

**KEY FIGURES**

- 22,579 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in April 2015
- Of these:
  - 50 % displaced in Apr 2015
  - 14 % in Mar 2015
  - 7 % in Feb 2015
  - 1 % in Jan 2015
  - 2 % in Dec 2014
  - 26 % earlier
- Of these:
  - 50.5 % male
  - 49.5 % female
  - 61 % children
- End of April around 873,136 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

#### APRIL 2015

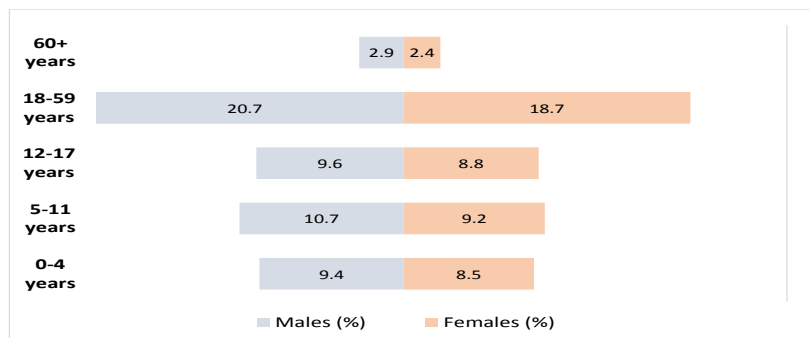
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH**

**IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity**

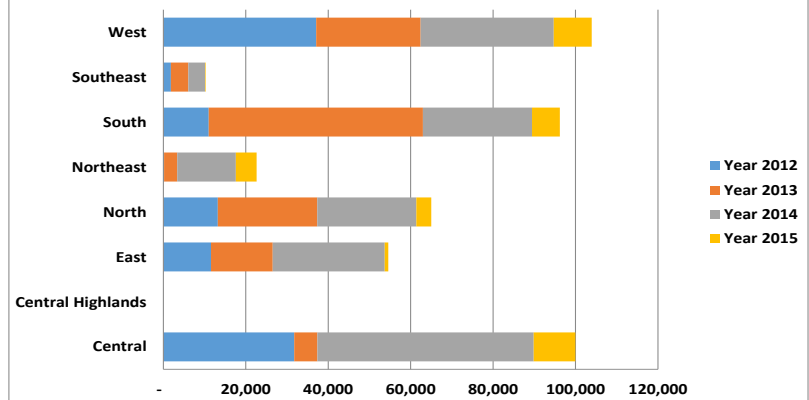
Region	end-Mar 2015	Newly profiled	end-Apr 2015
South	217,031	2,717	219,748
West	208,660	7,649	216,309
Central	142,609	6,993	149,602
East	143,971	926	144,897
North	117,258	3,828	121,086
Southeast	20,769	646	21,415
Central Highlands	79	0	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>850,377</b>	<b>22,759</b>	<b>873,136</b>

*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 Task Forces.*

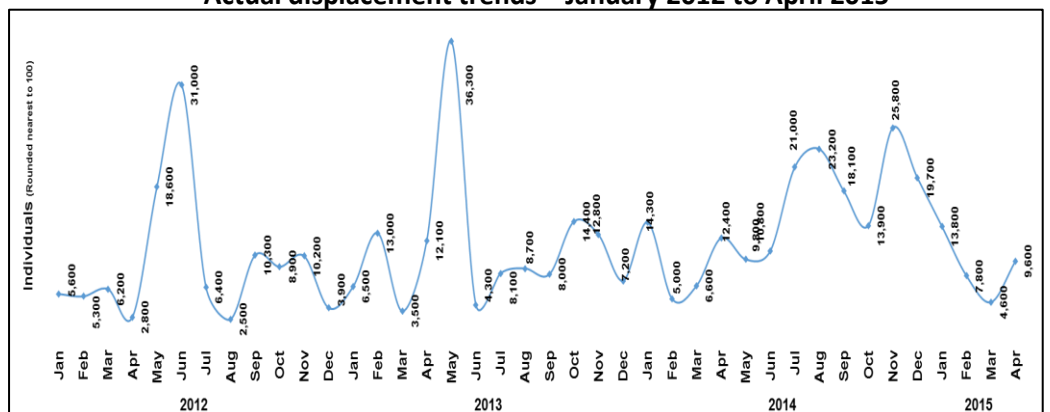
**Age and Gender breakdown of the profiled population**



