



DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS - SUMMARY

IDP Movement Tracking, Needs and Vulnerability Analysis

Herat and Helmand Afghanistan



Samuel Hall. (www.samuelhall.org) is a research and consulting company with headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. We specialise in socio-economic surveys, private and public sector studies, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessments for governmental, non-governmental and international organisations. Our teams of field practitioners, academic experts and local interviewers have years of experience leading research in Afghanistan. We use our expertise to balance needs of beneficiaries with the requirements of development actors. This has enabled us to acquire a firm grasp of the political and socio-cultural context in the country; design data collection methods and statistical analyses for monitoring, evaluating, and planning sustainable programmes and to apply cross-disciplinary knowledge in providing integrated solutions for efficient and effective interventions.

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Background

This study presents the results of IOM's **IDP Movement Tracking and Needs and Vulnerability Analysis Exercise** conducted by Samuel Hall Consulting. It seeks to provide IOM – and its migration and displacement partners – with field-based evidence of issues that negatively impact both conflict and natural disaster-induced IDPs in Afghanistan. The focus of this report is on the provinces of Herat (West) and Helmand (South), identified in OCHA's humanitarian overview as provinces that ranked highest on vulnerability indicators collected by clusters.

According to UNHCR 2013 estimates, there are nearly 620,000 IDPs across the country, 20% of whom were displaced in 2013 alone¹. The trend of increase in recent migration includes conflict induced IDPs forced to flee unsafe provinces as well as natural disasters affecting livelihoods and nomadic routes. Droughts, floods and heavy rainfall affected over 9,000 families, all across northern, southern, western and central parts of the country². Drought in Ghor and Badghis provinces forced 295 families to migrate to Herat province. In addition, UNHCR has also indicated that the 2013 continued to see trends in secondary displacement and displacement of returned refugees to both Herat and Helmand.

In such a context of increasing internal displacement, and repeated primary, secondary and tertiary displacement, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) covers a set of questions that enquire about IDP families' history of movement. It records through the responses, the family's destination, type, year, duration, and reason of displacement starting from the place of origin. The DTM also provides a specific focus on IDPs who may have previously been returned refugees or deportees. In addition, the study builds upon past research conducted by Samuel Hall Consulting on profiling IDPs by conducting a survey of 360 IDP households from each province. Through both qualitative and quantitative data, the study builds a profile of IDP communities based on

- **Migration profile and movement intentions**
- **Protection profile** of male/females, adults/youth;
- **Needs** and ability to fulfil them; and existing **vulnerability assessment**

The fieldwork was led in two provinces – Herat and Helmand – in rural, peri-urban and urban locations with a total of six Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). 720 IDP households were surveyed (120 IDP households in each PSU), along with focus group discussions, interviews with community leaders and key informant interviews with governmental agencies, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organizations. For a full overview of the methodology – a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods – please refer to the full version of the report.

¹ UNHCR, *Conflict Induced Internal Displacement – Monthly Update*, November 2013, Afghanistan

² IOM (2013), *Humanitarian Assistance Program Cumulative Report – January-October 2013*.

MIGRATION PROFILE AND MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

Herat and Helmand share dynamic migration profiles: a considerable share has previously crossed the border South and West to Pakistan and Iran, some voluntary others by force, before and after being displaced internally. A large share of returning migrants and returning refugees merge with a population forced to move internally due to conflict and/or natural disasters.

The migration profile of IDPs in Herat and Helmand is complex. Migration as a coping mechanism for economic and social purposes and proximity to Pakistan and Iran are at the root of varied migrations trends. After first displacement from place of origin, voluntary and forced migration internally and from across the border leads to a diverse set of migrating profiles: migrants who were *deportees* or *returnees* have mixed with *secondary displaced* and *first time displaced* IDPs.

There is a clear urbanisation trend in both cities with IDP inflows adding pressure on the absorption capacities. In addition to the overlap between returnee and IDP categories, the survey also shows that IDPs are in search of better opportunities with a mix of push and pull factors leading them to migrate to urban areas. IDPs are part of the mass of populations that have moved towards safer cities with better economic prospects, at a time of increasing physical and human insecurity in Afghanistan in 2013.

Both inter and intra provincial movement is recorded. The survey captures *inter provincial movement* from districts spread across 13 provinces of Afghanistan. According to UNHCR data, between October and December 2013, 450 families from Ghor and 336 families from Badghis contributed to the largest inter-provincial IDP flow to Herat, which was also verified in the surveyed locations. **In addition intra provincial movement accounts for 63% displacement in Helmand and 24% displacement in Herat.** Movement towards the economic centres of the provinces was due to conflict in Helmand and drought and conflict in Herat on their periphery districts. New intra-provincial displacement also includes, especially in Herat, sedentarised Kuchis displaced from their places of origin due to conflict or drought, having lost their livestock and homes. There is a need to recognize Kuchis as a vulnerable population among IDP caseloads.

The data indicates that conflict was the primary, and natural disaster was the secondary, reason for displacement. Multiple migration layers complicate the understanding behind the drivers of internal displacement. In the sample surveyed, the co-existence of multiple drivers of displacement was highlighted by IDPs themselves. 55% of IDPs mentioned conflict and insecurity, 32% both natural disasters and conflict, 12,5% natural disasters alone, and 1% man-made disasters. Incidents of violence recorded are persecution, violent retaliation and extortion from armed actors (mainly AGEs) whereas drought is the main reason for displacement due to natural disaster.

