

AFGHANISTAN BASELINE MOBILITY FIGURES

DTM BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT ROUND 1
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

 **IOM**
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DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX





INTRODUCTION

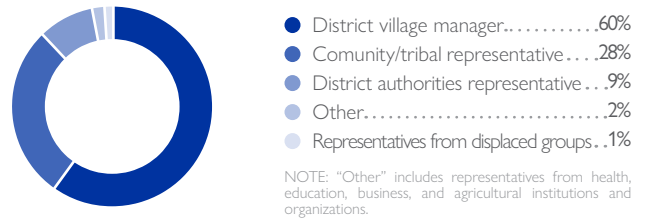
IOM Afghanistan launched the first round of the DTM Baseline Area Assessment B1 in January 2024 as part of its ongoing efforts to collect crucial data on population mobility dynamics, specifically displacement and returns. In particular, the B1 activity seeks to map the presence of mobile population groups, such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees, and internal migrants, to enable further understanding of conditions, vulnerabilities, and humanitarian needs through targeted data collection and analysis. After implementation of the B1, a subsequent assessment, the Baseline Village Assessment B2, will target all locations that report presence of mobile population groups to verify the results of the B1 and collect more granular information on reasons for mobility, shelter types, and places of origin.

The following report covers data collected for the B1 in January and February 2024, during which the IOM DTM Afghanistan team was able to completely cover two thirds (23 out of 34) of the provinces in the country. Further data collection to cover the remaining provinces is anticipated in the coming days. For a provisional look at baseline mobility figures for all 34 provinces, see the annex on pages 9 and 10, which combines the current B1 data with data collected during previous DTM activities.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Data collection for the B1 consisted of conducting interviews with Community Focal Points (CFPs) at the district level. In January and February, DTM teams fully covered 47,953 villages across 289 districts in 23 provinces. It is important to note that the information gathered relies on best estimates and perceptions from CFPs, with a degree of variability due to limited measures of verification, direct observation, and number of focal points. Additionally, 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”). These factors should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings.

CHART 1: TYPES OF COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS



TARGET MOBILE POPULATION GROUPS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



Afghan nationals who were forced to move away from their habitual residence to another location in Afghanistan due to conflict or disaster.

Internal Migrants



Afghan nationals who moved from their habitual residence to another location in Afghanistan due to economic factors.

Return IDPs



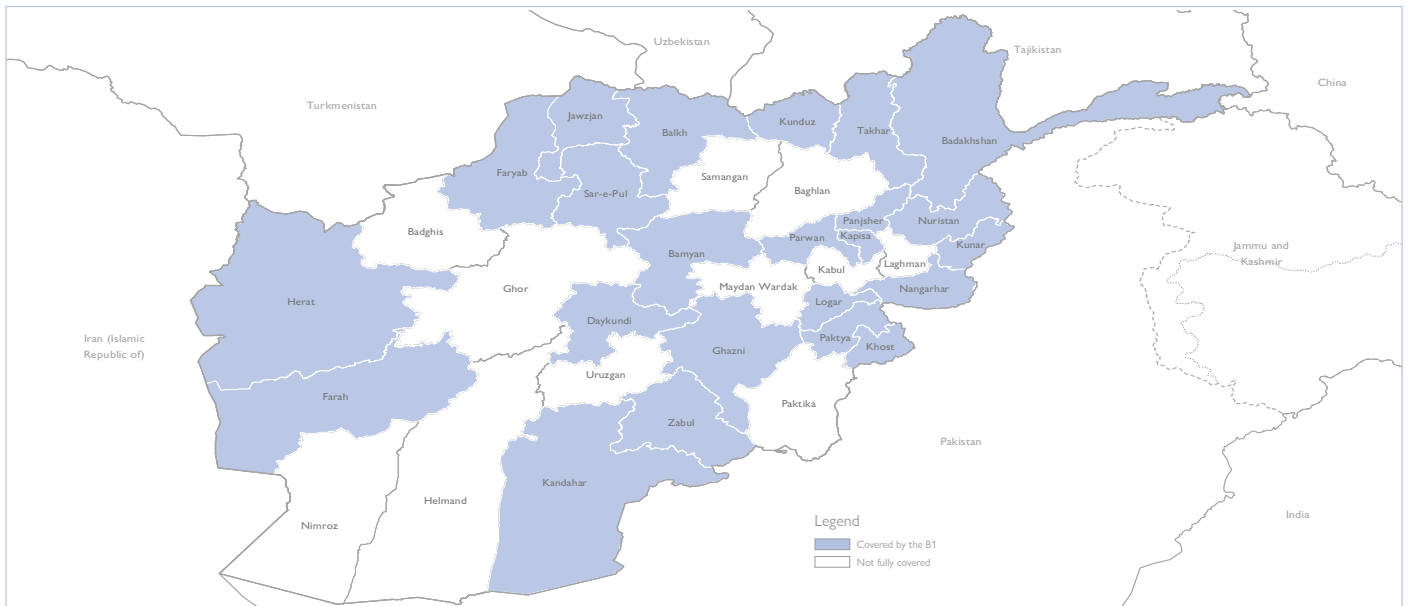
Afghan nationals who have returned to their habitual residence from which they were previously forced to move as IDPs.

Returnees from Abroad



Afghan nationals who had migrated abroad and have now returned to Afghanistan.

MAP 1: COVERAGE OF THE B1 ACTIVITY AS OF FEBRUARY 2024



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POPULATION FIGURES

The B1 assessment asked CFPs to estimate the number of individuals in each mobile population group who had arrived in assessed locations since 2021. DTM found that Return IDPs constitute the largest mobile group in the country, with an estimate of 1,726,209 individuals, followed by Returnees from abroad (1,305,171 individuals), IDPs (1,241,840 individuals), and Internal Migrants (1,221,796 individuals). Regarding IDPs, CFPs were also asked about the number of individuals who had arrived in assessed locations before 2021, for which the total was 3,254,804 individuals.

