



CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT—MONTHLY UPDATE

UNHCR AFGHANISTAN

NOVEMBER 2013

IDPs profiled by the IDP Taskforce in November

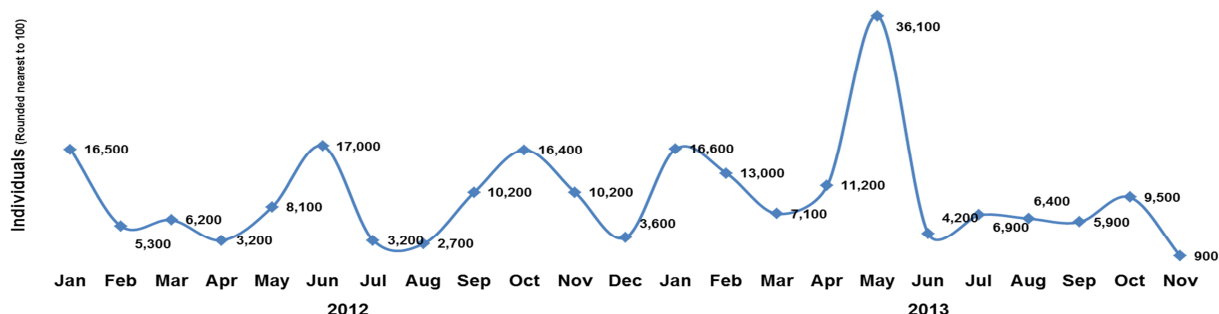
During November 2013, **4,726 persons** (905 families) were profiled by the IDP Taskforces. Of those profiled in November, 923 persons (20%) were displaced in November, 935 persons (20%) in October, while 2,869 persons (60%) were displaced from May to September 2013.

Total October	Increase November	Decrease November	Total profiled in 2013	Total displaced in 2013	Total displaced (all)
619,888	4,726	53	147,439	117,671	624,561

Regional overview of persons profiled in November

Region	end-Oct 2013	Increase	Decrease	end-Nov 2013
North	81,553	1,560	-	83,113
South	183,880	-	-	183,880
Southeast	16,154	119	-	16,273
East	111,447	1,345	-	112,792
West	162,402	1,702	53	164,051
Central	64,452	-	-	64,452
Central Highlands	-	-	-	-
Total	619,888	4,726	53	624,561

Comparison of Monthly Trends (2012-2013)



*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 Taskforces.

Snapshot of displacement profiled in NOVEMBER 2013

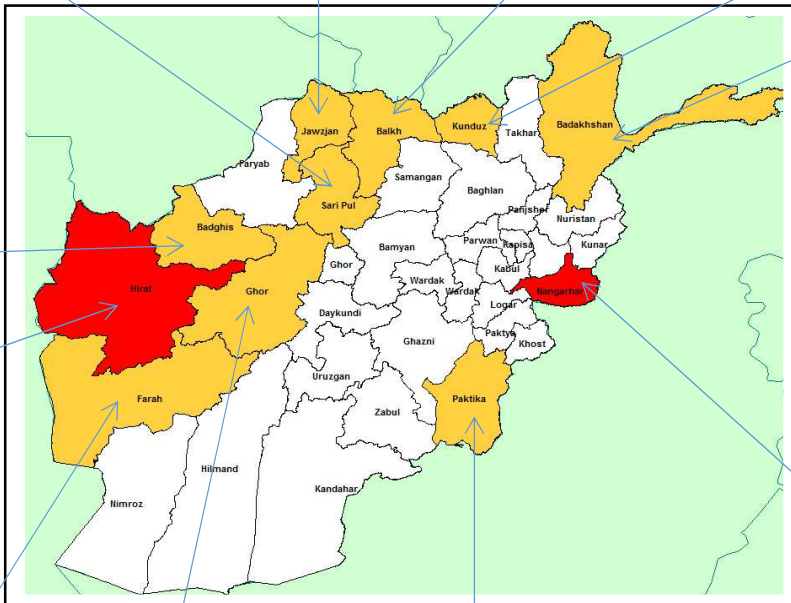
Saripul: 47 families (**182 individuals**) were displaced within Saripul, from Kohistanant district to the district centre in **November**, due to internal hostilities between villagers, as well as illegal taxations, harassment and intimidation by AGEs.