Tribal/ethnic affinities and winter assistance are the pull factors for IDPs to cities. 79% of the IDPs in Helmand are Pashtuns settled within predominantly Pashtun communities. Herat is more multi ethnic with a majority of Tajik IDPs (60,5%), followed by one third of Pashtun IDPs (34,2%), and a minority of Hazara (4,2%) IDPs. Pashtun IDPs recorded in Herat are for the most part composed of Kuchis. Winter assistance provision, better security conditions, coupled with a more stable economic context and greater multi-culturalism have resulted in Herat becoming a more attractive destination for new IDPs seeking security.

The majority of people (61%) are undecided about their decision to settle locally or to move again. Their preference is the former, but they are doubtful as to the feasibility of this option given a context that is not conducive to IDP integration into host communities or urban settings. Most people remain undecided because they are either not given the opportunity to integrate or do not know how this option could be viable. They recognize not having enough information to make an informed decision. **90% of respondents declared not having enough information about making a decision to return.** In general, IDPs were on the look out for two types of information:

- Information on assistance from international agencies and
- Information regarding the situation in their place of origin

At an individual level, cross-border movement for work characterizes IDPs' movement intentions, with heads of households or single adult males crossing the border and leaving their families behind – rather than at the family level. For the most part, men migrate to Iran for work, sending remittances back to their families. **At a household level, families' migration intentions remain largely focused on local integration.** This desire to integrate with the local community increases with the duration of settlement in the current location, while financial considerations are the main obstacles against further movement. Only 5 families indicated a preference to return to their places of origin and 3 families a preference to relocate. Families required a combination food security, shelter, employment opportunities and education for their children in order to integrate, relocate or return.



Field teams conducting Focus Group Discussion with adult males in Pashan IDP camp, Hirat. The families were a combination of conflict induced and natural disaster induced IDPs from Ghor and Badghis. (Photo: IOM/Abdul Haq, December 2013)

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Understanding movement intentions: Focus on local integration – investigating correlations.

Preference for local integration increases with the duration of stay and with the number of causes of displacement. These hypotheses were further tested using a common method of correlation (Pearson correlation coefficient) and regression analysis to assess dependence between different sets of variables and the choice to locally integrate. For instance, data collected does not show any statistical relationship between the cause of displacement (whether conflict or natural disaster induced displacement) and the intention to locally integrate. Yet, other significant correlations were drawn between the preference to integrate locally and:

1. *Duration of displacement:* As the duration of stay in the place of displacement increases, the share of families who decide to remain in the current location also increases.
2. *Number of household members and number of active household members:* Those who stated the intention to integrate locally not only have a statistically significant larger household but also a great number of people working in the household.
3. *Nature of employment (i.e. casual, temporary or permanent jobs):* The data shows that there is a statistically significant correlation between nature of employment (permanent, temporary or casual / day labour) and the desire to integrate locally. Those with the most unstable jobs, that are daily or casual labour, were less likely to want to integrate locally (64%), while those with permanent (78%) or temporary jobs (82%) showed a greater trend towards local integration.
4. *Housing and agricultural land ownership:* Those who own housing and/or agricultural land at place of origin are less likely to state a preference for local integration.
5. *Access to health care and clean water:* The data reveals the strongest ties between two sets of vulnerabilities and the desire to locally integrate. These are (i) a statistical relationship between access to clean water and the desire to locally integrate, and (ii) functioning health facilities covered by income and the desire to locally integrate. IDPs are highly influenced in their choice of durable solution by the access that they have, and the ability that they have to cover their health and safe water needs with their income in the location of displacement.

PROTECTION PROFILE

Protection issues are endemic to the plight of internally displaced persons, and many are aggravated as a consequence of displacement. Effects of displacement increase and decrease between different demographic segments such as women, children and youth.

Displaced families are likely to self-select place of destination based on their perceived access to remedial services available in the intended place. There were more families with physical and mental disabilities in Helmand, while families with members requiring medical attention were more likely to be found in Herat. 55% families reported that they had at least one member suffering from a disability that required special attention. Most were related to physical disabilities, sickness or mental conditions. Additionally, 11% of respondents also indicated the presence of elderly members and 3% reported pregnant women. **Child labour was the biggest reported protection issue** with 16% households in Herat and 11% households in Helmand indicating the same.

During the period of displacement, education is the first need to be forgone. The gender disparity in literacy rates was evident with 97.5% of females and 75% males responding they were illiterate. Access to education for women remains a challenge due to traditional social norms prevalent in most rural parts of the country from where many IDPs originate. Low levels of literacy limit their skills, along with the number of employment and income streams these IDPs can generate after displacement. School attendance for IDP children was higher in Helmand than in Herat, however, **less than one third of IDP girls in households surveyed attended school.**

Many IDPs travel without official documentation, which increases vulnerability to harassment by government authorities, restricts access to local schools and even employment opportunities. One-third (34.7%) of respondents in Herat said that they held no documents, as opposed to 4% in Helmand. Official identification documents are essential for accessing health and education facilities, as well as many employment opportunities. Among the types of documentation held, the most widespread were the *tazkera* (national identity card) and election cards³.