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF TARGET POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	ASSESSED LOCATIONS	DISPLACED BEFORE 2021	DISPLACED SINCE 2021	INTERNAL MIGRANTS SINCE 2021	RETURN IDPs SINCE 2021	RETURNEES FROM ABROAD SINCE 2021
Badakhshan	2,955	80,238	36,600	37,556	51,834	77,357
Balkh	2,036	249,628	81,744	6,321	173,228	58,455
Bamyan	2,807	58,474	19,329	16,631	31,944	10,472
Daykundi	2,913	28,611	9,617	40,453	13,442	57,015
Farah	2,114	67,762	32,357	21,004	18,060	16,947
Faryab	1,843	424,108	132,367	86,274	131,565	159,892
Ghazni	3,690	138,202	64,561	35,689	27,899	47,672
Herat	5,387	694,289	197,995	155,093	155,207	149,213
Jawzjan	946	58,028	15,601	14,795	36,471	54,441
Kandahar	3,768	404,318	136,115	280,316	296,990	89,885
Kapisa	1,014	30,020	20,908	60,859	71,873	27,331
Khost	1,259	68,105	26,871	29,097	66,332	17,153
Kunar	1,266	97,677	43,522	25,827	60,755	36,603
Kunduz	1,423	178,971	136,797	167,554	142,896	80,586
Logar	1,424	78,292	41,645	24,335	41,441	33,875
Nangarhar	3,178	302,139	82,887	80,158	173,580	180,087
Nuristan	505	11,632	5,591	13,395	30,686	7,570
Paktya	1,929	74,362	20,983	22,388	21,925	30,621
Panjsher	412	1,001	679	2,125	1,032	924
Parwan	1,749	28,872	26,684	18,219	44,492	30,327
Sar-e-Pul	1,109	46,982	18,480	3,625	26,215	21,842
Takhar	2,228	91,429	61,675	63,606	78,386	100,465
Zabul	1,998	41,664	28,832	16,476	29,956	16,438
Total	47,953	3,254,804	1,241,840	1,221,796	1,726,209	1,305,171

NOTE: The data presented on this page only reflects the 23 provinces covered in the B1 assessment as of February 2024. For a provisional estimate of mobile population numbers in all 34 provinces, see the annex at the end of this report (pages 9 and 10).



Among the assessed provinces, Faryab, Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz, and Nangarhar make frequent appearances among the top provinces with the highest number of IDPs, Internal Migrants, Return IDPs, and Returnees. This may be in part due to these provinces having some of the highest overall populations including host communities, but [previous DTM data](#) also shows that these locations are particularly dynamic in terms of mobility. All types of mobility were highest in border provinces.

Kandahar, Kunduz, and Faryab are still among the provinces with the highest proportions of mobility groups, so are Kapisa, Daykundi, Nuristan, and several others. This emphasizes the divergence between number of individuals and proportion in terms of analyzing resource allocation and vulnerabilities between host and mobile populations. In Kandahar, the mobile population accounts for nearly half of the entire population (45%), while in Kunduz and Faryab, it accounts for over a third (36% and 35%, respectively). Overall, mobile population groups constitute a little less than a quarter of the entire population (22%), with Return IDPs making up the largest share by a small margin (7%).

DTM also analyzed baseline mobility figures by determining the proportion of each mobile group out of the total population of each province. While

CHART 2: SHARE OF MOBILE POPULATIONS GROUPS WITHIN COMMUNITIES (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

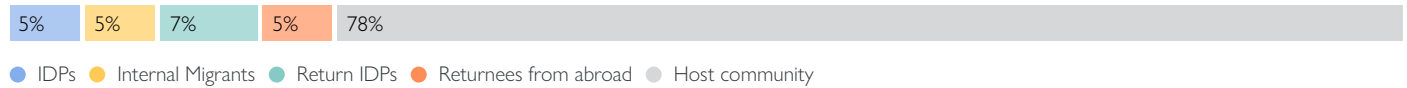
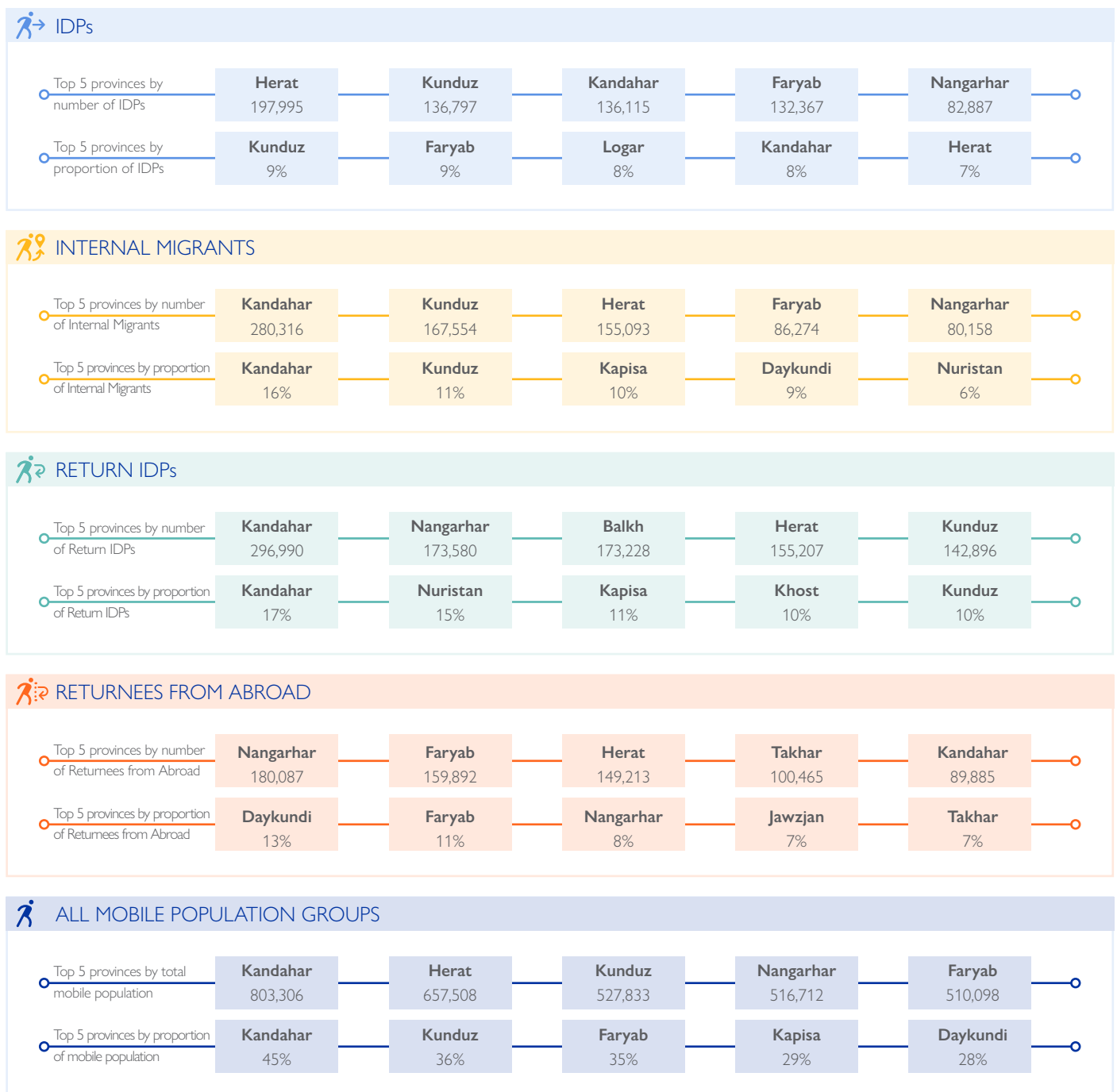


