



RETURNEE AND IDP MONITORING REPORT

Second Monthly Report – October 2017

Executive Summary

In July 2017, UNHCR contracted Orange Door Research and Viamo (formerly VOTO Mobile) to use mobile phone surveys to collect real-time data from the returnee population and conflict-induced IDPs, supplemented by surveys with the general population. The exercise is part of the protection monitoring that UNHCR carries out in Afghanistan to identify violations of rights and protection risks for populations of concern, for the purpose of informing effective responses. The interviews with returnees are conducted one to six months after the returnees have settled in communities; IDPs who responded were displaced in 2016 and 2017. This information provides UNHCR an unparalleled perspective on current population mobility trends and actionable data regarding assistance needs, protection risks and vulnerability, as well as comparative information from a broader cross-section of the population.

This report covers the period of data collection from 30 August to 31 October 2017, during which a total of 5,655 household level interviews were carried out including 2,765 interviews with 2017 returnees, 2,890 interviews with conflict-induced IDPs and an additional 2,981 interviews across the general population.

Relationship between Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities

The general population has a more positive view of returnees than IDPs, with 47% reporting a positive view of returnees, as against only 31% with a positive view of IDPs. Returnees have typically planned their return and arrive with some resources to enable their reintegration, thereby creating less demand for humanitarian assistance in the short-term; they may also be returning to areas where they have existing family support or community affiliations. In contrast, IDPs displaced by conflict with little or no time to prepare may arrive with fewer material resources and coping mechanisms, and may also lack community support networks in the area of displacement. Lower rates of literacy among IDPs, who are more likely to originate from rural areas, further contribute to a less positive acceptance by the general population and host communities. Overall, general population respondents who live in rural areas had a better view of returnees than those living in urban areas, and a slightly better view of IDPs. These findings

reflect the significant demands on shelter and housing, basic services, and livelihood opportunities in urban areas. Food insecurity is also a greater concern in urban areas, compared to rural areas. By comparison, 53% of returnees and 56% of IDPs report facing a problem with the host community, and these tensions are slightly more prevalent outside of Kabul. This data attests to the challenging protection environment for returnees, IDPs, and the general population, which impacts on prospects for social cohesion and peaceful co-existence. By far the most common problem reported by both returnees and IDPs is a lack of jobs.

Protection Risks and Challenges

29% of returnees, 54% of IDPs and 23% of general population respondents report skipping a meal in the last week, underlining food insecurity as a major challenge. This may potentially increase reliance on negative coping mechanisms and associated protection risks, such as child labour, children being out of school, and begging. 6% of returnees, 29% of IDPs and 24% of general population respondents report being a victim of a crime, reflecting a poor security environment and the limited capacity of police and security forces to ensure law and order, and the safety of the civilian population. Overall, 13% of returnees, 22% of IDPs and 32% of general population respondents report that the security situation has deteriorated compared to one year ago. The relative optimism among returnees regarding security, and lesser exposure to crime, could be due to the fact that all returnees interviewed for this survey were resettled within the past year.

Livelihoods and Access to Services

The majority of returnees (54%) report incomes of at least 5,000 Afs per month; slightly less than half (44%) of IDPs report this level of earnings. 18% of returnees and 26% of IDPs report that in times of need a child under the age of 14 has contributed to household income – this compares to 38% of general population respondents who report the same. Child labor is much more prevalent outside of Kabul for the general population, but only slightly more prevalent for returnees and IDPs. These figures are consistent with World Bank data, which shows higher levels of poverty in rural areas compared to urban areas, coinciding with lower rates of school attendance and less access to education outside of Kabul.

49% of returnee boy children and 27% of returnee girl children are in school, compared to 57% of IDP boy children and 37% of IDP girl children. The gap in access to education and school attendance among girls is also evident among the general population, according to the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. 65% of returnees and 51% of IDPs report that they are unable to access healthcare, however, reflecting significant limitations of Afghanistan's public healthcare system. 64% of returnees and 56% of IDPs report that they have the same access to water as the host community.

