

# RETURN INTENTION SURVEY

HERAT + BADGHIS  
APRIL 2019



Most drought affected IDPs in Herat and Badghis lived in tents or out in the open air, like these IDPs in Baghlar settlement in Badghis province. 73% of drought-affected IDPs relied upon humanitarian aid or unskilled labour to survive. © IOM 2019

## INTRODUCTION

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.














From December 2018 to April 2019, IOM DTM conducted a return intention survey in selected camp areas in Badghis and Herat to identify the intentions, motivations, needs and concerns of IDPs that influence mobility decision-making. The primary objective of the current report is to support partners in integrating the concerns and requirements of IDPs into reintegration strategies and programmes that assist IDPs in finding durable solutions.

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](http://www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan).

## KEY FINDINGS

- An opportunity currently exists to plan for sustainable returns to drought affected districts in Badghis, as IDPs indicate they have not reintegrated locally yet and are potentially open to return. Openness to return depends on contextualized assistance being delivered that covers immediate, as well as longer-term, priorities.
- Reintegration assistance should target four key districts of return in Badghis: Abkamari, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-e-Naw. IDPs fled these districts mostly due to the drought.
- Outlined response packages for return should address original drivers of migration. The main type of assistance required in areas of return is food assistance, followed by access to services, livelihoods, pastures and farming tools. There are, however, significant differences per district of return in terms of viable livelihood opportunities. Livelihoods programming should seek to capitalise on existing skillsets of returnee populations.
- Programmes should not only focus on facilitating returns but prepare communities for future shocks. Programmes should be designed to include disaster risk reduction, water management and other activities to ensure long-term viability of returns.

## HIGHLIGHTS

-  **10** sites covered in Herat and Badghis
-  **13,248** families were assessed
-  **6,734** interviews were conducted in Badghis
-  **6,514** interviews were conducted in Herat
-  **82%** of IDPs were displaced due to drought
-  **18%** of IDPs were displaced due to conflict
-  **12,671 (99%)** were displaced during 2018
-  **11,356 (86%)** IDPs originate from Badghis
-  **11,463 (87%)** IDPs are currently undecided about their mobility decisions
-  **1,388 (78%)** IDPs are currently undecided about the duration of their displacement
-  **7,783 (58%)** IDPs would be willing to return depending on the reintegration assistance delivered
-  **79%** depend pre-displacement on agriculture or livestock as a source of income
-  **73%** depend post-displacement on humanitarian aid or unskilled labor as a source of income

## RESPONSE IMPLICATIONS

### OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS



Because identified needs, access to humanitarian assistance and basic services vary among districts of origin, a response — uniquely tailored to each district — is required, incorporating both humanitarian and development activities, for IDPs to return sustainably.



Conflict and insecurity are the predominant drivers of displacement and underlying issues preventing IDPs from returning home, especially for IDPs displaced from Balamurghab and Ghormach.



An opening for sustainable returns programming currently exists as many IDPs are unsure regarding their mobility decisions. However, without a comprehensive, planned strategy for sustainable returns, IDP populations — especially those residing in Herat — will likely choose the default option to remain.



There is greater appetite for return among the IDP caseload residing in Badghis — likely attributable to farmers remaining closer to their agricultural fields in anticipation of improving environmental conditions.



Muqur, Qadis, Abkamari and Qala-e-Naw districts in Badghis are the most viable areas for an integrated returns pilot as people became displaced mainly due to the drought.



Humanitarian assistance is a significant pull factor for mobility decision-making, especially for IDPs currently residing in Herat.



Access to food is a top priority for those indicating to stay and those potentially seeking to return. In addition to food assistance, returns to Qala-e-Naw, Bala Morghab and Ghormach are contingent on the security situation improving in areas of origin.



To promote returns, a communication strategy and outreach to IDPs through mobile devices, family, friends and newly arriving IDPs is essential.



Preliminary results support the need for the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team to proceed with an integrated response pilot, which is focused on places of origin and includes return packages with food, livelihoods, WASH, agricultural, health, education and shelter/NFI components.

### HERAT

- 77% of IDP households in Herat depended on agriculture and livestock herding in their areas of origin, yet, currently, 66% depend instead on humanitarian assistance. Programming should focus on resuming agriculture and livestock herding — either as part of a strategy for voluntary returns or local integration.
- Continuing security threats in places of origin diminish the prospect for viable returns to Bala Morghab, Ghormach, and, to some extent, Qala-e-Naw. Efforts must balance addressing the most pressing needs of households in their current location with organising returns. The voluntary character of returns should comply with national legislation on IDP assistance.
- Programming for the 40% of households whose willingness to return depends on the type of assistance delivered in areas of origin should focus on providing contextualized assistance — including a strategy for re-starting agriculture and livestock herding.
- Relocation programs to “third” locations should focus on two requirements voiced by IDPs: bringing them to urban locations and organising transportation assistance.

### BADGHIS

- Skills profiles of assessed IDPs show they are heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock, both pre-displacement and in terms of available skills that can be capitalized on for reintegration programming.
- Reintegration programmes need to consider the linkages between agriculture, water, sanitation and health interventions. Focusing on providing life-saving assistance in food, agriculture and livelihoods is essential, but should be complemented by longer-term development programmes along a continuum of humanitarian to development interventions. Efforts should be made to increase communities’ resilience to future shocks.
- In the short-term, immediate assistance to resuscitate production in agriculture and livestock through the provision of water, seeds, tools and relevant trainings is key. This should be combined with interventions focusing on the provision of drinking water, shelter and safe excreta disposal. Job creation schemes to establishing drinking water delivery business and transportation could be an area for creating new job opportunities for returning IDPs.
- A longer-term response to the needs of IDPs should foster resilience to future shocks, focusing on environmental management techniques such as reforestation, riverbank stabilization and establishing water catchments areas that support ground water recharge.

## MOBILITY INTENTIONS

### HERAT

### BADGHIS

#### Migration Profiles of Assessed IDPs

Most IDPs residing in both Herat and Badghis originated from Badghis (86%). The analysis below looks at mobility decision making covering four districts in Badghis that are mostly drought affected: Muqur, Abkamari, Qala-e-Naw and Qadis. Balamurghab and Ghormach are excluded, as both are heavily conflict affected and IDPs are unlikely to commit to return.



71% of IDP households residing in Herat are originally from Badghis province.



99.5% of IDP households residing in Badghis are originally from Badghis province.



Top districts of origin of IDPs found in Herat are Balamurghab (31%), Ghormach (15%), Qadis (13%) and Muqur (6%) — all situated in Badghis.



Top districts of origin of IDPs found in Badghis are Muqur (44%), Abkamari (22%), Qala-e-Naw (19%) and Qadis (12%).



Main reasons for displacement are drought (score: 4.84/5), conflict and insecurity (4.34), limited or no humanitarian assistance (3.08) and lack of jobs (2.98).



Main reasons include drought (score: 4.7/5), conflict and insecurity (4.37), limited or no humanitarian assistance (3.52) and lack of jobs / economic opportunities (3.15).

#### IDP's Mobility Decision-Making

The majority of IDPs in Herat and Badghis are undecided about returning to their area of origin. IDPs residing in Herat are less likely to want to return than IDPs located in Badghis. Current indecision on mobility decisions will, likely, over time, result in the default decision: remaining in the current location. This is further affirmed by the timing of their preferred durable solution, which is undecided for most IDPs.



96% out of 6,514 families surveyed were undecided about returning to their place of origin. 3% noted wanting to remain in their current location, 1% preferred return.



78% out of 6,734 families surveyed were undecided about returning to their place of origin. 12% wanted to remain in their current location, 9% wanted to return. Only 1% preferred moving elsewhere.



82% noted to be “undecided” about the timing of their mobility decision making, 6% indicated this would be “more than 12 months” and 5% noted this to be “between 4 to 6 months” from now.



77% noted to be “undecided” about the timing of their mobility decision making, 13% indicated this would be “more than 12 months” and 5% noted this to be “between 1 and 3 months” from now.

