



DTM

AFGHANISTAN

BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY RESULTS

ROUND 14 • NOV – DEC 2021

A woman walks through a settlement of tents housing IDPs in Qala-e-Naw district, Badghis. 425,327 IDPs and returnees from abroad live in informal settlements under poor living conditions. © IOM 2021



ABOUT DTM

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system that tracks and monitors displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

DTM has implemented the Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan since 2016 to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of displaced and returnee populations, reasons for displacement, places of origin and periods of displacement. Vulnerabilities and multisectoral needs are covered in the Community-Based Needs Assessment report, released in conjunction with this report. Data is collected at the settlement level, through focus group discussions with community focal points and direct observations.

DTM enables IOM and its partners to maximize resources, set priorities, and deliver better-targeted, evidence-based, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian assistance and development programming. For more information about DTM in Afghanistan, please visit www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan.

4 TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, DTM tracks the locations, population sizes and period of displacement of four core target population categories:

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are subdivided into the following two categories:

- Arrival IDPs**
Afghans who were forced to leave their place of habitual residence and have arrived in the assessed locations within the internationally recognized borders of Afghanistan.
- Returned IDPs**
Afghans who have returned to their habitual residence in the assessed locations from which they had previously fled as IDPs.

Afghans moving internationally are subdivided into the two categories:

- Persons Who Moved Abroad**
Afghans who moved abroad, regardless the reason or duration of expatriation (including persons in need of international protection and economic migrants).
- Returnees from Abroad**
Afghans who had moved abroad for at least 6 months and have now returned to Afghanistan.

Data on population sizes for the 4 target population categories is collected by time of displacement, using each of the following time frames: 2012-2015 • 2016 • 2017 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020 • 2021

OVERVIEW



34 provinces covered

401 districts assessed



13,187 settlements assessed
82,923 community focal points (CFPs) interviewed

DTM teams assessed 13,187 communities across Afghanistan in November and December 2021 for Round 14 of the BMA assessment. DTM identified 5,832,454 individuals who displaced between 2012 and 2021 and remain in displacement. Over one fifth of those individuals (1,327,474 or 23%) displaced in 2021 as a result of conflict and natural disaster.

KEY FIGURES*



5,832,454

arrival IDPs who remain in displacement [2012-2021]



8,495,365

former IDPs have returned to their habitual residence [2012-2021]



4,519,522

individuals moved abroad [2012-2021]



5,149,245

individuals returned from abroad [2012-2021]

*Each IDP category is summed separately. A stock IDP number is not presented in this report.



Overview of 4 Target Populations by Province

Province	Base Population*	Assessed Communities	Arrival IDPs	% of Pop.	Returned IDPs	% of Pop.	Persons Moved Abroad	% of Pop.	Returnees from Abroad	% of Pop.
Badakhshan	1,017,499	940	67,934	6%	117,798	12%	144,940	14%	92,179	8%
Badghis	530,574	300	96,092	12%	158,306	30%	152,978	29%	151,617	19%
Baghlan	977,297	592	107,665	8%	764,212	78%	207,920	21%	208,684	16%
Balkh	1,442,847	683	471,830	23%	182,648	13%	275,845	19%	172,154	8%
Bamyan	478,424	234	41,555	7%	99,204	21%	49,271	10%	40,975	7%
Daykundi	498,840	273	33,509	6%	40,138	8%	109,625	22%	41,800	7%
Farah	543,237	382	165,568	20%	170,813	31%	135,085	25%	101,992	13%
Faryab	1,069,540	305	93,933	6%	226,321	21%	393,131	37%	285,040	20%
Ghazni	1,315,041	412	208,326	13%	154,232	12%	65,495	5%	90,082	6%
Ghor	738,224	299	112,204	12%	75,421	10%	96,342	13%	70,051	8%
Helmand	1,395,514	292	552,062	26%	831,778	60%	101,115	7%	174,920	8%
Herat	2,050,514	657	969,462	29%	167,486	8%	400,946	20%	291,415	9%
Jawzjan	579,833	333	117,976	13%	269,147	46%	289,883	50%	209,028	23%
Kabul	4,860,880	581	684,028	11%	105,374	2%	221,094	5%	501,372	8%
Kandahar	1,337,183	421	160,655	10%	446,732	33%	49,325	4%	120,341	7%
Kapisa	471,574	199	68,190	11%	202,299	43%	85,923	18%	57,099	10%
Khost	614,584	602	84,084	10%	36,923	6%	48,010	8%	107,239	13%
Kunar	482,115	360	122,438	17%	91,627	19%	44,004	9%	101,541	14%
Kunduz	1,091,116	316	158,334	10%	1,680,072	154%	233,055	21%	295,930	19%
Laghman	476,537	226	65,973	10%	107,865	23%	60,058	13%	148,747	22%
Logar	419,377	383	31,316	5%	39,256	9%	102,065	24%	185,536	29%
Nangarhar	1,635,872	927	450,780	17%	762,695	47%	189,450	12%	640,820	23%
Nimroz	176,898	292	91,328	27%	28,238	16%	67,309	38%	64,455	19%
Nuristan	158,211	70	11,629	7%	17,501	11%	1,806	1%	1,944	1%
Paktika	748,910	295	58,677	7%	48,208	6%	53,530	7%	65,391	7%
Paktya	590,668	439	56,868	7%	151,125	26%	50,178	8%	126,614	16%
Panjsher	164,115	116	4,159	2%	4,316	3%	5,273	3%	1,534	1%
Parwan	711,621	403	73,423	8%	155,183	22%	127,938	18%	100,707	11%
Samangan	415,343	233	56,345	11%	79,471	19%	63,051	15%	47,959	9%
Sar-e-Pul	599,137	304	137,034	16%	120,109	20%	184,946	31%	142,404	16%
Takhar	1,053,852	584	122,990	9%	693,649	66%	276,392	26%	189,526	14%
Uruzgan	420,964	104	93,201	18%	115,564	27%	2,681	1%	469	0%
Wardak	637,634	232	46,266	6%	113,786	18%	109,820	17%	156,603	19%
Zabul	371,043	398	216,620	29%	237,868	64%	121,038	33%	163,077	22%
Total	30,075,018	13,187	5,832,454	14%	8,495,365	28%	4,519,522	15%	5,149,245	13%

