

# BASELINE MOBILITY ASSESSMENT

**BALKH  
SUMMARY RESULTS  
ROUND 10 • JAN – JUN 2020**



25,016 IDPs and returnees in Balkh lack access to safe drinking water. Children like these, in Zari district, often walk long distances to fetch drinking water for their families, which poses protection risks. © IOM 2020

## 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. For more information about DTM in Afghanistan, please visit [www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan](http://www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan).

In Afghanistan, DTM employs the Baseline Mobility Assessment tool, designed to track mobility, determine the population sizes and locations of forcibly displaced people, reasons for displacement, places of origin, displacement locations and times of displacement, including basic demographics, as well as vulnerabilities and priority needs. Data is collected at the settlement level, through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observations.

DTM enables IOM and its partners to deliver evidence-based, better targeted, mobility-sensitive and sustainable humanitarian assistance, reintegration, community stabilization and development programming.















## 5 TARGET POPULATIONS

Through the Baseline Mobility Assessments, DTM tracks the locations, population sizes, and cross-sectoral needs of five core target population categories:

- 1. Returnees from Abroad**  
*Afghans who had fled abroad for at least 6 months and have now returned to Afghanistan*
- 2. Out-Migrants**  
*Afghans who moved or fled abroad*
- 3. Fled IDPs**  
*Afghans from an assessed village who fled as IDPs to reside elsewhere in Afghanistan*
- 4. Arrival IDPs**  
*IDPs from other locations currently residing in an assessed village*
- 5. Returned IDPs**  
*Afghans from an assessed village who had fled as IDPs in the past and have now returned home*

Data on population sizes for the 5 target population categories is collected by time of displacement, using each of the following time frames: 2012-2015 • 2016 • 2017 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

-  **16** districts assessed
-  **635** settlements assessed
-  **2,756** key informants interviewed
-  **170,953** returnees from abroad [2012-2020]
-  **296,577** IDPs [2012-2020] currently in host communities
-  **55,029** former IDPs have returned to their homes [2012-2020]
-  **178,684** out-migrants fled abroad [2012-2020]
-  **38,266** out-migrants fled to Europe (21%) – Balkh has the third largest number of outflow to Europe, nationwide
-  **14,945** returnees and IDPs live in tents or in the open air
-  **2 in 3** 64% of all returnees and IDPs reside in Dehdadi, Mazar-e-Sharif and Nahr-e-Shahi districts
-  **2 in 3** 65% from Keshendeh district and 96% from Zari district have fled their homes as IDPs
-  **3 in 5** persons in Dehdadi and Nahr-e-Shahi districts are either IDPs or returnees
-  **1 in 6** persons (16%) in Balkh is an IDP – Balkh has the 5th largest number of IDPs, nationwide
-  **1 in 2** 46% in Nahr-e-Shahi district and 58% in Dehdadi are IDPs

Displaced Individuals in all 5 Target Populations | Summary Overview by District

District	*Base Population	Total Inflow (Returnees + Arrival IDPs)	% of Pop.	Returnees	% of Pop.	Fled IDPs	% of Pop.	Arrival IDPs	% of Pop.	Returned IDPs	% of Pop.	Out Migrants	% of Pop.
Mazar-e-Sharif	454,457	97,867	18%	21,564	4%	1,606	0.4%	76,303	14%	1,935	0.4%	31,349	7%
Nahr-e-Shahi	49,016	73,955	60%	17,050	14%	6,901	14%	56,905	46%	4,747	10%	24,800	51%
Dehdadi	73,652	125,491	63%	9,156	5%	6,595	9%	116,335	58%	3,634	5%	9,943	13%
Charkent	48,502	3,079	6%	2,082	4%	10,133	21%	997	2%	2,789	6%	4,536	9%
Marmul	12,447	940	7%	699	5%	341	3%	241	2%	544	4%	674	5%
Balkh	131,218	34,464	21%	18,701	11%	9,256	7%	15,763	10%	6,445	5%	15,181	12%
Sholgareh	124,697	18,731	13%	11,608	8%	17,944	14%	7,123	5%	4,183	3%	15,520	12%
Chemtal	100,086	6,740	6%	1,705	2%	1,790	2%	5,035	5%	1,694	2%	1,428	1%
Dawlatabad	114,853	11,488	9%	11,012	9%	15,845	14%	476	0%	1,071	1%	9,930	9%
Khulm	79,471	19,870	20%	18,261	18%	3,537	4%	1,609	2%	3,664	5%	7,208	9%
Char Bolak	88,408	19,560	18%	14,959	14%	14,646	17%	4,601	4%	6,117	7%	7,368	8%
Shortepa	43,243	5,579	11%	5,372	11%	105	0.2%	207	0.4%	7,855	18%	2,191	5%
Kaldar	21,814	6,397	23%	6,397	23%	14	0.1%	0	0%	254	1%	2,703	12%
Keshendeh	53,122	20,691	28%	14,556	20%	34,769	65%	6,135	8%	5,434	10%	22,597	43%
Zari	47,861	16,558	26%	16,186	25%	46,104	96%	372	1%	4,663	10%	21,663	45%
Sharak-e-Hayratan	NA	6,120	NA	1,645	NA	175	NA	4,475	NA	0	NA	1,593	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,442,847</b>	<b>467,530</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>170,953</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>169,761</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>296,577</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>55,029</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>178,684</b>	<b>12%</b>

\* Base Population source: NSIA Population Estimates for 1397 (2018 to 2019) Symbology: target population ≥ 200,000 % of base population ≥ 25%



Flash flooding in Khulm district negatively affects living conditions by destroying bridges and inundating agricultural lands. © IOM 2020



## METHODOLOGY

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, return and migrant populations, as well as refugees, nomads, cross-border tribal groups, and both domestic and international labour migrants. DTM captures additional mobility information, including reasons for displacement and return, places of origin and destination, times of displacement and return, secondary displacements, and population demographics, vulnerabilities and multi-sectoral needs.

DTM predominantly employs enumerators who originate from the areas of assessment. Enumerators collect quantitative data at the settlement level, through focus group discussions with key informants (KIs). Through direct observations, enumerators also collect qualitative data on living conditions, basic services, and security and socio-economic situation.

