

# Afghanistan: Figures analysis

**Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016:** 1,553,000

**New displacements associated with conflict in 2016:** 653,000

## Notes and caveats

### Number of people displaced by conflict as of 31 December 2016

*Primary sources:* Our end of year estimate of 1,553,000 people displaced combines data from a number of sources and includes several caseloads and a proportion of returning refugees.

By triangulating data from sources including UNHCR, the World Bank, UN Population Movement Bulletins and Human Rights Watch, we decided that 1,553,000 was the most reliable figure for the number of people displaced within Afghanistan. It is reported by several partners, who were systematically consulted as part of our research.

The number of refugees who returned to a life of internal displacement was compiled from UNHCR and IOM sources that track cross-border movements. We then analysed the figures based on information provided by UNHCR, IOM and OCHA to determine rough percentages for those who have been able to resettle successfully in Afghanistan and those who crossed the border for work or other economic reasons. These were then excluded from our estimate.

We included the following:

- Ten per cent of voluntary returnees and deportees from Iran, or 44,197 people, based on OCHA's estimate of the number unable to go back to their place of origin or settle elsewhere
- All deportees from Pakistan, or 22,559 people, given the involuntary nature of their return
- Forty-eight per cent of voluntary returnees from Pakistan, or 285,951 people, based on a [UNHCR report](#) which estimates that 52 per cent were able to return to their place of origin

*Geographical and temporal coverage:* Displacement has occurred in every province. Southern, eastern and north-eastern regions are the most vulnerable to new displacement and also host large numbers of people living in protracted displacement.

*Description of source methodology:* We used triangulation because we had a relatively low level of confidence in the accuracy of the stock figures available. The combination of people living in protracted displacement, frequent new displacement and both

documented and undocumented returns make comprehensive assessments difficult to perform. The fact that many areas of Afghanistan are hard to reach makes monitoring and assessment even more complex, because there is a time-lag between the moment displacement takes place or is observed and its reporting.

### **New displacements associated with conflict in 2016**

*Primary source:* Our estimate of 653,000 new displacements is based on OCHA's conflict displacement database. OCHA took over monitoring responsibility from the protection cluster's IDP taskforce in the first quarter of 2016. It has been monitoring new displacement since then, but has not yet compiled a total stock figure.

*Geographical and temporal coverage:* OCHA reports cover all provinces.

*Description of source's methodology:* OCHA verifies reports of displacement and compiles assessment numbers provided by partner NGOs and inter-agency assessments.