Challenging post-displacement livelihood scenario

Lack of desirable skills for the urban market leads to chronic unemployment or sporadic daily wage work. The average duration of displacement for unemployed individuals is little over 1 year indicating income vulnerability of the household for up to a year after displacement. The rural-urban migrants are particularly vulnerable, having no opportunity for agriculture and livestock in the city. Mostly, IDPs were involved in construction as daily wage labour or assisting as casual labour in other sectors. Only 31% indicated permanent jobs in agriculture, services and trade and transport.

Challenges to obtaining and sustaining livelihoods were lack of job opportunities, lack/mismatch of skill and lack of support from local authorities/markets. Pashtun IDPs interviewed in Herat felt discriminated. They felt that the authorities, from other ethnicities, had a preference for Dari speakers, and that Pashtuns themselves were not sufficiently represented in the government. In addition, local workers are often favoured over IDPs due to mistrust and suspicion towards migrant

³ The high share of households who have election cards may be a reflection of the impending elections in 2014 and the fact that 40,000 IDP households in Herat and Helmand form an important voter bloc - UNHCR, *Conflict Induced Internal Displacement – Monthly Update*, December, 2013.

communities. **Coping mechanisms such as diversification of income are also severely restricted** because of the absence of additional family members who can generate income or the lack of skills and general lack of employment. Women in particular are reduced to staying at home adding to their isolation.

Higher levels of poverty due to lack of livelihoods lead to borrowing as a coping strategy. 90% households in Herat and 83% in Helmand have borrowed in the past. Inability to payback loans when they cannot find employment heightens protection risks for IDP family members, and sometimes leads to practices of selling daughters for marriage. New IDPs had taken debt from their relatives back in the place of origin to pay for travel and sustenance for a few days after arriving. Protracted IDPs had more options than relatives as longer duration of displacement leads to borrowing more from local communities as networks are established.

Negligible scope for permanent residence after displacement

For the most part, IDP households have no property to speak of in their place of displacement. IDPs live for the greater part in informal settlements. In urban areas, IDPs in Herat live in precarious open spaces – these are newly arrived IDPs in need of immediate winter assistance and shelter. IDPs who migrated recently stay in tents or temporary shelters provided by international organisations/charitable individuals or bought by themselves. 95% IDPs in both cities have no documentation of ownership and as a result, are under constant threat of eviction.

Property in the place of origin includes houses, land for housing and agricultural land. 62% and 10% of IDPs indicated that they held ownership or right of use with documentation for these. Conflict and drought has damaged/destroyed a lot of houses and land. However, as duration of displacement increases, more IDPs claim that they do not know about the conditions of their properties. Access to these properties is restricted to almost 52% of the population mainly because of land grabbing by warlords and extortionists. The physical threat associated with trying to reclaim such property along with the lack of access to formal systems of justice adds to the protection issue of the family in trying to return.

Individuals – women, youth and children most vulnerable

Vulnerability of IDP women – especially widowed women - stems from the low level of participation in the economic activity of the household. More specifically economic isolation and loss of social networks, lack or mismatch of skills unsuitable for the urban setting, lack of access to household infrastructure (sanitation and health care) and lack of access to education due to restricted movement were identified as vulnerabilities induced from displacement. The tendency for men to go to Iran/Pakistan for work means added vulnerabilities and protection concerns for women left behind. However, heads of households expressed favour for women participating in vocational trainings and contributing to income from home based work, which has implication for implementation and coordination of assistance programs.

Youth (referring to the category between 15 to 24 years of age) suffer from a double layer of vulnerability: illiteracy and unemployment. On the one hand, the lack of educational facilities and the displacement impact on education means low literacy rates, while on the other, the lack of jobs means that the youth's time is often underutilized. The concern among community leaders and host

communities is the prevalence of **drug addiction** among the unemployed youth, linked with **petty criminality**.

Young girls are under serious risk of child marriage. High level of debt within the IDP communities, often leads to families selling their daughters in marriage. Although, this is not reported by the IDPs themselves, development practitioners indicate that the phenomenon is prevalent. Additionally, the **lack of education for children is linked directly to instances of paid or unpaid child labour.** In all of the IDP camps visited in Helmand, for instance, children above the age of 7 are involved in different jobs – from street vending, to the collection of waste and garbage removal.



A young girl in Mohajer Camp, Helmand, taking care of her siblings. Pressures of livelihood and debt cycles often result in households selling daughters as a coping strategy. (Photo: Samuel Hall/Abdul Basir, December 2013)

Local disputes

IDP communities reported issues with land site disputes, host communities and local authorities:

- **Site disputes.** IDPs in Mohajer camp, Helmand, face the threat of eviction everyday from the local community because they want to utilize the land for cultivation. By comparison, Noorzai village in Herat is based on desert land and as such is no use for anyone. But such land comes at the cost of amenities such as access to water and sanitation.
- **Relations with host communities can be strained due to land disputes, debt and crime** (with the host community blaming IDPs for opium smuggling, thefts, kidnappings, killings and even relations with AGEs. In other areas, host communities have assisted the new IDP families with food, shelter and even temporary access to land.
- **Relations with local authorities are worse.** Regular attempts by local authorities in Herat to move or relocate IDPs cause tension in IDP communities. In addition, local authorities referring to IDPs as '*migrants*' in their own country cause resentment.

