



AFGHANISTAN

Conflict- Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Afghanistan Interpretation of Data as of 31 May 2012

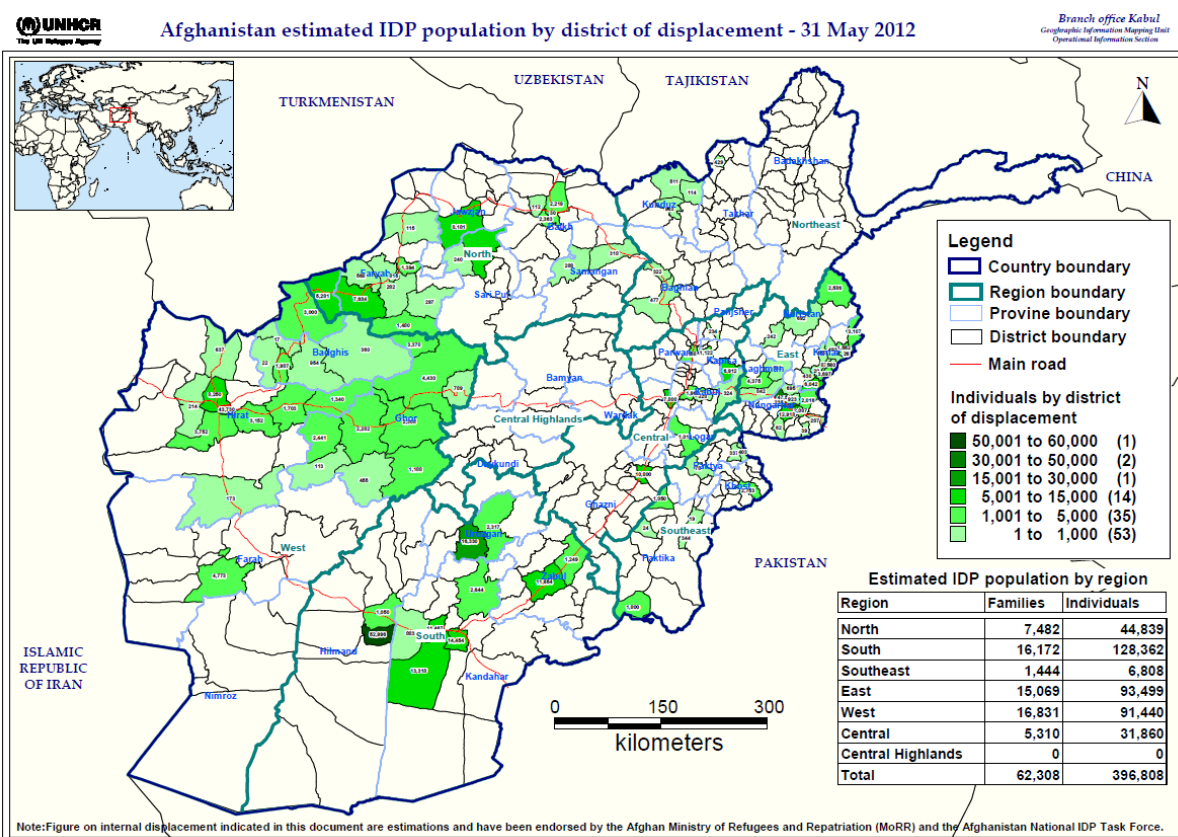
This Internal Displacement Country Profile is generated from the online Population Movement Tracking (PMT) database. It includes an overview and analysis of the internal displacement situation in the country prepared by UNHCR.

UNHCR gathers and analyzes data and information from a wide variety of sources including the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Provincial Departments of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRRs) and NGOs.

**UNHCR Representation in Afghanistan
July 2012**

Table of Contents

I	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II	INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT	4
III	REPORT BACKGROUND.....	7
IV	FINDINGS OF THE REPORT	8
1	IDP POPULATION BY REGION OF DISPLACEMENT	8
2	IDP POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE OF DISPLACEMENT	10
3	IDP POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE OF ORIGIN	11
4	IDP POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER	13
5	IDP POPULATION BY ETHNICITY	14
6	PROTECTION CONCERNS REPORTED BY CONFLICT-INDUCED DISPLACED	15
7	REPORTED CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	16
8	SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS	17
9	ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	18
10	ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPS	19
V	CONCLUSION	20



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on Conflict-Induced Internally Displaced Persons in Afghanistan is a collation of information on conflict-induced internal displacement as of 31 May 2012. This complements the monthly data updates produced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Internal Displacement due to conflict. UNHCR plans to publish these reports at regular intervals, as the data on conflict induced Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) evolves with the changing context in the country.

In light of reports indicating an increased trend in conflict induced displacement, UNHCR conducted a review of displacement trends, concerns and figures of IDPs through its field offices. The initial outcomes indicated the need for updated data, in order to improve the operational planning and response mechanisms. A profiling/ data cleaning exercise was thus launched in late 2011, and was concluded on 31 May 2012.

Armed conflict and general insecurity have led to conflict-induced internal displacements across the country in the last 30 years. However, since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, a significant increase in internal displacement has been witnessed in the last few years. The Southern, Eastern and the Western regions are primarily affected and continue to produce the majority of conflict-induced internal displacement cases in Afghanistan. In recent years, the relatively less insecure Northern and Central regions have also recorded internal displacement due to the conflict.

Today, Afghan IDPs face a number of protection challenges due to decades of armed conflict, human rights violations, and general insecurity and tribal conflict, which continue to trigger flight from places of origin to areas of safety. Access to a significant majority of IDPs is

beyond the reach of humanitarian organizations, as most of these displacements are within non-accessible and/ or remote areas.

Due to limited possibilities of speedy return and often linked with deteriorated conditions in displacement, IDP groups end up in *prolonged displacement*. Many of them also seek to move to other locations for livelihoods, thus leading to *secondary displacement* (and even *tertiary displacement*). This may include movement to urban areas, where IDPs are indistinguishable from the masses of urban poor. This report does not include an assessment of urban IDPs, nor of situations of secondary or tertiary displacement.

The last National Profile of Internal Displacement was undertaken in 2008, in relation to the recommendation made by the former Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Walter Kalin, during his visit to Afghanistan in 2007.

The current exercise has determined that – as of end May 2012 - an estimated **396,808 persons/ 62,308 families** across the country remain internally displaced due to reasons of conflict. A total of 32% of the reported conflict-induced IDPs originate from the South, while 23% are from the West followed by 24% from the East. The top 10 provinces of displacement are currently led by the South at 34%, followed by the East at 24% and West at 23%. The majority of the recorded IDP populations belong to the Pashtun ethnicity. A total of 36% of IDPs refer to armed conflict and 37% refer to general insecurity as the key causes of their displacement. A total of 12% cite internal tribal conflict, impact of cross border shelling, extortion, illegal-taxation and land disputes as causes of displacement.

