



# CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT - MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

FEBRUARY 2014

## IDPs profiled by the IDP Taskforces in February 2014

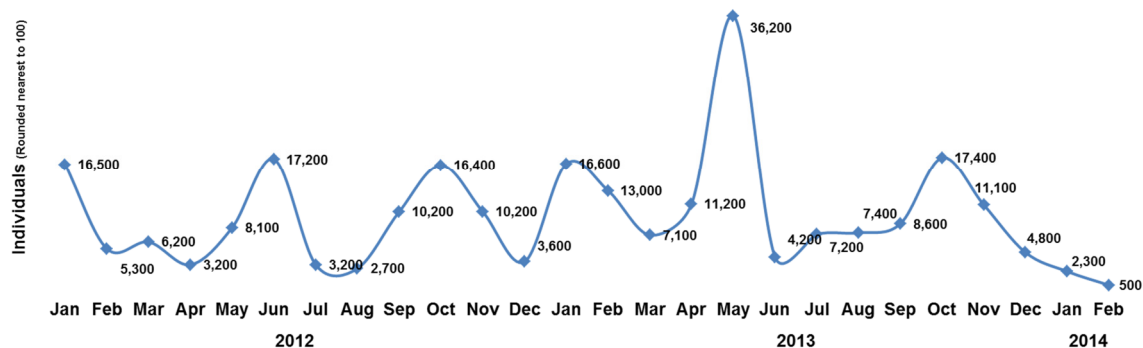
During February 2014, **6,885 persons** (1,136 families) were profiled by the IDP Taskforces. Of those profiled 493 persons (7%) were displaced in February, 2,276 persons (33%) in January 2014, 849 persons (12%) in December, 369 persons (5%) in November, 2,075 persons (30%) in October, and 66 persons (1%) in September 2013 while 757 persons (11%) were displaced before September 2013.

Total January 2014	Increase February 2014	Decrease February 2014	Total displaced (all)
647,779	6,885	0	654,664

