

# AFGHANISTAN

## CONFLICT-INDUCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

### MONTHLY UPDATE

#### MAY 2015

- 43,299 individuals displaced by conflict assessed/profiled in May 2015
- Of these:
  - 2 % displaced in May 2015
  - 63 % in April 2015
  - 4 % in March 2015
  - 6 % in February 2015
  - 19 % in January 2015
  - 5 % earlier
- Of these:
  - 51.6 % male
  - 48.4 % female
  - 61 % children
- End of May 2015 around 916,435 IDPs assessed/profiled

#### PARTNERSHIP

National IDP Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and co-chaired by UNHCR.

Regional IDP Task Forces chaired by DORR and co-chaired by UNHCR in Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar, Kandahar and Gardez. The Regional IDP Task Forces verify and assess new displacements; coordinate and respond to IDPs' immediate emergency needs.



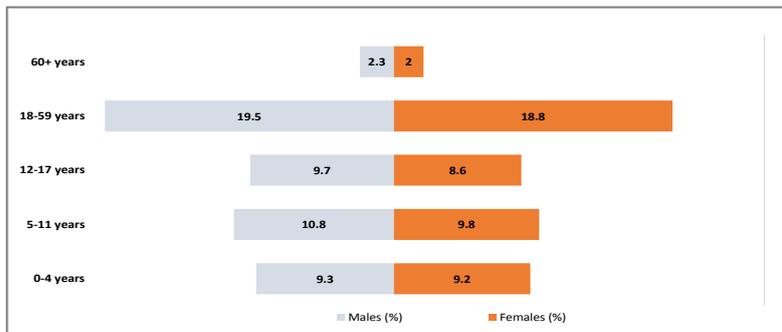
#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

##### IDPs assessed /profiled – Monthly activity

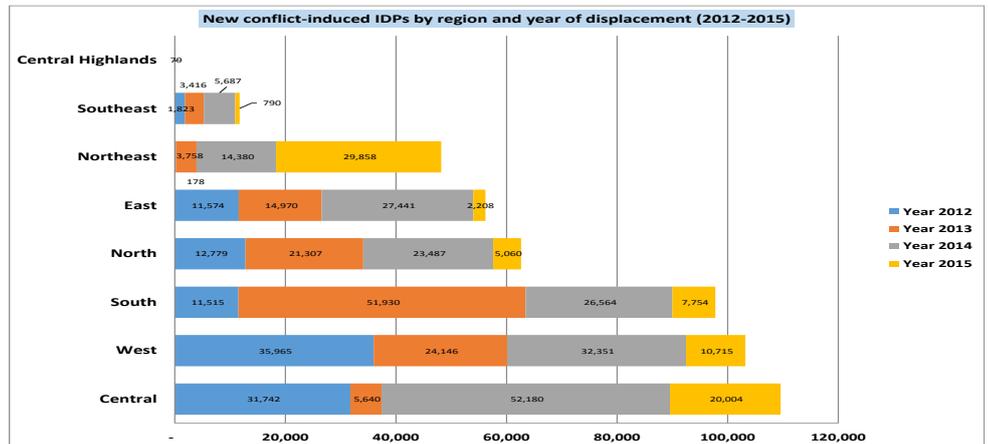
Region	end of April 2015	Newly profiled in May	end of May 2015
South	219,748	996	220,744
West	216,309	1,560	217,869
Central	149,602	10,812	160,414
East	144,897	1,620	146,517
North	94,256	1,408	95,664
Northeast	26,830	24,989	51,819
Southeast	21,415	1,914	23,329
Central Highlands	79	-	79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>873,136</b>	<b>43,299</b>	<b>916,435</b>

*Note: This table represents the number of IDPs profiled during the month and the cumulative population profiled since 2002. Figures do not cover areas where displacement cannot be verified due to lack of access. Furthermore, there might be displacement and return movements that are not accounted for. IDPs reached by other actors are not included in the profiling until they are verified by the Task Forces.*