CHART 3: TOP 5 PROVINCES BY MOBILE POPULATION AND AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)



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IDPs

IDPs were most concentrated in the capital district of Herat province, also called Herat, where nearly double the number of IDPs compared to the next most concentrated district, Kunduz's capital district of Kunduz, were staying. Herat's proclivity for hosting IDPs is a phenomenon captured by previous baseline data collection activities conducted by IOM DTM, and can be partially attributed to Herat being one of the major economic centers in Afghanistan as well as the second largest city in the country. Herat province's recent earthquake, which occurred in October 2023,

may also be a contributing factor. Other capital districts, like Kunduz and Kandahar, also have large concentrations of IDPs. Notably, districts like Dasht-e-Archi in Kunduz and Taloqan in Takhar host large numbers of IDPs, potentially related to their regions' histories of high levels of conflict and therefore increased mobility. By proportion of the community, however, IDPs are most common in Nurgal district, Kunar and Ghorak district, Kandahar, in both of which IDPs make up roughly a quarter of the population.

MAP 2: POPULATION OF IDPs BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

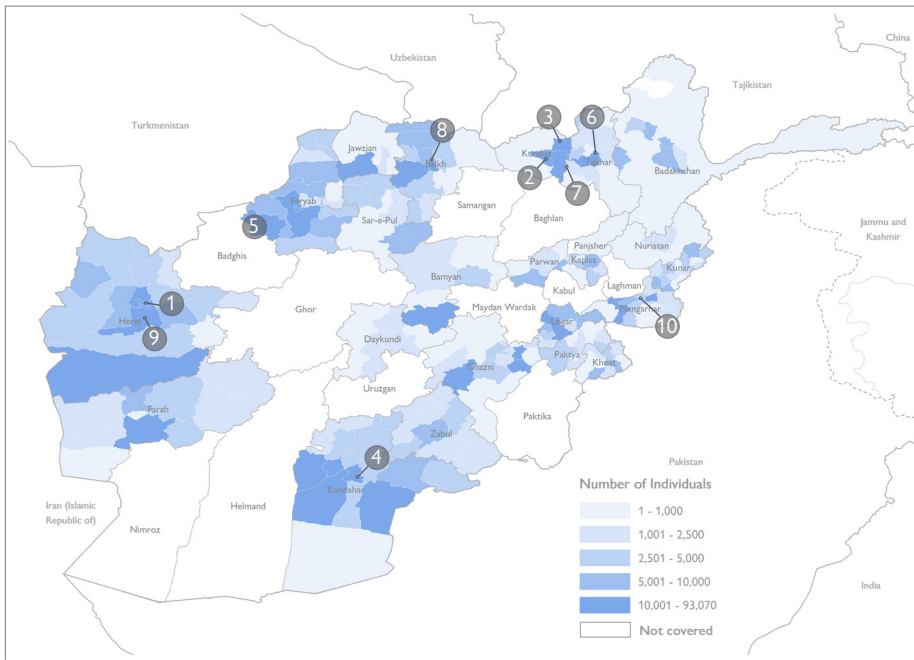


TABLE 2: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY POPULATION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Herat	Herat	93,070
2	Kunduz	Kunduz	53,640
3	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	49,185
4	Kandahar	Kandahar	46,930
5	Qaysar	Faryab	41,522
6	Taloqan	Takhar	37,112
7	Khan Abad	Kunduz	32,480
8	Dehdadi	Balkh	32,207
9	Guzara	Herat	32,068
10	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	26,397

MAP 3: IDPs AS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

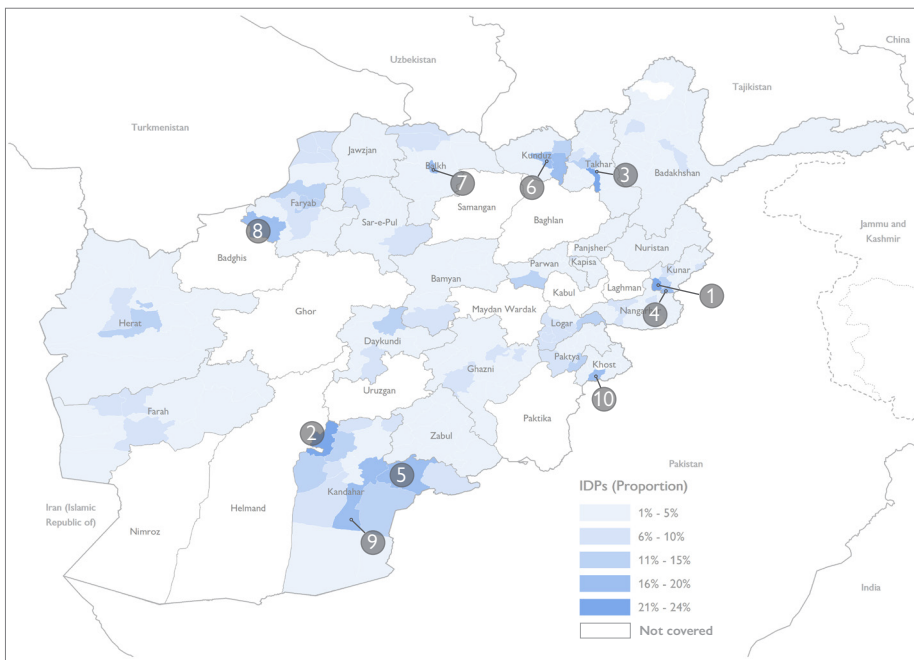


TABLE 3: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY PROPORTION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	%
1	Nurgal	Kunar	24%
2	Ghorak	Kandahar	24%
3	Namab Ab	Takhar	23%
4	Khas Kunar	Kunar	19%
5	Arghestan	Kandahar	19%
6	Kunduz	Kunduz	18%
7	Dehdadi	Balkh	18%
8	Qaysar	Faryab	17%
9	Daman	Kandahar	17%
10	Tani	Khost	17%

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INTERNAL MIGRANTS

Kandahar district, capital district of Kandahar province, hosts 2.5 times the number of Internal Migrants compared to the next top district, Herat. Like Herat, Kandahar district hosts one of the largest cities in Afghanistan and is considered the southern region's economic hub,¹ located close to one of the country's main border points, Spin Boldak. The following top districts, in terms of population, Herat, Injil, and Kunduz, are also large cities with a high potential for employment opportunities.

