



## KEY FIGURES

- 30,329 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in July 2015
- Of these:
  - 51 % displaced in July 2015
  - 20 % in June 2015
  - 15 % in May 2015
  - 7 % in April 2015
  - 7 % earlier
- Of these:
  - 51 % male
  - 49 % female
  - 62 % children
- End of July 2015 around 980,000 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

### JULY 2015

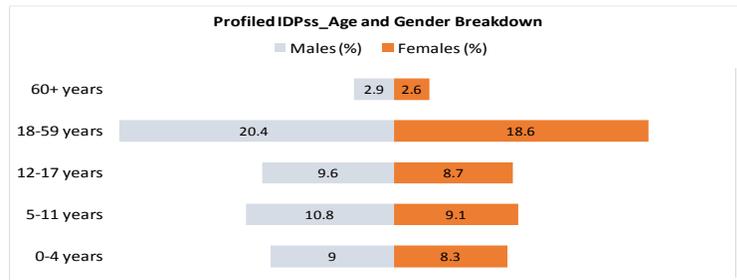
## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity

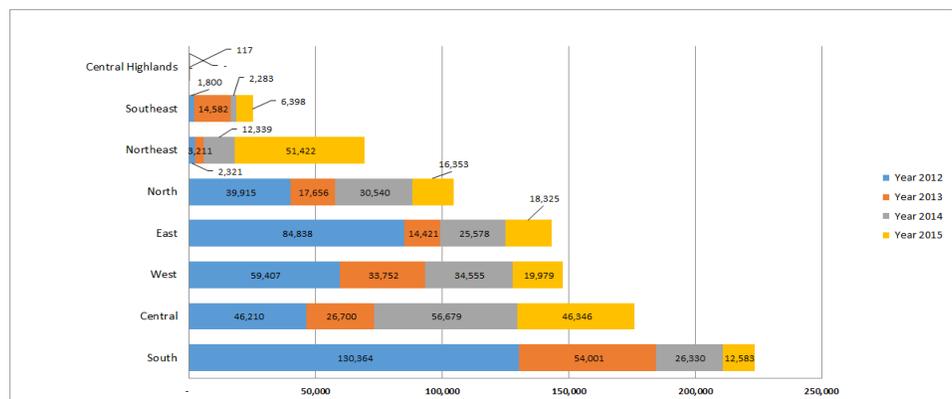
Estimated Conflict-induced displacement by region July 2015			
Region	end June 2015	Newly profiled	end - July 2015
South	223,278	-	223,278
West	220,434	2,225	222,659
Central	169,958	5,977	175,935
East	148,883	9,154	158,037
North	97,425	7,167	104,592
Northeast	65,711	4,932	70,643
Southeast	24,189	874	25,063
Central Highlands	117	-	117
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>949,995</b>	<b>30,329</b>	<b>980,324</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

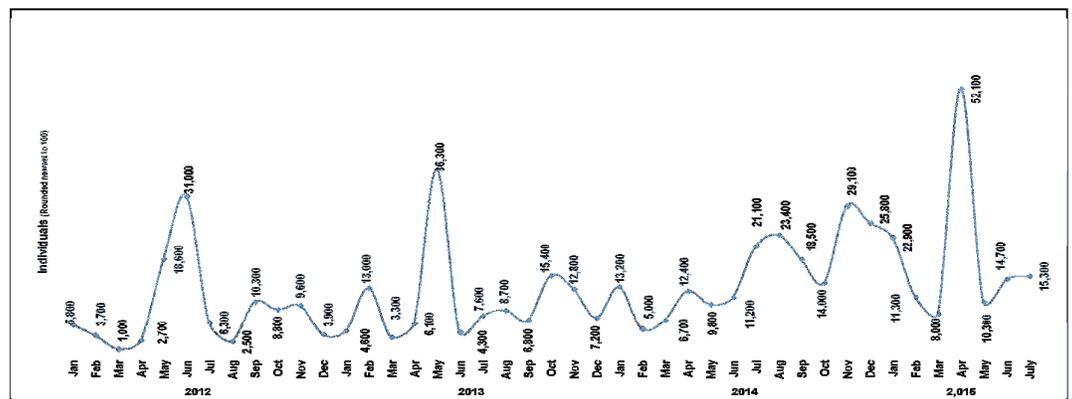


## Profiled conflict-induced IDPs by region of displacement and year of profiling (2012-2015)



## Actual displacement trends – January 2012 to July 2015

*the dates in the chart represent the time of displacement as reported by the profiled IDPs*



