



DTM

AFGHANISTAN

BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY RESULTS ROUND 13 • APR – JUN 2021



Due to the severe drought and conflict this year, many Afghans lost their houses, income and livelihood opportunities and had to leave their houses and live under very poor living conditions in host communities, like these IDPs living in tents in Qala-e-Naw district, Badghis. © IOM 2021

ABOUT DTM

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

DTM implements the Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of displaced, return and migrant populations, reasons for displacement, places of origin, and times of displacement, including demographics, vulnerabilities and multi-sectoral needs. Data is collected at the settlement level, through community focus group discussions with key informants and direct observations.

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

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
- 3. Fled IDPs**
Afghans from an assessed village who fled as IDPs to reside elsewhere in Afghanistan
- 4. Arrival IDPs**
IDPs from other locations currently residing in an assessed village
- 5. Returned IDPs**
Afghans from an assessed village who had fled as IDPs in the past and have now returned home

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. • 2019 • 2020 • 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



34 provinces covered
401 districts assessed
12,969 settlements assessed



76,464 key informants interviewed



4,690,422 returnees from abroad [2012-2021]



5,333,654 IDPs [2012–2021] currently in host communities



6,001,105 former IDPs have returned to their homes [2012–2021]



3,611,348 out-migrants fled abroad [2012–2021]



481,671 out-migrants fled to Europe (13% of out-migrants)



54,098 returnees and IDPs (1%) live in tents or in the open air



2 in 3 65% of IDPs reside in 8 provinces: Balkh, Farah, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar & Zabul



1 in 2 50% of returnees reside in 8 provinces: Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kunduz & Nangarhar



1 in 3 persons in Badghis, Balkh, Farah, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kunar, & Logar and over 40% in Nimroz, Nangarhar & Zabul are either an IDP or returnee



2 in 5 persons in Badghis, Helmand, Logar & Uruzgan and more than 50% in Farah, Wardak & Zabul have fled their homes as IDPs



1 in 2 former IDPs from Baghlan, Helmand, Kunduz, Takhar & Zabul have returned home