Due to security risks, enumerators cannot carry smart-phones or tablets in the field, therefore they collect data, daily, using a paper-based form, which is pre-filled with data from the previous round for verification of existing data and to expedite the assessment process. Completed forms are submitted weekly to the provincial DTM office and verified for accuracy by the team leader and data entry clerk. Once verified, the data is entered electronically via mobile devices, using KoBo forms, and submitted directly into DTM's central SQL server in Kabul, where it is systematically cleaned and verified daily, through automated and manual systems. This stringent review process ensures that DTM data is of the highest quality, accuracy and integrity.

When DTM assesses a province for the first time, 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 KIs.

Since DTM has now assessed all 34 provinces, only settlement-level assessments will be conducted in the future. Pending continued funding, DTM aims to conduct baseline mobility assessments, nationwide, twice per year.



Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, DTM enumerators have been disseminating COVID-19 RCCE information materials to community leaders, like during this FGD in Dehdadi district. © IOM 2020



## KEY INFORMANTS

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

By actively recruiting more female enumerators, though challenging, DTM has made significant strides to improve gender inclusion in focus group discussions, although there is much room for improvement. While women only represent 1% of the key informants in Balkh, this is an improvement from the national average of 0.1% female representation in DTM's first round, completed in March 2017.



**2,756**  
key informants (KIs)  
interviewed



**35**  
female key informants  
(1%)



**2,721**  
male key informants  
(99%)



**4.3**  
average number of KIs  
per focus group



**199**  
key informants are IDPs  
or returnees (7%)



**708**  
KIs from host  
communities (26%)

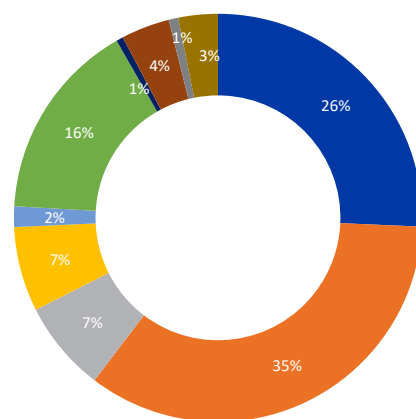


**793**  
KIs from multi-sectoral  
and social services (29%)



**970**  
KIs from local  
authorities (35%)

Key Informants by Type | Balkh



- Community/Tribal Representative
- Community Development Council (CDC) Representative
- Displaced Groups Representative
- Education Representative
- Health Sector Representative
- Humanitarian/Social Organization
- Other District Authority Representative
- Small/Medium Enterprise Representative
- Agriculture Representative
- Other

# RETURNNEES

Returnees are Afghan nationals who have returned to Afghanistan in the assessed location after having spent at least six months abroad. This group includes both documented returnees (Afghans who were registered refugees in host countries and then requested voluntary return with UNHCR and relevant national authorities) and undocumented returnees (Afghans who did not request voluntary return with UNHCR, but rather returned spontaneously from host countries, irrespective of whether or not they were registered refugees with UNHCR and relevant national authorities).



**170,953**  
returnees from abroad



**54,195**  
returned from Pakistan (32%)



**126,254**  
undocumented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (74%)



**100,793**  
returned from Iran (59%)

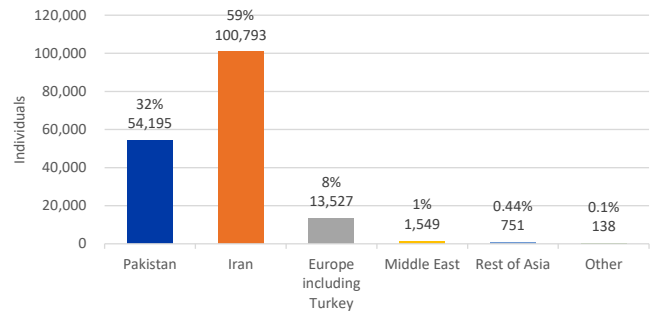


**28,734**  
documented returnees from Pakistan + Iran (17%)

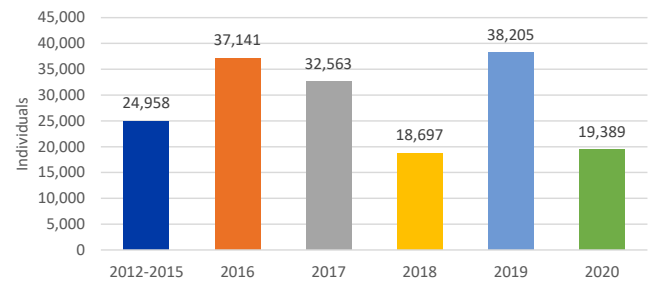


**15,965**  
returnees from non-neighbouring countries (9%)

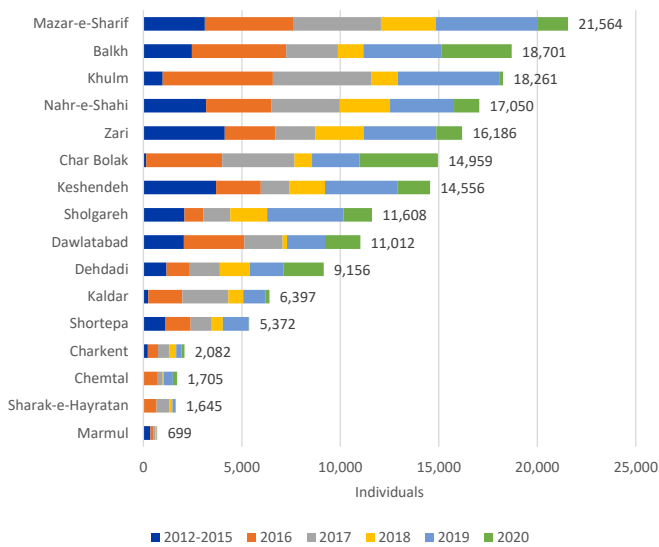
Returnees from Abroad | Country/Region of Origin | Balkh



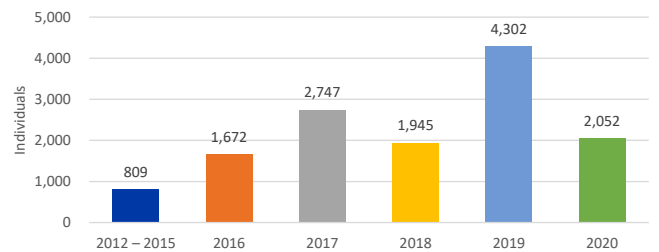
Returnees from Abroad | Annual Trends | Balkh



