

KEY FIGURES

- 11,132 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in February 2015
- Of these
 - 2 % displaced in February 2015
 - 46 % displaced in January 2015
 - 25 % displaced in December 2014
 - 11 % displaced in November 2014
 - 15 % displaced earlier
- Of these:
 - 51 % male
 - 49 % female
 - 57 % children
- End of February: around 830,000 IDPs assessed/profiled

PARTNERSHIP

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

AFGHANISTAN
CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT
MONTHLY UPDATE
01 – 28 FEBRUARY 2015

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity

Region	end-Jan 2015	Newly profiled individuals	end-Feb 2015
South	213,197	-	213,197
West	204,949	1,485	206,434
East	139,968	1,821	141,789
Central	133,101	4,078	137,179
North	108,342	2,584	110,926
Southeast	18,523	1,164	19,687
Central Highlands	83	-	83
Total (Ind)	818,163	11,132	829,295

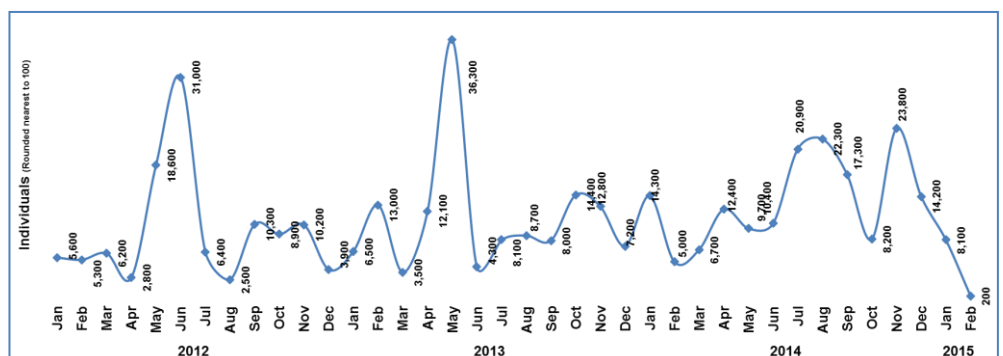
Note: This table represents the number of IDPs profiled during the month and the cumulative population profiled since 2002. Figures do not cover areas where displacement cannot be verified due to lack of access. Furthermore, there might be displacement and return movements that are not accounted for. 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:** armed conflicts between Anti-Governmental Elements (AGEs) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) continued to be the most cited reasons for displacement. However, particularly for the Southern region, military operations conducted by the ANSF became a major factor triggering displacement during the month. Harassment and intimidation by AGEs continued to be mentioned on a more localised scale.
- Primary needs:** Primary needs of the profiled population continued to be food and NFIs. However, health-related needs also emerged in areas of the Southern region where population were displaced following military operations and clashes with AGEs.
- Assistance overview:** The majority of IDPs profiled received food and NFIs through IDP Task Forces' partners. In addition, the most vulnerable IDPs received winterization and cash assistance. (See details of assistance breakdown in page 4).
- Challenges:** Lack of access to displacement areas to verify new arrivals and respond to immediate needs of IDPs continue to be a challenge for the IDP Task Forces.

Actual displacement trends – January 2012 to February 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 – HIGHEST NUMBERS OF IDPS PROFILED IN THE MONTH

Province	Families	Individuals
Kabul	352	2,293
Kunduz	297	1,965
Nangarhar	302	1,570
Wardak	170	1,217
Paktya	159	1,164
Hirat	274	1,241
Kunar	113	575
Logar	74	568
Faryab	37	222
Badakhshan	29	168

Smaller-scale displacements have been profiled in Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan provinces as well.

Overall Analysis

In the reporting month, 11,132 individuals were profiled across the country, a slight decrease (12 percent) from the previous month. The Central Region registered the highest number of profiled IDPs, followed by the Northern region. Both regions saw ongoing confrontations between ANSF and AGEs. Kabul and Kunduz were the main provinces where IDPs had been profiled, and received displaced population either from within the province (Kunduz) or from neighbouring provinces (e.g. Kapisa, Maidan Wardak and Logar provinces produced displacement to Kabul). It is important to note that by mid February the military operation in the Southern Region (Helmand province) started triggering displacement from the northern part of the district to District centres and to Lashkargah urban area. However, the assessment/profiling was undertaken in March and these new IDP data will be reflected in the next bulletin (however see already details under “Displacement Watch”)