The number of new conflict-induced IDPs has been rising steadily since 2009 and 80% of the total reported conflict-induced IDPs claim to have been displaced between June 2009 and May 2012. These figures are widely considered to be under-represented. *The current data excludes those displaced in urban, semi-urban areas as well as those displaced in non-accessible insecure locations and does not track individual or household movements.*

Following the conclusion of the data update and of the data cleaning exercise, it was found that the figure has been reduced by 125,350 IDPs. This change affected mostly the South, West and the North. This reduction is due to re-verification ('data cleaning') undertaken as part of the profiling exercise. This has shown the absence of particular IDP groups from their last recorded place of displacement. It is not known whether the earlier reported IDPs have returned to their places of origin or have gone into further secondary displacement to urban areas or elsewhere within the country.

The Profiling Report is thus a compilation of data collected by the IDP Task Forces (UNHCR and MoRR) since inception and is accompanied by a re-verification/ data clean up exercise to ascertain current IDP groups.

II. Internal Displacement Context

Conflict, insecurity, human rights violations and natural disasters continue to trigger internal displacement in Afghanistan. Complex causes result in flight of civilians, while challenging conditions confront those in displacement. Afghan IDPs¹ options for a secure and dignified life are limited, especially since not all durable solutions are readily available. The lack of an IDP legislation or National IDP Policy has challenged the coordination of humanitarian and

¹ Refer to durable solution part of this report

development responses to IDPs. Compounding the situation is the limited capacity and ad-hoc role of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), in the prevention, mitigation and pursuit of solutions for the internally displaced.

It is in this context, that the international humanitarian community has over the past decade provided support to the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), through the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR). Response measures initiated in 2003 until 2008 were primarily focused upon the achievement of durable solutions for the protracted IDP situation² after the fall of the previous regime. They included humanitarian action for facilitation of voluntary return, identification and aid to the most vulnerable and, in rare cases, support for local integration. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and MoRR in 2009 collaborated closely to establish a National, as well as Regional IDP Task Forces (TF) across the country. The members of these IDP TFs include NGOs, UN agencies and GoA bodies across the country and donors at the national level. The National and Regional IDP TFs continue to be co-chaired by MoRR and UNHCR. The overall goal of these task forces is to engage all relevant stakeholders in efforts to address causes of international displacement and to secure principled durable solutions, protection and assistance for those already displaced.

With the resurgence of the conflict and its spread to most parts of the country, increasing numbers of IDPs have been reported since 2009 till date. These IDPs also include several refugee returnee groups from Pakistan, who have gone into situations of internal displacement. It also includes, IDPs who have moved into secondary displacement due to conflict/ insecurity expanding into their places of displacement and/ or for reasons of livelihoods. It is estimated that a number of IDPs in secondary displacement end up in urban centers.

However, although reports of IDPs in urban areas abound, these IDPs have been difficult to identify, as they remain scattered across Afghan towns and cities. A joint study to review the scale and nature of this displacement into urban was conducted by the World Bank and UNHCR in 2011, and it provided insights into the causes of displacement and deplorable conditions confronting urban IDPs.³ Following the impact of a harsh winter, the media spotlight in early 2012 focused on IDPs in urban slums in Kabul.

It must be noted, that the data examined in this report primarily focuses on conflict-induced IDPs residing in rural areas. The protection and assistance needs of those scattered in urban and semi-urban areas and in inaccessible areas in zones of active conflict or insecurity are not examined.

Following consultations within the Government, the National IDP task force acknowledged in March 2012 that there is a need for a National IDP Policy for Afghanistan.⁴ Subsequent developments have resulted in the establishment of an IDP Policy Working Group chaired by the Deputy Minister, MoRR. The IDP Policy WG aims to guide the development of a Government Policy for the prevention of displacement, response to needs during displacement and sustainable durable solutions for the displaced in Afghanistan.⁵

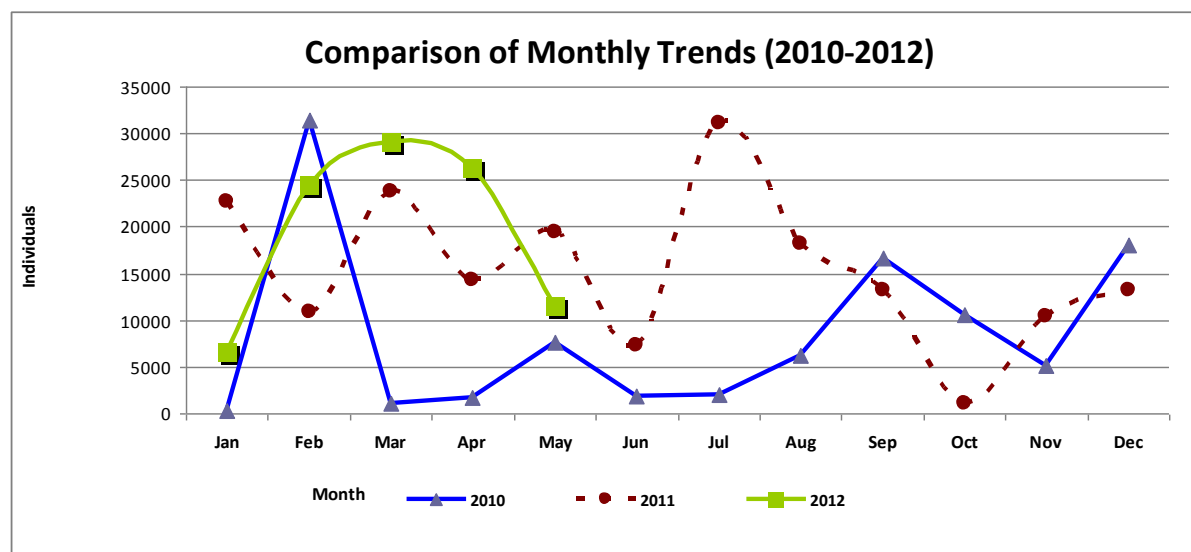
² A protracted displacement caseload still exists today of about 75,000 people internally displaced primarily from the period prior to the fall of the Taliban in 2001. The causes of displacement are due to the Soviet-Afghan conflict and the Mujahadeen factions conflict in the 1990s. UNHCR Afghanistan classifies pre-2002 caseloads as ‘protracted’ in its data management.

³ Refer to World Bank/UNHCR report on Urban settings <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2011/05/16257782/afghanistan-research-study-idps-urban-settings> and for further reading refer, Amnesty International 2012 Report <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/afghanistan/report-2012>.

⁴ Refer, minutes of the March National IDP TF 2012 at : <http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info/clusters/Protection>

⁵ Refer TOR of the IDP Policy WG at: <http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info/clusters/Protection>

The changing IDP context is best demonstrated through the chart below which shows trends of internal displacement reported from January 2010 to May 2012.⁶



The monthly trend in the above chart indicates that February and September 2010 were reported as peak periods for internal displacement. However, the overall trend in 2010 remained low compared to 2011 and 2012. The trend in 2011 witnessed displacement of large numbers across the country in the first six months; this is an increase of 45% compared to displacement levels in 2010. This upward trend has continued in the first four months of 2012, with an increase in the overall numbers of IDPs reported. It is only in May that there has been a drop in displacement in comparison to the first four months of 2012.

