

# BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

## SUMMARY RESULTS

ROUND 16 • SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2022

RELEASED JUNE 2023



## ABOUT DTM

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) 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 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 [displacement.iom.int/afghanistan](https://displacement.iom.int/afghanistan).

### DTM REPORTS AND DATA

DTM Afghanistan collects many types of community-level, household-level, and cross-border data to gain up-to-date perspectives on the movements, needs, and challenges of different population groups. A brief summary of DTM's major assessments is presented below.

#### THIS REPORT COVERS:

##### Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA)

DTM has been conducting the BMA 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.

##### Community-Based Needs Assessment (CBNA)

The CBNA provides a comprehensive overview of the evolving vulnerabilities and multisectoral needs in communities hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees from abroad.

##### Flow Monitoring (FM)

Under DTM's REMAP, FM quantifies population inflows and outflows, as well as demographics, travel intentions, origins, destinations and needs of migrants, returnees and other cross-border, mobile populations on the borders with Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

##### Returnee Longitudinal Study (RLS) and Survey on Drivers of Migration (SDM)

These two studies under DTM's REMAP explore drivers of migration, mobility history, and returnees' economic and safety situation upon returning from migration.

The above reports along with interactive maps, downloadable datasets, and dashboards can be found at the DTM Afghanistan web page: [displacement.iom.int/afghanistan](https://displacement.iom.int/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.

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# METHODOLOGY

## ABOUT THE BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

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

DTM field 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.

## FOUR TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, DTM tracks the locations, population sizes and period of displacement of four core target population categories (listed below). Population

enumerators collect data through a two-layered assessment:

1. District-level assessment (B1): it 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.

sizes for each of the four categories are collected using the following time frames: 2012-2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

### DEFINITIONS OF THE FOUR TARGET POPULATIONS

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

#### IDPs

Afghan nationals who were forced to leave their place of habitual residence and have arrived in the assessed locations within the internationally recognized borders of Afghanistan.

#### Returnees

Afghan nationals who have returned to their habitual residence in the assessed locations from which they had previously fled as IDPs.

Afghan nationals moving internationally are subdivided into two categories:

#### Out-Migrants

Afghan nationals who moved abroad, regardless of the reason or duration of expatriation (including persons in need of international protection and economic migrants).

#### Cross-Border Returnees

Afghan nationals who had moved abroad for at least 6 months and have now returned to Afghanistan.

## COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS

DTM field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through focus group discussions with community focal points (CFPs). While assessing communities, enumerators also observe the living conditions and availability of multi-sectoral

services.<sup>1</sup> In the rare case that enumerators cannot physically reach a community, due to insecurity, conflict, or risk of retaliation, they meet the focus groups at safe locations or conduct the assessments by phone.

<sup>1</sup> Details of vulnerabilities and multi-sectoral needs among the communities assessed can be found in the Community-Based Needs Assessment (CBNA) report and dataset, found here: [Community-Based Needs Assessment Report, Round 16 \(September-December 2022\)](#) and [Community-Based Needs Assessment, Settlement Level Dataset, Round 16 \(September-December 2022\)](#).

## SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION

DTM divides the settlements assessed into urban, peri-urban, and rural classifications in order to better understand displacement dynamics in communities and mobility trends throughout Afghanistan. Urban settings are characterized by 30% or less of land being used by members of the community for agriculture and livestock purposes. Peri-urban settlements are classified as having between 31% and 69% of the land used for agriculture and livestock. Finally, community members use over 70% of the land for agriculture and livestock in rural settlements.

The settlement type is classified based on the percentage of land used by the community for agriculture and livestock. The following breakdown is used:



## LIMITATIONS

Data is collected on a location basis whereby community focal points (CFPs) provide an estimate applicable to the whole community, which can be less precise than a household survey. Certain indicators may be under- or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of participants (especially “social desirability bias”—the documented tendency of people to

provide what they perceive to be the “right” answers to certain questions). The low number of female CFPs is an important aspect to consider when analyzing gender-disaggregated data, as most of the data about women has been provided by male CFPs. These above factors should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings.

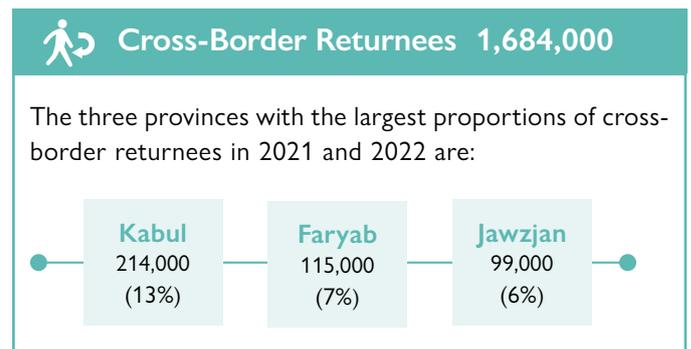
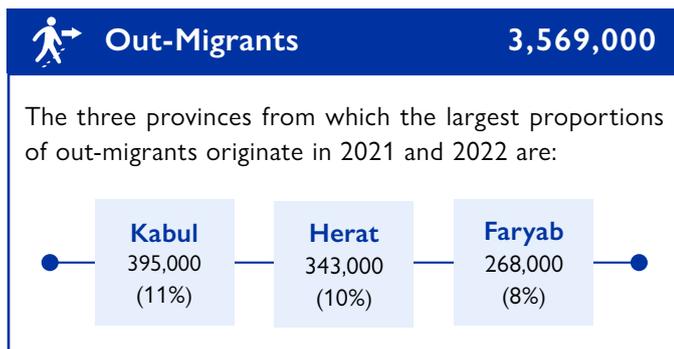
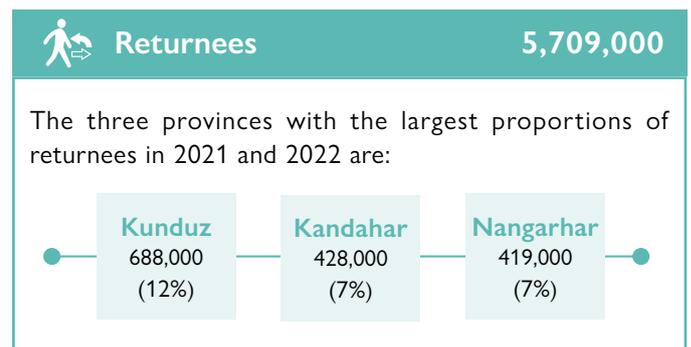
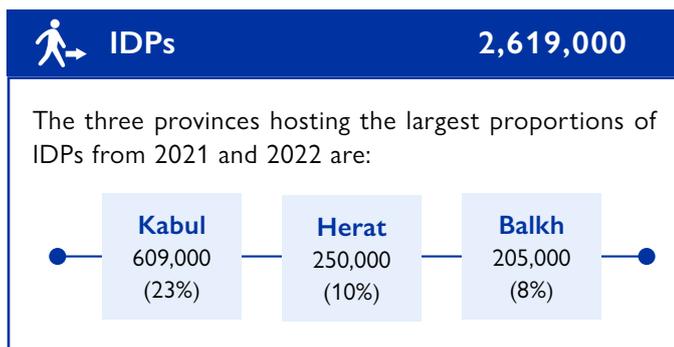
## KEY FIGURES IN ROUND 16

### DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENT FIGURES, 2021 AND 2022

Afghanistan witnessed unprecedented levels of displacement and return from displacement in 2021 and 2022. Across the country, 2.6 million individuals displaced, constituting two-fifths (40%) of the 6.6 million individuals who have displaced since 2012. In the same period, 5.7 million returned home, which is over half (52%) of the 11 million individuals who have returned since 2012.

Over one-half of the 6.8 million Afghan nationals who have gone abroad since 2012 have done so in 2021 and 2022 alone (3.6 million, 52%). Over one-fourth of the 6.5 million cross-border returnees since 2012 returned in 2021 and 2022 (1.7 million, 26%).

Historical data from 2012 to 2022 is covered in greater detail in the next section.



Note: These figures are estimates provided by CFPs.

## HISTORICAL DATA, 2012 TO 2022

In Round 16, DTM recorded a net increase in all four target populations. A contributor to this increase was the 2,836 locations that were accessed and assessed for the first time in this round.

DTM identified an estimated 6,557,000 individuals who have displaced since 2012 and remain in displacement, marking an 11% increase since Round 15 (March and April 2022). Individuals who have returned from displacement since 2012 reached

approximately 11,036,000, which marks a 10% increase since the previous round. DTM identified around 6,842,800 individuals who have crossed international borders since 2012 and remain abroad. This is a 21% increase. Finally, cross-border returnees since 2012 amount to around approximately 6,545,900, which is a 14% increase compared to Round 15.

These figures are rounded estimates provided by CFPs.

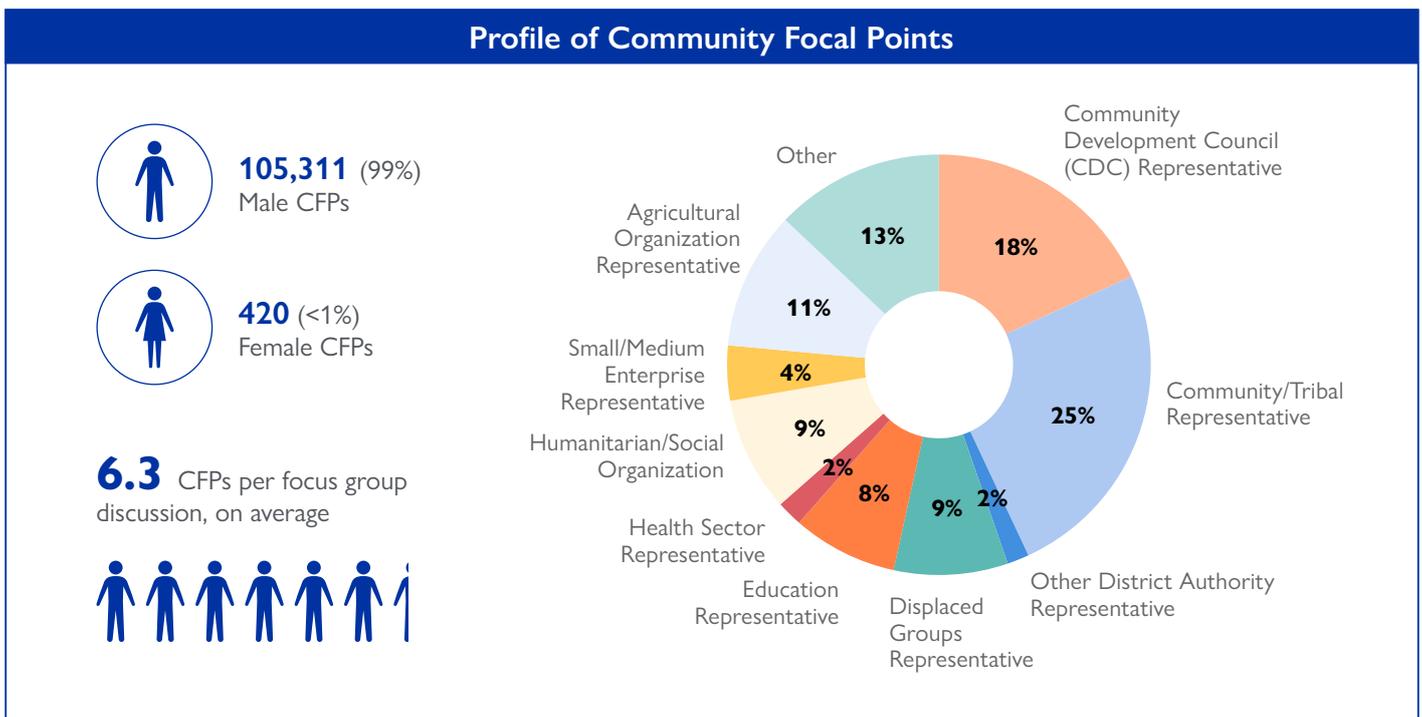
Table 1. Overview of Four Target Populations by Province, 2012 to 2022