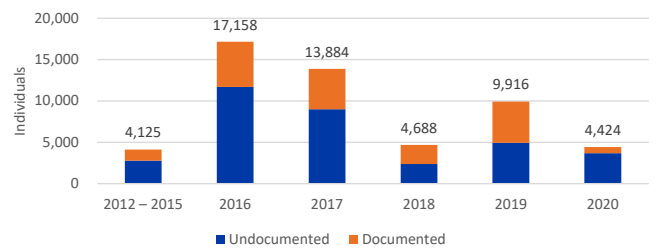
Returnees from Abroad by District | Balkh



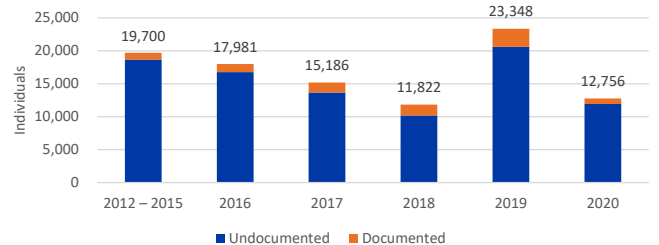
Returnees from Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends | Balkh



Returnees from Pakistan | Annual Trends | Balkh



Returnees from Iran | Annual Trends | Balkh



## ARRIVAL IDPs

Arrival IDPs (IDPs) are Afghans who fled from other settlements in Afghanistan and have arrived and presently reside at the assessed 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.



**296,577**

IDPs currently reside in host communities



**95%**

displaced due to conflict



**116,335**

IDPs in Dehdadi district, which hosts the most IDPs (39%)



**5%**

displaced by natural disaster



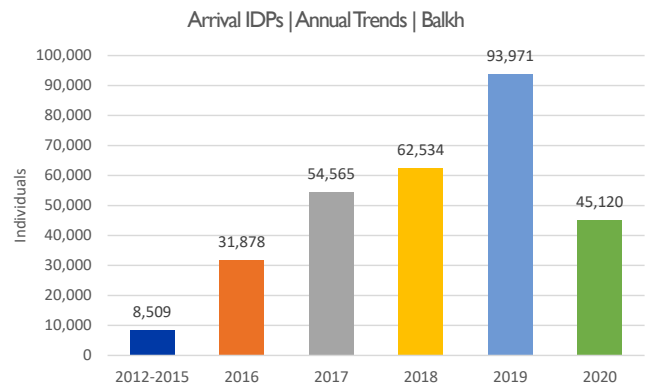
**5,978**

IDPs reside in informal settlements (2%)

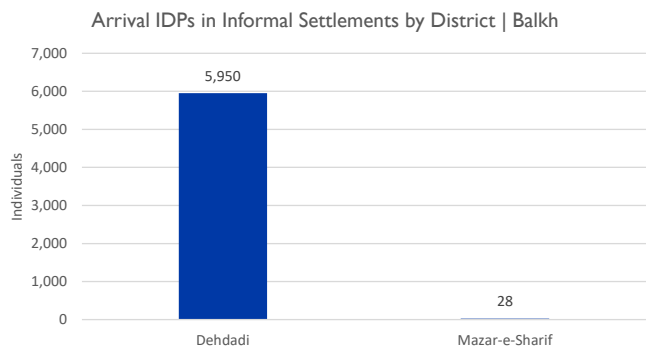
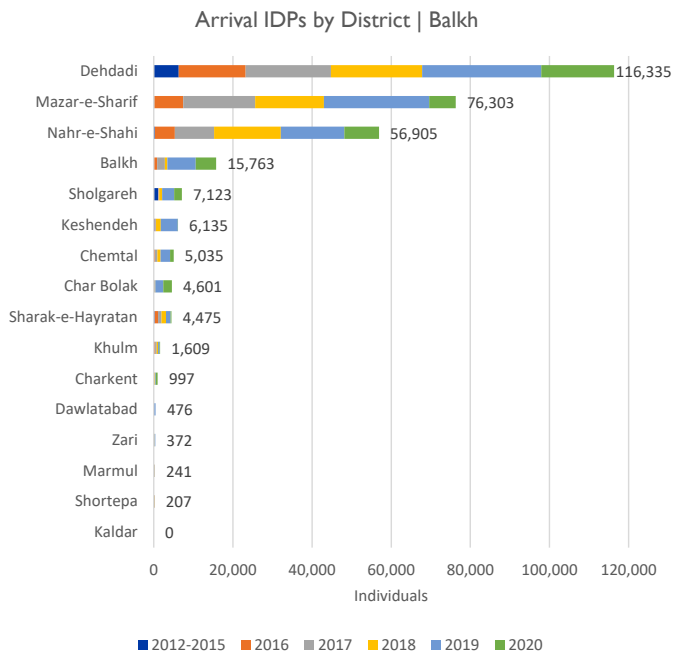
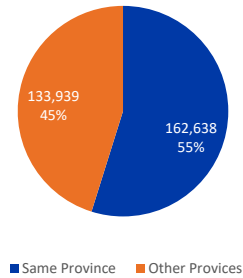


**55%**

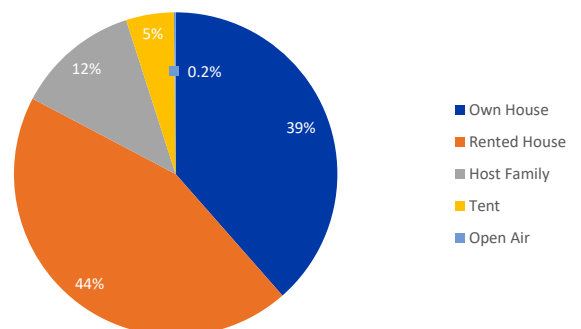
displaced within their home province



Arrival IDPs by Province of Origin | Balkh

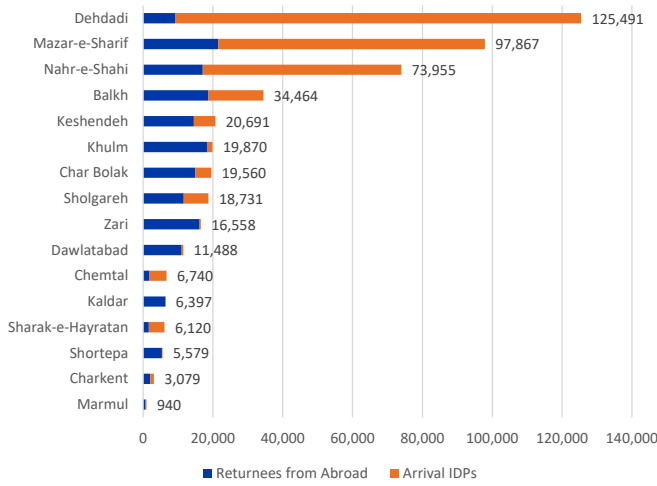


Arrival IDPs | Shelter | Balkh



+ **TOTAL INFLOW** [RETURNEES + ARRIVAL IDPs]