NEEDS AND CURRENT VULNERABILITIES

The most basic requirements of survival, i.e. shelter, food and nutrition, protection from winter, health, water and sanitation are a daily struggle for some IDP households. Although, they tend to reduce with time, the consequences of unavailability initially in the displacement phase are severe.



A man in Pashan IDP camp, Herat stands in front of his non-winterized tent (Photo: Samuel Hall/Ahmad Shah, December 2013)

In addition to the protections issues described above, lack of access to housing and shelter, food and Non Food Items (NFIs), Water Sanitation and Housing (WASH) leads to health issues, especially in the winter months. It was noticed that while indicating their requirement, new IDPs prioritized immediate winter assistance as opposed to protracted cases, who desired longer-term solutions.

Shelter

The housing and living conditions of IDPs immediately after displacement are inadequate in terms of providing security that permanent residences provide. The kind of shelter used differs between the types of residences of the IDPs. Most respondents living in open spaces are from Herat, staying in tents provided by international agencies. In total 51% of the IDPs surveyed are living in temporary shelters.

Unmet shelter needs are greater for IDPs in Herat than in Helmand. Specifically, the following indicate the immediate shelter needs for the IDPs:

1. Urban and rural respondents who are new IDPs are more inclined towards asking for shelter kits or permanent/transit shelters than better-established IDPs. Those in peri-urban settlements desire similar shelter kits, land for shelter and protective walls.
2. Conflict-induced IDPs express more immediate shelter and housing needs than what is required by natural disaster induced IDPs, i.e. shelter kits, blanket/bedding and household items.

Interventions by government, international organizations and NGOs paint a similar profile: the focus of assistance is on conflict induced, newly displaced, urban and rural IDPs while natural disaster IDPs and peri-urban IDPs received only marginal assistance. There are also significant provincial disparities between Helmand and Herat – hence pointing to recommendations to fill both beneficiary and provincial gaps by stakeholders.

Non-food items and winter needs

The following observations were made about the assistance being provided by aid agencies for winterizations:

- **Despite winter assistance being provided by agencies, In Herat, IDPs still reported important winter-related needs.** This is due to the fact that IDP households sell their blankets and empty gas cylinders for money to buy food. This coping strategy needs to be taken into account while disbursing emergency needs to IDP households.
- **The timing of winter assistance is a key factor in increasing or decreasing vulnerabilities among IDP households.** Heads of household and men avoid going to find work during the day as they are afraid that, in their absence, assistance will be delivered but not given to the women, youth or children in the household.
- **Aid diversion was high among the concerns held by IDPs surveyed, and the need for aid a priority (above finding paid work) for IDP households.** This dependency on aid is a result of the risks and dangers of the harsh Afghan winter on IDP households: the greatest threat that IDP respondents fear, are the health risks for infant children in the approaching winter.

In **Herat**, winterization was underway in December but reported as insufficient and not adapted to the size of households. In **Helmand**, most of the IDP households surveyed are able to purchase fuel from the city market for heating and cooking. IDPs in Helmand seemed prepared for the winter – with more permanent shelters that protected them from natural hazards, better than the tents and temporary housing seen in Herat. Reported winter assistance needs were high at the time of the survey. IDPs were focused on emergency – rather than long-term – needs.

In Herat,

- 94% respondents report that they required a source of heating
- 83% need clothing
- 75% require bedding and blankets.
- Fuel and electricity was another unmet need that the IDPs indicated.

In Helmand,

- 70% households need a source of heating
- Along with fuel and electricity, clothing, bedding and blankets.

Food security, Health and WASH

There are both invisible and visible barriers to IDP households' food security:

- 1) Physical barrier due to distance from food markets
- 2) Visible barrier due to lack of access to farming land owned by host community

In the absence of food, children are often sent to scavenge. This leaves them extremely vulnerable and out in the open without adult supervision. Expenditure on food forms more than 85% of income, which leaves households with nothing to buy fuel for heating with and vulnerable to food price shocks. 83% people in Herat indicated that their food expenses could not be covered by their incomes. Only 28% people in Helmand have the same issue.

Health issues that are faced by IDP households are outcomes of displacement-related deprivation.

72% of respondents reported that one of their household members had been sick or injured in the

last 3 months. Scavenged food comes from discarded and spoiled food from rubbish outside hotels and residential areas. A lack of heating means that individuals collect plastic and papers (unclean when burned), dried up twigs and leaves from the surrounding areas to burn as fuel, which causes indoor pollution. Finally, a lack of sanitation, solid waste disposal and wastewater management leads to unhygienic conditions of living. All this manifests in the form of respiratory diseases and diarrhoea. On top of this the onset of winter causes fevers and colds. However, there is a sharp difference between the health requirement from IDPs in Herat (higher) and Helmand (lower).

The informal settlements and villages have no proper facilities for water and residents have to rely on shallow wells that they dig themselves. Hence, people complain of the taste of the water. Two-thirds of respondents – 63 % – identified drinking water as a problem in the locations surveyed. Other sources of water available to the IDPs are water tankers by international organisations, bore wells dug by the DoRR and in case of Helmand, the Helmand River. In cases of assisted water supply, quantity was always an issue. Problems related to access of water are often cited as a cause of tension among IDPs and host communities in FGDs.