**Top 10 provinces for profiling activities by IDP Task Forces during the reporting month**

Province	Families	Individuals
Nangarhar	1,347	9,073
Faryab	973	6,617
Kabul	713	4,439
Takhar	706	4,164
Farah	237	1,371
Ghazni	135	882
Paktya	108	686
Kunduz	85	550
Badghis	67	394
Balkh	54	290

Other smaller scale displacements have been profiled in Maidan Wardak, Herat, Badakhshan, Logar, Kapisa, Paktika, Sar-i-Pul, and Samangan provinces. A displacement from Chardara and Dashte Archi Districts of Kunduz Province was partially profiled in June and partially in July. Assessment/profiling in Takhar, Faryab, and Nangarhar continued into the month of August and these data represent only the segment of population profiled in July.

**Overall Analysis**

Conflict-induced displacement continued to be largely triggered by Anti Governmental elements (AGEs) ground offensive and by ANSF counteroffensives, often through large-scale military operations, including with the use of aerial force. In the Eastern region, the conflict between non-State armed opposition groups, particularly between Taliban and other groups declaring their allegiance to IS/DAESH, continued unabated, with increasing level of violence prompting the population to flee the areas. During the month of July, the influx from Kot and Achin Districts into various areas of Nangarhar province continued at sustained pace.

The northern/north-eastern region was another area of instability and intensified forced movement of population during the month of July. Since the first week of the month, AGEs carried out simultaneous offensives in numerous districts of Faryab, notably Qaisar (clusters of villages in the south and southern part), Almar (southern part) Pashtunkhot (southern part), Shiring Tagab (Astana valley). Several villages in remote areas fell under the control of non-State armed opposition group. This in turn prompted the population to flee the areas, destabilising the whole province, with multiple and multidirectional displacement, including in areas not accessible by the IDP Task Forces.

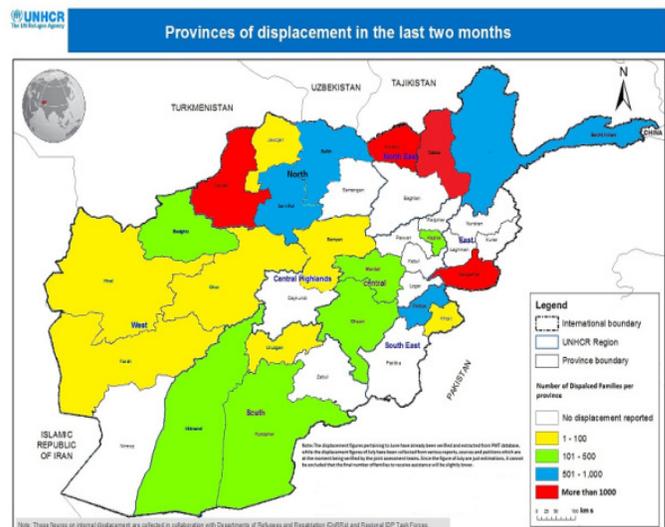
The situation remained extremely volatile also in the Kunduz Province, particularly in districts around Kunduz such as Chardara and Dashte Archi, from where from mid-June the population repeatedly fled in search of safety, largely in Government controlled urban area of Kunduz. This instability rapidly spread to Takhar Province, which unexpectedly became a major area of producing and hosting conflict-induced IDPs.

The Central region was the third major area where IDPs have been detected and profiled in July. The Central region has

been steadily producing and hosting internal displacement throughout the year, with less visible but more continuous movement across provinces. Since the month of July, the region has also started to host an increasing number of IDPs from the Nangharhar province fleeing the conflict between non-State armed groups as well as military operations in the Eastern region.

