



CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

DECEMBER 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

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*).

Total 30 November 2012	Increase December 2012	Decrease December 2012	Overall change December 2012	Total displaced as at 31 December 2012	Total recorded in 2012
481,877	4,450	29	4,421	486,298	203,457

- **IDPs overall:** As at 31 December, 486,298 persons (76,335 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **December 2012:** 4,450 individuals (830 families) have been newly recorded as displaced due to conflict of whom 180 individuals (4%) were displaced in December, while 587 individuals (13%) were displaced in November and 341 individuals (8%) were displaced in October 2012. The remaining 3,342 individuals (75%) were displaced prior to October 2012.
- **Overall in 2012:** Since January 2012, a total of 203,457 conflict-induced IDPs have been recorded in Afghanistan. This figure includes 94,299 conflict-induced IDPs (46%) who were displaced in 2012 whereas 109,158 (54%) individuals were displaced prior to 2012.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION

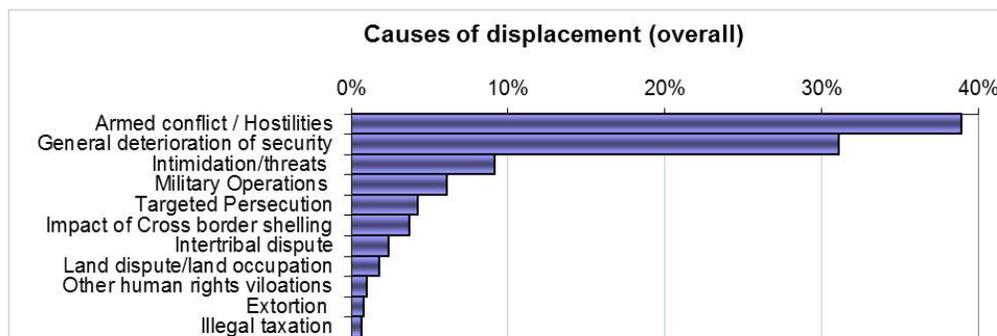
No new displacement was recorded in the South and Central regions as well as in the Central Highlands.

The Western region recorded the highest increase in the number of IDPs in December; however, only 149 IDPs of those recorded were actually displaced in December. Nearly all displacements recorded in December in the other regions, also relate to displacement prior to December.

Region	end-Nov 2012	Increase	Decrease	end-Dec 2012
North	53,949	390	-	54,339
South	138,889	-	29	138,860
Southeast	10,311	772	-	11,083
East	99,187	1,306	-	100,493
West	132,423	1,982	-	134,405
Central	47,118	-	-	47,118
Central High-lands	-	-	-	-
Total	481,877	4,450	29	486,298

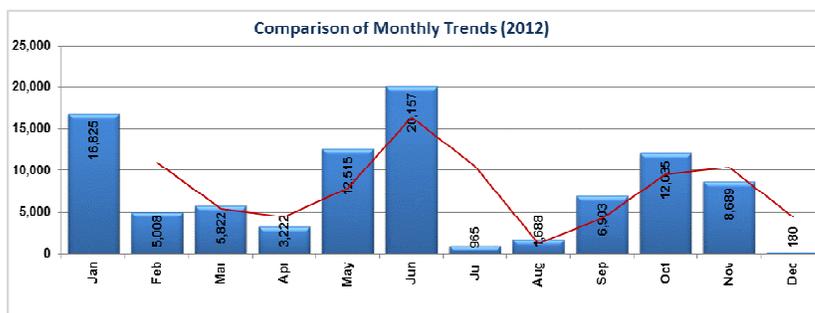
CAUSES FOR DISPLACEMENT IN 2012

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

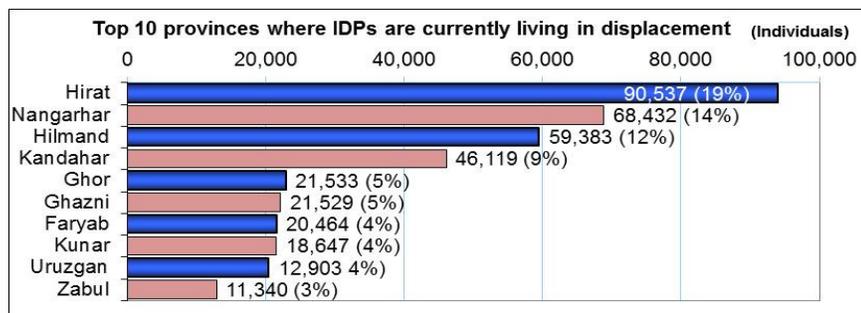


COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS

This chart describes the displacement trends by month. Since often displacement is only recorded several months after the displacement occurred, the monthly figures are continuously updated. The peak period in 2012 was the month of June, when military operations in the South, conflict over pasture land between Kutchi nomads and Hazara in the Central Region and conflict in the West prompted considerable displacement.