Jawzjan: 80 families (**409 individuals**) were displaced from Saripul province and different districts of Jawzjan province to Sheberghan city in **October and November**, due to general insecurity, armed conflict, and intimidation by AGEs.

Balkh: 80 families (**480 individuals**) were displaced from Saripul province to Balkh province in **May to September**, and from Faryab province to Balkh district in **August**, due to armed conflict, general insecurity, extortion, harassment, intimidation and forced recruitment by AGEs.

Kunduz: 56 families (**351 individuals**) were displaced within Kunduz province in **November**, from Archi district to Kunduz center and Imam Sahib district, due to armed conflict, military operations, generalized violence as well as harassments by Arbakis.

Badghis: 45 families (**247 individuals**) were displaced from different districts of Badghis province to the center of Qala Naw city in **November**, due to armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF.



Badakhshan: 19 families (**138 individuals**) were displaced from Warduj and Jurm districts to Baharak district in **May to September**, and from Shahr Buzurg district to Faizabad in **May**, due to armed conflict, military operations, AGE harassment and mortar attacks. They indicated their desire to return to their places of origin once the security situation improves.

Herat: 136 families (**728 individuals**) were displaced in 3 groups from Ghor and Badghis provinces in **October and November**, due to deterioration of security, and harassment and extortion by AGEs. Drought was an additional push factor.

Ghor: 83 families (**400 individuals**) were displaced from different districts of Badghis province to Chagcharan in **October**, due to conflict between illegal armed groups and general insecurity from AGE activities.

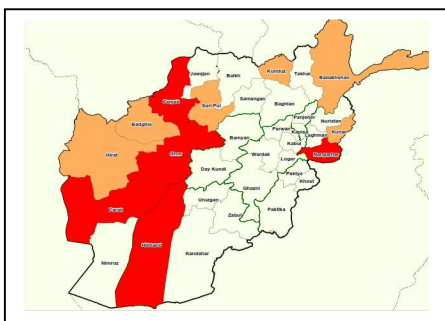
Paktiya: 19 families (**119 individuals**) were displaced from Jaji Aryob, Janikhail and Chamkani districts of Paktia to Gardez city in **November**, due to general insecurity and harassment by AGEs. They indicated their desire to return to their places of origin once the security situation improves.

Nangarhar: 274 families (**1,345 individuals**) were displaced from different districts of Kunar and Nangarhar province to Surkhrud, Bihsud, Jalalabad and Kama districts of Nangarhar in **June to November**, due to armed conflict and harassment by AGEs.

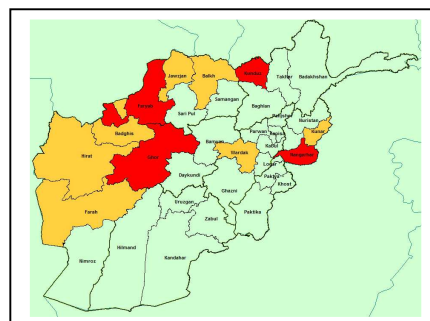
Farah: 66 families (**327 individuals**) were displaced from Faryab, Herat, Nimroz, Takhar and Farah to the center of Farah province in **November**, due to deterioration of security and military operations.

*For provinces marked in red, profiled displacement was greater than 500 persons; for those marked in orange, it was less than 500 persons

OCTOBER 2013



SEPTEMBER 2013



Displacement profiled in November 2013

Of those persons profiled in November 2013, most were displaced *outside* their own province, breaking the trend with previous months when most remained within their own province. However, most IDPs did seek safety in the district or provincial centre of that neighbouring province, in line with the ongoing trend of movement towards urban centres.

The displacement profiled in November continued a number of existing geographic trends. In the Eastern region, displacement continued in Kunar and Nangarhar, at increasingly higher rates. In the North and North-Eastern regions, periodic displacement continued to be witnessed in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Balkh. In the Western region, displacement continued in Ghor, Farah, Badghis and Herat. October saw a resurgence of new displacement in Saripul (Northern region). In November, this continued, with an additional 47 families newly displaced.