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

Province	Date Last Assessed	*Base Population	Total Inflow (Returnees + Arrival IDPs)	% of Pop.	Returnees	% of Pop.	Fled IDPs	% of Pop.	Arrival IDPs	% of Pop.	Returned IDPs	% of Pop.	Out Migrants	% of Pop.
Badakhshan	30/Jun/21	1,017,499	168,435	14%	95,527	8%	160,895	16%	72,908	6%	89,270	9%	118,082	12%
Badghis	30/Jun/21	530,574	235,411	31%	140,450	18%	188,636	36%	94,961	12%	135,968	26%	137,672	26%
Baghlan	30/Jun/21	977,297	293,760	23%	204,405	16%	244,746	25%	89,355	7%	613,517	63%	176,944	18%
Balkh	30/Jun/21	1,442,847	692,697	32%	205,351	10%	277,647	19%	487,346	23%	70,109	5%	269,380	19%
Bamyan	30/Jun/21	478,424	76,757	14%	37,806	7%	115,871	24%	38,951	7%	73,818	15%	39,631	8%
Daykundi	30/Jun/21	498,840	81,834	14%	46,987	8%	68,441	14%	34,847	6%	28,892	6%	86,183	17%
Farah	30/Jun/21	543,237	255,096	32%	95,031	12%	292,638	54%	160,065	20%	150,739	28%	111,745	21%
Faryab	30/Jun/21	1,069,540	341,716	24%	265,334	19%	336,260	31%	76,382	5%	108,237	10%	339,523	32%
Ghazni	30/Jun/21	1,315,041	261,156	17%	78,146	5%	145,045	11%	183,010	12%	115,924	9%	59,281	5%
Ghor	30/Jun/21	738,224	159,372	18%	58,598	7%	117,964	16%	100,774	11%	51,645	7%	63,864	9%
Helmand	30/Jun/21	1,395,514	732,127	34%	174,220	8%	564,364	40%	557,907	26%	741,609	53%	73,903	5%
Herat	30/Jun/21	2,050,514	1,158,619	36%	228,522	7%	345,464	17%	930,097	29%	125,312	6%	292,072	14%
Jawzjan	30/Jun/21	579,833	308,791	35%	193,519	22%	107,863	19%	115,272	13%	177,324	31%	241,761	42%
Kabul	30/Jun/21	4,860,880	944,765	16%	420,300	7%	155,596	3%	524,465	9%	73,128	2%	148,989	3%
Kandahar	30/Jun/21	1,337,183	236,770	15%	84,481	5%	225,459	17%	152,289	10%	82,135	6%	40,032	3%
Kapisa	30/Jun/21	471,574	119,290	20%	49,559	8%	116,737	25%	69,731	12%	47,685	10%	61,810	13%
Khost	30/Jun/21	614,584	170,128	22%	92,267	12%	43,485	7%	77,861	10%	8,230	1%	35,185	6%
Kunar	30/Jun/21	482,115	203,797	30%	96,673	14%	93,835	19%	107,124	16%	68,440	14%	21,340	4%
Kunduz	30/Jun/21	1,091,116	304,230	22%	197,214	14%	156,099	14%	107,016	8%	1,418,769	130%	186,877	17%
Laghman	30/Jun/21	476,537	199,276	29%	139,429	21%	106,396	22%	59,847	9%	10,339	2%	46,314	10%
Logar	30/Jun/21	419,377	218,467	34%	182,547	29%	151,067	36%	35,920	6%	16,438	4%	89,376	21%
Nangarhar	30/Jun/21	1,635,872	1,030,345	39%	636,798	24%	307,103	19%	393,547	15%	464,820	28%	97,312	6%
Nimroz	30/Jun/21	176,898	150,697	46%	60,452	18%	26,593	15%	90,245	28%	25,735	15%	46,688	26%
Nuristan	30/Jun/21	158,211	6,308	4%	15	0%	19,887	13%	6,293	4%	861	1%	74	0%
Paktika	30/Jun/21	748,910	115,825	13%	59,719	7%	40,431	5%	56,106	6%	25,146	3%	40,920	5%
Paktya	30/Jun/21	590,668	138,415	19%	93,716	13%	75,695	13%	44,699	6%	106,684	18%	31,916	5%
Panjsher	30/Jun/21	164,115	5,693	3%	1,534	1%	1,414	1%	4,159	2%	4,316	3%	5,273	3%
Parwan	30/Jun/21	711,621	140,039	16%	84,897	10%	94,327	13%	55,142	6%	74,299	10%	89,767	13%
Samangan	30/Jun/21	415,343	79,699	16%	44,932	9%	119,317	29%	34,767	7%	52,010	13%	51,379	12%
Sar-e-Pul	30/Jun/21	599,137	247,615	29%	133,613	16%	137,024	23%	114,002	13%	66,420	11%	154,013	26%
Takhar	30/Jun/21	1,053,852	306,662	23%	183,466	13%	162,401	15%	123,196	9%	638,003	61%	249,039	24%
Uruzgan	30/Jun/21	420,964	90,591	18%	963	0%	172,557	41%	89,628	18%	117,113	28%	1,388	0%
Wardak	30/Jun/21	637,634	207,295	25%	152,717	18%	295,502	46%	54,578	6%	30,958	5%	82,588	13%
Zabul	30/Jun/21	371,043	342,398	48%	151,234	21%	214,571	58%	191,164	27%	187,212	50%	121,027	33%
Total		30,075,018	10,024,076	25%	4,690,422	12%	5,681,330	19%	5,333,654	13%	6,001,105	20%	3,611,348	12%

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



Similar to other provinces, these photos show the devastating effects of the drought in Herat and Daykundi, which had dire, cascading consequences, including crop failures, losses of incomes, increased debt and displacement. © IOM 2021



METHODOLOGY

The overall objective of DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan is to track mobility and displacement, provide population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of displaced, return and migrant populations, as well as refugees, nomads, cross-border tribal groups, and both domestic and international labour migrants. DTM captures additional mobility information, including reasons for displacement and return, places of origin and destination, times of displacement and return, secondary displacements, and population demographics, vulnerabilities and multi-sectoral needs.

DTM predominantly employs enumerators who originate from the areas of assessment. Enumerators collect quantitative data at the settlement level, through focus group discussions with key informants (KIs). Through direct observations, enumerators also collect qualitative data on living conditions, basic services, and security and socio-economic situation.

Due to security risks, enumerators cannot carry smart-phones or tablets in the field, therefore they collect data, daily, using a paper-based form, which is pre-filled with data from the previous round for verification of existing data and to expedite the assessment process. Completed forms are submitted weekly to the provincial DTM office and verified for accuracy by the team leader and data entry clerk. Once verified, the data is entered electronically via mobile devices, using KoBo forms, and submitted directly into DTM's central SQL server in Kabul, where it is systematically cleaned and verified daily, through automated and manual systems. This stringent review process ensures that DTM data is of the highest quality, accuracy and integrity.