**Conflict-induced IDPs by region and year of displacement (2012-2015)**



**Actual displacement trends – January 2012 to April 2015**



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

## 10 top provinces for profiling activities by IDP Task Forces during the reporting month

Province	No. of Families	No. of Individuals
Badghis	1,313	7,016
Ghazni	412	2,772
Wardak	317	2,255
Hilmand	274	2,232
Kabul	266	1,841
Farah	103	691
Sar-e-Pul	104	615
Nangarhar	62	324
Hirat	70	311
Paktya	24	201

Other smaller scale displacements have been profiled in Nuristan, Kunar and Ghor provinces. To note that the significant increase in displacement following the surge in conflict in Kunduz is not captured in these statistics for the month of April as the assessment took place during the month of May.

## Overall Analysis

In the reporting month, 22,759 individuals<sup>1</sup> were profiled across the country as conflict-induced IDPs. This represents a 7% increase comparing to the previous month. 72% of the profiled IDPs reported to have been displaced during the course of 2015.

The Western Region registered the highest records, largely due to the displacement caused by inter-tribal conflict in Badghis (see after on page 4) followed by the Central Region, where pockets of instability continued to generate forced movements of population, and by the Northern region<sup>2</sup>. Badghis, Ghazni, Wardak and Helmand were the main provinces where IDPs had been profiled during the month in review, with conflict-induced internal displacement mainly generating from within the respective provinces. In the case of Ghazni, however, the displacement was largely dating back to the end of 2014.

Armed conflicts between Anti-Governmental Elements (AGEs) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) continued to be the most cited reason for displacement across the country. This is also in line with the conflict intensification in April in connection to the “Spring Offensive”. However, during the month in review, inter-tribal clashes, though with allegiances to the parties in conflict, emerged as a prominent cause for displacement in the Western region (see after on page 4). Individualised threats by AGEs against families or individuals

<sup>1</sup> This number includes some 4,126 individuals that were profiled in March but whose records were entered in April due to some technical constraints. Most of the entries refer to assessments of conflict-induced IDPs in Kunduz conducted in March.

<sup>2</sup> See comment on Kunduz above.

perceived to be supporting the Government by exercising law enforcement or other administrative functions remains a frequently cited ground for family and group displacement, particularly in the East and South-East regions.

The most cited primary needs of the profiled population continued to be food and NFIs, largely in connection to the dynamics of the flight (sudden escape from the conflict areas). Most of IDPs continue to be hosted by relatives and local communities or manage to rent temporary accommodation, albeit of sub-standard quality. Situations where displaced families are found in open air are rare<sup>3</sup>.

The majority of IDPs profiled were assisted with food and NFIs provided by IDP Task Forces’ members. Unconditional cash assistance sometimes was provided in substitution to the food ration or NFI package, with some disbursements also done for extremely vulnerable families. (See details of assistance breakdown during the month on page 7). When specific needs were detected, referral to specialised partners was assured.

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). A dialogue with other humanitarian actors such as ICRC and the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was maintained to reach out to populations affected by conflict, including IDPs. Information was reciprocally shared on the likelihood of presence of IDPs in inaccessible areas; ARCS/ICRC evaluated the cases for possible access and assessment.

Another emerging challenge is the effort to ensure the accuracy of the assessment process. Particularly in the Western and North-Eastern provinces, there is a growing tendency for local families to file petitions, claiming to be conflict-induced IDPs in an effort to receive the assistance to mitigate chronic poverty. Sometimes this process is fuelled by the presence of political representatives interested in consolidating their consensus. Given that the available humanitarian assistance is aimed to respond to the emergency needs of the recent conflict-induced IDPs, this behaviour has often left the joint assessment teams with no choice but to conduct house to house visits of petition holders, to ensure that the genuine IDPs are identified and assisted. The timeframe necessary to conduct such exercise becomes increasingly extended and multiple teams become necessary for the assessment to be completed within reasonable time and humanitarian assistance to follow swiftly.

<sup>3</sup> During the month in review, only some 30 families were found living in makeshift shelters at the time of the assessment in Herat and Farah provinces and were supported with tents.

