IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team mobilized to respond to critical levels of internal displacement, caused by what is being described as the worst drought in Afghanistan in decades. Throughout the country, the drought has impacted an estimated 2.2 million Afghans in regards to access to water, crop production and agricultural output. It has particularly affected rural dwellers who depend on farming for survival. As a result, tens of thousands of Afghans have fled their homes in search of stable water sources, heading to areas close to rivers or towards cities. In coordination with ANDMA, DoRR, OCHA and WFP, DTM provides emergency support by monitoring flows and registering drought-affected IDP families.

Herat province has been severely impacted, in terms of hosting drought-affected IDPs from neighbouring provinces, most particularly from Badghis. On 9 September, in response to the emergency, DTM has established emergency flow monitoring points (FMPs), strategically positioned on major highways connecting to Herat City and surrounding, peri-urban districts. At each FMP, DTM teams monitor incoming and outgoing flows of IDPs, identify and register drought-affected IDP families, and provide newly arriving families with IDP Cards to facilitate their registration for humanitarian assistance.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **6** Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) established at checkpoints on major highways connecting to Herat at Shedaye, Band Pashtun, Karokh, Kamar Kulagh, Armalek and Chaharsoy Guzara
- **9,506** IDPs have been enumerated across all FMPs (inflow & outflow)
- **8,787** arriving IDPs are drought-induced (92% of all IDPs)
- **663** arriving IDPs are conflict-induced (7% of all IDPs)
- **8,309** arriving IDPs’ intended destination is Injil district (88%), mainly in informal settlements in Shedaye
- **6,375** arriving IDPs are from Badghis province (67%)
- **7,181** arriving IDPs intend to live in tents or in the open air (76%)
- **6,975** arriving IDPs do not intend to return home (74%)

The numbers of IDPs have been exponentially increasing each week. In week 2 in-flow increased by 82%, after which it more than doubled (109%) in week 3.
The vast majority of registered IDPs were drought-induced, hailed from Badghis province and were, accordingly, registered at the Armalek FMP. The vast majority of IDPs (74%) had no intention of returning home, preferring a permanent move to greener pastures and putting pressure on receiving districts, particularly Injil district, which is the intended destination for 88% of registered IDPs.

### IDPs by Province of Origin

- **Badghis**: 6,375
- **Herat**: 2,581
- **Faryab**: 355
- **Ghor**: 95
- **Farah**: 35
- **Kandahar**: 14
- **Baghlan**: 4

### IDPs Registered per Flow Monitoring Point

- **Armalek**: 3,932 (41.2%)
- **Babol Poshten**: 911 (9.6%)
- **Chaharsoy Guzara**: 857 (9.0%)
- **Kamur Kalgih**: 2,349 (21.6%)
- **Kurukh**: 215 (2.3%)
- **Shobay**: 1,558 (16.4%)

### Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs)

- **Active FMP**:
- **Inactive FMP**:
- **IDP In-Flow**:
- **Countries**:
  - Iran (Islamic Republic of)
  - Turkmenistan
- **Province**
- **District**
- **Roads**
  - Trunk
  - Primary
  - Secondary
- **District of Destination**
  - 1 - 50
  - 51 - 250
  - 251 - 500
  - 501 - 1,000
  - 1,001 - 3,000
- **District of Origin**
  - 1 - 50
  - 51 - 250
  - 251 - 500
  - 501 - 1,001
  - 1,001 - 3,000
**IDPs**

IDPs are Afghans who have fled from other settlements in Afghanistan with the aim to arrive and reside at a different location / host community, 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. At the FMs of Herat City, IOM’s DTM teams register IDPs newly arriving to Herat (inflow) and IDPs leaving Herat (outflow), presumably to return home or as a result of secondary displacement.