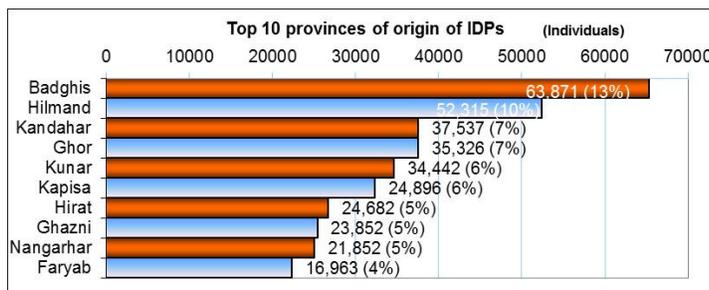
TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENTS



The Province of Herat currently hosts the largest conflict-induced IDP population (19%) in the country, followed by Nangarhar (14%), Helmand (12%), Kandahar (9%), Ghor (5%), Ghazni (5%), Kunar (4%), Faryab (4%), Uruzgan (4%), and Zabul (3%).

TOP 10 PROVINCES OF ORIGIN OF IDPS

Overall, the province of Badghis in the West has produced the largest number of displacements (13%), followed by Helmand (10%), Kandahar (7%), Ghor (7%), Kunar (6%), Kapisa (6%), Hirat (5%), Ghazni (5%), Nangarhar (5%), and Faryab (4%).



EMERGENCY NFI ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspice of the IDP Task Forces in December, 89,793 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members.

Region	UNHCR	IRC	ERM*	NRC	CARE Int.	DRC	Total
North	24,343	-	-	696	-	-	25,039
Northeast	195	-	-	-	-	-	195
South	82,396	1,351	-	-	-	-	83,747
SouthEast	4,125	1,238	-	-	-	-	5,363
East	6,250	441	-	165	-	-	6,856
West	21,894	8,785	483	114	-	-	31,276
Central	55,020	399	385	10,577	1,731	25,074	93,186
Central Highlands	-	-	7	-	-	-	7
Total	194,223	12,214	875	11,552	1,731	25,074	245,669

*ERM Consortium (SI, ACF and Medair)

Region	UNHCR	IRC	NRC	Total
North	1,903	-	348	2,251
Northeast	-	-	-	-
South	45,524	175	-	45,699
SouthEast	1,950	-	-	1,950
East	177	91	102	370
West	2,699	1,148	114	3,961
Central	35,562	-	-	35,562
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	87,815	1,414	564	89,793

Thus far in 2012, 245,669 conflict-induced IDPs have received an NFI package which consists of a minimum of six blankets, one plastic sheet, two jerry cans, cooking gas cylinder, kitchen set and plastic bucket.

In addition to assistance to newly displaced IDPs, UNHCR and the shelter/NFI cluster also organized winterization distribution to vulnerable IDPs, returnees and those who are living in destitute situations such as informal settlements. The winterization campaign targeted 40,000 families (240,000 persons) all over the country. The winterization assistance includes plastic sheets, blankets, winter clothes and shoes for children, heating material, and other items. The distribution started in November and will be concluded at the beginning of January.

KEY PROTECTION ISSUES BY REGION

General

During the assessments conducted in December, displaced persons reported increasing pressure by AGEs on the civilian population, especially on those who are employed by the government. This includes not only persons who work for government security providers such as ANA, ANP or ALP, but also teachers. AGEs often enter family residences, and request that family members quit their employment with the government or else have to expect severe punishment. It was also reported that families were requested to hand over family members who work with the security forces along with their weapons.

Northern Region

Faryab: In December, an interagency team, including government representatives, jointly assessed the situation of 14 families (84 individuals) of Pashtun ethnic origin who were displaced from Bala Murghab district of Badghis province to Qaysar district of Faryab Province in June 2012. These IDPs left their homes due to harassment and intimidation by AGEs, who accused them of supporting the government. AGEs forced the civilians to provide food, accommodation and money. The IDPs do have access to basic services such as drinking water, health clinics, market and education, but were in need of food, NFIs and heating material, which were provided by UN agencies.

Also, 51 families (306 individuals) of Uzbek ethnic origin who were displaced from Pashtun Kot district to Shirin Tagab district of Faryab province in August 2012, were assessed by an interagency team. The group was displaced due to armed conflict between two factions of the Junbish party. Reportedly, after one person was killed, the families left the area to avoid further deaths. Currently, most of IDP families reside in a school building or with the host community. The group was initially assisted by the hosting community and will receive food and NFI assistance by the international community. The IDPs intend to return, once the situation in their home villages has stabilized.

