



# DTM

## AFGHANISTAN

# BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

### SUMMARY RESULTS

APRIL – JUNE 2018



Female IDP outside her tarpoulin-roofed, mudbrick hut in Baharak district, Takhar. © IOM 2018

## 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. For more information about DTM in Afghanistan, please visit [www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan](http://www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan).

In Afghanistan, DTM employs the Baseline Mobility Assessment tool, designed to track mobility, determine the population sizes and locations of forcibly displaced people, reasons for displacement, places of origin, displacement locations and times of displacement, including basic demographics, as well as vulnerabilities and priority needs. Data is collected at the settlement level, through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observations.

DTM enables IOM and its partners to deliver evidence-based, better targeted, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian assistance, reintegration, community stabilization and development programming.

## 5 TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, DTM tracks the locations, population sizes, and cross-sectoral needs of five core target population categories:

1. Returnees from Abroad  
*Afghans who had fled abroad for at least 6 months and have now returned to Afghanistan*
2. Out-Migrants  
*Afghans who moved or fled abroad*  
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), subdivided into the following three categories:
3. Arrival IDPs  
*IDPs from other locations currently residing in an assessed village*
4. Returned IDPs  
*Afghans from an assessed village who had fled as IDPs in the past and have now returned home*
5. Fled IDPs  
*Afghans from an assessed village who fled to reside elsewhere in Afghanistan*

Data on population sizes for the 5 target population categories is collected by time of displacement, using each of the following time frames: 2012-2015 • 2016 • 2017 • 2018 (1 January – 30 June 2018).

## HIGHLIGHTS



**15** provinces covered

**188** districts assessed

**6,771** settlements assessed

in Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktya and Takhar



**36,993**

key informants interviewed



**1,882,487**

returnees from abroad [2012-2018]



**1,866,925**

IDPs [2012-2018] currently in host communities



**2,083,632**

former IDPs have returned to their homes [2012-2018]



**885,580**

out-migrants fled abroad [2012-2018]



**110,640**

out-migrants fled to Europe (12.5% of out-migrants)



**66,258**

returnees and IDPs live in tents or in the open air (1.8% of total returnees and IDPs)



**1 in 3**

persons from Nangarhar and Nimroz is either an IDP or a Returnee



**1 in 4**

of all assessed Returnees reside in Nangarhar



**1 in 4**

of all assessed IDPs reside in Herat



**4 in 5**

persons from Kunduz have been IDPs and returned home





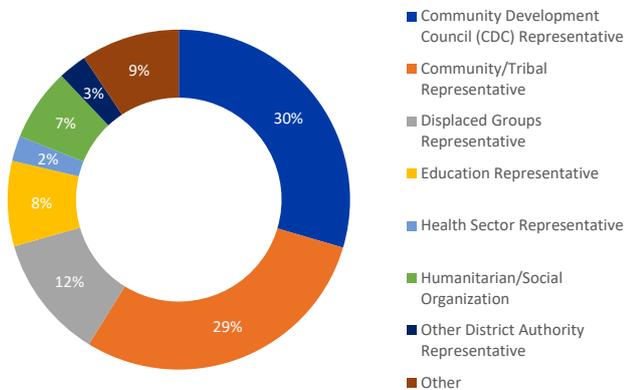
## KEY INFORMANTS

DTM's field enumerators, District Focal Points (DFPs), collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through focus group discussions with key informants. The average size of focus groups is five key informants per group. In the rare case that DTM's District Focal Points cannot physically reach a community, due to insecurity, conflict, or risk of retaliation, DFPs meet the focus groups at a safe place outside their communities or conduct the assessments by phone.

Significant highlights regarding the overall composition of Key Informant Focus Groups include the following:

- 36,993** key informants (KIs) interviewed
- 1,699** female key informants (5%)
- 35,294** male key informants (95%)
- 5.5** average number of KIs per focus group
- 4,353** IDP and returnee key informants (12%)
- 10,815** KIs from host communities (29%)
- 6,443** KIs from multi-sectoral and social services (17%)
- 11,938** KIs from local authorities (33%)

Key Informants by Type | Overall



Women make up only 5% of DTM's key informants (KIs). Since women have unique insights regarding specific community needs, it is important, albeit challenging, to address gender imbalances. Nimroz leads the way (more gender-balanced focus group pictured above), where 23% of KIs are female. Zaranj, Nimroz. © IOM 2018