The rationale behind the continuous increase of conflict-induced internal displacement across the country is due to an increase of ground military operations, flight due to fear of persecution and intimidation in hitherto stable areas becoming insecure, and displacement due to cross border shelling from Pakistan.

The Southern, Eastern, and Western regions of Afghanistan continue, in 2012, to witness the majority of conflict induced internal displacement. The armed conflict and general insecurity has also led to displacements within and from the previously less insecure, Northern and Central regions.

It is worth noting that the number of people fleeing their places of origin in the Northern and Western regions of the country has more than doubled, between 2010 and 2011. In the West particularly, a significant portion of the displacement is based on the notion of '*preventative flight*' in anticipation of persecution. This form of displacement is one of the most difficult to track, as the flight often occurs in the form of individuals or families leaving (trickling out), rather than group movement. In addition, individual families are difficult to track as they are scattered and often staying with host families in places of displacement.

⁶ This chart is not an absolute indication of events that may have occurred in the month in which the displacement is reported. Limitations of humanitarian access result in delayed information flow between the time in which the displacement may have occurred, and the time when the information was obtained, and verified.

III. Report Background

This report does not cover several complex questions of internal displacement such as urban displacement and displacement in remote and inaccessible areas. It provides updated information on conflict-induced internal displacement across the rest of the country. It furthermore provides narrative and disaggregated details on the IDP data shared monthly by UNHCR. This report also demonstrates the challenges in data gathering and information sharing by members of the IDP TFs.

Need for a more concrete and reliable IDP data collection and reporting mechanism has long been felt, especially in light of heightened insecurity and reports of increasing conflict-induced displacements. As mentioned earlier, the last profiling report undertaken in 2008 was more of a desk review rather than an attempt to evaluate real time IDP situation in the field.

Ordinarily coordination of data management, as well as planning and implementation of responses to IDPs, has been undertaken through MoRR and UNHCR led IDP taskforces across the country. Challenges on the collation of data and its reporting were confronted in 2011 by MoRR and UNHCR and substantial progress was made on data harmonization for conflict-induced displacements.⁷ This data harmonization exercise also enabled clarity with International Organization for Migration (IOM), which manages data relating to natural disaster-induced displacements.⁸

In this regard in 2011, UNHCR piloted a Population Movement and Tracking (PMT) mechanism as a tool for live data assessments to enable appropriate tracking of the evolving situation of conflict-induced internal displacement in Afghanistan. The PMT will allow the national IDP taskforces to speedily receive reliable information about the IDP situation in the country. The PMT needs to be complemented with a regular protection monitoring mechanism for gap identification and interventions. This can be best enabled through a network of local actors across the country.

Given the likelihood that the number of IDPs may continue to rise, UNHCR Afghanistan conducted through its field offices a review of all reported conflict-induced IDP data in 2011. The initial outcomes indicated a need for an updated IDP profiling to improve operational planning and response mechanisms for the humanitarian community. In order to arrive at a common understanding of the current conflict-induced IDP caseload and to re-verify (data clean) formerly reported data on IDPs, a data cleaning and update exercise was launched in late 2011, which concluded in May 2012. The outcome of this exercise is intended to inform UNHCR, MoRR and the humanitarian community, through the IDP TFs, of the current status of reported conflict-induced internal displacement in Afghanistan. The outcome is also intended for use as a base line for the above mentioned PMT.

Given limited access to many conflict-induced IDP locations, the figures are estimates. It is also worth noting that Afghan IDPs are highly mobile and therefore, this mobility has impacted data collection at varying points in time.

⁷ For further information on the data harmonization process please refer to:

<http://ochaonline.un.org/afghanistan/Clusters/Protection/IDPTaskForce/tabid/5731/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁸ Since 2009, based on an agreement reached at the Humanitarian coordination level, UNHCR manages the data and coordination of responses to persons displaced due to the conflict while IOM manages natural disaster IDP data and coordination. Both agencies work closely with the Government line Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

IV. Findings of the Report

1 IDP POPULATION BY REGION OF DISPLACEMENT

The IDP Profiling/ Data Cleaning exercise determined that an estimated 396,808 persons/ 62,308 families remained internally displaced due to the conflict across the country until end May, 2012. This is a reduction of over 36,258 persons/8,484 families compared to the 433,066 persons/70,792 families reported at end 2011.

Following the conclusion of the IDP profiling exercise (accompanied by data cleaning), a total of **125,350 IDPs** were removed from the UNHCR Afghanistan IDP population database. The removed caseloads are divided along the following lines, the South 29%, West 28%, North 20% East 15%, South-East 5% and in Central region 1%. This reduction is due to the re-verification undertaken in late 2011 through early 2012, which showed an absence of particular IDP groups from their last recorded place of displacement. It is not known whether the earlier reported IDPs returned to their places of origin, or went into further secondary displacement, to urban areas or elsewhere within the country.

The number of new conflict-induced IDPs has been rising steadily since 2009 and 80% of the total reported conflict-induced internally displaced claim to have been displaced between June 2009 and May 2012. These figures are widely considered to be under-represented. The current data excludes those displaced in urban, semi-urban areas; as well as those displaced in non-accessible insecure locations; and it does not track individual or household movements.

The IDP population in Afghanistan can be divided into two main categories i.e. *protracted caseloads* which refer to those displaced before 31 December 2002, (those displaced due a variety of reasons during the soviet invasion, due to the mujahedeen factional fighting and during the Taliban period) and IDPs that were displaced from 2003 onwards. Amongst the protracted IDPs, the figures have reduced from the earlier reported 117,011 persons to 74,337 persons. The cause of this reduction needs to be explored further to enable clear understanding on possible solutions, as well as challenges in protracted displacement. It could be that the vast majority spontaneously returned to places of origin and/or went for secondary displacement elsewhere, although this cannot be confirmed.

Those who have been displaced by natural disaster have ceased to be reflected in UNHCR IDP statistics. This followed a decision at the National IDP Task Force in September 2011 and led to an understanding with IOM for the removal of 37,219 persons displaced due to natural disasters reported post 2002 from the UNHCR data sheets. IOM now presents monthly statistics on natural disaster induced IDPs.

IDP Population in Afghanistan by Region – May 2012							
Region	Protracted Displacement Before 31 Dec. 2002		Displacement Post 31 Dec. 2002		Total		
	Persecution and conflict-induced		Persecution and conflict-induced				
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Ind. %
North	125	606	7,357	44,233	7,482	44,839	11%
South	2,027	16,429	14,145	111,933	16,172	128,362	32%
South-east	-	-	1,444	6,808	1,444	6,808	2%
East	6,586	38,582	8,483	54,917	15,069	93,499	24%
West	3,969	18,720	12,862	72,720	16,831	91,440	23%
Central	-	-	5,310	31,860	5,310	31,860	8%
Total	12,707	74,337	49,601	322,471	62,308	396,808	100%
	20%	19%	80%	81%			

The above table illustrates that 32% of the reported conflict-IDPs reside in the South. The Southern region thus remains the highest IDP populated region in the country, while the Eastern and Western regions, each host 24% and 23% of the total IDP population respectively. The Northern and North-Eastern regions have recorded 11% of the total IDP population, while Central and South-Eastern region host 10% of the total recorded IDP population.