When DTM assesses a province for the first time, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

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

Since DTM has assessed all 34 provinces, only settlement-level assessments will be conducted in the future. Pending continued funding, DTM aims to conduct baseline mobility assessments, nationwide, twice per year.



DTM enumerators contribute to the COVID-19 response by disseminating COVID-19 RCCE information in communities during assessments, like this enumerator in Bamyan. © IOM 2021



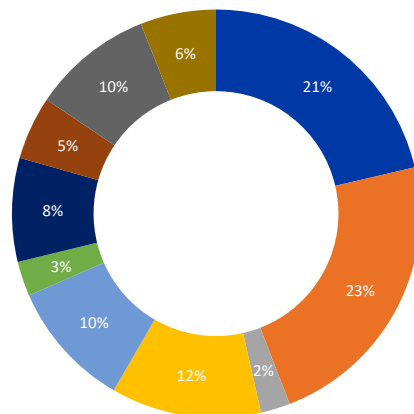
KEY INFORMANTS

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

By actively recruiting more female enumerators, though challenging, DTM has made significant strides to improve gender inclusion in focus group discussions, although there is much room for improvement. Women represent only 2% of the key informants, which, although marginal, is an improvement from the 0.1% female representation in DTM's first round, completed in March 2017.

	76,464 key informants (KIs) interviewed		9,092 key informants are IDPs or returnees (12%)
	1,739 female key informants (2%)		17,407 KIs from host communities (23%)
	74,725 male key informants (98%)		27,260 KIs from multi-sectoral and social services (36%)
	6 average number of KIs per focus group		18,118 KIs from local authorities (24%)

Key Informants by Type | Overall



- Community Development Council (CDC) Representative
- Community/Tribal Representative
- Other District Authority Representative
- Displaced Groups Representative
- Education Representative
- Health Sector Representative
- Humanitarian/Social Organization
- Small/Medium Enterprise Representative
- Agriculture Representative
- Other

RETURNNEES

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

Since 2016, the number of returnees has significantly decreased each year, although returns from Europe marginally increased. Nangarhar province received 14% of all returnees, nationwide.



4,690,422
returnees from abroad



2,420,960
returned from Pakistan (52%)



3,002,773
undocumented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (64%)



1,947,344
returned from Iran (42%)

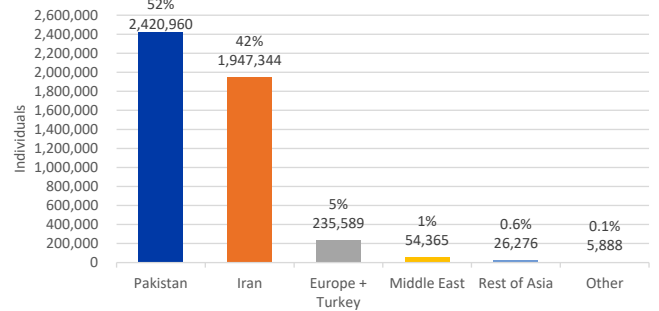


1,365,531
documented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (29%)

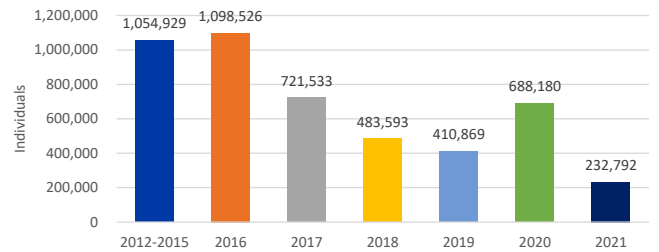


322,118
returnees from non-neighbouring countries (7%)

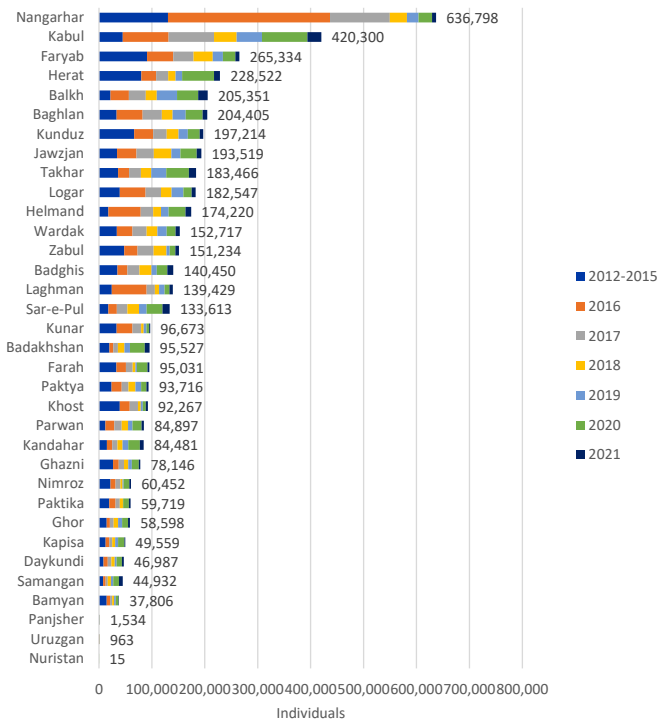
Returnees from Abroad | Overall | Country/Region of Origin