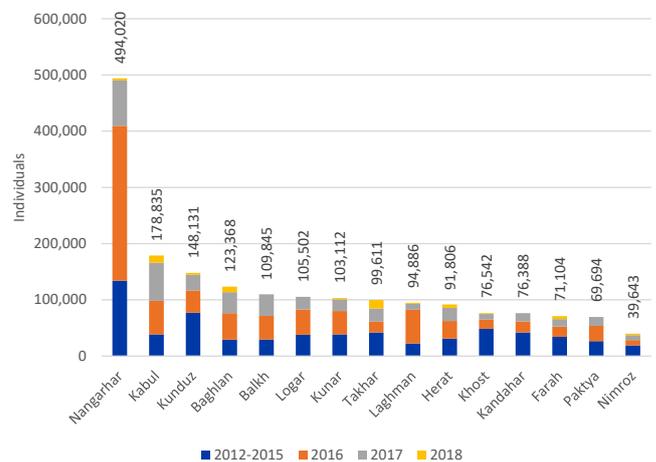
## RETURNEES

Returnees are Afghan nationals who have returned to Afghanistan in the assessed location after having spent at least six months abroad. This group includes both documented returnees (Afghans who were registered refugees in host countries and then requested voluntary return with UNHCR and relevant national authorities) and undocumented returnees (Afghans who did not request voluntary return with UNHCR, but rather returned spontaneously from host countries, irrespective of whether or not they were registered refugees with UNHCR and relevant national authorities).

Since 2016, where DTM recorded 750,911 returnees from abroad, the number has been steadily decreasing. The number of returnees decreased by 45% in 2017, as compared to 2016. If the rate of return remains low for the rest of 2018, there will be a 69% reduction in returnees, as compared to 2017. Nangarhar province is critically affected, hosting 26% of all assessed returnees.

- 1,882,487** returnees from abroad
- 1,362,979** returned from Pakistan (72%)
- 445,798** returned from Iran (24%)
- 990,568** undocumented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (55%)
- 818,209** documented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (45%)
- 73,710** returnees from non-neighbouring countries (4%)

Returnees from Abroad by Province | Annual Trends



Returnees from Abroad | Annual Trends





## OUT-MIGRANTS

Out-Migrants are Afghans who have moved or fled abroad from the assessed location, whatever the cause, reason or duration of expatriation. This category includes refugees, displaced and uprooted people, and economic migrants who have left Afghanistan.



**885,580**  
fled abroad



**110,640**  
fled to Europe (13%)



**542,090**  
fled to Iran (61%)



**184,785**  
fled to Pakistan (21%)



## ARRIVAL IDPs

Arrival IDPs (IDPs) are Afghans who fled from other settlements in Afghanistan and have arrived and presently reside at the assessed location/host community, 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.