South-Eastern Region

Paktya: In December, DoRR and UNHCR's implementing partner IRC assessed the situation of 110 families (772 individuals) of Pashtun ethnic origin in Paktya province. 107 families (741 individuals) were already displaced at the beginning of 2012 from Jani Khail and Dand Patan districts to Chamkani and Dand Patan districts of Paktya province due to tribal conflict over landownership. The 107 families are accommodated by the host community. Assistance (food, NFIs and heating material) will be provided.

3 families (31 individuals) were displaced in December 2012 from Ali Khail district of Paktya to Gardez City due to AGEs/Taliban intimidation and harassment. The families were accused of working for the ANA or as supply transporters for the US army. The IDPs are staying in rented houses in Gardez City and work as daily laborers. All IDPs received winterization assistance.

Western Region

Herat: In December, a total of 409 IDP families (2,313 individuals) were assessed by a joint team consisting of government, UN agencies and NGOs. However, only 33 families/149 individuals were displaced in December 2012, and 261 families/1,351 individuals between April and November 2012. All other families were displaced prior to 2012. The families were displaced from Herat districts (Gulran, Kushk Rabat Sangi, Guzara, Kushk Kuhna and Shindand), from Badghis province (Moqor, Jawand and Bala Murghab districts), from Saghar district of Ghor, and from Khake Safid district of Farah province to Guzara and Injil districts of Herat province. A few families were displaced to Injil district of Herat province from Kandahar (South), from Jurm district of Badakhshan province and from Pashtun Kot district of Faryab (North). General insecurity, as well as intimidation, extortion and targeted persecution by AGEs remain the main cause of displacement in the West. In addition, forced recruitment and land disputes were other factors for displacement.

Badghis: 16 IDP families (84 individuals), displaced in October 2012 from Ghormach, Abkamary and Moqor districts due to insecurity, forced recruitment by AGEs, and armed conflict between ANA and AGEs were assessed jointly by DoRR, UNHCR/ARAA and IRC in December. IDPs are of Pashtun ethnic origin and are currently residing in Qala Naw center of Badghis in rented houses. The IDP families were not found to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Ghor: 32 families (195 individuals) of Tajik ethnic origin who were displaced between June and November 2012 from Charsada and Shahrak districts of Ghor and Jawnad district of Badghist to Chaghcharan center of Ghor province reported that fighting between AGEs and Government forces, as well as intimidation and forced recruitment prompted their displacement. The IDP families rented accommodation. 8 vulnerable families have been provided with NFIs.

Eastern Region

Nangarhar: Due to ongoing harassment and intimidation by AGEs and due to general insecurity, 54 families (303 individuals) fled Hesarak district in Nangarhar and Nari district in Kunar and arrived in Kama, Kuz Kunar and Behsud districts of Nangarhar in October and November 2012. A joint team comprised of DoRR, APA/UNHCR, WFP, IRC, NRC assessed the situation of IDPs in December. IDPs explained that AGEs increased intimidation and threats to families, whose members work for the government as school teachers, or with security forces. IDPs were provided accommodation by the host communities and some rented houses. All IDP families received food and NFIs by UNHCR, WFP, IRC, ICRC and NRC.

Nuristan: 141 families (993 individuals), displaced in October 2012 from Bargi Matal, Kamdesh and Mandol districts of Nuristan to Parun district of Nuristan province, were interviewed by DoRR and DCG/UNHCR in December. Continuous uncertain security situation (Bargi Matal) and AGEs harassment/intimidation by AGEs (Kamdesh) caused their displacement. IDPs from Kamdesh reported that AGEs demand support from the civilians in fighting the government. IDPs from the remote Mandol, reported hardship during their flight to Parun; five children died during the strenuous, several day long travel over mountain routes. In Parun, some IDP families found accommodation with the host community, some rented houses. All IDP families were assisted with food and NFIs by WFP and UNHCR.

Kunar: In October, 3 families (10 individuals) forced to leave their place of origin from Nari district of Kunar to Sarkani district of Kunar province due to regular harassment and intimidation by AGEs at their place of origin. DoRR, WFP and APA (UNHCR IP) assessed situation of IDPs in December. The IDPs explained that one of their family members is working with ANA in Khost province and were regularly approached by AGEs, who threatened them to quit working/support Afghan government otherwise they would face serious consequences. Furthermore the group reported intensification of AGEs activities in different parts of Nari district, Kunar province. IDPs were provided accommodation by the host communities. All IDP families received food and NFIs by UNHCR and WFP.