Conflict-induced internal displacement in several regions is likely under-reported, such as the South-East (Khost, Paktika), West (Farah and Ghor) and the South (especially from the outlying districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces). This is largely due to insecurity and presence of insurgents and hence the resultant lack of access for humanitarian actors to the districts in these provinces.

The reported high numbers of conflict-induced displacements in the Southern region are largely attributed to joint military operations, namely Operations Mushtarak, Hamkari, Dragon etc which were initiated in late 2009, by the International Military (IM) and the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

The expansion of military operations to the West and Northern regions caused increased conflict-induced displacement in the provinces of Badghis, Herat, Ghor, Faryab, Jawzjan and Balkh through 2011. The further expansion of the armed conflict to the East and the South-Eastern regions continued to cause displacement of civilians from their places of origin during the period January to May 2012. In May 2012, the Central region reported the highest increase in numbers of IDPs (28%), and the Western region showed the second largest increase in conflict-induced displacement.

Analysis of internal displacement trends and needs is undertaken at the National IDP Task Force and shared with relevant stakeholders, on a monthly basis. An operation cell (Operation Support Unit) has also been established at UNHCR Country Office in Kabul to coordinate humanitarian needs assessments and response by IDP TF partners. Gaps remain with regard to information sharing by humanitarian actors on their plans and delivery of responses.

The data included in the table below captures the situation of internal displacement due to conflict in different regions of the country over a three-year period from 2010 to 2012. It is obvious that areas of the country, that traditionally have not witnessed high levels of displacement, have undergone a significant change (with the exception of the Central Highlands).

Data Comparison of IDP Reports 2010 - 2012						
Regions	Cumulative at the end of May 2010	%	Cumulative at the end of May 2011	%	Cumulative at the end of May 2012	%
North	8,486	3%	41,439	10%	44,839	11%
South	115,202	36%	174,707	40%	128,362	32%
South-east	28,608	9%	10,522	2%	6,808	2%
East	77,626	24%	82,852	19%	93,499	24%
West	85,211	27%	104,945	24%	91,440	23%
Central	6,230	2%	18,426	4%	31,860	8%
Central Highland	145	0%	175	0%	-	0%
Total	321,508	100%	433,066	100%	396,808	100%

2. IDP POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE OF DISPLACEMENT

Where people flee to and for how long is influenced by factors which “push” them to leave or “pull” them to return, or “hold” them from going elsewhere. Issues such as humanitarian assistance, military roadblocks, insurgent threats and Government led military operations, all play important roles. A high proportion of the Afghan population has been displaced at some time or another, and many have been displaced more than once.

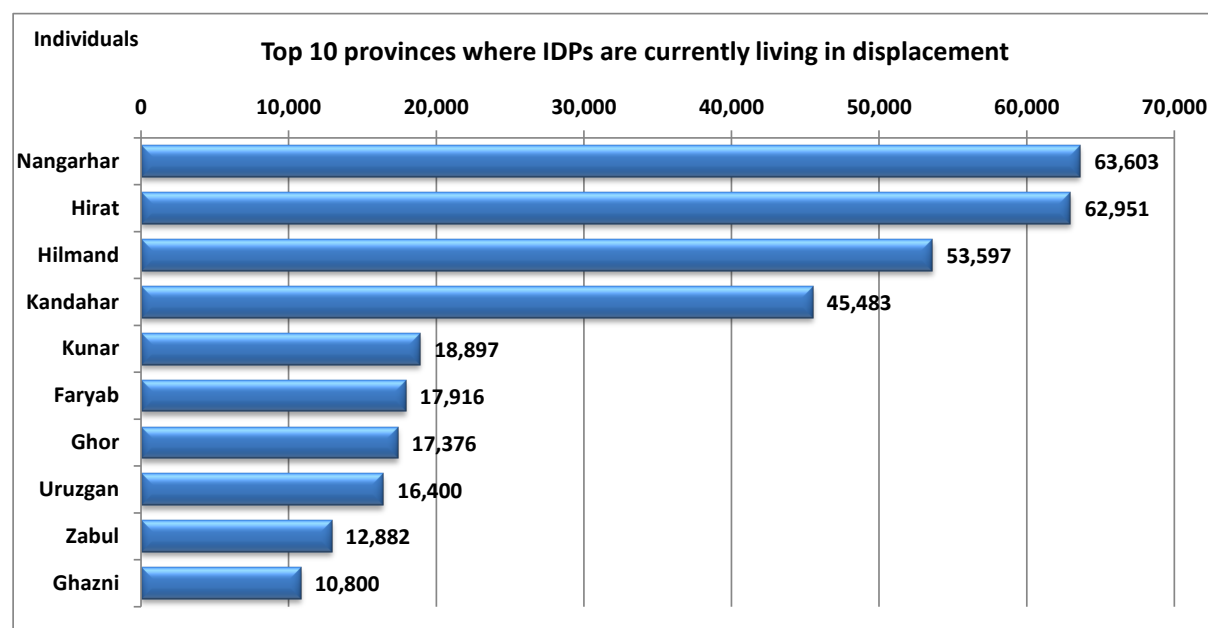
Displacements in Afghanistan are often spontaneous. For example, IDPs in the South, West and East frequently flee their areas of origin in response to an imminent (preventive flight) or extreme immediate threat. The protection situation (e.g. threats and intimidation by anti-government elements or AGEs, illegal taxation, forced recruitment, existence of UXO/Mines etc.) for IDPs in places of displacement combined with the absence of basic social services has also increased the likelihood of secondary displacement.

IDP Population by Province of Displacement - May 2012							
Province of origin	Protracted Displacement Before 31 Dec. 2002		Displacement Post - 31 Dec. 2002		Total		
	Persecution and conflict-induced		Persecution and conflict-induced				
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Ind. %
Badghis	-	0	1120	6340	1,120	6,340	2%
Baghlan	-	0	172	799	172	799	0%
Balkh	-	0	818	4724	818	4,724	1%
Farah	-	0	746	4773	746	4,773	1%
Faryab	-	0	2792	17916	2,792	17,916	5%
Ghazni	-	0	1800	10800	1,800	10,800	3%
Ghor	-	0	2696	17376	2,696	17,376	4%
Hilmand	767	5958	4979	47639	5,746	53,597	14%
Hirat	3,969	18720	8300	44231	12,269	62,951	16%
Jawzjan	-	0	1504	8181	1,504	8,181	2%
Kabul	-	0	470	2820	470	2,820	1%
Kandahar	550	4450	5964	41033	6,514	45,483	11%
Kapisa	-	0	1339	8034	1,339	8,034	2%
Khost	-	0	825	2753	825	2,753	1%
Kunar	-	0	2709	18897	2,709	18,897	5%
Kunduz	-	0	252	1588	252	1,588	0%
Laghman	-	0	990	5103	990	5,103	1%
Logar	-	0	169	1014	169	1,014	0%
Maydan Warda	-	0	1300	7800	1,300	7,800	2%
Nangarhar	6,586	38582	3775	25021	10,361	63,603	16%
Nuristan	-	0	1009	5896	1,009	5,896	1%
Paktika	-	0	498	3237	498	3,237	1%
Paktya	-	0	121	818	121	818	0%
Parwan	-	0	193	1158	193	1,158	0%
Samangan	125	606	0	0	125	606	0%
Sari Pul	-	0	1766	10596	1,766	10,596	3%
Takhar	-	0	53	429	53	429	0%
Uruzgan	-	0	2343	16400	2,343	16,400	4%
Zabul	710	6021	859	6861	1,569	12,882	3%
Panjsher	-	-	39	234	39	234	0%
Total	12,707	74,337	49,601	322,471	62,308	396,808	100%

