

CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

MARCH 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

Total 28 February 2013	Increase March 2013	Actual known displacement recorded at 31 March 2013	Decrease March 2013	Overall change March 2013	Total displaced as at 31 March 2013	Total recorded in 2013
502,628	31,378	4,705	0	31,378	534,006	47,722

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*).

- **IDPs overall:** As at 31 March, 534,006 persons (82,632 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **March 2013*:** 31,378 individuals (3,807 families) have been recorded as newly displaced due to conflict of whom 4,705 individuals (15%) were displaced in March, while 18,018 individuals (57%) were displaced in February, 572 individuals (2%) in January 2013. The remaining 8,083 individuals (26%) were displaced prior to January 2013.

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

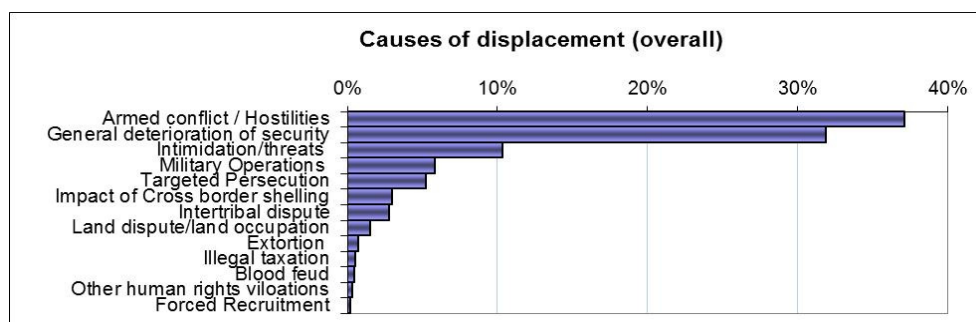
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION 2013

Of the total known displacement in March 2013, the Southern region reported the highest increase in the number of IDPs. The key causes of displacement cited by IDPs are military operation and insecurity. The Western region has the second highest number of displacements, which is mainly due to general insecurity, threats, intimidation and extortion by AGEs and tribal conflict, followed by the Central Region, where people were displaced due to increased violence and insecurity. The Northern region cited the causes for their displacement as armed conflict, general insecurity, threats/intimidation by AGEs, inter-tribal conflict and harassment by AGEs. No new displacement was reported in the South-east and Central Highland in March.

Region	end-Feb 2013	Increase	Decrease	end-Mar 2013
North	57,359	3,247	-	60,606
South	139,392	17,560	-	156,952
Southeast	12,340	-	-	12,340
East	101,784	863	-	102,647
West	144,635	5,388	-	150,023
Central	47,118	4,320	-	51,438
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	502,628	31,378	-	534,006

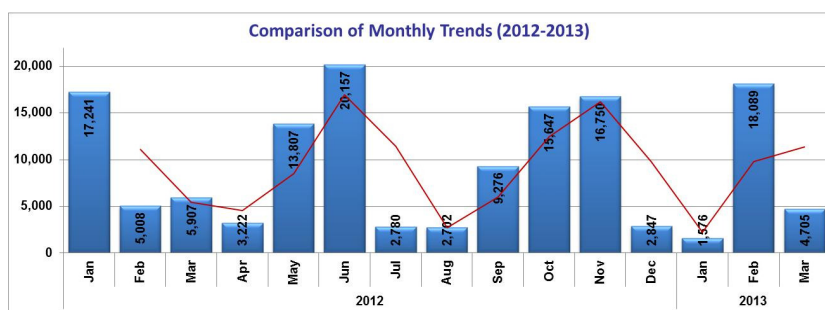
CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

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.

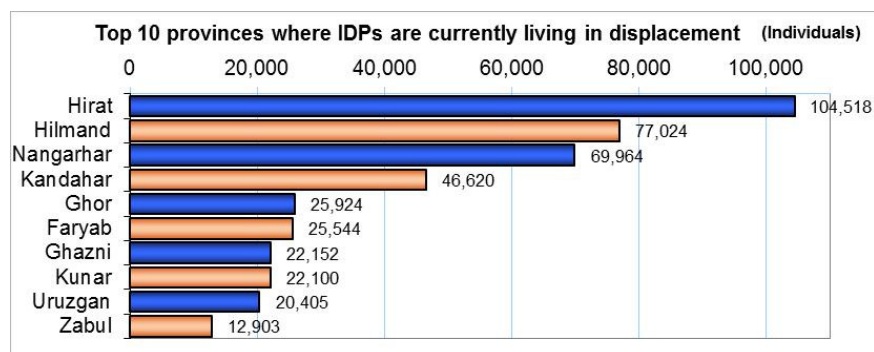


COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS (2012-2013)

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.