Central Region**Kabul Province**

107 families / 652 individuals were displaced to Kabul city from Alasay, Nejrab and Tagab districts of Kapisa province. Reportedly the displacement happened with repeated movements during January and February 2015, mainly due to expansion of military operation by the ANSF and general insecurity caused by armed conflict and presence of AGEs. Reportedly, civilians were highly affected by the mounting insecurity, as AGEs tried to take advantage of civilian installations and infrastructures while engaging with the ANSF. Such situations negatively affected the life of civilians and forced people to move. IDPs lost access to social services including education and health in their places of origin. The

new displaced population was jointly assessed by UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, DoRR, WSTA (UNHCR partner). 48 families out of 107, assessed as the most vulnerable, received humanitarian assistance (food and NFIs). The displacement to Kabul metropolitan area may facilitate access to social services such as health.

Maidan Wardak Province

In February, 25 IDP families (171 individuals) were profiled in the centre of Nerkh district in Maidan Wardak. They originated from different villages of Nerkh district. The displacement occurred in December 2014, following confrontations between AGEs and ANSF, which forced families to leave their villages. Harassment and intimidations by AGEs, including restriction of movement, triggered the initial displacement. The initial assessment on the IDPs situation was conducted by DoRR and WSTA (UNHCR partner) and revealed this group of IDPs was living in a Land Allocation Scheme, with insufficient access to food, potable water and adequate housing. Another group of 145 families (1,046 Individuals) displaced in December 2014 from Nerkh district to the provincial centre of Maidan Wardak was profiled during the month. This displacement was also largely triggered by insurgency and counter-insurgency activities as well as confrontation amongst different AGEs. The initial assessment in February 2014 was jointly conducted by DoRR and WSTA. IDPs were found to be largely living with relatives or hosted by the community and to be in need of food and NFIs. In general, they had access to social services including health and education.

Logar Province

During the month, 18 families (143 individuals) were profiled as conflict-induced IDPs in Mohammad Agha district of Logar province. Reportedly, the displacement occurred through repeated movements in January and February 2015. IDPs originated from various villages of Mohammad Agha rural area and converged to the district centre in search for safety and security from the clashes between AGEs and ANSFs. Intimidation and harassment by AGEs (extortion, illegal taxation and forced recruitment) were also mentioned as main factors triggering displacement. The initial assessment was conducted by DoRR and WSTA (UNHCR partner). IDPs were largely found to be hosted by the local community. All IDPs were identified as in need of food. During the month, another group of 56 families (425 individuals) were profiled in Puli-Alam city, the provincial centre of Logar. These IDPs fled their houses in Baraki Barak and Khushi districts of the same province. Reportedly the displacement occurred in different times between December 2014 and February 2015. According to the IDP representatives, following the withdrawal of

International Forces from Logar, the security situation has deteriorated and ANSF has not succeeded to gain full effective control of the area. This has reportedly caused an expansion of AGE's presence and activities, often affecting the life of the civilian population and triggering displacement. The initial assessment was conducted by DoRR and WSTA, while UNHCR and partners coordinated the assistance response (in March).

Northern Region

Kunduz Province

297 families (1,965 individuals) were profiled in January 2015, in the centre of Imam Saheb district of Kunduz. Initial information pointed at an even larger displacement, but after triangulation of information the assessment captured a more restricted number of families. IDPs originated from various villages of the same district. According to the consulted IDP representatives, the displacement occurred in February 2015 and followed confrontations between AGEs and ANSF, threatening the life of the civilian population, causing injuries and restricting movements. The initial joint assessment was conducted by DoRR, NPO (UNHCR Partner), NRC, WFP and Save the Children. While the majority of IDPs were hosted by the local community, they highlighted their immediate needs for food and NFIs, also due to the sudden flight and the losses incurred. The IDP task force was mobilised to ensure the distribution of assistance.

Faryab Province

37 families (222 individuals) were profiled in Maimana city, the provincial centre of Faryab. They were displaced from Almar and Qaisar districts of Faryab, as a result of military operations and the subsequent confrontation between AGEs and ANSF. The displacement largely occurred in February. The displaced population was initially assessed by IDP task force members. Most of the IDPs were currently living with their relatives and were found in need of food, NFIs and winter assistance. The IDP task force mobilised to distribute assistance as soon as possible.