**1,866,925**  
IDPs currently reside  
in host communities



**56%**  
IDPs fled to locations  
in their home province

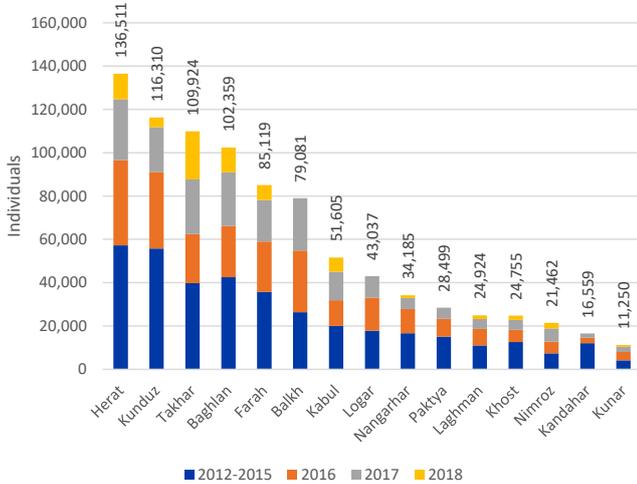


**84%**  
displaced due to  
conflict

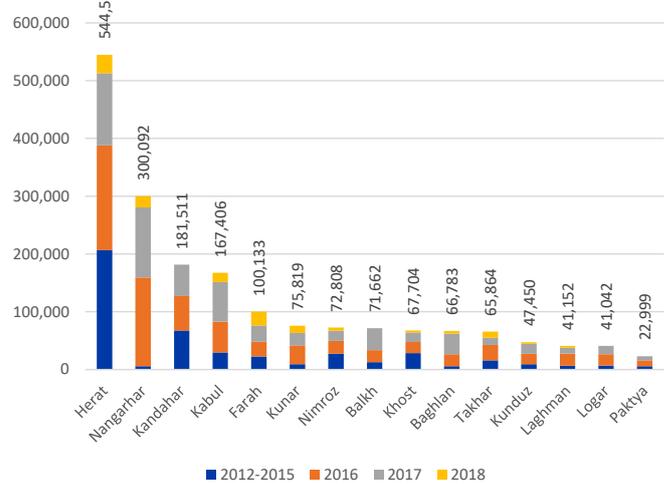


**16%**  
displaced by natural  
disaster

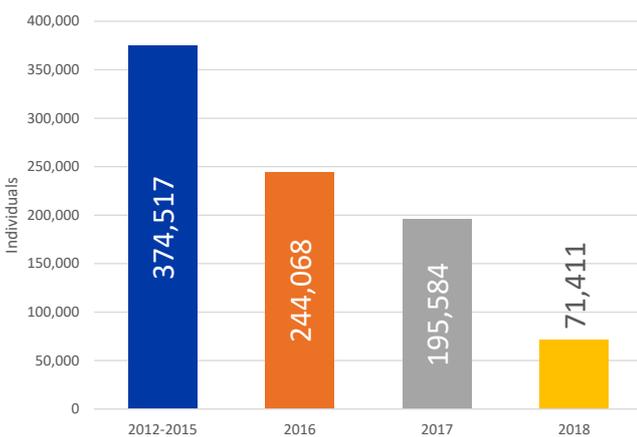
Out-Migrants by Province | Annual Trends



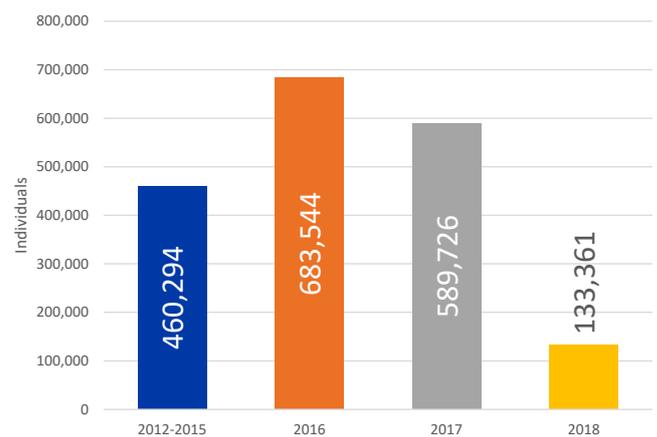
Arrival IDPs by Province | Annual Trends