According to the reported data, the top ten provinces of displacement are currently led by the South with Kandahar and Helmand hosting 11% and 14% respectively followed by Uruzgan and Zabul at 4% and 3 %.

The West is second with Herat province currently hosting 16% of the IDP case load in the country and Ghor province hosting the seventh highest number of reported IDPs at 4%.

This is followed by the East with Nangarhar province hosting 16% of the total conflict-induced IDPs in the country and Kunar hosting 5%. Amongst other significant IDP hosting provinces, Faryab in the North hosts 5%, while Ghazni hosts 3%.

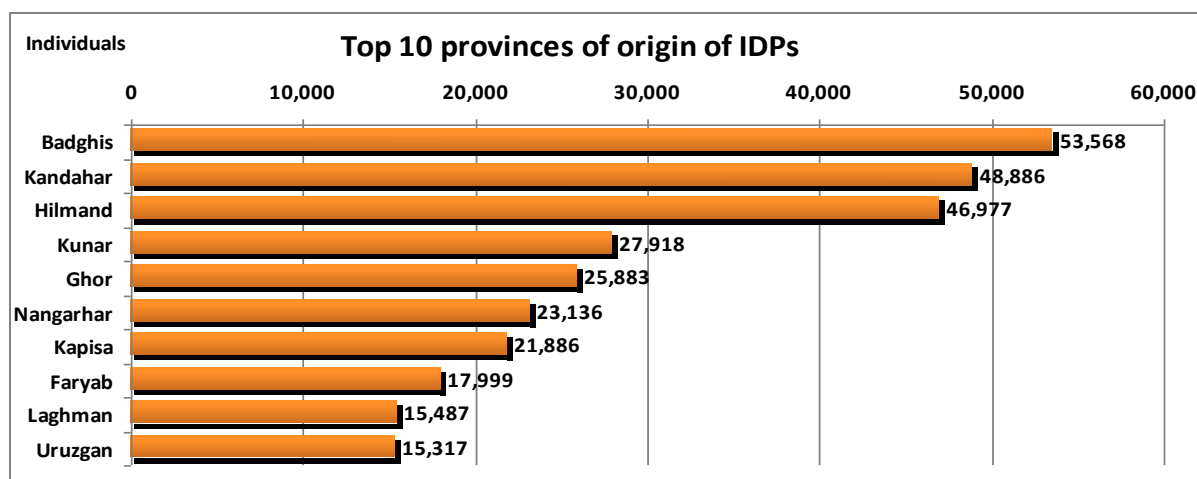


Often, IDPs select the place of displacement according to family or community links, distance to the place of origin, security, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. For example: Nangarhar and Herat are located on the borders with Pakistan and Iran, therefore they are provinces that create more job opportunities for IDPs along with relative security.

3. IDP POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE OF ORIGIN

According to available data, 30% of the reported conflict-induced IDPs originate from the South (provinces of Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan). A total of 25% of the reported IDPs are from provinces in the West with Badghis, as the top province of origin for all reported IDPs in the country.

A total of 19% of the entire IDP population is recorded as originating from the provinces in the East (Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman). A total of 12% are from North and North-Eastern provinces, and 13% are from Central and Central Highland provinces, while 1% is reported from the South-East.



Thus, the top ten provinces producing internally displaced persons (provinces of origin) are: Badghis (13%), Kandahar (12%), Helmand (12%), Ghor (7%), Faryab (5%), Kapisa (6%), Laghman (4%), Nangarhar (6%), Uruzgan (4%) and Kunar (7%).

In accordance with available information, a significant number of those reported as internally displaced have moved within the province (often to the provincial capital) and/ or district capitals of their regions of origin (a phenomenon called *creeping displacement*). There are also reports of IDP families moving outside their provinces to neighboring provinces for reasons of insecurity, threat and intimidation including, lack of livelihood and basic services. Displacement into far flung regions i.e., from the South to the East, or from the North to the West is reportedly limited vis-a-vis large IDP groups, although individuals and families are reportedly on the move.⁹

A detailed table (as of 30 March 2012) below reflects the conflict-induced internal displacement status for both protracted (pre 31 December 2002) and post 2002 IDP caseloads. The information is provided by Province of origin which is listed alphabetically.

⁹ The information is collected from the National IDP Task Force Minutes as well as mission/ assessment reports

IDP Population by Province of Origin - May 2012							
Province of origin	Protracted Displacement Before 31 Dec. 2002		Displacement Post - 31 Dec. 2002		Total		
	Persecution and conflict-induced		Persecution and conflict-induced				
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Ind. %
Badghis	4,206	20694	6152	32874	10,358	53,568	13%
Baghlan	2	14	190	915	192	929	0%
Balkh	7	35	599	3667	606	3,702	1%
Bamyan	-	0	11	62	11	62	0%
Daykundi	-	0	56	299	56	299	0%
Farah	-	0	821	5239	821	5,239	1%
Faryab	350	3017	2421	14982	2,771	17,999	5%
Ghazni	12	99	1930	11965	1,942	12,064	3%
Ghor	107	1004	3751	24879	3,858	25,883	7%
Hilmand	147	1465	4913	45512	5,060	46,977	12%
Hirat	24	220	1804	10753	1,828	10,973	3%
Jawzjan	155	1293	974	5619	1,129	6,912	2%
Kabul	355	2379	451	2741	806	5,120	1%
Kandahar	972	7174	6049	41712	7,021	48,886	12%
Kapisa	2,241	12370	1586	9516	3,827	21,886	6%
Khost	4	18	466	1693	470	1,711	0%
Kunar	982	6102	3138	21816	4,120	27,918	7%
Kunduz	20	131	233	1493	253	1,624	0%
Laghman	1,952	9818	1065	5669	3,017	15,487	4%
Logar	34	222	469	2814	503	3,036	1%
Maydan Wardak	9	57	1383	8392	1,392	8,449	2%
Nangarhar	878	5620	2578	17516	3,456	23,136	6%
Nimroz	2	14	12	72	14	86	0%
Nuristan	-	0	1288	7542	1,288	7,542	2%
Paktika	23	1398	213	1507	236	2,905	1%
Paktya	50	278	121	818	171	1,096	0%
Parwan	14	46	3	9	17	55	0%
Samangan	125	606	20	177	145	783	0%
Sari Pul	-	0	2125	12537	2,125	12,537	3%
Takhar	3	24	114	734	117	758	0%
Uruzgan	1	6	2133	15311	2,134	15,317	4%
Zabul	32	233	484	3395	516	3,628	1%
Blank	-	-	2,048	10,241	2,048	10,241	3%
Total	12,707	74,337	49,601	322,471	62,308	396,808	100%

4. IDP POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

UNHCR Afghanistan was able to collect disaggregated data for 232,447 individuals, but not for 164,361 individuals (42%) out of the total conflict induced IDP caseload. The following table provides a summary overview of age and gender breakdown.

