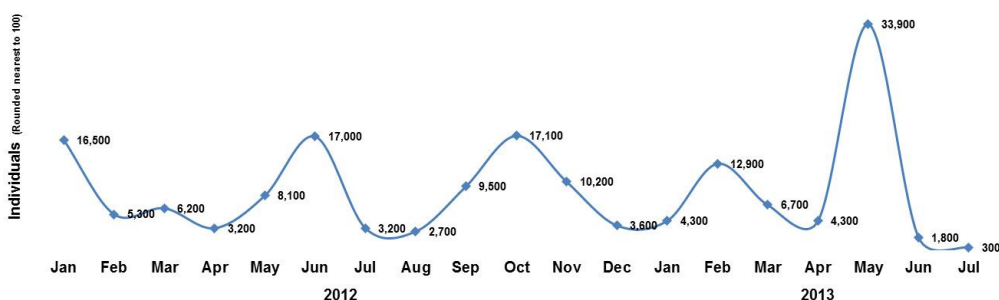
## CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

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.

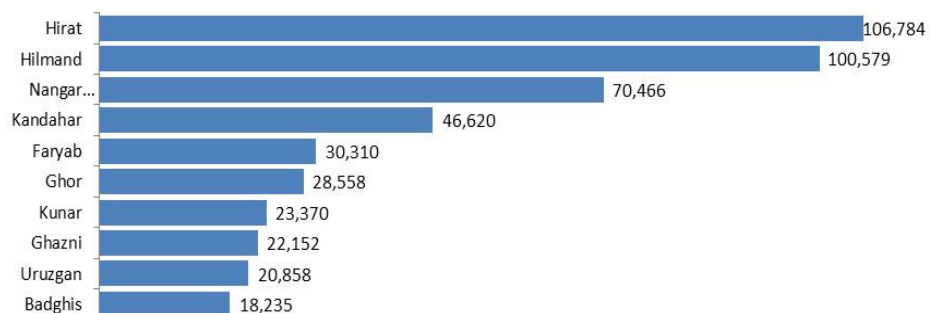


## COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS (2012-2013)

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.



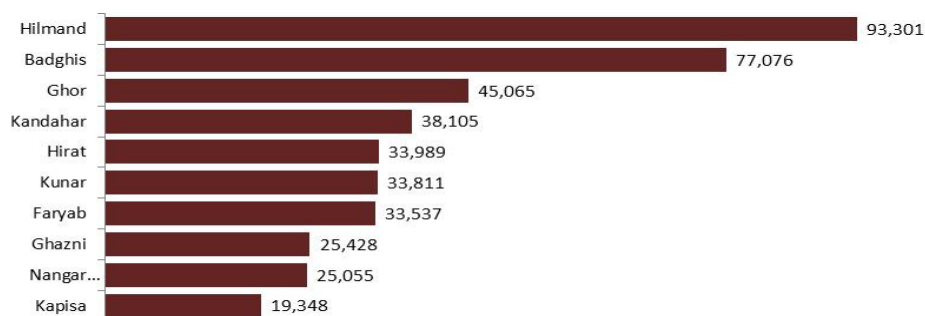
## TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT



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 Zabul (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%), Hirat (6%), Kunar (6%), Faryab (6%), Ghazni (4%), Nangarhar (4%) and Kapisa (3%).



## EMERGENCY NFI ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS

Region	UNHCR	SCI	IOM	NRC	Total
North	8,310	1,846		1,392	11,548
Northeast	2,066	-			2,066
South	26,771	-			26,771
SouthEast	-	-			-
East	3,130	-		348	3,478
West	5,952	-		522	6,474
Central	14,088	-			14,088
Central Highlands		35	531		566
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,317</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>64,991</b>

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspices of the IDP Task Force 64,991 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members in 2013. In July 2013, a total of 7,300 conflict-induced IDP individuals received a NFI package which consists 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

### Northern Region

#### Faryab

**Causes of Displacement:** In total, 8 groups of IDPs consisting of 1,251 families (7,506 individuals) were displaced in Faryab province during April and May 2013, but identified and assessed in July 2013. Of these 8 groups, 7 groups were displaced from within Faryab province, namely from Qaisar, Almar, Pashtunkut and Shirin Tagab districts to Maimana city, and in one case to Shirin Tagab district. The remaining group was displaced from Jawand district of Badghis province to Qaisar district of Faryab. The main reason given by the families for their displacement was general deterioration of the security situation, and in particular armed conflicts between the ANSF/ALP and AGEs.