In these evolving context, the IDP Task Forces in the various regions had already brought the yearly projections on internal displacement significantly upwards (see update June 2015). Those assumptions were largely in line with the circumstances on the ground. During the months of June and July, 21 out of 34 Provinces in Afghanistan (60%) have been affected by forced movements of population due to conflict. Provinces that have not been traditionally prone to conflict-induced internal displacement have emerged as new hotspots, particularly in the North East (e.g. Takhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan). The widespread number of provinces simultaneously affected is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the displacement trends in 2015.

Snapshot on intensity of conflict-induced internal displacement between June and July 2015 in accessible areas



**Situation in the major Provinces of displacement**

**Eastern Region**

**Nangarhar**

Since Mid-June a continuous influx of populations have fled clashes between non-State actors (Taliban against self-proclaimed IS/Daesh-affiliated groups) and moved across the province and beyond. Families originated from remote provincial districts bordering Khyber Agency in FATA, notably Kot and Achin. Families settled in Jalalabad, Behsud, Rodat and Shurkot districts, but also in the neighbouring rural districts close to Achin.

1,350 families/9,087 individuals originating from Kot and Achin have been profiled during the month of July, based on notifications received by the authorities or list of petitions

presented by the local community leaders. Since movements started to be captured already in June, this represents a fraction of the overall displacement flows from those areas, albeit a significant one<sup>1</sup>. The profiling indicated that IDPs from Kot tended to converge towards Surkhrud, Bihud, and Jalalabad City, especially if part of communities with members more associated with the Government establishment. The axis of displacement from Achin was rather directed towards the neighbouring Districts, in particular Ghani Khael. This was largely connected to the profile and the tribal affiliation of the families. The majority of movements happened in June/July, with few ones reportedly in April and May.

IDPs mentioned that the clashes between two rival non-State armed groups increased in frequency, with negative consequences on the civilian population, mainly when the IS-affiliated groups opened fire on the villages where Taliban had taken position. Since the intensification of the conflict, IDP families have reportedly witnessed significant artillery strikes impacting their villages and resulting in civilian casualties and damages. During consultations with the families, it emerged that the newly formed non-state armed opposition groups have exercised unprecedented pressure on the local population, with cases of harassment, extortions and targeted intimidation against families perceived to be associated to the State authorities or factually performing functions as Agents of the State (e.g. Afghan Local Police), but also – an increasingly – against population perceived to be affiliated with the rival groups.

Consulted IDPs also reported the imposition of stricter rules and regulation on the civilian population, including women, in the areas where IS/Daesh-affiliated groups have established their presence and influence<sup>2</sup>. Forced recruitment practices, already present under the Taliban, seemed to have reignited, coupled with a parallel activism in finding proselytes through religious schools and congregations.

Throughout the month of July, joint assessments were carried out in all areas of displacement by several humanitarian actors including DoRR, WFP, UNHCR and its partners (ODCG & APA), NRC, DRC, and IRC. Most of the IDPs from Achin were in fact consulted and profiled by the ICRC, with whom the IDP Task Force cooperated in addressing this sudden mass displacement. In general, the assessed population were found in dire situation and was commonly recommended for food, NFIs and cash assistance. While ICRC/ARCS provided the majority of IDP families in Achin with humanitarian assistance (some 1,100 families), the following actors distributed humanitarian assistance to the remaining families at the beginning of August: WFP (food to 322 families), UNHCR (NFI to 322 families and tents to 5 families), IRC (NFI to 23 families), and ERM partners (NRC and DCR with cash in lieu of NFI to 437 families)<sup>3</sup>. Assessment and assistance will continue to be carried out during the month of August.

<sup>1</sup> Part of the displaced families started being assessed during the second half of June, immediately following the first movements and notifications. At the same time, the assessment continues into the month of August.

<sup>2</sup> Reportedly, women are not allowed to leave their houses without an accompanying man; women should wear different colour of Burqas associated to their familial status, etc.