Total Inflow (Returnees + IDPs) | Balkh



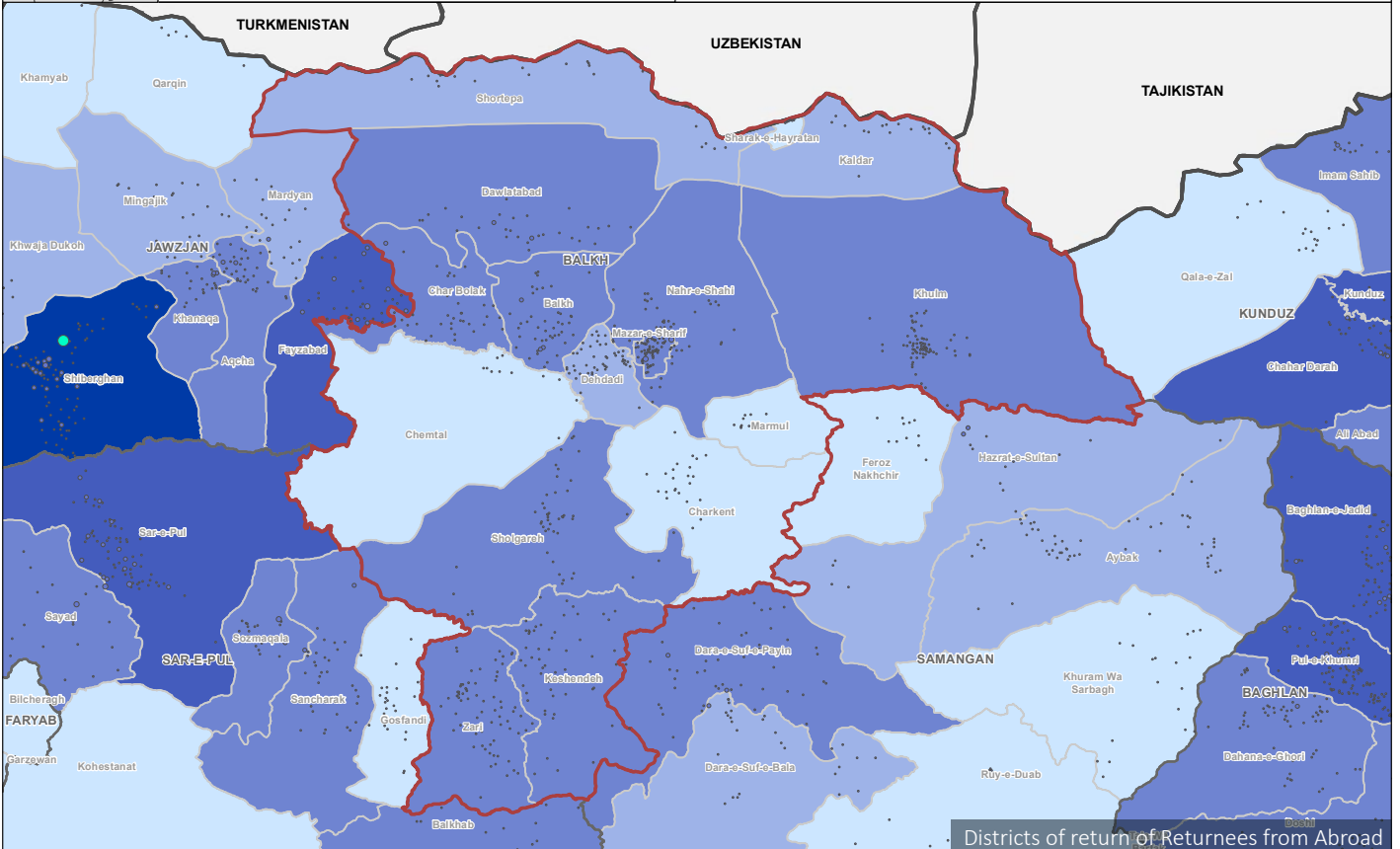
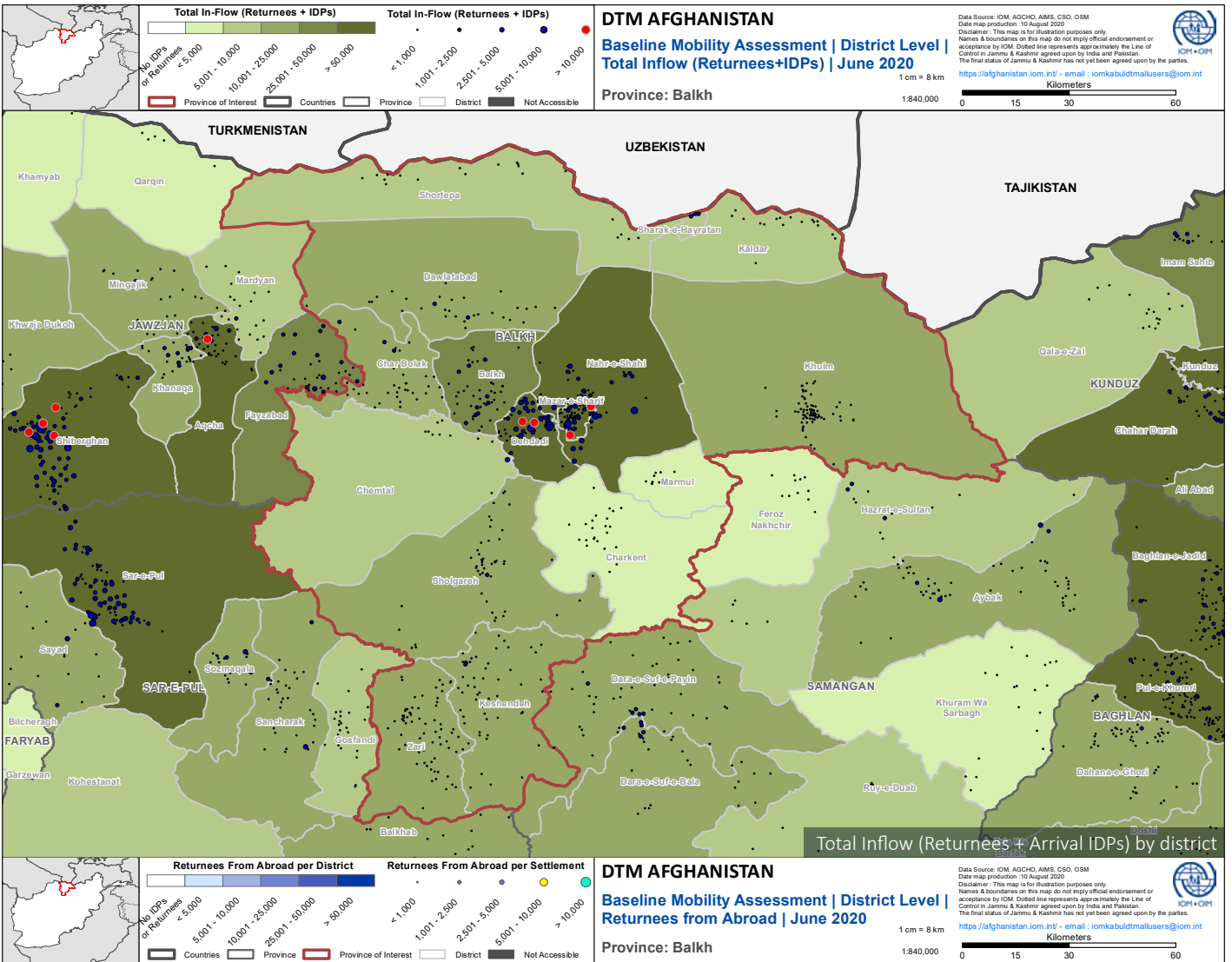
**Total Inflow (Returnees + IDPs) | Summary by District**