By proportion of the community, Internal Migrants make up over a third of the population in Nili district in Daykundi and Ghorak district in Kandahar. Nili is the capital district of Daykundi while Ghorak is located relatively close to Kandahar's capital district. Spin Boldak district, one of Afghanistan's main gateways to Pakistan and a therefore a focal point for trade, also hosts a population that is almost a third Internal Migrants.

MAP 4: POPULATION OF INTERNAL MIGRANTS BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

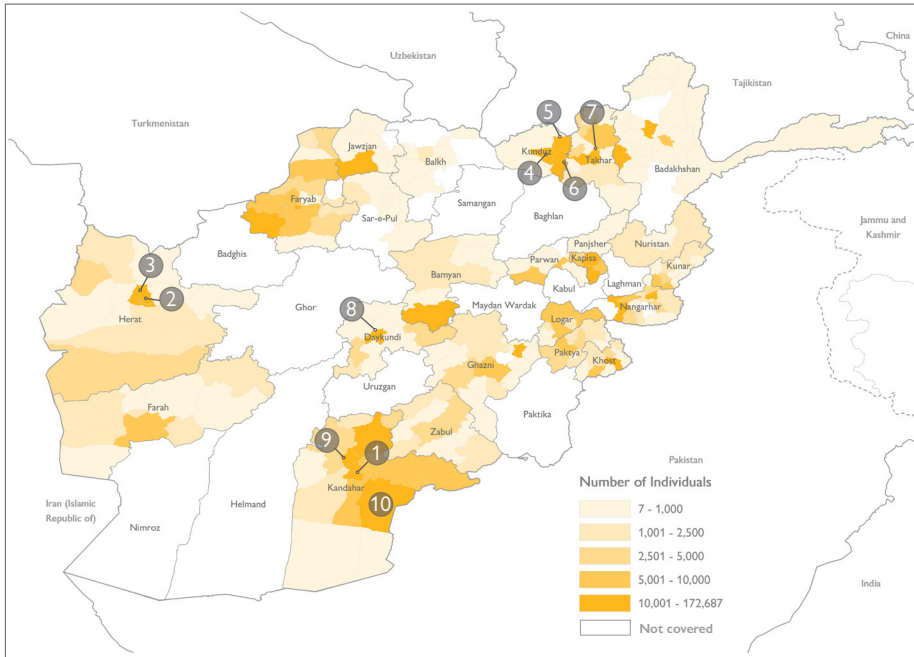


TABLE 4: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY POPULATION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Kandahar	Kandahar	172,687
2	Herat	Herat	68,169
3	Injil	Herat	66,458
4	Kunduz	Kunduz	65,670
5	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	61,850
6	Khan Abad	Kunduz	39,020
7	Taloqan	Takhar	30,924
8	Nili	Daykundi	29,037
9	Arghandab	Kandahar	26,875
10	Spin Boldak	Kandahar	23,265

MAP 5: INTERNAL MIGRANTS AS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

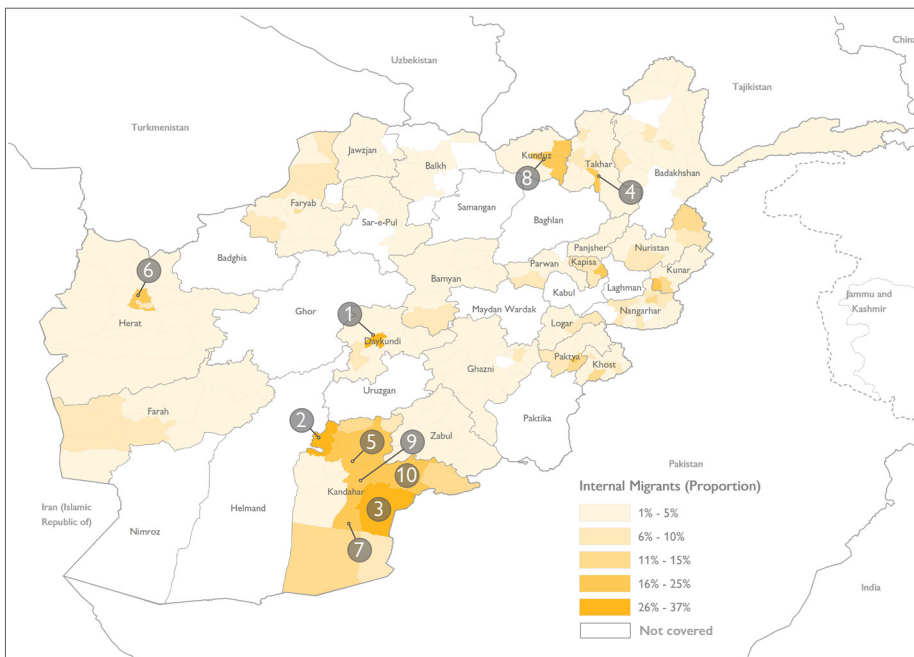


TABLE 5: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY PROPORTION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	%
1	Nili	Daykundi	37%
2	Ghorak	Kandahar	35%
3	Spin Boldak	Kandahar	29%
4	Namak Ab	Takhar	25%
5	Arghandab	Kandahar	25%
6	Injil	Herat	24%
7	Daman	Kandahar	24%
8	Kunduz	Kunduz	23%
9	Kandahar	Kandahar	22%
10	Arghistan	Kandahar	21%

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¹ "Economic Assessment and Labour Market Survey of Mazar-i Sharif, Pul-i Khumri, Kandahar City and Kunduz City." reliefweb.int. Samuel Hall, Mercy Corps. 2017.



