

AFGHANISTAN

CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

01 – 31 January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

KEY FIGURES

- 12,754 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in January 2015
- Of these:
 - 22 % displaced in Jan 2015
 - 50 % in Dec 2014
 - 9 % in Nov 2014
 - 9 % in Oct 2014
 - 10 % earlier
- Of these:
 - 49 % male
 - 51% female
 - 60% children
- End January 2015 → 818,163 IDPs assessed/profiled

PARTNERSHIP

- National IDP Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and co-chaired by UNHCR. It is also linked to the Afghanistan Protection Cluster.
- Regional IDP Task Forces chaired by DORR and co-chaired by UNHCR in Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar, Kandahar and Kabul. The Regional IDP Task Forces verify and assess new displacements; coordinate and respond to the immediate emergency needs of IDPs.

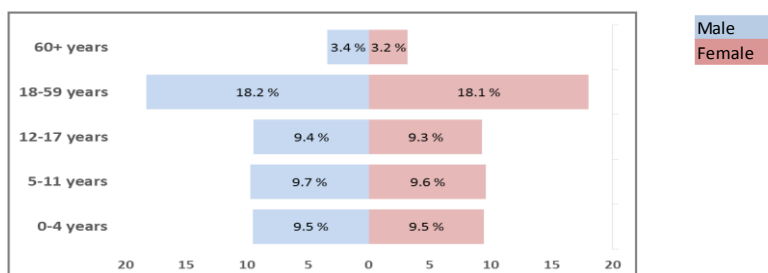


IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity

Region	end-Dec 2014	New IDPs profiled in Jan	end-Jan 2015
South	210,210	2,987	213,197
West	203,165	1,784	204,949
East	139,036	932	139,968
North	104,803	3,539	108,342
Central	129,589	3,512	133,101
Southeast	18,523	-	18,523
Central Highlands	83	-	83
Total profiled	805,409	12,754	818,163

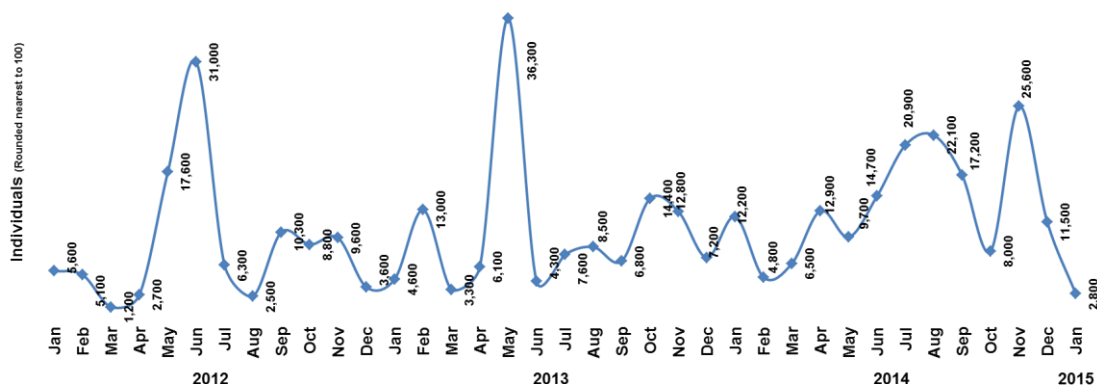
Note: This table represents the number of IDPs profiled during the month and the cumulative population profiled since 2002. Figures do not cover areas where displacement cannot be verified due to lack of access. Furthermore, there might be displacement and return movements that are not fully accounted for. IDPs reached by other actors are not included in the profiling until they are verified by the TFs.

Age and Gender breakdown of the profiled population



- Causes of displacement:** displacement continues to be triggered by armed conflict between non-state armed groups (AGEs) and Afghan Security National Forces (ANSF), as well as by military operations. Secondary causes included harassment and intimidation by AGEs as well as tribal/ethnic disputes.
- Primary needs:** Primary needs of the profiled population continued to be food and NFIs.
- Assistance overview:** The majority of IDPs profiled received food and NFIs through partners of the IDP Task Forces in the regions. In addition, the most vulnerable IDPs received winterization and cash assistance. (See details of assistance breakdown page 4).
- Challenges:** Lack of access to displacement areas to verify new arrivals and respond to immediate needs of IDPs continues to be a challenge for the IDP Task Forces. This needs to be considered when reading the figures. Currently, 50% of the new displacement is assessed within a month from displacement.

Actual displacement trends January 2012 - January 2015



Note: The dates in this chart represent the time of displacement as reported by the profiled IDPs.

MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF THE 10 TOP PROVINCES - PROFILED**Top 10 Provinces****Highest number of IDPs profiled in the current month**

Province	No. of families	No. of individuals
Parwan	473	3,020
Kunduz	237	1,429
Faryab	226	1,419
Helmand	171	1,330
Herat	274	1,241
Kandahar	150	1,066
Uruzgan	69	591
Badghis	102	541
Nangarhar	96	509
Badakhshan	65	367

Other smaller-scale displacements have been profiled in Kabul, Sar-i-Pul, Kapisa, Kunar, Jawzjan and Takhar provinces

Overall Analysis (by area of displacement)

The month of January registered increasing displacements in the Central region (particularly from Provinces on the eastern edge); in the North-East (within Kunduz); in the North-West (Faryab) and in the Southern region (Helmand). Most of the fresh displacement was generated by clashes between security forces and armed-opposition groups. In the Southern region displacement was also triggered by a surge of military operations (see page 4 “Displacement watch”).

Central Region**Parwan Province**

473 families (3,020 individuals) were displaced to Parwan from Tagab and Nejrab districts of Kapisa province; Sorobi district of Kabul province; Shinwari and Seya Gerd districts of Parwan province; Norgram district of Nuristan province; and Alishang district of Laghman province. These groups were found and profiled in Charikar, Bagram, Said Khil and Jabal Saraj districts of Parwan. Reportedly, the displacement happened with repeated movements from September 2014 to January 2015, mainly due to insurgencies and counter insurgency operations in the areas of origin. Such operations negatively affected the security and safety of the civilian population, disrupting normal life and forcing people to move. Reportedly, AGEs took advantage of civilian properties and villages to support and supply their positions and engage with Government forces. The assessment conducted during the month revealed that the majority of IDPs are currently living in rented houses and some are hosted by the local community. The

proximity to Kabul metropolitan area facilitates access to basic social services, including health facilities and education. An initial assessment on the situation of IDPs has been jointly conducted during the month in review, by DoRR, WSTA (UNHCR partner), WFP and OCHA. Based on the assessment findings, 273 families were identified as in need of humanitarian assistance including NFI and food. CARE International distributed winterization assistance to 300 families. The results of the assessment were also shared with other international NGOs for consideration and possible additional support.

Northern Region**Kunduz Province**

237 families (1,429 individuals) were profiled in January. IDPs originated from different villages of Khanabad district of Kunduz province and moved to Khanabad district center. The displacement occurred in mid-December and followed a confrontation between two armed groups, which forced the civilian population to leave their villages. Reportedly, the clashes started during the second week of December, and are still sporadically occurring in various locations of Khanabad, with unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties. IDPs were jointly assessed by DoRR, NRC, WFP and AHEAD (UNHCR's partner). During the assessment, almost all the IDP families expressed their intention to return to their places of origin as soon as the conflict subsides. The majority of the displaced families are hosted by the local community. The IDP Task Force has been mobilized for assistance delivery in February.

Faryab Province

226 families (1,419 individuals) have been profiled during the month. They were displaced from several remote villages of Pashtunkot district to Pashtunkot district center and to Maimana provincial center. According to the consulted IDPs, the displacement occurred between September and November 2014, triggered by armed confrontation between ANSF and AGEs, as well as by clashes between the armed members of two prominent parties in the province. During the assessment, the majority of IDPs were living in rented houses or hosted by the community. In January, NRC distributed cash grants to 36 families and NFIs to 18 families, while the IDP Task Force in Maimana assisted the rest of vulnerable IDPs with food and other NFIs. Almost all families declared their intention to return to their places of origin as soon as the security situation improves.

Badakhshan Province

65 families (367 individuals) have been profiled after being displaced from Jurm and Warduj districts to Baharak district in August 2014. General insecurity caused by AGEs' presence was cited as the main reason for flight. The majority of IDPs were found living in rented houses, while some families were also hosted by their relatives in Baharak. A response is being coordinated through the IDP Task Force, to provide food and NFIs, identified by the population as primary needs.

Southern Region

Helmand Province

Between 25 and 28 January 2015 the Kandahar IDP Task Force coordinated an assessment in Lashkargah and Gerishk districts (UN, INGOs, NGOs, Governor's Office and other departments including DoRR and ANDMA). 93 families/692 individuals were identified and profiled in Lashkargah, mainly originating from Marja and Nawzad districts. The displacement followed the intensification of the conflict in the area. In addition, 78 families/638 individuals were identified and profiled in Gerishk district, displaced mainly from Nawzad. Families were hosted by communities or in rented houses, and minimal emergency shelter assistance was provided for extremely dire cases. The assessment team identified the presence of children in need for health and sanitation support and referred the cases.

