

Monthly Migration Movements

Internal Displacement Before International Migration

June 2018

Introduction

In Afghanistan, there is a growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) as mobility has become a coping strategy for many due to continuous insecurity, conflict, human rights violations, and politico-economic instability.¹ In 2017 only, there was approximately 474,000 new conflict-induced displaced people recorded in the country;² most of those fled to neighboring areas close to their home. Afghans also move internally due to natural disasters such as floods, famine, earthquakes and landslides. For example, displacements due to famine and landslides cause many Afghans to be displaced annually in the north of the country (especially Saripul, Faryab and Jawzjan).³ In total, during 2017, approximately 27,000 Afghans were displaced due to natural disasters.⁴

To date, little is known about the relationship between internal movements and international migration flows. In Afghanistan, there is almost no research focused on IDPs and their future plans to move abroad. The high number of returnees, especially forced returns during 2016-17 from Pakistan and 2018 from Iran, add to the complexity. Many do not return to their province of origin for reasons such as insecurity and lack of access to health and social services but rather ends up as IDPs.⁵ It is unknown how many of these will re-migrate internationally.

The present summary uses 4Mi data to analyse the experiences of internal displacement amongst a sample of Afghans who intend to migrate abroad. The Afghans interviewed for the summary are largely Pashtun, Hazara and Tajik men from rural areas in Afghanistan, from the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunduz, Balkh, Herat and Daykundi. The majority have primary and secondary or high school level educations and report that they want to leave Afghanistan due to economic (40%) or political (20%) reasons.

4Mi - Internal Displacement Experience

According to the findings from the 4Mi data, 41% percent of the respondents have experienced internal displacement within Afghanistan (graph 1). This proportion is relatively low considering the prolonged political and economic instability in the country. Thus, this finding needs to be

¹ Afghanistan: Cross-border Return to Internal Displacement, available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/pdfs/2017-GRID-afghanistan-spotlight.pdf>

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Afghanistan, available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/afghanistan>

³ Khalid Koser, 'Internal Displacement in Afghanistan', available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/on-the-record/internal-displacement-in-afghanistan/>

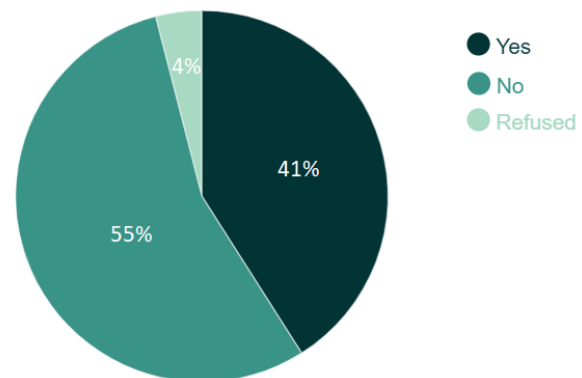
Introduction to 4Mi Asia

The Mixed Migration Monitoring Initiative (4Mi) in Asia region aims at gathering data on regional mixed migration flows. Data is currently collected in Afghanistan as well as with Afghans on the move toward the East and West and analysis are produced monthly. The purpose is to increase knowledge about drivers of movement and protection risks faced by Afghans on the move.

Introduction to the Mixed Migration Centre

4Mi is a core activity for the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), which has been established in February 2018. It brings together various existing regional initiatives – hosted or led by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) – engaged in data collection, research, analysis and policy development on mixed migration issues into a new global network of mixed migration expertise. The MMC focuses on five core regions: Eastern Africa & Yemen, North Africa & Southern Mediterranean, West Africa, Middle East & Eastern Mediterranean and Asia. The 30 staff members of MMC are based in Geneva and Copenhagen and in its regional hubs Amman, Dakar, Nairobi, Tunis and Kabul, where it works in close cooperation with regional partners, stakeholders and donors. To read more about MMC visit the homepage: <http://www.mixedmigration.org/>

further researched and to date, MMC Asia has not identified other studies confirming similar or other trends.