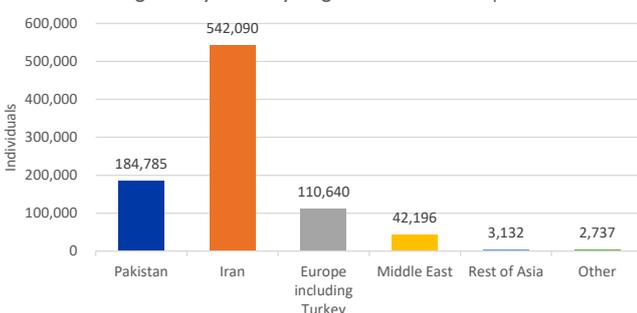
Out-Migrants | Annual Trends



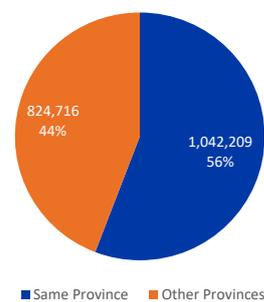
Arrival IDPs | Annual Trends



Out-Migrants by Country/Region of Destination | Overall



Arrival IDPs by Province of Origin | Overall



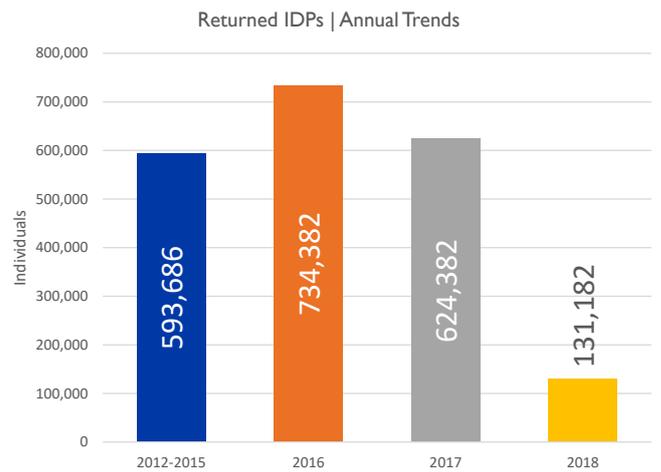
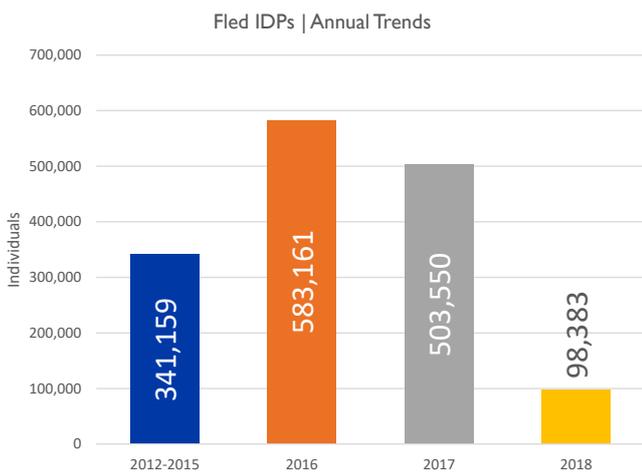
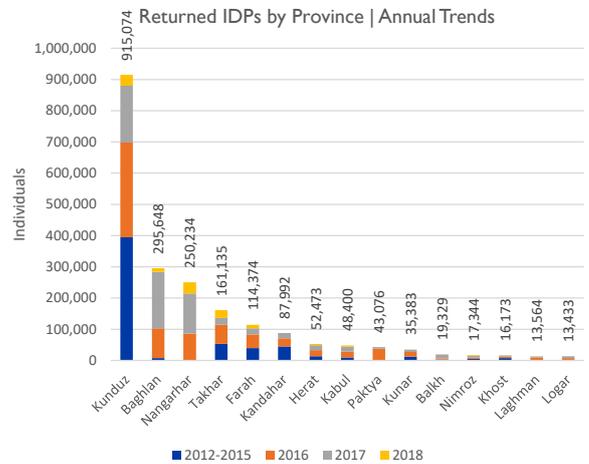
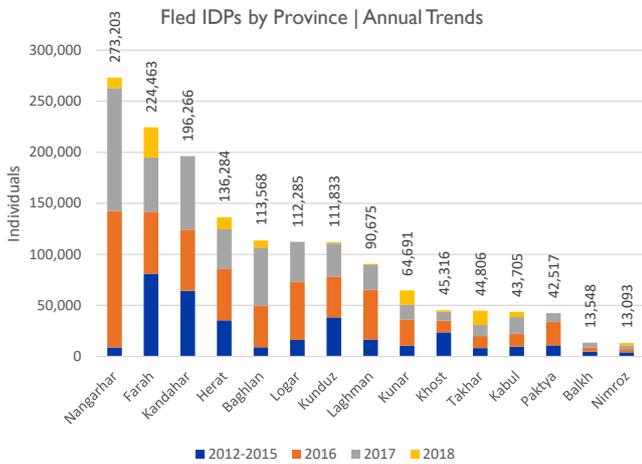
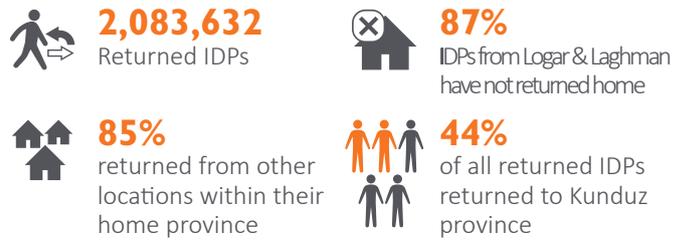
## FLED IDPS

Fled IDPs are Afghans who have fled from an assessed location or settlement within which they previously resided and now currently reside in a different settlement in 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.

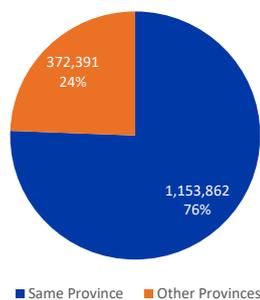


## RETURNED IDPS

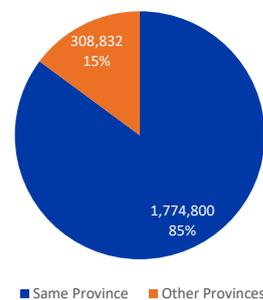
Returned IDPs are Afghans who have returned to their home place of origin in the assessed location or settlement from which they had fled as IDPs in the past, as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, protection concerns, or natural and human-made disasters.



Fled IDPs by Province of Destination | Overall



Returned IDPs by Province of Displacement | Overall



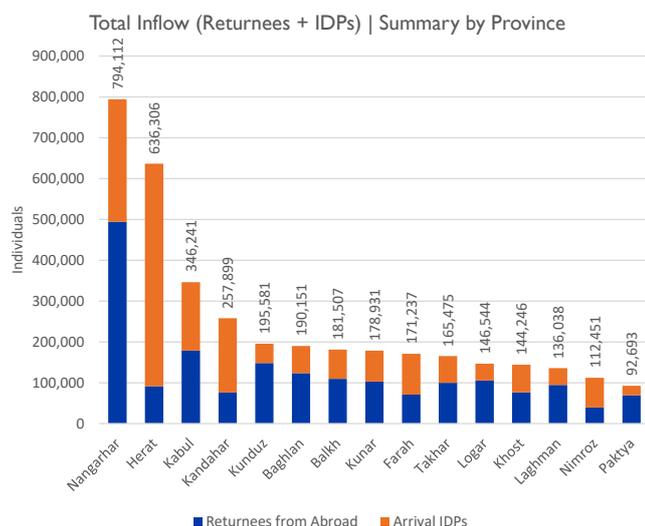
Displaced Individuals in all 5 Target Populations | Summary Overview by Province