PROVINCE	SETTLEMENTS ASSESSED	IDPs	RETURNEES	OUT-MIGRANTS	CROSS-BORDER RETURNEES
Badakhshan	1,244	98,000	210,000	280,000	154,000
Badghis	335	145,000	223,000	214,000	185,000
Baghlan	678	95,000	894,000	272,000	240,000
Balkh	911	476,000	351,000	370,000	211,000
Bamyan	304	37,000	123,000	74,000	47,000
Daykundi	309	33,000	28,000	118,000	43,000
Farah	451	172,000	199,000	184,000	122,000
Faryab	465	155,000	491,000	692,000	439,000
Ghazni	560	167,000	190,000	105,000	131,000
Ghor	376	147,000	123,000	124,000	97,000
Helmand	326	350,000	723,000	91,000	92,000
Herat	969	1,177,000	223,000	612,000	413,000
Jawzjan	511	122,000	496,000	416,000	280,000
Kabul	698	1,060,000	180,000	535,000	870,000
Kandahar	500	236,000	462,000	62,000	128,000
Kapisa	289	52,000	211,000	140,000	77,000
Khost	641	103,000	58,000	58,000	136,000
Kunar	439	132,000	213,000	118,000	177,000
Kunduz	417	201,000	2,122,000	374,000	400,000
Laghman	303	68,000	152,000	96,000	186,000
Logar	449	27,000	44,000	118,000	170,000
Nangarhar	971	445,000	966,000	310,000	701,000
Nimroz	381	120,000	49,000	97,000	87,000
Nuristan	116	14,000	43,000	6,000	7,000
Paktika	423	46,000	60,000	78,000	82,000
Paktya	559	66,000	178,000	65,000	163,000
Panjsher	193	3,000	53,000	20,000	800
Parwan	467	87,000	168,000	227,000	158,000
Samangan	402	48,000	170,000	109,000	73,000
Sar-e-Pul	389	206,000	288,000	285,000	179,000
Takhar	768	146,000	880,000	427,000	243,000
Uruzgan	151	113,000	134,000	800	100
Wardak	283	44,000	153,000	127,000	180,000
Zabul	540	166,000	178,000	38,000	74,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,818</b>	<b>6,557,000</b>	<b>11,036,000</b>	<b>6,842,800</b>	<b>6,545,900</b>

## COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS

In Round 16, 122 DTM enumerators conducted focus discussion groups with 105,731 CFPs in 16,818 locations. DTM has made significant strides to improve gender inclusion in focus group discussions, although there is much room for improvement. Women represent 0.4% of the community focal points, which is slightly lower than the 0.5% of female representation in the previous round (conducted in March and April 2022). However, this marks improvement, although marginal, since DTM's first

round (conducted in March 2017) when female community focal points constituted only 0.1% of all focal points. Including female community focal points became increasingly challenging after the change of government in August 2021 due to restrictions on female participation in leadership and mix-gender activities as well as lack of female enumerators to conduct the interviews due to the same restrictions.



## SETTLEMENTS ASSESSED

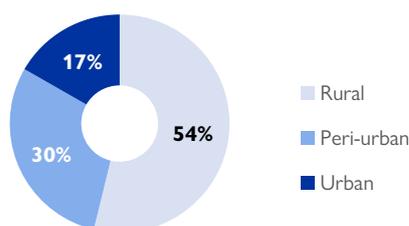
### Overview

In Round 16 of the Baseline Mobility Assessment, DTM enumerators assessed<sup>2</sup>:



In Round 16, 54% of settlements assessed classify as rural, 30% are classified as peri-urban, and 17% as urban.

Figure 1. Breakdown of Settlements Covered in Round 16



Note: Numbers are rounded and may not sum to 100%.

### Distribution of Four Target Populations Among Rural, Urban, and Peri-Urban Settlements, 2021 and 2022

Among IDPs, 41% are in urban settlements, while 35% are in rural and 25% are in peri-urban settlements.

Forty-nine per cent of individuals who were previously displaced and have returned to their habitual residence (place of origin) are in rural settlements, followed by peri-urban settlements (32%). Almost one in five (18%) returned to urban settlements.

Forty-six per cent of out-migrants left from rural settlements followed by peri-urban (30%) and urban settlements (24%).

Almost half of cross-border returnees returned to rural settlements (47%), followed by peri-urban (28%) and urban (24%).



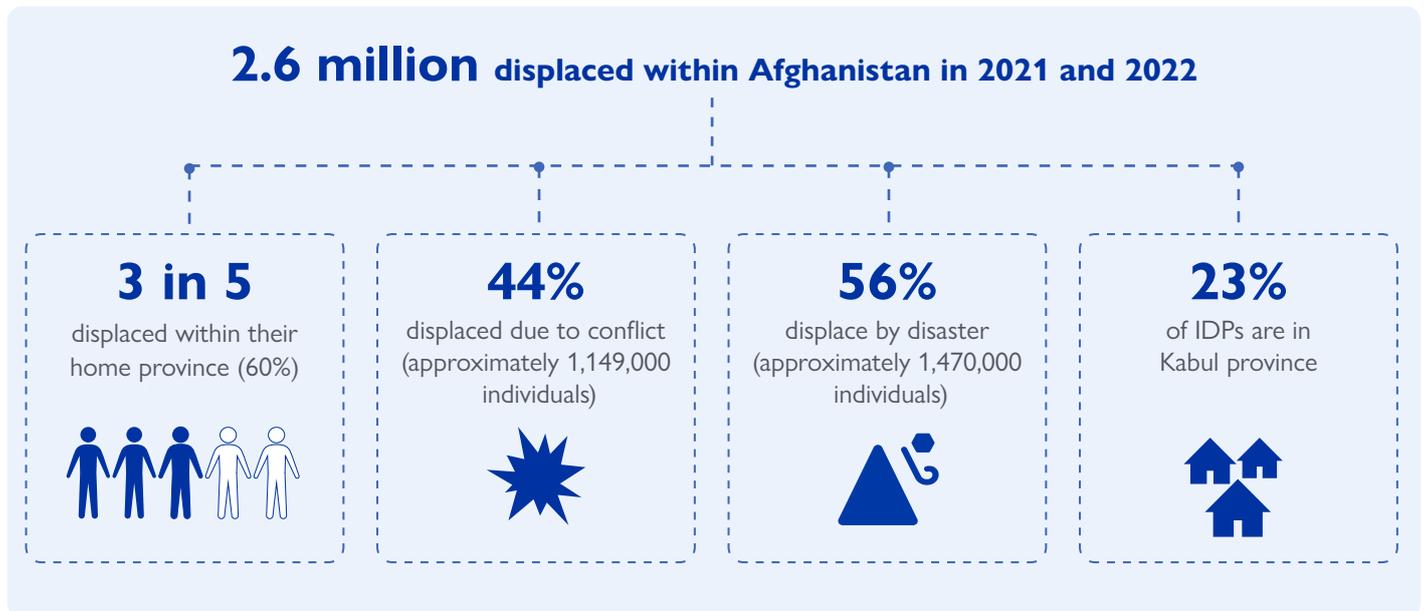
<sup>2</sup> Due to access constraints in Round 16, a small number of the locations in a small number of districts were not assessed. Thus, the data that was collected in those locations in Round 15 (March to April 2022) was used for analysis and reporting. These locations were heavily concentrated in Daykundi and Kandahar provinces.

## IDPs

IDPs are Afghan nationals 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 IDPs only, it does not include other categories such as those who have returned from displacement or cross-border movements.

### HIGHLIGHTS



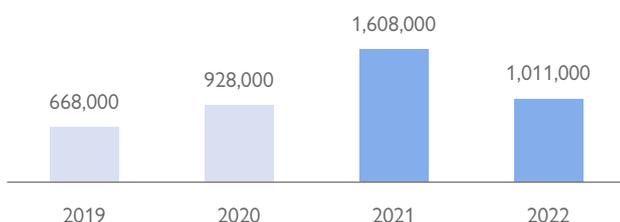
### ANNUAL TRENDS

Since 2012, approximately 6.6 million individuals are estimated to have been displaced within Afghanistan. The 2019-to-2021 period witnessed a steady but large increase in the number of Afghan nationals displaced by conflict and disasters, followed by a decrease in 2022.

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of IDPs increased by 39%. In 2021, an unprecedentedly high number of individuals were displaced nationwide. According to DTM's most recent estimates, over 1.6 million Afghan nationals fled their homes as IDPs in 2021, which is a 141% increase from the number displaced in 2019 and a 73% increase from the number displaced in 2020.

In 2022, the trend reversed; although one million individuals displaced in 2022, this is 37% less than the number of individuals who displaced the year before.

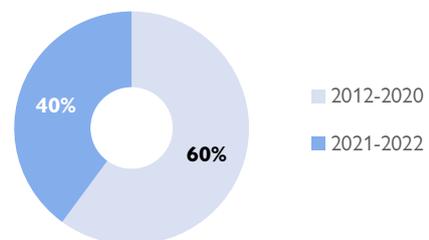
Figure 2. IDPs by Year of Displacement



Despite the decrease in the total number who displaced in the year 2022 compared to 2021, the volume of displacement in these two most recent years was large compared to 2012 through 2020. An estimated 2.6 million individuals displaced in 2021 and 2022, meaning two out of five IDPs were displaced in the two most recent years (2021 and 2022), and three out of five were displaced in the preceding 8 years (2012 to 2020).

For a breakdown of displacement by province for each period of displacement, see annex A (page 21).

Figure 3. IDPs by Period of Displacement



A geographic breakdown of reasons for displacement in 2021 and 2022 can be found on page 11.

## PROVINCES OF DISPLACEMENT, 2021 AND 2022

In 2021 and 2022, the top five provinces of displacement were Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, and Helmand. These five provinces together host around 1,386,000 IDPs, which is 53% of the 2.6 million individuals who displaced in 2021 and 2022.