#### Factors Influencing Mobility Decision-Making

IDPs preferred durable solutions are determined, to a large degree, by the prevailing security situation in areas of origin — irrespective of their preferred durable solution (return, remain or relocate). In addition to the security situation (which cannot be influenced by humanitarian and development actors alone), improved environmental conditions, availability of humanitarian assistance and the availability of livelihoods guide IDP mobility decision-making. Returns programming can provide solutions to some of these reintegration needs. However, many IDPs are sceptical about assisted returns but can be persuaded, especially for the IDP caseload in Badghis, if the assistance focuses on timely food assistance and livelihoods assistance, improving environmental conditions and health and education services in areas of return. Many noted the availability of food as a particularly vital ingredient of assistance. As access to food is primarily driven by cash assistance, the decision where to target cash-based assistance might influence migration decision making.



30% noted “not considering” assisted returns, 59% noted this “depends on the assistance provided”, 8% were “undecided” and 3% are in favour of returning.



77% noted this “depends on the assistance provided”, 13% is “not considering” assisted returns, 6% were “undecided” and 4% are in favour of returning .



Mobility decision-making in Herat is primarily driven by the need for “better security” (score: 4.6/5), “better environmental conditions” (4.33) and the “availability of humanitarian assistance” (4.01).



Mobility decision-making in Badghis is driven by “better security” (score: 4.59/5), “better environmental conditions” (4.3) and the “availability of livelihoods” (4.07).



Top immediate and reintegration needs in Herat are “food assistance” (score: 4.73/5), “job/employment opportunities” (4.29), “health services” (3.61) and “clothing” (3.54).



Top immediate and reintegration needs in Badghis include “food assistance” (4.77), “job / employment opportunities” (4.4) and the “shelter / accomodation” (3.78).

#### IDP's Willingness to Relocate to IDP camps

IDP's willingness to relocate to an IDP camp is higher in Herat than in Badghis. Both groups specify that they should be relocated to an urban area and transportation assistance be organised. Respondents showed little interest in migrating abroad (26 families; 0.2%).



67% are willing to relocate to an IDP camp, 33% noted they were not.



55% noted they were not willing to relocate to an IDP camp, 45% noted they would be willing.



IDPs willingness to relocate in Herat depends on being relocated to an urban environment (score: 4.4/5), and transport assistance (4.1) being provided.



Conditions from IDPs in Badghis are similar: relocation to an urban location (score: 4.4/5) and the provision of transport assistance (4).

## DISTRICT PROFILING FOR RETURNS

### ABKAMARI

Abkamari is a rural district in south-western Badghis, home to approximately 16% of the total population found in Badghis. Main sectors of the local economy include agricultural farming of fruits, nuts and cereals, livestock and production of small handicrafts.<sup>1</sup>



**Temporary returns.** Few IDPs temporarily return to Abkamari – 85% indicate that they do not temporarily return to their district of origin.



**Reasons for return.** Main reasons for return are improved security situation (4.87), better livelihoods (4.37), improved environmental conditions (4.16) and returning ahead of the planting season (3.68). As a predominantly rural district, access to pastures for cattle (3.35) and land and property (3.13) are also considered important.



**Preferred durable solutions.** 84% of IDPs from Abkamari are undecided, 11% want to remain in their current location and 4% want to return.



**Key areas for return and reintegration assistance.** Key sectors for targeted reintegration assistance are food assistance (4.86) jobs (4.46), education (3.57), clothing (3.51), feed, livestock and supplies (3.46) and seeds and farming supplies (3.29).

<sup>1</sup> UNFPA, 2003, Province of Badghis: A Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile.

### MUQUR

Muqur is a sparsely populated, rural district in south-western Badghis. Muqur is home to only 4% of the total population of Badghis. The largest sectors of its economy are animal herding and cereal production. Muqur has very limited access to services – including no access to education facilities.<sup>2</sup>



**Temporary returns.** 28% of IDP families from Muqur return frequently (15%) or infrequently (13%) — the majority (72%), does not.



**Reasons for return.** Main reasons for return are improved environmental conditions (4.61) improved security (4.55), access to better livelihoods (4.38), humanitarian assistance (3.86) start of the planting season (3.85), agricultural support (3.53), access to health services (3.52), drinking water (3.38) and access to pastures (3.32).



**Preferred durable solutions.** 74% of Muqur's IDPs are undecided, 15% want to remain in their current location and 11% want to return.



**Key areas for return and reintegration assistance.** Key sectors for targeted reintegration assistance are to food assistance (4.78) jobs (4.64), seeds and farming (3.69), health services (3.67), water for agriculture and livestock (3.65), education (3.49), and a ceasefire (3.48).

<sup>2</sup> Idem.

### QADIS

Qadis is a rural district in southern Badghis. Qadis harbours approximately 18% of the total population in the province. Local sectors of the economy include animal herding and the growing of cereal and vegetables. Qadis is a small provincial hub, with education, health and other services being available<sup>3</sup>.



**Temporary returns.** Few IDPs temporarily return to Qadis, 77% indicate that they do not return to their district of origin.



**Reasons for return.** The main reasons to return are an improved security situation (4.67), improved environmental conditions (4.61), better livelihoods (4.18), and returning ahead of the planting season (4.13) and access to humanitarian assistance (4.1). Improved access to services such as health services (3.75), safe drinking water (3.45) and education (3.27) were also seen as important.



**Preferred durable solutions.** 72% of IDPs who originate from Qadis are undecided on their decision, 13% like to return and 13% would like to remain. 11% of IDPs were interested in voluntary return.



**Key areas for return and reintegration assistance.** Key areas for reintegration assistance include food (4.83), jobs (4.62) water for agriculture and livestock (4.36), a local ceasefire (4.16), seeds and farming supplies (3.83), access to health services (3.82), drinking water (3.76) and education (3.51).

<sup>3</sup> Idem.

### QALA-E-NAW

Qala-e-Naw is a district in south-western Badghis. It is the provincial capital and is home to approximately 14% of the total population found in Badghis. Qala-e-Naw is a provincial hub and the second largest settlement in Badghis in terms of population, with education, health and other services being available<sup>4</sup>.



**Temporary returns.** Few IDPs temporarily return to Qadis, 88% indicate they do not return to their district of origin.



**Reasons for return.** The main reasons to return in Qala-e-Naw is security (4.48), with other factors scoring much lower. Other prominent factors in their decision-making includes access to better livelihoods (3.90), improved environmental conditions (3.90), access to better shelter (2.61), the start of the planting season (2.54) and better access to health services (2.44).



**Preferred durable solutions.** 84% of IDPs from Qala-e-Naw are undecided, 10% want to return, and 5% want to remain in their current location. Additionally, 20% of IDPs were interested in voluntary return.



**Key areas for return and reintegration assistance.** Key areas for reintegration assistance include access to food (4.79), drinking water (3.58), followed by jobs (3.43), health services (3.30), water for agriculture and livestock (3.28), education (3.23) and sanitation and hygiene facilities (2.98).

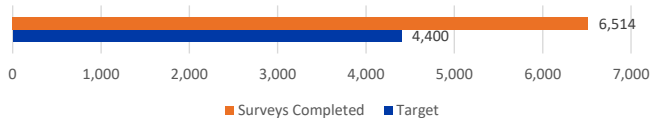
<sup>4</sup> Idem.

# SURVEY RESULTS

## HERAT

DTM set a target of conducting 4,400 return intention surveys in Herat City. DTM exceeded this target by 2,114 surveys, conducting 6,514 surveys in total.

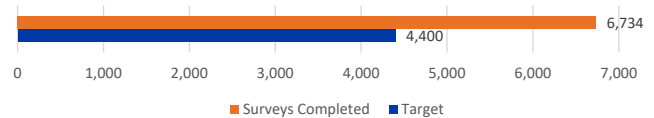
Survey Progress | Herat (target = 4,400)



## BADGHIS

In Badghis, DTM also set a target of conducting 4,400 return intention surveys. DTM exceeded this target by 2,334 surveys, conducting 6,734 surveys in total.