Province	*Base Population	Total Inflow (Returnees + Arrival IDPs)	% of Pop.	Returnees	% of Pop.	Returnee IDPs	% of Pop.	Arrival IDPs	% of Pop.	Fled IDPs	% of Pop.	Out Migrants	% of Pop.
Baghlan	977,297	190,151	16%	123,368	11%	295,648	30%	66,783	6%	113,568	12%	102,359	10%
Balkh	1,442,847	181,507	11%	109,845	7%	19,329	1%	71,662	4%	13,548	1%	79,081	5%
Farah	543,237	171,237	24%	71,104	10%	114,374	21%	100,133	14%	224,463	41%	85,119	16%
Herat	2,050,514	636,306	24%	91,806	3%	52,473	3%	544,500	20%	136,284	7%	136,511	7%
Kabul	4,860,880	346,241	7%	178,835	3%	48,400	1%	167,406	3%	43,705	1%	51,605	1%
Kandahar	1,337,183	257,899	16%	76,388	5%	87,992	7%	181,511	11%	196,266	15%	16,559	1%
Khost	614,584	144,246	19%	76,542	10%	16,173	3%	67,704	9%	45,316	7%	24,755	4%
Kunar	482,115	178,931	27%	103,112	16%	35,383	7%	75,819	11%	64,691	13%	11,250	2%
Kunduz	1,091,116	195,581	15%	148,131	12%	915,074	84%	47,450	4%	111,833	10%	116,310	11%
Laghman	476,537	136,038	22%	94,886	15%	13,564	3%	41,152	7%	90,675	19%	24,924	5%
Logar	419,377	146,544	26%	105,502	19%	13,433	3%	41,042	7%	112,285	27%	43,037	10%
Nangarhar	1,635,872	794,112	33%	494,020	20%	250,234	15%	300,092	12%	273,203	17%	34,185	2%
Nimroz	176,898	112,451	39%	39,643	14%	17,344	10%	72,808	25%	13,093	7%	21,462	12%
Paktya	590,668	92,693	14%	69,694	10%	43,076	7%	22,999	3%	42,517	7%	28,499	5%
Takhar	1,053,852	165,475	14%	99,611	8%	161,135	15%	65,864	5%	44,806	4%	109,924	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,752,977</b>	<b>3,749,412</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>1,882,487</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2,083,632</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1,866,925</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>949,674</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>885,580</b>	<b>5%</b>

\* Base Population source: CSO Population Estimates for 1397 (2018 to 2019) | Symbology: target population ≥ 200,000 | % of base population ≥ 25%