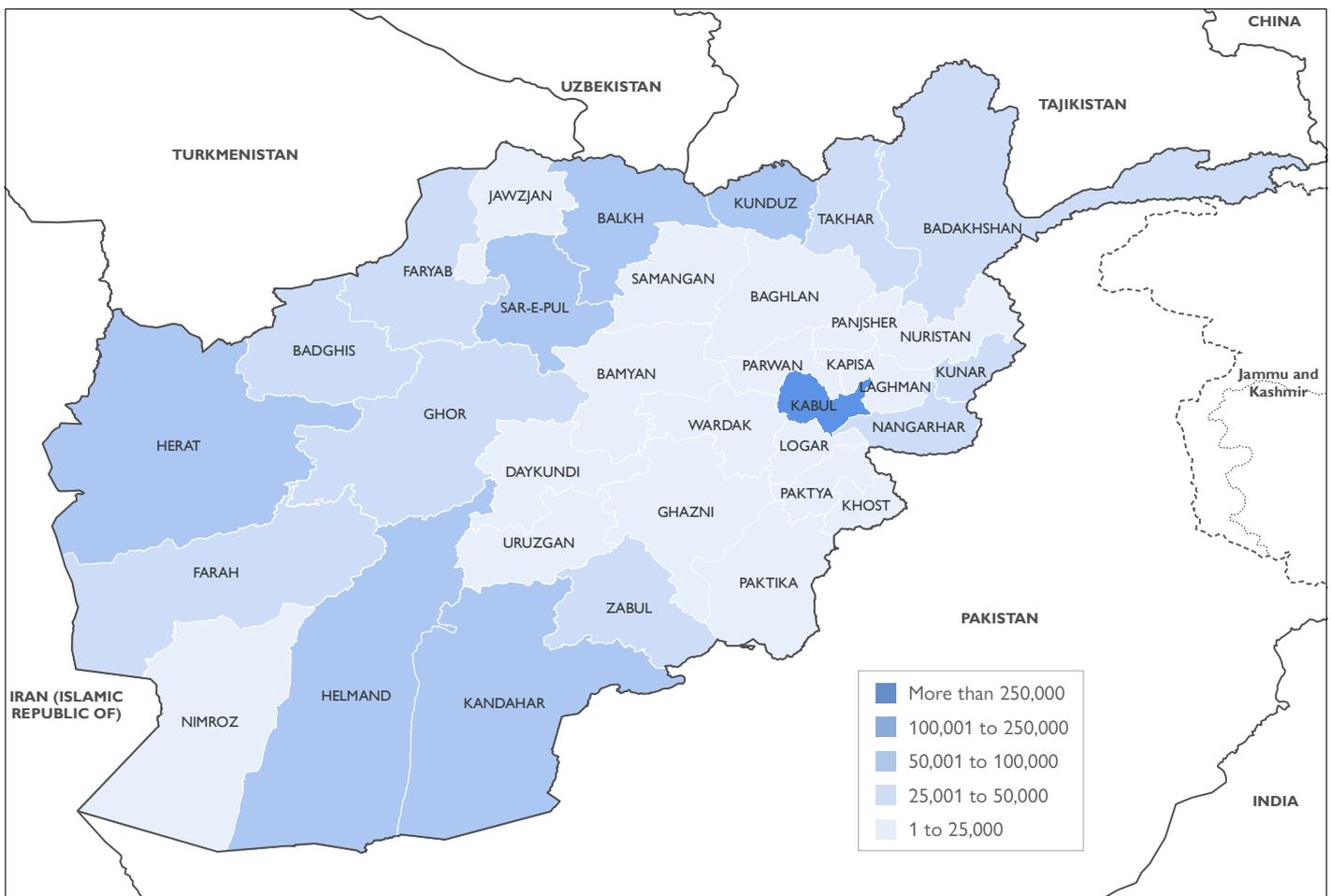
It is estimated that Kabul hosts almost one-fourth (23%) of all IDPs from 2021 and 2022, followed by Herat (10%), Balkh (8%), Kandahar (7%), and Helmand (6%). With the exception of Kabul, these low percentages indicate that IDPs were spread out throughout the country. This is further demonstrated below in Map 1, which visualizes the number of IDPs in each province.

Table 2. Top Five Provinces of Displacement, 2021 and 2022

RANK	PROVINCE	NUMBER OF IDPs	%
1	Kabul	609,000	23%
2	Herat	250,000	10%
3	Balkh	205,000	8%
4	Kandahar	170,000	7%
5	Helmand	152,000	6%

Note: These figures are estimates provided by CFPs.

Map 1. IDPs by Province of Displacement, 2021 and 2022



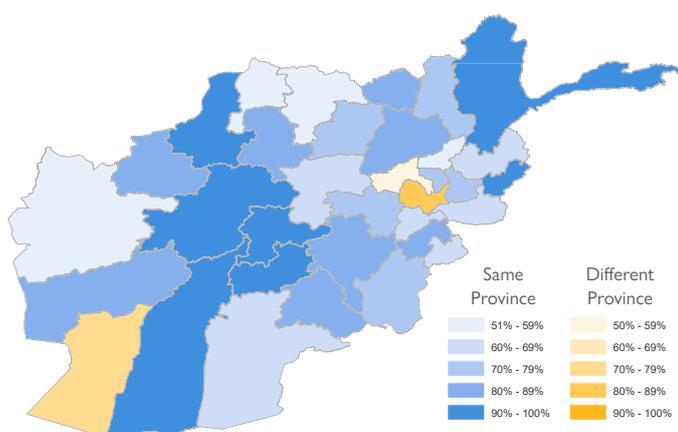
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in the maps on this page do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

## PROVINCE OF ORIGIN, 2021 AND 2022

DTM estimates that three out of five IDPs who displaced in 2021 and 2022 remained within their province of origin (60%). In 2021 and 2022, Uruzgan province hosted the most IDPs from within the same province (97%), followed by Kunar (95%) and Faryab (91%). Kabul province hosted the largest portion of IDPs from other provinces (84%), followed by Nimroz (78%), and Parwan (57%). For a breakdown of each province, see Annex E (page 25).

Map 2 showcases the provinces in which the majority (50%+) of IDPs were displaced within their province of origin as well as those in which the majority of IDPs were displaced in a different province.

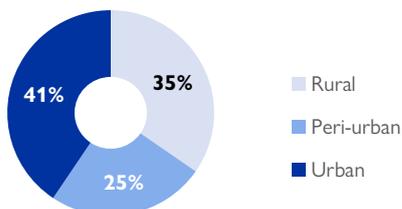
Map 2. IDPs by Province of Origin | 2021 and 2022



## SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION, 2021 TO 2022

Approximately two out of five IDPs are in displacement in urban areas (41%), followed by rural areas (35%) and peri-urban areas (25%).

Figure 4. IDPs by Type of Settlement, 2021 to 2022



## REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT, 2012 TO 2022

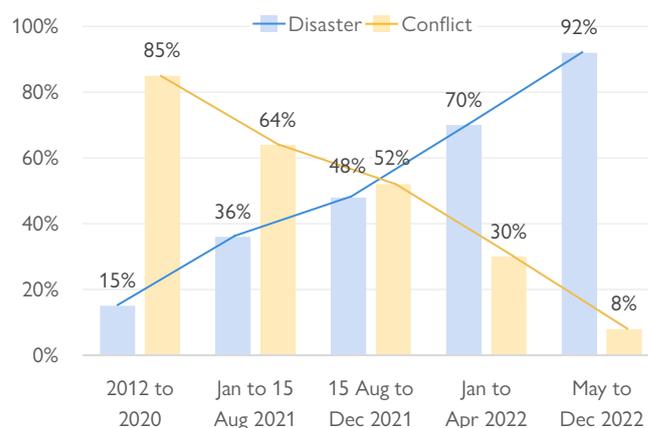
Among the 6.6 million individuals who displaced between 2012 and the end of 2022, on average an estimated 38% have been due to disaster\* and 62% to conflict. When smaller timeframes are isolated, however, the distribution is shown to shift over time.

Between 2012 and 2020, 85% of displacement was attributed to conflict and only 15% to disaster. In 2021, conflict remained the dominant trigger of displacement. However, the difference

narrowed throughout the course of the year. Between January and mid-August 2021, conflict was the trigger for just under two-thirds of displacement (64%) while disaster was the trigger for just over one-third (36%). Between mid-August and the end of December 2021, the difference between the two narrowed to be almost equal, with conflict leading by only 4 percentage points.

In 2022, for the first time in the period covered in this assessment, the distribution of the drivers of displacement reversed compared to previous years: a much larger proportion of displacement was attributed to disaster compared to conflict. See Figure 5 below.

Figure 5. Displacement Due to Conflict and Disaster



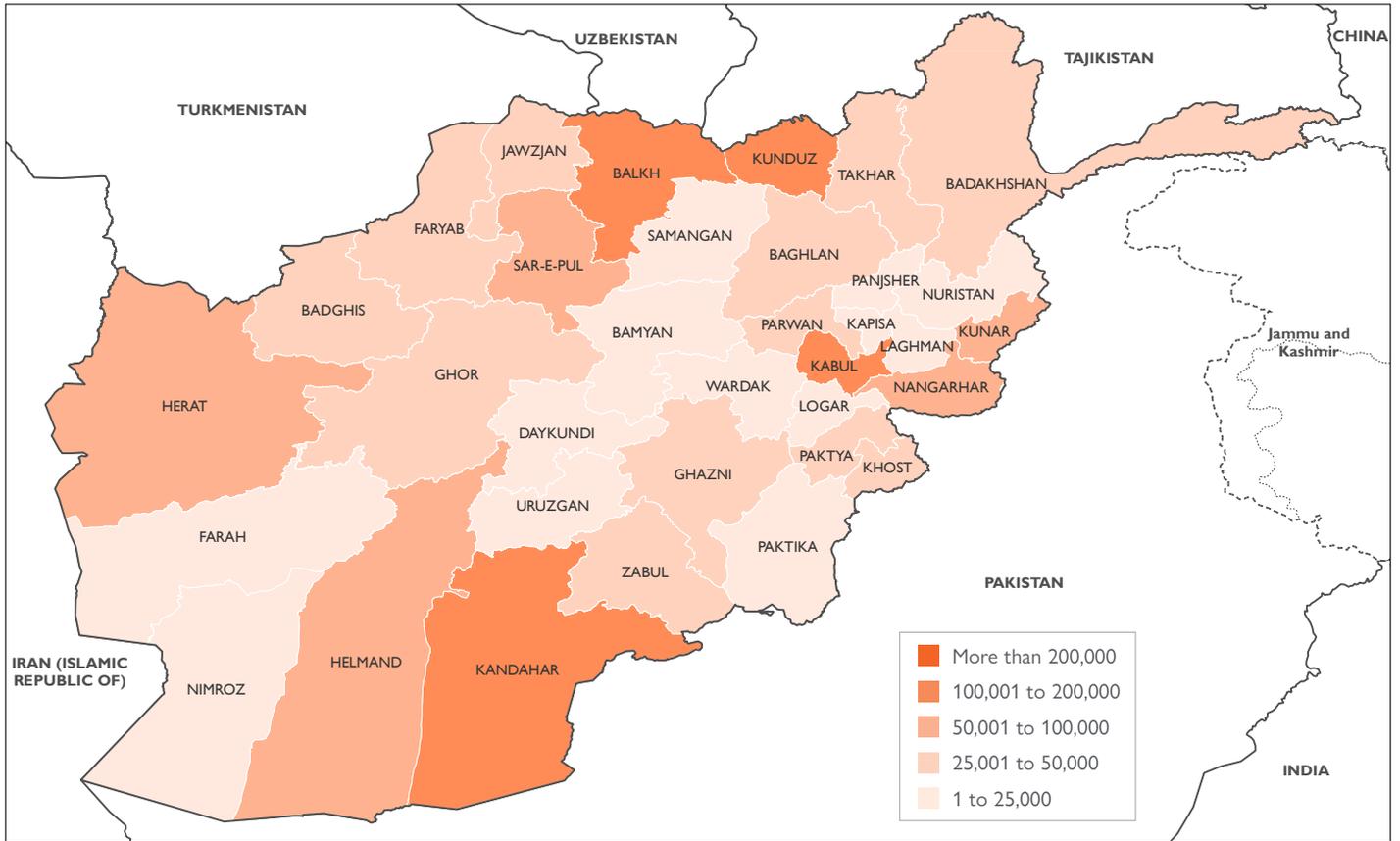
### \* What constitutes a disaster?

Human behavior creates new and magnifies existing disasters, such as greenhouse emissions that warm the earth's temperature, deforestation that worsens floods, and oil spills. Authorities neglecting to take preventative measures amplifies the damage of disasters, such as having faulty infrastructure during floods and earthquakes. Additionally, the failure to act in the aftermath of disasters can augment the damage. Reversely, a dignified response to a disaster can reduce the impact and save lives.