Population Movement

62% of returnees are living in the same destination that they indicated to UNHCR as their intended destination when they registered at an Encashment Center. Further research is required to identify the reasons why almost 40% of returnees have settled in locations other than their intended destination. 76% of returnees are living in either their stated destination or their province of origin. Returnees living in their intended destination reported a similar monthly income as returnees who are not in their stated destination. Overall, 60% of returnees and 70% of IDPs are currently living in their province of origin. This data confirms that most IDPs remain in the vicinity of their place of origin, either within the same district or in nearby districts within the same province. 10% of returnees and 11% of IDPs plan to leave their current location. Among both returnees and IDPs, those with higher incomes are more likely to plan to leave their current locations. Again, further research is required to identify the reasons behind this finding.

*Photo: Shelter support for vulnerable families – Herat province – 2017
Credit: UNHCR/ W.Homan

Methodology

This project supplements UNHCR Afghanistan’s existing data collection efforts by using ongoing mobile phone surveys to expand UNHCR’s understanding of the challenges faced by returnees and IDPs, as well as allowing UNHCR to track key trends nationwide through a parallel general population survey. Under this project, UNHCR through Viamo (formerly VOTO Mobile) and Orange Door Research will conduct 10,000 household level returnee and IDP surveys and 4,000 general population / host community surveys which will be completed by December 2017.

Surveys are collected on an ongoing basis, with data updated daily that will inform real-time tracking indices, allowing UNHCR Afghanistan to track changes in key indicators as they occur.

Orange Door Research conducts the returnee and IDP surveys using an adaptive, custom-designed call center in Kabul. The 62 question survey instrument was developed by UNHCR Afghanistan, VOTO Mobile and Orange Door Research through a consultative process involving UNHCR offices in Pakistan, Iran, UNHCR HQ, and the World Bank. It covers a range of issues related to displacement, safety and security, access to basic services, livelihoods, housing, land and property rights, and access to documentation which are in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) framework criteria for measuring to what extent a durable solution has been achieved.

For returnees and IDPs, the answer rate (i.e. percentage of calls that were answered) was 51%. The response rate amongst returnees and IDPs who answered the phone (i.e. who then agreed to take the survey) was 94%. The survey can also be adapted in real-time to meet UNHCR Afghanistan’s changing information needs.

VOTO Mobile utilizes automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) mobile phone surveys to conduct the general population surveys. This shorter survey comprises 24 multiple-choice questions developed through the same consultative process. This system uses random digit dialing to reach large numbers of potential respondents, ensuring that participants include all segments of the population (men and women, rural and urban, etc.) with access to mobile phones. The response sample is then reweighted using Iterative Proportional Fitting as against third-party demographic data, to create a more nationally representative sample.

2,765

Number of returnee surveys conducted between August 30th and October 30th 2017

2,890

Number of IDP surveys conducted between August 30th and October 30th 2017

2,981

Number of general population surveys conducted between August 30th and October 30th 2017

RESPONSE RATE

51%

Answer Rate

94%

Response Rate

Number of Returnee and IDP Surveys Collected per Province

Surveys are conducted nationwide. For the first two months of data collection, survey respondents (returnees) were contacted in all provinces but the majority were primarily concentrated in Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz, and Logar provinces. These provinces were recorded as the top four destinations when returnees were provided with the cash grant upon arrival at UNHCR’s Encashment Centers. All returnee respondents returned in 2017, between May and October. Orange Door Research has reached out to all returnees who provided a phone number to UNHCR – of these, Orange Door Research reached 68% (answer rate). Of those who answered, 93% completed the survey (response rate).