Badakhshan Province

18 families (110 individuals) were profiled in Faizabad city of Badakhshan, after being displaced from Khan Abad district of Kunduz in February 2015. According to the reports of the assessed families, armed confrontation has continuously affected Khan Abad district during the last few months, causing losses of houses, civilian properties and civilian casualties. The initial assessment was conducted jointly by DoRR, NPO (UNHCR Partner) and WFP. During the assessment, the majority of families were found to be living in rented houses and almost all the IDP families expressed their intention to

return to their places of origin as soon as the conflict subsides. A response was coordinated through the IDP Task Force, to provide food and NFIs, identified by the population as their primary needs. During the month, another group of 11 families (58 individuals) were profiled in Qeshm district of Badakhshan. They originated from Taqab district of Badakhshan and were displaced by armed clashes between AGEs and ANSF. These IDPs were also reached by a joint assessment team of IDP task force members and all families were provided with food and NFIs, largely by UNHCR and WFP.

Western Region

Herat Province

During the month, 274 families (1,241 individuals) were profiled in Herat city and Enjil district of Herat (close to the provincial centre). IDPs reported to have been displaced in repeated movements from August to December 2014. The reported places of origin were Ghormach, Qadis, Bala Murghab, Abkamary and Jawand districts of Badghis province (169 families); Shahrak and Dolaina districts of Ghor province (80 families); and Kushk Kohna district within Herat province (25 families). General insecurity, military operations and armed conflicts between AGEs and ANSFs, land disputes and abuses by AGEs (harassment, intimidation, extortion, illegal taxation and forced recruitment) were mentioned as the main factors triggering the displacement. The majority of IDPs were found living in makeshift shelters, while fewer families did manage to rent houses. In a joint response, all displaced families received NFIs, 90 families received winter kits, hygiene promotion kits and water chlorination, while 7 families received cash assistance.

Eastern Region

Nangarhar Province

302 families (1,570 individuals) were profiled as displaced from various districts of Nangarhar province (Khugyani, Archin, Dehbala, Kot, Nazyan, Pachir Agam and Chaparhar); and Kunar province (Dangam district). IDPs moved from insecure districts to other district centres of Nangarhar province: Kuzkunar (15 families); Bihsud (186 families); Rodat (83 families); Kama (16 families); and Surkhrud (2 families). Reportedly the displacement occurred from August to December 2014. IDPs were jointly assessed by DoRR, APA (UNHCR's Partner), WFP, NRC and IRC. Armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs as well as harassment and intimidation of civilians by AGEs, were reported as the main causes of displacement. During the assessment, the majority of IDPs were found living in rented houses, with some hosted by the local communities. The loss of income and livelihood opportunities was expressed as a

major concern by the IDP families. The IDP Task Force distributed food, NFIs, winter and sanitary kits.

Kunar Province

In the reporting period, 113 families (575 individuals) were profiled in different districts of Kunar province. These included Asad Abad (54 families); Shigal (17 families); Asmar (23 families); Narang (10 families) and Chawki (9 families). Families mainly originated from Dangam district, within Kunar province. Reportedly, the displacement occurred between December 2014 and January 2015. Armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF were cited as the main cause of displacement. IDPs were jointly assessed by DoRR, WFP, NRC and OCDG (UNHCR's Partner). IDP task force members distributed food, NFIs, cash and sanitary kits.

South- Eastern Region

Paktya Province

During the reporting month, 159 families (1,164 individuals) were assessed as displaced to Gardez city (provincial centre of Paktya province), Sayed Karam and Ahmad districts of Paktya. IDPs were originated from various districts of Paktya, as well as from Nangarhar, Logar and Kabul provinces. Out of them, 7 families were reportedly displaced in January 2015, while the rest were displaced from March to December 2014. As pre the consulted IDPs, general insecurity as well as harassment and intimidation by AGEs against the civilian population emerged from the consultations as main factors causing the displacement. The result of the initial assessment, conducted by DoRR and APA (UNHCR partner), revealed that the IDPs were largely living in rented houses and had access to social services, including health and education, as well as to the local market and potable water. Apparently IDPs still have insufficient access to food and adequate NFIs. The IDP Task Force members agreed for a distribution to the most vulnerable families.

