



KEY FIGURES

- 21,086 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in March 2015
- Of these:
 - 9 % displaced in Mar 2015
 - 31 % in Feb 2015
 - 12 % in Jan 2015
 - 21 % in Dec 2014
 - 27 % earlier
- Of these:
 - 49% male
 - 51 % female
 - 60% children
- End of March” around 850,377 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

MARCH 2015

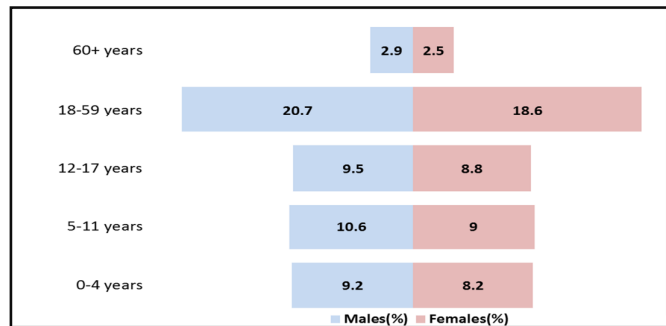
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity

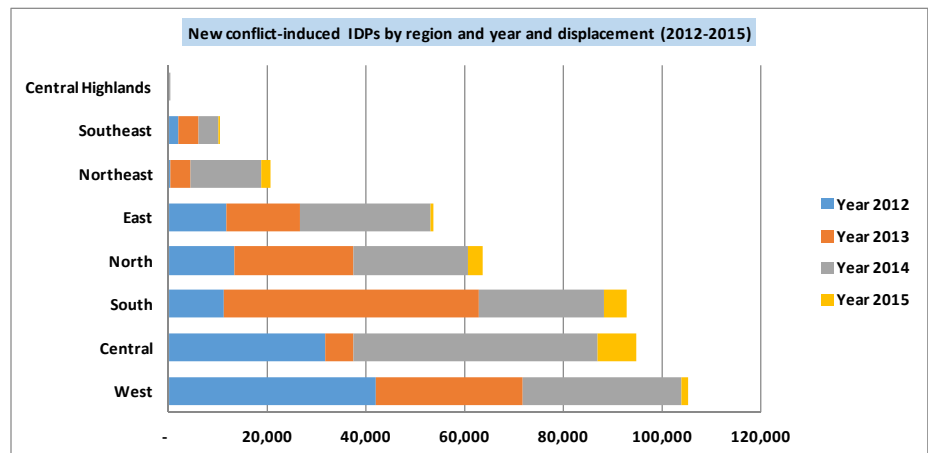
Region	end-Feb 2015	Increase	end-Mar 2015
South	213,197	3,834	217,031
West	206,434	2,226	208,660
East	141,789	2,182	143,971
Central	137,179	5,430	142,609
North	110,926	6,332	117,258
Southeast	19,687	1,082	20,769
Central Highlands	83	0	79
Total	829,295	21,086	850,377

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.

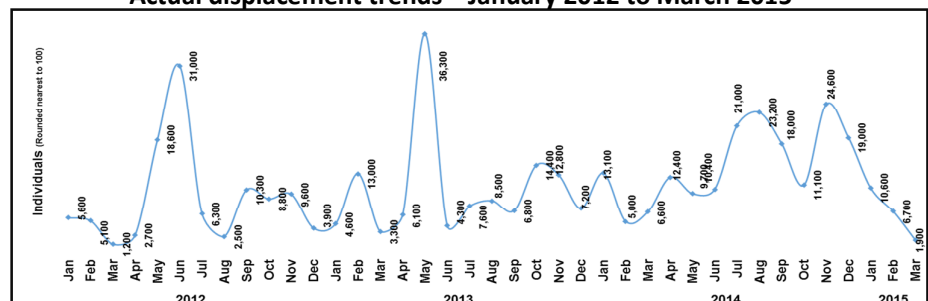
Age and Gender breakdown of the profiled population



New conflict-induced IDPs by region and year and displacement (2012-2015)



Actual displacement trends – January 2012 to March 2015



Note: The dates in this chart represent the time of displacement as reported by the profiled IDPs.