<sup>3</sup> This assistance will be reflected in the records during the month of August.

Further displacement within Nangarhar, particularly from Achin and Kot districts continued almost on a daily basis, while new notifications continued to be submitted and referred to the IDP Task Force. This put significant strain on the assessment teams, who were are overstretched while trying to maintain the integrity of the assessment process and distinguish IDPs affected by the last displacement from population originating from the two affected districts but settled in Jalalabad City and surrounding areas for several years and not directly affected by the last conflict.

## Northern Region

### Takhar

During the first week of July, military operations started in Khuja Ghar district of Takhar, with intense clashes and quick shifting of territorial control between parties in conflict. This provoked multiple movements of population, within Khuja Ghar District and towards Baharak, Taloqan and Dasht-e-Qala districts of Takhar. Following a Provincial Disaster Management Committee called on 30 June, and humanitarian coordination meetings in the first week of July, members of the IDP Task Force based in Kunduz, and other additional partners based in Takhar, (UNHCR/NPO, ACTED, AREA/WFP, Concern, Dacaar, Mission East, TDH and DoRR) agreed to start joint assessments with teams in Khuja Ghar and to Taloqan district, followed by Baharak and Dasht-e-Qala area. Assessment continued throughout the month of July. By the end of July, 706 families/4,164 individuals were reported to be identified by the joint assessment team as genuine IDPs out of some 2,600 families visited, but the assessment continued into the month of August<sup>4</sup>. According to the assessment teams, several families, mainly of Uzbek origin and with fewer groups of other ethnicities, left their areas as the ground engagements intensified, as well as for fear of harassment and retaliation by AGEs. The flight was often abrupt, with families able to bring few belongings along. In areas of displacement, most of the families were found in common overcrowded accommodations. They expressed the intention to return as soon as the situation in areas of origin improved. However, families also reported the destruction of houses and livestock and the unfinished harvesting at the time of the flight.

### Faryab

During the first week of July, AGEs' offensives and multiple armed clashes between AGEs and ANSF intensified in at least three districts of Faryab province, notably Qaisar (clusters of villages in the southern part), Almar (southern part) and Pashtunkhot (southern part). Reportedly, several villages in remote areas fell under the control of non-State armed opposition groups and prompted the population to flee the areas. These initial developments were soon followed by new reports of armed hostilities expanding also to Shirin Tagab district, particularly to an area known as Astana Valley, comprising some 40 villages. The area reportedly fell under AGEs control with consequent fresh displacement to neighbouring villages. By mid-July a new deterioration of the

<sup>4</sup> Assistance provided to some 700 families by UNHCR (NFI) and WFP (Food). It will be reflected in the August update.

security situation affected Qaisar District with indications that families from remote areas had again dispersed, with the majority directed to Qaisar district centre. After these initial offensives and during the whole month of July, the situation in the entire Faryab province remained extremely fluid. Security forces strengthened their presence. Appeals by provincial and national authorities to rally governmental and paramilitary forces to defend the territory of the Province were publicly launched in a spiral of increased tension.

As for population movements, they continued to be multiple and multi-directional within the majority of the districts, towards the district centres and towards Maymana urban areas. Population movements into neighbouring provinces such as Balkh were also detected. An appraisal of the overall displacement continued to be extremely difficult, due to access constraints and lack of reliable sources.

In this context, governmental authorities exercised increasing pressure on the humanitarian community to proceed with the assessment and assistance of the displaced population, starting from accessible areas of Maymana and Khuja Sabz Posh (KSP) district, and further expanding to all accessible areas of the affected districts.

While the intervention of the ARCS was able to address needs in areas not accessible by the IDP TF, since mid-July, the IDP Task Force in Maymana started a joint assessment of families in the urban and semi-urban areas of Maymana and in the neighbouring reachable areas of KSP district, where families have arrived from both Shirin Tagab (Astana Valley) and from the eastern part of KSP district. The assessment continued in the following weeks in Maymana, KSP and some areas of Shirin Tagab district.