Survey Progress | Badghis (target = 4,400)

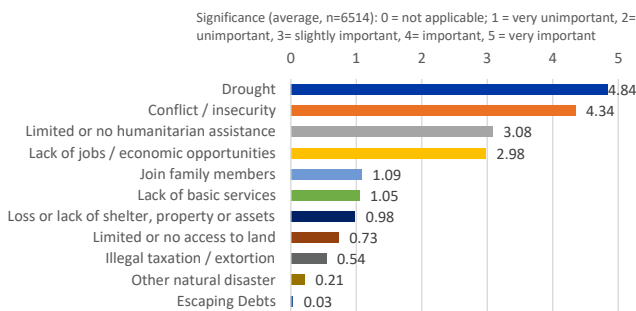


## ORIGIN, DISPLACEMENT AND FINANCIAL STATUS

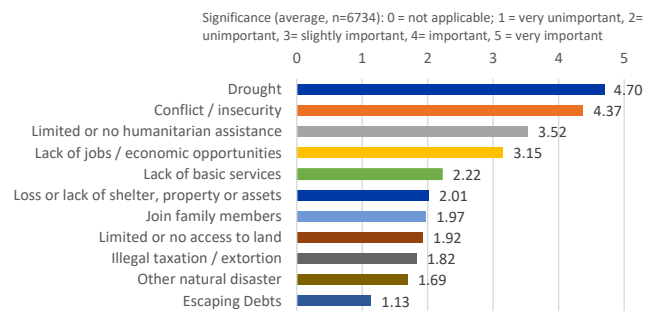
What are the main reasons the first members of your household left your previous location / place of origin?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Reasons for Displacement from Place of Origin | Herat

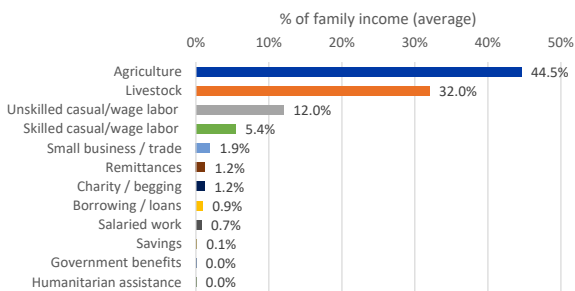


Reasons for Displacement from Place of Origin | Badghis

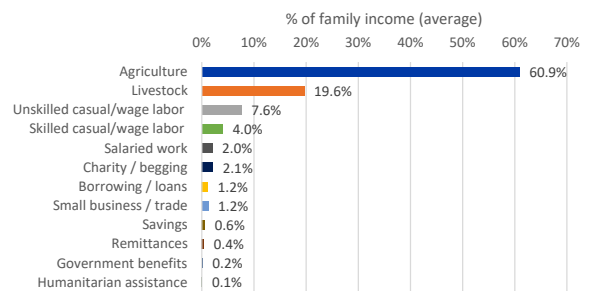


What were your family's main sources of income at your place of origin?

Main Sources of Income at Place of Origin | Herat

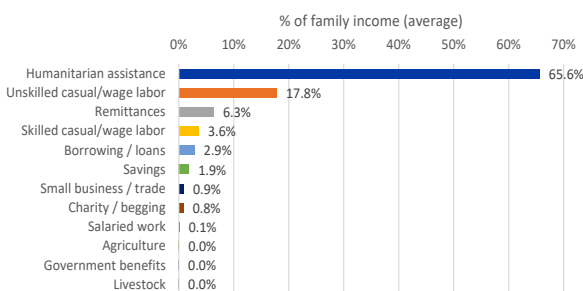


Main Sources of Income at Place of Origin | Badghis

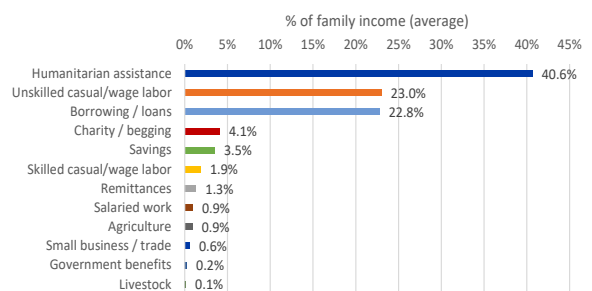


What are your family's main sources of income at your current location?

Main Sources of Income at current location | Herat



Main Sources of Income at current location | Badghis

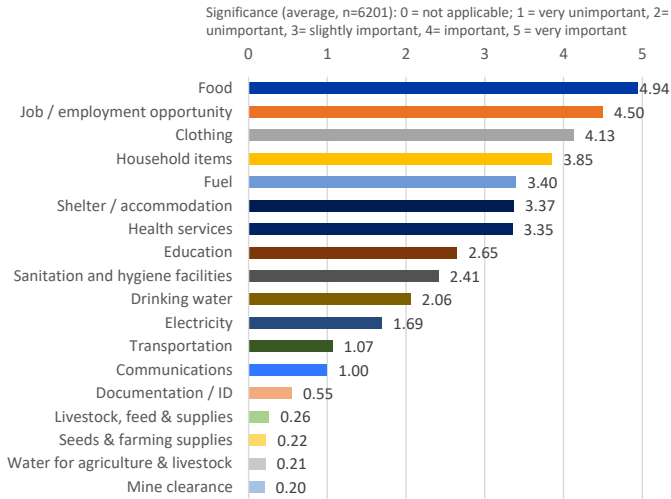


## CURRENT NEEDS

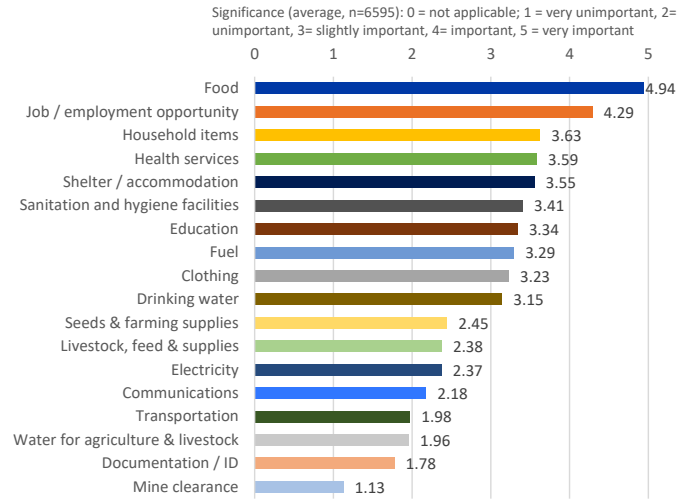
What are your current needs?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Current Needs | Herat

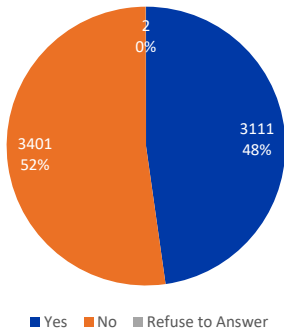


Current Needs | Badghis

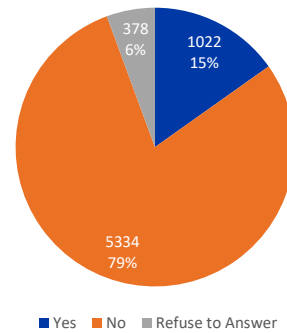


Has your family faced any eviction threats in your current location?

Eviction Threats | Herat

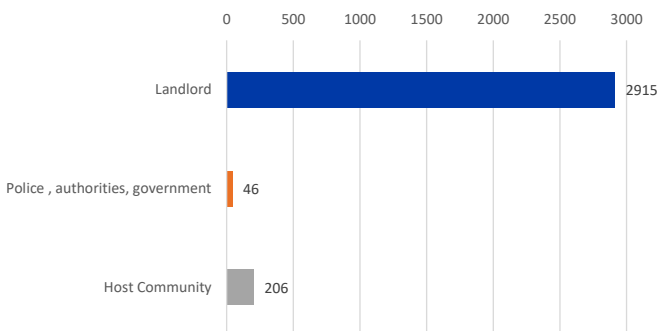


Eviction Threats | Badghis

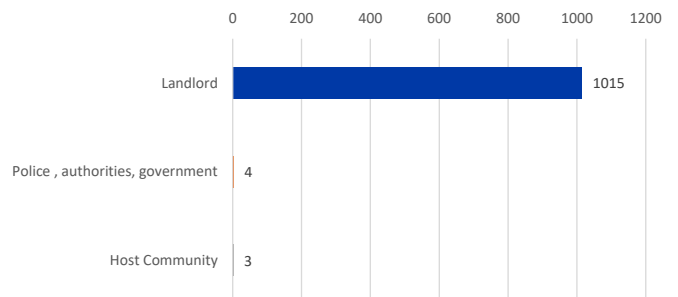


If yes, who threatened to evict you?