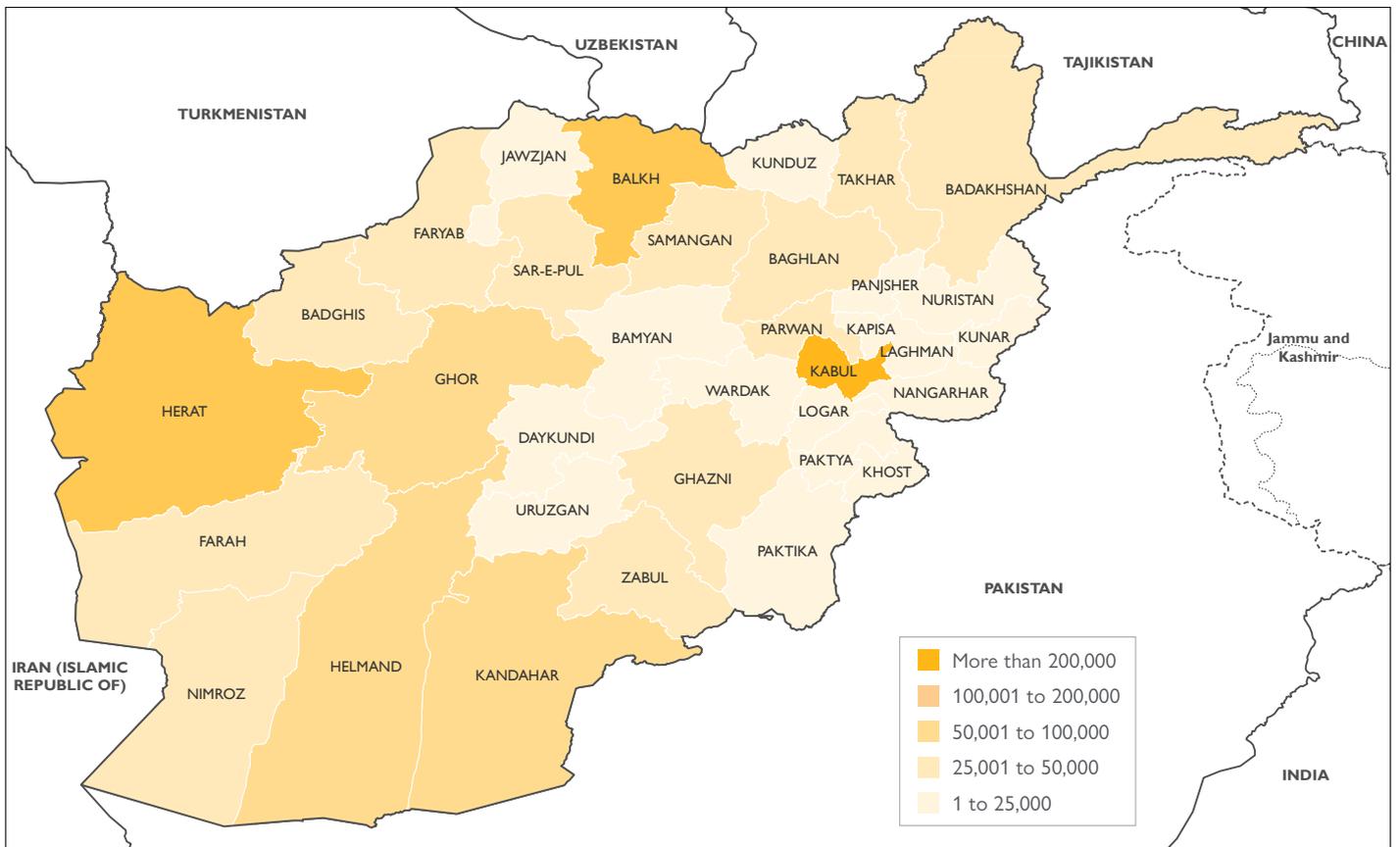
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), "[There's no such thing as 'natural disasters'.](#)"



Map 3. Displacement due to Conflict by Province, 2021 and 2022



Map 4. Displacement due to Disaster by Province, 2021 and 2022



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## RETURNEES (INTERNAL)

Returnees are Afghan nationals 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

human-made disasters. This section breaks down the findings on internal returnees only, it does not include other population categories such as those currently in displacement or cross-border movements.

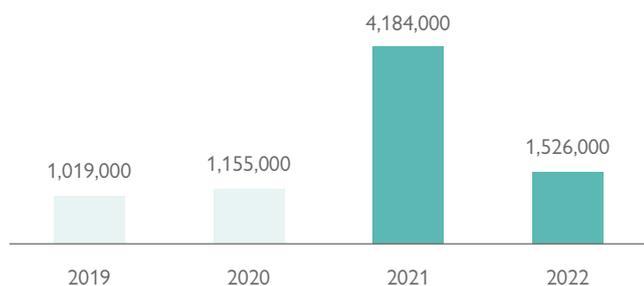
### HIGHLIGHTS



### ANNUAL TRENDS

A total of 11 million individuals are estimated to have returned from displacement within Afghanistan since 2012. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of returnees increased significantly.

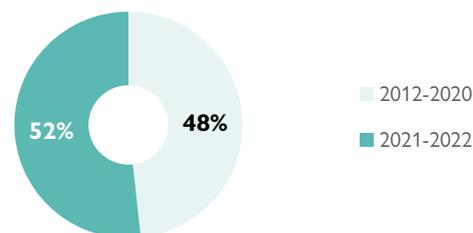
Figure 6. Returnees by Year of Displacement



Between 2019 and 2022, DTM recorded a 13% increase with approximately 1 million returnees in 2019 and 1.2 million in 2020. In 2021, returnees increased by an unprecedented 262%, to 4.2 million in that year alone. By the end of 2022, this trend reversed albeit a large number returned during the year. From 2021 to 2022, there was a 64% decrease, totaling around 1.5 million returnees in 2022. The high number of returnees in 2021 and 2022 could be attributed to changes in the security situation and encouragement from the government for IDPs to return.

According to DTM's most recent estimates (Round 16), over half (52%) of all individuals who have returned to their areas of origin did so in 2021 and 2022 compared to the preceding 8 years (2012 to 2020, see the breakdown below in Figure 7).

Figure 7. Returnees by Period of Return



A breakdown of the main reasons for return among those who have returned from internal displacement can be found on page 14.

## PROVINCES OF RETURN, 2021 AND 2022

In 2021 and 2022, the top provinces of return were Kunduz, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Baghlan, and Jawzjan. These five provinces together witnessed approximately 2,250,000 returns, which is 39% of the 5.7 million individuals who returned to their places of origin in 2021 and 2022.

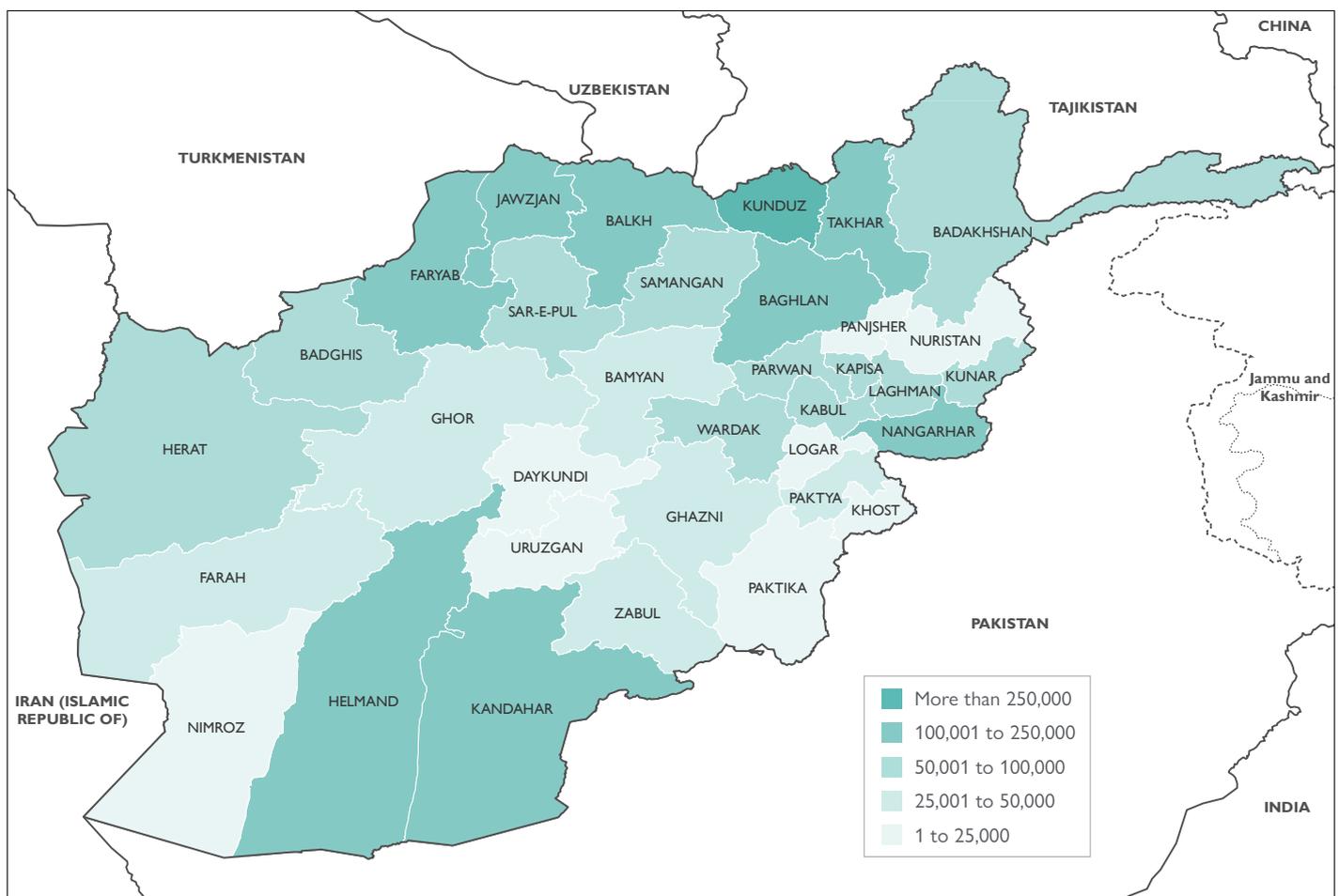
It is estimated that more than one in ten (12%) returnees are in Kunduz province, followed by Kandahar (7%), Nangarhar (7%), Baghlan (7%), and Jawzjan (6%). Although these five provinces host the largest proportions of returnees, the percentages are low, which indicates that returnees were scattered throughout the country. This is further demonstrated below in Map 5, which visualizes the number of returnees in each province.

Table 3. Top Five Provinces of Return Among Returnees, 2021 and 2022

RANK	PROVINCE	NUMBER OF RETURNES	%
1	Kunduz	688,000	12%
2	Kandahar	428,000	7%
3	Nangarhar	419,000	7%
4	Baghlan	384,000	7%
5	Jawzjan	331,000	6%

Note: These figures are estimates provided by CFPs.

Map 5. Returnees by Province, 2021 and 2022

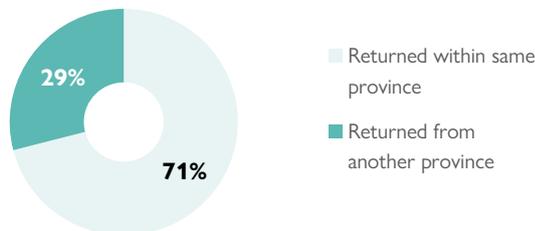


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## PROVINCE OF DISPLACEMENT, 2021 AND 2022

DTM estimates that just over seven out of ten (71%) returnees were in displacement within their province of origin when they returned home. Just under three out of ten (29%) had been displaced to and returned from another province.

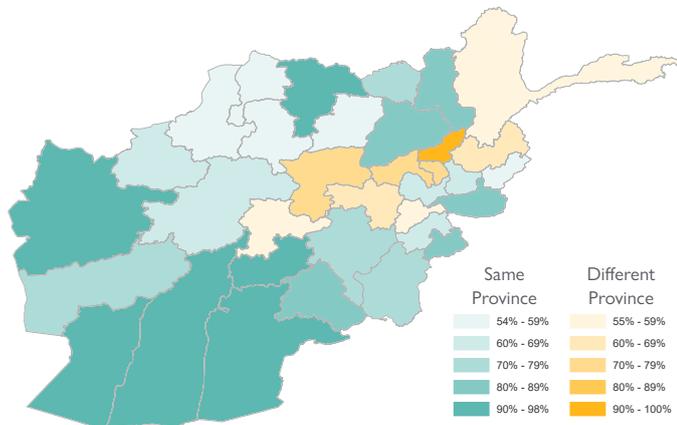
Figure 8. Returnees by Province of Displacement, 2021 and 2022



In 2021 and 2022, Uruzgan province had the highest proportion of individuals returning from displacement within the same province (98%), followed by Nimroz (96%) and Herat (95%). Panjsher had the highest proportion of individuals returning from displacement from another province (100%), followed by Parwan (75%) and Bamyan (71%).