District	Returnees	Arrival IDPs	Total Inflow
Dehdadi	9,156	116,335	125,491
Mazar-e-Sharif	21,564	76,303	97,867
Nahr-e-Shahi	17,050	56,905	73,955
Balkh	18,701	15,763	34,464
Keshندهه	14,556	6,135	20,691
Khulm	18,261	1,609	19,870
Char Bolak	14,959	4,601	19,560
Sholgareh	11,608	7,123	18,731
Zari	16,186	372	16,558
Dawlatabad	11,012	476	11,488
Chemtal	1,705	5,035	6,740
Kaldar	6,397	0	6,397
Sharak-e-Hayratan	1,645	4,475	6,120
Shortepa	5,372	207	5,579
Charkent	2,082	997	3,079
Marmul	699	241	940
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170,953</b>	<b>296,577</b>	<b>467,530</b>

Overall, Balkh province hosts a total inflow of 467,530 returnees and IDPs, of which 37% (170,953) are returnees and 63% (296,577) are IDPs. The table below shows the 40 settlements in Balkh that are most affected by this influx. These 40 settlements (6% of the 635 settlements assessed in Balkh) host 43% of the province’s returnees and IDPs. These communities are especially fragile and susceptible to social instability induced by this large influx and the subsequent competition for limited, already overstretched resources and job opportunities.

**Top 40 settlements hosting the most Returnees + IDPs**

Rank	Settlement	District	Individuals
1	Nowabad Yaka Toot	Dehdadi	21,642
2	Prozhe Shahzada	Mazar-e-Sharif	20,400
3	Sajadia	Mazar-e-Sharif	13,630
4	Azizabad	Dehdadi	12,211
5	Prozha Nasrudin Hamdard	Dehdadi	9,266
6	Mir Wali	Mazar-e-Sharif	9,089
7	Golayi Ghulam	Dehdadi	7,295
8	Prozhe Ustad Zabiullah Shahid	Nahr-e-Shahi	6,470
9	Badam Bagh	Dehdadi	6,254
10	Islamabad	Nahr-e-Shahi	5,933
11	Nowabad Nader Abad	Dehdadi	5,879
12	Noor Khoda Block (5,6)	Nahr-e-Shahi	4,412
13	Dahi Sawar	Dehdadi	4,314
14	Qou Taimor	Dehdadi	4,091
15	Sultan Baba Ali Shair	Nahr-e-Shahi	3,981
16	Karte Imam Hussain	Nahr-e-Shahi	3,925
17	Yaka Bagh Shair Abad	Dehdadi	3,860
18	Prozhe Azadi	Nahr-e-Shahi	3,804
19	Baba Kohna	Dehdadi	3,540
20	Cheal Gazi	Dehdadi	3,485
21	Rabat Bala	Chemtal	3,347
22	Arab Khana Negary	Dehdadi	3,344
23	Hemat Abad	Mazar-e-Sharif	3,058
24	Qala Hajer	Nahr-e-Shahi	3,034
25	Saadat No 3	Nahr-e-Shahi	2,803
26	Nowabad Merzayi Sheerabad	Dehdadi	2,762
27	Pusht Bagh Ulya	Dehdadi	2,622
28	Wali Asre	Mazar-e-Sharif	2,497
29	NowAbad Haji Peyada	Balkh	2,416
30	Nowabad Takht pul	Nahr-e-Shahi	2,372
31	Dahi Raze	Balkh	2,335
32	Chehl Dukhtaran Sufla	Dehdadi	2,182
33	Ewaz Khan	Dehdadi	2,141
34	Sayed Ismael Balkhi	Mazar-e-Sharif	2,130
35	Now Abad	Dehdadi	2,090
36	Cheal Gazi Paghmanin	Dehdadi	2,073
37	Jowi Shahr	Dehdadi	2,041
38	Aq Kaprak	Keshندهه	2,032
39	Block Hai Hawaye (1)	Mazar-e-Sharif	2,002
40	Faqir Abad	Mazar-e-Sharif	1,979
	<b>Total</b>		<b>202,741</b>



## FLED IDPS

Fled IDPs are Afghans who have fled from an assessed location or settlement within which they previously resided and now currently reside in a different settlement in 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.



