

CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

MAY 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

Total April 2013	Increase May 2013	Decrease May 2013	Overall change May 2013	Total displaced as at 31 May 2013	Total recorded in 2013
535,936	34,769	0	34,769	570,705	89,746

- **IDPs overall:** As at 31 May, 570,705 persons (89,006 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **May 2013*:** 34,769 individuals (5,150 families) have been recorded as newly displaced due to conflict of whom 31,797 individuals (91%) were displaced in May, while 1,737 individuals (5%) were displaced in April, 398 individuals (1%) in March and 30 individuals in January 2013. The remaining 807 individuals (2%) were displaced in November 2012.

*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*).

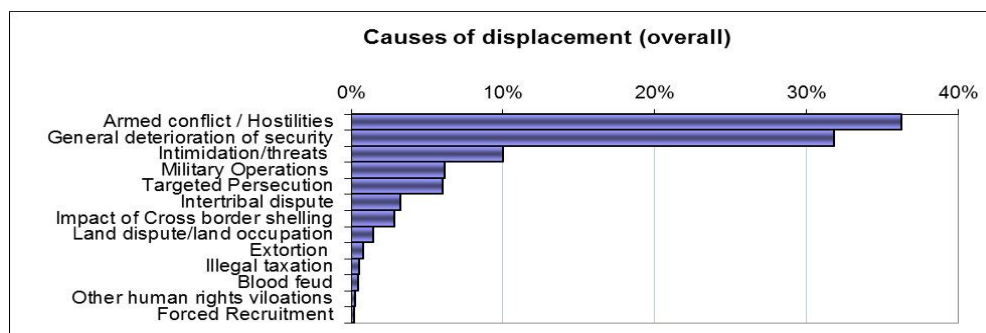
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION 2013

Of the total reported displacement in May 2013, the Southern region reported the highest increase in the number of IDPs. The key causes of displacement in this region were military operation and armed conflict. The Western region reported the second highest number of displacements mainly due to tribal conflict, deterioration of general security, threats and intimidation by AGEs. The Northern Region reported the third highest number of displacement where people were compelled to move due to heavy fighting between ANSF and AGEs as well as threats and intimidation by AGEs. The main reasons for displacement in the Eastern region included intimidation by AGEs and an incident of armed clashes between Afghan and Pakistani border police forces. No displacement has been reported in the South-east, Central and Central highlands for this month.

Region	end-Apr 2013	Increase	Decrease	end-May 2013
North	64,112	969	-	65,081
South	151,627	27,706	-	179,333
Southeast	12,371	-	-	12,371
East	103,075	625	-	103,700
West	153,313	5,469	-	158,782
Central	51,438	-	-	51,438
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	535,936	34,769	0	570,705

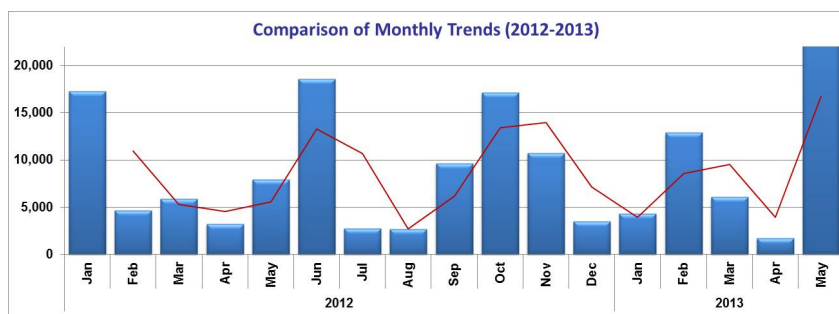
CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

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.