*Statistics on the base population come from Afghanistan's National Statistic and Information Authority (NSIA) Population Estimates for 2018 to 2019. According to the BMA assessment, the current population consists of 19% infants, 30% children, 41% adults, and 10% elderly members. Among the adults, 48% are male 52% are female.



A community in Daykundi province is photographed in hopes of receiving a school from the humanitarian community. © IOM 2021

EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING: AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2021

IOM Afghanistan deployed the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) assessment in September 2021 to track sudden internal displacement and population movements due to the rapid political transformations in 2021 and its consequences, including effects on the feasibility of data collection.

The EET is activated on an as-needed basis and designed to provide best estimates of the presence of affected population groups during tumultuous periods when more comprehensive assessments, such as the BMA, are not possible.

The EET assessment was thus determined to be the optimal tool to assess the displacement situation during the period of volatile and rapidly shifting political and military circumstances in the country in the period immediately following August 2021.

Three rounds of the EET assessment took place

from September to December 2021.¹ CFPs provided information relevant to the same four population groups that are observed in the BMA assessments.

The below table presents the results from [EET Round 3](#), covering 10,129 communities in 368 districts across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. **IOM identified 988,817 individuals who were displaced after the political changes in August 2021 and remained in displacement until the end of 2021.**

The EET assessment does not contain predications equivalent to those that are in the refined BMA assessment. Therefore, the BMA and EET assessments are not interchangeable. However, the EET could be used in comparison to the BMA assessment: almost all (99.9%) of the communities assessed in the EET were re-assessed in the BMA Round 14 exercise, in addition to newly added locations for broader coverage.

Displaced Individuals in all 4 Target Populations, August to December 2021 Summary Overview by Province from the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) Assessment

Province	Communities Assessed	Arrival IDPs	Returned IDPs	Persons Moved Abroad	Returnees from Abroad
Badakhshan	646	19,496	32,825	59,039	6,130
Badghis	262	34,397	45,544	83,891	4,220
Baghlan	542	28,397	20,594	35,022	3,146
Balkh	601	115,143	149,475	87,011	10,651
Bamyan	207	11,644	75,070	8,063	2,186
Daykundi	241	7,015	8,029	9,150	4,732
Farah	250	2,480	2,586	9,484	1,276
Faryab	287	57,697	438,966	64,185	8,843
Ghazni	187	27,450	672	26,832	1,082
Ghor	121	27,186	23,310	24,139	46
Helmand	217	22,410	226,369	2,874	3,354
Herat	584	48,938	21,126	54,765	2,351
Jawzjan	319	23,535	34,858	13,438	1,269
Kabul	550	93,631	51,823	82,718	5,713
Kandahar	230	15,022	25,188	4,308	597
Kapisa	188	9,863	41,610	13,056	607
Khost	533	22,627	16,202	16,124	736
Kunar	318	35,497	3,921	23,084	487
Kunduz	257	33,327	156,666	33,530	2,692
Laghman	149	24,500	64,508	32,049	1,617
Logar	264	13,413	18,470	6,965	675
Nangarhar	777	153,799	165,243	78,694	9,026
Nimroz	197	18,062	7,063	22,120	1,005
Nuristan	16	567	1,925	414	0
Paktika	177	5,644	23,118	3,634	327
Paktya	353	31,320	155,566	7,847	1,181
Panjsher	115	1,605	69,013	7,214	164
Parwan	355	25,095	97,057	36,061	3,768
Samangan	226	8,358	40,356	14,676	1,273
Sar-e-Pul	191	15,368	62,364	40,548	3,101
Takhar	568	29,503	73,421	84,818	6,577
Uruzgan	20	1,624	2,079	392	64
Wardak	124	18,721	11,670	2,421	317
Zabul	57	5,483	27,785	926	40
Total	10,129	988,817	2,194,472	989,492	89,253

¹ The EET reports can be found here: [Round 3 \(1 - 19 December\)](#), [Round 2 \(12 October - 15 November\)](#), and [Round 1 \(1 September - 5 October 2021\)](#).



METHODOLOGY

The overall objective of DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan is to track mobility and displacement, provide population estimates, locations, and geographic distribution of displaced and returnee populations. DTM captures additional mobility information, including reasons for displacement and return, places of origin and destination and periods of displacement and return.