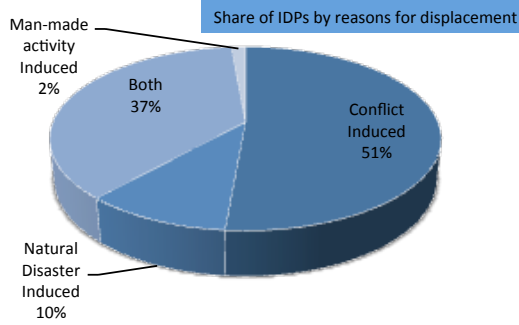
The lack of sanitation facilities results in open defecation outside the house. Temporary facilities provided by UNHCR are not enough to completely prevent open defecation. As a result, the lack of hygiene is a significant and widespread problem noted by the research team, with IDPs confined in spaces and not having proper waste disposal mechanisms. 64% of IDPs in Herat and 42% of IDPs in Helmand indicate no proper access to sanitation facilities.

PROVINCIAL SNAPSHOTS FROM RESEARCH FINDINGS

Substantial provincial differences are observed between IDPs in Herat and Helmand. The following summary tables provide a snapshot of the profiles of the two provinces in terms of the IDPs that have settled there. Provincial differences are observed primarily due to difference in the durations of displacement noticed between the two samples.

Helmand

Displacement & Migration



Intra-Province (Districts in Helmand)

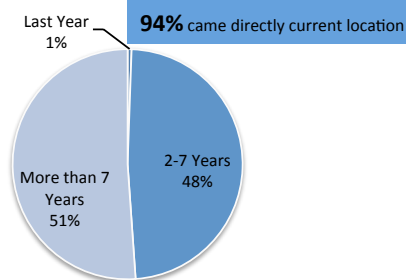
Musakala, Marji, Nadali and Nawa

Inter-Province (Provinces)

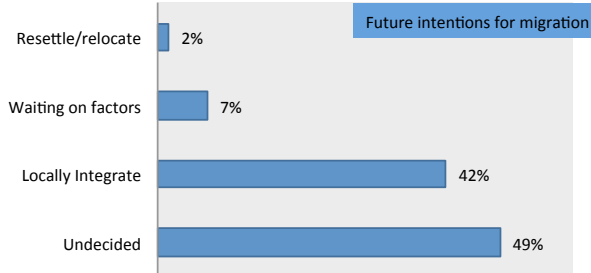
Kandahar, Uruzagan Farah and Ghor

Ghazni and Jowzjan

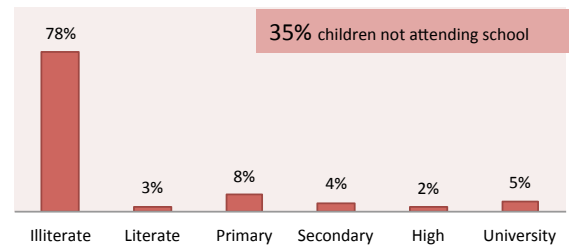
Balkh, Faryab, Bamyan, Saripul and Dailundi



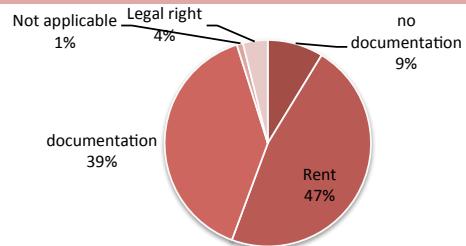
79% of the IDPs in Helmand are Pashtun



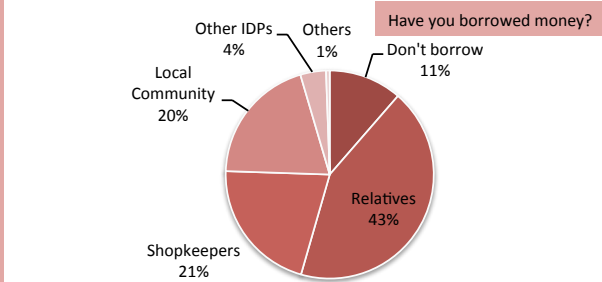
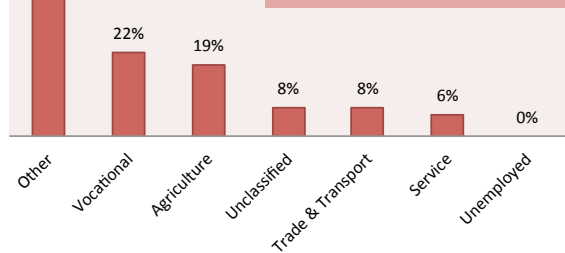
Household Socio-economic and Protection Profile