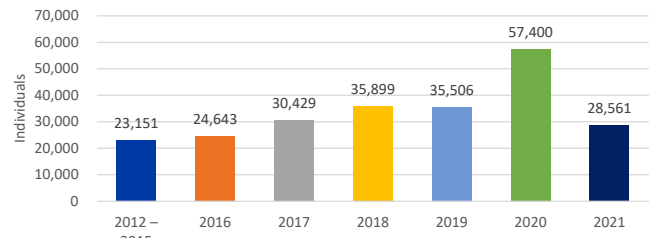
Returnees from Abroad | Annual Trends | Overall



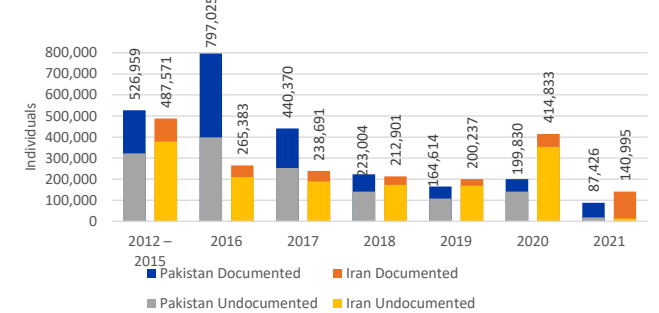
Returnees from Abroad by Province | Annual Trends



Returnees from Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends



Returnees from Pakistan & Iran | Annual Trends



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.

The 2016 through 2018 period saw record numbers of afghans displaced by conflict and natural disasters, with about one million displaced each year, based on key informants' estimates. In comparison to 2018, the overall number of IDPs decreased 19% in 2019, but increased 53% (over one million) in 2020. 2021 appears to be on track to reach 1 million IDPs with over 551,000 IDPs recorded by mid-year. In addition, 62,161 individuals have been displaced due to international troop withdrawal from March through June 2021, based on key informants' estimates. Herat is the most critically affected province, hosting 18% of all IDPs, nationwide.



5,333,654

IDPs currently reside in host communities



4,268,137

displaced due to conflict and troop withdrawal (80%)



930,097

IDPs in Herat, which hosts the most IDPs



1,065,517

displaced by natural disaster (20%)



325,094

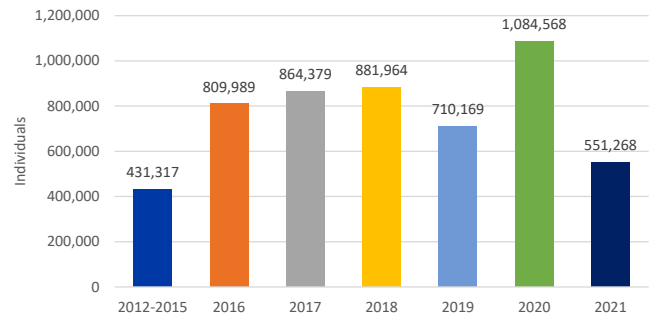
IDPs reside in informal settlements (7%)



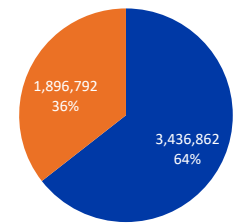
2 in 3

displaced within their home province (64%)