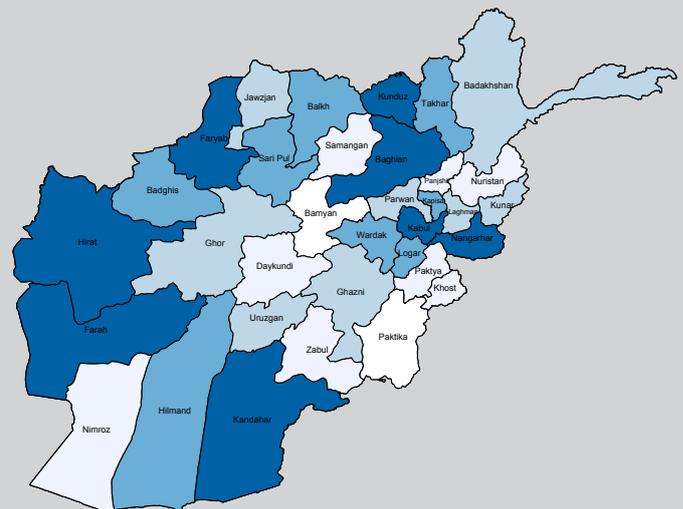
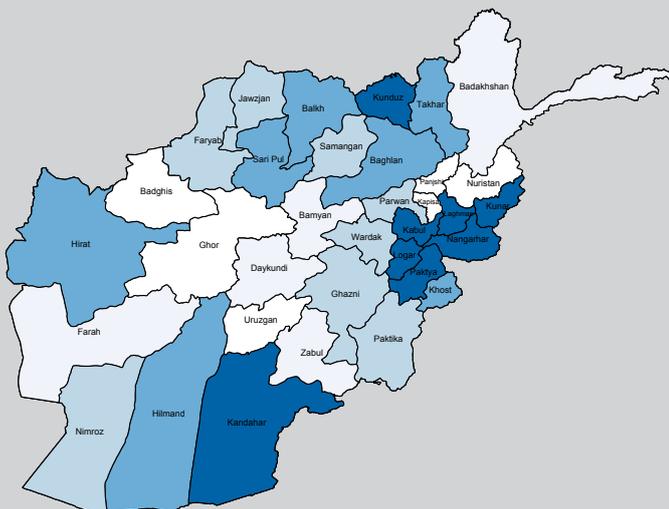
Survey respondents (IDPs) were also contacted in all provinces but the majority concentrated in Kunduz, Nangarhar, Kabul, and Farah provinces. All IDP respondents were displaced in 2016 or 2017. Orange Door Research has reached out to all IDPs who provided a phone number to UNHCR – of these, Orange Door Research reached 43% (answer rate). Of those who answered, 94% completed the survey (response rate).