Property Ownership in place of refuge: 14% households under threat of eviction



70% households without fixed income



89% people rely on debt for sustenance

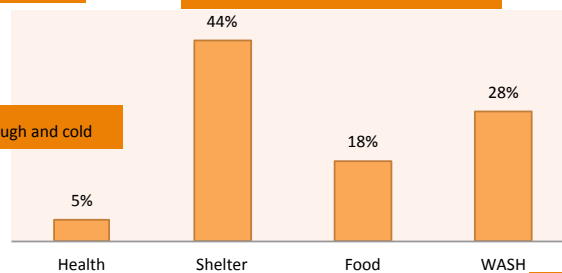
Needs and Vulnerability

70% require source for heating during winter

Insufficient income for basic amenities

57% indicate unmet need of cooking fuel

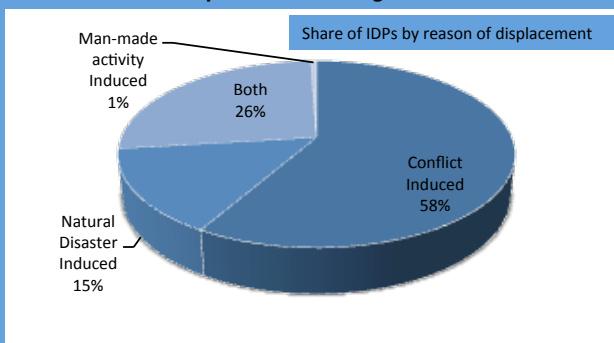
81% respondents complain of fever, cough and cold



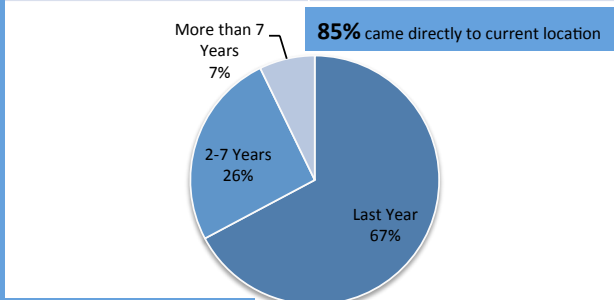
63% require shelter kits and permanent residences

Herat

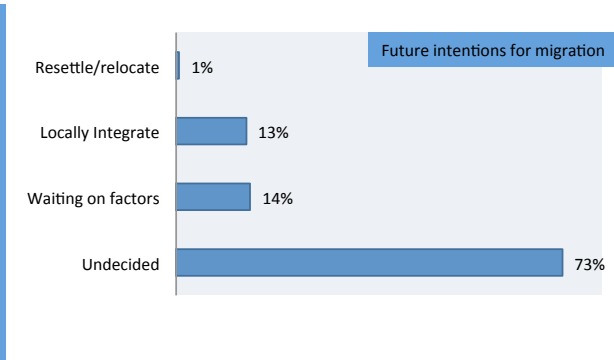
Displacement & Migration



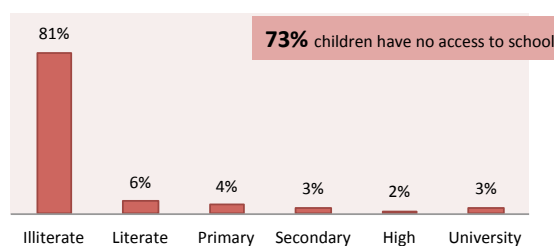
Intra-Province (Districts in Herat)	Inter-Province
Gulran and Pashtun-Zargun	Ghor (Chaghcheran)
	Badghis (Qala-e-Naw)
	Faryab, Kandahar and Khost



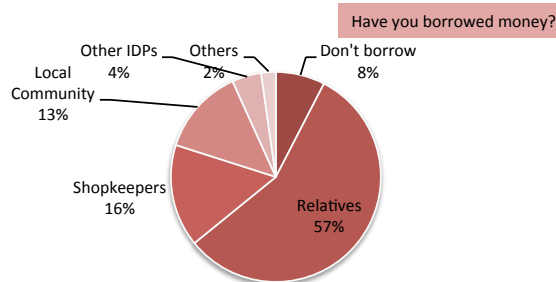
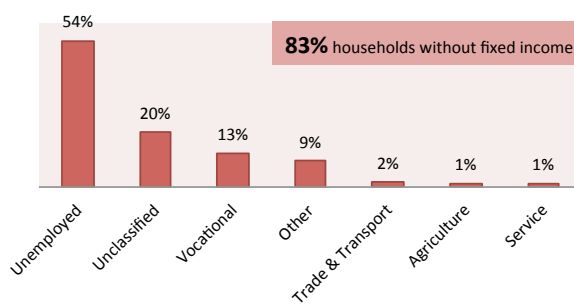
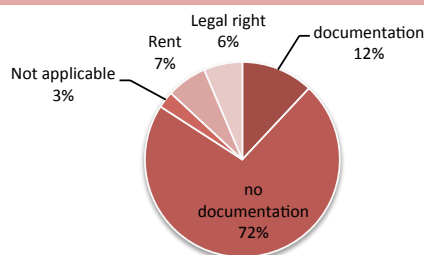
61% IDPs in Herat are Tajiks