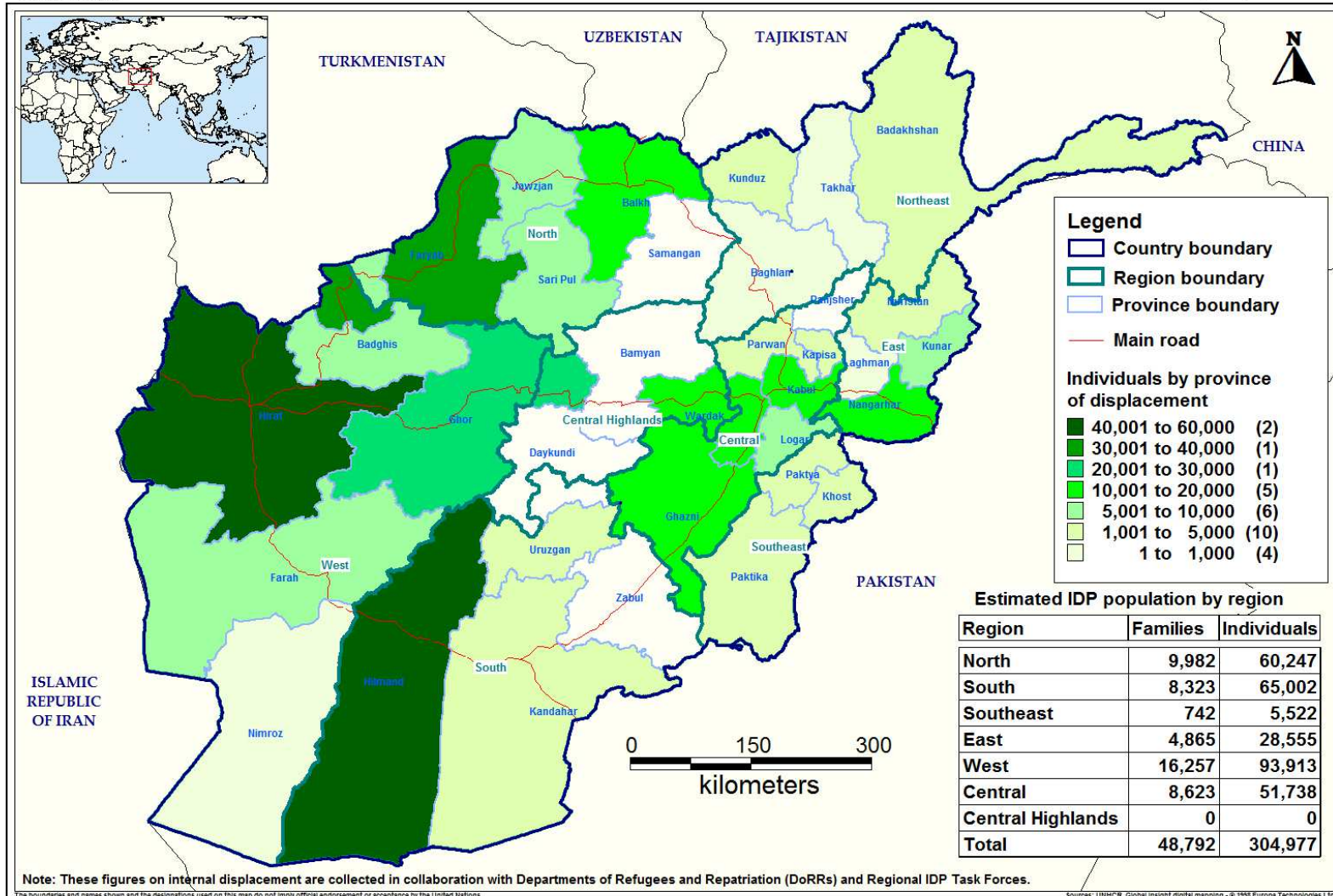
The primary needs of the majority of IDPs profiled in November were food and non-food items (this refers to items such as cooking pots and blankets), as well as winterization materials (such as additional blankets and winter clothes.) The majority of the displaced persons were living in rented housing or with relatives and friends in the host community. Exceptions to this were found in Herat and Farah (similar to last month) as well as Balkh and Jawzjan. In each of these places, a number of IDP families were living in tents or unfinished building. As a result, a number of families were provided with temporary shelters by UNHCR. Almost all profiled IDPs were provided with food by WFP, and non-food items by UNHCR, NRC or IRC. Most families have no access to employment or other livelihood opportunities.

IDP Returns

No IDP returns were recorded for November 2013.

Note that the decrease of 53 persons in the Western region was due to a correction in numbers of IDPs profiled in the previous month.