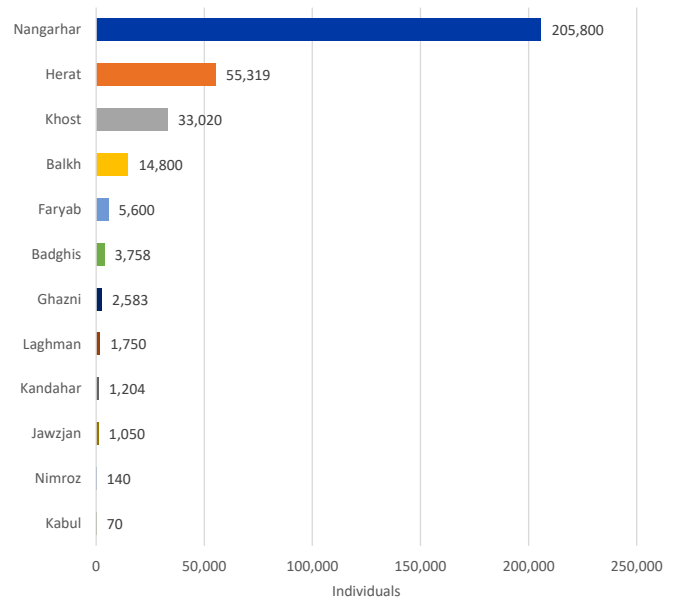
Arrival IDPs | Annual Trends



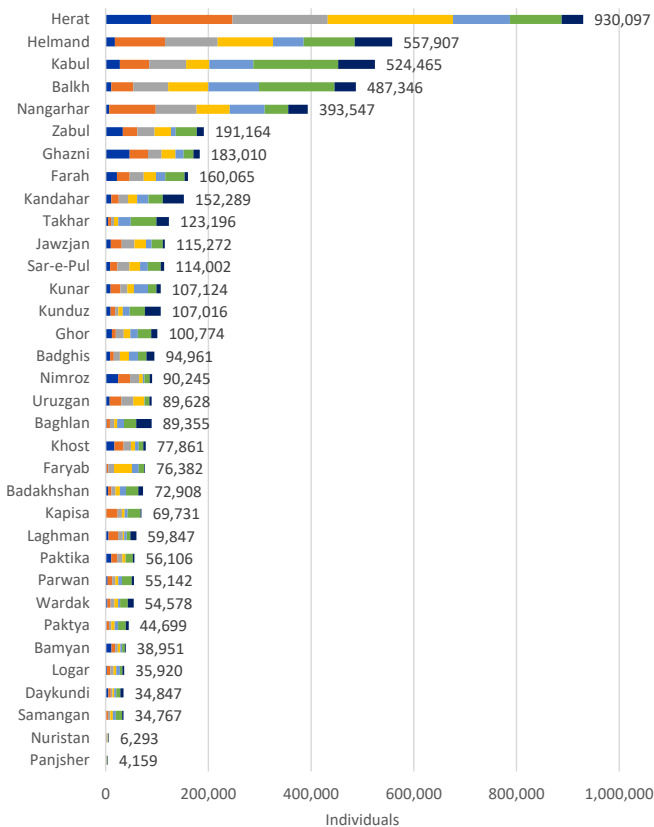
Arrival IDPs by Province of Origin | Overall



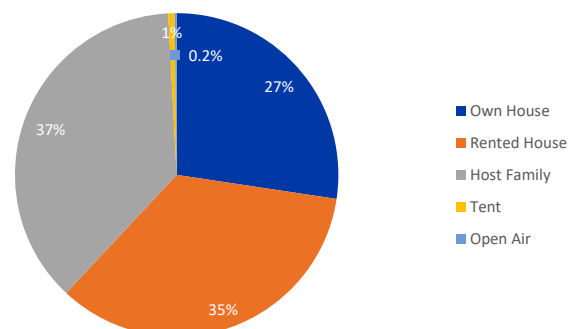
Arrival IDPs in Informal Settlements by Province