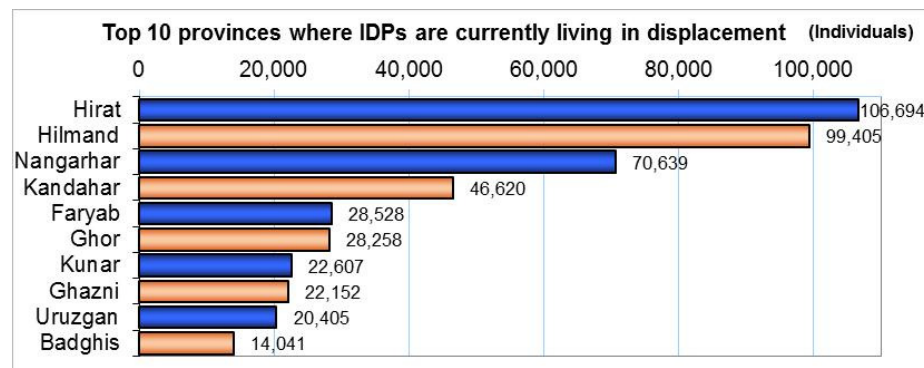


COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS (2012-2013)

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.



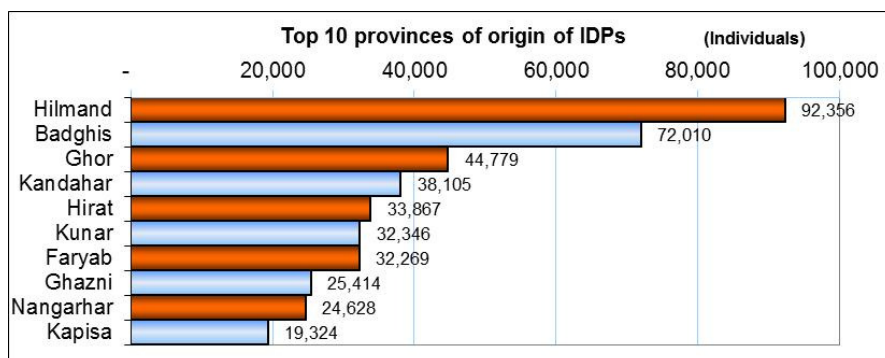
TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT



The Province of Hirat currently hosts the largest conflict-induced IDP population (19%) in the country, followed by Hilmand (17%), Nangarhar (12%), Kandahar (8%), Faryab (5%), Ghor (5%), Kunar (4%), Ghazni (4%), Uruzgan (4%), and Zabul (2%).

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 (5%), Nangarhar (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 - May 2013)

Region	UNHCR	SCI	IOM	NRC	Total
North	7,758	1,846	-	1,392	10,996
Northeast	1,704	-	-	-	1,704
South	22,440	-	-	-	22,440
SouthEast	-	-	-	-	-
East	1,974	-	-	348	2,322
West	5,050	-	-	522	5,572
Central	9,456	-	-	-	9,456
Central Highlands	-	35	531	-	566
Total	48,382	1,881	531	2,262	53,056

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspices of the IDP Task Force 53,056 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members in 2013. In May 2013, a total of 20,571 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

Eastern region

Nangarhar

Situation/causes of displacement: On 1 May, 6 families (30 individuals) were displaced within Gushta district of Nangarhar province due to armed clashes between Afghan and Pakistani border police forces over the positioning of border assets. On 23 January, 3 families (30 individuals) were displaced from Hisarak district to Bihsud district of Nangarhar province because of AGEs intimidation

Assessment: The displaced families were jointly assessed by WFP, UNHCR IP (APA) NRC and DoRR on 13 May 2013. The 3 families explained that they are government supporters and that one of their family members used to work as a policeman in Hisarak district. They reported being threatened and intimidated by AGEs approaching their residences and ordering them to quit supporting the government. In addition, the IDPs reported an intensification of AGE activities in different areas of Hisarak district. The IDP families also experienced frequent armed clashes between AGEs and governmental forces in different villages of Hisarak district which caused 4 injured women and damage to houses. The 6 families are hosted by their relatives, while the 3 families are living in rented houses. All IDP families have been assisted with NFIs and food.