DISPLACEMENT WATCH (Information not yet entered into PMT)

Helmand province

During the second half of February, the IDP Task Force in the Southern region/Kandahar has been following closely the forced displacement linked to the military operation in Helmand, which affected several districts in the northern part of the province (Nahri Siraj, Sangin, Kajaki, Nad Ali, Musa Qala). During the month of February, the area directly affected by the operation was largely inaccessible to humanitarian actors. Information on displacement was gathered through local sources, government authorities and

from an initial number of displaced families that started arriving in Kashkar Gah urban areas from the conflict-affected zones. During the first week of March, the military operation turned to the West/South-West part of Helmand (Marja and Sistani), causing fresh displacement towards Lashkar Gah urban areas, as well as Nada Ali District Centre. Few spill-over movements were also reported into Maywand district of Kandahar. According to initial Governmental and community sources (elders), these events may have displaced some 1,200 families, from Sangin, Kajaki, Nawzad and Musa-Qala, Marja, mainly to Lashkargah city (urban and surrounding areas), but also within the conflict affected districts. Based on this preliminary information, it was immediately evident that only 50% of the families may have been in areas reachable by the IDP Task Force members. While the military operation was unfolding, a situation-specific contingency plan was developed by the IDP Task Force in Kandahar, with a likely scenario of 700/800 families to be assisted and a worst case scenario of 2,000 families in need for assistance. From 24th February to 4th March, IDP Task Force members (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, IOM, DORR, ANDMA, local NGOs) conducted a joint assessment in Lashkargah urban area and surrounding villages, and were able to find and profile some 304/2,406 individuals displaced by the conflict¹. Most of the assessed families were hosted by relatives or were in rented houses. Due to the sudden flight, food and NFI were identified as immediate needs of IDPs. Urgent referrals to medical institutions were assured for some injured children and men displaced to Lashkar-Gah. During the same week, other 70 families had been identified in the Nada Ali District Centre and were to be assessed during the month of March, when assistance distribution is planned for all the profiled families. By mid-March, the entity of displacement in Helmand seemed to be still within the reach of the contingency plan put in place. However, the developments and the increasing displacement trends continue to be followed.

Zabul Province

A military operation started at the beginning of March in Arghandab and Khak Afghan districts of Zabul, in an effort to release the group of kidnapped Hazara returnees from Iran. Reportedly, following the directions of the military offensive, displacement may occur within Zabul Province, from Arghandab district; towards Uruzgan; towards Ghazni province. Presently, there are unverified reports of some families displaced to areas not accessible by IDP TF members. The evolving situation will continue to be monitored.

¹ The data is entered into the PMT system during the month of March

Breakdown of Assistance Distribution by IDP Task Forces (families)

Regions	NFI				Food		Cash	Winterization Assistance			Sanitary Kits
	UNHCR	NRC	DRC	IRC	WFP	Islamic Relief	NRC	UNHCR	CARE	IRC	UNHCR
Central region	158				808			650	1,000		
Southern region											
Western region	31		64	34	50		51				
Eastern region	226	156		21	415		154	22		122	624
South - east region											
Central highlands						7					
Northern region	633	505			633		505				

Source: IDP Task Forces in the regions. (NB assistance delivered in Helmand will be capture in the March Bulletin)

