

CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

JANUARY 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

Total 31 December 2012	Increase January 2013	Actual known displacement recorded at 31 January 2013	Decrease January 2013	Overall change January 2013	Total displaced as at 31 January 2013	Total recorded in 2013
486,298	6,493	386	14	6,479	492,777	6,493

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 January, 492,777 persons (77,164 families) are internally displaced due to conflict in Afghanistan.
- **January 2013*:** 6,493 individuals (1,080 families) have been recorded as newly displaced due to conflict of whom 386 individuals (6%) were displaced as at 31 January, while 1,667 individuals (26%) were displaced in November 2012 and 1,222 individuals (19%) were displaced in October 2012. The remaining 3,218 individuals (49%) were displaced prior to November.

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

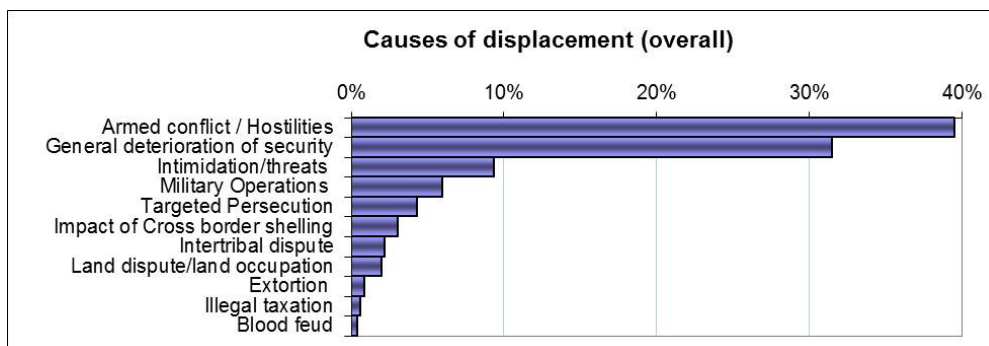
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY REGION 2013

Of the total known displacement in January 2013, the Western region reported the highest increase in the number of IDPs. The main reason given by the IDPs was a general deterioration of the security as a result of the presence and threats, harassment and intimidation by AGEs and the Taliban. The Northern region reported the second highest number of displacements mainly due to armed clashes between local political parties and conflict between AGEs and pro-government forces. No new displacement was recorded in the South, Central and Central Highlands regions.

Region	end-Dec 2012	Increase	Decrease	end-Jan 2013
North	54,339	1,221	-	55,560
South	138,860	-	14	138,846
Southeast	11,083	1,257	-	12,340
East	100,493	767	-	101,260
West	134,405	3,248	-	137,653
Central	47,118	-	-	47,118
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	486,298	6,493	14	492,777

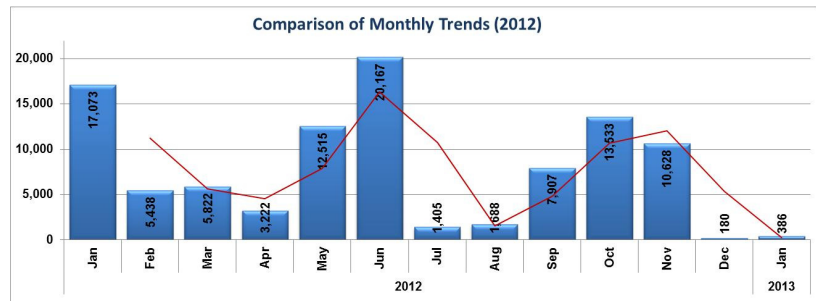
CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

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.

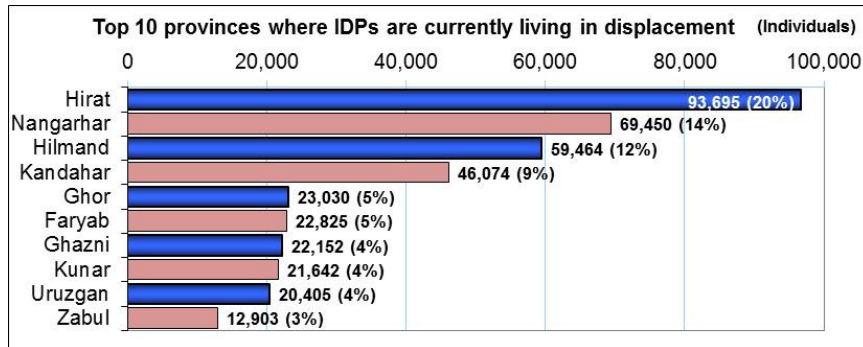


COMPARISON OF MONTHLY TRENDS (2012-2013)

This chart describes the displacement trends by month. Since often displacement is only recorded several months after the displacement occurred, the monthly figures are continuously updated.