IDP location from Jan 2011 - Nov 2013



Internal Displacement Snapshot

IDPs, Refugee Returnees and Secondary Displacement

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

Displacement in Afghanistan is a complex phenomenon. Those who seek safety in nearby districts often find themselves caught in spreading insecurity and forced into secondary, or even tertiary displacement, often in urban areas. Internal displacement may be triggered by conflict but later become protracted or turn into secondary displacement for reasons not related to conflict, such as when IDPs become unable to survive in areas devoid of livelihood opportunities. And while some returned refugees may find themselves displaced soon after arrival due to conflict, others may be unable to return to their area of origin not as a result of direct violence, but for other compelling reasons such as lack of land or the desire to access services and opportunities available only in urban areas. The focus of this week's Snapshot is to provide a brief update on UNHCR data relating to secondary displacement in 2013, particularly as it relates to returned refugees, and to explore some issues this raises.

In August 2008, UNHCR reported that an average of 20 to 30 per cent of returned refugees were forced into secondary internal displacement; and, further, that approximately 20 per cent of the overall IDP population were returned refugees. This referred largely to refugees who had returned from Pakistan to the Eastern regions of Afghanistan (UNHCR, August 2008, pp.38-44.) Between 2005 and 2008, some 52,000 returnees were forced into secondary displacement, settling mainly in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces. Then, during the first half of 2008, following the closure of Jalozaï refugee camp in Pakistan, 23 per cent of the 126,000 who returned to their places of origin became victims of secondary displacement. In July 2012, UNHCR reported that additional refugee returnee groups from Pakistan had become internally displaced, but the exact number was difficult to quantify (UNHCR, July 2012, p.5.)

Current information available to UNHCR suggests that many refugee returnees remain at risk of, or do in fact experience displacement following their return. For instance, in the following provinces:

Province	% IDPs who are returned refugees*
Ghazni	40%
Khost	55%
Paktika	35%
Paktya	10%

* Based on the number of IDPs who are in possession of a Voluntary Repatriation Form, indicating that they had been assisted by UNHCR to voluntarily repatriate.

Many, if not most attempted to return to their area of origin, but due to conflict and insecurity were unable to settle, and consequently became displaced. In the Eastern Region, the IDP caseload includes a population of 32,300 returnees who did not settle in their place of origin due to a mix of security-related and other concerns. Many of these returnees have specific vulnerabilities linked to their displacement, including inadequate shelter and insufficient access to NFIs. In the North, the populations of returned refugees and IDPs often overlap, as both groups migrate towards more secure and economically stable urban centers. In the North and North-Eastern regions, a total of 199 families (approximately 1200 persons) have been identified as returned refugees who subsequently became displaced due to conflict. Across all regions these figures are likely much higher; however, due to the difficulty in monitoring, full figures are very difficult to assess.

Another indication of the complex links between external displacement, return and internal displacement is found in the regular monitoring carried out by UNHCR at encashment centres with recently returned refugees. Between 01 Jan – 30 Nov 2013, a total of 2,570 interviews were conducted with newly returnees from Pakistan and Iran. At least half of interviewed returnees return to (or claim an intention to return to) an insecure province. Returnee monitoring indicates that 18% of interviewed returnees from Pakistan and 12% of interviewed returnees from Iran do not intend to return to their place of origin due to security concerns. (Other reasons include lack of housing,¹ lack of land,² lack of livelihood opportunities,³ and lack of public services.⁴) During returnee monitoring specifically in the North and North-Eastern regions, numerous returnees expressed fear that internally displacement would affect them soon after their arrival.

Secondary displacement of IDPs also continued throughout 2013. In many instances, secondary displacement compelled IDPs towards urban centres, making their timely identification by humanitarian actors very difficult. However, one known instance of repeated secondary displacement took place as part of the large-scale displacement in Helmand between May and October 2013, when many families who were displaced to Sangin district were subsequently displaced to Lashkergah following renewed fighting.

In summary, 2013 has seen a continuation of existing trends in relation to secondary displacement and displacement of returned refugees. This raises challenging practical issues particularly when secondary displacement forces people towards urban centres. It requires ongoing efforts both to support returned refugee communities to ensure their sustainable repatriation and reintegration and IDPs in order to reduce the possibility of secondary displacement, and to more effectively identify those who have been subject to secondary displacement so that the humanitarian community might be able to step in and provide appropriate support.

¹ 42% from Pakistan and 24% from Iran

² 20% from Pakistan

³ 13% from Pakistan and 20% from Iran

⁴ 32% from Iran