ABOUT DTM

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system that tracks and monitors displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route. DTM has implemented the Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan since 2016 to track mobility, provide information on population estimates, locations and geographic distribution of displaced and returnee populations, reasons for displacement, places of origin and periods of displacement. Vulnerabilities and multisectoral needs are covered in the Community-Based Needs Assessment report, released in conjunction with this report. Data is collected at the settlement level, through focus group discussions with community focal points and direct observations.

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

4 TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, DTM tracks the locations, population sizes and period of displacement of four core target population categories:

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are subdivided into the following two categories:

1. Arrival IDPs
   Afghans who were forced to leave their place of habitual residence and have arrived in the assessed locations within the internationally recognized borders of Afghanistan.

2. Returned IDPs
   Afghans who have returned to their habitual residence in the assessed locations from which they had previously fled as IDPs.

Afghans moving internationally are subdivided into the two categories:

3. Persons Who Moved Abroad
   Afghans who moved abroad, regardless the reason or duration of expatriation (including persons in need of international protection and economic migrants).

4. Returnees from Abroad
   Afghans who had moved abroad for at least 6 months and have now returned to Afghanistan.

Data on population sizes for the 4 target population categories is collected by time of displacement, using each of the following time frames: 2012-2015 • 2016 • 2017 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020 • 2021

DTM teams assessed 13,187 communities across Afghanistan in November and December 2021 for Round 14 of the BMA assessment. DTM identified 5,832,454 individuals who displaced between 2012 and 2021 and remain in displacement. Over one fifth of those individuals (1,327,474 or 23%) displaced in 2021 as a result of conflict and natural disaster.

**KEY FIGURES***

- **5,832,454**
  arrival IDPs who remain in displacement [2012-2021]
- **8,495,365**
  former IDPs have returned to their habitual residence [2012–2021]
- **4,519,522**
  individuals moved abroad [2012–2021]
- **5,149,245**
  individuals returned from abroad [2012–2021]

*Each IDP category is summed separately. A stock IDP number is not presented in this report.*
### Overview of 4 Target Populations by Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Base Population</th>
<th>Assessed Communities</th>
<th>Arrived IDPs</th>
<th>% of Pop.</th>
<th>Returned IDPs</th>
<th>% of Pop.</th>
<th>Persons Moved Abroad</th>
<th>% of Pop.</th>
<th>Returnees from Abroad</th>
<th>% of Pop.</th>
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<td>23%</td>
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<td>63,051</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>47,959</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>16%</td>
<td>120,109</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>31%</td>
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<td>9%</td>
<td>693,649</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>276,392</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>189,526</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27%</td>
<td>2,681</td>
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<td>469</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>113,786</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>109,820</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>156,603</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zabul</td>
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<td>29%</td>
<td>237,868</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>121,038</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>163,077</td>
<td>22%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Statistics on the base population come from Afghanistan’s National Statistic and Information Authority (NSIA) Population Estimates for 2018 to 2019. According to the BMA assessment, the current population consists of 19% infants, 30% children, 41% adults, and 10% elderly members. Among the adults, 48% are male and 52% are female.*
EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING: AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2021

IOM Afghanistan deployed the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) assessment in September 2021 to track sudden internal displacement and population movements due to the rapid political transformations in 2021 and its consequences, including effects on the feasibility of data collection.

The EET is activated on an as-needed basis and designed to provide best estimates of the presence of affected population groups during tumultuous periods when more comprehensive assessments, such as the BMA, are not possible.

The EET assessment was thus determined to be the optimal tool to assess the displacement situation during the period of volatile and rapidly shifting political and military circumstances in the country in the period immediately following August 2021. Three rounds of the EET assessment took place from September to December 2021.¹ CFPs provided information relevant to the same four population groups that are observed in the BMA assessments.

The below table presents the results from EET Round 3, covering 10,129 communities in 368 districts across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. IOM identified 988,817 individuals who were displaced after the political changes in August 2021 and remained in displacement until the end of 2021.

The EET assessment does not contain predications equivalent to those that are in the refined BMA assessment. Therefore, the BMA and EET assessments are not interchangeable. However, the EET could be used in comparison to the BMA assessment: almost all (99.9%) of the communities assessed in the EET were re-assessed in the BMA Round 14 exercise, in addition to newly added locations for broader coverage.

Displaced Individuals in all 4 Target Populations, August to December 2021
Summary Overview by Province from the Emergency Event Tracking (EET) Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Communities Assessed</th>
<th>Arrival IDPs</th>
<th>Returned IDPs</th>
<th>Persons Moved Abroad</th>
<th>Returnees from Abroad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Badakhshan</td>
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<td>27,785</td>
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Total 10,129 988,817 2,194,472 989,492 89,253

¹ The EET reports can be found here: Round 3 (1 - 19 December), Round 2 (12 October - 15 November), and Round 1 (1 September - 5 October 2021).
The overall objective of DTM’s Baseline Mobility Assessment in Afghanistan is to track mobility and displacement, provide population estimates, locations, and geographic distribution of displaced and returnee populations. DTM captures additional mobility information, including reasons for displacement and return, places of origin and destination and periods of displacement and return.