Arrival IDPs by Province | Annual Trends

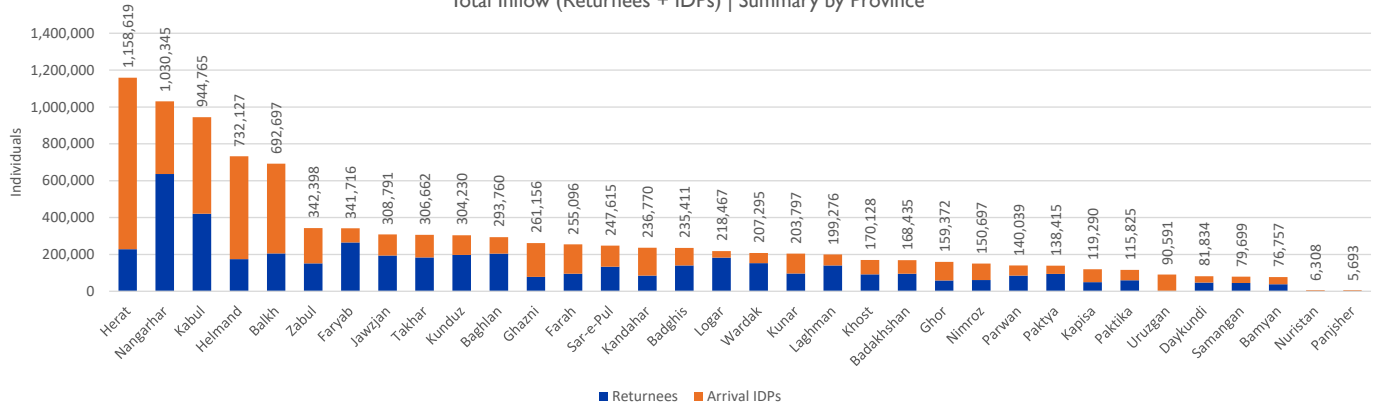


Arrival IDPs | Shelter | Overall



+ **TOTAL INFLOW** [RETURNEES + ARRIVAL IDPs]

Total Inflow (Returnees + IDPs) | Summary by Province



Total Inflow (Returnees + IDPs) | Summary by Province

Province	Returnees	Arrival IDPs	Total Inflow
Herat	228,522	930,097	1,158,619
Nangarhar	636,798	393,547	1,030,345
Kabul	420,300	524,465	944,765
Helmand	174,220	557,907	732,127
Balkh	205,351	487,346	692,697
Zabul	151,234	191,164	342,398
Faryab	265,334	76,382	341,716
Jawzjan	193,519	115,272	308,791
Takhar	183,466	123,196	306,662
Kunduz	197,214	107,016	304,230
Baghlan	204,405	89,355	293,760
Ghazni	78,146	183,010	261,156
Farah	95,031	160,065	255,096
Sar-e-Pul	133,613	114,002	247,615
Kandahar	84,481	152,289	236,770
Badghis	140,450	94,961	235,411
Logar	182,547	35,920	218,467
Wardak	152,717	54,578	207,295
Kunar	96,673	107,124	203,797
Laghman	139,429	59,847	199,276
Khost	92,267	77,861	170,128
Badakhshan	95,527	72,908	168,435
Ghor	58,598	100,774	159,372
Nimroz	60,452	90,245	150,697
Parwan	84,897	55,142	140,039
Paktya	93,716	44,699	138,415
Kapisa	49,559	69,731	119,290
Paktika	59,719	56,106	115,825
Uruzgan	963	89,628	90,591
Daykundi	46,987	34,847	81,834
Samangan	44,932	34,767	79,699
Bamyan	37,806	38,951	76,757
Nuristan	15	6,293	6,308
Panjsher	1,534	4,159	5,693
Total	4,690,422	5,333,654	10,024,076

The top 25 districts hosting the greatest numbers of returnees and IDPs (total inflow) are listed below. These districts are potentially susceptible to social instability induced by large influxes of returnees and IDPs, who face limited access to basic services and livelihoods, jeopardizing reintegration prospects and fuelling secondary displacement. Nationwide, Herat province hosts the most conflict-displaced and natural disaster displaced IDPs (930,097), 63% of whom were displaced by conflict and 37% by natural disaster, with the majority of IDPs (293,256) residing in urban Herat district. Nangarhar hosts the most returnees (636,798), with the majority of returnees (127,637) residing in Behsud district.

Top 25 Districts hosting the most Returnees + IDPs

Rank	District	Province	Returnees	IDPs	Total Inflow
1	Kabul	Kabul	172,970	262,371	435,341
2	Herat	Herat	107,772	293,256	401,028
3	Lashkargah	Helmand	48,831	283,251	332,082
4	Behsud	Nangarhar	127,637	117,683	245,320
5	Dehdadi	Balkh	16,209	195,880	212,089
6	Shiberghan	Jawzjan	79,296	94,467	173,763
7	Mazar-e-Sharif	Balkh	32,768	133,419	166,187
8	Ghazni	Ghazni	28,215	135,341	163,556
9	Qalat	Zabul	39,442	120,741	160,183
10	Surkh Rod	Nangarhar	66,182	90,298	156,480
11	Sar-e-Pul	Sar-e-Pul	59,921	94,223	154,144
12	Karukh	Herat	14,656	136,939	151,595
13	Bagrami	Kabul	55,331	77,459	132,790
14	Guzara	Herat	13,085	117,812	130,897
15	Nahr-e-Shahi	Balkh	23,906	83,434	107,340
16	Jalalabad	Nangarhar	71,554	34,951	106,505
17	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand	30,748	71,937	102,685
18	Farah	Farah	26,226	74,957	101,183
19	Injil	Herat	16,894	83,482	100,376
20	Zaranj	Nimroz	35,272	65,022	100,294
21	Kama	Nangarhar	55,751	36,486	92,237
22	Maydan Shahr	Wardak	41,172	49,638	90,810
23	Kunduz	Kunduz	42,838	41,760	84,598
24	Deh Sabz	Kabul	31,816	51,341	83,157
25	Baghlan-e-Jadid	Baghlan	50,320	29,369	79,689
Total			1,288,812	2,775,517	4,064,329

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.