## Situation in the major Provinces of displacement

### Central Region

#### Ghazni

412 IDP families/2,772 individuals were assessed and profiled during the reporting month. These families were largely displaced from December 2014 to April 2015. Reportedly, the profiled IDPs mainly originated from Andar, Qarabagh, Deh Yak, Rashidan, Khogyani and Waghaz districts of Ghazni province. However, displacement from other provinces was also reported, particularly from Chak and Daimerdad districts of Maidan Wardak (171 families/1142 individuals), Lal Sar Jangal district of Ghor (18 families/113 individuals) and Khas Uruzgan district of Uruzgan (79 families/529 individuals). IDPs are largely concentrated in the centre of Ghazni city. Causes of displacement are multiple, depending on the region of origin: insurgency and counter-insurgency activities by AGEs and ANSF; armed conflict between different groups of AGEs; and general insecurity. These factors negatively affected ordinary life, livelihood and other coping strategies and the perception of safety of the civilian population, forcing them to move.

#### Maidan Wardak

Maidan Wardak continued to be one of the most unstable provinces of the Central Region, due to a growing influence of AGEs leading to sustained confrontations with the ANSF and prompting the population to move towards relatively safer areas such as the provincial centre Maidan Shahr. The districts of Chak, Nerkh and Daimerdad were particularly affected by the insurgency. During the assessments, the displaced population referred to attempts by the AGEs to disseminate night-letters, asking local residents to cease their cooperation with the Government and encouraging men to join them in combat against Government forces. This climate of insecurity and coercion prompted families to leave. During the month in review, joint assessment teams assessed the presence of some 317 families/2,255 individuals displaced from the above-mentioned districts to the centre of Maidan Wardak province. The displacement occurred in different occasions from December 2014 to April 2015. Out of 317 profiled families, 288 originated from Maidan Wardak province. However, amongst the profiled IDPs, families were also found originating from Nangarhar, Kabul, Laghman, Kunar, Paktika, Parwan and Ghazni provinces, although in lower numbers. The assessment team found 229 families most vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance. Distribution of assistance to these families is being coordinated.

#### Kabul

During the reporting month, 266 families/1,841 individuals have been assessed by the joint assessment teams in Kabul city, mainly in different districts of urban areas (PD/ 1, 6, 7, 8,

10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21 and Bagرامي districts). The mentioned families were displaced from December 2014 to April 2015 from other provinces of the Central region. 124 families/867 individuals were reportedly displaced from Alasay, Nijrab and Tagab districts of Kapisa; 122 families/824 individuals from Dai Mirdad district of Maidan Wardak; 20 families/150 individuals Ghorband district of Parwan province. While general insecurity triggered the displacements, the possibility for improved access to services in Kabul city played a role in the choice of the place of displacement. During the joint assessment, 109 out of 266 families were found in vulnerable conditions and in need for humanitarian assistance. The distribution of assistance is being coordinated.

### Northern Region

#### Sari Pul

The members of the IDP TF jointly assessed 104 families/615 individuals in the centre of Sari Pul province (Sari Pul city), in April 2015. Families were mainly displaced during the same month from Kohistanat, Sayad and Sangcharak districts of Sari Pul and Darzab district of Jawzjan, due to armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF. Interviewed IDPs mentioned that they intend to stay in the current location, where most of them are renting houses, and integrate locally. The assessment team recommended a delivery of NFI and food assistance, which is being coordinated by the IDP TF in Mazar.

#### Faryab

During the month of April, assistance has been delivered by the IDP TF Mazar partners to the families assessed during the previous month. 141 families/ 841 individuals were assisted in Maymana and 378 families / 2,355 individuals were assisted in Qaisar.

However, in the period in review a significant deterioration of the security situation has been reported in Qaisar, with fresh displacement caused by clashes between ANSF and AGEs. Possibly some 1,000 families were forced to move within the district to Qaisar district Centre and to the neighbouring district of Ghormach. In addition, fresh displacement was reported in Shirin Tagab District. At present most of the areas are not accessible to the IDP TF members. A dialogue has been pursued with ICRC and ARCS for their possible access and assessment to these areas.