Enumerators collect quantitative data at the settlement level through focus group discussions with community focal points (CFPs). Through direct observations, enumerators also collect qualitative data on living conditions, basic services and the security and socio-economic situation. When DTM assesses a province, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

1. District-level assessment (B1): this assessment aims to identify settlements with high inflows and outflows of Afghan nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.
2. Settlement-level assessment (B2): based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each settlement (village), identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from CFPs.



DTM enumerators facilitate a focus group discussion with female community focal points (CFPs). DTM strives to gather more gender-balanced information. © IOM 2021



DTM enumerators facilitate a focus group discussion in Badghis province. © IOM 2021



COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS

DTM's field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through community focus group discussions with community focal points (CFPs). While assessing communities, enumerators also observe the living conditions and availability of multi-sectoral services. In the rare case that DTM enumerators cannot physically reach a community, due to insecurity, conflict, or risk of retaliation, enumerators meet the focus groups at safe locations outside their communities or conduct the assessments by phone.

DTM has made significant strides to improve gender inclusion in focus group discussions, although there is much room for improvement. Women represent 1% of the community focal points, which, although marginal, is an improvement from the 0.1% female representation in DTM's first round, completed in March 2017.



82,923

CFPs interviewed

out of which:



82,259

male CFPs (99%)



664

female CFPs (1%)



8,227

CFPs are IDPs or returnees from abroad (10%)



19,653

CFPs from host communities (24%)



6.3

average number of CFPs per focus group



17,878

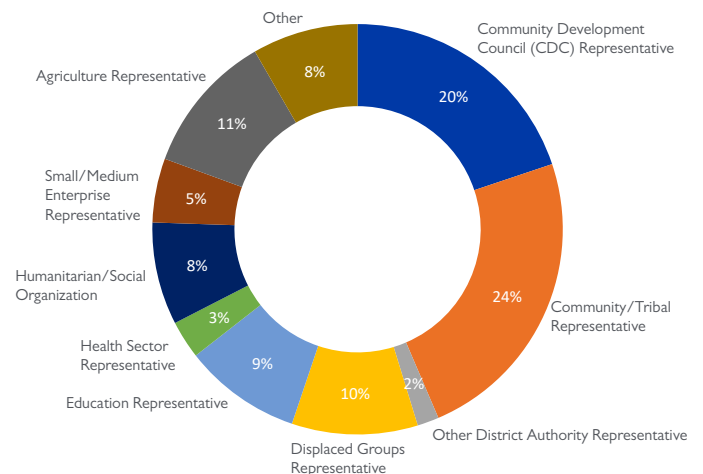
CFPs from local authorities (22%)



30,254

CFPs from multi-sectoral and social services (36%)

Community Focal Points by Type | 2012 to 2021



ARRIVAL IDPs

Arrival IDPs (IDPs) are Afghans who fled their communities of origin and have arrived in the assessed locations within Afghanistan as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, protection concerns, or natural and human-made disasters. This section breaks down the findings on arrival IDPs only, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

The 2016 through 2018 period witnessed large increases in the number of Afghans displaced by conflict and natural disasters, reaching between 750,000 and 850,000 displaced each year, based on CFPs' estimates (see Annual Trends graph below). In comparison to 2018, the overall number of IDPs decreased by 22% in 2019 (660,973 individuals), but resurged in 2020 reaching almost one million newly displaced individuals (a 51% increase compared to 2018).

In 2021, an unprecedentedly high number of individuals were displaced nationwide. According to BMA Round 14 estimates, over 1.3 million Afghans fled their homes as IDPs in 2021. Sixty-two per cent of these IDPs displaced because of the conflict escalation due to international troop withdrawal over the summer months, which subsequently led to a rapid change of government.

5,832,454

arrival IDPs currently reside in host communities

out of which:



425,327

IDPs reside in informal settlements (9%)



4,442,933

displaced due to conflict (76%)



2 in 3

displaced within their home province (63%)



1,389,521

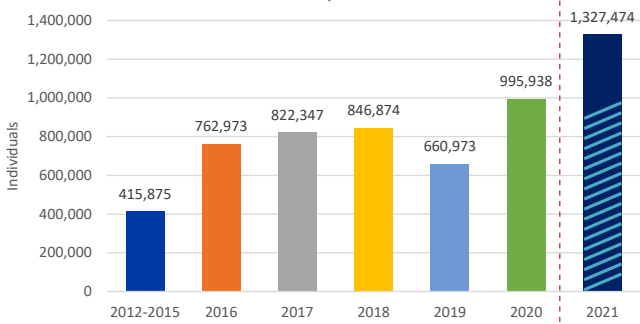
displaced by natural disaster (24%)