⁴ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Afghanistan, available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/afghanistan>

⁵ Humanitarian Bulletin: Afghanistan, OCHA, Issue 65, 1-30 June 2017, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-bulletin-issue-65-01-30-june-2017>

On average, those with internal displacement history have uprooted at least twice. Most respondents with internal displacement experiences come from Kunduz province (74 cases) and Nangarhar (52 cases). In the past three years, these two provinces have witnessed an increase in activities from opposition groups, leading to new conflicts, violence and civilian casualties. For example, during 2017, Taliban militants made several attempts to capture Kunduz city.⁶ In Nangarhar, as Daesh⁷ is trying to expand its activities, there is a continuous campaign organized by the National Afghan Forces against this group, leading to displacements.⁸ Other provinces with high number of reported displacements among 4Mi respondents are Ghazni, Daykundi, and Samangan (respectively 28, 18, and 17 cases) (see: table 1).

Table 1. Province of origin among 4Mi response with internal displacement experience

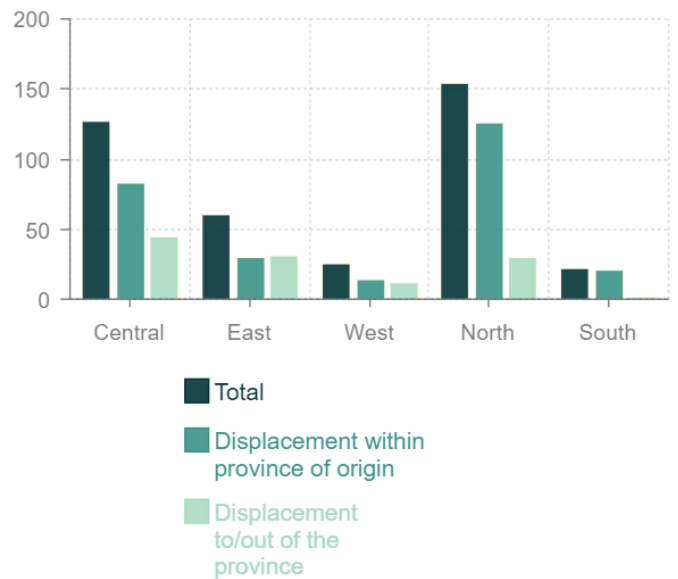
Province	N	Province	N	Province	N
Badakhshan	4	Kapisa	4	Ghor	6
Baghlan	4	Logar	5	Herat	3
Kunduz	74	Parwan	14	Ghazni	28
Takhar	7	Wardak	6	Khost	1
Balkh	14	Kunar	9	Paktika	1
Faryab	12	Laghman	14	Daykundi	18
Jowzjan	4	Nangarhar	52	Helmand	6
Samangan	17	Badghis	3	Kandahar	11
Sar e pol	9	Bamyan	11	Oruzgan	3
Kabul	14	Farah	13	Zabul	1

4Mi - The Geography of Displacements

To map displacement trends among respondents, Afghanistan was divided into five zones: Central, East, West, North and South. Based on information provided in the 4Mi survey, the movements of respondents were tracked across each zone to identify the scale and geographical location of displacements. The overall results show that most internal displacements take place within people's province of origin (see graph 2), referred to intra-zone movements.

Intra-zone movements: The Northern zone (map 1) has the largest number of respondents with internal displacement history (154 cases). Kunduz, as one of the main areas of conflict between the government and opposition groups is located in this zone and thus displacement can be expected to be largely linked to this conflict. The provinces of Balkh (24 cases) and Samangan (17 cases) are two other major provinces within the Northern zone from which people travel from. These two provinces have also witnessed a steady increase in insecurity over the last few years.⁹ The main destinations for internal movements in the North are Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan and Badakhshan.

Graph 2. 4Mi internal displacement within/out of the zones (n=387)



In the Eastern zone, the majority of the displaced are from Nangarhar province. The majority of the displaced from the Southern and Western zones originate from Kandahar, Helmand and Farah provinces. In the Central zone, people mainly migrate from Bamyan and Daikundi (28 and 26 cases respectively). These people mainly travel to the capital Kabul located centrally.