By the end of July, 973 families/6,617 individuals were identified as conflict-induced IDPs in need for assistance in Maymana, Shirin Tagab, Dolat Abad and KSP districts of Maymana. Up to the end of the month, the main areas of origin of the assessed IDPs were Shirin Tagab/Astana Valley, largely displaced in KSP and to a lesser extent inaccessible areas in the same district; KSP, largely displaced within the same district. The IDPs assessed in Maymana originated from a combination of those areas. The assessment revealed the difficult conditions in areas of displacement. Accommodation conditions were severely substandard and overcrowded, while a number of families were found to live in makeshift shelters. Water and sanitation needs appeared quite prominent, with IDPs fetching water from rivers and shallow wells and not able to obtain adequate quantity. Basic health services in areas of displacement in Shirin Tagab, KSP and Dawlat Abad, were available and accessible to IDPs. However, their quality remained poor, especially in specialised areas such as maternal health care. IDPs in KSP had no choice but to address structures in Maymana. In most of the cases IDPs lamented the loss of livestock and harvest, object of deliberate destruction or as a result of the failure of parties in conflict to respect the principle of distinction and proportionality. As in other situations, the lack of documentation represented an obstacle for children to access education in areas of displacement, which was promptly addressed to UNICEF to engage a dialogue with the competent authorities. Displaced teachers proposed provisional solutions to ensure continuity

of education in the period of displacement such as temporary school tents.

UNHCR and WFP mobilised their resources to cover the needs of the displaced populations in Faryab. However, more humanitarian actors, members of the IDP Task Force are positively adding their support to contribute to the response, often with a division of areas of responsibility to facilitate the swift delivery of assistance<sup>5</sup>.

### Balkh

Since the beginning of the year, few families had been assessed by the IDP Task Force. However, as a result of the growing instability in the northern region, during the last months, and particularly in July, authorities in Balkh started to report a growing presence of IDP families in the Province. Families were reported to have moved across provinces, from unstable areas to the most urbanised and developed provinces of Northern Afghanistan. As previous assessments showed, the more stable and secure situation mixed with the enhanced economic and livelihood opportunities, continued to be pull factors driving IDPs and other individuals towards Balkh, largely from Sar-i-Pul and Faryab but also as far as Kunduz. During the month of July, DoRR in Balkh received a significant number of petitions from families claiming to be newly displaced to the Province. Based on the past experience, the IDP Task Force members considered that a part of those families could be from areas not directly affected by the conflict and arrived in Balkh solely attracted by economic opportunities. During July the teams visited 120 families and out of them identified 54 families/290 individuals as conflict-induced IDPs who were assessed by the joint teams. They were largely from Qaisar district of Faryab and had left their houses due to military operation and generalized insecurity and violence. They were to receive cash from NRC and NFI from Save the Children in August. The petitions continued to arrive in the following weeks (see after “Displacement “watch”).

## Central Region

### Kabul

Based on various displacement reports and notifications received, UNHCR’s partner (WSTA) and other task force members including AREA, DoRR Kabul, DRC and OCHA, conducted joint assessments and verified 713 families/4,439 individuals as conflict-induced IDPs during the month. A large part of this displaced population (489 families /2,886 individuals) originated from Nangarhar Province and settled in urban areas of Kabul city and Bagrami district of Kabul. Achin (37% of the profiled), Nazyan (22%), Kot, Batikot and Khugyani districts of Nangarhar were reported as the main places of origin.

The remaining 224 families have been displaced from Kapisa, Kunduz, Helmand, Kunar, Laghman and Logar provinces. Out of the total 489 IDP families, 482 families were considered eligible for humanitarian assistance. As reported by the families, the main reason of displacement from Nangarhar

<sup>5</sup> Assistance to more than 1,000 families has been delivered during the first weeks of August.

province was the deterioration of the security environment and the increasingly frequent situations of harassment, intimidations by non-State armed groups. All 482 eligible families received food and NFIs from UNHCR and WFP during the month of August<sup>6</sup>.