Nuristan

Situation/causes of displacement: 35 families (153 individuals) were displaced from Chapa Dara district of Kunar, Kamdish district of Nuristan and Dawlat Shah district of Laghman to Wama district of Nuristan on 24 March 2013 due to intimidation by t AGEs.

Assessment: The IDPs were assessed jointly by UNHCR IP (DCG), WFP and DoRR on 25 April 2013. The families stated that AGEs used to approach their villages and ask the men to support them in fighting against the government. In addition, the IDP families from Chapa Dara district claimed that the AGEs were frequently attacking the governmental district offices of their villages and that the government forces were targeting the AGEs' hideouts causing damage to the houses, disrupting livelihoods and restricting freedom of movement. The IDPs stated that during the past 2 months, 3 civilians were killed during cross fire in Chapa Dara district. The IDPs explained that AGEs' activities usually intensify in the summer. Out of the 35 families, 7 families had left Dawlat Shah district of Laghman due to a blood feud caused by a conflict over cultivated land. All the IDP families are hosted by their relatives and friends and have been assisted with food and NFIs.

Kunar

Situation/causes of displacement: 66 families (412 individuals) were displaced within Khas Kunar district of Kunar on 1 April 2013. Reportedly the IDPs had been targeted by AGEs because they were considered to be supporting the government.

Assessment: The IDPs were assessed by a joint assessment team

consisting of UNHCR IP (APA), WFP and DoRR. According to the IDPs, AGEs contacted the representatives of this IDP community and warned them to stop supporting the government. The families decided to leave their place of origin and seek safety. The IDP families are currently hosted by community members. The IDPs stated that they would move to another location if the security situation does not improve. The IDPs received NFIs and food.

Northern region

Balkh

Situation/causes of displacement: 11 IDP families (99 individuals) were identified and assessed in Mazar city of Balkh province. 5 families were displaced from Nahrishayi district of Balkh while 6 families were displaced from Chimtal district of Balkh. All families were displaced in November 2012 when the male members of the families were summoned by the AGEs to join them and fight against the government forces.

Assessment: The families were identified and assessed in April 2013 by UNHCR, WFP, NRC and DoRR. The families are currently living in rented houses. Some of the IDP children were reported not to be attending school because of the schools expenses.

The IDPs will be assisted with food and NFIs while a solution to the schooling issue will be looked into.

Faryab

Situation/causes of displacement: 2,033 families (12,198 individuals) were displaced between 22 and 24 April 2013 within Qaisar district. Among them, 5 families moved immediately from Qaisar district to Maimana city. Out of the total families displaced, 1,915 families are newly displaced while 118 families are secondarily displaced. All families were displaced as a result of heavy fighting between AGEs and ANSF in Qaisar district which resulted in AGEs occupying Khuja Kinti village of Qaisar district, where the 118 families, originally from Ghormach district, were initially displaced. These 118 IDP families are currently displaced in Nahrin and surrounding villages in Qaisar district center.

Assessment: Initial joint assessments were carried out in accessible villages around Qaisar district. Since the IDP families were displaced in inaccessible locations, because of ongoing fighting and risk of land mines, WFP and partners initiated a remote assessment of the situation on 5 and 6 May. The newly displaced families (1,915 families) returned spontaneously to their place of origin on 11, 12 and 13 May 2013, while the IDPs who are in secondary displacement (118 families, 708 individuals) opted to remain in the current location where they are currently staying with the host community. The regional IDP task force in the North recommended that the entire group of 1,915 families who have returned to their

place of origin should be given NFIs and food assistance subject to the assessment in their place of origin. The group of 118 families in secondary displacement is also recommended for NFIs and food assistance. Out of 118 families only 13 families have been so far assisted by NRC with NFIs.