RETURNEE SURVEYS COLLECTED PER PROVINCE

IDP SURVEYS COLLECTED PER PROVINCE

- 2 - 30
- 31 - 60
- 61 - 90
- 91 - 902

- 3 - 30
- 31 - 60
- 61 - 90
- 91 - 567

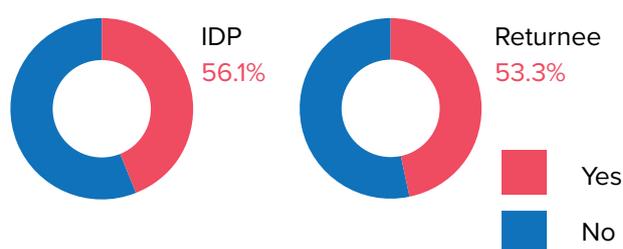


Relationship between Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities

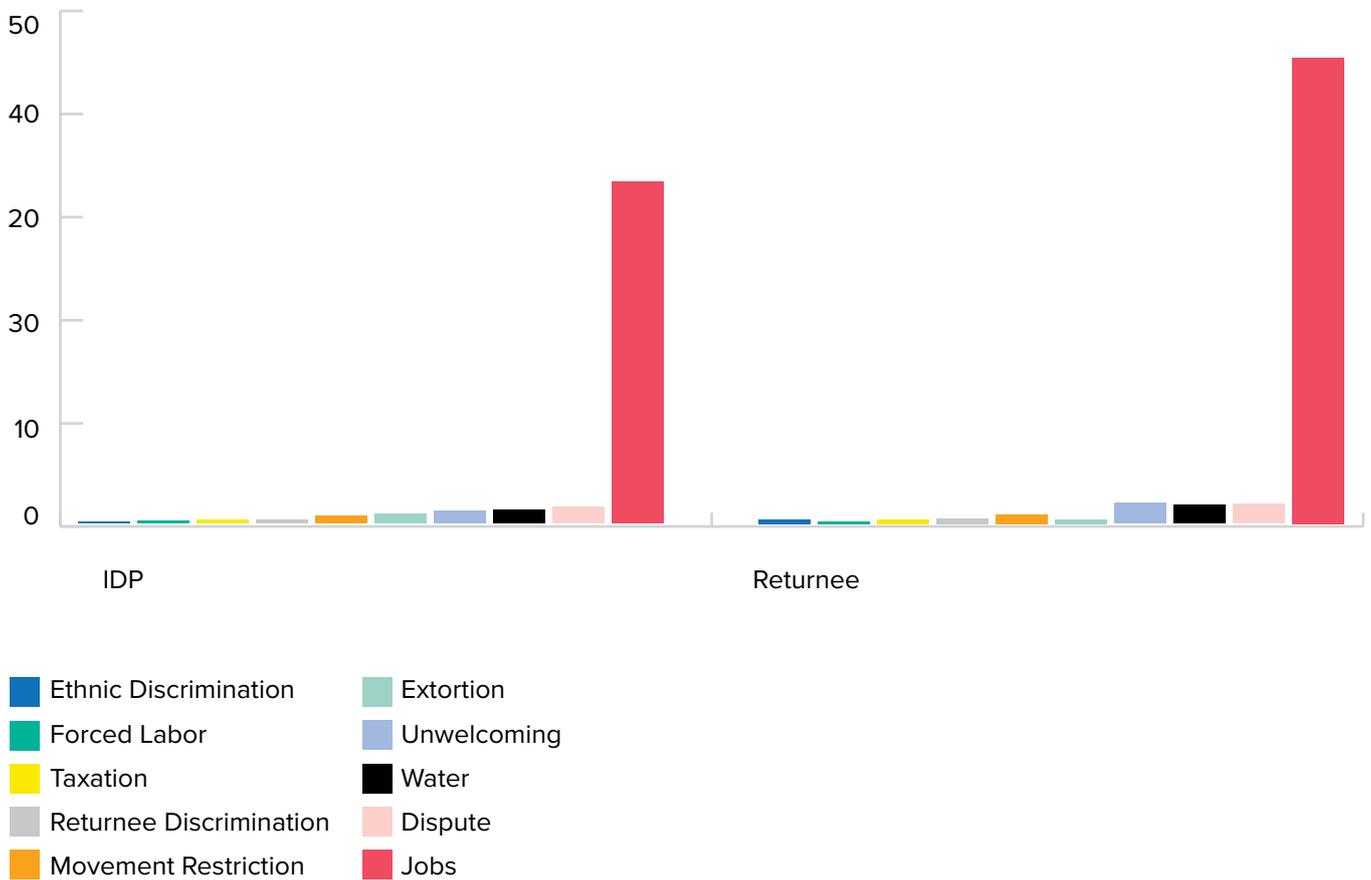
The general population has a more positive view of returnees than IDPs, with 47% reporting a positive view of returnees, as against only 31% with a positive view of IDPs. General population perceptions of IDPs were negatively associated with whether the respondent had an education (measured by self-reported literacy – i.e. literacy was associated with the respondent have a more negative view of IDPs), but perceptions of returnees do not depend on literacy. 41% of general population respondents who live in urban areas had a positive view of returnees, and 27% had a positive view of IDPs. Of those respondents who live in Kabul specifically, 43% had a positive view of returnees, and 27% had a positive view of IDPs. The general population might have a more positive view of returnees compared to IDPs due to the fact that returnees normally make arrangements prior to their return – for instance, returnees normally make contact with their relatives and communities before returning, and so both returnees and host communities have a better understanding of what to expect. IDPs, however, have limited choice about where to go, and limited opportunities to prepare, given the emergency nature of their displacement. IDPs seeking to move to secure locations might have only limited knowledge about the area and local communities.

By comparison, 53% of male returnees and 66% of female returnees report difficulties with the host community. Among IDPs, 55% of men and 74% of women report facing a problem with the host community – these problems can range from a lack of jobs to disputes over access to resources like water. That said, by far the most common problem reported by both returnees and IDPs are a lack of jobs. Other problems include communities being unwelcoming. The provinces with the highest percentage of returnees reporting problems with the host community are Parwan and Badakhshan; the provinces with the highest percentage of IDPs reporting problems with the host community are Laghman, Kunar, and Samangan.

PROBLEMS WITH HOST COMMUNITIES



MOST COMMON PROBLEMS LISTED BY RETURNEES AND IDPS



HOW HOST COMMUNITIES VIEW RETURNEES AND IDPS

How do you perceive returnees presence in your communities?