Kandahar Province

During the reporting period, military operations in Ghorak district as well as armed conflict in Khakrez district of Kandahar Province caused displacement to Kandahar city. Following information from partners on the ground, an assessment was conducted by the IDP Task Force between 25 and 29 January (DoRR, UNHCR, WFP, DRC, APA, HAPA, NRC, IOM, PG office and Department of Economy). Some 150 families/1,066 individuals were profiled. The assessment included IDPs from Khakrez district of Kandahar (67 families); from Ghorak district of Kandahar (18 families); from Sangin district of Helmand (61 families); and few families from Kajaki district of Helmand province. Assistance (food and NFIs) is being coordinated within the IDP Task Force.

Uruzgan Province

69 families (591 individuals) were displaced from Chanarto district and Garmaba area in Trinkot to Trinkot city, the provincial center of Uruzgan. Fight between AGEs and ANSF was reported as the main cause of displacement. The IDP task force was mobilized to distribute assistances (food and NFI).

Western Region

Herat Province

During the month, 274 families (1,241 individuals) were profiled as displaced in Herat urban area and in Enjil district of Herat province in 11 separate groups. The reported areas of origin were Ghormach, Qadis, Bala Murghab, Abkamary and Jawand districts in Badghis Province; Shahrak and Dolaina districts in Ghor Province; and Kushk Kuhna district within Herat Province. Displacement reportedly occurred from August to December 2014. Military operations and armed conflicts between AGEs and ANSFs as well as intimidation and harassment by AGEs (extortion, illegal taxation and forced recruitment) were mentioned as the main factors triggering the displacement. IDPs in Enjil were found in makeshift shelters, while IDPs in Herat city generally managed to rent houses. NFIs have been distributed to all IDP families; 90 families were assisted with winter kits, hygiene promotion and water chlorination kits; few families received cash assistance.

Badghis Province

102 families (541 individuals) were displaced from Qadis, Abkamary, Ghormach and Moqor districts of Badghis to the provincial center, Qala Naw city. The displacements occurred in December 2014 and January 2015. IDPs are currently living in semi-urban areas in rented houses. The joint assessment team recommended food and NFIs for all families. So far, 60 families received food and NFI assistance.

Eastern Region

Nangarhar Province

96 families (509) were assessed as displaced from various districts of Nangarhar Province (Khugyani, Shirzad, Ghani Khil, Dehbala, Achin, Chaparhar and Surkhrod); Kunar Province (Dangam); and Laghman Province (Alingar and Alishang). IDPs mainly moved towards Jalalabad urban areas or towards neighbouring districts (Surkhrod, Bihsud). According to the population consulted, the displacement occurred from June to December 2014, largely triggered by armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF. Reportedly, the confrontations occurred in the vicinity of residential areas, increasing the insecurity and restricting population movements. In January, IDPs were jointly assessed by UNHCR partners, WFP, NRC, IRC and DoRR. NFIs, Cash grants, food and Sanitary Kits were distributed to the IDPs.

BREAKDOWN OF ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION BY IDP TASK FORCES (FAMILIES)

Regions	NFI					Food		Cash		Winterization Assistance			Sanitary Kits		Solar lamps
	UNHCR	ICRC	NRC	DRC	IRC	WFP	ICRC	NRC	DRC	UNHCR	CARE	IRC	UNHCR	SC	UNHCR
Central region											300				
Southern region															
Western region		106		124	71	60			7			90			
Eastern region		59	35	16	7	117		31		110		7	169		
South - east															
Central highlands															
Northern region	284	345	130			284	345	284						50	

Source: IDP Task Forces in the region.

DISPLACEMENT WATCH**Situation in Helmand province**

Military operations are intensifying in the Kajaki and Sangin districts of Helmand, and may possibly be extended to the whole north/north-west of the Province. While massive displacement to Lashkargah and Greshk district (currently the only two accessible locations for the IDP Task Force members) has not yet been reported, the presence of displaced populations in inaccessible areas sealed off by the Army or otherwise not reachable by humanitarians is likely. The Task Force in Kandahar is following up closely the situation, in coordination with the provincial authorities in Helmand. It is believed that the continuation and possible expansion of the operations may trigger displacement in the coming months/weeks, particularly to Lashkargah.

Other possible hotspots: The Northern Region (Kunduz Province and Faryab Province/Qadis district) as well as the Central Region (Wardak, Kapisa) may see increasing displacement triggered by renewed confrontations between security forces and insurgents.