**Situation:** A joint team of DoRR, WFP and NPO undertook an assessment. Two groups are being provided with temporary accommodation and food by the host community, while the rest of the groups are living in rental houses, but struggle to pay the cost of rent. Although some of the families have been provided with food by the host community, in general the families are facing difficulties in accessing adequate food. They are all unemployed. The IDPs wish to return to their places of origin once the security situation improves. Their access to the basic services is the same as the host community, which includes a health clinic (located in the district center, doctors and medicines are available); drinking water (shallow wells, semi-deep well and springs); education (primary and secondary schools are available in the district centers, the IDP children are not yet enrolled but they intend to do so) and decent road conditions.

**Assistance:** The IDPs will be soon provided with NFIs from UNHCR, while the request for provision of 3 months food assistance for all the IDP groups has been submitted to WFP.

#### Jawzjan

**Causes of Displacement:** 47 families (282 individuals) were displaced from Belcheragh district of Faryab to Sheberghan district of Jawzjan during April 2013. They were identified and assessed during July 2013. The reasons given for displacement include general insecurity in their place of origin, forced recruitment by AGEs, and forced recruitment by ALP.

**Situation:** A joint assessment was conducted by UNHCR, DoRR and WFP. Most of the families are living in rental houses, while some are living with their relatives. They have access to the basic services in the area including health centres. The IDPs intend to stay in Sheberghan until the security situation returns to normal in their place of origin.

**Assistance:** Following the assessment, the entire group received food and NFIs provided by WFP and UNHCR on 21 July 2013.

#### Unverified reports:

UNHCR has received reports, as yet unverified, of new displacements in July: 68 families in Badakhshan (displaced from Warduj to Baharak), 34 families in Kunduz (displaced from Arch district of Kunduz to Kunduz City) and 15 families in Saripul (displaced from Sayaan district of Saripul to Saripul center). The verification process is still on-going. UNHCR will provide further details as soon as they are verified.

### South-East Region

#### Paktiya

**Causes of Displacement:** 3 families (23 individuals) were displaced from Jaji Aryob and Sayed Karam districts of Pakitya province to the Beland Manzel area of Gardez city. According to the families, the main reason for their displacement was intimidation and harassment by AGEs, due to their particular profiles.

**Situation:** A joint team consisting of UNHCR, DoRR and APA conducted an assessment. Two families are living in rental houses, while the other family is living in a relative's house. They have access to the available social services in the area such as health clinics and schools. The heads of household for all three families have managed to find employment in Gardez city.

**Assistance:** The assessment team found the families not to be in need of immediate assistance, therefore no assistance has been provided at this time.

### Eastern Region

#### Nangarhar

**Causes of Displacement:** During July a total of 8 groups of IDPs were identified and assessed in Nangarhar province, consisting of 71 families (385 individuals). They were displaced during June and July 2013. Amongst them, 3 groups were displaced from within the province, namely from Kot, Khogyani and Hisarak districts to Rodat, Bihsud, Khogyani and Surkhrud districts. The rest of the groups were displaced from different districts of Kunar province to Nangarhar. The main reason for the displacement was harassment and intimidation by AGEs, as well as deterioration in the security situation. Families reported that they had been forced by AGEs to provide them with food on a regular basis. In addition, the cross-border shelling by Pakistani border forces has affected their normal livelihood and restricted their movements around the villages. Armed conflicts between governmental forces and AGEs have also damaged houses in the community.

**Situation:** A joint assessment was conducted by UNHCR, UNHCR Partners (APA and DCG), WFP and DoRR. The majority of IDPs are living in relatives' houses, while with others living in rented accommodation. The families do not have employment in their places of displacement.

**Assistance:** The families have been provided with food and NFIs by WFP and UNHCR.

#### Kunar

**Causes of Displacement:** During July 2013, a total of 13 groups of IDPs were identified and assessed in Kunar province, consisting of 154 families (777 individuals). They were displaced during June and July 2013. 12 of the 13 groups were displaced from within the Kunar province, namely from Ghaziabad, Marawara, Chapadara, Shigal, Dangam, Watapur and Nari districts to Shigal, Marawara, Asadabad, Nari and Khas Kunar districts. The major causes for their displacement have been reported as overall insecurity and armed conflict between governmental forces and AGEs in their areas, harassment and intimidation by AGEs including demands for food and assistance. Recent cross-border shelling by Pakistani border forces has also damaged some of their houses, killed

some of the community members and restricted their movements around the villages.

**Situation:** The families have been visited and assessed by UNHCR IP (DCG), WFP, DoRR and in some cases ARCS and DRRD. According to the assessment reports, the majority of IDPs are living in the houses of their relatives, while some of them are living in rental houses.

**Assessment:** UNHCR provided all the families with NFIs, including sanitary kits and tents, while WFP provided them with food.