Snapshot of the 10 top provinces, where the highest numbers of IDPs have been profiled by the IDP Task Forces during the reporting month

Province	Families	Individuals
Faryab	519	3,206
Helmand	374	2,938
Kunduz	350	2,331
Ghazni	321	2,262
Nangarhar	344	1,800
Wardak	209	1,488
Paktya	161	1,082
Parwan	175	996
Herat	177	840
Kandahar	93	697

Other smaller scale displacements have been profiled in Logar, Farah, Badghis, Balkh, Ghor, Sar-e-pul, Uruzgan and Jawzjan provinces as well.

Overall Analysis

In the reporting month, 21,086 individuals were profiled across the country as conflict-induced IDPs. This represents a 48% increase comparing to the previous month.

The Northern Region registered the highest number of displaced and profiled IDPs, followed by the Central and Southern Regions. All the three regions saw on-going confrontations between ANSF and AGEs.

Faryab and Helmand were the main provinces where IDPs had been displaced and profiled during the month in review, with conflict-induced internal displacement mainly from within the respective provinces.

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 this month. Harassment and intimidation by AGEs continued to be mentioned, albeit on a more localised scale.

The most cited primary needs of the profiled population continued to be food and NFIs, largely due to the sudden dynamics of the flight (people suddenly escaping from the conflict areas). In the Southern region, many IDPs managed to find accommodation in extended families in the accessible areas where assessments have been conducted. However, it cannot be ruled out that the situation of the families may be direr in areas where the humanitarian community does not have access (e.g. intra-district displacement in Helmand Provinces, particularly Sangin and Kajaki districts).

The majority of IDPs profiled received food and NFIs through IDP Task Forces' members. In addition, the most vulnerable IDPs received winterization and cash assistance. (See details of assistance breakdown in page 5). When specific needs were

detected, referral to specialised partners was assured, although more efforts need to be done to strengthen the links between the actors conducting the assessment and other service providers.

Lack of access to displacement areas to verify new arrivals and respond to immediate needs of IDPs continued to be a challenge for the IDP Task Forces (IDT TFs). Lack of access was partially overcome through the concurrent action of other humanitarian actors such as ICRC and the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society, with whom the IDP TFs maintained a constant line of communication.

Ensuring the integrity of the assessment process has been another challenge encountered by IDP TFs members in certain locations, including in the South and in the West. Pressure by local authorities and by the population continued, with the aim of assisting families not directly related to the emergency but rather in situations of chronic poverty or having moved for causes unrelated to conflict, and sometimes having been previously assisted. IDP TFs members made clear to all counterparts that the current humanitarian assessments and assistance are directed to meet the most urgent emergency needs of newly displaced population, while chronic poverty can only be addressed through different government programs and actors.

In few cases, particularly in the aftermath of the Helmand military operation, the IDP TF had to recall with all stakeholders the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence that guide their activities, particularly when authorities proposed joint assessments with Military forces.

Situation in the major Provinces of displacement

Central Region

Ghazni

During the reporting month, 321 families/2,262 individuals were profiled as conflict induced IDPs in Ghazni centre. Reportedly, the displacement occurred with repeated movements from December 2014 to March 2015. IDPs originated from Surkh-e-Parsa district of Parwan, Shahrstan district of Uruzgan, Chak district of Maidan Wardak and Andar district of Ghazni province. Insurgency and counter-insurgency activities by AGEs and ANSF, as well as armed conflict between different groups of AGEs, were reported as the major causes of displacement. The initial assessment on the situation of IDPs was conducted jointly by DoRR and WSTA (UNHCR's partner). At the time of assessment, IDPs were found to be living in rented houses and houses of the host community. 51 families

were found to be most vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance including food and NFIs, to whom the assistance will soon be distributed by the IDP task force.

Maidan Wardak

In March, 209 IDP families/1,488 individuals were profiled in the centre of Maidan Wardak province, by DoRR and WSTA (UNHCR's partner). IDPs were displaced in December 2014 and January 2015. Reportedly, they originated from Said Abad, Nerkh and Jalriz districts of Maidan Wardak. Their displacement was triggered by armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs as well as intimidation and harassment of civilians by AGEs. Assessed IDPs were hosted by the local community with insufficient access to potable water and adequate housing. Out of them, 77 families were found to be most in a vulnerable situation and in need of humanitarian assistance, including food and NFIs. The assistance was distributed by the IDP TF members.