**169,761**  
Fled IDPs



**94%**  
fled IDPs displaced in Balkh

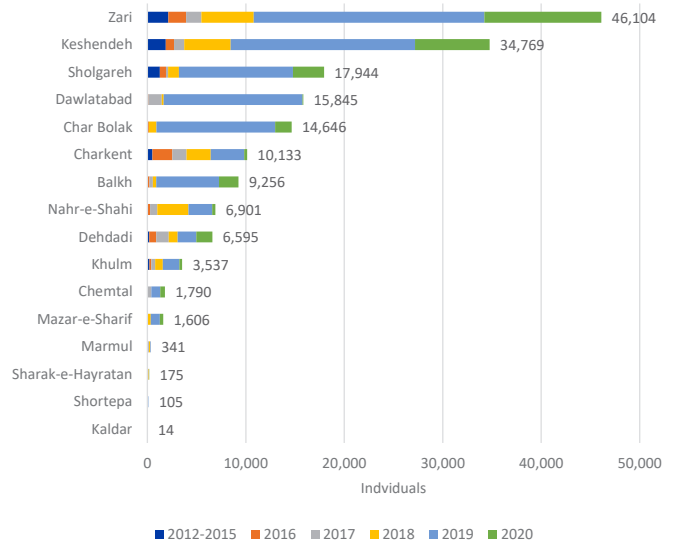


**86%**  
displaced due to conflict

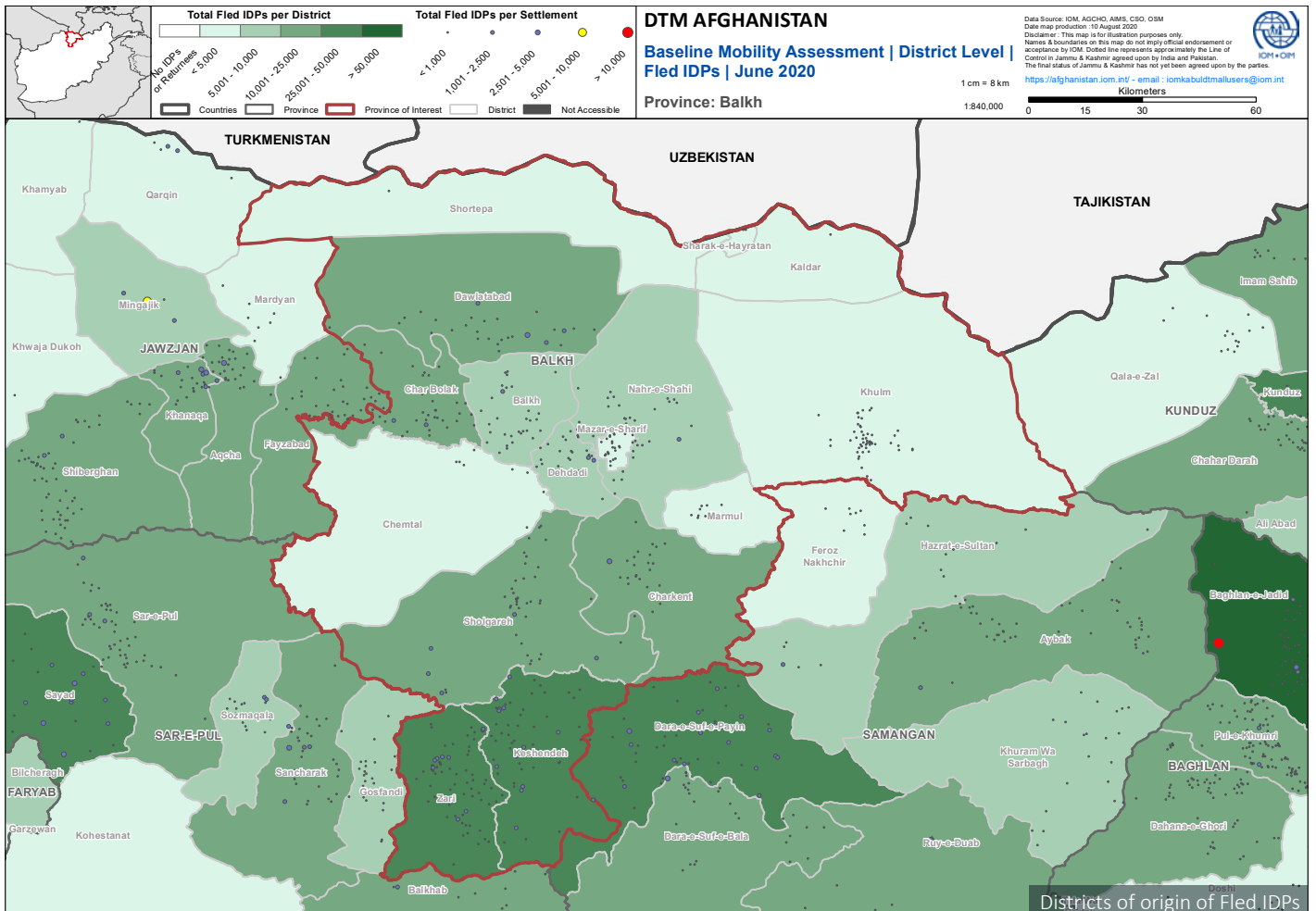
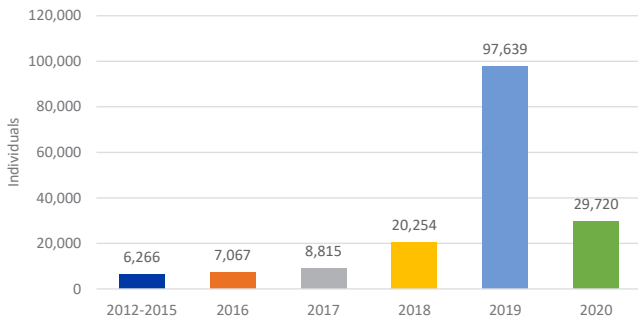


**14%**  
displaced by natural disaster

Fled IDPs by District | Balkh



Fled IDPs | Annual Trends | Balkh







# RETURNED IDPS

Returned IDPs are Afghans who have returned to their home place of origin in the assessed location or settlement from which they had fled as IDPs in the past, 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.