### Central Highlands

#### Maidan Wardak

**Causes of Displacement:** During July 2013, 30 families (180 individuals) were displaced within the province, from Chak and Jalriz districts to Maidan Shahr, center of Maidan Wardak. The reasons for the displacement were conflict and insecurity.

**Situation:** A joint mission was conducted by DoRR and UNHCR. They are living in the houses of their relatives and local community and do not have to pay rent.

**Assistance:** The families were assessed to be in need of food and NFI, but their needs are not considered urgent. UNHCR will provide the list of all 30 families to WFP for provision of food assistance, and will shortly provide NFIs as well.

**Update on an earlier case in Behsud:** Following reports in May on displacement in Behsud I and Behsud II districts of Maidan Wardak province, an AIHRC mission in mid-June confirmed the displacement of 430 families (2,580 individuals) from both districts due to possible threat of conflict with Nomad Kuchis. On 30 June, the district Governor from Behsud II reported that armed confrontation between Kuchis and local population had started, resulting in many houses burnt. No information regarding casualties is currently available. Later in July, it was confirmed that reportedly 240 families (75 from Behsud I and 165 from Behsud II totally 1,440 individuals) had returned to their places of origin. The remaining IDPs (75 in Behsud I and 115 in Behsud II a total of 1,140 individuals) are currently living with their relatives. A joint decision was made by humanitarian agencies in the region not to provide assistance at this time, as this pattern of displacement is normally short-term and related to the migratory patterns of Kuchis. The remaining families are expected to return to their place of origin during August, when the Kuchis are anticipated to start to withdraw from the area.

### Western Region

#### Herat

**Causes of Displacement:** During the reporting month, 5 case-loads consisting of 153 families were reported by different sources as conflict induced IDPs. However, following a joint assessment by UNHCR, WFP, NRC, IRC and ARAA, it was discovered that the majority of the reported families were displaced many years ago. Only one case of 18 families (90 individuals) was found to be displaced within the last three months from Ghorian district of Herat to centre of Herat. The reasons given for displacement were general deterioration of the security situation as well as intimidation by AGEs.

**Assistance:** The 18 identified IDP families were all provided with NFIs and hygiene kits by IRC.

In addition, the IDP Task Force provided 137 families who had been identified and assessed in previous months with food, and 93 families with NFIs.

#### Badghis

**Causes of Displacement:** 354 families were reported to be displaced and scattered around Qala Naw city, centre of Badghis during April and May 2013. Following a joint assessment, it was concluded that out of the 354 reported families, only 73 families (369 individuals) met the criteria for conflict-induced IDPs. The remaining families either did not meet the criteria, or had already been identified, reported and assisted. 69 of the 73 families assessed as conflict-induced IDPs had left their places of origin in Bala Morghab, Ghormach, Abkamary, Qala Naw and Qades districts of Badghis for the centre of Qala Naw, while another 4 families came from Yatim Chah and Musa Qala districts of Helmand province.

**Situation:** Most of the 73 assessed IDP families are currently living in Qala Naw centre in rental houses and are not facing major humanitarian or protection challenges.

**Assistance:** No assistance was deemed necessary at this time.

**Update on existing caseload:** DRC/ARAA conducted a follow-up assessment to monitor the situation of 669 IDP families displaced in May from Abkamary district to Qala Naw and Laman districts of Badghis. They found that out of the 669 families, 406 families (2,306 individuals) had voluntarily returned to their places of origin during July 2013 after a government-led reconciliation effort. The rest of the displaced families (263 families) are still in displacement in Qala Naw (182 families) and Laman (81 families).

#### Ghor

**Causes of Displacement:** 4 groups, consisting of 26 families (114 individuals) were displaced during June and July 2013. These IDPs were displaced from Charsada, Jawand and Allahyar districts of Badghis. The reasons given for displacement were intimidation by AGEs and other Illegal Armed Groups as well as armed conflict in their areas.

**Situation:** A joint team of DoRR, ARAA and WFP conducted an assessment, and found out that all 4 IDP groups are currently living in the Cheghcheran centre and are not facing major humanitarian or protection problems.

**Assistance:** All 4 groups were provided with food and NFIs.

#### Farah

**Causes of Displacement:** During July 2013, 2 groups of IDPs consisting of 39 families (245 individuals) were displaced in Farah province, from Bala Buluk and Pusht-e-Rud districts of Farah, and 2 families from Shindand district of Herat. All the families are currently living in Farah city, the centre of Farah province. The families were displaced due to deterioration of security situation in their places of origin as well as the presence and intimidatory activities of AGEs and other Illegal Armed Groups, occasional military operations.

**Situation:** A joint assessment was conducted, which found that out of 39 families, 36 families were in need of food and NFIs.

**Assistance:** The 36 families were provided with food by WFP and NFIs by UNHCR.