Threatened to evict | Herat

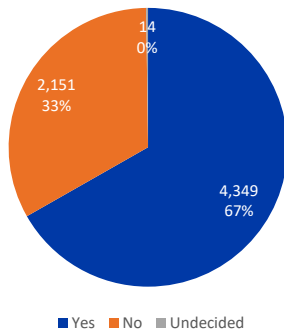


Threatened to evict | Badghis

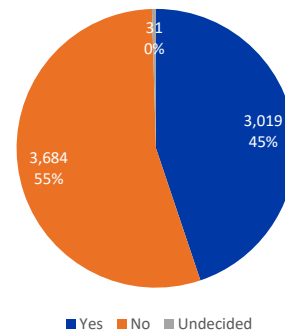


Would you be willing to temporarily relocate to a designated IDP site, when available?

Willingness to relocate to IDP site | Herat



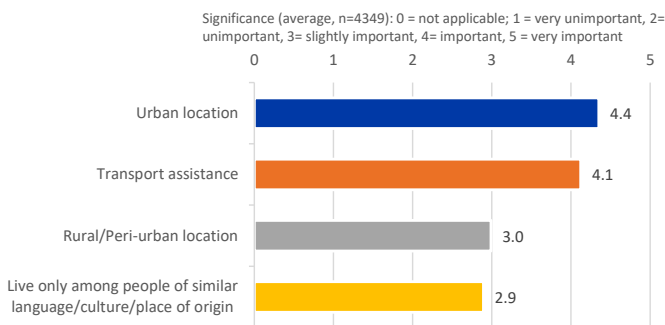
Willingness to relocate to IDP site | Badghis



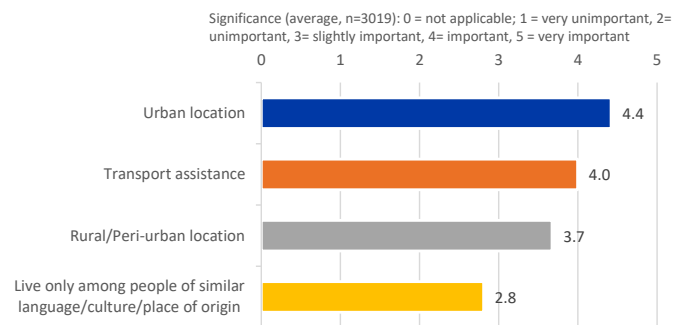
Under what conditions would you be willing to relocate?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Willingness to relocate conditions | Herat

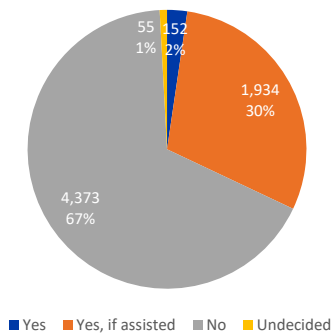


Willingness to relocate conditions | Badghis

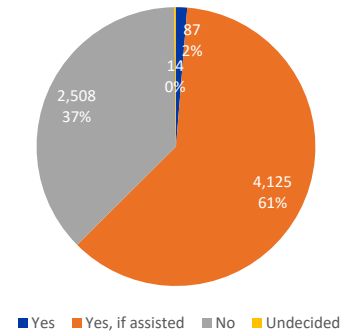


Would you consider renting an apartment or rooms at your current location?

Willingness to rent an apartment or rooms | Herat



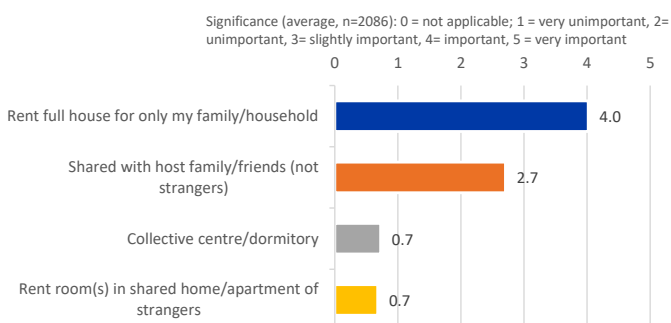
Willingness to rent an apartment or rooms | Badghis



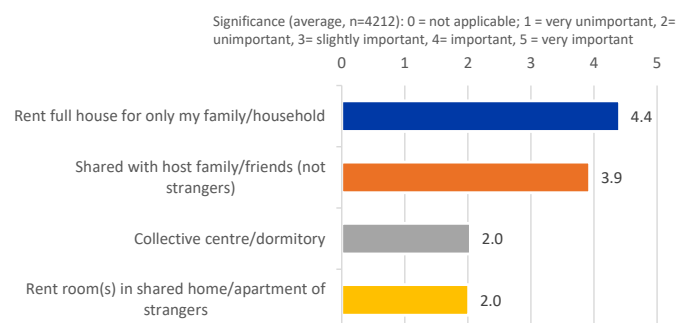
What type of housing would you be willing to rent?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Type of housing to rent | Herat



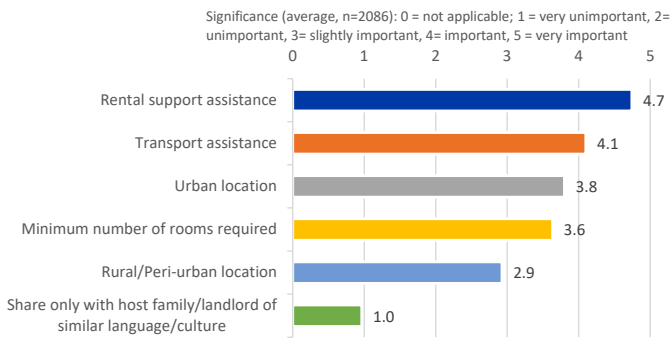
Type of housing to rent | Badghis



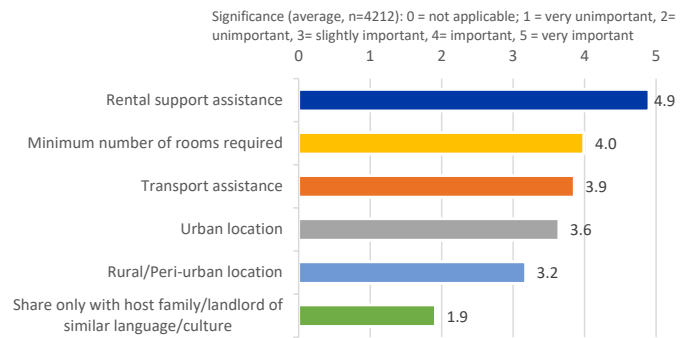
Under what conditions would you be willing to rent?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Renting an apartment/rooms conditions | Herat



Renting an apartment/rooms conditions | Badghis

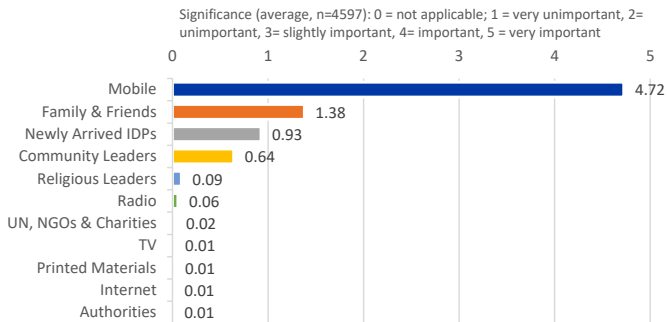


MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION TO RETURN, RESETTLE OR REMAIN