Household Socio-economic and Protection Profile



Property Ownership in place of refuge: 81% households under threat of eviction



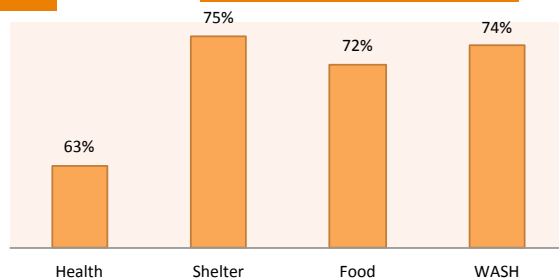
92% people rely on debt for sustenance

Needs and Vulnerability

94% require source for heating during winter

Insufficient income for basic amenities

63% require shelter kits



68% respondents complain of fever, cough and cold

87% indicate difficulty in feeding adults in the household

CHARACTERISTIC	HERAT	HELMAND
1. MIGRATION PROFILE and MOVEMENT INTENTIONS		
Source of displacement Intra-Province (district) Intra-Province (province)	Intra-Province: Gulran, Pashtun-Zargun, Ab Khamari, Koshki Khorna Inter Province: Ghazni, Faryab, Badghis, Kandahar, Ghor and Khost	Intra Province: Nawa-e-Barakzai, Nawzad, Baghran, Garmser, Musaqala, Khanshin and Sangen Inter Province: Ghazni, Balkh Jowzjan, Faryab, Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzagan, Ghor Bamyān, Saripul
Major Ethnicity	Tajiks	Pashtuns
Average Duration of Displacement	2 Years and 10 Months	9 years and 7 Months
Intermediate and Secondary Movement	15% migrated to an intermediate location prior to the current location	6% migrated to an intermediate location prior to current location
Migration Intentions and Durable Solutions	72 % are undecided 42% will locally integrate 0,3% will return to PoO 0,3% will settle elsewhere	49% are undecided 13% will locally integrate 1% will return to PoO 0,6% settle elsewhere
2. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS		
Average Household size	7 (1 adult male, 1 adult female, 4 children)	12 (3 adult males, 3 adult females, 6 children)
Primary sector of employment	Unemployed/ Casual labour	Construction, Casual Labour and Agricultural Wage Labour
Challenges to income generation	Lack of skill/mismatched skills with new IDPs. Unavailability and lack of access is also a problem.	Lack of availability for casual labourers is sometimes an issue
Nature of Debt	Most were under debt from their relatives and friends taken pre-displacement to move or to sustain household consumption	Debt from shopkeepers and local community was popular due to more established social networks
Property and ownership in place of current residence	Living in open spaces in tents. No ownership and documentation	Living in informal settlements in mud houses. Generally owned or right of use without documentation

CHARACTERISTIC	HERAT	HELMAND
3. RISK AND VULNERABILITIES		
Risk from unmet shelter needs <i>Specific needs</i>	High Shelter kits, permanent shelters	Low Land to construct shelter, shelter kits, Adequate piping/water system.
Risk from unmet NFI needs <i>Specific needs</i>	High Fuel, electricity, Source of heating, bedding & blankets and clothing	Medium Source of heating, fuel & electricity, clothing, beddings & blankets
Risk from Food insecurity <i>Specific needs</i>	High Feeding family members of all ages, cooking fuel	Medium Cooking fuel, feeding family members above 18 years.
Risk from health issues <i>Specific needs</i>	High (From fever, cough & cold, Vomiting & diarrhea) Mobile, clinic units, female doctors/midwives, health referral system	Medium (From fever, cough & cold, vomiting & diarrhea) Female doctors/midwives, mobile clinic units
Risk from unmet WASH needs <i>Specific needs</i>	High Sanitation facilities, water containers in households, latrines	Low Latrines, Sanitation facilities, water containers in households
Vulnerabilities <i>Specific cases</i>	High Child marriage as a coping strategy from lack of income Youth afflicted to drugs due to lack of education and employment Female Headed Household likely to beg for income in absence of income stream	Low Maternal infections to pregnant women due to lack of medical facilities

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research draws stakeholders' attention to 5 core programmatic areas:

1. Filling in the information gap: Lack of information plagues IDP households and their access to durable solutions
2. Understanding movement intentions: Focus on local integration
3. Health and Clean Water: Strengthening access and quality of services
4. Winter assistance: A Pull factor, yet insufficient compared to needs
5. Targeting response to health, education, documentation, livelihoods, shelter needs

This research draws stakeholders' attention on vulnerabilities requiring coordinated response.

Among the types of vulnerabilities highlighted in this research are the prevalence of:

- Disabilities and families with special needs
- Low levels of education and the prevalence of illiteracy
- Lack of documentation and the lack of identification
- Livelihood challenges and the dual lack and mismatch of skills
- Damaged, destroyed and lost property and the prevalence of temporary housing
- Vulnerable demographic groups, specifically women, youth and children:
 - *Women* are socially and economically isolated in displacement;
 - *Youth* face the dual challenge of illiteracy and unemployment, preventing them from locally integrating and leading them to adverse coping mechanisms such as irregular economic migration and straying towards drugs and crime;
 - *Children* are specifically vulnerable in displacement: two thirds of IDP children in Herat and one third of those in Helmand did not go to school. Concerns of child marriage and child labour are main protection issues. Lack of education – and of education facilities for IDP children – further accentuates the problem.

A 9-point programming response plan

The full report details and recommends a 9-point programming response in Helmand and Herat:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Despite occurrence of periodic natural disasters, the lack of preparedness towards natural disasters and coordination mechanisms among relevant authorities and community members both in places of IDP origin and those of destination remains a major challenge. This is exacerbated by multiple migration layers that complicate the understanding behind the drivers of internal displacement.

- Supporting information management: Existing available disaster related information should be streamlined in ANDMA. The wealth of data being collected through assessments funded by various agencies should provide for enough baseline data that will aid in the development of a DRR strategy for Herat and Helmand, and linked to the implementation of the National IDP policy in these provinces.
- Towards increasing resiliency of communities: Migration to be included as a key indicator for data collection initiatives to identify push and pulls factors that need to be addressed and/or mitigated to ensure that mobility does not contribute to further instability.