Total Inflow (Returnees + IDPs) | Summary by Province

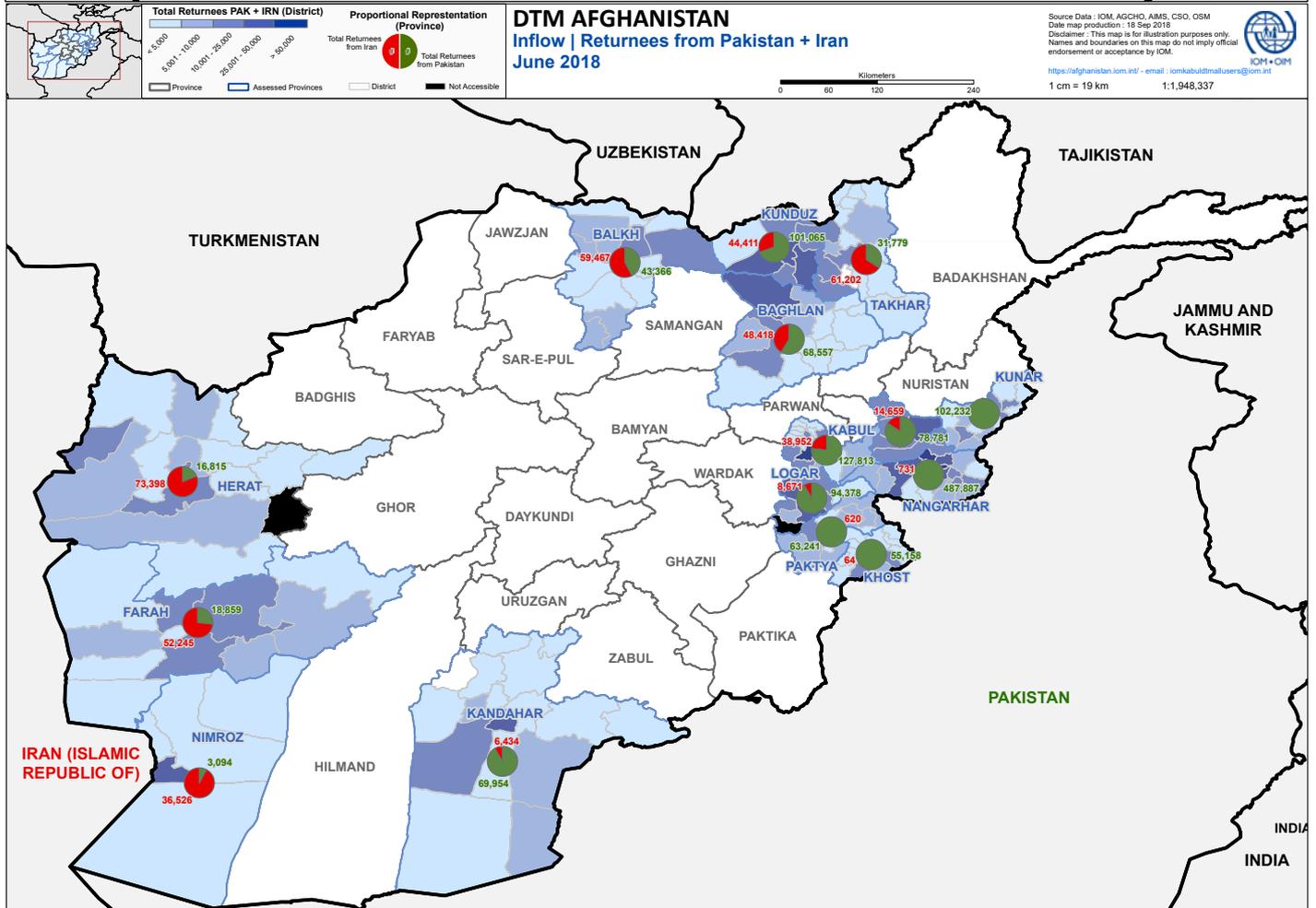
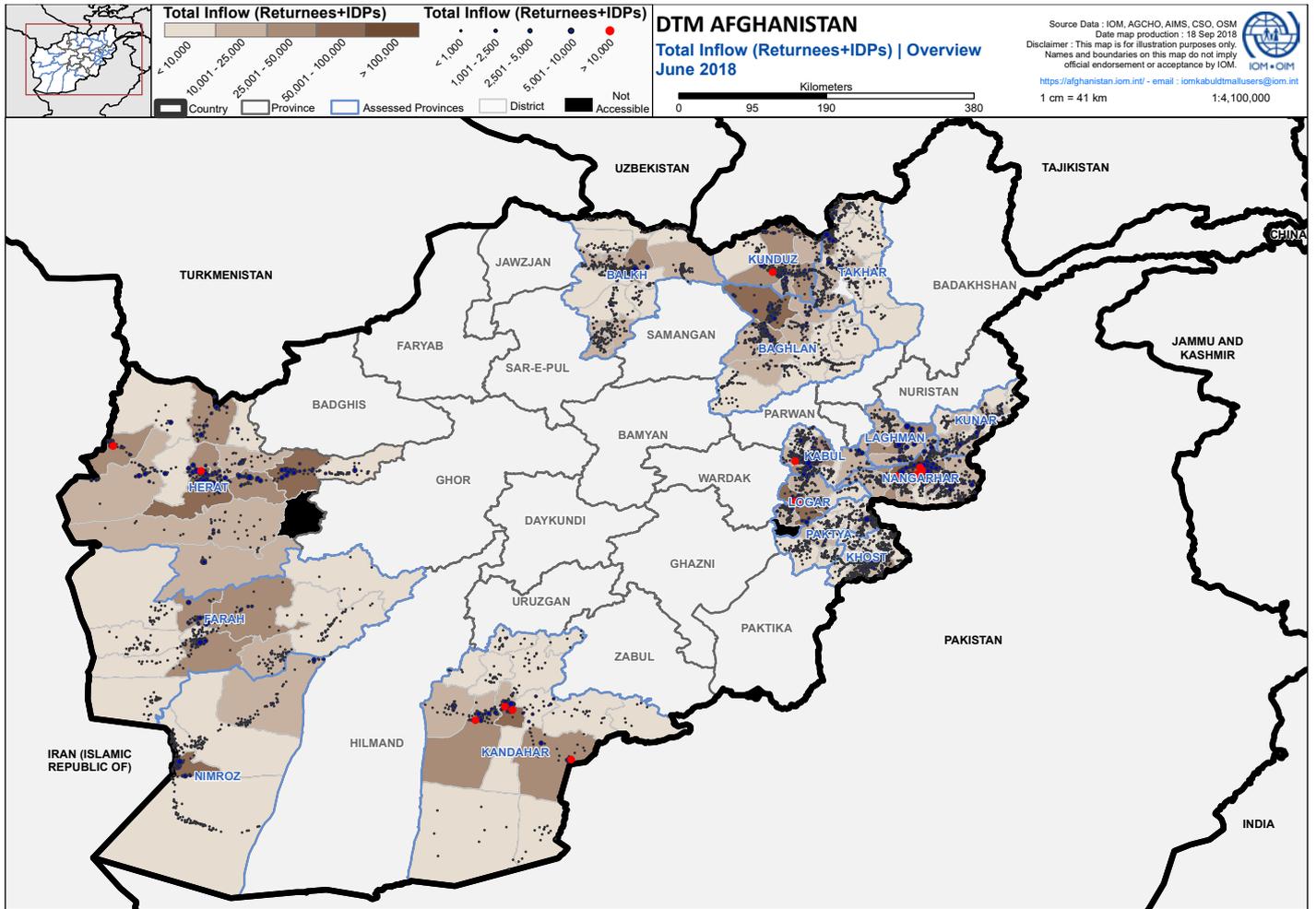
Province	Returnees	Arrival IDPs	Total Inflow
Nangarhar	494,020	300,092	794,112
Herat	91,806	544,500	636,306
Kabul	178,835	167,406	346,241
Kandahar	76,388	181,511	257,899
Kunduz	148,131	47,450	195,581
Baghlan	123,368	66,783	190,151
Balkh	109,845	71,662	181,507
Kunar	103,112	75,819	178,931
Farah	71,104	100,133	171,237
Takhar	99,611	65,864	165,475
Logar	105,502	41,042	146,544
Khost	76,542	67,704	144,246
Laghman	94,886	41,152	136,038
Nimroz	39,643	72,808	112,451
Paktya	69,694	22,999	92,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,882,487</b>	<b>1,866,925</b>	<b>3,749,412</b>