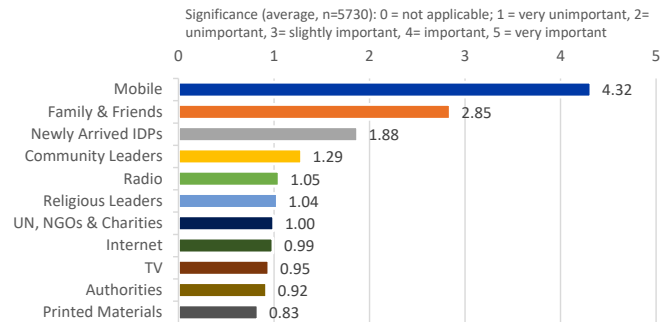
What are your main sources of information about your place of origin or preferred place of relocation?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Information Sources at Place of Origin | Herat

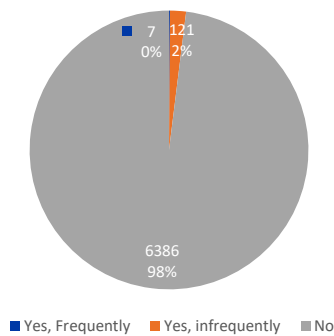


Information Sources at Place of Origin | Badghis

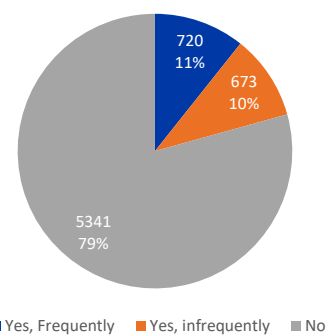


Do you or any of your household members currently (or intend to) travel temporarily to your place of origin?

Temporarily travel to place of origin | Herat



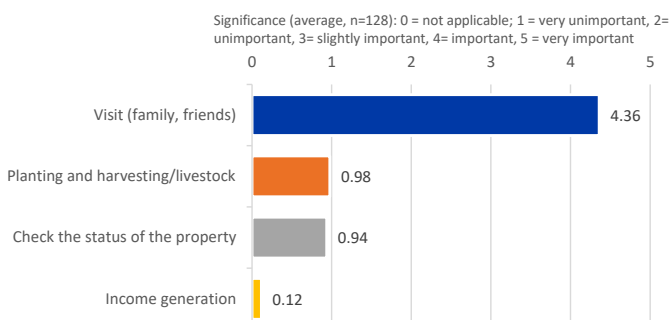
Temporarily travel to place of origin | Badghis



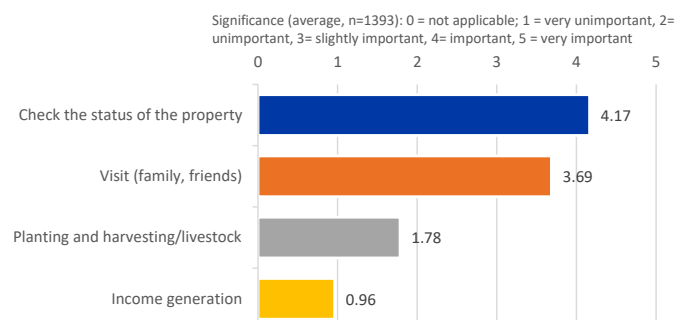
If you do temporarily travel back to your area of origin, for what purpose?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Temporarily Travel Purpose | Herat



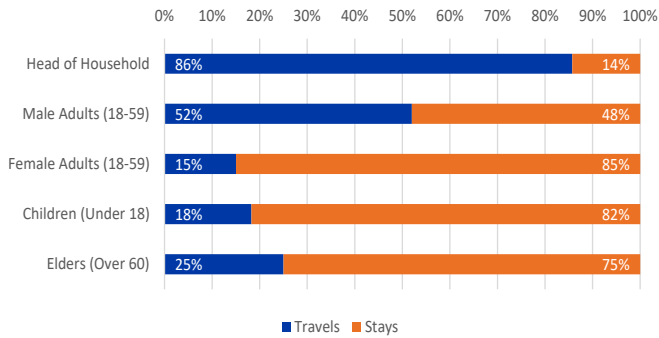
Temporarily Travel Purpose | Badghis



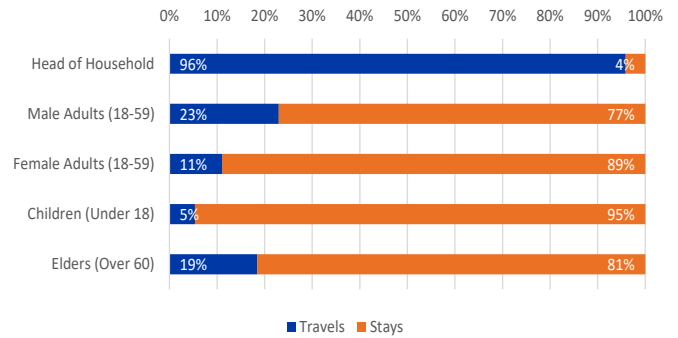


If you do temporarily travel back to your area of origin, who stays in your current location and who travels?

Travel Status of Family Member | Herat

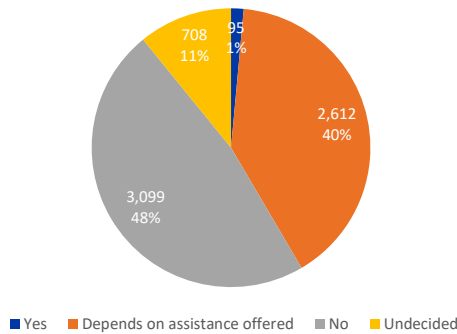


Travel Status of Family Member | Badghis

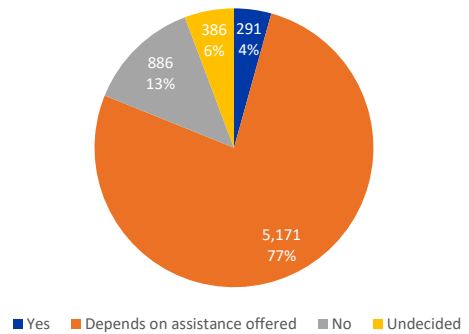


Would you consider assisted voluntary return to your place of origin?

Assisted Voluntary Return Willingness | Herat

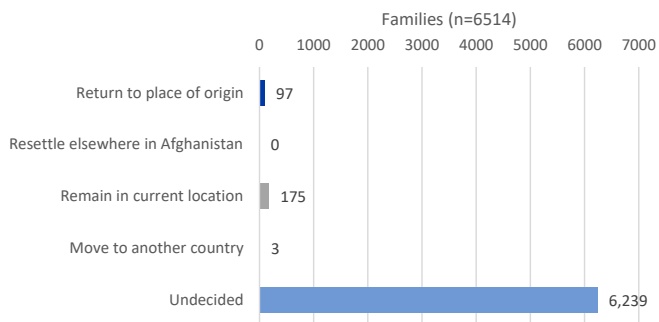


Assisted Voluntary Return Willingness | Badghis

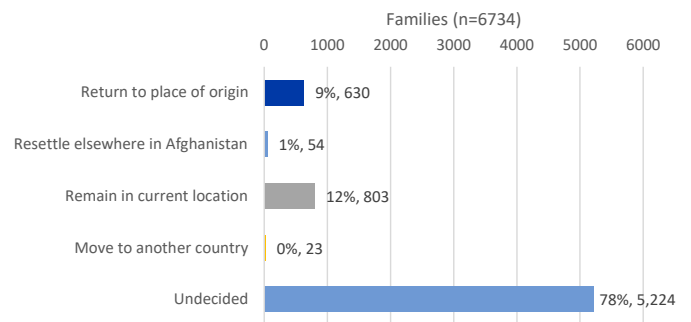


What is your household thinking about returning, relocating, or remaining in your current location?