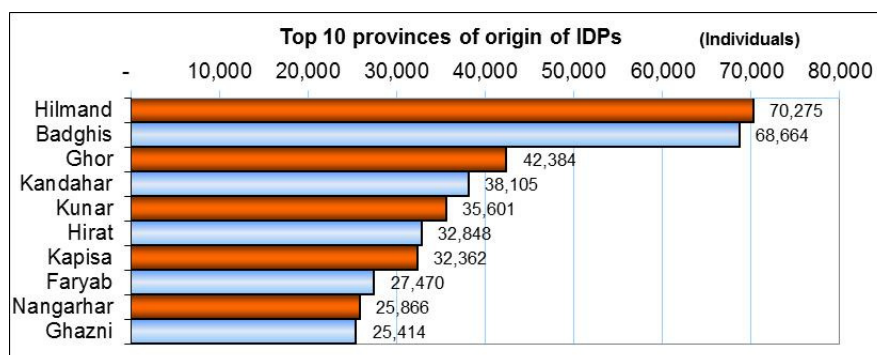
TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT



The Province of Hirat currently hosts the largest conflict-induced IDP population (20%) in the country, followed by Hilmand (14%), Nangarhar (13%), Kandahar (9%), Ghor (5%), Faryab (5%), Ghazni (4%), Kunar (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 (13%), followed by Badghis (12%), Ghor (8%), Kandahar (7%), Kunar (6%), Hirat (6%), Kapisa (6%), Faryab (5%), Nangarhar (5%) and Ghazni (5%).



EMERGENCY NFI ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS

Number of Individual IDPs assisted with NFIs by Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster (January to March 2013)

Region	UNHCR	SCI	Total
North	4,400	1,846	6,246
Northeast	600	-	600
South	8,054	-	8,054
SouthEast	-	-	-
East	821	-	821
West	3,079	-	3,079
Central	9,348	-	9,348
Central Highlands	-	-	-
Total	26,302	1,846	28,148

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspices of the IDP Task Force 28,148 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members in 2013.

In March 2013, a total of 15,725 conflict-induced IDP individuals have 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

March Highlight

In March 2013, as a result of an intense military operation between ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) and the Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) in Warduj district of Badakhshan province, about 200 families have reportedly been displaced from the villages of Morkani, Abjen, Hawar, Yakhshira, Ghano, Ghenjan of Warduj to Baharak district (Dashte Farakh) and within Warduj district (Chakaran, Sangani and other villages). Joint assessments of the situation of displaced families were carried out by DoRR, UNHCR IP (AHEAD), ARCS, Merlin in Baharak district. 157 families (in Baharak district) have received emergency humanitarian assistance consisting food and NFIs from UNHCR, WFP and ARCS. The IDPs are accommodated with their relatives/friends in very poor condition and some of them are staying in abandoned houses in Baharak. The local authorities confirm that ANSF supported by the International Military Forces (IMF) managed to gain control of the situation in Warduj District. Warduj district still remains inaccessible for the UN agencies and NGOs can visit only district center. In December 2011, displacement due to conflict took place in Warduj district where 304 families were displaced, but they went back home after two weeks when the Afghan Security Forces and ISAF forces had cleared the district.

Northern Region

Balkh: 167 families/1,023 individuals, of Pashtun and Arab ethnic origin were displaced from Qaisar and Khwaja Sabz Posh districts of Faryab, Chimalt district of Balkh and Sari-e-Pul district to Dihdadi, Nahri Shahi and Mazar districts of Balkh province due to general insecurity, armed conflict, threats / intimidation by AGEs and targeted persecution. UNHCR, WFP, NRC and DoRR assessed the situation of IDPs in January and February 2013. Out of the total recorded displacement, only 46 families/278 individuals were displaced in March 2013, while the rest (121 families/745 individuals) displaced between May – August 2012. The majority of IDPs are currently living in rented houses within Mazar City, while some others with relatives/friends. UNHCR, WFP and NRC provided food and NFIs. Cash assistance was also provided to some IDP families by NRC.