**55,029**  
Returned IDPs



**88%**  
returned from other locations in Balkh

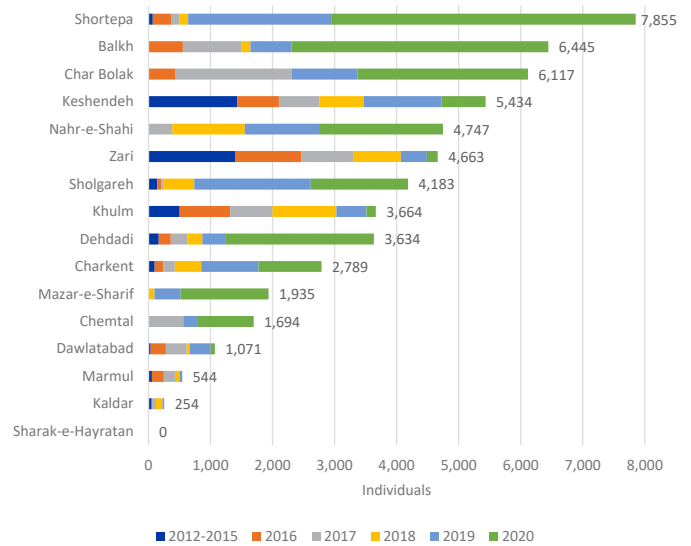


**2 in 5**  
former IDPs returned to only 3 districts: Shortepa, Balkh, and Char Bolak (37%)

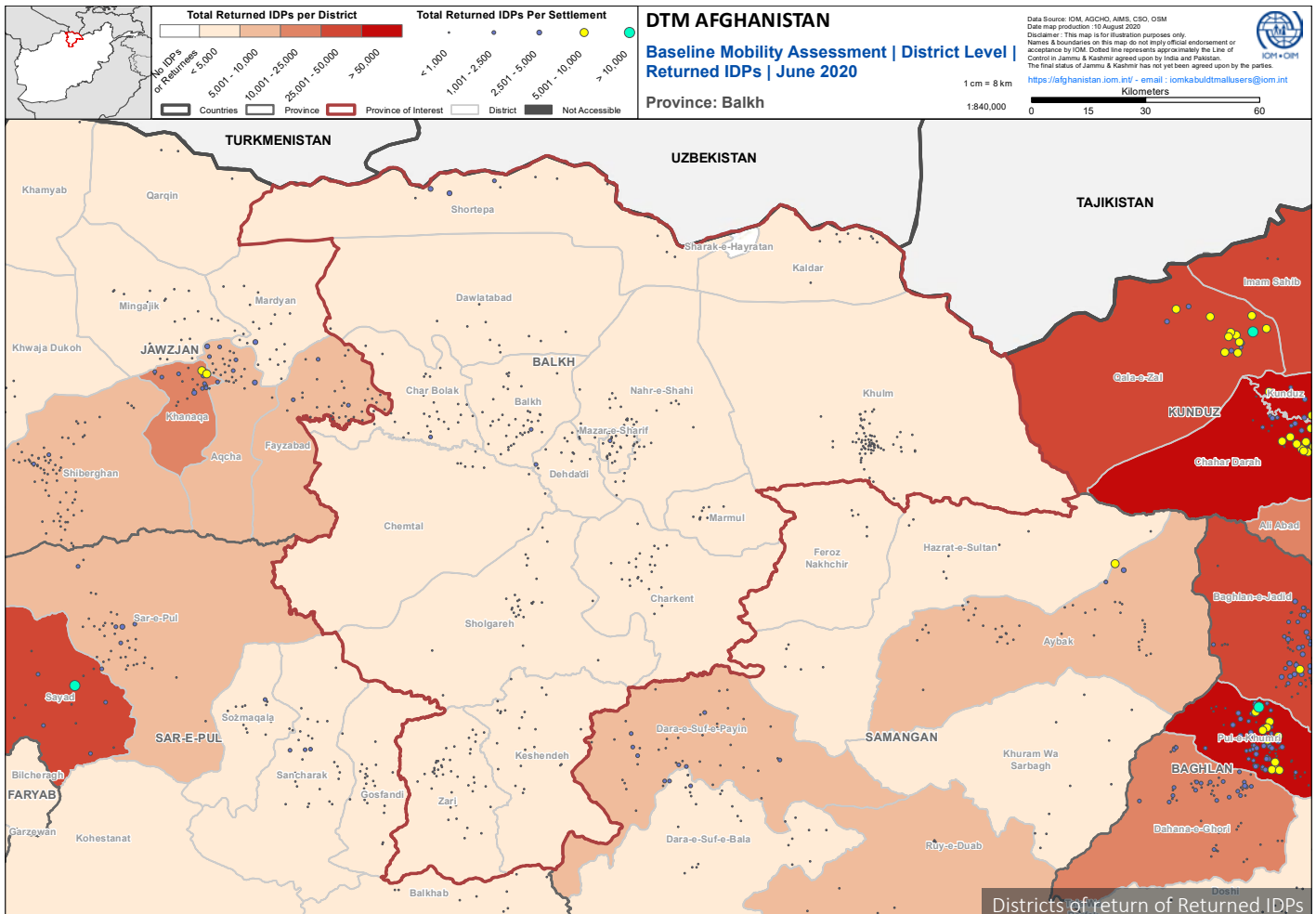
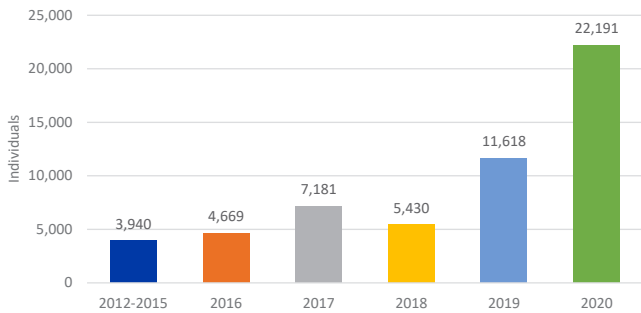


**1 in 6**  
of all returned IDPs in Balkh returned to Shortepa district (14%)

Returned IDPs by District | Balkh



Returned IDPs | Annual Trends | Balkh



Districts of return of Returned IDPs

## OUT-MIGRANTS

Out-Migrants are Afghans who have moved or fled abroad from the assessed location, whatever the cause, reason or duration of expatriation. This category includes refugees, displaced and uprooted people, and economic migrants who have left Afghanistan.