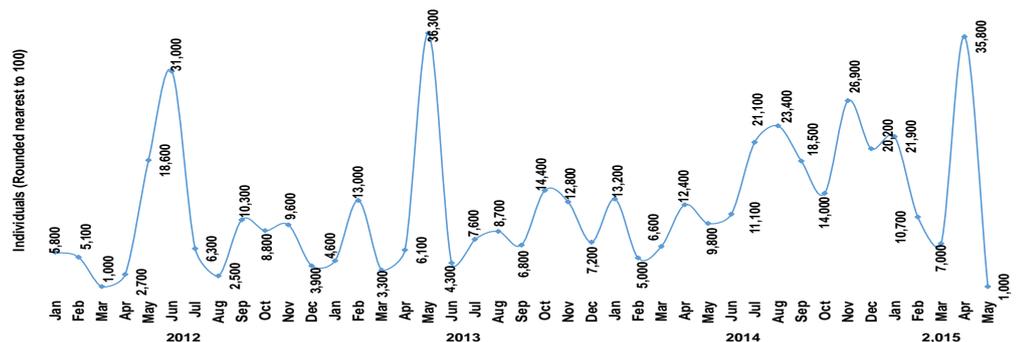
#### Age and Gender breakdown of the profiled population



#### New conflict-induced IDPs by region and year of displacement (2012-2015)



#### Actual displacement trends – January 2012 to May 2015



*Note: The dates in this chart represent the time of displacement as reported by the profiled IDPs.*

## Top 10 provinces for profiling activities by IDP Task Forces during the reporting month

No.	Province	Families	Individuals
1	Kunduz	3,000	20,091
2	Badakhshan	743	4,879
3	Ghazni	560	4,001
4	Kabul	454	3,032
5	Kapisa	331	2,316
6	Faryab	190	1,149
7	Helmand	130	996
8	Khost	154	859
9	Farah	124	784
10	Wardak	98	683

The figures of the Kunduz displacement here displayed represent the number of families profiled during the month of May, while the house-to-house assessment continued throughout the month of June. A reference to the overall figures is included in the narrative. Other smaller scale displacements have been profiled in Nangarhar, Logar, Kunar, Herat, Paktya, Paktika, Parwan, Ghor, Laghman, Badghis, Saripul, Jawzjan, Balkh and Nuristan.

## Overall Analysis

In the reporting month, 43,299 individuals were profiled across the country as conflict-induced IDPs. This represents a 47% increase comparing to the previous month (22,759 IDPs). 94 % of the profiled IDPs reported to have been displaced during the course of 2015. This increase can be put in relation with the surge in instability and armed confrontations between parties in conflict in several regions, including in provinces previously less affected by conflict-induced displacement (e.g. Badakhshan, Baghlan). This increase does not capture displacement that have occurred in areas not accessible by the members of the IDP Task Forces and where joint assessments could not be conducted. This was particularly relevant for areas in Kunduz province (e.g. Imam Sahib, Chardara, Dashte Archi districts), Badakhshan province (e.g. some areas in Jurm, Warduj and Yamgan districts), Helmand province (e.g. Sangin, Musa Qala, Kajaki, Nawzad).

The North-East Region registered the highest records of profiled conflict-induced IDPs, largely due to the displacement caused by the confrontation between Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and Non-state armed opposition Groups (AGEs) in Kunduz province. It is to note that the joint assessment of the displacement in Kunduz spanned across the month of May and was concluded by mid-June, hence the final figures are higher than those reported in this breakdown<sup>1</sup>. The second highest numbers of conflict-induced IDPs was profiled in the Central Region, where general insecurity, military operations and sporadic clashes between AGEs and ANSF continued to generate less visible but more continuous forced movements of population.

<sup>1</sup> See after in “Displacement Watch” on anticipations of trends for the month of June.

Comparing with earlier trends, the number of profiled IDPs who reported having been displaced in the previous months of 2015 increased (74% in April and 94% in May). This trend is also connected to the Kunduz and Badakhshan situation, where the assessments occurred immediately after the forced movement.