Parwan

The province continued to receive displaced population from unstable neighbouring areas. During the month in review, 175 families/996 individuals were profiled after being displaced from Shinwari and Seya Gerd districts of Parwan, Nijrab and Tagab districts of Kapisa, Sorobi district of Kabul, Mandool district of Nuristan and Ali Shang district of Laghman. The main areas of displacement were Charakar, Jabul Seraj and Bagram districts of Parwan. Reportedly, the displacements occurred from December 2014 to March 2015, mainly due to insurgencies and counter insurgency operations in areas of origin. As per IDPs' reports, AGEs took the advantage of civilian properties to support and supply their positions and engage with the Government forces. The initial assessment on the situation of IDPs was conducted by DoRR, WFP, OCHA and WSTA (UNHCR's partner) and confirmed that 76 IDP families were in need of humanitarian assistance including NFIs and food. The majority of IDPs are currently living in rented houses, while some families are hosted by the local community.

Northern Region

Faryab

Faryab province, particularly Maimana and few other main centres, continued to record forced displacement movements from within the Province, particularly from Qaisar district, and from areas bordering Jawzjan. Intra-district displacement has also been reported in Qaisar, as a result of clashes between ANSF and AGEs. As a result, few joint assessments were conducted during the month of March.

Overall, in the province, the IDP TF joint assessment team (including DoRR, UNHCR, NPO/UNHCR's partner, NRC, Save the Children and WFP's partner) profiled 519 IDP

families/3,206 individuals. 141 families/851 individuals were profiled in Maimana city and 378 families/2,355 individuals were assessed in Qaisar district. The displacement occurred from December 2014 to February 2015, following confrontations between ANSF and AGEs. Inter-tribal conflicts, harassment and intimidation by AGEs and general insecurity were also included as displacement causes.

IDPs profiled in Maimana originated from Qaisar, Pashtoon Kot, Almar, Shirin Tagab and Koohestan districts of Faryab. The vast majority of IDPs were hosted by the local community, while the rest were living in rented houses at the time of assessment. Assessment findings revealed that school attendance rates for IDP children were sometimes low due to lack of documentation. The issue was addressed through a dialogue between protection/ legal aid partners and the local authorities.

Profiled IDP families in Maimana city received food and NFIs from UNHCR, WFP and NRC; while, distribution of food and NFIs to IDPs assessed and profiled in Qaisar was planned for the month of April, but had been halted given the instability in the area. It is unlikely that the IDP TF members may access current places of displacement in Qaisar and a dialogue with ICRC and ARSC started for their possible intervention.

Kunduz

During the month of March, the situation in various districts of Kunduz Province continued to deteriorate, due to clashes between AGEs and governmental forces and to a lesser extent between armed opposition groups (Khanabad). Replicating patterns and trends already experienced in the past year, since December 2014, increasing levels of instability and actions by AGEs against the civilian population were reported in Imam Shaeb, Qalazai, Chahardara, Dashte Archi, triggering intra-district fresh displacement (e.g. in Imam Shaeb) and displacement towards Kunduz urban and surrounding area.

After receiving reports and petitions of possibly 1,700 families displaced within Kunduz, an IDP TF Kunduz joint team including DoRR, UNHCR, NPO (UNHCR's partner), Save the Children and ASR (WFP's partner) assessed the situation for few weeks during the month of March. By the end of the month, some 350 IDP families/2,331 individuals were identified as conflict-induced IDPs and profiled in the centre of Kunduz city and surrounding villages. The assessment continued in the first week of April¹. As referred by the consulted IDPs, due to the urgency of the move, IDPs left behind all their belongings, which were reportedly looted by the AGEs after their departure. In Kunduz, IDPs were found living in rented houses and hosted by the community. Food, NFI and cash grants, were identified as their primary needs,

¹ The assessment was completed by 3rs April, with 480 families assessed for assistance.

and distribution has been organized for the first days of the month of April.