Since 2015, there has been a steady decline in outward migration, likely as a result of economic decline and diminishing protection space in Iran and Pakistan and increased returns from Europe. Key informants estimate that, since 2012, an astounding 339,523 Afghans moved abroad from Faryab, likely due to years of ongoing conflict and resultant underdevelopment, loss of livelihoods and ensuing poverty.



3,611,348
fled abroad



481,671
fled to Europe (13%)

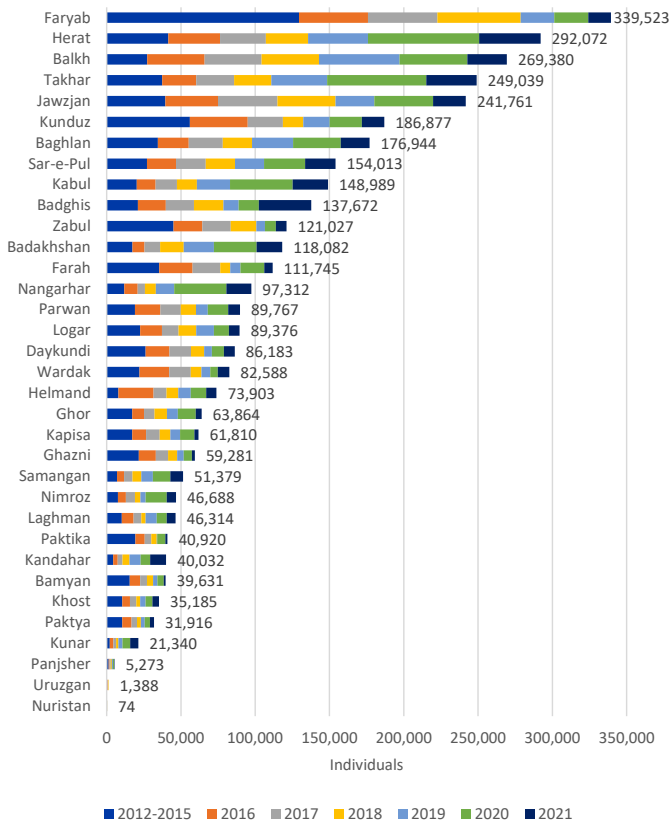


2,310,559
fled to Iran (64%)

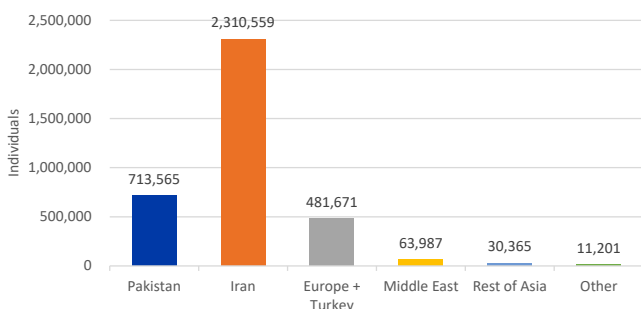


713,565
fled to Pakistan (20%)

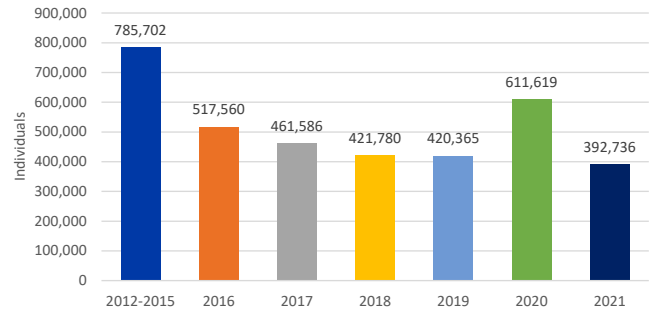
Out-Migrants by Province | Annual Trends