## Regional overview of persons profiled in February

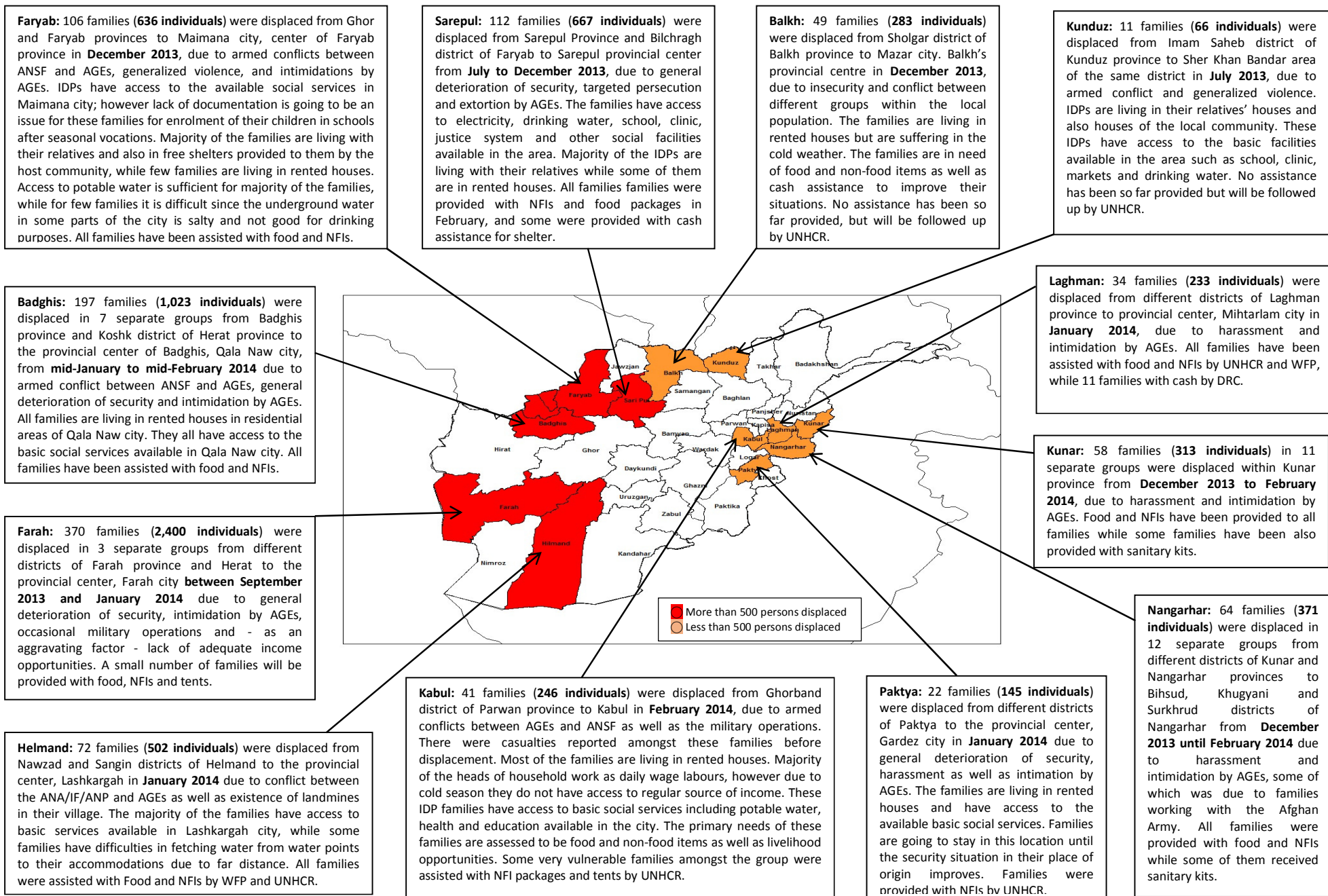
Region	end-Jan 2014	Increase	Decrease	end-Feb 2014
North	91,773	1,652	-	93,425
South	183,982	502	-	184,484
Southeast	16,303	145	-	16,448
East	115,135	917	-	116,052
West	170,458	3,423	-	173,881
Central	70,128	246	-	70,374
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>647,779</b>	<b>6,885</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>654,664</b>

## Comparison of Monthly Trends (2012-2014)



\*Often, due to lack of humanitarian access or other issues, IDPs are not profiled by the IDP Taskforces until at least several months after their displacement occurred. As a result, this graph is constantly updated to reflect new groups profiled by the Taskforce

## Snapshot of displacement profiled in February 2014

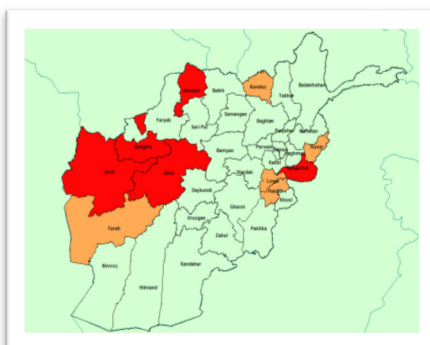


## Comparison of monthly trends

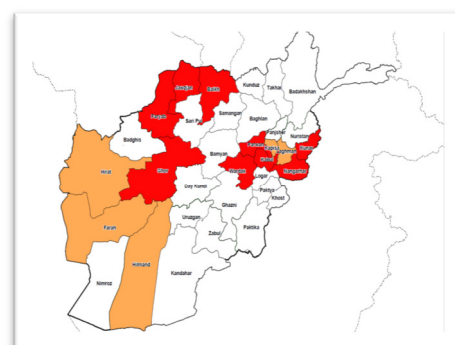
November 2013



December 2013



January 2014



More than 500 persons displaced  
Less than 500 persons displaced

## Analysis of Displacement Profiled in February 2014

Protection-related information specific to each new displacement, where available, has been included in the Snapshot on the preceding page.