RETURN IDPs

Similarly to IDPs and Internal Migrants, Return IDPs were often concentrated in capital districts with large cities, including Kandahar, Herat, Kunduz, and Taloqan in Takhar province. Other districts, like Achin in Nangarhar province and Dasht-e-Archi in Kunduz province, faced high levels of conflict in the years prior to 2021, after which conflict decreased, perhaps contributing to formerly displaced persons' motivations to return to their origin location.

Compared to other population groups, Return IDPs constitute larger proportions of communities overall; in Sherzad district in Nangarhar, Return IDPs constitute a majority of the people living in communities. Districts in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces are more likely to have higher proportions of Return IDPs compared to other provinces, with many having faced high levels of conflict prior to 2021.

MAP 6: POPULATION OF RETURN IDPs BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

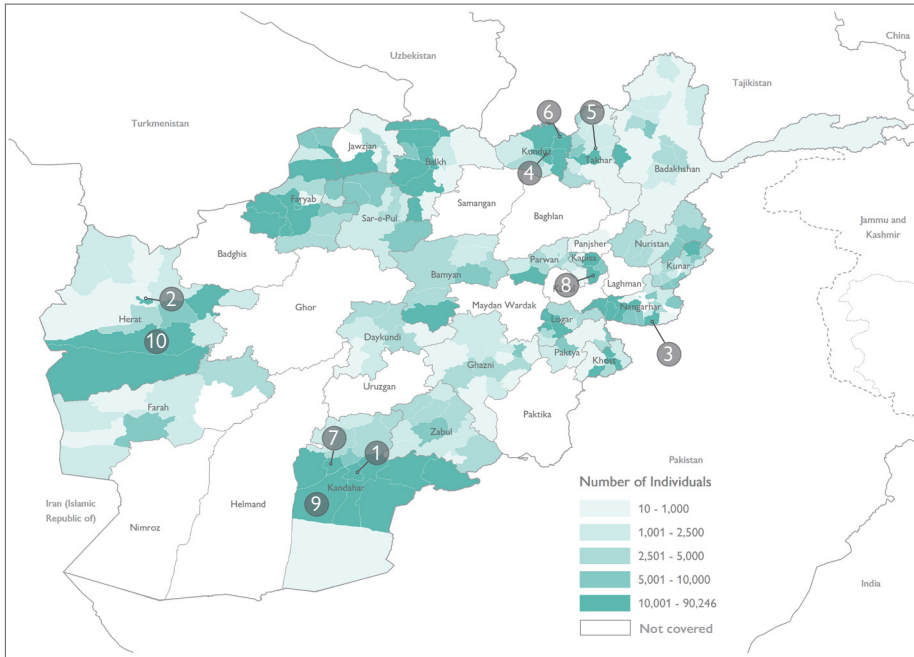


TABLE 6: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY POPULATION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Kandahar	Kandahar	90,246
2	Herat	Herat	70,941
3	Achin	Nangarhar	53,182
4	Kunduz	Kunduz	49,808
5	Taloqan	Takhar	46,603
6	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	45,248
7	Zheray	Kandahar	45,180
8	Tagab	Kapisa	40,296
9	Panjwayi	Kandahar	40,106
10	Shindand	Herat	36,372

MAP 7: RETURN IDPs AS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

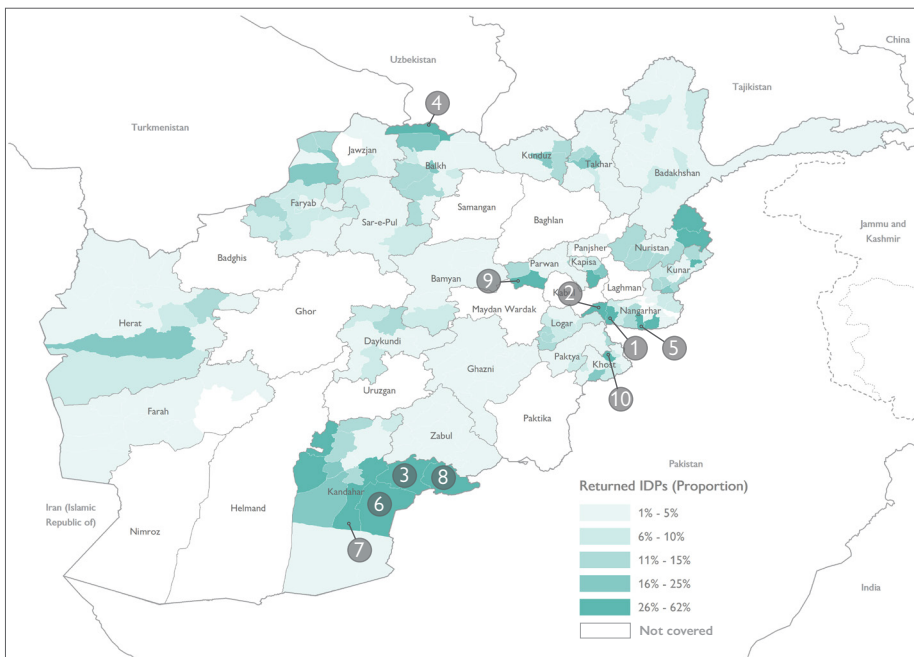


TABLE 7: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY PROPORTION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	%
1	Sherzad	Nangarhar	62%
2	Hesarak	Nangarhar	48%
3	Arghestan	Kandahar	46%
4	Shortepa	Balkh	45%
5	Achin	Nangarhar	44%
6	Spin Boldak	Kandahar	42%
7	Daman	Kandahar	39%
8	Maruf	Kandahar	38%
9	Surkh-e-Parsa	Parwan	37%
10	Sabari	Khost	36%

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RETURNEES FROM ABROAD

Among the assessed provinces, unlike other population groups, Returnees from Abroad are most likely to be found in Jalalabad, capital district of Nangarhar province. This can be attributed to the district hosting Afghanistan's most active border crossing point, Torkham. For more information on the mobility flows at Torkham border crossing point as well as other main border points, see IOM DTM's [weekly Flow Monitoring reports](#). Kandahar and Herat districts are also located nearby the border crossing areas of Spin Boldak and Islam Qala.

In terms of proportion of the community, Shirin Tagab and Khwaja Sabz Posh in Faryab, Kiti in Daykundi, and Shawak in Paktya, saw high proportions of returnees, with returnees consisting of nearly half the population of Shirin Tagab. CFPs noted that the mentioned districts in Faryab and Daykundi were high sending districts from which people often migrated abroad. This may be related to the high proportions of returnees since 2021.