### Eastern Region

#### Nangarhar

In April 2015, 62 families/324 individuals were profiled in 11 separate groups in Bihsud, Surkhrud, Kuz Kunar and Jalalabad city. The joint assessment included DoRR, APA (UNHCR's partner) and WFP. The families were displaced from various

locations in the Eastern region and were mostly living in hosting arrangements. Those included Shrizad, Chaparhar, Khugyani, Surkhrud and Kot districts of Nangarhar; Dangam district of Kunar; and Zazai Aryub district of Paktya. The displacement occurred in repeated movements from September 2014 to February 2015. Reportedly, the forced movements have been triggered by the general insecurity caused by armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF, as well as by episodes of harassment and intimidation of civilians by AGEs, particularly against community members working for State institutions or serving in military and law enforcement ranks. Most of the groups were represented by members of the same extended family and/ or tribe, who moved after receiving individual or family threats or after a direct aggression by AGEs against one or more family members for their real or perceived pro-government engagement. IDPs were assisted with food (WFP), NFI and Sanitary Kits (NRC).

## South-eastern Region

### Paktya

During the reporting month, 24 families/201 individuals were assessed as conflict-induced IDPs in Gardez city, the centre of Paktya province, largely hosted by the communities. They were displaced from Sayed Karam, Jaji and Ahmad Abad district of Paktya between late 2014 and early 2015. The representative of the IDPs mentioned the general insecurity and harassment by AGEs as the main reasons for their displacement. According to the consulted families, acts of intimidations were carried out by AGEs in Sayed Karam district. Through repeated warnings AGEs attempted to force local residents to join the insurgency. In addition, local residents were obliged to pay a tax and provide the insurgents with support in food. In the current areas of displacement, IDPs reported to have access to social services available in the area including health and education, as well as to sources of water and to the local market. Assistance is being provided through the partners of the IDP TF in Gardez.

## Western Region

### Badghis

During the last week of April, an inter-tribal conflict erupted in the district of Ab Kamari. Clashes broke out between two rival groups from within the same tribe, with divided allegiance to the insurgency and to the government respectively. As a result, Some 1,300 families were displaced within the district; to nearby areas (Muqur) and some 1,100 families reached the provincial centre of Qala-i-Now, seeking the support of the authorities and the humanitarian community. A joint assessment team including DoRR, ASR (WFP partner), IRC, NRC, WV, CRDSA (UNHCR partner) visited the various families in Qala-i-Naw city, as well as in some of the accessible rural

areas where smaller groups of IDPs from Ab Kamari had been reported. 1,313 families/7,016 individuals were identified as conflict-induced IDPs in both urban and rural area. The majority of the families in Qala-i-Now were already hosted by relatives and acquaintances, although the accommodation and sanitation standards were precarious and shortage in potable water was reported. IDPs had generally access to public services, especially health. Schooling for children was interrupted by the flight and was not yet resumed due to the primary intention of the IDPs to return to their areas of origin as soon as possible. Following the assessment of a dedicated mission from UNHCR and OCHA and the endorsement of members of the Herat IDP TF, almost all the profiled IDP families received food from WFP and NFIs, largely from UNICEF and with smaller contributions by UNHCR and World Vision.

### Herat

The joint assessment team identified 70 families/311 individuals in Herat province as conflict induced IDPs, after assessing 8 petitions which represented 195 families/1,036 individuals. The remaining families were either previous IDPs who had been assisted in the past, or families who had moved for reasons not related to conflict. The identified 70 families originated from Badghis and Ghor provinces. At the time of assessment, significant parts of the IDP families were found living in tents or makeshift accommodations, while only 23 families managed to rent houses. Consulted IDPs reported the general insecurity and armed conflict between AGEs and ANSFs as the main causes of their flight. NFIs, including hygiene kits, were distributed to all families; 6 families received food assistance; 64 families were assisted with cash assistance; 31 families were assisted with tents; and 7 families were supported with temporary latrines.

### Farah

During the reporting month, a joint assessment team mobilised by the ID TF in Herat assessed 142 families in Farah province, out of whom 103 families/691 individuals were considered conflict induced IDPs. They originated from Balabuluk, Khaki Safid and Bakwa Districts of Farah and were displaced to the provincial centre (Farah city). Confrontation between AGEs and ANSF putting the lives of the resident at risk were reported as their main reason for displacement. Based on the recommendation of the assessment team, 76 IDP families were provided with NFI and 2 families with tent.