Below, Map 6 showcases the provinces in which the majority (50%+) of returnees returned from within the same province as well as those in which the majority of returnees returned from a different province.

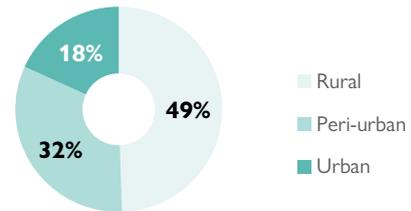
Map 6. Returnees by Province of Displacement, 2021 and 2022



## SETTLEMENT TYPE, 2021 TO 2022

Approximately 49% of individuals who were previously displaced and have returned to their habitual residence (place of origin) are in rural settlements, followed closely by peri-urban settlements (32%). Almost one in five (18%) returned to urban settlements.

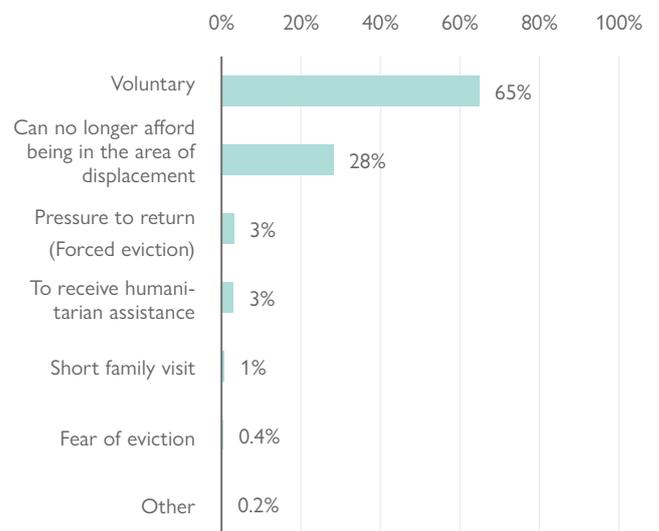
Figure 9. Returnees by Type of Settlement, 2021 to 2022



## REASONS FOR RETURN, 2012 TO 2022

CFPs report that among returnees across Afghanistan, 65% returned to their place of origin voluntarily since 2012. Twenty-eight percent of returnees were no longer able to afford living in their areas of displacement, and therefore returned home. Small percentages of the returnee population felt pressured to return (3%), returned to receive humanitarian assistance (3%), returned for a short family visit (1%), feared eviction in their areas of displacement (0.4%), followed by other reasons (0.2%).

Figure 10. Main Reason for Return According to CFPs



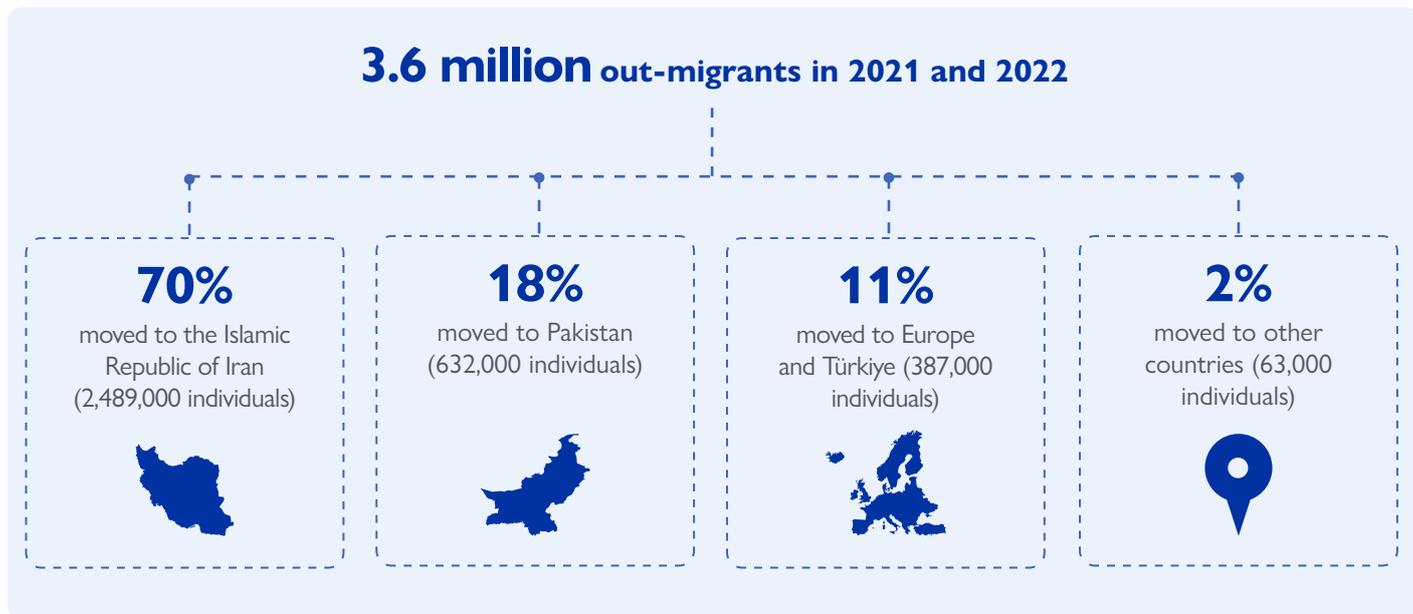
IOM teams distribute emergency relief items to earthquake-affected families in Paktika province. ©IOM 2022/Leo Torreon

## OUT-MIGRANTS

This section covers individuals who have moved abroad from the assessed locations, regardless of the reason or duration of migration. This category includes persons in need of international protection and economic migrants (it does not

include other population categories such as those in internal displacement or *daily* cross-border flows). This category also includes a caseload of individuals seeking protection under the mandate of UNHCR.

### HIGHLIGHTS



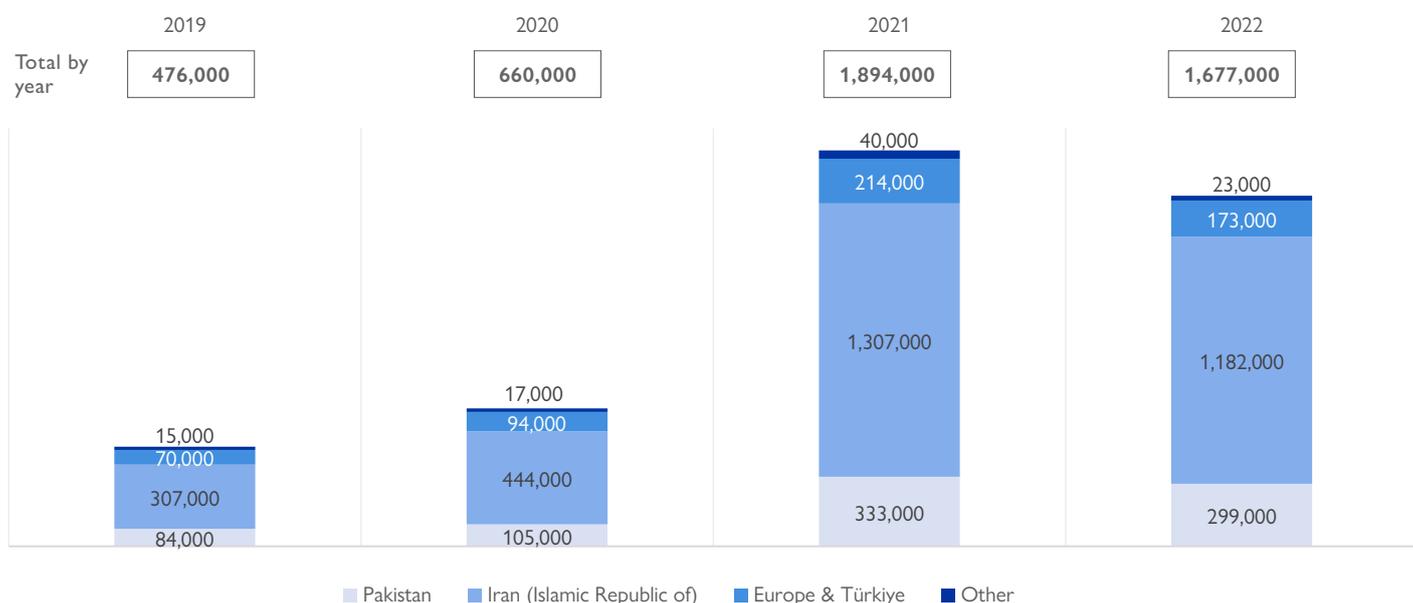
### ANNUAL TRENDS

Since 2012, 6.8 million Afghan nationals are estimated to have left Afghanistan and gone abroad. The period from 2019 to 2021 saw a steady and significant increase in the number of out-migrants. From 2019 to 2020, DTM recorded a 39% increase. The year 2021 saw close to 1.9 million out-migrants, which is a 187% increase from the previous year. By 2022, this

trend reversed: a decrease of 11% in out-migrants compared to the previous year was observed, totaling 1.7 million.

The observed pattern of increases between 2019 to 2021 and slight decreases in 2022 is consistent for all destinations (Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Europe and Türkiye, as well as other countries in Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere).

Figure 11. Out-Migrants by Year, 2012 and 2022



## PROVINCES OF ORIGIN, 2021 AND 2022

In 2021 and 2022, the top provinces of origin among out-migrants were Kabul, Herat, Faryab, Nangarhar, and Takhar. These five provinces together are the home of around 1,442,000 out-migrants, which is 40% of the 3.6 million individuals who left Afghanistan in 2021 and 2022.