Badakhshan

Situation/causes of displacement: Following on the displacement in Badakhshan in April, a further 27 families (162 individuals) were displaced from Warduj district of Badakhshan to Baharak district of the same province in March 2013. Armed conflict, military operations and generalized violence were reported to be the main causes of their displacement.

Assessment: UNHCR and relevant actors present in Badakhshan jointly assessed the situation of these IDPs in April and provided NFIs and food assistance to the entire group.

Western region

Herat

Situation/causes of displacement: 7 families (36 individuals) were displaced from Ghormach district of Badghis (5 families) and Qaisar district of Faryab (2 families) to Injil district of Herat on 10 April 2013. The reasons provided for the displacement relate to conflict, general deterioration of the security situation and high presence of AGEs in their area of origin. The IDPs reported that civilians were frequently threatened and forced to give money to the insurgents.

Assessment: On 12 May, the IDPs were assessed jointly by the IDP Task Force - including WFP, UNHCR, OCHA, DRC and ARAA (UNHCR IP). The IDP families are living in houses provided to them by the host community and they will be provided with NFI and food assistance.

Ghor

Situation/Causes of displacement: 208 families (1,361 individuals) were displaced during March, April and May 2013 due to inter-tribal conflicts (respectively 80 families from Shahrak district of Ghor, 122 families from Du Layna district of Ghor and 6 families from Jawand district of Badghis) where allegedly AGEs took sides in the disputes.

The majority of the IDP families are displaced within their districts (Shahrak and Du Layna) while only 8 families moved to another district (to Cheghcheran, center of Ghor).

Assessment: Joint assessments were carried out from 14-19 May by DoRR, ARAA (UNHCR IP), WFP, ACF and other governmental agencies. Some IDP families reported that they would return to their place of origin once the hostilities end. All the IDP families are currently lodged by the host community.

The IDP families received NFIs (168 families from ACF, 32 families (including food) from ARCS and 8 families from UNHCR). Further food assistance will be delivered to the IDPs as soon as the security situation allows it.

Badghis

Situation/causes of displacement: 669 families (3,800 individuals) were displaced from Abkamary district to Qala Naw city of Badghis, between March, April and May 2013 due to tribal conflict while 31 families (194 individuals) were displaced from Muqur district to Qala Naw due to conflict between AGEs and ANSF.

Assessment: The IDPs were jointly assessed by DoRR, ARAA (UNHCR IP), WFP and IRC on 24 April and 14 May 2013. The IDPs received NFIs and tents from IRC and food assistance from WFP. Approximately 300 families located in Laman area of Qala Naw city will be provided with safe drinking water by IRC.

Farah

Situation/causes of displacement: 11 IDP families (78 individuals) were displaced from Balabolok district to Bagh-e-Naw area in the vicinity of Farah city center on 15 April 2013 due to general deterioration of the security situation, military operation and extortion by AGEs.

Assessment: A needs assessment was conducted by the IDP Task force including DoRR Farah, and UNHCR IP VARA on 11 May 2013. NFIs have been provided to all families while food assistance will be distributed shortly.

Southern Region

Helmand

Situation/causes of displacement: Initial rapid assessments indicate that some 3,958 families (approx. 27,700 individuals) were displaced around 20 May, as a result of heavy fighting and a military operation in five northern districts of Helmand province, namely Sangin (1053 families, 7371 individuals), Musa Qala (1240 families, 8680 individuals), Nawzad (530 families, 3710 individuals), Kajaki (420 families, 2940 individuals) and Washer (715 families, 5005 individuals) to other areas within their districts. About 100 families were displaced to Lashkargah. Further displacements could be expected if the conflict continues at the present pace and intensity.

Assessment: A number of joint assessments have been carried out and medical emergency kits have been provided by WHO to the affected population. Further identified humanitarian needs such as shelter, food and water will be delivered as soon as the security situation allows it.

Kandahar

On 28 May, ANDMA reported that 1,100 families have been displaced within Panjwai district as well as to Kandahar city. This displacement has not been yet verified.