## Southern Region

### Helmand *(to be read in conjunction with the comprehensive note of 10<sup>th</sup> April)*

Since the inception of the military operation in Helmand Province, the IDP Task Force in Kandahar closely followed the evolving humanitarian situation and maintained a close

interaction with the authorities in the province as well as with other actors on the ground. The IDP TF gathered information from various sources, including affected communities, on displacement trends and conditions of the population; organized joint assessments in accessible areas where displacement was reported; and organized the delivery of life-saving assistance to the affected population. Up to the end of March, the IDP TF members had already conducted several assessments in accessible areas (Lashkar Gah urban centre, Marja area, Nad Ali district and Kandahar province), and had assisted families from Helmand displaced by the military operation. During the first week of April, the Government, both at local and at central level, communicated to the humanitarian community the presence of significant displacement within Helmand and the increasing assistance needs of the affected population. At the beginning of April, the government announced the possible presence of some 1,900 conflict-induced IDP families in several areas of Helmand Province. At the beginning of April, the IDP TF in Kandahar agreed to undertake another comprehensive assessment in Lashkar Gah urban areas and in Marja, where access was not restricted. A dialogue was maintained with the ARCS and the ICRC for their possible access and assessment of the displaced population in other areas. The new IDP TF joint assessment started on 6<sup>th</sup> April and was completed in 2 weeks in Lashkar Gah city (2-6 April) and in Marja district (13-14 April). The assessment resulted in the identification of additional 169 families/1,290 individuals in Lashkar Gah urban and semi urban areas and 105 families/942 individuals in Marja. Families were displaced in late March – early April. IDPs in Lashkar Gah originated from Sangin, Nawzad and Kajaki districts; IDPs in Marja were largely displaced from within the district. All the assessed families received cash assistance from DRC to cover their food and NFI needs.

From the beginning of the year to the end of April, the members of the IDP TF jointly assisted 891 conflict-induced IDP families/ 7,071 individuals in connection with the Helmand situation.

### Displacement Watch

Information not yet entered into the Population Monitoring Tool (PMT)

### Kunduz

A continuous displacement was reported throughout the winter season, with no lull in fighting. Since February 2015 the IDP TF in Kunduz has assessed and assisted families displaced within Imam Sahib (297 fam. /1,984 individuals assisted in March) and to Kunduz urban / semi-urban area. (480 fam. /2,994 individuals assessed in March and assisted in April).

During the last days of April, following an intensification of insurgency activities in all districts surrounding Kunduz, the government launched a sustained military operation. This resulted in a continuous influx of civilian population towards

the centre of town, which grew exponentially during the first weeks of May. By mid-May, some 18,000 families had been filing petitions with the Kunduz authorities, largely DoRR, to be considered as conflict-induced IDPs and to receive assistance. Most of the families originated from Gultepa Alchin, Telawka, Bozi Qandari and Hazrat Sultan area of Kunduz and from Chardara district. The IDP Task Force in Kunduz, supported by the IDP Task Force in Mazar, undertook a challenging humanitarian response. This entailed the mobilisation of some 40 humanitarian staff from different partners (UNHCR, OCHA, WFP/ARS, SCI, NRC, ACTED, CHA, Mediothek) to conduct a screening of all petitions and a house-to-house visit. As the assessment proceeded and genuine displaced families were identified, the delivery of assistance was ensured in batches of 500 families, with supplies largely coming from Mazar and even from Kabul. By 20 of May, some 2,000 families had already been assisted with food, NFI, Hygiene kits, and by the end of the month is foreseen that some 5,000 families will receive emergency assistance. It is estimated that the current size of displacement can amount to some 5,000 families. It is to note that this number of families already represents a “worst case scenario” in the contingency plan on conflict-induced displacement for the North-east region, and is close to the 6,000 families that the contingency planning forecasts for the whole Northern region. For more information, a comprehensive note is attached to this Update, with more detailed information on the situation and the humanitarian response in Kunduz up to 21 May 2015.

### Badakhshan

A military operation started towards the end of April and continues in Jurm district. At the same time, a deterioration of the situation has been reported in Warduj district. At the end of April, the confrontation between ANSF and AGEs started to trigger fresh displacement towards Baharak centre, in addition to the displacement already reported within the Jurm district. A joint assessment (by DoRR, WFP Partner, UNHCR Partner NPO and ARCS) started during the first week of May and identified some 256 families in Baharak and 218 in Jurm. Coordination on the ground occurred in Faizabad. At Mazar level, UNHCR and WFP agreed to dispatch food and NFIs to cover the immediate emergency needs of these 474 families. New arrivals cannot be excluded as the conflict intensifies.