The top 20 districts, hosting the most returnees and IDPs, are listed below. These districts are potentially susceptible to social instability induced by the large influx of returnees and IDPs, who face inadequate access to basic services and limited job opportunities, jeopardizing reintegration prospects and fueling secondary displacement. Herat district is the most severely affected, hosting a total inflow of 205,532 individuals, of which 87% (179,296) are IDPs and 13% (26,236) are returnees. 36% of Herat's IDPs were displaced by natural disasters, predominantly by drought. Behsud district, the second most affected, hosts 195,272 returnees and IDPs, of which 62% (120,736) are returnees and 38% (74,536) are IDPs. The third most affected district, Kabul, hosts a relatively balanced mix of 54% (78,677) IDPs and 46% (68,078) returnees and has seen a notable increase of 26,116 returnees and IDPs as compared to March 2018 reporting period.

Top 20 Districts hosting the most Returnees + IDPs

Rank	District	Province	Returnees	IDPs	Total Inflow
1	Herat	Herat	26,236	179,296	205,532
2	Behsud	Nangarhar	120,736	74,536	195,272
3	Kabul	Kabul	68,078	78,677	146,755
4	Kandahar	Kandahar	25,176	69,455	94,631
5	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	55,426	31,223	86,649
6	Chaparhar	Nangarhar	51,152	22,759	73,911
7	Zaranj	Nimroz	25,998	47,879	73,877
8	Guzara	Herat	12,777	56,489	69,266
9	Pul-e- Alam	Logar	44,450	21,747	66,197
10	Injil	Herat	8,164	55,550	63,714
11	Surkhrod	Nangarhar	33,289	30,366	63,655
12	Baghlan-e-Jadid	Baghlan	37,496	24,675	62,171
13	Khost(Matun)	Khost	21,088	40,603	61,691
14	Obe	Herat	932	55,635	56,567
15	Farah	Farah	13,445	42,269	55,714
16	Pashtunzarghun	Herat	653	53,226	53,879
17	Shinwar	Nangarhar	16,286	35,605	51,891
18	Khvajaghar	Takhar	22,396	28,045	50,441
19	Nahr-e- Shahi	Balkh	24,169	23,207	47,376
20	Chardarah	Kunduz	42,337	3,832	46,169
	<b>Total</b>		<b>650,284</b>	<b>975,074</b>	<b>1,625,358</b>



## TOP 5 PRIORITY PROVINCES

Evidence-based prioritization is essential to the delivery of better targeted assistance and basic services. DTM provides partners with lists of priority areas in most need of assistance, based on a variety of sectoral indicators, at Province, District and Settlement levels.