### Ghazni

With the security situation slightly more stable during the month of July, at least in areas accessible by the IDP Task Force, the assessment teams consisting of WSTA, DoRR Ghazni, ANDMA and provincial Council verified totally 135 IDP families /882 individuals in the centre of Ghazni province during the month of July. Families were largely displaced from insecure districts of Ghazni, including Abband, Qara Bagh, Andar and Moqur, as well as from insecure parts of other provinces including Maidan Wardak. Armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF remained the main reason cited by all IDP groups, triggering their flights. 85 out of 135 families were identified as eligible for humanitarian assistance, and received cash assistance by DRC.

## Western Region

### Farah

242 families were assessed in Farah city, centre of Farah province, of whom 237 families/1,371 individuals were identified as conflict-induced IDP by joint assessment teams of UNHCR, WFP and DoRR. Frequent fighting between ANSF and AGEs and generalized violence were the two main reasons for the flight of IDPs from their villages in Balabuluk, Khak-e-Safid, Pusht-e-Rod, Qala-e-Kah and Anardara districts of Farah toward provincial centre. Some of these districts are well known for being highly unstable and recurrently generating displacement. The assessment revealed that IDPs have been displaced in small groups between December 2013 and June 2015. 160 out of 237 families who were recently displaced were identified as in need of emergency food and NFI, and all received food (WFP), NFIs and hygiene kits (UNHCR).

### Badghis

The joint assessment team visited 72 families in Qala-e-Naw, out of which 67 families were identified as conflict-induced IDPs. They reported armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs as well as extortion, illegal taxation and intimidation by armed groups as the main reasons triggering their forced movement. Families originated from Qadis, Muqur, Abkamari and Murghab districts of Badghis. In June, ANSF launched a military operation in Abkamary district and primary reports had indicated that some families were displaced into the neighbouring villages. The joint assessment team undertook a mission to the area, but could not conduct a proper exercise due to security concerns. A reassessment was considered in consultation with DoRR and partner agencies. UNHCR, WFP, IRC and NRC, provided food (16 families), NFI (50 families), cash (42 families) and tent (1 family) to the assessed families in Qala-e-Naw. A new surge in conflict-induced IDPs was recorded during the month of July, mainly caused by conflict

within the province as well as by spill-over effects of situation in Faryab (AGEs movement from Faryab to Badghis). Abkamary district of Badghis witnessed military operations which led to a couple of hundreds of families displaced. The assessment was carried out in August.

## South-east Region

### Paktya

During the reporting month, 108 families/686 individuals were profiled as conflict-induced IDPs in Paktya province by DoRR and UNHCR's partner (APA). About 22% of IDPs reported to have been displaced in 2014, while the remaining have moved in small groups from beginning of 2015 until July. The main reasons triggering their displacements were reported as general insecurity, armed conflicts between AGEs and ANSF as well as intimidations and harassment. As per the assessment report, 85% of families live in rented houses, while others have been accommodated by the host community. Food, NFI and shelter were the main identified needs of IDPs, while access to other social services was reported as available. Out of the assessed families, 93 families who were recently displaced were considered to be eligible for humanitarian assistance.

## Displacement Watch

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

### Kunduz

During the last part of July, the situation around Kunduz saw a new drastic deterioration. Sporadic ground engagements between AGEs and ANSF continued in Charadara, Qalay-i-zal and Ali Abad districts, while the district of Dasht-e-Archi remained fully under AGEs' control. During the last days of July, armed opposition groups launched a series of offensive against ANSF posts in the North-West area of Khanabad district, and gained control of several villages. The renewed clashes caused by the expansion of territorial control by AGEs in Khanabad and by the counteroffensive by the ANSF, causing widespread damages to properties and civilian casualties, prompted new movements of population towards Kunduz. A significant number of petitions were lodged with the authorities (DoRR) and prompted the resumption of the work of the joint assessment team. The assessment process was carried out throughout the month of August and is still ongoing. While most of the petitioning families originate from Khanabad, few groups are also reported to have fled from Qalay-i-zal and from the North-West part of Kunduz District already heavily affected by the conflict in May. Since 30 July, three teams (ASR/WFP, UNHCR, SCI, NPO, NRC and DoRR) started to undertake a joint household assessment. At the end of the first week of August, some 562 families were already visited and 43% were identified as genuine IDPs<sup>7</sup>. Local authorities continue to exercise significant pressure on the

<sup>6</sup> To be reflected in the assistance table of August.