MAP 8: POPULATION OF RETURNEES FROM ABROAD BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

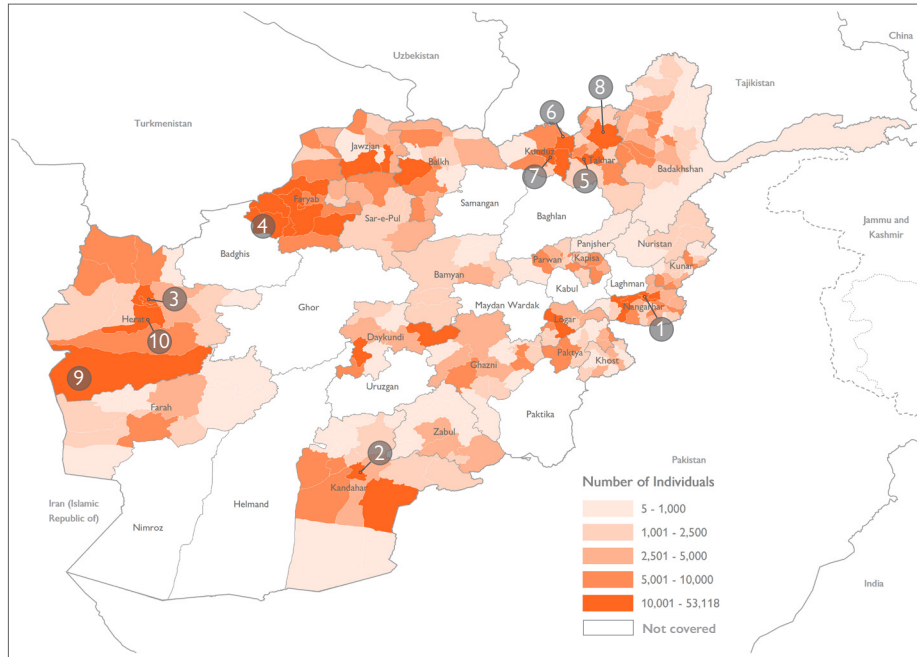


TABLE 8: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY POPULATION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	53,118
2	Kandahar	Kandahar	49,458
3	Herat	Herat	41,243
4	Qaysar	Faryab	32,183
5	Taloqan	Takhar	29,057
6	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	27,473
7	Kunduz	Kunduz	26,160
8	Rostaq	Takhar	25,010
9	Shindand	Herat	22,668
10	Guzara	Herat	22,422

MAP 9: RETURNEES FROM ABROAD AS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY DISTRICT (ARRIVED SINCE 2021)

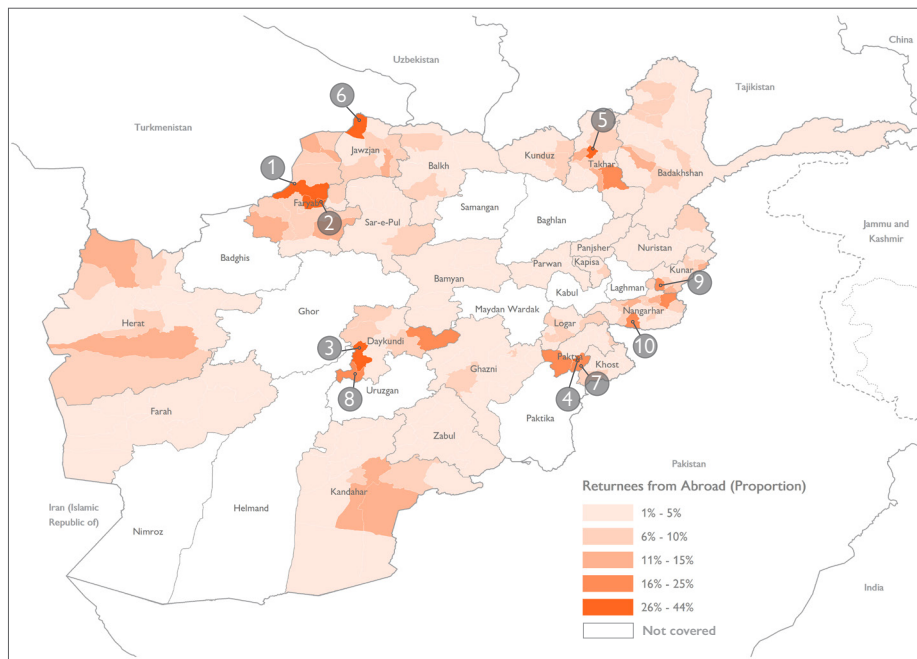


TABLE 9: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY PROPORTION

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	%
1	Shirin Tagab	Faryab	44%
2	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Faryab	43%
3	Kiti	Daykundi	36%
4	Shawak	Paktya	35%
5	Hazar Sumuch	Takhar	30%
6	Khmyab	Jawzjan	27%
7	Zadran	Paktya	20%
8	Kajran	Daykundi	18%
9	Nurgal	Kunar	18%
10	Pachir Wa Agam	Nangarhar	17%

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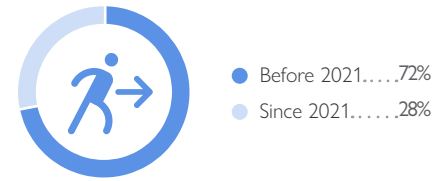
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COMPARISONS: IDPs BEFORE AND SINCE 2021

CFFPs were asked to estimate the number of IDPs in each community both before and since 2021 in order to gauge any shifts between geographical concentrations. The main shift among the assessed provinces is that IDPs are much more common in Kunduz after 2021 than before 2021. Otherwise, IDP concentrations remain relatively consistent as being highest in Herat, Kandahar, Faryab, and Nangarhar. Three districts in Kunduz are significant in their IDP populations: Kunduz (the capital), Dasht-e-Archi, and Khan Abad. The first two had relatively high IDP populations prior to 2021 as well. Herat district remains the district with the highest number of IDPs, while Kandahar and Qaysar in Faryab province also maintain large IDP concentrations.