Return Intention | Herat

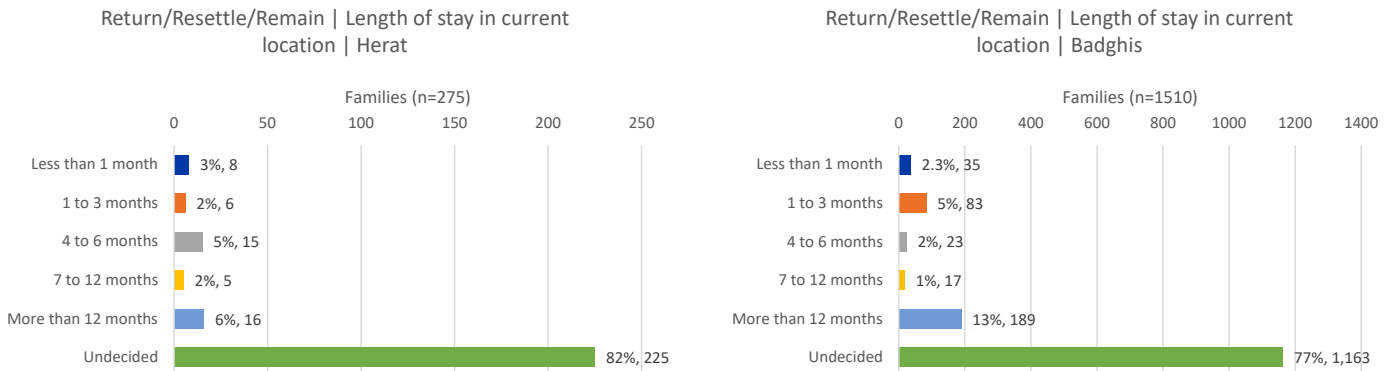


Return Intention | Badghis



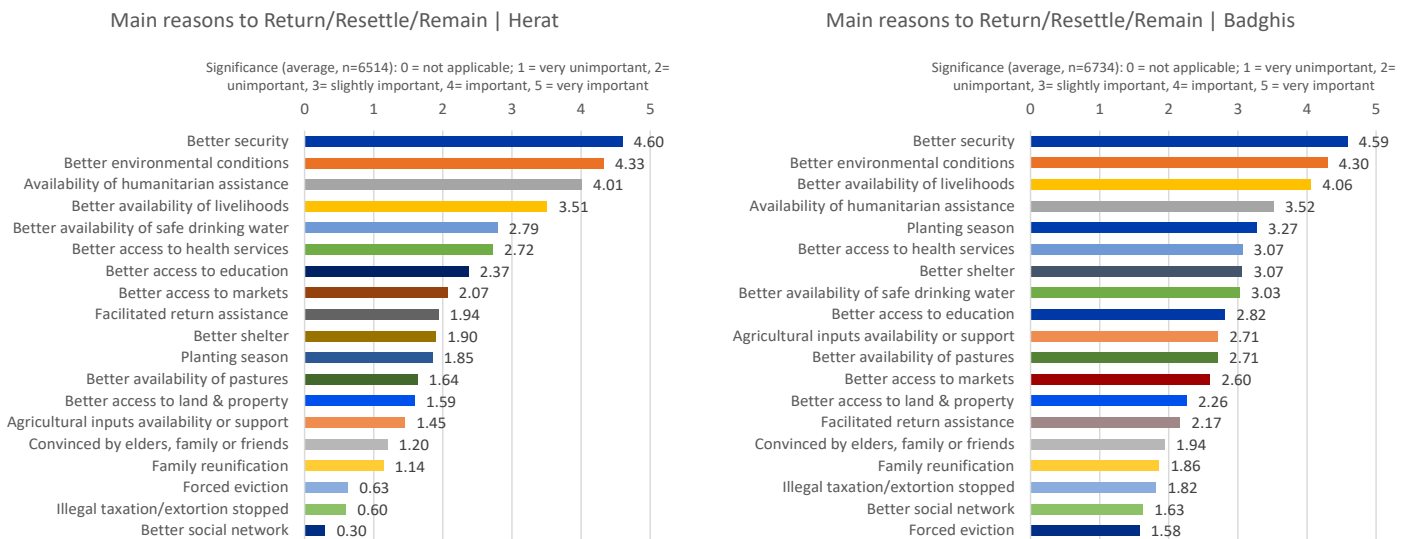
## WILLINGNESS TO RETURN, RESETTLE OR REMAIN

When do you think you will return to your place of origin, relocate to another location, or move to another country?



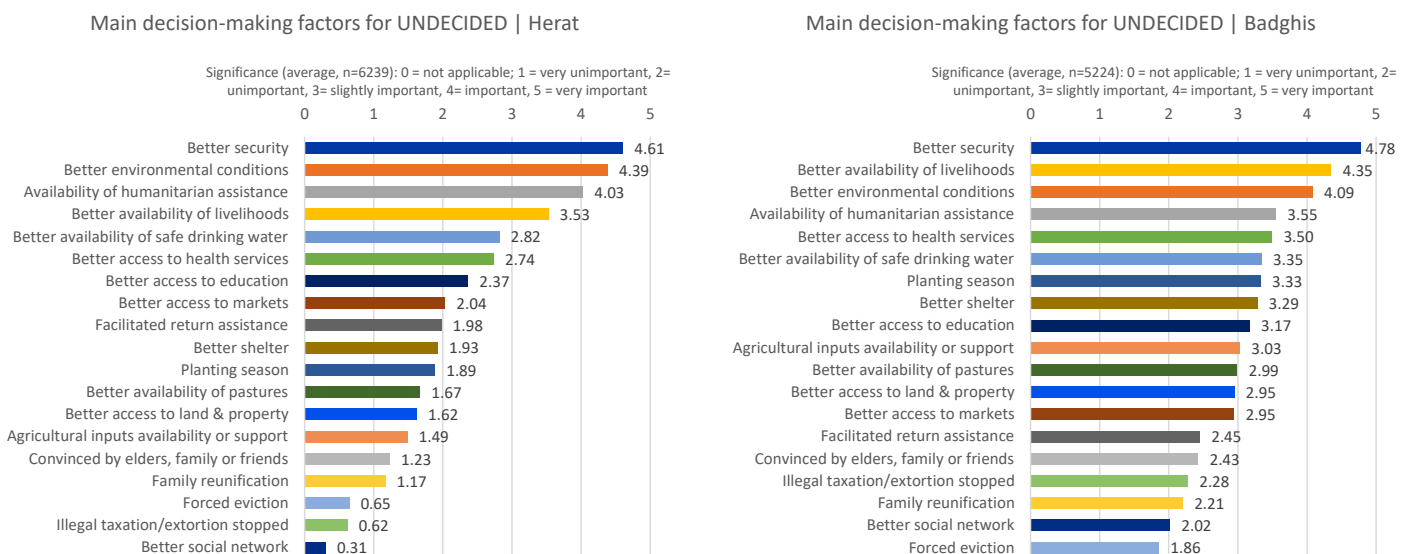
What are your household's main reasons for deciding to return, relocate, remain, or move to another country?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important



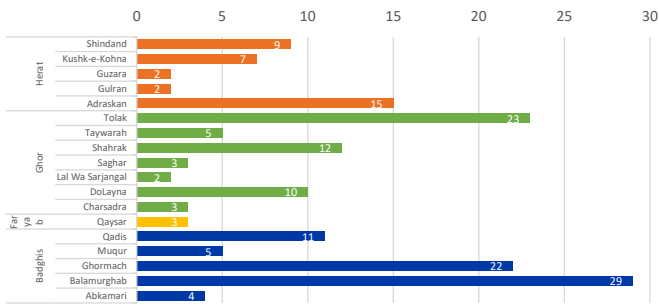
If undecided, what would help you make a decision to return, resettle or remain?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

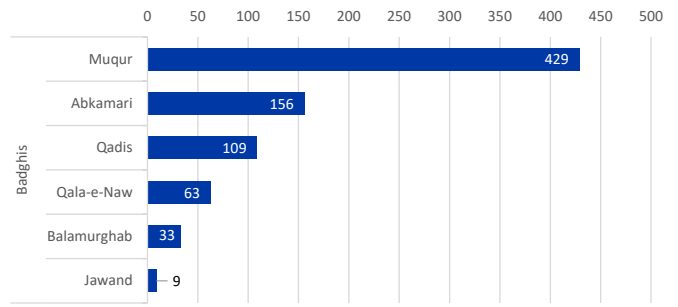


How many families from the following districts of origin intend to REMAIN in their current location?