National IDP Policy Update

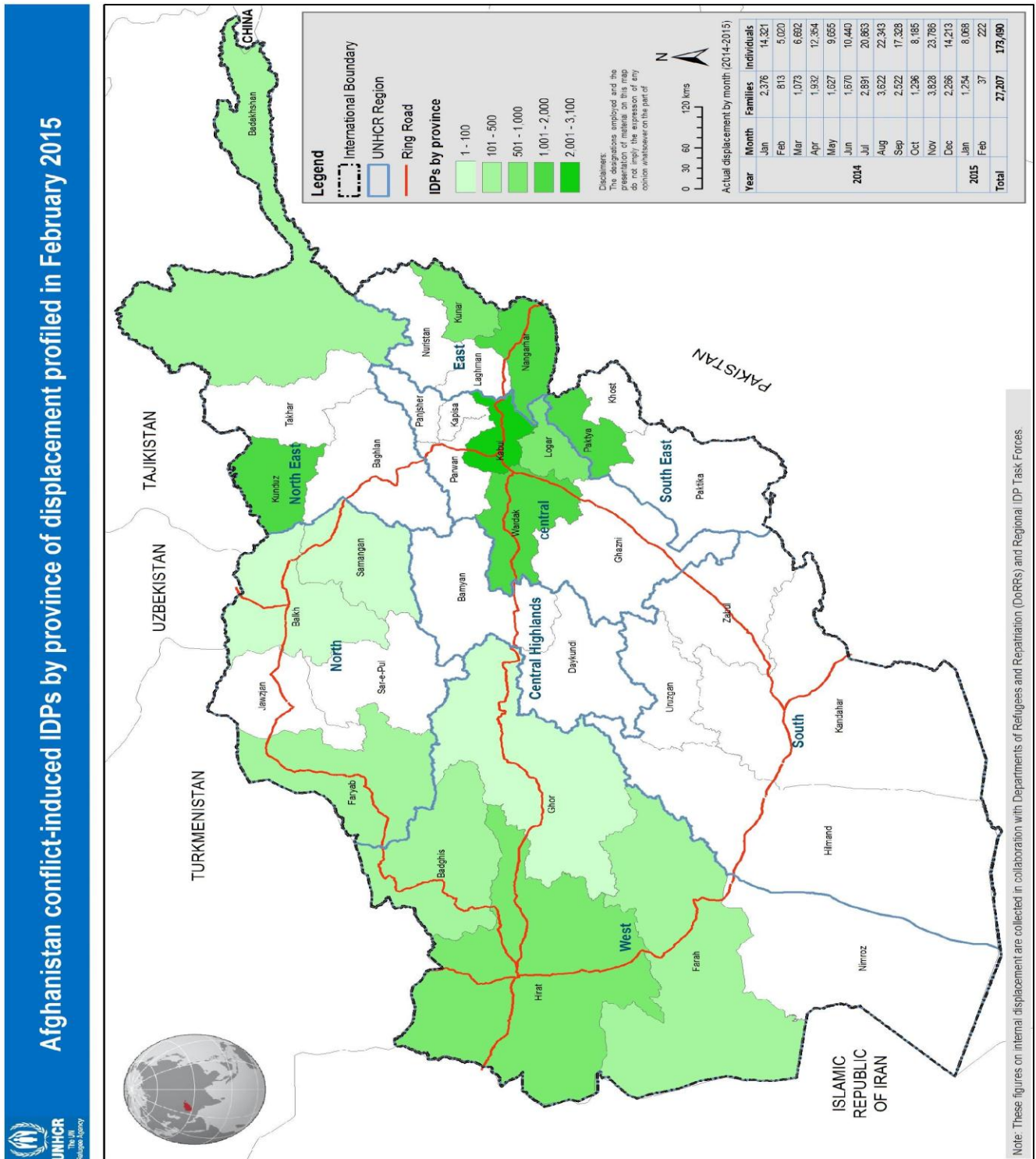
During the Month of February the implementation of the IDP Policy proceeded both at national and at provincial levels, in two of the three provinces identified to pilot the process.

At national level, the IDP Policy Working Group proceeded in the finalisation of several materials (Policy Briefing Note, leaflets for community representatives, Guide for Officials) that would be soon made available for all actors interested in embarking in sensitisation and dissemination efforts.

At provincial level, on 10th February the first meeting of the Provincial IDP Policy Implementation Committee was held in Nangarhar under the auspices of the Governor Office. The meeting approved its Terms of Reference and membership, including several line ministries, municipal and administrative authorities, UN Agencies, INGOs and NGOs, as well as representatives of the IDP communities. The Implementation committee created a technical sub-committee to start drafting the Provincial Action Plan foreseen by the IDP Policy to define priorities, activities, responsible actors, timeframe and budgetary resources to address internal displacement in the province. The first meeting of this technical group was held on 25th February and discussion started on the format and the structure of the Action Plan.

On 17th February a meeting was held with the Governor of Balkh and several other provincial authorities to promote the IDP Policy and sensitise the authorities on the steps in the implementation process. It is hoped that this could be an initial step towards the setting up of the Provincial IDP Policy Implementation Committee and the start of the drafting of the Provincial Action Plan.

“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).”



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UNHCR thanks its donors for their generous contributions that made this update possible