969,462

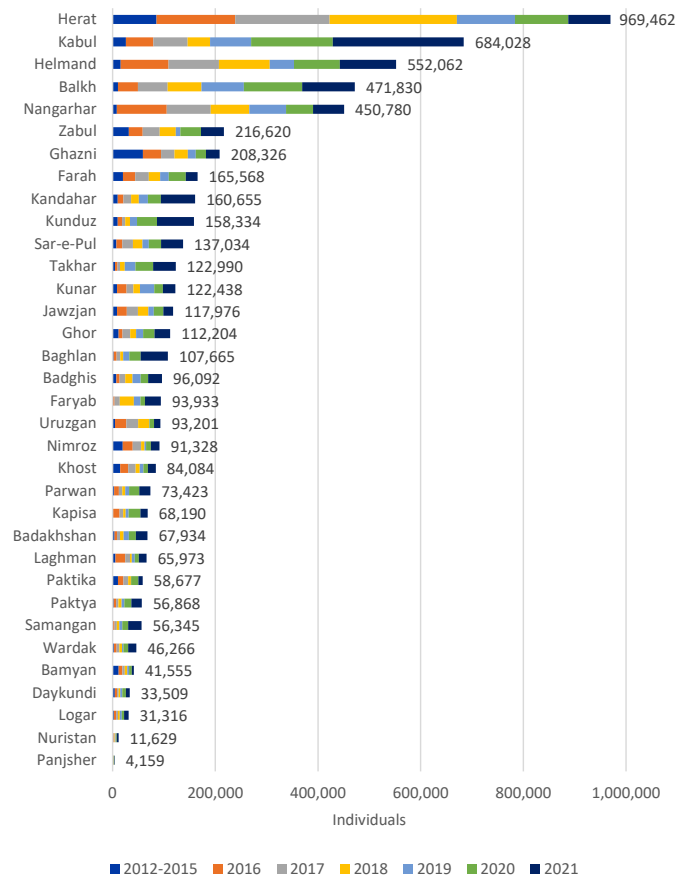
IDPs in Herat, which hosts the most IDPs

Arrival IDPs | Annual Trends



Between 2012 and 2021, three-quarters of IDPs have been displaced due to conflict and one-quarter due to natural disaster. Herat is the most critically affected province, hosting 17% of all IDPs, nationwide.

Arrival IDPs by Province | Annual Trends



2021

The two DTM assessments conducted in 2021 can help discern a more detailed timeline of IDP movements over the year.

1,327,474



Round 14 of the BMA assessment identified 1,327,474 new arrival IDPs nationwide in 2021 (shown by the dark blue bar) after surveying 13,187 communities. By the midsummer of 2021, the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan was underway.

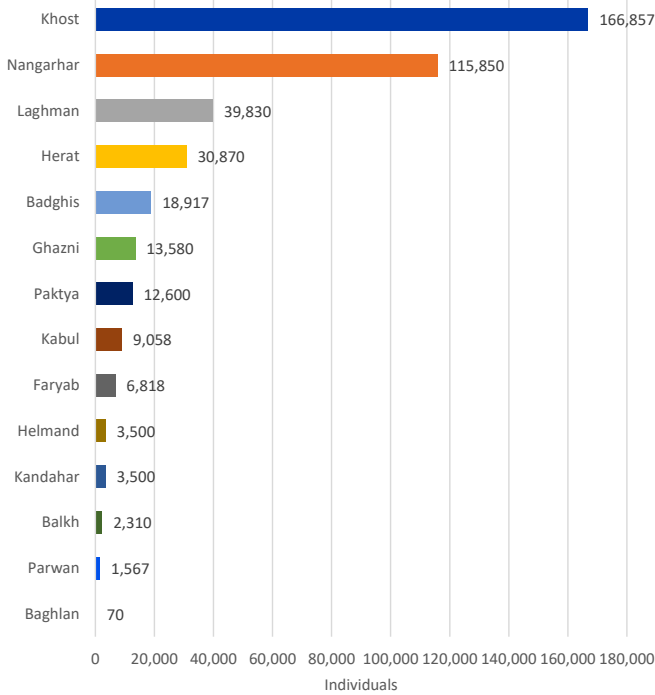
The EET assessment asked community focal points to indicate the number of individuals displaced after August 2021. Based on Round 3 of the EET assessment conducted in 10,129 communities, 988,817 individuals were displaced after August 2021 and have not returned to their communities of origin (shown in the light blue striped bar).²

² The full EET Round 3 report can be found here: [Emergency Event Tracking Round 3 \(1- 19 December 2021\)](#)

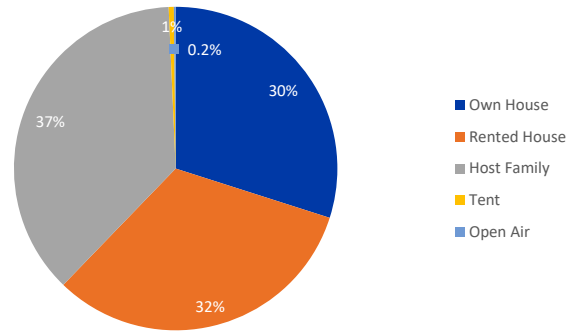
ARRIVAL IDPs (CONTINUED)

Overall, almost two-thirds of IDPs live in a house they own or rent (30% and 32% respectively), while 37% live with a host family. A small proportion live in tents (1%) or open air (<1%). Khost province hosts the most arrival IDPs living in informal settlements (166,857 individuals), followed by Nangarhar (115,850). Close to two-thirds of arrival IDPs displaced between 2012 and 2021 remained within their province of origin.