REMAIN families in need | Districts of Origin | Herat

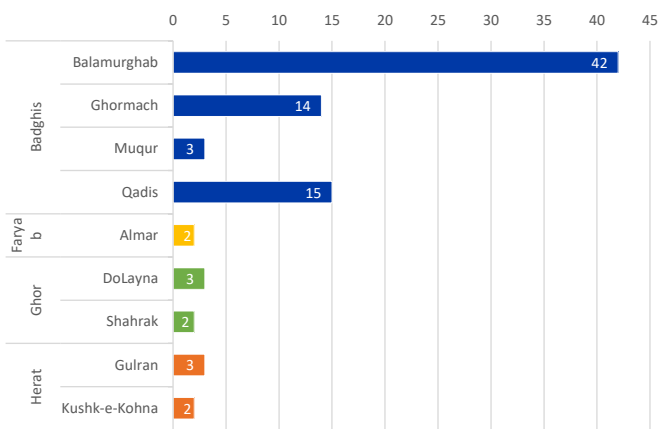


REMAIN families in need | Districts of Origin | Badghis

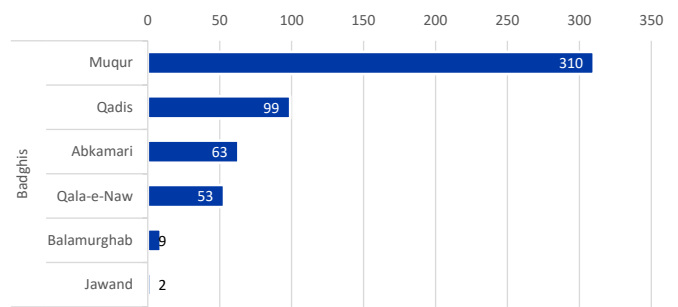


How many families from districts of origin intend to RETURN to their place of origin?

RETURN families in need | Districts of Origin | Herat

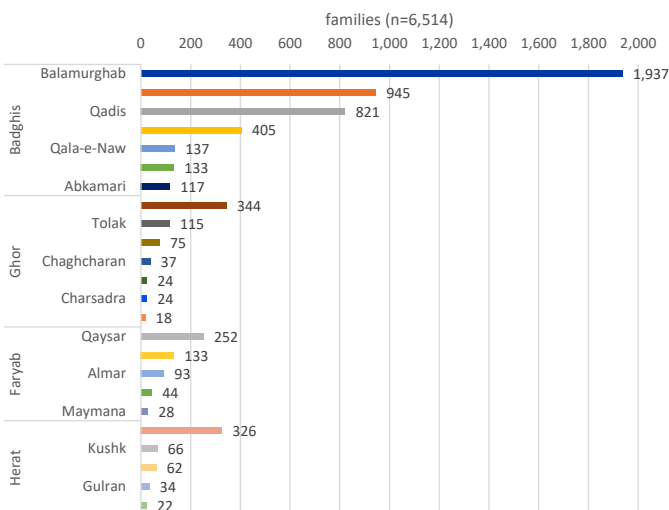


RETURN families in need | Districts of Origin | Badghis

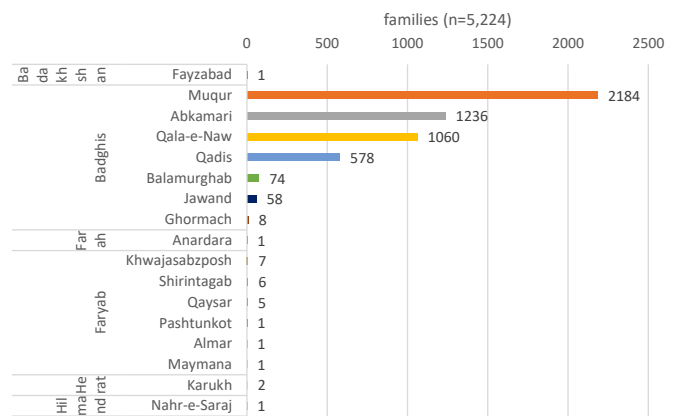


How many families from districts of origin are UNDECIDED regarding their mobility decisions?

UNDECIDED | Districts of Origin | Herat



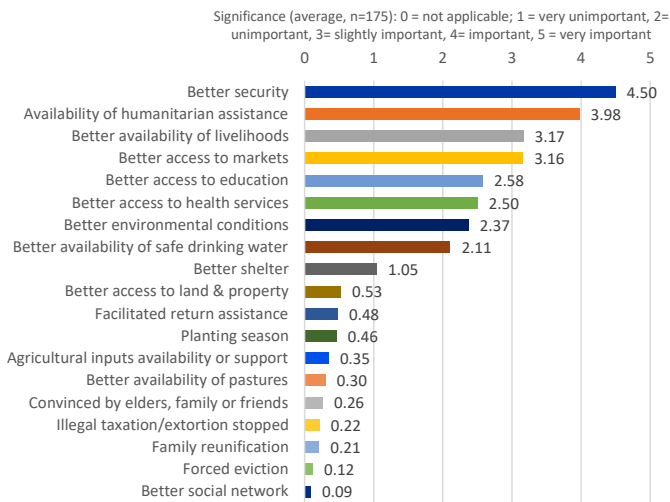
UNDECIDED | Districts of Origin | Badghis



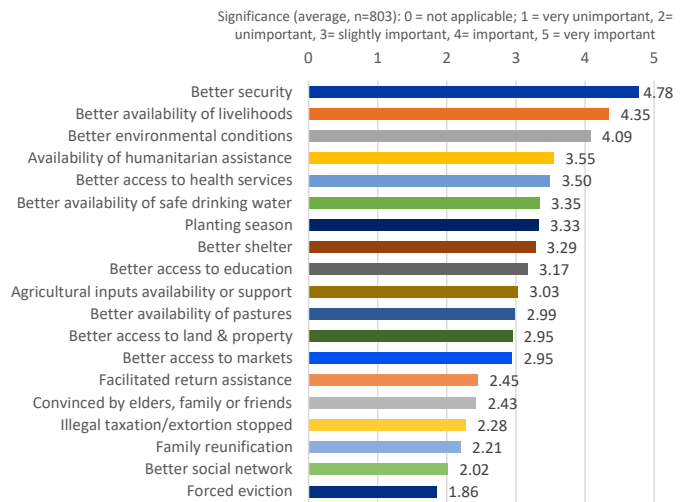
What are your household's main reasons for deciding to remain?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Main reasons to REMAIN in current location | Herat



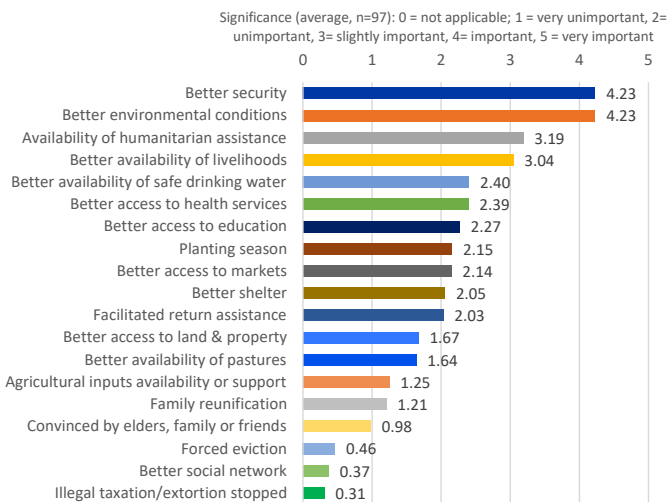
Main reasons to REMAIN in current location | Badghis