Kunduz, Badakhshan, Ghazni, Kabul and Kapisa were the main provinces where IDPs had been profiled during the month in review, with conflict-induced internal displacement mainly generating from within the respective provinces.

Armed confrontations between AGEs and ANSF, in the form of insurgency activities and counter-insurgency military operations, continued to be the most cited reason for displacement across the country. However, during the month in review, harassment and intimidation by AGEs – particularly in the Eastern region and in the South-east – as well as inter-tribal disputes were also reported as the causes of displacement.

The most cited primary needs of the profiled population continued to be food and NFIs, largely due to the dynamics of the flight (sudden escape from the conflict areas). Most of IDPs managed to temporary rent accommodations in areas of displacement, while many others have been hosted by the relatives and the host community. Situations where displaced families had no accommodation were rare; when this occurred, families were immediately assisted with emergency shelters/tents.

In specific locations, challenges in access to education for IDP children due to lack of proper documentation or insufficient space and resources have emerged. Those cases were brought to the attention of the education authorities either by UNHCR directly or – more often – through UNICEF intervention as Child Protection leading agency in direct contact with the Department of Education of the respective provinces.

Where armed confrontations occurred in the proximity of high densely population areas, the need for a robust Mine Risk Awareness/ Mine Risk Education intervention emerged, particularly in situations where the cycle of displacement was foreseen to be extremely rapid and there were expectations that IDP families would have returned to their areas of origin quite swiftly to harvest. This need emerged particularly in the context of the Kunduz displacement, since the ongoing confrontation was associated with a high level of contamination by ERW/ UXOs. The IDP Task Forces in Mazar and Kunduz and the national Protection Cluster advocated for an immediate engagement of UNMAS/MACCA and their respective partners, including concerned government authorities

The majority of profiled IDPs were assisted with food and NFIs provided by IDP Task Forces’ members. More prominently, unconditional cash assistance was increasingly provided by some of the IDP Task Force partners in substitution to the food ration or of the NFI package, with some disbursements also done for extremely vulnerable families. (See details of assistance breakdown during the month on the last page). It is expected that this important complementary emergency intervention by IDP Task Force partners will continue future

coordinated intervention of assistance to conflict-induced IDPs. When specific needs were detected amongst the assessed IDP population, referral to specialised partners was assured (e.g. cases of injured children, women at risk etc).

Lack of access to displacement areas to verify new arrivals and respond to immediate humanitarian needs continued to be a challenge for the IDP Task Forces. A dialogue with other humanitarian actors such as ICRC and the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was maintained to reach out to populations affected by conflict, including IDPs, and assess their situation. Areas where the action of the IDP Task Forces' members to support displaced populations was hindered by access challenges were swelled across the country and included the Northern districts of Helmand province; the Northern part of Uruzgan province; most of the districts surrounding Kunduz and where armed confrontations were ongoing; the Southern areas of Badakhshan (Yamgan, Warduj, partially Jurm districts); increasing portion of territory in Farah province; the southern part of Ghazni province.

## Situation in the major Provinces of displacement

### Central Region

#### Ghazni

According to the consulted IDPs, the security situation in various districts of Ghazni province continued to deteriorate, mainly due to expanded military operations, various AGEs' attacks and sporadic clashes between AGEs and ANSF. The province has recently experienced on-going armed conflicts in Nawa, Gelan and Moqor districts. During May 2015, a joint assessment team including DoRR, ANDMA and WSTA (UNHCR's partner) together with representatives of the Provincial Council and the Governor's Office assessed 560 IDP families/4,001 individuals in the Centre of Ghazni province, as conflict-induced IDPs. Out of the verified 560 families, 351 families (63%) originated from Ghazni province (Ander, Qarabagh, Dahyak, Rashidan Aband, Gilan, Giro, Jaghato, Nawa, Khuwaja Omary and Zana Khan districts); 119 families (21%) originated from Maidan Wardak province, increasingly affected by instability; 49 families from Logar; 30 families from Paktia; 8 families from Parwan; and 3 families from Khost. Although the displacement happened from December 2014 to May 2015 in separate groups and at different times, the recurrently cited reason by key informants was the insecurity and the clashes between AGEs and ANSF. The majority of the families were in rented houses, while the rest were hosted by the local community. Out of the total number of assessed IDPs, 151 families were found in need of humanitarian assistance. The partners of the IDP Task Force are starting the distribution of the assistance to the eligible families.