### Badghis

During the last week of April, severe clashes between AGEs and ANSF have been reported in Bala Mughab area of Badghis, close to the border with Turkmenistan. The confrontation prompted several families living in villages near the border area to escape and seek safety by attempting to cross the border. It's believed that the number of families who fled the clashes could have been as high as a thousand, largely of

Turkmen ethnicity. The attempt to cross into Turkmenistan was apparently deterred by the Turkmen authorities. According to informed humanitarian sources, families have now returned to their villages, amidst continuous insecurity. The areas are presently not accessible for any humanitarian actor. The situation continues to be monitored by the IDP TF in Herat, based on the available sources and contacts.

### Helmand

Despite the official end of the military operation “Zulfiqar” at the beginning of April, the situation in the northern district of Helmand remained extremely volatile throughout the month in review. The effective control over numerous areas shifted between the parties in conflict, and territory previously subtracted by the ANSF to the insurgency was eventually re-occupied by the AGEs. At the end of April, Helmand authorities indicated a possible renewed displacement both within the northern districts and to Lashkar Gah, Marja and Gereshk. At the beginning of May, the Kandahar IDP TF agreed to undertake new assessments in accessible areas in Lashkar Gah. The assessment started on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. As of 16<sup>th</sup> May, 130 families/997 individuals have been verified and the assessment process continues.

### Farah

Agencies member of the IDP TF in Herat and active in Farah Province are monitoring a reported displacement of some 240 families from Massaw village of Pusht-Rod district to Kababi village in the same district, as a result of intense fighting between local Police and AGEs. Due to the prevailing insecurity in those locations, agencies in Farah have not yet succeeded to gain access and verify the displacement.

## National IDP Policy Update

During the month of April the IDP Policy implementation process in the three pilot provinces proceeded at a slow pace. This was largely due to the fluid political situation, but also due to the engagement of the authorities and the international community in addressing the numerous emergency situations, including serious security incidents (e.g. Nangarhar).

However, the appointment of the new Governor in Herat encourages good perspective for a final resumption of the roll-out process in this pilot province. The first workshop on the policy implementation is now planned for mid-June.

At national level, various publications on the Policy (Policy Briefing Note, Guide for Officials, community leaflets) have been completed and printed in all languages. They are now ready to be distributed. Aside national institutions, they will be directed to selected provinces, including the three pilot

provinces. As agreed in the meeting of the National IDP Policy Working Group (WG), members of the WG will take responsibility to engage and sensitise State institutions and humanitarian actors in different fora, including within the respective organisation. The role of governmental members of the IDP Policy WG will be critical in this respect, to foster a true national ownership on the process, which needs to emerge more prominently and collectively.

During the month of April, MoRR announced the creation of a “High National Commission on Migration”<sup>4</sup>, by the Resolution of the Cabinet with broad responsibilities encompassing refugees, returnees, migrants and IDPs. The Terms of Reference of this new body are very general. They generally mention an oversight role by the newly created body on the implementation of the IDP Policy. In the document, the focus on internal displacement appears to be more in connection with durable solutions. It is hoped that a better definition of the roles and the procedure of this new body in relation to the IDP Policy will emerge in the course of the next months.

<sup>4</sup> The institution has been alternatively referred to also as National Board on Migration