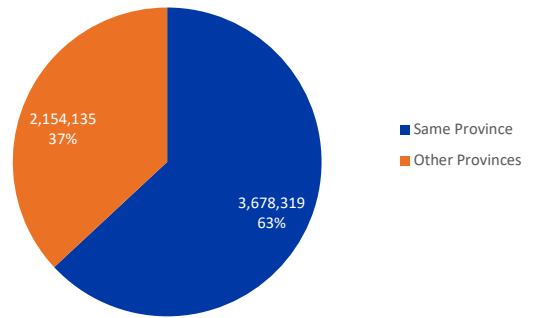
Arrival IDPs in Informal Settlements by Province | 2012 to 2021



Arrival IDPs | Shelter | 2012 to 2021



Arrival IDPs by Province of Origin | 2012 to 2021



An IDP house was destroyed due to conflict in Pul-e-Khumri district, Baghlan province. © IOM 2021

RETURNED IDPs

Returned IDPs are Afghans who have returned to their home or place of origin in the assessed location or settlement from which they had previously fled as IDPs, as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, protection concerns, or natural and humanmade disasters. This section breaks down the findings on returned IDPs only, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

The 2016 through 2018 period saw slow decreases in the number of returned IDPs. In 2019 and 2020, more IDPs returned to their communities of origin with the annual totals increasing by 19% and 39% respectively (compared to 2018). In 2021, the number reached an unprecedented level, increasing to over three million returned IDPs.

8,495,365

individuals have been IDPs and **returned** to their habitual residence

out of which:



4 in 5

returned from other locations within their home province (80%)



1 in 4

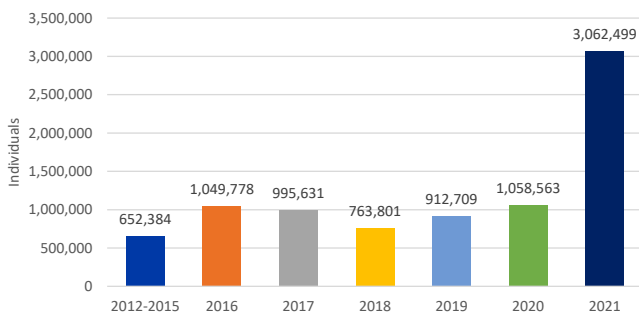
20% of all returned IDPs returned to Kunduz province



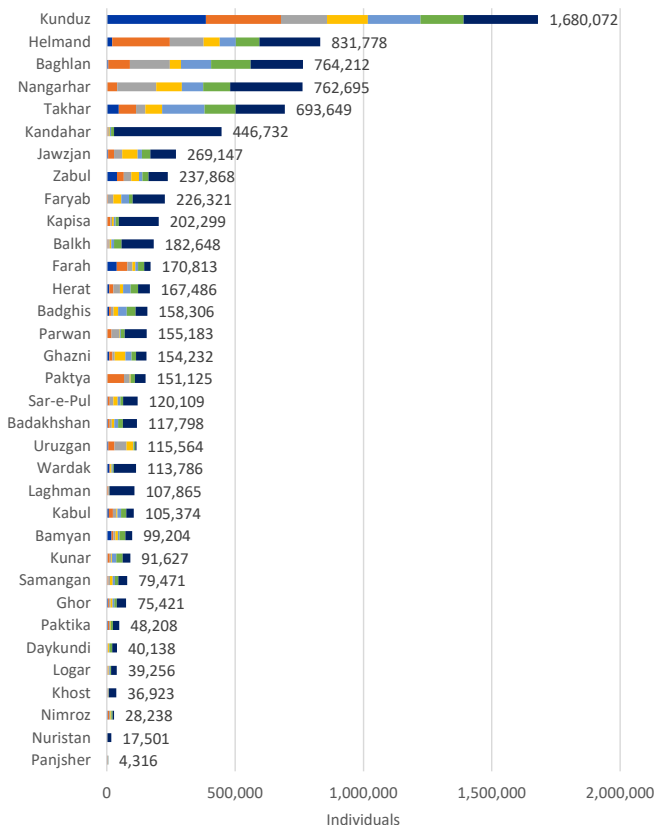
74%

of IDPs from Logar province have not returned home

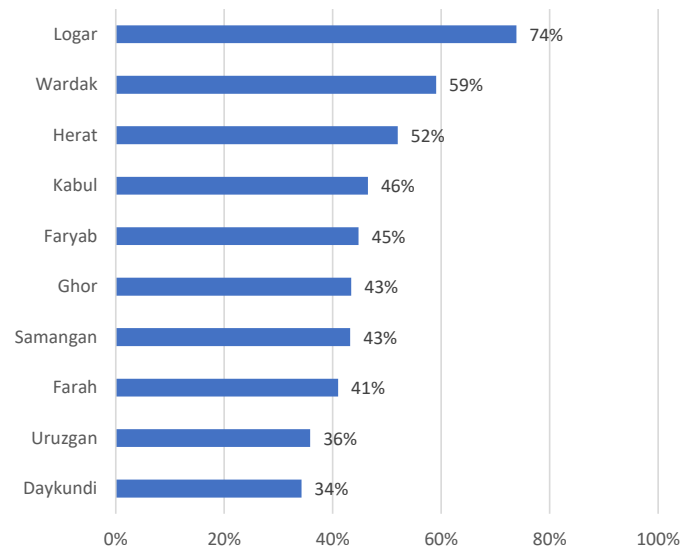
Returned IDPs | Annual Trends



Returned IDPs by Province | Annual Trends



Provinces with Highest Proportion of Non-Returned IDPs | 2012 to 2021



DTM held a focus group discussion in Kunar province. © IOM 2021

■ 2012-2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021



PERSONS WHO MOVED ABROAD

This section covers Afghan individuals who have moved abroad from the assessed locations, regardless the reason or duration of expatriation. This category includes persons in need of international protection and economic migrants (it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements).