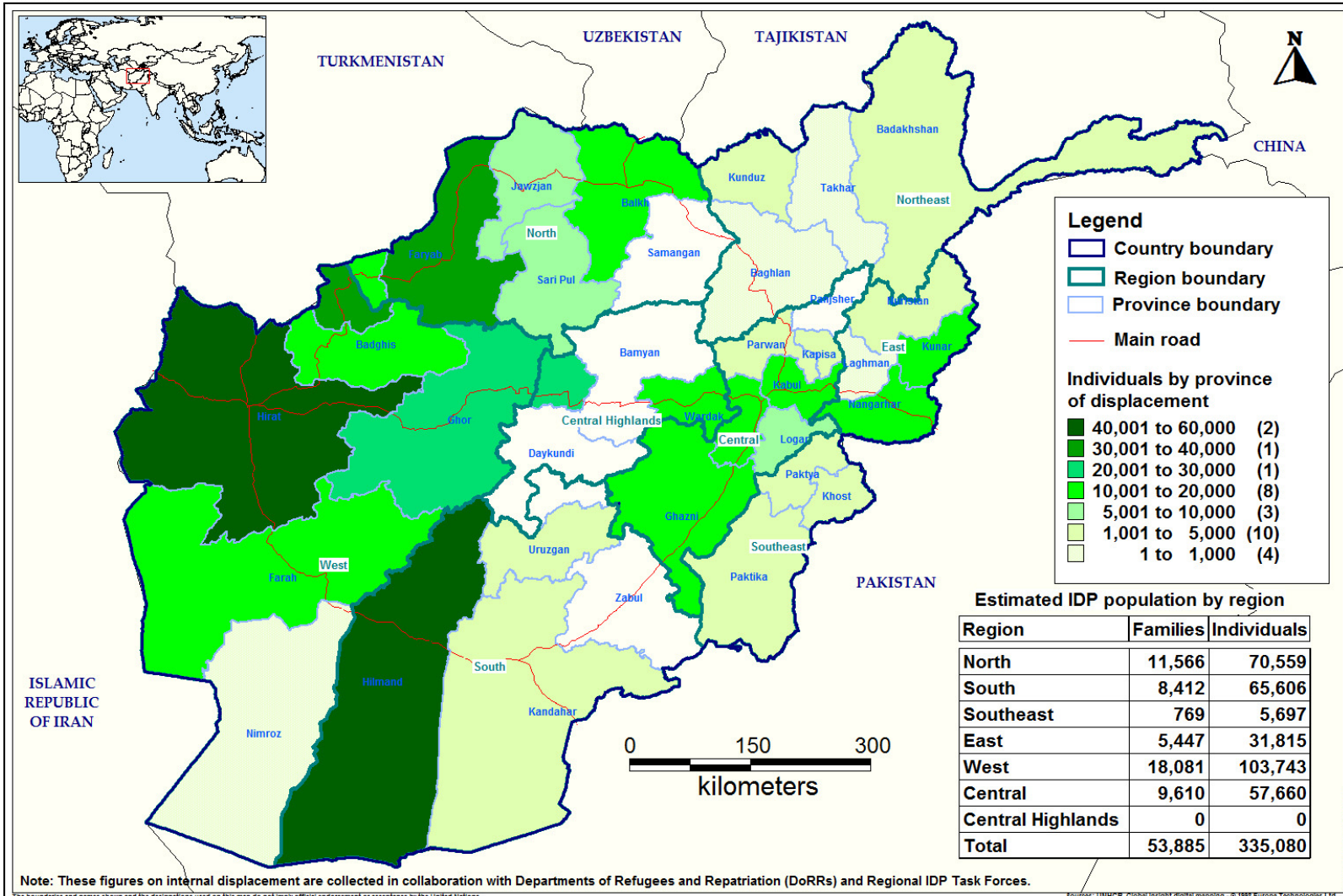
Displacement trends witnessed in previous months continued. Large numbers of families were displaced in Badghis and Faryab due to armed conflicts between ANSF and AGEs, generalized violence, and intimidation by AGEs. Displacement in Faryab has raised challenges around humanitarian access, as actors struggle to access populations in need while conflict is ongoing. Displacement also continued in the East, in Paktiya, Nangahar and Kunar; however, in the East the displacement was due to intimidation and harassment by AGEs, rather than armed conflict. Displacement in Farah took place at even higher rates than usual, due to military operations as well as intimidation from AGEs.