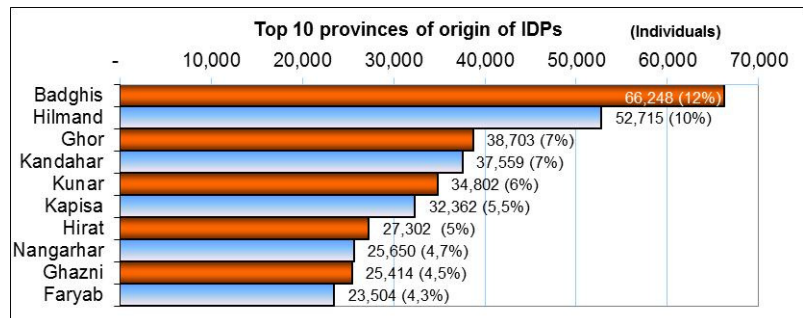
TOP 10 PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT



The Province of Hirat currently hosts the largest conflict-induced IDP population (20%) in the country, followed by Nangarhar (14%), Hilmand (12%), Kandahar (9%), Ghor (5%), Faryab (5%), Ghazni (4%), Kunar (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 (12%), followed by Hilmand (10%), Ghor (7%), Kandahar (7%), Kunar (6%), Kapisa (5.5%), Hirat (5%), Nangarhar (4.7%), Ghazni (4.5%) and Faryab (4.3%).



EMERGENCY NFI ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS

Number of Individual IDPs assisted with NFIs by Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster in January 2013				
Region	UNHCR	IRC	NRC	Total
North	-	-	-	-
Northeast	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-
SouthEast	-	-	-	-
East	362	-	-	362
West	15	-	-	15
Central	9,348	-	-	9,348
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	9,725	-	-	9,725

Following joint humanitarian assessments undertaken under the auspices of the IDP Task Force, 245,669 conflict-induced IDPs were assisted by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members in 2012. Thus far in January 2013, a total of 9,725 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.

Distributions of winter items to vulnerable IDPs, recent returnees from Pakistan and Iran, and others at risk in the cold weather began in November 2012 and was completed in mid-January 2013. A total of 39,587 families benefited from the distribution. The minimum package agreed by the Emergency Shelter/NFI cluster members includes blankets, winter clothes for children, including babies, children under-five and older children as well as outer clothing for adults. Heating fuel was also be distributed.

KEY PROTECTION ISSUES BY REGION

Eastern Region

Kunar: As a result of frequent AGEs harassment and intimidation, 20 families (103 individuals) of Pashtun ethnic origin were displaced in November 2012 from Watapur and Nari districts to Shigal and Khas Kunar districts of Kunar province. Reportedly, 12 of the IDPs used to work for the Taliban in Kunar between 2003 and 2011. In December 2011, these individuals formally joined the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) in Kunar. AGEs would repeatedly approach the families and threaten to execute their sons unless they returned to the Taliban.

The IDPs are either living in accommodation provided by the host communities or staying with relatives. All the IDP families received food from WFP and NFIs from NRC and UNHCR.

Nangarhar: In January, DoRR, NRC, WFP and UNHCR partner APA assessed the situation of 103 families (664 individuals) who were displaced from Ghazi Abad and Dara-e-Pach district of Kunar, Bargmatal and Kamdesh districts of Nuristan and Hesrak and Lal pur districts of Nangarhar. The families cited AGE harassment and intimidation, armed conflict and general insecurity between September and – December 2012 as the main reasons for their displacement. The IDPs are of Pashtun ethnic origin and currently living in Kama, Mohamand Dara, Behsud and Surkhrud districts of Nangarhar. The IDPs stated that they were frequently warned by AGEs to quit working with or supporting the government; otherwise they would face serious consequences. Members of the IDP families were working with ANA, ANP, ABP (Afghan Border Police) and ALP. The IDPs were also accused by the AGEs of having confiscated Taliban vehicles and weaponry after the collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001. The host communities provided accommodation to some families, while others are renting houses. All IDP families received food from WFP, with NRC and UNHCR providing NFIs. The IDPs have stated that they intend to return to their places of origin once the situation is stable.