Displaced population within Imam Shaeb district (297 families/1,984 individuals) assessed during the month of February, received food and NFI assistance during the first week of March. The IDP TF was not able to access other areas of Imam Shaeb district (Archi Khuja Ghar, and Dashti Qala), where significant displacement was reported (above 1,500 families). Liaison with ICRC and ARCS was pursued and the two humanitarian organisations managed to reach-out and assist these populations during the month of March².

Eastern Region

Nangarhar

In the course of the month, 344 families/1,800 individuals were assessed by joint teams including DoRR, UNHCR, WFP, APA (UNHCR's partner), NRC, DRC and IRC. Families were assessed in Jalalabad city and Bihsud, Surkhrud, Chaparhar, Narang and Kuz Kunar districts of Nangarhar. Patterns of displacement indicated that most of the families moved in small groups, often part of local communities or even extended families, from various districts of Laghman, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. The displacements occurred with repeated movements from September 2014 to January 2015. Armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs as well as harassment and intimidation of civilians by AGEs were reported as the main causes of displacement towards areas that the families perceived as safer. Several families reported to have been affected by AGEs' attacks against military installations in the proximity of their villages or accommodations; to have been caught in cross-fire incidents; to have had their houses damaged or destroyed by shelling from the parties in conflict, sometimes with loss or injury of family members and relatives. Other families reported direct intimidation and threats to their families by AGEs, including cases of kidnapping, particularly if families and individuals were perceived as associated or were effective members of the security forces (ANA/ ANP). At the time of assessment, the vast majority of IDPs were living in rented houses or were hosted by the communities, while few families were found to be living in tents. Generally living conditions were reported as poor. The entire group received food and sanitary kits, while 300 families received NFIs, 72 families received cash assistance and 46 families received winterization assistance.

² As reported by the IDP TF in the Northern region, ICRC supported some 2,264 families during the month of March, in areas inaccessible to the IDP Task Force in the North East (Imam Shaib and Kunduz Districts).

South-eastern Region

Paktya

A joint assessment team including DoRR, APA (UNHCR's partner) and UNHCR profiled 161 IDP families/1,082 individuals reportedly displaced during the last months of 2014, due to general insecurity, intimidation, harassment and forced recruitment by AGEs. During the assessment, displaced families were found to be living in rented houses and houses of the host communities in Ahmad Abad district and Gardez city in Paktya province. IDPs originated from Jaji Aryob, Sayed Karam, Leja Mangal and Zurmat districts of Paktya and Baraki district of Logar province. Currently IDPs have access to available social services including health and education. Lack of livelihood opportunities were cited as their major concern. Some families were found to be still in need of food and NFIs, which was provided to 77 families.

Western Region

Herat

Amongst a substantial number of petitions addressed by citizens and authorities, the joint assessment team profiled 177 families/840 individuals as conflict induced IDPs in Enjil district of Herat. IDPs reported to have been displaced from October 2014 to February 2015, from different districts of Badghis, Ghor, Farah and Kandahar provinces. The majority of IDPs managed to rent houses, while some families were assessed as living in makeshifts shelter. As reported by the IDP representatives, the main causes of displacement were general insecurity, military operations/armed conflicts between AGEs and ANSFs, inter-tribal disputes and intimidations by AGEs. The presence of mines was also a contributing factor for displacement of some of the groups. NFI and cash assistance were provided to the entire IDP group by the Herat IDP Task Force.

Badghis and Farah

During the month in review, other joint assessments were conducted in Baghdis. 844 households were jointly verified and assessed and 95 families/ 487 individuals were identified as recently conflict-induced IDPs displaced from Murqab, Qaids, Moqur, Jawand to the surroundings of Qala-e-Now. Confrontation between security forces and AGEs, harassment and intimidations by AGEs, including extortion and illegal taxation were cited as the main grounds for the forced displacement. The joint assessment team recommended food for 76 households, an NFI for 91 households.

The joint assessment team of the Herat IDP TF assessed 89 families/ 598 individuals in Farah and all were categorised as conflict-induced IDPs. Most of them were displaced around Farah city from several district of the province due to clashes between governmental forces and armed opposition groups.

39 families were assisted with food emergency assistance and NFIs.