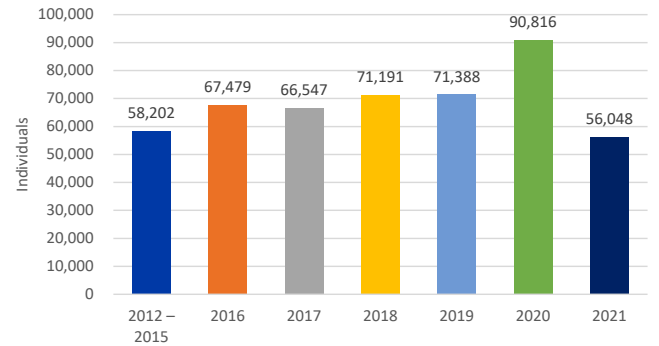
Out-Migrants by Country/Region of Destination | Overall



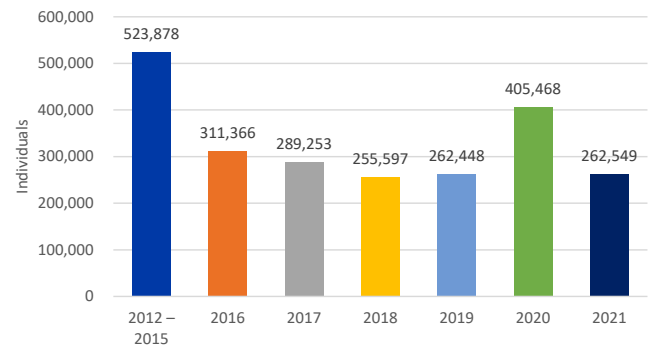
Out-Migrants Overall | Annual Trends



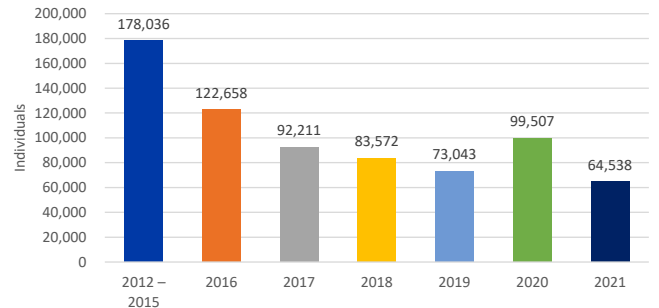
Out-Migrants to Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends



Out-Migrants to Iran | Annual Trends



Out-Migrants to Pakistan | Annual Trends



▶▶ MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS

683,525 IDPs and returnees lack access to safe drinking water. Like this man in Badghis, communities often resort to fetching drinking water from unprotected, open water sources. © IOM 2021



This family in Achin district, Nangarhar, is one of 5,515,643 IDPs who lost their livelihood opportunities and had to flee their houses due to drought and conflict. © IOM 2021



Flash flooding in Khowaja Hejran district in Baghlan has severely affected living conditions by blocking roads and destroying livelihood opportunities. © IOM 2021



These children are forced to work in a wooden crate box making factory in Balkh to contribute to their household income, instead of having the opportunity to go to school. © IOM 2021



Health facilities can become targets, leaving communities without essential healthcare services, like this clinic in Badghis, which was destroyed during conflict. © IOM 2021



Lack of educational facilities and limited availability of study materials are among the main barriers to children's education. Many students, like these children in Laghman, have to study in the open air. © IOM 2021



Due to the severe drought this year, many farmers in drought-affected areas, like here in Herat, sell their livestock at half price because they can't feed them. © IOM 2021



Depicted below, this relatively dried out spring is the only water source in Askaka village in Miramoor district, Daikundi, where approximately 48 households depend on agriculture for a living. © IOM 2021



STORIES FROM THE DISPLACED

A sole breadwinner of a family of eleven struggling to make ends meet

Shukrullah is 19 years old and lives in Kunar Province. In 1999, because of the civil war, Shukrullah's family fled to Pakistan where he was born. Shukrullah and his family are among the other 97,379 Afghans who returned to Kunar - since 2012, according to DTM assessments. His father is very old and unable to work to provide for his family, so Shukrullah is the sole breadwinner for his 11 family members and sells tea and samosas to earn a meagre living. Luckily, he is not among the 78% of unemployed men in Kunar, which has the second highest unemployment rate in Afghanistan, according to DTM's Community Based Needs Assessment.

"With my small income I was able to meet my expenses, but now, because of COVID, everything is very expensive, and we cannot afford our basic needs. My father is sick, and I have no money to pay for his treatment."

Shukrullah is at risk of going into debt to meet his family's needs. The average debt per family in Kunar is 44,701 Afghani (\$573 USD), according to DTM research.

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



Shukrullah is working hard in his Tea and Samosa roadside stand and hoping to earn enough to pay for his father's treatment. © IOM 2021

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


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