CHART 4: IDPs BY PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT



MAP 10: TOP 5 PROVINCES BY IDP POPULATION BEFORE AND SINCE 2021

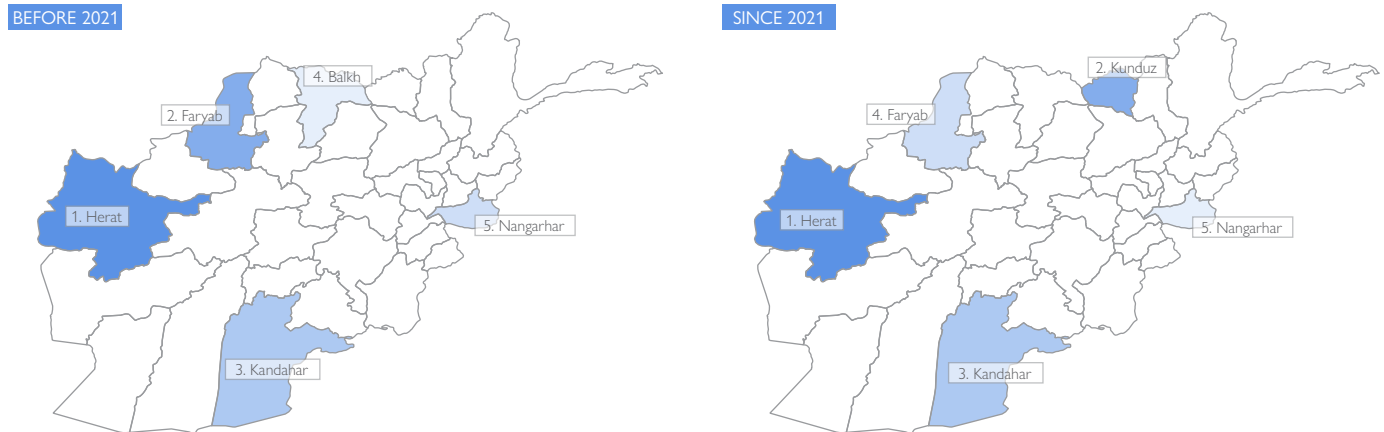


TABLE 10: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY IDP POPULATION BEFORE 2021

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Herat	Herat	244,018
2	Qaysar	Faryab	183,165
3	Kandahar	Kandahar	178,178
4	Guzara	Herat	121,702
5	Injil	Herat	119,600
6	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	101,610
7	Dehdadi	Balkh	90,057
8	Surkh Rod	Nangarhar	73,180
9	Kunduz	Kunduz	69,210
10	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	64,500

TABLE 11: TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY IDP POPULATION SINCE 2021

	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
1	Herat	Herat	93,070
2	Kunduz	Kunduz	53,640
3	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	49,185
4	Kandahar	Kandahar	46,930
5	Qaysar	Faryab	41,522
6	Taloqan	Takhar	37,112
7	Khan Abad	Kunduz	32,480
8	Dehdadi	Balkh	32,207
9	Guzara	Herat	32,068
10	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	26,397

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

As of February 2024 in the 23 assessed provinces, a total of 433,506 individuals were living in informal settlements. IDPs in informal settlements not only lack access to basic services, such as drinking water, food, WASH, and health services, but are also exposed to higher levels of insecurity and unstable living conditions.² Informal settlements are most common in border provinces. For example, Faryab province, bordering Uzbekistan, has the highest share of individuals living in informal settlements, accounting for 63 per cent of the entire population of those in informal settlements, out of which the provinces of Qurghan, Andkhoy, and Khan-e-Char Bagh. Other provinces with relatively large informal settlement populations include Nangarhar (23%), Kunar (5%), Herat (4%), and Khost (3%).

CHART 5: PRESENCE OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



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² "Afghanistan: Informal settlement assessment - Trends Analysis Between Rounds 1 and 2 (December 2020)" reliefweb.int. REACH. 2022.



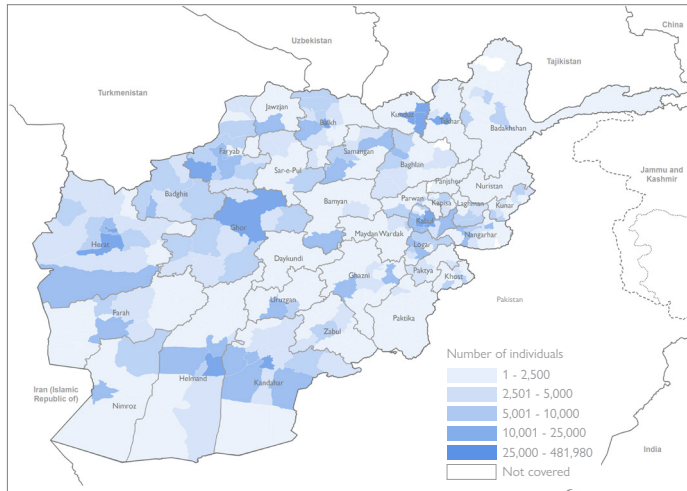
ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY TO COMBINED BASELINE DATASET FOR INTERIM USE

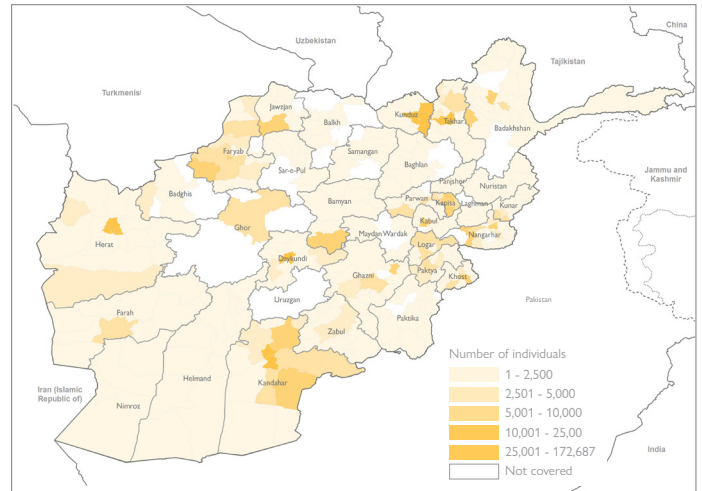
In January and February, IOM DTM Afghanistan's Baseline Mobility Assessment B1 fully assessed 23 out of 34 provinces and partially assessed a further five provinces. In order to provide an estimate of nationwide mobile population numbers in the interim period prior to further data collection with the B1 to cover the 11 remaining provinces, DTM has supplemented the current B1 dataset with information from a previous data collection activity. It is important to note that because this dataset combines sources from data collected during different time periods, population estimates may not be as precise as when DTM eventually completes nationwide coverage with the B1.