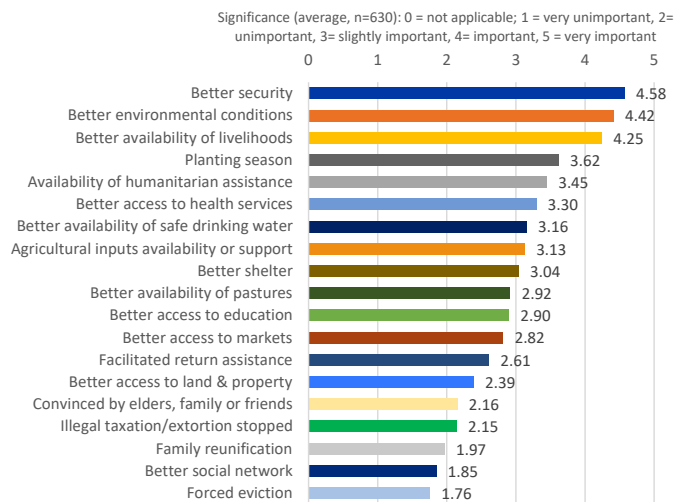
What are your household's main reasons for deciding to return?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Main reasons to RETURN to place of origin | Herat



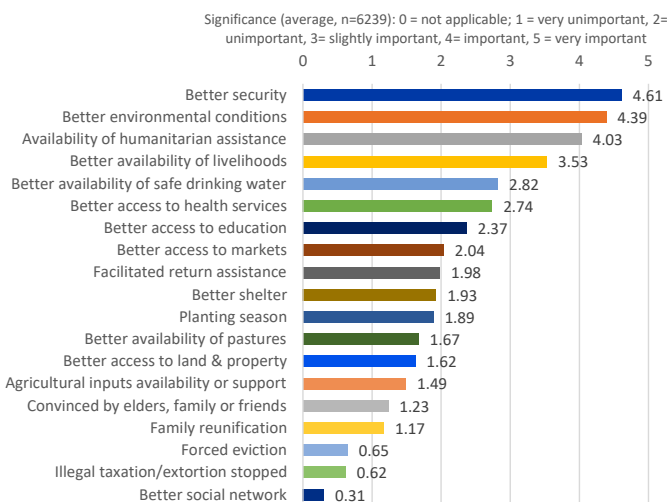
Main reasons to RETURN to place of origin | Badghis



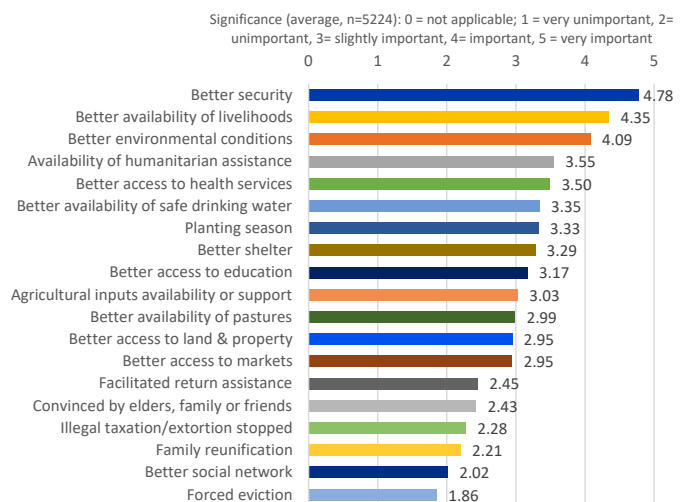
What are your household's main reasons for being undecided?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Main decision-making factors for UNDECIDED | Herat



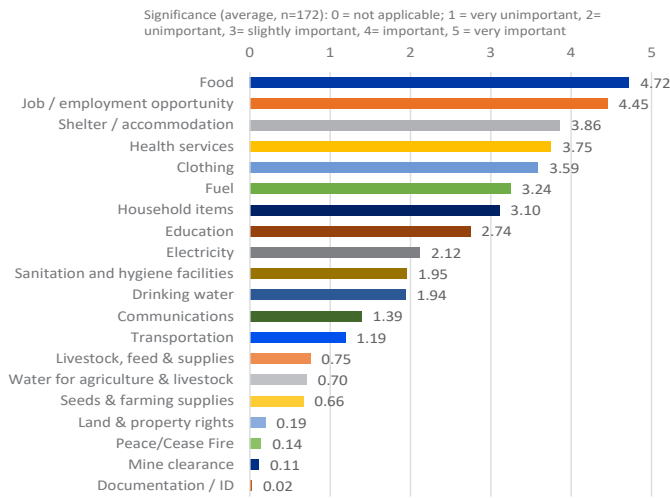
Main decision-making factors for UNDECIDED | Badghis



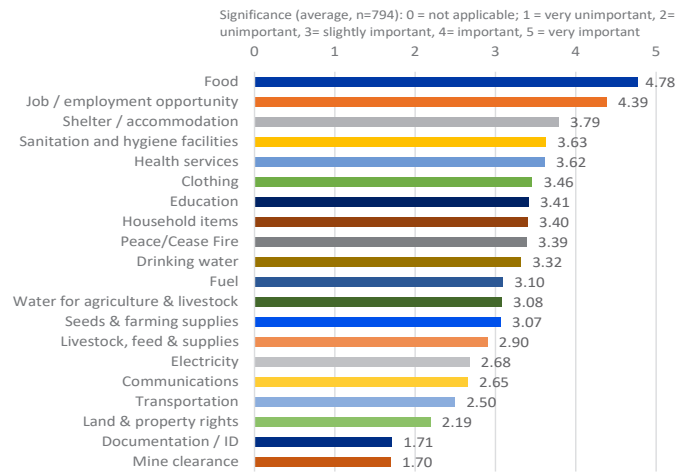
What type of assistance will your household need in your current location to REMAIN?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Assistance needed to REMAIN in current location | Herat



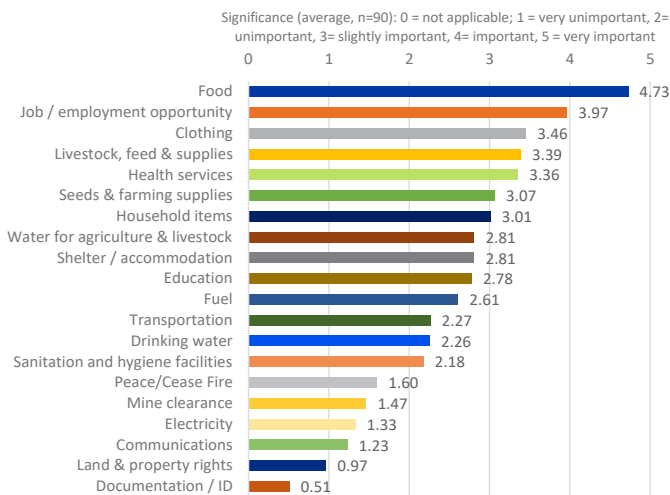
Assistance needed to REMAIN in current location | Badghis



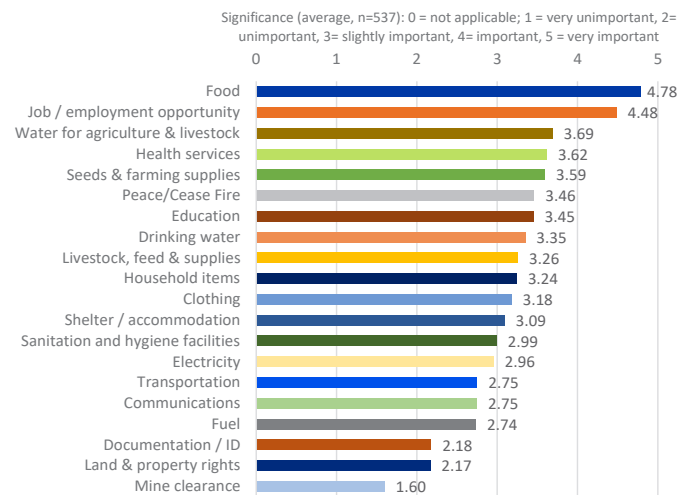
What will your household need in the location where you intend to RETURN?

rank all options: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ 0 = not applicable; 1 = very unimportant, 2= unimportant, 3= slightly important, 4= important, 5 = very important

Assistance needed to RETURN to place of origin | Herat



Assistance needed to RETURN to place of origin | Badghis



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