Children (0-18 years) constitute the highest population group representing 64% of this population, while the Elderly make up 6%. In the reported disaggregated data, the gender distribution is almost equal with 52% male and 48% female.

Lack and limited access to insecure areas as well as inadequate IDP data collection mechanisms explains the incomplete availability of disaggregated data.

Region	Age and Sex												Unknown
	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Central	78	73	2,116	2,038	2,798	2,628	6,890	6,369	609	461	12,491	11,569	7,800
East	833	1,010	1,369	1,243	864	692	1,634	1,529	133	53	4,833	4,527	84,139
North & Northeast	3,528	3,725	4,260	4,212	4,064	3,796	7,038	6,841	1,840	1,711	20,730	20,285	3,824
South	15,998	13,643	12,212	11,082	9,629	8,630	20,723	18,982	3,894	3,371	62,456	55,708	10,198
Southeast	30	20	17	13	15	15	17	13	4	6	83	67	6,658
West	5,101	4,855	5,901	5,523	4,822	5,749	3,375	3,148	745	479	19,944	19,754	51,742
Total	25,568	23,326	25,875	24,111	22,192	21,510	39,677	36,882	7,225	6,081	120,537	111,910	164,361
%	21%	21%	21%	22%	18%	19%	33%	33%	6%	5%	52%	48%	

Among the total IDP population, 11,835 cases of persons with specific needs have been identified so far.¹⁰ The category of Poor Families (PF) was found to be the most numerous among the IDP population, followed by the Physically Disabled (PD) as the second category, while the third is Chronic Ill (CI) of extremely vulnerable IDPs. This out-reach in identifying vulnerabilities is a common challenge across many parts of the world; however in Afghanistan given the challenges of access, it is further compounded.

The majority of those found to be extremely vulnerable, have been identified in the Southern region, followed by the North and the West. The above data on vulnerability among IDPs is only indicative of a portion of the IDP population that has been directly assessed and assisted either by UNHCR and MoRR or their partners.

It is worth recalling that conflict-induced IDPs are already considered vulnerable because displacement causes a breakdown in family and social/economic support structures.

5. IDP POPULATION BY ETHNICITY

Across the country, the majority of the reported IDP population by ethnicity are Pashtuns - 61%, while 6% are Tajik, 2% are of Balouch ethnicity and 4% are Hazara and Uzbek. The Balouch ethnic group of IDPs are recorded in the North and North-East with some reported from the Southern, East and Western regions. The Uzbek ethnic group of IDPs are present in the North and North-eastern region, with a few families in the South.

The ethnicity of 27% of the IDPs was not recorded. These IDPs are mainly residing in the West and East, and some in the Central, North-eastern and South-eastern regions. Due to insecurity and lack of access to IDP places of displacement in those regions, the IDP Task Forces were not able to collect this information.

Region	Ethnicity							Total
	Pashtun	Tajik	Hazara	Turkman	Uzbek	Baloch	Unknown	
Central	29,490	702	-	-	-	-	1,668	31,860
East	51,291	562	-	-	-	28	41,618	93,499
North & Northeast	7,961	13,440	342	7	13,714	114	9,261	44,839
South	116,550	2,898	830	1,784	15	6,285	-	128,362
Southeast	240	-	-	-	-	-	6,568	6,808
West	37,755	4,852	2,445	110	-	11	46,267	91,440
Total	243,287	22,454	3,617	1,901	13,729	6,438	105,382	396,808
%	61%	6%	1%	0%	3%	2%	27%	100%

¹⁰ UNHCR categorized vulnerabilities as: CI: Chronic, MC: Medical Cases, PD: Physically Disabled, PF: Poor Family, SF: Single Female, SP: Single Parent, DA: Drug addicted, MI: Mentally ill, PD: Physically disabled, SC: Special case, UAM: Unaccompanied Minors, and UE: Unaccompanied Elderly.

6. PROTECTION CONCERNS REPORTED BY CONFLICT-INDUCED DISPLACED

The key cause of displacement for conflict-induced IDPs has been the severity of their protection concerns. These have included targeted threats, intimidation, and extortions, aerial attacks, forced recruitment, illegal taxation, night searches, and armed conflict among others. IDPs have also reported protection concerns during flight and in their places of displacement.

Many IDPs continue to face threats to their physical security and well-being, including intimidation and persecution, which may lead to secondary displacement. In particular, male IDPs could face the additional risk of forced recruitment or being accused of association with parties to the conflict.

The protection risks facing women and children in displacement vary based on regional characteristics in each area in Afghanistan. However, the most relevant ones are, child recruitment in armed force (Government and Anti-Government Elements), denial of access to basic social services to single female headed households or unaccompanied women, risk of child labor, economic constraints of a displaced family preventing the children from attending school, threat of underage marriage/forced marriage to local power brokers. The groups especially at risks among this population of women and children, are unaccompanied women, single female headed households and separated children.

Due to the intensity of the conflict and often entrenched positions of the warring parties, displacement is becoming increasingly prolonged. Deterioration of the protection situation in places of displacement due to severe winters, absence of critical services in places of displacement, and the lack of livelihoods have rendered IDPs more vulnerable.

The existence of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERWs) constitute a major threat to IDPs trying to settle in unfamiliar places. In areas of return, these similarly may restrict access to shelter, water and land for grazing and cultivation, and it hampers the restoration of essential infrastructure. The destruction of crops, fields, homes, and properties during fighting directly impact the ability of displaced populations to consider voluntary return to places of origin and to resume livelihoods.

Upon return, IDPS report to face risks based on allegations of affinity with particular parties to the conflict,

As a consequence of conflict and displacement, the loss of livelihoods and income-generating activities is a critical concern, as livestock and crops are either left behind or confiscated. As a result, IDPs are forced to rely upon the generosity of host families, sporadic humanitarian assistance, low-income daily labor (including child labor), and loans that further impoverish them but are necessary for access to food and potable water, fuel to heat and cook, plastic sheets, and clothing.

This situation has a trickle-down effect on host families, as it severely stretches their capacity to cater to the combined needs of their guests and their own family members. Hosting communities continue to bear the largest burden of catering to IDPs rather than governmental or humanitarian actors.