ANNEX 2: COMBINED BASELINE DATASET POPULATION MAPS

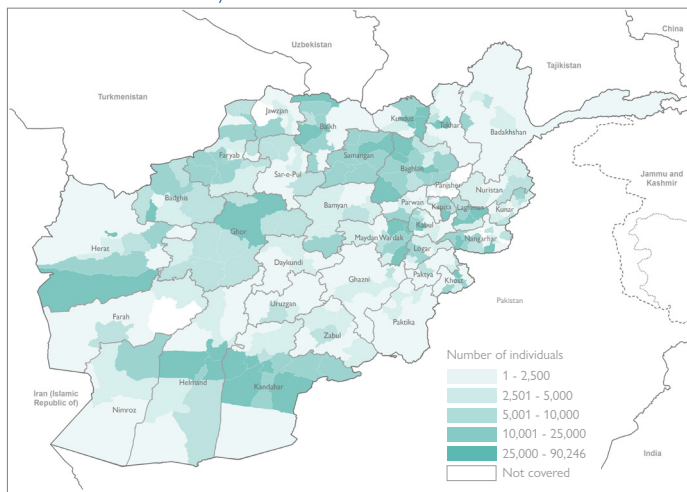
IDPs since 2021 by district



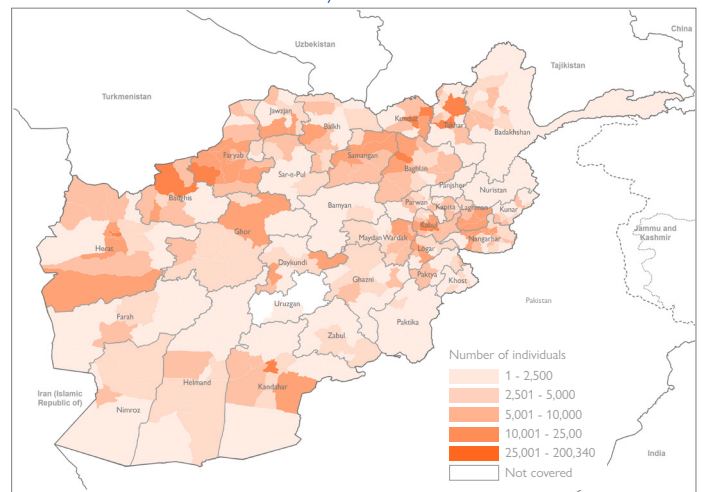
Internal Migrants since 2021 by district



Return IDPs since 2021 by district



Returnees From Abroad since 2021 by district



ANNEX 3: COMBINED BASELINE DATASET TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR EACH POPULATION GROUP

IDPs			INTERNAL MIGRANTS			RETURN IDPs			RETURNEES FROM ABROAD		
DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL	DISTRICT	PROVINCE	TOTAL
Kabul	Kabul	282,440	Kandahar	Kandahar	172,687	Kabul	Kabul	200,340	Kandahar	Kandahar	90,246
Bagrami	Kabul	118,100	Herat	Herat	68,169	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	53,118	Lashkargah	Helmand	81,960
Herat	Herat	93,070	Injil	Herat	66,458	Kandahar	Kandahar	49,458	Herat	Herat	70,941
Feroz Koh	Ghor	56,636	Kunduz	Kunduz	65,670	Bagrami	Kabul	42,240	Pul-e-Khumri	Baghlan	69,850
Kunduz	Kunduz	53,640	Dasht-e-Archi	Kunduz	61,850	Herat	Herat	41,243	Alingar	Laghman	55,840



ANNEX 4: COMBINED BASELINE DATASET POPULATION BY PROVINCE

Province Name	IDPs Arrived Pre- 2021	IDPs Arrived Post 2021	Vulnerable Internal Migrants(Since 2021)	Returnees from Abroad Since 2021	Returned IDPs Since 2021)	Locations covered
Badakhshan	80,238	36,600	37,556	77,357	51,834	2,955
Balkh	249,628	81,744	6,321	58,455	173,228	2,036
Bamyan	58,474	19,329	16,631	10,472	31,944	2,807
Daykundi	28,611	9,617	40,453	57,015	13,442	2,909
Farah	67,762	32,357	21,004	16,947	18,060	2,114
Faryab	424,108	132,367	86,274	159,892	131,565	1,843
Ghazni	138,202	64,561	35,689	47,672	27,899	3,690
Herat	694,289	197,995	155,093	149,213	155,207	5,387
Jawzjan	58,028	15,601	14,795	54,441	36,471	946
Kandahar	404,318	136,115	280,316	89,885	296,990	3,768
Kapisa	30,020	20,908	60,859	27,331	71,873	1,014
Khost	68,105	26,871	29,097	17,153	66,332	1,259
Kunar	97,677	43,522	25,827	36,603	60,755	1,266
Kunduz	178,971	136,797	167,554	80,586	142,896	1,415
Logar	78,292	41,645	24,335	33,875	41,441	1,424
Nangarhar	302,139	82,887	80,158	180,087	173,580	3,178
Nuristan	11,632	5,591	13,395	7,570	30,686	505
Paktya	74,362	20,983	22,388	30,621	21,925	1,929
Panjsher	1,001	679	2,125	924	1,032	412
Parwan	28,872	26,684	18,219	30,327	44,492	1,748
Sar-e-Pul	46,982	18,480	3,625	21,842	26,215	1,109
Takhar	91,429	61,675	63,606	100,465	78,386	2,228
Zabul	41,664	28,832	16,476	16,438	29,956	1,998
Badghis	114,836	58,212	3,485	71,701	75,299	879
Baghlan	41,380	60,460	5,800	120,560	336,890	678
Ghor	88,980	94,336	5,834	55,167	95,025	653
Helmand	132,582	82,407	6,469	23,756	199,069	381
Kabul	427,630	531,320	14,990	326,500	124,180	698
Laghman	51,970	23,300	510	54,430	120,680	307
Nimroz	66,557	37,269	3,352	17,715	24,538	390
Paktika	35,293	15,582	9,768	18,085	22,596	590
Samangan	9,520	50,250	1,200	79,510	147,750	402
Uruzgan	89,680	28,690	-	70	18,820	151
Wardak	30,890	15,210	210	64,880	145,030	283
Grand total	4,344,122	2,238,876	1,273,414	2,137,545	3,036,086	53,352

Fully covered by Baseline Area Assessment

Partially covered by Baseline Area Assessment; complemented by data from 2023 assessments

Not covered yet by Baseline Area Assessment; complemented by data from 2023 assessments