2. Shelter interventions

- IDPs require shelter kits, permanent shelters, access to land and construction of protective walls for their housing
- Peri-urban IDPs must be included in as a focus in the provision of shelter assistance
- Shelter assistance to natural disaster-induced IDPs to be brought at par with assistance to conflict induced IDPs.

3. Non food items and winterization needs

In Herat, aid was considered insufficient while in Helmand, IDPs were better prepared for the winter. IDPs expressed needs in heating, clothing, bedding and blankets, fuel and electricity, as key concerns for the winter period

- Need to combine non-food with food aid to prevent a common trend of aid diversion
- Winterization assistance in Herat should be proportional to the family size and enough to sustain IDPs until the end of winter
- The set-up of a comprehensive national registration system is considered by IOM as a useful tool in tracking assistance provision and capturing migration intentions.

4. Improving food security

Barriers to food are physical – the distance from local markets being a financial disincentive blocking IDP households' access to proper food, and the lack of farming land that is mainly available to host communities but not IDP communities.

- Barriers to food are physical, even in peri-urban that do not benefit from proper access to food; hence city-fringe populations must be assisted to reach urban food markets
- Need to bridge better the provision of food aid since assistance right now is sporadic, ad hoc and insufficient.
- A mixed intervention approach combining food and non-food items is required especially during the winter season.

5. Health response

72% of households had one of their family members injured or sick in the last three months.

- Increase in the number of mobile clinics, health assessments and transportation options to the most nearby hospitals and clinics for the most serious cases.
- For the remaining, distribution of medication would suffice as the most prevalent health concerns can be remedied: vomiting, diarrhoea caused by the lack of hygiene, coughing and colds caused by the winter.

6. Water, sanitation and hygiene

Two thirds of IDPs reported not having access to clean drinking water, with clear implications for the health of their family members.

- Specialized interventions to provide families with sanitation facilities are required of humanitarian agencies on the ground – and should be negotiated with local authorities.
- Digging up of wells for IDPs in Herat by DoRR should be further capitalised on to extend similar interventions on a wider scale in Herat as well as in Helmand.

- For health hazards to be significantly diminished, the provision of potable water should be matched with the provision of sanitation facilities as part of a WASH strategy
- Advocacy efforts to be strengthened with government authorities to go beyond water tankers and emergency water supplies to longer term water provision.

7. Gender-based programming

One of the key findings of this research is the willingness – and even demand – for IDP women to become economic actors in their households.

- Vocational training is required first and foremost for economic participation of women
- Interventions will need to be focused on home-based livelihood activities
- A review of IDP women’s skills and a parallel labour market study can result in identifying the most financially viable skills to teach to women in Herat and Helmand.

8. Youth-based programming

IDP youths are seen as a ‘problematic category’ by IDP and host communities. IDP elders and heads of households reported not being able to offer opportunities for their youth to contribute to their households while host communities highlight security risks posed by youth.

- The dual challenge of illiteracy and lack of skills has to form the basis of youth-sensitive programming. Programs need to engage the time of the youth with skill building/education considering that individuals with similar ages need to be regrouped.
- A review of youth skills and local labour markets is required to build tailored interventions for IDP youth in these provinces.

9. Child protection response

The lack of educational facilities and female teachers were blamed for the low levels of school enrolment among IDP children. Even in the most conservative areas of Helmand surveyed, respondents were in favour of sending their children to school if the infrastructure existed.

- Lack of facilities, protective walls, and gender-sensitive educational opportunities has to be addressed by a consortium of actors mixing government (for public schools) and NGOs, to support the government in the initial stages of setting up “schools for IDPs” in the locations surveyed.
- Interventions to derail practices of child marriage and child labour noted in the qualitative data for this research.

Building an information and counselling programme for IDPs

As the National IDP Policy is being rolled out in the provinces, IOM's role in support of the government should be to:

- ✓ Clarify through the training of civil servants at national and subnational levels the guiding principles on internal displacement, along with national responsibilities towards IDPs,
- ✓ Build the capacity of ANDMA and MoRR to coordinate activities and liaise with other relevant ministries (MoPH, MoLSAMD) to mainstream displacement issues in their response,
- ✓ Strengthen role and capacity of national authorities to address IDP needs including developing an effective information management systems with technical assistance,
- ✓ In parallel with the above, provide national stakeholders with information from tracking mechanisms, DTM and other surveys, in a succinct and 'ready to use' format in order for them to provide information to communities across IDP locations in Afghanistan,
- ✓ Provide communities with advocacy efforts to heighten attention at the national and subnational levels.

This research highlights the need to regularly monitor movement intentions and provide an information base to IDPs in their location of displacement. This can be implemented through:

- ✓ An information campaign addressed to all community members through community-wide meetings, and sub-meetings disaggregated by gender and age,
- ✓ Counselling services for households and individuals tailored at specific demographic groups: heads of households, women, youth and children. Second, these services should be tailored to specific factors that influence local integration: disaggregating by household size, nature of employment, access to health care and clean water,
- ✓ Information updates on locations of origin and the feasibility of return as a durable solution, with updates on physical and economic security, infrastructure and services, in provinces and districts of origin.

These two priorities will allow IOM to fill in the information gap highlight in this study while capturing movement intentions and protection needs.

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