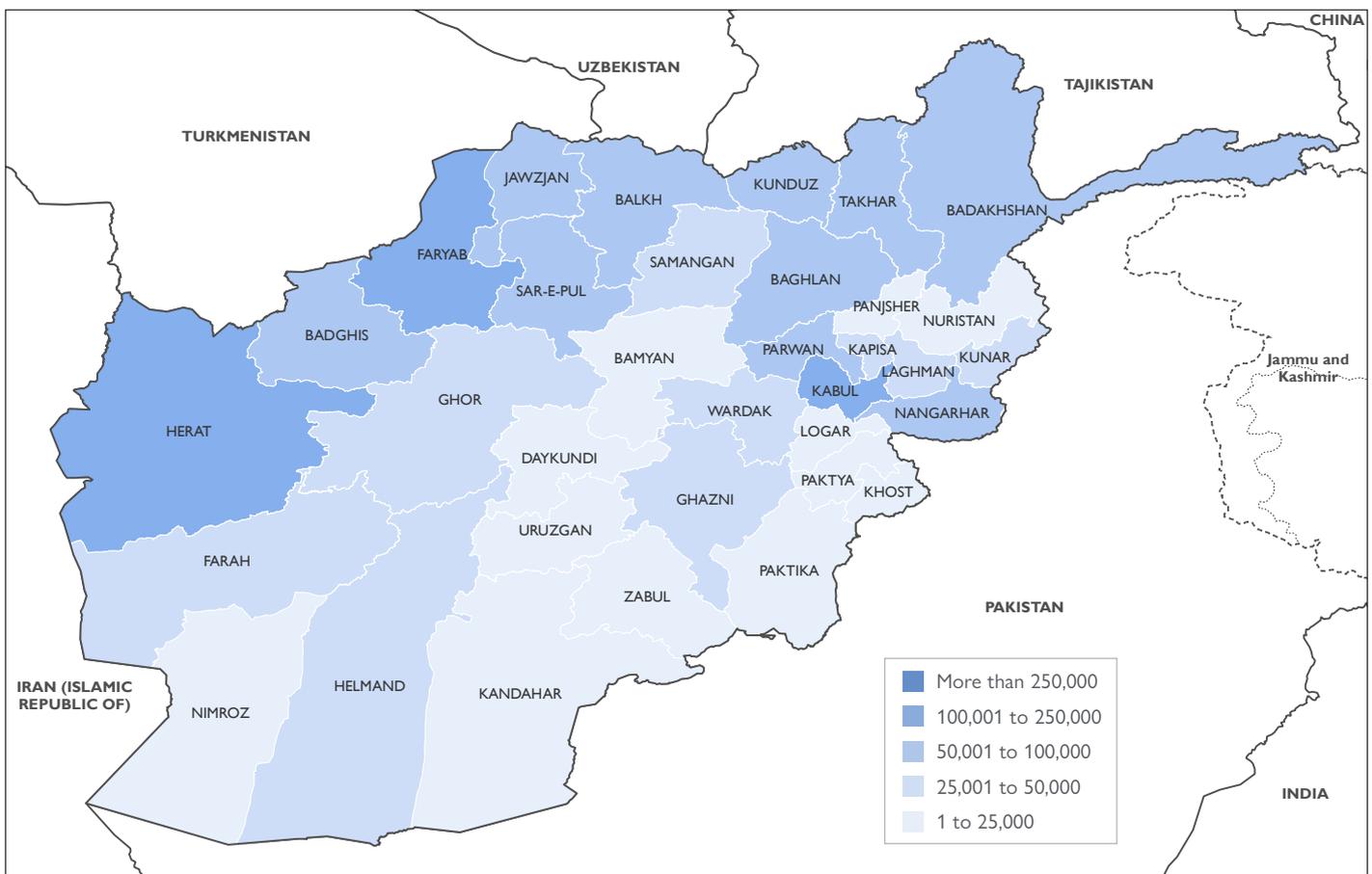
One in ten (11%) out-migrants originated from Kabul province, followed by Herat (10%), Faryab (8%), Nangarhar (6%), and Takhar (6%). The low percentages indicate that individuals left from a wide variety of provinces and did not disproportionately originate from one area. This is further demonstrated below in Map 7, which visualizes the number of out-migrants by province.

Table 4. Top Five Provinces of Origin Among Out-Migrants, 2021 and 2022

RANK	PROVINCE	NUMBER OF OUT-MIGRANTS	%
1	Kabul	395,000	11%
2	Herat	343,000	10%
3	Faryab	268,000	8%
4	Nangarhar	224,000	6%
5	Takhar	212,000	6%

Note: These figures are estimates provided by CFPs.

Map 7. Out-Migrants by Province of Origin, 2021 and 2022

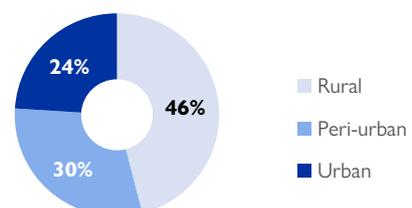


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in the maps on this page do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

## SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION, 2021 TO 2022

Around 46% of the out-migrants left from rural settlements, followed by peri-urban (30%) and urban settlements (24%).

Figure 12. Out-Migrants by Settlement Classification, 2021 to 2022

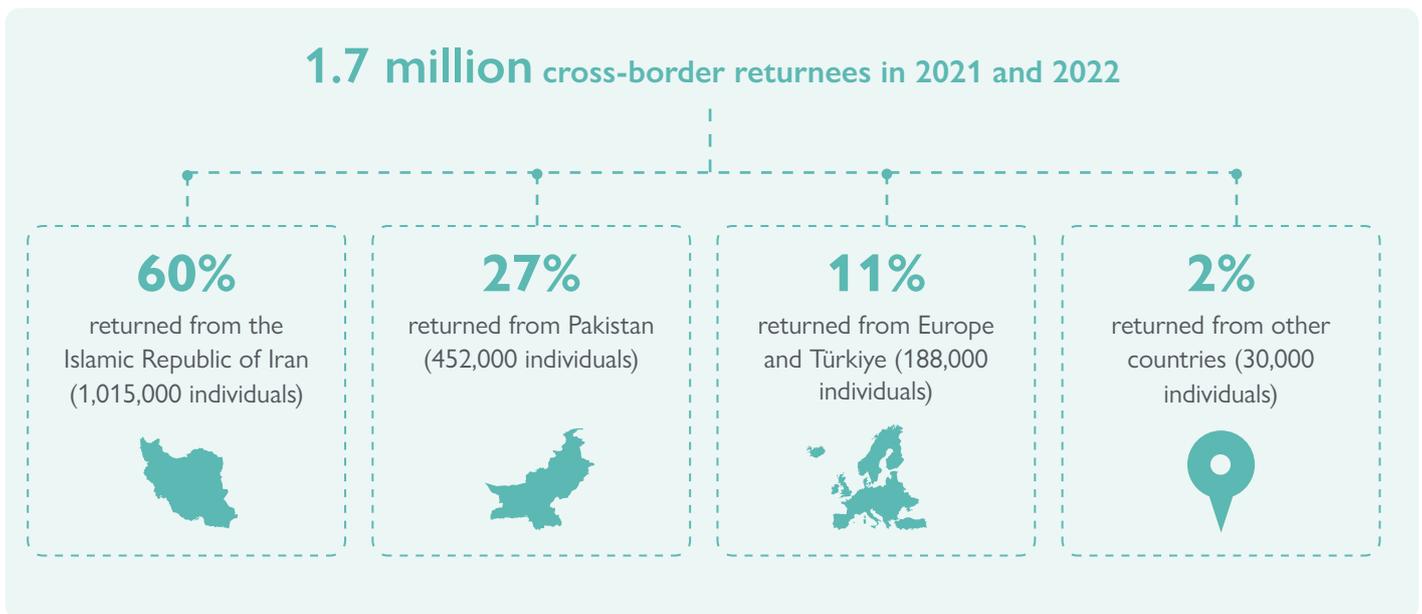


## CROSS-BORDER RETURNEES

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 (Afghan nationals who were registered as refugees in host countries and requested voluntary return with UNHCR and relevant national authorities) and undocumented persons (Afghan nationals

who returned spontaneously or were pushed back 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 cross-border returnees, it does not include other population categories such as those in internal displacement or *daily* cross-border flows.

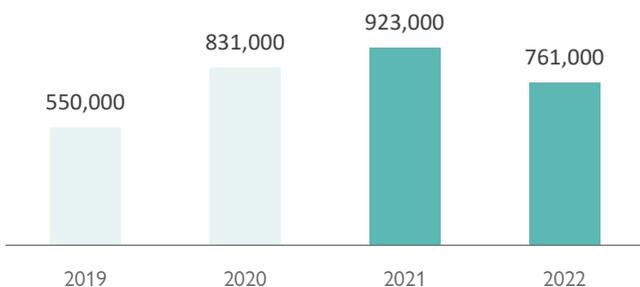
### HIGHLIGHTS



### ANNUAL TRENDS

Since 2012, 6.5 million Afghan nationals are estimated to have returned to Afghanistan from abroad. From 2019 to 2021, individuals returning from across international borders increased steadily but not significantly. Over one half of a million Afghan nationals (550,000) returned from abroad in 2019. In 2020, close to 831,000 individuals returned from abroad, marking an increase of 51% compared to 2019. Returns from abroad slowed in 2021, only increasing by 11% compared to 2020 and totaling 923,000 individuals.

Figure 13. Cross-Border Returnees by Year of Return

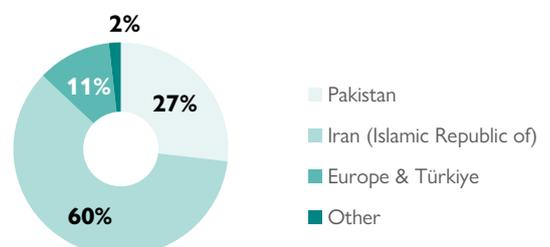


In 2022, cross-border returnees decreased by 18% compared to the previous year. Despite the slowing of returns in 2022, cross-border returnees in the two most recent years constitute

slightly over one-fourth (26%) of all 6.5 million cross-border returnees in the preceding 8 years (2012 to 2020).

In 2021 and 2022, an estimated 1.7 million individuals returned from Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Europe and Türkiye, and other countries (including the rest of Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere). A breakdown is shown below in Figure 14.

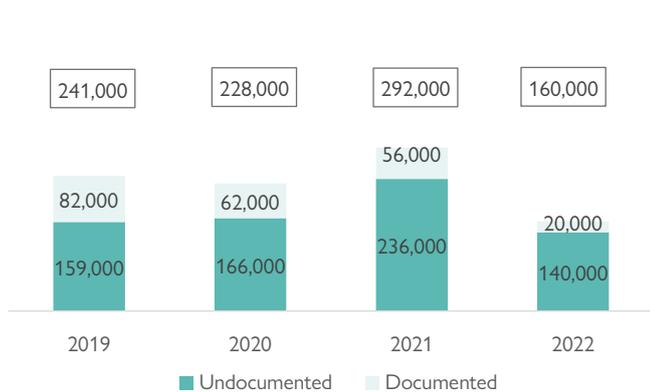
Figure 14. Number of Cross-Border Returnees by Country of Migration, 2021 and 2022



The number of Afghan nationals who are estimated to have returned from Pakistan since 2012 (2.9 million individuals) is slightly lower than those who traveled to and returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran (3.1 million).

From 2019 to 2020, the number of Afghan nationals returning from Pakistan decreased by 5% (from 241,000 to 228,000 individuals), and then increased by 28% from 2020 to 2021 (to 292,000 individuals). By the end of 2022, the number of returns from Pakistan decreased by 45% compared to the previous year, totaling approximately 160,000. See Figure 15 below for a breakdown of documented and undocumented cross-border returns from Pakistan.

Figure 15. Cross-Border Returnees from Pakistan by Year of Return



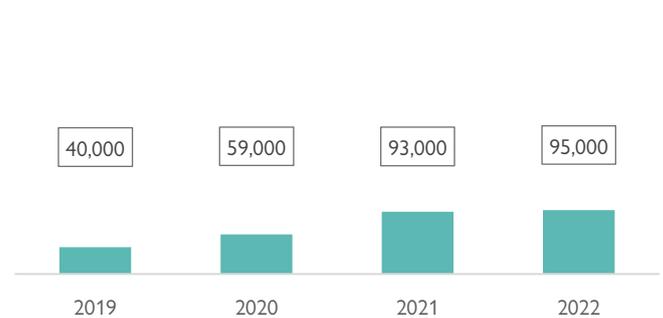
Afghan nationals returning from the Islamic Republic of Iran grew significantly from 2019 to 2020, increasing by 105%. By 2021, returns from the Islamic Republic of Iran slowed slightly: compared to 2020, there was a 1% decrease in Afghan nationals returning from the Islamic Republic of Iran (from 526,000 to 519,000 individuals). Close to 3,123,000 Afghan nationals (both documented and undocumented) have returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2012, which is 8% higher than the estimated 2,889,000 returns from Pakistan. See Figure 16 below for a breakdown of documented and undocumented cross-border returns from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Figure 16. Cross-Border Returnees from the Islamic Republic of Iran by Year of Return



Since 2012, around 417,000 individuals have returned from Europe and Türkiye, which is significantly lower than those from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. From 2019 to 2022, returns from Europe and Türkiye to Afghanistan more than doubled. The years 2019 to 2020 saw a 48% increase, while 2020 to 2021 saw a 58% increase. By the end of 2022, this trend slowed. There was a slight increase of 2% in the number of cross-border returns from Europe and Türkiye to Afghanistan compared to the previous year.