Between 2015 and 2018 there was a steady decline in outward movements, likely as a result of economic decline and diminishing protection space in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and increased returns from Europe. In 2020, the number of individuals who moved abroad increased by 46%. Then, 2021 saw a significant surge in those moving abroad, increasing 122% compared to the previous year. This large increase is likely due to an intensifying environment of conflict accompanying the withdrawal of international troops and the change of government that occurred in the summer of 2021.

4,519,522

individuals left their habitual residence and **crossed international borders**

out of which:



573,512

moved to Europe and Turkey (13%)



2,901,902

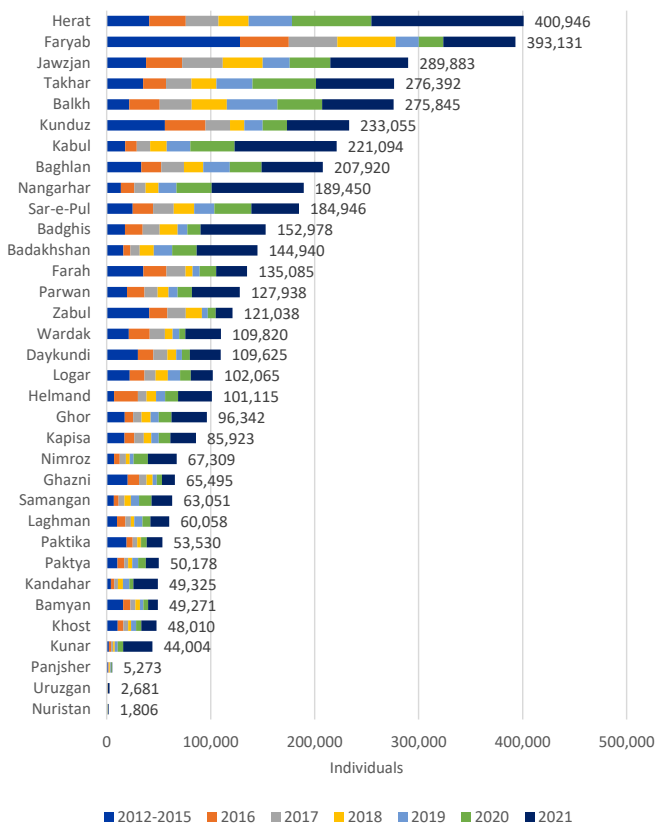
moved to the Islamic Republic of Iran (64%)



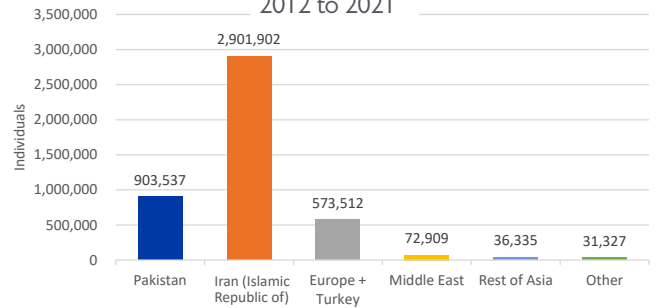
903,537

moved to Pakistan (20%)

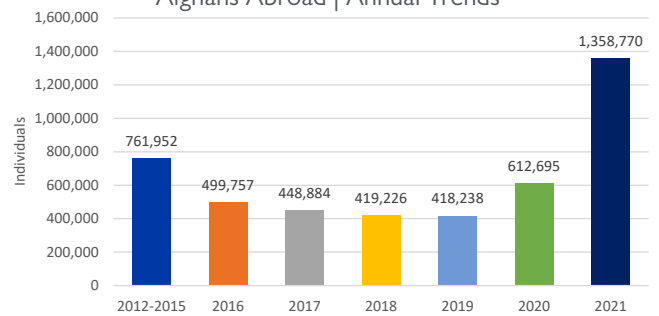
Afghans Abroad by Province of Origin | Annual Trends



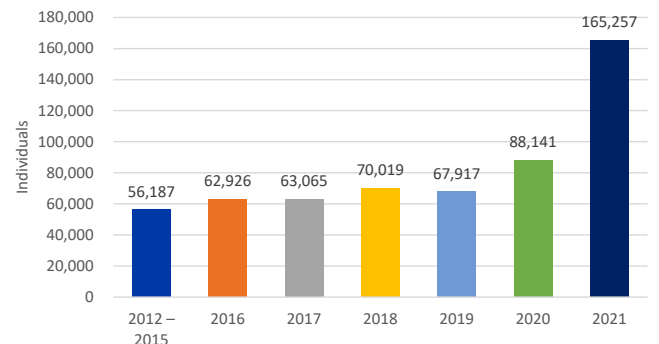
Afghans Abroad by Country/Region of Destination | 2012 to 2021