(NOTE: The number of individuals reported below is based on the Total Inflow: Returnees + IDPs)

### TOP 5 Provinces with the most Returnees and IDPs (Returnees + IDPs)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Nangarhar	794,112
2	Herat	636,306
3	Kabul	346,241
4	Kandahar	257,899
5	Kunduz	195,581
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,230,139</b>

### TOP 5 in need of Shelter (Returnees + IDPs living in Tents or in the Open Air)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Nangarhar	26,636
2	Kandahar	11,946
3	Kabul	8,956
4	Laghman	6,156
5	Farah	4,715
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>58,410</b>

### TOP 5 in need of Water (potable water > 3 km away)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Nimroz	43,295
2	Herat	37,265
3	Balkh	34,012
4	Baghlan	32,874
5	Takhar	29,051
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>176,497</b>

### TOP 5 in need of Clinics (nearest clinic > 5 km away)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Herat	261,449
2	Nangarhar	232,831
3	Baghlan	103,906
4	Kandahar	90,848
5	Farah	89,428
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>778,462</b>

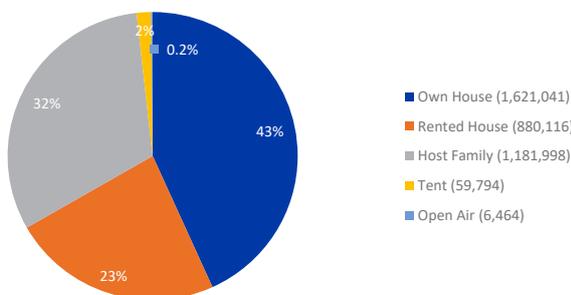
### TOP 5 in need of Schools (nearest school > 3 km away)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Kandahar	62,655
2	Farah	55,686
3	Baghlan	48,090
4	Herat	48,014
5	Nimroz	30,560
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>245,005</b>

### TOP 5 in need of Markets (nearest market > 10 km away)

Rank	Province	Individuals
1	Herat	161,658
2	Baghlan	105,038
3	Kandahar	97,080
4	Kunduz	92,130
5	Takhar	71,164
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>527,070</b>

Total Inflow (Returnees+IDPs) | Shelter | Overall



## STORIES FROM THE DISPLACED

### TRAGEDY STRIKES DURING IRREGULAR PATHWAY TO IRAN

Abdul Hamid is a single father of 1, who has returned to a small village in Imam Sahib district, Kunduz. Sitting cross-legged with a cup of tea, he explains how his tragic migration experience prompted an early return.

*“My main business was agriculture,” Abdul begins. “During 2015 and earlier, I was busy with my work, my family was happy, and, although we were still poor, life was relatively good,” he recalls happily. “But, once the landlord took my land unjustly, I became unemployed and life started to become very, very difficult for me and my family.”*

*Unemployment in Kunduz is a major concern. Field staff report low wages, long-term unemployment, and continual conflict which has completely stunted the job market.*

Abdul was persuaded by his relatives and friends to migrate to Iran to find a job and send back remittances. It seemed the most logical livelihood option at the time, so he contacted a smuggler and planned his route.

*Since 2012, out of all 15 assessed provinces, Kunduz produces the 2nd largest number of out-migrants (116,310 individuals), 57% of which, like Abdul, migrated to Iran.*

Travelling to Iran with his son, Abdul tells us they were cooped up along with 40 people in a car that could only fit 10. After a long trip, they finally arrived close to the Afghan-Iranian border. *“Suddenly, when faced with Iranian border patrols, the car started to speed so quickly that it crashed and all the passengers disappeared in the dark of the night,”* Abdul recounts painfully. *“When we found them, some were killed and others injured. Among the dead bodies, I found my son.”*

Abdul eventually reached Iran and buried his son in Tehran. After, he stayed in Iran for 1 year, working and sending remittances back home. *“I will always regret leaving my homeland,”* he tells us. *“But since I’ve returned, I am living in my village with no job opportunities and constant fighting – what can I do?”*

Abdul’s story highlights the grave risks associated with irregular migration, but also a sort of cruel inevitability. Facing high levels of insecurity and unemployment, as expected, more and more Afghans will continue migrating irregularly, in spite of the known risks.

*\*Please note, names and district locations have been changed to protect the identity of the interviewee.*



Abdul sits alone in an unfurnished home. He is one of the 148,131 returnees living in Kunduz.

DTM in Afghanistan is generously supported by:



in coordination with