The absence of timely information on IDPs displaced within conflict zones has a critical impact on any possible humanitarian redress of material assistance and other protection needs. The vast majority of Afghans, including pastoralists (Kuchi) tend to flee with their cattle, if

possible and seek protection from the conflict in rural areas, where access by humanitarian actors is limited. Community outreach methods (‘protection networks/informal networks’) increasingly adopted by the IDP Task Force have attempted to fill some of the information gaps although, there is a continuing need to expedite information sharing including, early warning.

Also noteworthy are the risks IDPs face when moving from their place of origin to a place of safety. They often encounter check-points on the way which pose risks of delaying their movement (in some cases resulting in critical medical conditions being denied immediate medical access) and also often boys/men are subject to additional risks at these check points with allegations of affinity to one warring side or another. The movement of IDPs could also become restricted due to ongoing insecurity or conflict, as they seek to move to a safer location. This could leave them trapped for lengthy periods in insecure locations, with insufficient access to food and other services.

7. REPORTED CAUSES OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The triggers for internal displacement in Afghanistan are highly complex and include not only armed conflict and natural disaster, but also inter-communal tensions and human rights violations. Displacement is often an immediate response of families facing direct insecurity or persecution. However, in a number of cases there may also be movement due to fear of impending insecurity or persecution and this often results in preventative flight due to fear of persecution/ general insecurity. Many Afghans have fled in anticipation of hostilities or threats of violence, while others have escaped attacks and human rights abuse by the various parties to the conflict.

As internal displacement in Afghanistan has occurred across different periods of time and has been of varying durations, several IDP groups have been displaced due to a combination of factors and some have been displaced multiple times. Given both the complexity of causes and limitations of humanitarian access to parts of the country affected by armed conflict, there is lack of clear understanding of the scale of internal displacement. Causes of current reported displacement are provided in the table below.

Causes of Displacement		Priority of Causes		
		1st	2nd	3rd
1	Armed conflict / Hostilities	37%	10%	5%
2	General deterioration of security	37%	38%	10%
3	Targeted Persecution	3%	13%	16%
4	Land dispute/land occupation	2%	1%	4%
5	Intimidation/threats	7%	18%	11%
6	Extortion	1%	5%	22%
7	Illegal taxation	1%	1%	15%
8	Forced Recruitment	0%	1%	4%
9	Blood feud	0%	0%	2%
10	Cessation of traditional nomad movements	0%	1%	0%
11	Presence of mines, IEDs or other UXOs	0%	0%	2%
12	Inter-tribal dispute	2%	0%	1%
13	Impact of Cross border shelling	3%	0%	1%
14	Military Operations	6%	10%	6%
15	Other human rights violations	0%	0%	2%
Total		100%	100%	100%

It is worth noting that often there are multiple causes that can prompt flight for an individual or a household.

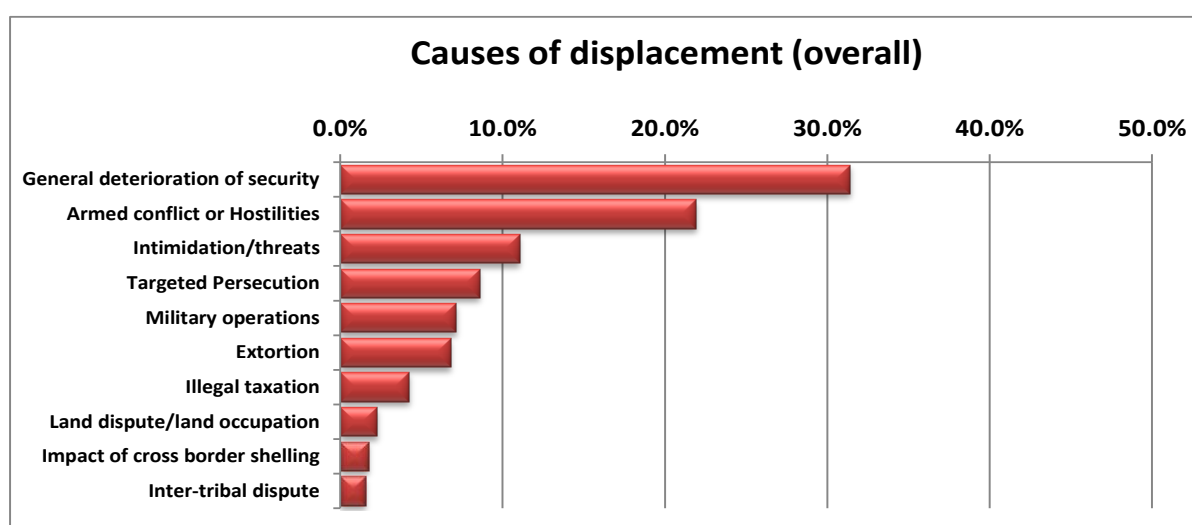
The above table shows that the two main primary reasons for displacement are armed conflict (37%) and general insecurity (37%). A total of 7% have stated threats/intimidation and a total of 6% stated military operation as reasons leading to displacement. A total of 12% have referred to internal tribal conflict, impact of cross border shelling, extortion, illegal-taxation and land disputes as cause of displacement.

Causes of displacement are found to vary across regions. For example, in 2010 and 2011, in the South, the key causes of displacement were recorded as joint military operations, insecurity, threats/ intimidation and to some extent forced recruitment and illegal taxation.

In the West, the key causes reported were conflict/ military operations, general insecurity and land disputes.

In the North, conflict and military operation, threats and intimidation are main causes for displacement, while illegal taxation, forced recruitment and inter-tribal conflict are also contributing factors. In the North, it is noted that alleged abuses by the Afghan Local Police alleged abuses are factors prompting displacement.

In the East, cross border shelling from Pakistan and joint military operations are the main causes of internal displacement; however, land disputes, threats and harassment by insurgents have also contributed to internal displacement in that region.



Natural disaster and lack of basic services have also contributed to the displacement of people; in most cases the displacements are a combination of various factors. Therefore, in some cases drought, coupled with insecurity, has been a propelling factor.

8. SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

Internal displacement ‘shall last no longer than required by the circumstances,’ the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement stipulates. It is now well recognized that to be internally displaced is to be exposed to a range of particular risks and vulnerabilities. Currently, there is

no consensus about when a person ceases to be an internally displaced person, although some practical guidance is offered by the framework on durable solutions.

Three types of durable solutions to internal displacement exist:¹¹

- i. Return to the place of origin;
- ii. Local integration in the areas in which IDPs take refuge;
- iii. Re-Settlement elsewhere within the country.