#### Maidan Wardak

The situation in various districts of Maidan Wardak province remained volatile with several security incidents reported during the month. WSTA (UNHCR partner) together with DoRR profiled 98 IDP families/683 individuals in this province, and out of them 53 IDP families were identified as in need of humanitarian assistance. Although IDPs were living with

families, they lamented have been depleted the resources of the host families. According to the IDP Key informant, the profiled IDPs were displaced in November-December 2014 but had not yet been assessed. Out of them, 86 families were from Chak, Nerkh, and Behsud districts of Maidan Wardak; other more limited number of families were displaced from Nangarhar, Kabul, Paktia, Laghman and Ghazni province. They were all living in the centre of Maidan Shahr city. General insecurity and armed conflict have been reported as the main reasons triggering their displacement. Assistance delivery was coordinated for the month of June.

#### Kabul

Although the province experienced a significant number of incidents, Kabul remained a main destination for the displaced families from the Central Region, largely due to the perception of a better security situation and the hope to find better coping mechanisms. During the reporting month, a joint assessment team including WFP, OCHA, DoRR and WSTA (UNHCR's partner) assessed 454 IDP families in various urban districts of Kabul city. They were displaced from various districts of Logar province in January 2015, as well as from rural areas of Kabul province. The families were largely living in rented houses and had access to basic services available in Kabul. Yet, the high living costs and the lack/very low income of the families have been raised as their major concern. Reportedly, most of the children were working to contribute to the families' income. The joint assessment team identified 301 out of 454 families as eligible for humanitarian assistance.

During the same month, another group of IDPs was assessed jointly by WFP, CARE International, DACAAR, OCHA, DoRR and WSTA in Bagrami district of Kabul. The group consisted of 80 IDP families, displaced in early May from Tagab district of Kapisa due to military operations, intimidation and harassment by AGEs, inability to cultivate their agricultural land due to the on-going conflict. Almost all families were identified as in need of humanitarian assistance.

#### Kapisa

A joint assessment team including DoRR, WFP's partner and WSTA (UNHCR's partner) assessed 331 IDP families/2,316 individuals during the reporting month in Nejrab and Tagab districts as well as in the centre of Kapisa province. Reportedly, families were displaced in January and February 2015. They originated from Tagab and Nejrab. According to selected key informants, families moved in an effort to prevent being caught in the ongoing clashes between AGEs and ANSF. Out of 331 verified families, 229 most vulnerable families were identified as in need for humanitarian assistance. UNHCR and WFP provided food and NFIs to those families.

### Northern Region

#### Kunduz

*Please refer also to the Note on Kunduz released on 22 May 2015. This summary complements the note with some updated information.*

Following the sustained attacks of AGEs in Qalaizal, Imam Sahib, Dashte Archi, Chardara Districts and in the Gultepa area of Kunduz district, during the last week of April 2015 a sustained influx of displaced families reached the urban and peri-urban areas. By the end of the month more than 18,000 families had filed petitions with DoRR to be considered as recently displaced and receive emergency assistance. More than 4,200 petitioning families, however, were reported as being displaced in areas not accessible to the IDP Task Force members. The IDP Task Force managed to mobilize nine teams of three staff with more than 27 staff from different members on the ground (UNHCR, WFP partners, NRC, SCI, ACTED, NPO, CHA, Mediothek, DoRR and later in June DRC). The joint assessment proceeded with a house-to-house verification that continued throughout Mid-June. By the end of the month of May, some 9,990 families had been visited, and some 3,000 IDP families/20,091 individuals were profiled as genuine IDPs. During the month of May, assistance was provided to more than 3,000 families by WFP (food), by UNICEF (Hygiene kits) and by UNHCR (NFI kits). WHO and SCI strengthened the capacity of existing clinics in the affected Districts, given the increase in civilian casualties reported. 30 families with specific needs (PSN) have been identified during the joint assessment, and were referred to the specialized service providers in the province or benefitted from additional assistance as through UNHCR.