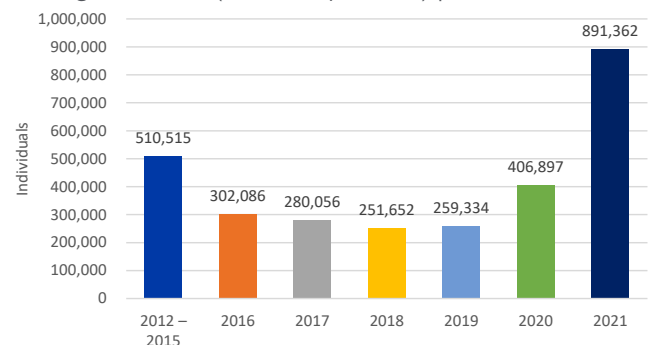
Afghans Abroad | Annual Trends



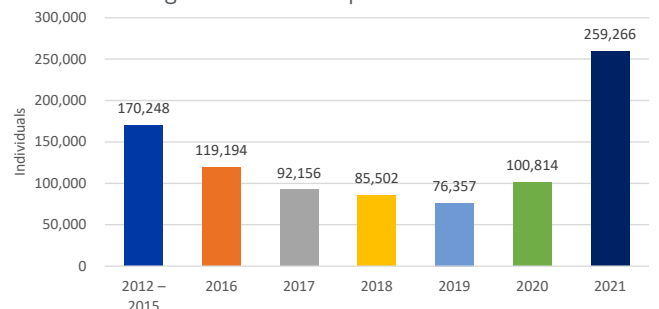
Afghans in Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends



Afghans in Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Annual Trends



Afghans in Pakistan | Annual Trends



RETURNNEES FROM ABROAD

This section covers Afghan nationals who have returned to the assessed locations after having spent at least six months abroad. This includes both documented persons (Afghans who were registered as refugees in host countries and requested voluntary return with UNHCR and relevant national authorities) and undocumented persons (Afghans who returned spontaneously or were deported from host countries, irrespective of whether or not they were registered as refugees with UNHCR and relevant national authorities). This section breaks down the findings on returnees from abroad, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

Since 2016, the number of returnees from abroad has significantly decreased each year, although returns from Europe marginally increased. Among all provinces, Nangarhar received the most (12%) of all returnees from abroad, nationwide.

5,149,245

individuals **returned** after moving across international borders

out of which:



2,608,422
returned from Pakistan (51%)



2,173,258
returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran (42%)



3,450,889
undocumented returnees from Pakistan & the Islamic Republic of Iran (67%)

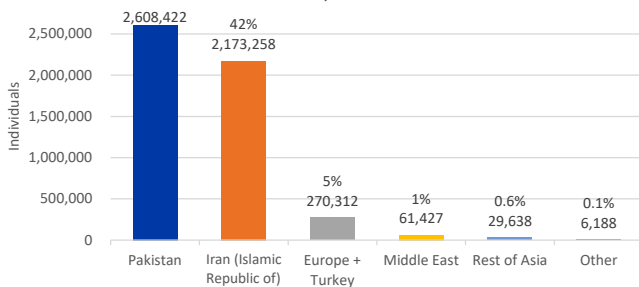


1,330,791
documented returnees from Pakistan & the Islamic Republic of Iran (26%)

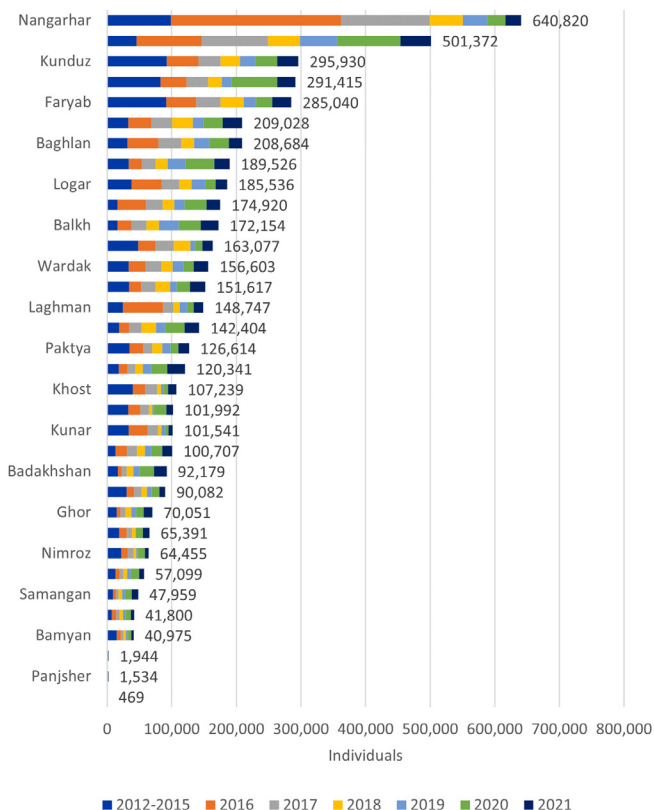


367,565 returned from non-neighbouring countries (7%)