Figure 17. Cross-Border Returnees from Europe and Türkiye by Year of Return



Only 2% (around 112,000 individuals) of all Afghan nationals who have returned from abroad since 2012 returned from other countries, such as in the Middle East, the rest of Asia, or elsewhere. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a large increase of 50% in the total number of individuals returning per year from other countries (from 12,000 to 18,000 individuals). This trend slowed in 2021, totaling around 19,000 (a 6% increase compared to the previous year). By the end of 2022, the number of Afghan nationals returning from other countries decreased by 42% compared to the previous year (from 19,000 to 11,000 individuals).

Figure 18. Cross-Border Returnees from Other Countries by Year of Return



Sar-e-pul province. ©IOM 2022

## PROVINCE OF RETURN, 2021 AND 2022

In 2021 and 2022, the top provinces of return among Afghan nationals who returned from abroad were Kabul, Faryab, Jawzjan, Herat, and Balkh. These five provinces together received close to 610,000 cross-border returnees, which is 36% of the 1.7 million individuals who returned to Afghanistan from abroad in 2021 and 2022.

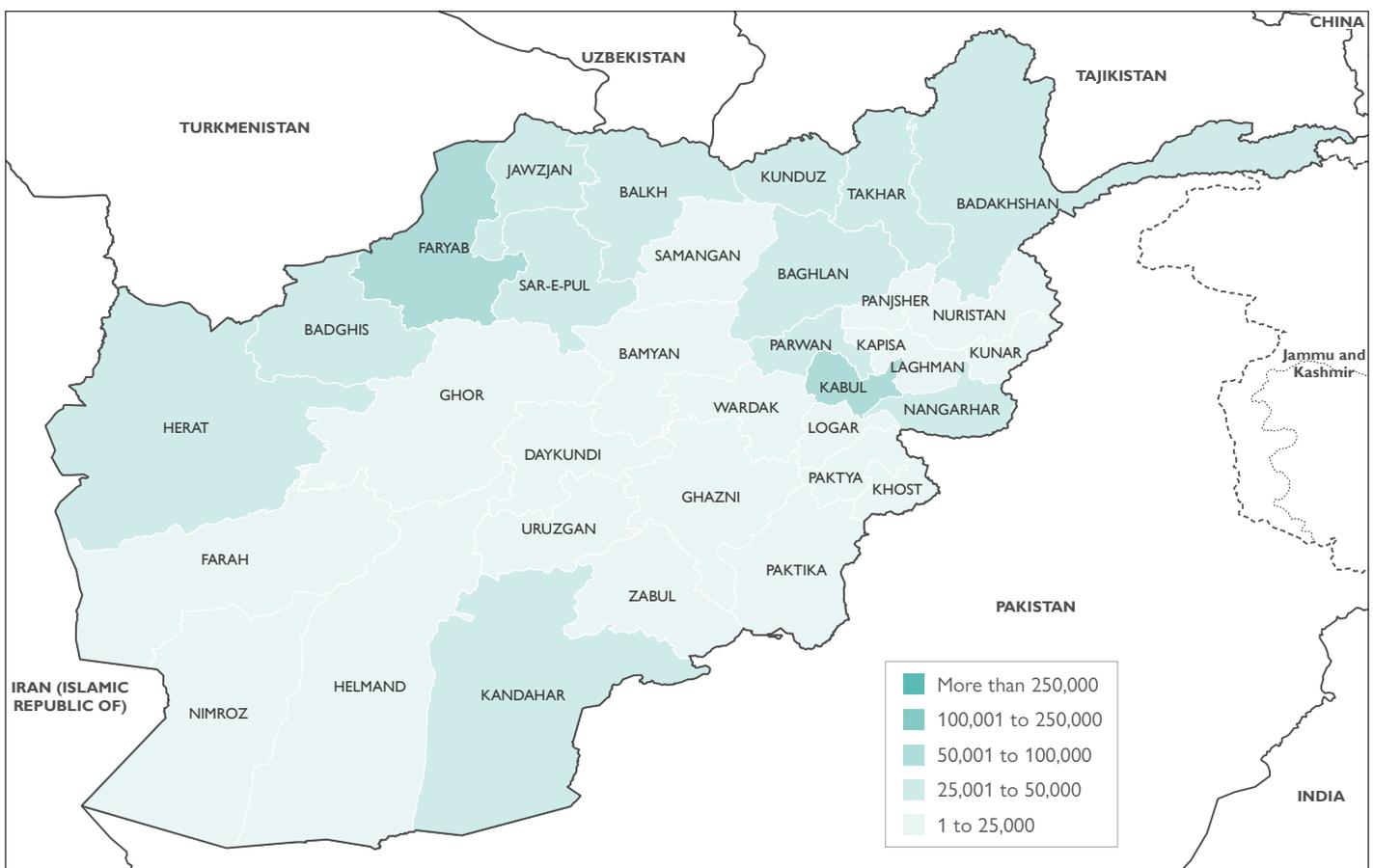
Around 13% of cross-border returnees were in Kabul province, followed by Faryab (7%), Jawzjan (6%), Herat (6%), and Balkh (5%). The low percentages indicate that returns from abroad were relatively spread out across provinces. This is further demonstrated below in Map 8, which visualizes the number of cross-border returnees in each province.

Table 5. Top Five Provinces of Return Among Cross-Border Returnees, 2021 and 2022

RANK	PROVINCE	NUMBER OF RETURNEES	%
1	Kabul	214,000	13%
2	Faryab	115,000	7%
3	Jawzjan	99,000	6%
4	Herat	96,000	6%
5	Balkh	85,000	5%

Note: These figures are estimates provided by CFPs.

Map 8. Cross-Border Returnees by Province of Return, 2021 and 2022

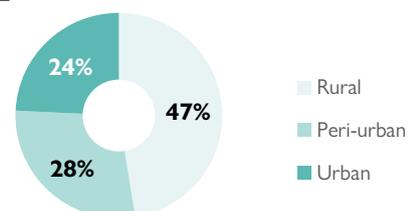


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## SETTLEMENT CLASSIFICATION, 2021 TO 2022

About half of cross-border returnees returned to rural settlements (47%), followed by peri-urban (28%) and urban (24%).

Figure 19. Cross-Border Returnees by Settlement Classification, 2021 and 2022



Note: Numbers are rounded and may not sum to 100%.

## STORIES FROM THE DISPLACED

Fatima was seriously affected by floods in August 2022. At the time of the flood, she had recently given birth to a baby who was only 5 days old. She said,

“I was baking bread. I heard people shouting. I fell unconscious and my neighbors carried me to the top of a mountain. When I was conscious, I asked about my child and, luckily, they carry my child as well. I somehow survived, but our home was fully destroyed. This happened three months ago.

The flood caused the death of one 18-year-old boy, one 17-year-old girl, and two elderly ladies [over 50] in my village. Now, during the day I am staying in a tent and spending nights in a relative’s home. Because my husband is in Iran for work and I am alone, I can’t stay in the tent at night because people in the area will speak badly of me. Living in this condition is very difficult.

At the time of the flood, the government and some NGOs, including IOM, provided basic assistance. However, now we are not receiving enough assistance from anyone. In one month, we received a bag of flour and cooking oil, which does not fulfill our daily needs. The weather is getting cold, which caused my child to become sick. There is a lack of heating sources, no gas for cooking, and limited food.”



Fatma and her family in Parwan province in November 2022. ©IOM 2022/Khalil Salehi

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- 🌐 [displacement.iom.int/afghanistan](https://displacement.iom.int/afghanistan)

## ANNEXES

The following annexes are provided to supplement the data mentioned in this report and can be used to support planning and targeting of humanitarian programmes. The annexes expand

on the data presented throughout the report by providing a province-level and year breakdown.

### Annex A. IDPs by Year of Displacement and Province

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	Province Total
Badakhshan	9,000	14,000	38,000	20,000	<b>98,000</b>
Badghis	18,000	17,000	41,000	18,000	<b>145,000</b>
Baghlan	13,000	17,000	29,000	21,000	<b>95,000</b>
Balkh	80,000	88,000	135,000	70,000	<b>476,000</b>
Bamyan	4,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	<b>37,000</b>
Daykundi	4,000	6,000	7,000	1,000	<b>33,000</b>
Farah	15,000	27,000	32,000	22,000	<b>172,000</b>
Faryab	15,000	12,000	38,000	35,000	<b>155,000</b>
Ghazni	16,000	20,000	30,000	19,000	<b>167,000</b>
Ghor	15,000	22,000	34,000	36,000	<b>147,000</b>
Helmand	22,000	41,000	97,000	55,000	<b>350,000</b>
Herat	128,000	147,000	163,000	87,000	<b>1,177,000</b>
Jawzjan	10,000	19,000	28,000	5,000	<b>122,000</b>
Kabul	94,000	168,000	337,000	272,000	<b>1,060,000</b>
Kandahar	14,000	21,000	125,000	45,000	<b>236,000</b>
Kapisa	5,000	11,000	15,000	4,000	<b>52,000</b>
Khost	9,000	10,000	21,000	7,000	<b>103,000</b>
Kunar	19,000	16,000	36,000	22,000	<b>132,000</b>
Kunduz	17,000	38,000	82,000	28,000	<b>201,000</b>
Laghman	6,000	8,000	7,000	11,000	<b>68,000</b>
Logar	3,000	3,000	8,000	3,000	<b>27,000</b>
Nangarhar	77,000	57,000	63,000	8,000	<b>445,000</b>
Nimroz	8,000	12,000	20,000	23,000	<b>120,000</b>
Nuristan	3,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	<b>14,000</b>
Paktika	1,000	10,000	9,000	3,000	<b>46,000</b>
Paktya	5,000	13,000	23,000	10,000	<b>66,000</b>
Panjsher	300	500	800	900	<b>3,000</b>
Parwan	8,000	15,000	31,000	14,000	<b>87,000</b>
Samangan	2,000	4,000	10,000	32,000	<b>48,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	12,000	23,000	40,000	74,000	<b>206,000</b>
Takhar	19,000	35,000	38,000	34,000	<b>146,000</b>
Uruzgan	2,000	10,000	16,000	8,000	<b>113,000</b>
Wardak	3,000	9,000	11,000	2,000	<b>44,000</b>
Zabul	11,000	28,000	37,000	14,000	<b>166,000</b>
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>667,300</b>	<b>925,500</b>	<b>1,606,800</b>	<b>1,010,900</b>	<b>6,557,000</b>

## Annex B. Returnees by Year of Return and Province

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	Province Total
Badakhshan	16,000	21,000	94,000	51,000	<b>210,000</b>
Badghis	34,000	34,000	76,000	35,000	<b>223,000</b>
Baghlan	135,000	168,000	298,000	86,000	<b>894,000</b>
Balkh	13,000	26,000	248,000	51,000	<b>351,000</b>
Bamyan	7,000	21,000	27,000	25,000	<b>123,000</b>
Daykundi	2,000	8,000	8,000	2,000	<b>28,000</b>
Farah	11,000	24,000	37,000	19,000	<b>199,000</b>
Faryab	38,000	26,000	152,000	169,000	<b>491,000</b>
Ghazni	25,000	21,000	55,000	19,000	<b>190,000</b>
Ghor	7,000	10,000	43,000	44,000	<b>123,000</b>
Helmand	38,000	87,000	247,000	76,000	<b>723,000</b>
Herat	29,000	30,000	75,000	25,000	<b>223,000</b>
Jawzjan	18,000	35,000	255,000	76,000	<b>496,000</b>
Kabul	17,000	23,000	60,000	42,000	<b>180,000</b>
Kandahar	8,000	15,000	386,000	42,000	<b>462,000</b>
Kapisa	8,000	13,000	155,000	8,000	<b>211,000</b>
Khost	900	1,000	36,000	14,000	<b>58,000</b>
Kunar	12,000	42,000	103,000	26,000	<b>213,000</b>
Kunduz	234,000	192,000	517,000	171,000	<b>2,122,000</b>
Laghman	1,000	1,000	112,000	28,000	<b>152,000</b>
Logar	3,000	3,000	20,000	10,000	<b>44,000</b>
Nangarhar	136,000	120,000	304,000	114,000	<b>966,000</b>
Nimroz	3,000	6,000	8,000	13,000	<b>49,000</b>
Nuristan	300	700	35,000	7,000	<b>43,000</b>
Paktika	500	7,000	32,000	3,000	<b>60,000</b>
Paktya	2,000	14,000	56,000	12,000	<b>178,000</b>
Panjsher	200	200	36,000	13,000	<b>53,000</b>
Parwan	6,000	14,000	102,000	22,000	<b>168,000</b>
Samangan	3,000	8,000	63,000	91,000	<b>170,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	10,000	10,000	77,000	149,000	<b>288,000</b>
Takhar	184,000	138,000	278,000	40,000	<b>880,000</b>
Uruzgan	3,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	<b>134,000</b>
Wardak	4,000	4,000	108,000	25,000	<b>153,000</b>
Zabul	14,000	25,000	71,000	9,000	<b>178,000</b>
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>1,022,900</b>	<b>1,155,900</b>	<b>4,182,000</b>	<b>1,525,000</b>	<b>11,036,000</b>