The household assessment and the distribution of assistance followed in the month of June and were concluded around the middle of the month. The process ended with 15,700 families visited, and 4,515 were found as genuine IDPs and in need for assistance. Following the distribution of NFI kits to 3,000 families by UNHCR during the month of May, from June NRC supported the emergency response through a cash component for an equivalent value of an NFI kit<sup>2</sup>.

During the assessment and household visit phase, displaced families expressed concerns for the presence of UXOs and ERW in areas of origin, which had been heavily affected by artillery and aerial strikes. The IDP Task Force made all possible efforts to mobilize resources to conduct Mine Risk Education activities, particularly through MACCA/UNMAS and UNICEF. By the end of the month, two teams from DDG (Danish Demining Group) were deployed to conduct MRE sessions at the distribution site (Mediothek compound in Kunduz), while IDP families were waiting to collect their assistance. MACCA also advocated with the Ministry of Education in Kabul and the respective Department in Kunduz to mobilize resources, particularly in the sensitization of teachers and children in schools.

Towards the end of the month, consultations with key informants and visits to families indicated that initial movements of spontaneous return of IDP families to their places of origin in the surrounding districts had started. Families were encouraged by temporary cessation of hostilities but mainly by the necessity to reach their farming lands for harvesting and to insure yearly income.

<sup>2</sup> The cash component provided by NRC, which started being distributed during the first weeks of June, will be included in the assistance table of the following month.

## Faryab

During the month of May, DoRR, NPO (UNHCR partner) and WFP partner jointly profiled 144 IDP families/870 individuals in Maimana city, the provincial centre of Faryab, and 46 IDP families/279 individuals in Khaja Sabzi Posh district of the same province. The profiled IDPs in Maimana originated from Pashton Kot, Ghormach, Almar, Koohestan and Qaisar districts of Faryab province. Reportedly the displacement occurred as a result of military operations and armed conflict between ANSF and AGEs, as well as due to intimidations and harassment by AGEs, including in the form of illegal taxation. According to the interviewed IDPs, the displacement of both groups occurred from January to March 2015. Consulted IDPs highlighted the increased security in the displacement areas, and a relatively good access to basic social services. The majority of IDPs managed to rent houses or were sharing houses with the host community, while only a minority was living in tents or had no accommodation at the time of the assessment. The assessment team noticed the low school attendance amongst IDP children due to lack of documentation and tried to advocate with the education authorities to facilitate school admissions. Food and NFIs have been identified as the primary needs of all IDPs and assistance started to be distributed by NRC, WFP, SCI and UNHCR.

## Badakhshan

By the end of May, some 743 families/4,879 individuals displaced by conflict were jointly assessed and assisted with food from WFP and NFIs from UNHCR in Baharak, Jorm and Faizabad. Different groups of families had arrived to Baharak and Faizabad from different locations, largely from Jorm and Warduj, affected by increasing confrontations between ANSF and AGEs. 256 families arrived in late April from Jorm to Baharak, 218 families were displaced within Jorm. Those groups were both assessed and assisted in May by WFP (food) and UNHCR (NFI). Some other 279 families arrived during the month of May, escaping from armed confrontations in Badakhshan as well as from the conflict in Kunduz. These profiled families were displaced from Jorm to Faizabad district (104 families); from Jorm to Baharak district (91 families); from various districts of Kunduz to Faizabad (63 families); and some 25 other families from different locations within Badakhshan. Most of these forced movements occurred from mid-April to late May. IDPs were all assessed by the end of the month. Assessed families managed to find accommodation in rented houses or hosted by the communities. Overcrowded spaces and lack of privacy have been reported as the major difficulties with regards to their accommodation. Some families reported that their houses and livestock have been destroyed at the result of conflict in the places of origin. Low school attendance rate was observed amongst IDP children, reportedly due to the intention and hope of the families to return to their places of origin as soon as the security situation improves. The lack of sanitation facilities had been observed as a gap.