<sup>7</sup> As highlighted by the assessment teams, other petitioning families originated from Khanabad, but had settled in Kunduz area for several years and were not directly affected by the current conflict.

humanitarian actors to increase the speed of the assessment. Since the beginning of August, the IDP Task Force discussed the possibility to increase the number of teams, given the continuous growing of petitions. While it may be expected that a certain segment of the petitioning families will not be found as genuine IDPs in need for assistance, the sheer number of petitions is putting a serious strain on the capacity of the humanitarian actors, while at the same time other massive displacement are ongoing in Takhar and Faryab.

### Baghlan

Since end-July, a deteriorating has been reported in Dahana-e-Ghori district of Baghlan, initially overtaken by AGEs. In mid-August, a counteroffensive ANSF was launched. This determined more sustained displacement trends towards Pul-i-Khumri. Given the accessibility of the area, and the multiple forced movements across the North and North-east, it was difficult to find partners willing and able to carry out the assessment. The evolution of the situation will be summarised in the next IDP Update for August.

### Faryab

ANSF counteroffensive continues in August, with some relevant territorial gains (e.g. Qaisar and Ghormach). The assessment of the families displaced in July continued, with some extension in coverage of the areas (e.g. some areas of Almar District). Further details will be available in the upcoming monthly IDP update, as the joint teams proceed further and data are consolidated.

### Nangarhar

DoRR continues to receive petitions from the representatives of the IDP groups Kot and Achin, where the conflict between different none State armed opposition groups continues. The assessment teams proceeded with assessments of new IDPs on a daily basis and responded to emergency needs. More details on the number and situation of new IDPs during August will be available in the upcoming notes and reports.

## IDP Policy implementation

During the month of July, a more decisive impetus by the provincial authorities (DoRR and Office of the Governor) brought about the finalisation and endorsement of the IDP Policy Provincial Action Plan (PAP) for Nangarhar Province.

**After a series of meetings of the Drafting Committee, on 28 July the PAP was signed by the Governor's Office, several Provincial Directorates, as well as other institutions<sup>8</sup>.**

The PAP was transmitted by the Governor's Office to MoRR. The National IDP Policy Working Group was invited to discuss the draft and submit possible comments to MoRR for further consolidation and transmission to the Governor.

In general, the majority of the National IDP Policy Working Group members recognised the efforts made by the authorities in finalizing the plan. Important aspects were

underlined as lessons learnt in the process, possibly valuable also for the future process in the other two pilot provinces (Herat and Balkh).