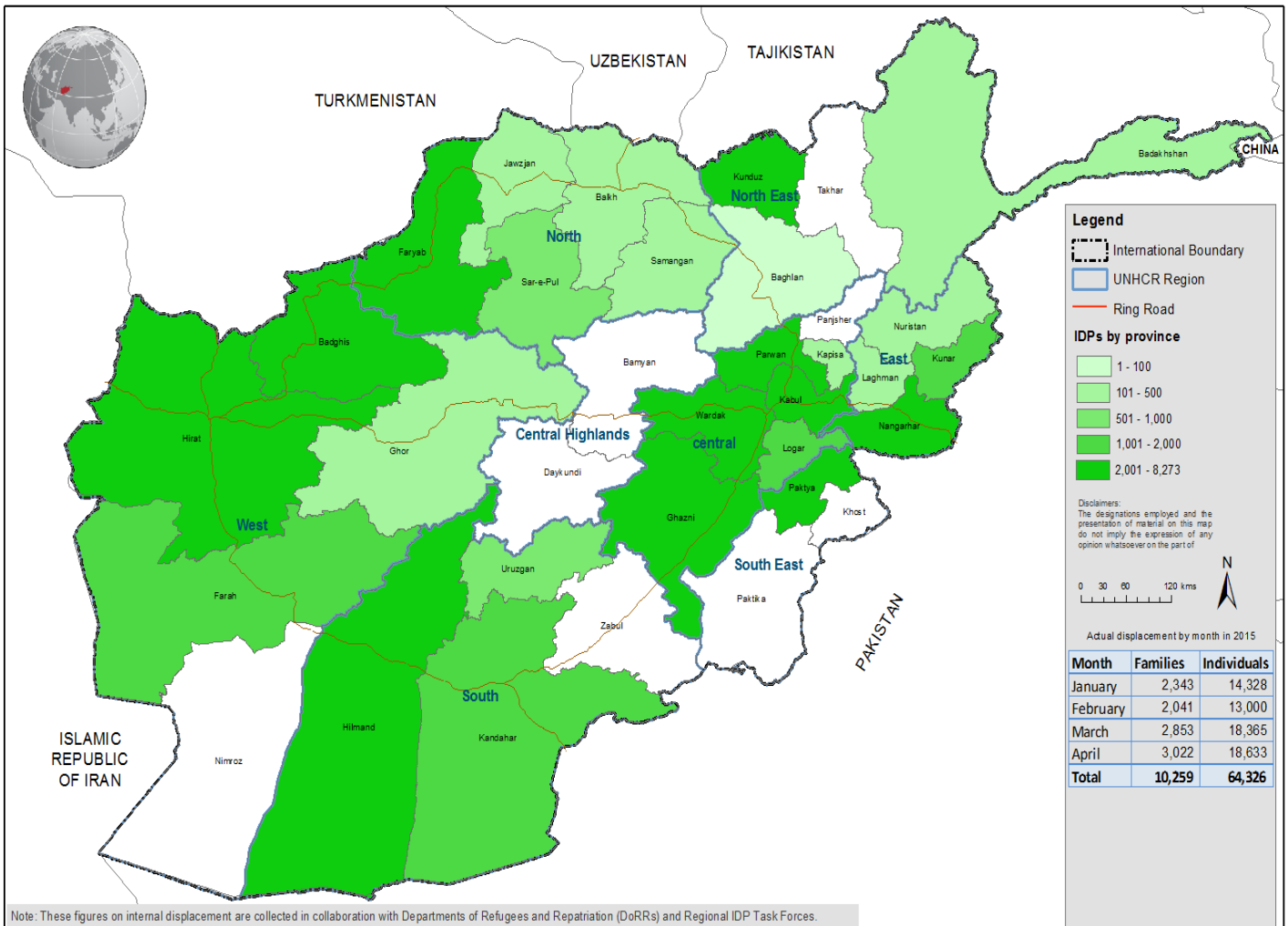
**Breakdown of Assistance Distribution by IDP Task Forces (families)**

Region	NFI						Food			Cash			Hygiene Kits				Emergency Tents		Latrine	
	UNHCR	NRC	DRC	ACF	UNICEF	IRC	WFP	ACF	DRC	NRC	PIN	DRC	UNHCR	DRC	IRC	Save the Children	ACF	UNHCR	IRC	IRC
Central Region											110									
Southern Region									267											
Western Region	175		23	23	990	147	1,295	24				48	35	23	151		24	2	127	13
Eastern Region	163	17					180			17			235							
South-east Region	63																			
Central Highlands																				
Northern Region	512						891			520					141					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>13</b>

Note: 1: The contribution of ICRC/ARCS is not included in the above table, and the organisations remain the authoritative sources to report on their assistance distribution.

Note: Emergency assistance (Food and NFIs) have been distributed by the IDP task force to about 1500 IDP families in Kunduz since early May; while the distribution is still on-going and more profiled families will receive assistance in the coming days, the exact details will be reflect in the bulleting for May 2015. Source: IDP task forces in the regions.

**Afghanistan conflict-induced IDPs by province of displacement profiled from January to April 2015**



Note: These figures on internal displacement are collected in collaboration with Departments of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRRs) and Regional IDP Task Forces.

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**UNHCR thanks its donors for their generous contributions that made this update possible.**