## Southern region

### Helmand

During the month of May, the joint assessment teams assessed the situation of 130 IDPs families/996 individuals in Lashkar Gah city and Marja district (82 families/621 individuals in Lashkar Gah and 48 families/375 individuals in Marja). The displacement continued to be triggered by the ongoing confrontations in the Northern districts of Helmand province between insurgents and national security forces, which continued after the end of the military operation in April and progressively intensified. The profiled IDPs in Lashkar Gah originated from Kajaki, Marja, Nahri Siraj and Sangin districts of Helmand, while the profiled IDPs in Marja were largely displaced from within the district. The team also visited Greshk (centre of Nahri Siraj district) where the authorities provided preliminary reports on the presence of IDPs. Yet, the joint assessment team found that the families in this last location had returned to their places of origin within the district after a brief displacement. According to the interviewed IDPs in Lashkar Gah and Marja, civilian casualties occurred during the armed clashes and some families reported to have lost family members. Injured cases were treated in the Hospital in Marja. All families were assisted with cash *in lieu* of NFI (by DRC) and food (by WFP), while 8 families in Lashkar Gah who did not have any alternative accommodation were provided with tents (by UNHCR). Some cases with specific needs (largely children, or persons with no family support etc.) were referred to service providers and received additional support by UNHCR.

## South-eastern Region

### Khost

During May 2015, UNHCR through its partner (APA) verified 154 conflict-induced IDP families/859 individuals in Khost province. Some of the families had been displaced since 2014 and had not yet been assessed. The main reasons reported for their displacement were armed conflict between AGEs and ANSF, inter-tribal disputes over ownership of land, general insecurity as well as intimidation and harassment by AGEs. Almost all the profiled families were living in rented houses and had largely access to potable clean water for drinking and washing purposes. No specific barriers were highlighted on access to education and health services or to local markets. Nonetheless, scarce resources and the eroding support of the hosting families remained a concern for the IDPs.

## Western Region

### Farah

During May 2015 the joint assessment team in Farah city visited 166 families out of which 124 families/784 individuals were identified as genuine conflict-induced IDPs. The families were mainly from Balabuluk, Khaki Safid and Pusht Rod districts of Farah and were settled in the centre of Farah city. Out of 124 IDP families, 80 families were identified as in need of emergency food and NFIs. According to the interviewed IDPs,

<sup>3</sup> Out of the 4,515 identified as in need. No show to the distribution points accounts for this slight difference.

Bala Buluk is becoming one of the most insecure areas in Farah, where intense clashes between ANSF and AGEs often occur.

## Displacement Watch

Information not yet entered into the Population Monitoring Tool (PMT)

### Helmand

During the first days of June, local authorities in Helmand reported new displacement within the Northern districts (Sangin, Kajaki, Musa Qala) as a consequence of renewed fighting between AGEs and ANSF. While the districts still remained non accessible for the Kandahar IDP Task Force Members, displacement was also reported to Lashkar Gah (some 100 families) and to Marja (230 families). On 3<sup>rd</sup> June the members of the IDP Task Force at regional level (in Kandahar) agreed to conduct an assessment in Lashkar Gah and Marja. The findings of the assessment will be reflected in the report of June.

An analysis of the dynamics of the conflict in the area indicates that instability and confrontation will persist in the Northern part of Helmand Province, and – more generally – in the whole Northern belt of the Southern region. Localised displacement to areas that are currently accessible to the IDP Task Force will continue, while more substantial displacement is likely to occur in areas currently not accessible. In these circumstances, a review and examination on the challenges to humanitarian access and on how to make steps to enlarge it becomes critical to fulfil the humanitarian imperative and bring assistance to the neediest populations.