**178,684**  
fled abroad



**38,266**  
fled to Europe (21%)

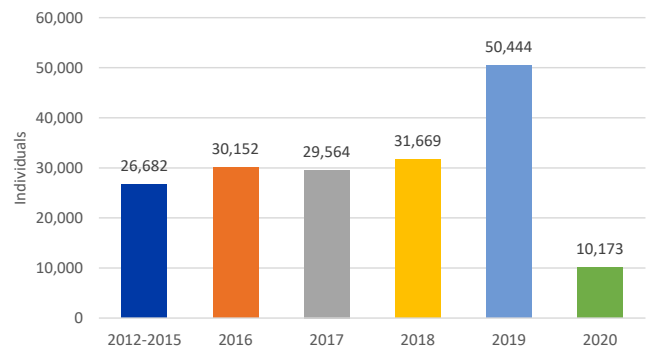


**114,413**  
fled to Iran (64%)

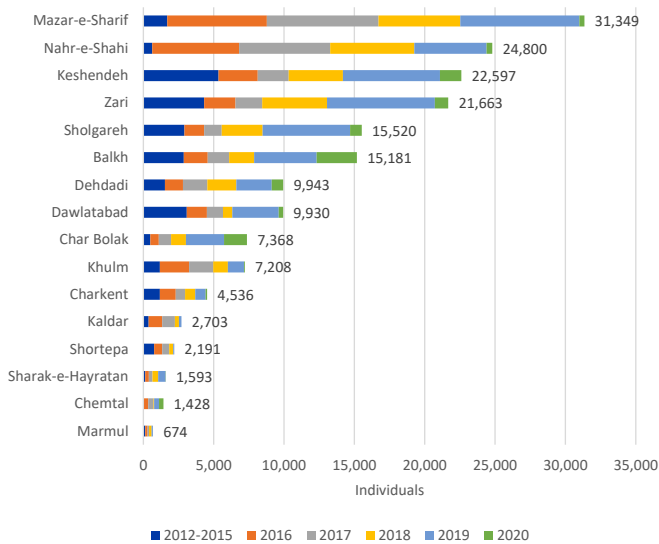


**23,791**  
fled to Pakistan (13%)

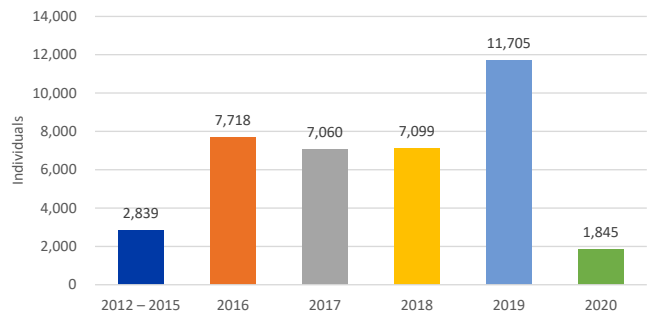
Out-Migrants | Annual Trends | Balkh



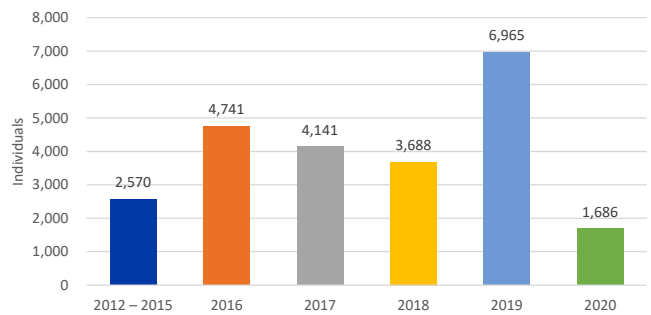
Out-Migrants by District | Balkh



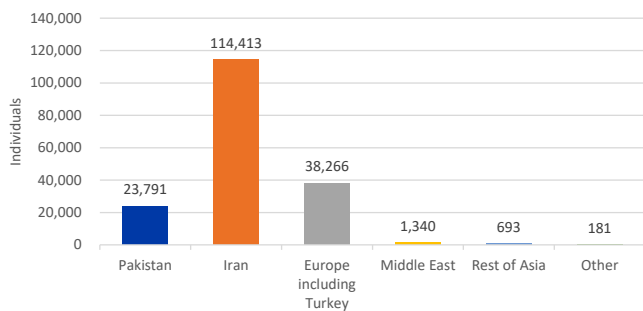
Out-Migrants to Europe & Turkey | Annual Trends | Balkh



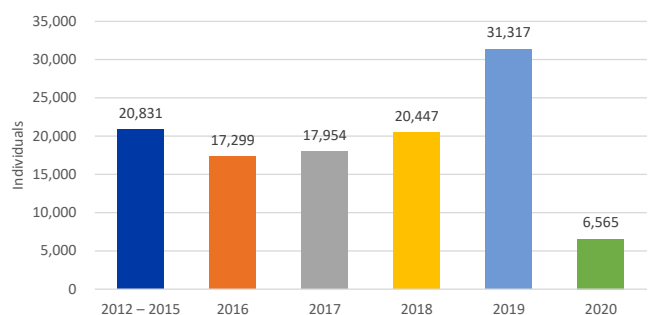
Out-Migrants to Pakistan | Annual Trends | Balkh



Out-Migrants by Country/Region of Destination | Balkh



Out-Migrants to Iran | Annual Trends | Balkh



International Organization for Migration  
17 Route des Morillons  
P.O. box 17  
1211 Geneva 19  
Switzerland

International Organization for Migration  
House #27  
4th Street  
Ansari Square  
Shahr-e Naw  
Kabul, Afghanistan

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 [www.displacement.iom.int-afghanistan](http://www.displacement.iom.int-afghanistan)

#### CONTACT US

For further information, please contact the DTM Team:

 [DTMAfghanistan@iom.int](mailto:DTMAfghanistan@iom.int)

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