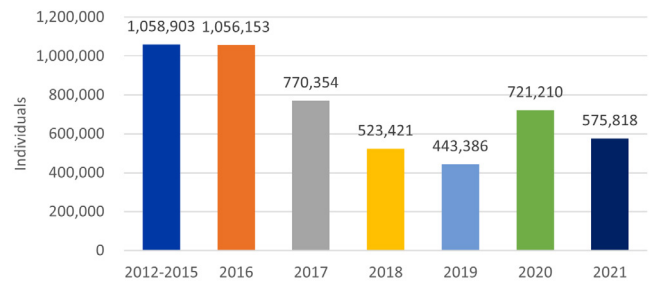
Returnees from Abroad by Country/Region of Destination | 2012-2021



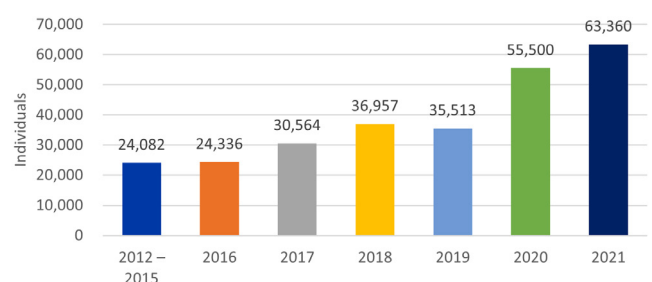
Returnees from Abroad by Province | Annual Trends



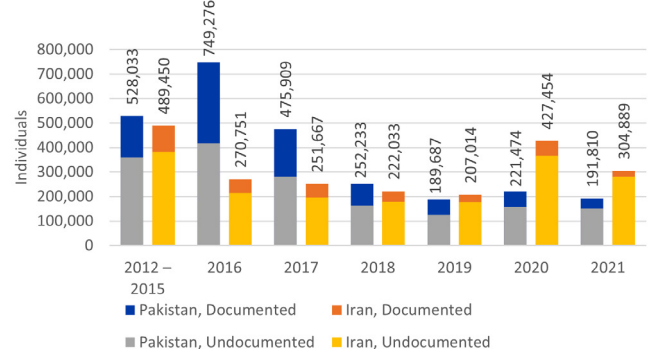
Returnees from Abroad | Annual Trends



Returnees from Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends



Returnees from Pakistan & Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Annual Trends



Children in Baghlan province travel far to fetch water for their family. It is common to send children to gather water among the 1,052,343 IDPs and returned IDPs who lack access to safe drinking water. © IOM 2021



A local man transports a small truck carrying goods on top of two side-by-side boats between Goshta and Bati Kot districts in Nangarhar. These provinces do not have proper infrastructure, such as a bridge, to facilitate transportation between the two. © IOM 2021



A community in Jawzjan province constructs a storage vessel to collect rainwater during the winter. Water needs are high in Jawzjan province, where 108,294 IDPs and returnees from abroad do not have access to safe drinking water. © IOM 2021



A child works in a brick-making factory in Kandahar province. Due to poverty and high needs, children often work to help their family meet their basic needs instead attending school. © IOM 2021



A school in Badghis was destroyed during conflict. Education facilities can become targets during conflict, leaving communities without essential education services. © IOM 2021



Children in Nangarhar province attend school in the open air. Lack of educational facilities and study materials are among the biggest barriers to education for children in Afghanistan. © IOM 2021



Farmers sell vegetables in Herat province. Many farmers in drought-affected areas sell their livestock at half price because they cannot feed them. © IOM 2021



A community in Badghis province shares a drinking water source with animals, which leads to public health risks. © IOM 2021



STORIES FROM THE DISPLACED

QALAM: FROM STRUGGLE TO SUCCESS

Qalam is an entrepreneur in Nangarhar province.* In 2016, he moved with his family to Pakistan due to conflict in his district. According to IOM's DTM Baseline Mobility Assessment completed in December 2021, Qalam was among 119,194 Afghans who moved to Pakistan in 2016.

“Luckily, I found a job as a daily-wages worker in a brick factory and settled in a safe place in Pakistan. Unfortunately, this did not last long. The police in Pakistan continued to threaten and harass us for being undocumented migrants. We had enough and returned home after one year in Pakistan”.

Qalam is among 1,656,362 undocumented persons who traveled to Pakistan between 2012 and 2021 and later returned to Afghanistan (based on DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment from December 2021). He could not find a job in his village in Nangarhar and sold a portion of his father's land to start a carwash.

“I am very happy with my new business, and I earn enough to support my family.”

**The names have been changed and village locations have been kept anonymous to protect the identity of the interviewee.*



Qalam washes a car at his business. © IOM 2021

International Organization for Migration
17 Route des Morillons
P.O. box 17
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

International Organization for Migration
House #27
4th Street
Ansari Square
Shahr-e Naw
Kabul, Afghanistan

The data used in this report was collected under a collaborative effort by the IOM Afghanistan Mission and the Global DTM support team. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

© 2021 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Please visit the DTM Afghanistan web page for more information, including downloadable maps and datasets, as well as interactive maps and dashboards:

 www.displacement.iom.int-afghanistan

CONTACT US

For further information, please contact the DTM Team:

 DTMAfghanistan@iom.int

 facebook.com-iomafghanistan

 twitter.com-iomafghanistan

 instagram.com-iomafghanistan

DTM in Afghanistan is generously supported by:



Co-funded by the
European Union