Inter-zone movements (Map 2): In terms of movements between different zones, most people move to the Central zone and Kabul province. This is both the case for people moving from the Northern, Eastern and Western zone. Balkh is the main destination in the North for people travelling from the Central zone.

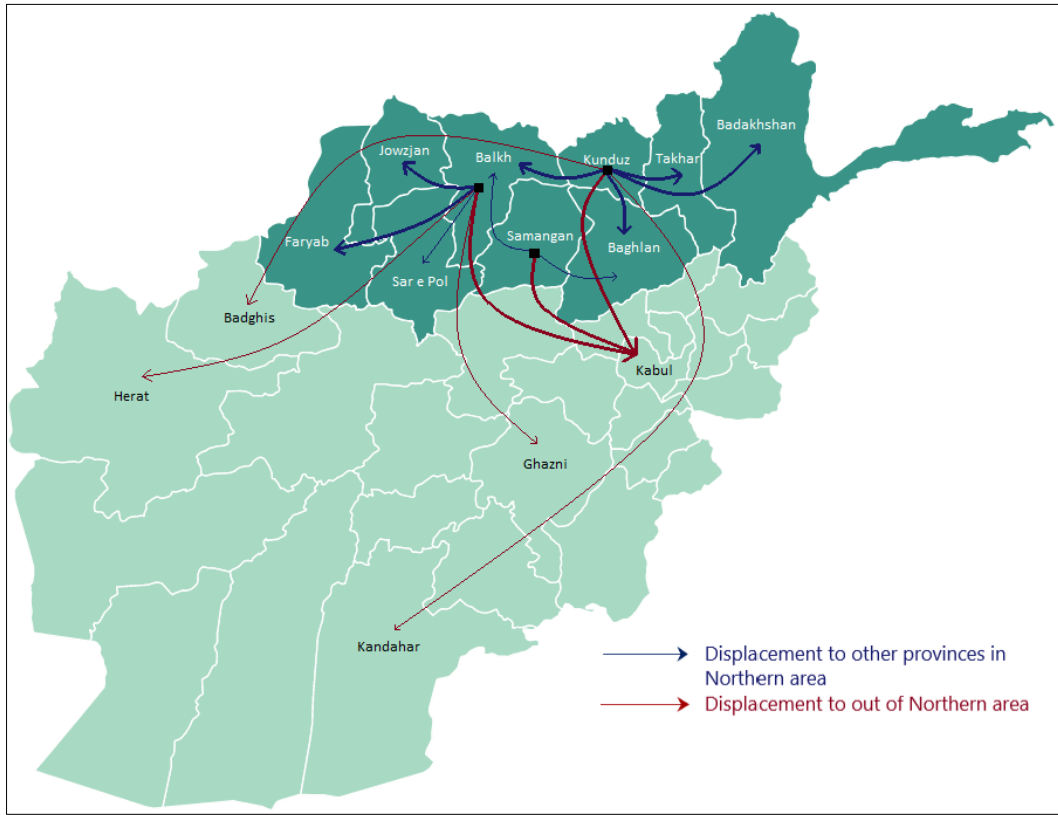
⁶ NRC, 'Thousands flee armed conflict in Kunduz', 07 May 2017, available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/thousands-flee-armed-conflict-kunduz>

⁷ Also known as Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), a group affiliated to ISIS, growing in Afghanistan since 2014. In the last two years, they have been responsible many attacks in the country, mainly in Kabul and Nangarhar. See: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/01/afghanistan-us-look-taliban-for-help-isis-attacks-rise>

⁸ Tolo News, 'Thousands Flee Their Homes Over Daesh Activities In Nangarhar', available at: <https://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/thousands-flee-their-homes-over-daesh-activities-nangarhar>

⁹ Masood Saifullah, 'Why is northern Afghanistan increasingly unstable?', 01 March 2017, available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/why-is-northern-afghanistan-increasingly-unstable/a-37768779>

Map 1. Displacements in the northern provinces



Map 2. The main inter-zone Movements