Southern Region

Kandahar

Following a series of petitions by the local authorities, a joint assessment team by members of the IDP TF Kandahar - including the representative of the Governor's Office, DoRR, Department of Economy, DRRD (on behalf of UNICEF), UNHCR, WFP, SCI, DRC, NRC, IOM, HRDA, HAPA, and APA (UNHCR's partner) - profiled 93 IDP families/697 individuals in Kandahar city, Maiwand and Panjwayee districts. The displacement occurred in March 2015 and was triggered by military operations and consequent armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs, including as a spill over from the major military offensive in Helmand Province. IDPs originated from Kandahar Province from Ghorak, Khakriz and Maiwand districts of Kandahar, where small-scale military operations occurred; from Gizab district of Uruzgan province, where clashes had erupted between the AGEs and the ANA/ ALP forces; from Sangin, Nawzad, Kajaki and Musa Qala districts of Helmand, affected by the vast military operation (see after). The assessment revealed that IDPs were in very poor living conditions, either in rented houses or in the houses of the local community. NRC provided food and NFIs to all the families, while Save the Children distributed hygiene kits.

Helmand

The military operation "Zulfiqar" continued to affect the northern and western part of Helmand Province during the reporting month and to cause fresh displacement both within the affected districts (Sangin, Kajaki, Musa Qala, Nawzad, Nada Ali, Marja) as well as to the urban and semi urban centres of Lashar Gah. The IDP Task Force in the Southern region developed a specific contingency plan to respond to the situation. Joint assessments were conducted in accessible areas of Lashkar Gah, Nada Ali, Marjia and assistance followed for almost 400 families. Given the attention that the situation triggered at national level, on behalf of the IDP Task Force UNHCR prepared a separate note on the events in Helmand, summarizing the situation and the humanitarian response since the inception of the displacement. The note has already been distributed to Government authorities, donors, and the humanitarian community and it is again sent with this update for easy reference.

Displacement Watch

Faryab

High level of instability and clashes between the national security forces and non-state armed opposition groups has reignited in Qaisar, and is causing displacement within the district and towards Maimana centre. Unconfirmed reports

point at the possible forced displacement of about 1,000 families. Except the centre of the district, areas in Qaisar are largely inaccessible for the members of the Task Force and road missions are difficult due to overall insecurity in the area. The IDP TF of the northern region may not be in a position to access the areas and a dialogue is on-going with ICRC and ARCS for their possible interventions.

Displacement is reported from various border villages of Shirin Tagab district of Faryab Province to the district centre after alleged infiltrations of AGEs from Qush Tapa District of Jawzjan province and localised clashes with the security forces. Unconfirmed reports indicate the possible displacement of over 500 families to centre of the district. The IDP TF of the northern region is evaluating whether a future assessment and visit will be possible, given the security situation.

National IDP Policy Update

During the month of March, the National IDP Policy Working Group finalised and endorsed several dissemination material on the Policy: a comprehensive note on the Policy process, the objectives and the role of the various institutions, written in cooperation with Samuel Hall; a Guide for Officials, addressed to national and local authorities and summarising the content of the Policy; a leaflet to sensitise communities on the goals of the Policy and on IDP rights. The material is part of a package of products that can be used by different actors when promoting the Policy, and has already been distributed through various channels.

At Provincial level, progress in the implementation of the Policy has been made in the pilot provinces of Nangarhar and Balkh. In Nangarhar, the IDP Policy Implementation Committee and its technical sub-Committee continued the drafting the Provincial Plan of Action for future submission to the national ministries for attention and possible budget allocations. A format has been agreed, including a basic profile of the Province, particularly focussed on displacement, and a log-frame to systematise priority actions throughout all phases of displacement, locations, responsible actors, timeframe, budget etc.