### Uruzgan

During an emergency meeting of the Provincial Disaster Management Council (PDMC) in Uruzgan on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, authorities reported significant displacement within Derawood, Khas Uruzgan, Caharchine districts and to Trin Kot Centre. The displacement was reportedly triggered by armed confrontations following insurgency activities in the northern part of the province. A joint assessment team with members of the Kandahar IDP Task Force was directed to Derawood on 8-9 June, and visited several accessible areas of reported displacement around the district centre together with PDMC/government authorities. The joint team could not find displaced families in Derawood indicated areas and the local communities reported that the IDP families had returned to their areas of origin. On 10<sup>th</sup> June, the joint assessment teams visited Trin Kot district centre to assess IDP families from the above mentioned areas. More details will be reflected in the report of June.

### Kunduz

During the first half of June, the verification of petitions and the joint assessments of the IDPs who were displaced to Kunduz city in late April and May was completed. By mid-June, 4,474<sup>3</sup> families have been assisted with food, NFI or an equivalent support in cash, hygiene kits by WFP, UNHCR, NRC, and UNICEF respectively.

The situation in Kunduz province continues to be extremely volatile and displacement dynamics remain under observation by the IDP Task Force in Kunduz and the regional Task Force in Mazar. During the month of June the conflict continued intermittently, and towards mid-June it intensified again, with rapid territorial gains and losses for both parties in conflict in various districts surrounding the Kunduz urban area, particularly Chardara and Dashte Archi. These developments halted the initially visible return movements to areas of origin for families previously displaced to Kunduz; created situations of split families; and started causing other displacement movements towards Kunduz city, with new petitions being filed with DoRR.

### **Badakhshan**

The situation in Badakhshan continues to remain very fluid, with reported new arrivals during the month of June that will need to be jointly assessed. After the recent events in Yangam district of Badakhshan, humanitarian actors have tried to obtain information on possible displacement within and from the district. The areas remain inaccessible for the IDP Task Force members, but dialogue continues with ARCS in an effort to reach out to the area, considering their broader access.

### **Nangarhar**

While displacement trends in the Eastern Region had remained constant during the first months of the year, a surge has been reported to the IDP Task Force in Nangarhar during the first weeks of June. Some 500 families have filed initial petitions with the Governor to receive assistance as conflict-induced IDPs. Families originate from Kot and Achin districts of Nangarhar province and have been displaced largely to Jalalabad city and Behsud. Reportedly, the cause of the displacement has been the intimidation, threats and harassment allegedly perpetrated by group of fighters who had pledged allegiance to ISIS/Daesh in those districts. The IDP task force is planning a joint assessment of the areas where IDP families are reported, including to obtain first-hand information on the dynamics of the displacement. Complete details of the assessment will be reflected in the monthly IDP Update of June.

## **National IDP Policy Update**

During the month of May, a dissemination of the sensitisation material prepared by the National IDP Policy Working Group started in the three Pilot provinces as well as in additional provinces as agreed by the Working Group in its meeting on 14 May.

In the same meeting, the governmental participants of the IDP Policy Working Group agreed to increase their efforts to promote and sensitise other governmental authorities and their respective institutions on the Policy. In addition, as part of an EU-funded intervention, NRC and IRC presented their plans for the second half of the year to train authorities at national and local level on the aspect, content, obligations stemming from the IDP Policy.

In Nangarhar, the drafting sub-group of the IDP Policy Implementation Committee continued to liaise and gather contributions from the various line ministries and provincial institutions to complete the Provincial Action Plan.

In Herat, the appointment of the new Governor marked a very positive attitude and activism towards the IDP Policy implementation Process. A provincial workshop is planned after the month of Ramadan to launch the IDP Policy Implementation Committee, discuss on the aspects of internal displacement in the province, agree on priority actions and start the drafting of the Provincial Action Plan.





**Afghanistan conflict-induced IDPs by province of displacement profiled from January to May 2015**



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