Displacement ends when one of these solutions occurs and IDPs no longer have needs specifically related to their displacement. Having found a durable solution, formerly displaced persons continue to have all of the rights of citizens and may be eligible for assistance on the same basis as others in the country. To determine whether and to what extent a durable solution has been achieved, it is necessary to examine both the *processes* through which solutions are found and the actual *conditions* of the IDPs/ returnees/ re-settled/ integrated persons. In general, it is important to consider whether:

- 1) The process is voluntary and informed with the full participation of IDPs in managing their durable solutions.
- 2) That national authorities facilitate safe and unimpeded and timely access to NGO and international humanitarian and development actors to assist IDPs in achieving durable solutions.
- 3) That conditions to ensure safety, security and dignity are enabled by national authorities in areas of return, local integration or settlement elsewhere. That is, enjoyment to an adequate standard of living without discrimination, and access to livelihoods and employment, effective and accessible mechanisms to restore housing land and property and personal documentation are available; and access to effective justice and remedies and participation in public affairs is enabled.¹²

In parts of Afghanistan, armed conflict remains an obstacle to return. Ethnic and tribal tensions made worse by the armed conflict are further barriers to return and re-integration. Due to limited access to judicial redress mechanisms issues related to property rights remain unresolved and could deter return. The absence of basic infrastructure, job opportunities and other sources of income in places of origin are further obstacles to return. It should be noted that IDPs mention a lack of basic economic and social rights as main obstacles to durable return and integration, ahead of security and justice.

Another significant protection challenge is the weakness of formal state structures of authority at the regional level including, the wide spread expanse of shadow governments, which are reported from several parts of the country.

Further, the possibilities of local integration in the current environment, does not elicit a proactive response from State authorities without whom local integration as a durable solution cannot be possible. Hence, while *defacto local integration* is being pursued by several IDP groups, it lacks formal facilitation and recognition by the State, resulting in continued protection risks such as eviction, lack of legal identification documents, and limited access to services etc. In few areas, IDPs are reported as settling (re-settlement) on land they are

¹¹ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Principle 28: “competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, to allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons”. The term settlement elsewhere is suggested colloquial usage since the term “re-settlement” is a refugee like durable solutions option.

¹² Refer Framework for Durable Solutions of Internally Displaced persons, IASC 2010.

allegedly purchasing however, security of tenure again is questionable. The most easily identifiable durable solution situation that is occurring is return. However, the nature and scale of durable solution options being pursued are yet to be fully understood.

9. ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Lack of humanitarian access remains a key constraint almost in all regions across the country, e.g. in the South-East, humanitarian actors do not have access to almost 95% of the IDP locations- in the Northern region humanitarian access is estimated at 80% while in the North-east it is at 55%. Therefore, delay in identification, assessment and timely assistance is a significant challenge. Access to basic protection in place of displacement, i.e., personal and physical security and shelter are critical needs.¹³

The lack of regular tracking of IDPs who move into secondary and tertiary displacement also impedes effective humanitarian response by actors and prevents effective access to humanitarian actors by IDPs.

Lack of female staff to join monitoring teams for assessment of IDP situation is a chronic problem in most regions, resulting in gaps in protection information about women and girls.

The IDP task force and regional protection clusters are working through various partners to develop informal networks ('protection networks') to collect information on new displacements (this could also include cases that may have been in displacement for a while and hitherto remain unknown). These informal networks include remote monitoring partners, and/ or local level key informants in places where there is no access to IDPs. The need to triangulate information received from such sources is also an imperative.

10. ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-INDUCED IDPs

Based on information provided by partners, UNHCR through its NFI/Shelter cluster has tracked the below information on assistance provided to IDPs between 01 Jan - 30 April 2012.

Between 01 January and 30 June 2012, a total of 65,723 conflict-induced IDPs (approximately 10,800 families) were assisted with food and non-food item, as follows: UNHCR provided NFIs to 24,843 individuals (5,052 families), DRC assisted 25,074 persons (about 3,521 families), NRC assisted 10,577 individuals (about 1,516 Families), IRC assisted 4,557 persons (651 families) and ERM assisted 672 persons (67 families).

¹³ National IDP Task Force meeting minutes, plus inputs from the regional Task Forces.
<http://ochaonline.un.org/afghanistan/Clusters/Protection/IDPTaskForce/tabid/5731/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Humanitarian Assistance to IDPs

Region	UNHCR	IRC	ERM*	NRC	DRC	Total
North	11,434	-	-	-	-	11,434
Northeast	53	-	-	-	-	53
South	-	-	-	-	-	-
South-East	2,016	1,050	-	-	-	3,066
East	3,997	252	-	-	-	4,249
West	5,737	3,024	665	-	-	9,426
Central	1,606	231		10,577	25,074	37,488
C. Highlands	-	-	7	-	-	7
Total	24,843	4,557	672	10,577	25,074	65,723

*ERM Consortium (SI, ACF, and Medair)

V. Conclusion:

This continuing profiling exercise has resulted in a data clean-up/re-verification leading to a significant change in the overall conflict-induced IDP data and this has demonstrated the need for close and regular tracking of IDPs across the country.

The identification and monitoring of conflict induced IDP groups is essential to map trends and respond to the most visible and outstanding needs of these groups, especially in light of significant and steady increase in conflict-induced IDPs across the country in the last few years.

The above analysis has been extracted from the UNHCR Population Movement Tracking Mechanism. The PMT is intended as a data base for the identification and entry of real time information, which will enable the humanitarian community to track key trends and identify basic needs and concerns. Therefore, it is imperative that the information fed into the system is collated from a wide variety of sources such as joint assessments, focus groups, interviews, and triangulated with community elders and other key informants, especially where access is not possible, and finally future responses are coordinated in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan.

ANNEXE 1:

Humanitarian Assistance by UNHCR

Since 2002, UNHCR Afghanistan has facilitated voluntary return of 103,861 IDP families / 520,743 individuals to their place of origin across the country. The majority of IDPs were assisted to return to the Western region (34%), followed by North-east and Central regions (20% each). The other regions where IDPs were assisted are the North (14%), South and Central Highlands regions (5% and 4% respectively). Less than 2% returned to the South. Most of the IDPs returned from the South to the North, West, and Central regions.

IDPs assisted return by year		
Year	Families	Individuals
2002	73,628	360,503
2003	16,144	82,067
2004	5,332	27,391
2005	1,660	8,580
2006	1,657	9,006
2007	423	1,960
2008	670	4,049
2009	1,057	7,225
2010	1,063	6,600
2011	1,557	9,342
2012	670	4,020
Total	103,861	520,743

IDPs assisted return by Region (2002- May 2012)		
Region	Families	Individuals
North	14,266	74,198
Northeast	21,239	116,803
South	5,230	28,845
Southeast	140	963
East	2,582	14,193
West	35,423	147,143
Central	20,796	115,663
Central Highlands	4,185	22,935
Total	103,861	520,743

In 2012, UNHCR is directly assisting 11,587 IDP households/families through the implementation of the following projects in the South, West, East, North and Central regions. In the North and North-east, a total of 4,323 IDP households are benefiting from WASH, Health, Education, Livelihoods and vocational training, while in the East a total of 3,434 IDPs through Emergency shelter, WASH and Vocation training. In the West, a total of 3,030 IDP households are being assisted through WASH, CFW, Livelihoods and vocation training. In central region, a total of 934 IDPs households are benefiting through the implementation of WASH, Health, CFW and vocational training projects. This year, UNHCR is also assisting a further 4,360 IDP households through 12 reintegration sites.