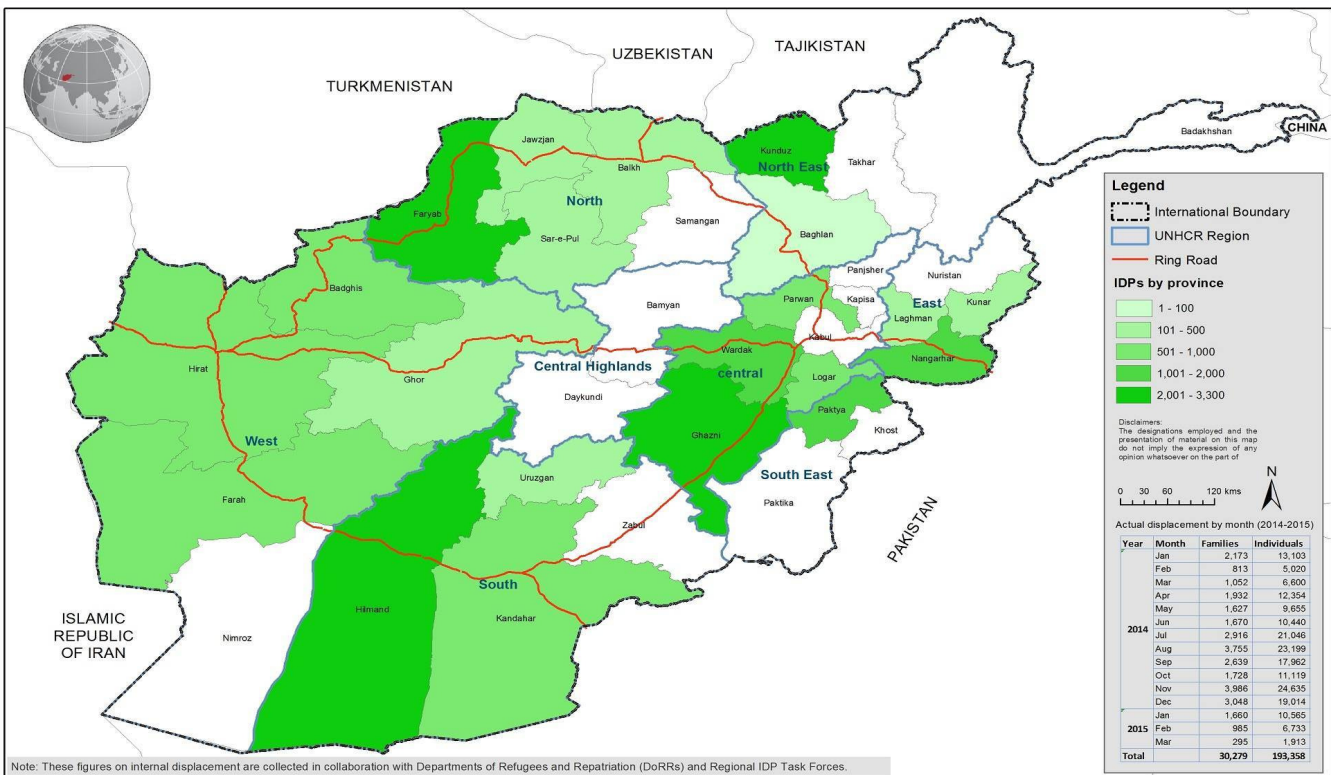
In Balkh province, preparations are underway for holding the first workshop of the Provincial IDP Policy Implementation Committee to discuss the drafting of the Provincial Action Plan.

Breakdown of Assistance Distribution by IDP Task Forces (families)

Region	NFI				Food			Cash		Winterization Assistance	Sanitary Kits				Emergency Tents			Latrine	Water Colorization
	UNHCR	NRC	DRC	IRC	WFP	NRC	DRC	NRC	DRC	IRC	UNHCR	DRC	IRC	SCI	NRC	DRC	IRC	IRC	IRC
Central Region	158				158														
Southern Region	304	93	70		304	93	70		70				93						
Western Region	39		29	52				48	72		39	29	21			29	21	5	31
Eastern Region	176	95	46	26	410			71	23	46	647			3	5	14			
South-east Region	77																		
Central Highlands																			
Northern Region	297	147			367														
TOTAL MONTH	1,051	335	145	78	1,239	93	70	119	165	46	686	29	21	93	3	34	35	5	31
GRAND TOTAL	1,609				1,402			284		46	829				72			5	31

ICRC and ARC are not included in the above, but provided assistance to the affected families in areas not accessible by the IDP Task Forces members, particularly in the South (Helmand) and Northern (Kuduz) regions. The information on the table is based on reports from ICRC and ARCS while the two organisations remain the authoritative source for detailed information regarding their assistance. Source: IDP Task Forces in the regions.

Afghanistan conflict-induced IDPs by province of displacement profiled in March 2015



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