Faryab: In March, UNHCR and WFP partners, Save the Children and DoRR jointly assessed the situation of 244 families/1,475 individuals of Uzbek and Tajik ethnic origin who were displaced in November 2012. They were displaced from Kohistanat and Pashtun Kot districts to Gurziwan, Maymana and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab. General insecurity, targeted persecution by AGEs, inter-tribal conflict and personal hostilities were stated as causes of displacement. IDPs were provided accommodation by the host communities as well as some IDPs rented houses in Maimana city. Provision of food and NFIs are due to be distributed.

Sar-e-Pul: 152 families/749 individuals, of Aymoq and Tajik ethnic origin were displaced from Sangcharak and Kohistanat districts of Sar-e-Pul to Sar-e-Pul center, as a result of insecurity, armed conflict, forced recruitment and illegal taxation by AGEs. They were displaced during October 2012 and February 2013. UNHCR, WFP monitors, NRC, Save the Children and DoRR jointly assessed their situation in January and February 2013. The majority of IDPs rented houses, while some were provided accommodation by the host communities and few joined their relatives/friends. Four Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) cases were identified among this group and are yet to be assisted. All IDP families were provided food and NFIs by WFP, UNHCR, NRC and Save the Children in February.

Central Region

In March 2013, 720 families/4,320 individuals of Pashtun ethnic origin were forced to flee to Maidan Shahr and PD 5 of Kabul City from Chak, Jalriz, Nirkh and Maidan Shahr districts of Wardak province due to increased violence. They are staying with their relatives and friends. Joint verification and assessment was carried out by ANDMA, DoRR, UNHCR/DRC, WFP and OCHA in March. The families are currently, scattered throughout Maidan Shahr and Kabul city, making the verification and tracking difficult. Distribution of food and NFIs by UNHCR and WFP was started on 9th April.

Southern Region

Due to the military operation under UMAID started in Kajaki in February and extended to Nahri Seraj and Therikh Nawar of Merjah districts, 1,360 families/17,560 individuals were displaced from Marjah, Nahri Saraj and Kajaki districts to Lashkar Gah City of Helmand province. DoRR Helmand, WFP monitors, IOM and UNHCR Liaison Officer carried out an assessment of the situation of IDPs in March. The IDPs have access to potable water, but they are suffering from lack of health services and food and NFIs. Reportedly, 70 IDP families (490 individuals) who spontaneously returned to their place of origin in Helmand from Charahi Qambar in Kabul in December, went to secondary displacement due to the military operation and are currently staying in Wazir Mandah in Lashkar Gah City. All IDP families were provided with three months food and NFIs from WFP and UNHCR.

Western Region

Herat: In March DoRR, WFP, UNHCR IP (ARAA), DRC and NRC assessed the situation of 720 families/3,962 individuals of Pashtun (79%), Tajik (18%) and Balooch (3%) ethnic origin who were displaced during 2012 (74%) and in 2010 (26%). They were displaced due to, threats, intimidation, targeted persecution and extortion by AGEs from Gulran, Shindand, Kushk Kohna, Kushk Rabat Sangi, Pashtun Zarghon districts of Herat, Jawand, Bala Murghab, Qades districts of Badghis, Shahrak district of Ghor and Ghormach district of Faryab (North) to Enjil, Guzara, Pashtun Zarghon districts and Herat City. 457 IDP families were identified in need of food, while 416 families will be assisted with NFIs.