## Annex C. Out-Migrants by Year of Departure and Origin Province

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	Province Total
Badakhshan	20,000	27,000	116,000	66,000	<b>280,000</b>
Badghis	11,000	15,000	76,000	37,000	<b>214,000</b>
Baghlan	27,000	31,000	62,000	65,000	<b>272,000</b>
Balkh	52,000	50,000	98,000	70,000	<b>370,000</b>
Bamyan	4,000	4,000	14,000	18,000	<b>74,000</b>
Daykundi	6,000	8,000	23,000	11,000	<b>118,000</b>
Farah	8,000	17,000	46,000	31,000	<b>184,000</b>
Faryab	28,000	32,000	91,000	177,000	<b>692,000</b>
Ghazni	5,000	7,000	26,000	24,000	<b>105,000</b>
Ghor	8,000	11,000	36,000	45,000	<b>124,000</b>
Helmand	4,000	7,000	28,000	23,000	<b>91,000</b>
Herat	47,000	82,000	199,000	144,000	<b>612,000</b>
Jawzjan	30,000	45,000	124,000	63,000	<b>416,000</b>
Kabul	28,000	49,000	169,000	226,000	<b>535,000</b>
Kandahar	5,000	2,000	36,000	10,000	<b>62,000</b>
Kapisa	10,000	16,000	46,000	24,000	<b>140,000</b>
Khost	5,000	6,000	17,000	5,000	<b>58,000</b>
Kunar	6,000	6,000	43,000	46,000	<b>118,000</b>
Kunduz	25,000	29,000	76,000	83,000	<b>374,000</b>
Laghman	8,000	9,000	26,000	25,000	<b>96,000</b>
Logar	10,000	10,000	29,000	15,000	<b>118,000</b>
Nangarhar	15,000	31,000	91,000	133,000	<b>310,000</b>
Nimroz	5,000	15,000	30,000	20,000	<b>97,000</b>
Nuristan	200	300	2,000	2,000	<b>6,000</b>
Paktika	1,000	6,000	22,000	13,000	<b>78,000</b>
Paktya	6,000	7,000	15,000	14,000	<b>65,000</b>
Panjsher	700	800	9,000	5,000	<b>20,000</b>
Parwan	16,000	17,000	75,000	56,000	<b>227,000</b>
Samangan	9,000	14,000	25,000	39,000	<b>109,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	20,000	29,000	94,000	60,000	<b>285,000</b>
Takhar	40,000	64,000	108,000	104,000	<b>427,000</b>
Uruzgan	0	0	100	100	<b>800</b>
Wardak	9,000	8,000	35,000	21,000	<b>127,000</b>
Zabul	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000	<b>38,000</b>
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>473,900</b>	<b>660,100</b>	<b>1,893,100</b>	<b>1,676,100</b>	<b>6,842,800</b>

## Annex D. Cross-Border Returnees by Year of Return and Province

Province	2019	2020	2021	2022	Province Total
Badakhshan	12,000	24,000	44,000	29,000	<b>154,000</b>
Badghis	11,000	21,000	32,000	19,000	<b>185,000</b>
Baghlan	30,000	31,000	29,000	31,000	<b>240,000</b>
Balkh	31,000	31,000	48,000	38,000	<b>211,000</b>
Bamyan	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	<b>47,000</b>
Daykundi	4,000	8,000	4,000	700	<b>43,000</b>
Farah	4,000	20,000	14,000	12,000	<b>122,000</b>
Faryab	24,000	33,000	47,000	68,000	<b>439,000</b>
Ghazni	9,000	15,000	19,000	14,000	<b>131,000</b>
Ghor	9,000	12,000	16,000	23,000	<b>97,000</b>
Helmand	5,000	17,000	23,000	9,000	<b>92,000</b>
Herat	22,000	83,000	49,000	47,000	<b>413,000</b>
Jawzjan	20,000	34,000	57,000	42,000	<b>280,000</b>
Kabul	85,000	196,000	107,000	108,000	<b>870,000</b>
Kandahar	14,000	5,000	59,000	19,000	<b>128,000</b>
Kapisa	9,000	15,000	14,000	7,000	<b>77,000</b>
Khost	7,000	8,000	19,000	7,000	<b>136,000</b>
Kunar	19,000	9,000	13,000	9,000	<b>177,000</b>
Kunduz	33,000	44,000	41,000	39,000	<b>400,000</b>
Laghman	16,000	13,000	20,000	15,000	<b>186,000</b>
Logar	19,000	14,000	19,000	8,000	<b>170,000</b>
Nangarhar	52,000	32,000	33,000	41,000	<b>701,000</b>
Nimroz	4,000	14,000	8,000	11,000	<b>87,000</b>
Nuristan	600	400	2,000	2,000	<b>7,000</b>
Paktika	2,000	11,000	15,000	7,000	<b>82,000</b>
Paktya	14,000	14,000	21,000	9,000	<b>163,000</b>
Panjsher	0	100	0	200	<b>800</b>
Parwan	18,000	21,000	33,000	26,000	<b>158,000</b>
Samangan	4,000	11,000	13,000	25,000	<b>73,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	13,000	28,000	46,000	30,000	<b>179,000</b>
Takhar	29,000	38,000	35,000	46,000	<b>243,000</b>
Uruzgan	0	0	0	100	<b>100</b>
Wardak	20,000	17,000	26,000	12,000	<b>180,000</b>
Zabul	7,000	8,000	10,000	4,000	<b>74,000</b>
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>550,600</b>	<b>832,500</b>	<b>920,000</b>	<b>763,000</b>	<b>6,545,900</b>

## Annex E. IDPs Province of Origin, 2021 to 2022

Province	# Displaced Within the Same Province	% Displaced Within the Same Province	# Displaced to Another Province	% Displaced to Another Province	Province Total
Badakhshan	53,000	91%	6,000	10%	<b>58,000</b>
Badghis	52,000	90%	7,000	12%	<b>58,000</b>
Baghlan	41,000	82%	9,000	18%	<b>50,000</b>
Balkh	110,000	54%	95,000	46%	<b>205,000</b>
Bamyan	6,000	67%	3,000	33%	<b>9,000</b>
Daykundi	8,000	100%	800	10%	<b>8,000</b>
Farah	47,000	87%	7,000	13%	<b>54,000</b>
Faryab	66,000	90%	7,000	10%	<b>73,000</b>
Ghazni	44,000	90%	6,000	12%	<b>49,000</b>
Ghor	64,000	90%	7,000	10%	<b>71,000</b>
Helmand	136,000	89%	15,000	10%	<b>152,000</b>
Herat	135,000	54%	115,000	46%	<b>250,000</b>
Jawzjan	19,000	58%	14,000	42%	<b>33,000</b>
Kabul	95,000	16%	514,000	84%	<b>609,000</b>
Kandahar	109,000	64%	61,000	36%	<b>170,000</b>
Kapisa	14,000	78%	5,000	28%	<b>18,000</b>
Khost	18,000	64%	10,000	36%	<b>28,000</b>
Kunar	55,000	95%	3,000	5%	<b>58,000</b>
Kunduz	92,000	84%	17,000	16%	<b>109,000</b>
Laghman	14,000	74%	5,000	26%	<b>19,000</b>
Logar	7,000	64%	4,000	36%	<b>11,000</b>
Nangarhar	46,000	65%	26,000	37%	<b>71,000</b>
Nimroz	9,000	21%	33,000	79%	<b>42,000</b>
Nuristan	2,000	50%	2,000	50%	<b>4,000</b>
Paktika	9,000	69%	4,000	31%	<b>13,000</b>
Paktya	29,000	88%	4,000	12%	<b>33,000</b>
Panjsher	900	45%	800	40%	<b>2,000</b>
Parwan	19,000	42%	25,000	56%	<b>45,000</b>
Samangan	33,000	79%	9,000	21%	<b>42,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	101,000	89%	13,000	11%	<b>114,000</b>
Takhar	55,000	75%	18,000	25%	<b>73,000</b>
Uruzgan	23,000	96%	800	3%	<b>24,000</b>
Wardak	10,000	77%	3,000	23%	<b>13,000</b>
Zabul	42,000	84%	8,000	16%	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,563,900</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1,057,400</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>2,618,000</b>

## Annex F. Returnees by Province of Displacement, 2021 to 2022

Province	# Returned Within the Same Province	% Returned Within the Same Province	# Returned from Another Province	% Returned from Another Province	Province Total
Badakhshan	65,000	45%	81,000	55%	<b>146,000</b>
Badghis	71,000	64%	40,000	36%	<b>111,000</b>
Baghlan	314,000	82%	70,000	18%	<b>384,000</b>
Balkh	272,000	91%	27,000	9%	<b>299,000</b>
Bamyan	15,000	29%	37,000	71%	<b>52,000</b>
Daykundi	5,000	50%	6,000	60%	<b>10,000</b>
Farah	42,000	75%	13,000	23%	<b>56,000</b>
Faryab	182,000	57%	140,000	43%	<b>322,000</b>
Ghazni	56,000	77%	17,000	23%	<b>73,000</b>
Ghor	54,000	61%	34,000	39%	<b>88,000</b>
Helmand	288,000	89%	35,000	11%	<b>323,000</b>
Herat	95,000	95%	5,000	5%	<b>100,000</b>
Jawzjan	184,000	56%	147,000	44%	<b>331,000</b>
Kabul	62,000	61%	40,000	39%	<b>102,000</b>
Kandahar	399,000	93%	29,000	7%	<b>428,000</b>
Kapisa	48,000	29%	116,000	71%	<b>163,000</b>
Khost	44,000	88%	6,000	12%	<b>50,000</b>
Kunar	71,000	55%	58,000	45%	<b>130,000</b>
Kunduz	539,000	78%	149,000	22%	<b>688,000</b>
Laghman	95,000	68%	45,000	32%	<b>140,000</b>
Logar	14,000	45%	17,000	55%	<b>31,000</b>
Nangarhar	367,000	88%	51,000	12%	<b>419,000</b>
Nimroz	20,000	95%	900	4%	<b>21,000</b>
Nuristan	14,000	33%	28,000	67%	<b>42,000</b>
Paktika	27,000	75%	9,000	25%	<b>36,000</b>
Paktya	45,000	67%	22,000	33%	<b>67,000</b>
Panjsher	100	0%	49,000	100%	<b>49,000</b>
Parwan	30,000	24%	93,000	76%	<b>123,000</b>
Samangan	87,000	56%	67,000	44%	<b>154,000</b>
Sar-e-Pul	123,000	54%	104,000	46%	<b>227,000</b>
Takhar	271,000	85%	47,000	15%	<b>318,000</b>
Uruzgan	16,000	100%	400	3%	<b>16,000</b>
Wardak	52,000	39%	81,000	61%	<b>133,000</b>
Zabul	71,000	89%	9,000	11%	<b>80,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,038,100</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>1,673,300</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>5,712,000</b>