The overwhelming majority of IDPs are living with their relatives or others in the host community, or have been permitted by the host community to live in existing buildings. However, this does not mean that they are not vulnerable; rather, living conditions are frequently over-crowded and may be insufficient to protect from the cold weather. In addition, some IDPs may be required to pay rent which they struggle to meet. Difficulty in accessing water was another issue reported by numerous IDP groups.

## IDP Returns

No IDP returns were recorded in February 2014.

## IDP location from 2011 - 2014



## The National IDP Policy

\*Each month, UNHCR endeavours to address a different theme relevant to internal displacement. Suggests for topics are most welcome and should be made directly to RA Kabul.

The Government of Afghanistan, led by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and supported by UNHCR, has developed a National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons, which was endorsed on 7 December 2013 and officially launched on 11 February 2014. The National IDP Policy seeks to ensure the protection of the rights of displaced persons, find solutions for people affected by conflict and natural disasters, and set out the roles and responsibilities of the different government ministries, humanitarian and development actors, and other partners.

A core element of the National IDP Policy is an acknowledgement of the central responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan towards IDPs. This includes the responsibility to prevent conditions leading to displacement, minimise unavoidable displacement, and to mitigate and resolve its adverse effects without delay. This responsibility exists regardless of the cause of displacement, and applies whether displaced persons are living in settlements, with host families, in rural or in urban settings, and inside or outside their province of origin. The Policy also recognizes that all Afghans, including displaced persons, have the right to freedom of movement and residence. This means that, according to the Policy, Afghans have the right to integrate in the place where they are living, return to their place of origin, or relocate to a new place. Under no circumstances will displaced people be encouraged or compelled to return or relocate to areas where their lives will be at risk. Communities hosting IDPs will also be supported.

A central, and practical, element of the National IDP Policy is that in Provinces hosting IDPs, the Provincial Governor will convene and lead a Taskforce, aimed at identifying and implementing durable solutions for IDPs in their Province. Once convened, the Governor's IDP Taskforce will undertake a "stocktake" of available information on its IDP communities. MoRR, UNHCR and other humanitarian and development actors will assist as far as possible by providing existing data and analysis, and there will also be scope to carry out additional profiling should significant gaps in information be identified. In addition to conducting a desktop review, the Governor's IDP Taskforce will also meet with IDP representatives, host community representatives, Government ministries, humanitarian actors, development actors and donors in order to obtain their views and input on durable solutions for the IDPs within that Province.

Once all the relevant information and views have been gathered, the Governor's IDP Taskforce will analyse the information in order to recommend durable solutions for the IDP communities in its Province. These recommendations will then be prioritised, based on factors such as the vulnerability of different groups; the likelihood of a solution being achieved; and the availability of funding. Finally, this information will be incorporated into a Provincial Action Plan, which sets out in detail how durable solutions for IDPs might be achieved in that Province. While the Governor's IDP Taskforce is responsible for drafting the Provincial Action Plan, consistent and ongoing support will be provided by MoRR, DoRR, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors. The Provincial Action Plan is an essential tool to guide the Government, at a practical and local level, towards attaining solutions for IDPs.

Currently, MoRR, supported by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, is developing a Road Map in relation to implementation of the National IDP Policy. This includes a large element of training, interactive workshops and capacity building for those actors who would benefit from such support, followed by a period where Provincial Governors would set up the Taskforces and draft the Provincial Action Plans described above. There are a number of challenges and constraints, including the upcoming 2014 elections, as well as difficulties around humanitarian access. However, UNHCR welcomes the National IDP Policy and, together with other humanitarian agencies, stands ready to help and assist Afghanistan in seeking solutions for the internally displaced.