Ghor: 231 families/1,202 individuals who were displaced in 2012 (92%) and in February 2013 (8%) were assessed in March. They were displaced from Cheghcharan, Shahrak and Dawlatyar districts of Ghor and Pashtun Kot district of Faryab (North) to Cheghcharan and Shahrak districts of Ghor province, due to inter-tribal conflict over land and irrigation water and insecurity. 96% of them were displaced within the same province. Some of the IDPs were provided accommodation

and NFIs by the host communities. IDPs have access to services available in the community. It was reported that some of the children are not going to school as they have to work to support the family (e.g. garbage collecting). Lack of access to employment and livelihood opportunities were mentioned as concerns by the IDPs. UNHCR assisted vulnerable IDP families with NFIs. **Badghis:** In March DoRR and UNHCR partner assessed the situation of 24 families/150 individuals who were displaced in March (15 families/92 individuals) and February (9 families/58 individuals). The families were displaced due to insecurity, intimidations and extortions by AGEs from Bala Murghab, Moqor and Abkamari districts of Badghis to Qala Naw center. The families are currently living in rented houses. IDPs have equal access to services available to the host community; the only concern expressed relates to unemployment and lack of proper livelihood. UNHCR assisted vulnerable IDP families with NFIs.

Farah: 11 families/74 individuals of Pashtun ethnic origin, displaced in February 2013 from Khaki Safid district of Farah to Bagh Nawa district of Farah province were assessed by DoRR, WFP, UNHCR IP (VARA) in March. They were displaced due to armed conflict, deterioration of security, intimidation, threats by AGEs and presence of land mines in Khaki Safid. 8 IDP families were identified as in need of food and all of them in need of NFI. NFIs were distributed by UNHCR and a food request has been submitted to WFP.

Eastern Region

Nangarhar: Due to AGEs threats, intimidation and harassment, military operation and blood feud, 48 families/253 individuals, displaced between November 2012 and February 2013, were assessed in March by DoRR, UNHCR IP (APA), WFP and NRC. They were displaced from Khogyani, Mohmand Dara, Hesarak and Chaparhar districts of Nangarhar, Marawara district of Kunar and Kamdesh district of Nuristan to Surkh Road, Kama, Behsud, and Mohmand Dara districts of Nangarhar. Reportedly, the AGE used to regularly approach the IDPs and threaten to harm them if their family members would not quit working and supporting the Afghan government. IDPs reported that AGEs regularly conducted armed attacks on ANA bases/convoys and that ASF as a reaction would target their hideouts causing damages to civilian houses. The IDPs furthermore reported that villagers were accused by AGEs of working with the ALP, and were fined 500,000-Rs and later on released. Further, IDPs mentioned that AGEs regularly asked the villagers to provide them food as well as financial support and that who failed to comply with the instructions would be considered as an AGEs' enemy. Illegal occupation of property and land by villagers with the support of AGEs was also reported. The majority of IDPs were found living in rented houses, while some were hosted by their relatives and friends. IDPs were assisted with food and NFIs by WFP, UNHCR and NRC.

Kunar: 40 families/195 individuals of Pashtun ethnic origin were displaced in February 2013 due to AGEs harassment and intimidation from Bar Kunar and Marawara districts of Kunar to Marawara district. In March, DoRR, WFP and UNHCR IP (DCG) assessed the situation of IDPs. The IDPs reported that the AGEs were harassing people to provide man power, food and guns to fight against the government and its allies. In addition, AGEs warned the local communities that they would face serious consequences, if they did not support them. IDPs are provided accommodation by their relatives in different villages and received food and NFIs by WFP and UNHCR.

Nuristan: 85 families/353 individuals were displaced due to AGEs harassment and intimidation between October and December 2012. They were displaced from Kamdesh district of Nuristan and Chaparhar district of Kunar to Parun and Kamdesh districts of Nuristan. IDPs stated that AGEs often demanded financial and material assistance. Assessment of the situation of the displaced families was carried out jointly by WFP, DoRR and UNHCR IP (DCG) in March. All the displaced families are living in rented houses. They are recommended for food and NFIs assistance.

Laghman: Due to regular harassment and intimidation by AGEs, 7 families/62 individuals were forced to flee from Parwayi village, Mahterlam district to Shar-e-Naw of Mahterlam district of Laghman province in February 2013. DoRR, WFP and UNHCR assessed the situation of these families in March. IDPs explained that their close relatives are working with NDS and ANP in Laghman and in Kabul provinces and that the AGEs used to regularly approach their village and threatened them if their family members would not quit working and supporting the government. Their needs in terms of food and NFIs were responded to by UNHCR and WFP.