- **9,506** total IDPs enumerated
- **92.5%** displaced by drought or flood (8,796)
- **7%** displaced by conflict (663)
- **0.5%** secondarily displaced or returned home (47)

**SEX & AGE COMPOSITION**

Children and adolescents under the age of 18 represent 59% (5,547) of the newly arrived IDPs, among which 2,006 (21%) are under 5 years old. The male to female ratio among arriving IDPs is practically even, with only 31 more females than males.

**IDPs | Age & Sex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant (&lt;1)</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (1 - 4)</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (5 - 9)</td>
<td>1,982</td>
<td>1,979</td>
<td>3,961</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (10 - 17)</td>
<td>3,356</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>3,712</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (18 - 59)</td>
<td>3,556</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>3,912</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (60 +)</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDPs | Age Groups**

- Infant (<1): 1,963
- Child (1 - 4): 1,979
- Child (5 - 9): 1,982
- Adolescent (10 - 17): 3,356
- Adult (18 - 59): 3,556
- Elderly (60 +): 356

**IDPs | Return Intention**

- 74% Yes
- 26% No

**IDPs | Intended Length of Stay**

- Undecided: 8,054
- 6 - 10 Years: 30
- 3 - 5 Years: 20
- 1 - 2 Years: 195
- 7 - 12 Months: 28
- 4 - 6 Months: 1,065
- 1 - 3 Months: 60
- < 1 Month: 7

**IDPs | Reason for Displacement**

- Drought: 8,787 (92.4%)
- Flood: 9 (0.1%)
- Conflict: 663 (7.0%)
- Secondary Displacement: 10 (0.1%)
- Return: 37 (0.4%)

**IDPs | Return Intention**

- 2,484 Yes (26%)
- 6,975 No (74%)

**Crowds of IDP families include the elderly and children**
SPECIFIC NEEDS

Shelter is the prevailing, immediate need of IDPs. An alarmingly high number of IDPs (7,181 / 76%) intend to live in tents or in the open air, making them highly vulnerable to Afghanistan’s extreme weather conditions and related health threats.

Among the specific needs identified within the caseload of newly arriving IDPs, 58 IDPs claimed to be suffering from critical medical conditions, 34 were single heads of households, 26 had physical or mental disabilities, and 10 were pregnant.

With regard to official ID, the vast majority of registered IDPs claimed to not have a taskeera (91%). Only 896 IDPs, most of whom were heads of households, had a taskeera. Consequently, without unique IDs, it is extremely challenging for humanitarian partners to detect families and individuals registering for assistance multiple times without the use of biometrics.

CHALLENGES

Identifying DTM’s target population, the newly arrived drought-induced IDPs, from among other pre-existing, long-term IDPs already residing in Herat has been a difficult task, most particularly in Shedaye, where large numbers of existing IDPs have been pressuring, intimidating and threatening DTM staff, demanding be registered to obtain IDP cards for assistance. They have, in many instances, been renting trucks in Herat City, driving to the FMP checkpoints, using back roads, claiming to be new drought-induced IDPs.

On Friday, 21 September, this situation escalated out of control and the police, who were providing support, were overwhelmed by angry mobs. As a result, IOM closed DTM registration activities in Shedaye and moved the team 50 km away to the Armalek FMP. To handle increasing inflows from Badghis, DTM hired additional staff and positioned one enumerator on the highway in Qala-e-Now, Badghis, to issue tokens to outgoing IDPs to clearly identify them as new IDP arrivals for the FMP team in Armalek.

Other related challenges faced by IOM’s DTM teams include instances of IDP families attempting to bribe DTM staff to obtain IDP cards and making false claims of corruption against local authorities, causing authorities to withdraw their support of DTM teams.

It is also important to note that DTM’s emergency drought response has been made possible, as a result of the hard work and determination of our FMP staff. Originally, as recommended by OCHA, DTM had planned to only include 2 FMPs. However, upon implementation and at OCHA’s request, DTM’s field staff were quickly overstretched to cover 4 FMPs. As a result, DTM staff have been working 10-12 hours per day, often under highly stressful situations. IOM is most grateful for the dedication and resilience that our colleagues have shown.