Enumerators collect quantitative data at the settlement level through focus group discussions with community focal points (CFPs). Through direct observations, enumerators also collect qualitative data on living conditions, basic services and the security and socio-economic situation. When DTM assesses a province, enumerators collect data through two rounds of two-layered assessments:

1. District-level assessment (B1): this assessment aims to identify settlements with high inflows and outflows of Afghan nationals and provide estimated numbers of each target population category.

2. Settlement-level assessment (B2): based on the results of B1, this assessment collects information on inflows and outflows of each target population category at each settlement (village), identified through B1. Additional villages are also identified and assessed, based on referrals from CFPs.

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

DTM has made significant strides to improve gender inclusion in focus group discussions, although there is much room for improvement. Women represent 1% of the community focal points, which, although marginal, is an improvement from the 0.1% female representation in DTM’s first round, completed in March 2017.

DTM enumerators facilitate a focus group discussion with female community focal points (CFPs). DTM strives to gather more gender-balanced information. © IOM 2021

DTM enumerators facilitate a focus group discussion in Badghis province. © IOM 2021
Arrival IDPs (IDPs) are Afghans who fled their communities of origin and have arrived in the assessed locations within Afghanistan as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, protection concerns, or natural and human-made disasters. This section breaks down the findings on arrival IDPs only, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

The 2016 through 2018 period witnessed large increases in the number of Afghans displaced by conflict and natural disasters, reaching between 750,000 and 850,000 displaced each year, based on CFPs’ estimates (see Annual Trends graph below). In comparison to 2018, the overall number of IDPs decreased by 22% in 2019 (660,973 individuals), but resurged in 2020 reaching almost one million newly displaced individuals (a 51% increase compared to 2018).

In 2021, an unprecedentedly high number of individuals were displaced nationwide. According to BMA Round 14 estimates, over 1.3 million Afghans fled their homes as IDPs in 2021. Sixty-two per cent of these IDPs displaced because of the conflict escalation due to international troop withdrawal over the summer months, which subsequently led to a rapid change of government.

Between 2012 and 2021, three-quarters of IDPs have been displaced due to conflict and one-quarter due to natural disaster. Herat is the most critically affected province, hosting 17% of all IDPs, nationwide.

The two DTM assessments conducted in 2021 can help discern a more detailed timeline of IDP movements over the year.

The EET assessment asked community focal points to indicate the number of individuals displaced after August 2021. Based on Round 3 of the EET assessment conducted in 10,129 communities, 988,817 individuals were displaced after August 2021 and have not returned to their communities of origin (shown in the light blue striped bar).

² The full EET Round 3 report can be found here: Emergency Event Tracking Round 3 (1 - 19 December 2021)
Overall, almost two-thirds of IDPs live in a house they own or rent (30% and 32% respectively), while 37% live with a host family. A small proportion live in tents (1%) or open air (<1%). Khost province hosts the most arrival IDPs living in informal settlements (166,857 individuals), followed by Nangarhar (115,850). Close to two-thirds of arrival IDPs displaced between 2012 and 2021 remained within their province of origin.

Arrival IDPs in Informal Settlements by Province | 2012 to 2021

- Khost: 166,857
- Nangarhar: 115,850
- Laghman: 39,830
- Herat: 30,870
- Badghis: 18,917
- Ghazni: 13,580
- Paktia: 12,600
- Kabul: 9,058
- Faryab: 6,818
- Helmand: 3,500
- Kandahar: 3,500
- Balkh: 2,310
- Panjshir: 1,567
- Baghlan: 70

Arrival IDPs by Province of Origin | 2012 to 2021

- Same Province: 2,154,135 (37%)
- Other Provinces: 3,678,319 (63%)

An IDP house was destroyed due to conflict in Pul-e-Khumri district, Baghlan province. © IOM 2021
Returned IDPs are Afghans who have returned to their home or place of origin in the assessed location or settlement from which they had previously fled as IDPs, as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, protection concerns, or natural and human-made disasters. This section breaks down the findings on returned IDPs only, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

The 2016 through 2018 period saw slow decreases in the number of returned IDPs. In 2019 and 2020, more IDPs returned to their communities of origin with the annual totals increasing by 19% and 39% respectively (compared to 2018). In 2021, the number reached an unprecedented level, increasing to over three million returned IDPs.

8,495,365 individuals have been IDPs and returned to their habitual residence out of which:

4 in 5 returned from other locations within their home province (80%)
1 in 4 20% of all returned IDPs returned to Kunduz province
74% of IDPs from Logar province have not returned home
This section covers Afghans who have moved abroad from the assessed locations, regardless the reason or duration of expatriation. This category includes persons in need of international protection and economic migrants (it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements).

Between 2015 and 2018 there was a steady decline in outward movements, likely as a result of economic decline and diminishing protection space in Iran and Pakistan and increased returns from Europe. In 2020, the number of individuals who moved abroad increased by 46%. Then, 2021 saw a significant surge in those moving abroad, increasing 122% compared to the previous year. This large increase is likely due to an intensifying environment of conflict accompanying the withdrawal of international troops and the change of government that occurred in the summer of 2021.