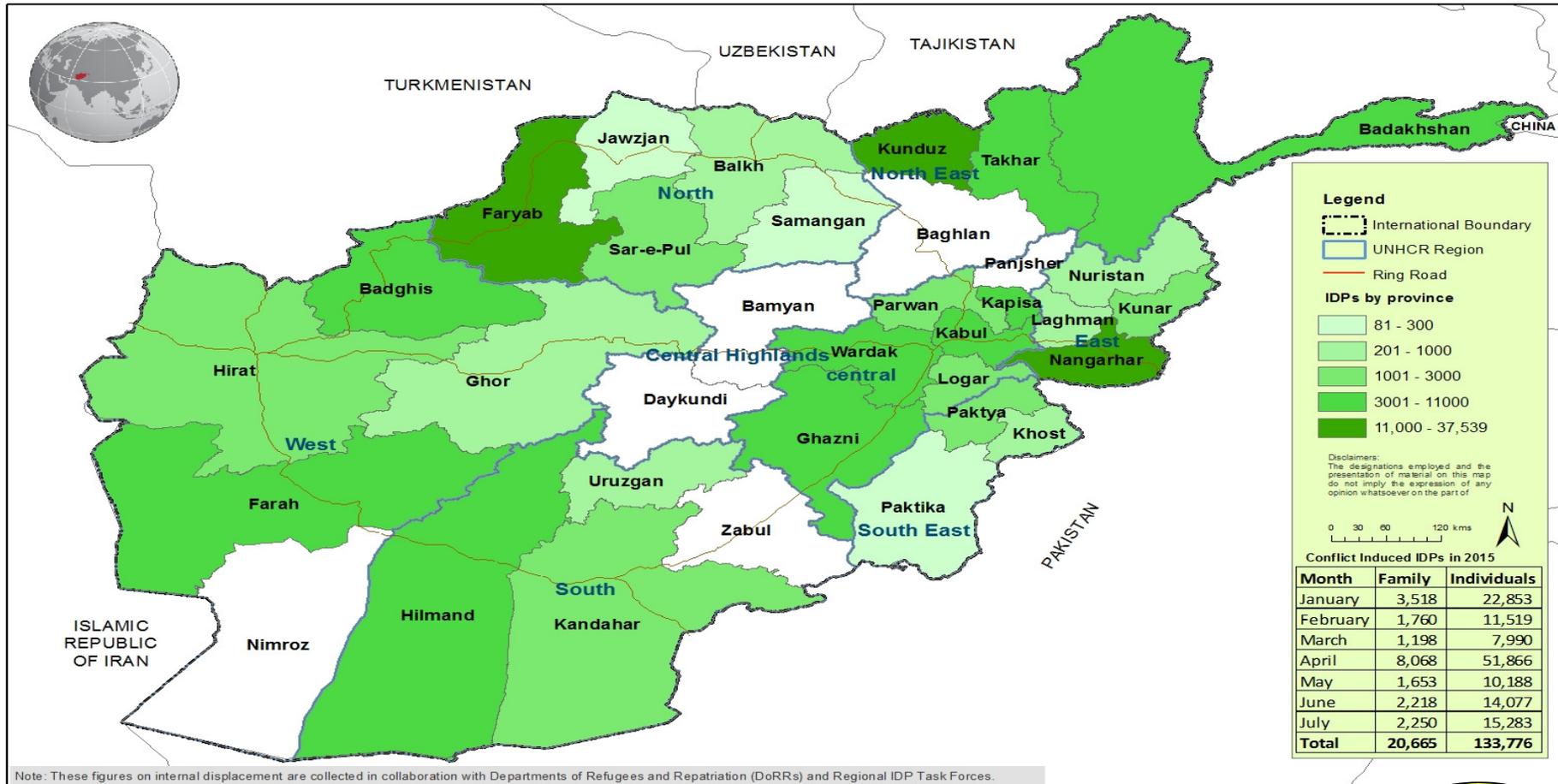
- From a procedural aspect, the importance of more government ownership, commitment and good planning has been highlighted. This includes due advance notice on meetings of the Provincial IDP Policy Committee and the PAP Drafting Sub-Committee. Such commitment and planned approach to the process would allow a good dialogue between various engaged institutions at field level with the respective central levels already during the PAP drafting phase, which eventually will avoid many comments by the central institutions after the endorsement at provincial level.
- The need for a stronger commitment from line Ministries and other institutions, if the PAP – and in general the whole IDP Policy – has to succeed. The PAP elaboration needs investment in analysis, strategy, planning and consultations, including with the affected displaced population, and should be considered an opportunity and not only as a “task”.
- The importance for the Provincial authorities to enhance synergies and support from Institutions/ Ministries at central level to be provided to the provincial Implementation Committee and Drafting Committee members. The support may come particularly from those ministries that have a good expertise in strategic planning. This would guarantee a more robust and technically solid planning process and would support those key actors at Provincial level, who often lamented their lack of capacity in trying to fulfil such a complex institutional task.

<sup>8</sup> As an act of the Government, the humanitarian community did not sign the documents, although it recognized the importance and value.





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



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Data available at <http://www.unhcr.af/Applications/SitePages/Default.aspx?idx=0&sitepage>