NATIONAL IDP POLICY UPDATE

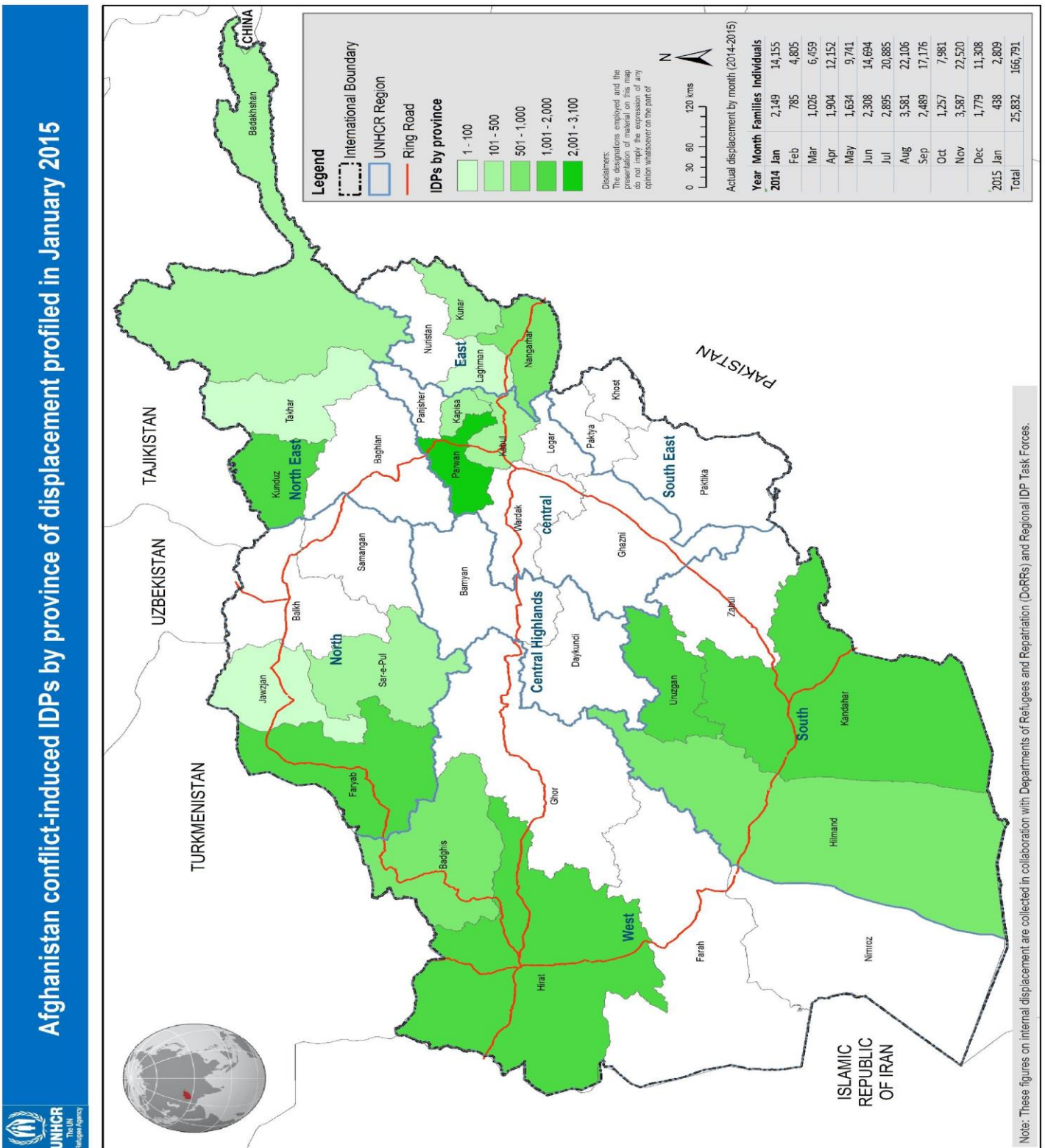
The attention of the Government of Afghanistan towards the implementation of the 2013 IDP Policy has increased. Statements from the Presidency and other high level officials have brought new emphasis on the commitment to find solutions to internal displacement in the country.

The IDP Policy implementation is progressing, starting from Nangarhar Province. In January, preparations were completed for the creation of the “Nangarhar Provincial IDP Policy implementation Committee”, established under the leadership of the provincial Governor at the beginning of February and tasked to draft and implement a Provincial Action Plan to comprehensively address displacement in the area. The first meeting of the Committee was convened on February 10th with the endorsement of its Terms of Reference, including the creation of a time-bound sub-Committee who will be working specifically on the development of the Action Plan.

In Herat and Mazar, sensitisation on the IDP Policy and discussions with local authorities continued during the month to pave the way for the establishment of the provincial structure in charge for developing the Provincial Action Plan.

The national IDP Policy Working Group is finalizing a package of dissemination materials on the IDP Policy to be used by various actors for dissemination purposes (Briefing note, Guide for Officials, Community brochure). The package of dissemination materials is expected to be finalised by end February.

“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, situation of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. (Refer: Section 3.1 of the Afghanistan National IDP Policy, November 2013).”



Note: These figures on internal displacement are collected in collaboration with Departments of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRRs) and Regional IDP Task Forces.

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