4,519,522 individuals left their habitual residence and crossed international borders

Out of which:

573,512 moved to Europe and Turkey (13%)
2,901,902 moved to Iran (64%)
903,537 moved to Pakistan (20%)

Afghans Abroad by Country/Region of Destination | 2012 to 2021

Afghans Abroad | Annual Trends

Afghans in Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends

Afghans in Iran | Annual Trends

Afghans in Pakistan | Annual Trends

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in the maps on this page do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations.
This section covers Afghan nationals who have returned to the assessed locations after having spent at least six months abroad. This includes both documented persons (Afghans who were registered as refugees in host countries and requested voluntary return with UNHCR and relevant national authorities) and undocumented persons (Afghans who returned spontaneously or were deported from host countries, irrespective of whether or not they were registered as refugees with UNHCR and relevant national authorities). This section breaks down the findings on returnees from abroad, it does not include other categories of IDP populations or cross-border movements.

Since 2016, the number of returnees from abroad has significantly decreased each year, although returns from Europe marginally increased. Among all provinces, Nangarhar received the most (12%) of all returnees from abroad, nationwide.

Returnees from Abroad by Country/Region of Destination | 2012-2021

- **Pakistan**: 2,608,422 (51%)
- **Iran**: 2,173,258 (42%)
- **Europe + Turkey**: 367,565 (7%)
- **Middle East**: 61,427 (1%)
- **Rest of Asia**: 2,963,8 (0.6%)
- **Other**: 6,188 (0.1%)

Out of which:
- **2,608,422** returned from Pakistan (51%)
- **2,173,258** returned from Iran (42%)
- **3,450,889** undocumented returnees from Pakistan & Iran (67%)
- **1,330,791** documented returnees from Pakistan & Iran (26%)

Returnees from Abroad by Province | Annual Trends

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in the maps on this page do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM or the United Nations.
Children in Baghlan province travel far to fetch water for their family. It is common to send children to gather water among the 1,052,343 IDPs and returned IDPs who lack access to safe drinking water. © IOM 2021

A school in Badghis was destroyed during conflict. Education facilities can become targets during conflict, leaving communities without essential education services. © IOM 2021

A child works in a brick-making factory in Kandahar province. Due to poverty and high needs, children often work to help their family meet their basic needs instead attending school. © IOM 2021

A community in Jawzjan province constructs a storage vessel to collect rainwater during the winter. Water needs are high in Jawzjan province, where 108,294 IDPs and returnees from abroad do not have access to safe drinking water. © IOM 2021

A local man transports a small truck carrying goods on top of two side-by-side boats between Goshta and Bati Kot districts in Nangarhar. These provinces do not have proper infrastructure, such as a bridge, to facilitate transportation between the two. © IOM 2021

A community in Badghis province shares a drinking water source with animals, which leads to public health risks. © IOM 2021

Farmers sell vegetables in Herat province. Many farmers in drought-affected areas sell their livestock at half price because they cannot feed them. © IOM 2021

Children in Nangarhar province attend school in the open air. Lack of educational facilities and study materials are among the biggest barriers to education for children in Afghanistan. © IOM 2021

A community in Badghis province shares a drinking water source with animals, which leads to public health risks. © IOM 2021

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STORIES FROM THE DISPLACED
QALAM: FROM STRUGGLE TO SUCCESS

Qalam is an entrepreneur in Nangarhar province. In 2016, he moved with his family to Pakistan due to conflict in his district. According to IOM’s DTM Baseline Mobility Assessment completed in December 2021, Qalam was among 119,194 Afghans who moved to Pakistan in 2016.

“Luckily, I found a job as a daily-wages worker in a brick factory and settled in a safe place in Pakistan. Unfortunately, this did not last long. The police in Pakistan continued to threaten and harass us for being undocumented migrants. We had enough and returned home after one year in Pakistan”.

Qalam is among 1,656,362 undocumented persons who traveled to Pakistan between 2012 and 2021 and later returned to Afghanistan (based on DTM’s Baseline Mobility Assessment from December 2021). He could not find a job in his village in Nangarhar and sold a portion of his father’s land to start a carwash.

“I am very happy with my new business, and I earn enough to support my family.”

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

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The data used in this report was collected under a collaborative effort by the IOM Afghanistan Mission and the Global DTM support team. The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the work do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

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

www.displacement.iom.int-afghanistan

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**DTM AFGHANISTAN**

**Arrival IDPs | Overview | December 2021**

Each Grid Covers 10 Square KM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Data Source: IOM, AGCHO, AIMS, CSO, OSM</th>
<th>Date map production: 31 JAN 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purposes only. Names & boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu & Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

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www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan | email: dtmafghanistan@iom.int

**Total Arrival IDPs (Individuals)**

- 2,000
- 5,000
- 10,000
- > 10,000

**Country**

- Jammu and Kashmir
- China
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

**Province**

- Kabul
- Kapisa
- Parwan
- Wardak
- Logar
- Nangarhar
- Laghman
- Panjshir
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