Northern Region

Faryab: During January 2013, 1,221 individuals (200 families) were recorded as displaced in the Northern region. 51 families (306 individuals) were displaced from Hawdak village of Pashtun Kot district to Maimana City during January 2013, due to general insecurity and harassment by AGEs. The remaining 149 families (915 individuals) of Pashtun, Tajik and Uzbek ethnic origin were displaced from different villages of Pashtun Kot and Qaisar districts of Faryab and Jawand district of Badghis province (Western Region) to Maimana City of Faryab province between August and December 2012. Out of the 149 families, 49 families (296 individuals) were displaced due to armed clashes which erupted between two local commanders affiliated to the Jamiat and Junbish political parties, which resulted in the killing of two persons. 100 families (619 individuals) were displaced due to armed conflict between the AGEs and ANSF/Arbakies/PGF. Incidents of extortion, illegal taxation and harassment by AGEs were also reported by the local population in Pashtun Kot district of Faryab.

The displaced families are currently either living in rented houses, with host communities or with relatives in Maimana City. While the IDPs have access to basic services such as water, health, and education, they were however assessed to be in need of food and NFIs. NRC has assisted 43 families (272 individuals) with NFI kits; food and further NFIs will be provided by WFP and UNHCR in the near future.

South-Eastern Region

Paktya: Of the 1,257 IDPs who were recorded as displaced in January 2013, only 10 families (65 individuals) were actually displaced during the month. Following verification missions conducted by IRC and the DoRRs in Khost, Paktya and Paktika provinces in the last quarter of 2012, the remaining 1,192 IDPs should be considered as an adjustment to the overall figure for the South Eastern region in 2012.

The 10 IDP families (65 individuals) are of Pashtun ethnic origin and were displaced from Jaji Aryob district of Paktya to Gardez City in January 2013. They were displaced due to repeated harassment and intimidation by AG-

Es/Taliban. The AGEs warned families whose members are working with ANA and ANP in Gardez, to stop working with the government or face execution. Reportedly, an attempt was made by AGEs to abduct a member of the ANA. During the assessment mission, the 10 IDPs families were found to be in need of food and heating materials; UNHCR has distributed NFIs. The IDPs are currently occupying houses abandoned by Kuchi nomads in Gardez. The IDPs have access to potable water, the local market and schools and some of them have found daily wage jobs.

Western Region

In January 2013, a total of 544 IDP families (3,248 individuals) were assessed in Hirat, Badghis and Ghor provinces. Among them, 5 families (15 individuals) had been displaced in January, while the remaining 539 families (3,233 individuals) were displaced between June and November of last year.

Hirat: DoRR, WFP, NRC and UNHCR partner ARAA assessed the situation of 444 IDP families (2,622 individuals) in Hirat province during January. The families had been displaced from Gulran and Shindand districts (Hirat), Ab Kamari and Qadis districts (Badghis), Shahrak district (Ghor) and Purchaman district of Farah province to Injil, Obe, Shindand and Hirat districts of Hirat province. All IDPs were displaced between July and November 2012. They are mainly of Pashtun ethnic origin (52%); Tajik ethnic origin (48%), with one Hazara and one Balooch family.

The families stated that the main reasons for their displacement were a general deterioration of the security as a result of the presence and threats, harassment and intimidation by AGEs and the Taliban and sporadic conflicts with government forces. In some cases civilians were forced to accommodate the Taliban or AGEs in their houses, and to cooperate with them against the government forces. Extortion was another factor that forced families to leave; the families displaced from Farah to Shindand district stated that an armed group had appropriated their produce. UNHCR and NRC distributed NFIs to 127 of the IDP families, while the remaining families who had salvaged more than half of their household items were not considered a priority for NFIs distribution. 262 families were assessed as food insecure. 144 families will receive food rations from WFP, and a further request for food rations for the remaining 118 families is in progress.

Badghis: 84 families (533 individuals) of Pashtun ethnic origin displaced in November 2012 were assessed by DoRR and a UNHCR partner during January. The IDPs stated that they had been displaced due to armed conflict between government forces and AGEs resulting in a general deterioration of the security environment, and continued extortion and harassment by the AGEs. They were displaced from Jawand and Bala Murghab districts of Badghis and Charsada district of Ghor province to Qadis and Qala-e-Naw center of Badghis province. Food and NFIs are planned to be distributed to the displaced families.

Ghor: 16 families (93 individuals) who were displaced in September and October 2012 were assessed in January. They were displaced from Chekhcheran and Taiwara district of Ghor to Chaghcharan center, due to armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs resulting in further deterioration of the general security situation and extortion and intimidation by AGEs. IDPs were provided with NFIs by UNHCR, while food will be distributed by WFP shortly.