46.8%

GOOD

33.0%

BAD

20.3%

NEITHER

How have returnees affected your livelihood?

42.3%

IMPROVED IT

33.4%

WORSENERD IT

24.3%

NOT CHANGED IT

How do you perceive IDP's presence in your communities?

30.7%

GOOD

49.0%

BAD

20.3%

NEITHER

How have IDPs affected your livelihood?

22.7%

IMPROVED IT

55.3%

WORSENERD IT

22.0%

NOT CHANGED IT

Protection Risks and Challenges

28% of male returnees and 54% of female returnees report skipping a meal in the past week. Returnees who are living in their intended destination, where they are more likely to have family or community support to assist with their reintegration, are less likely to face hunger than those living in a different province (26% v. 33%). IDPs are much more likely to face hunger than returnees (49% of male IDPs and 82% of female IDPs), suggesting that IDPs are more likely than returnees to be exposed to protection risks associated with reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour and begging. Further research needs to be conducted on the significant difference in food security between male and female respondents. Among the general population, approximately 23% of men and 20% of women report skipping a meal in the last week. The provinces with highest rate of returnees skipping a meal are Herat, Kunduz, and Zabul; the provinces with the highest rate of IDPs skipping a meal are Badakhshan, Herat, and Samangan.

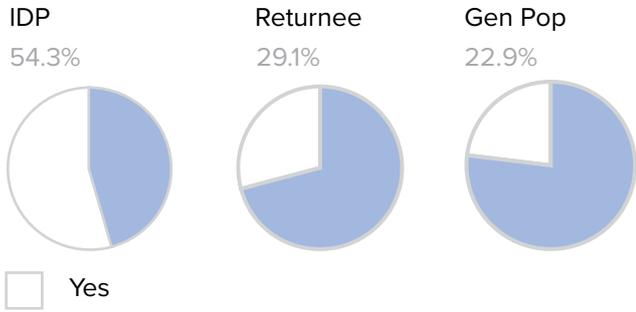
Only 6% of male returnees and 9% of female returnees report being victim of a crime in the past year, although it should be noted that some respondents had spent as little as one month in Afghanistan and all returnees surveyed had arrived within the past six months. IDPs are much more vulnerable to crime, with 27% of men and 38% of women reporting being a victim of crime within the past year. Among the general population, 24% of men and 23% of women report being a victim of a crime. (In the 2017 Survey of the Afghan People by The Asia Foundation, 18.5% of general population respondents identified that they or someone in their family was the victim of a crime over the past year.) The provinces with highest rate of returnees reporting being a victim of a crime are Baghlan and Samangan; the provinces with the highest rate of IDPs reporting being a victim of a crime are Helmand, Nimruz, and Badakhshan.

From January 1st to September 30th, 2017, UNAMA documented 8,019 civilian casualties, an overall decrease of 6% from the year before, although civilian casualties among women, and deaths among children, have increased this year. This was reflected in the survey responses: 13% of returnees, 22% of IDPs and 32% of general population respondents report that the security situation has deteriorated compared to one year ago. One possible reason why returnees have a relatively more optimistic view of the security situation might be that many refugees returned to urban and semi-urban

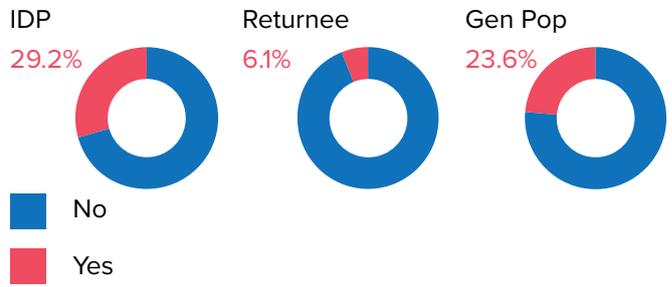
areas (especially in and around Kabul and Nangarhar) where the security situation is relatively more stable than in rural or remote areas. Similarly, IDPs might have a more positive view than the general population due to the fact that, following displacement, they often move to provincial centers where the security situation is better.

Only 18% of returnees and 26% IDPs have reported having a child under 14 years old working to support the family compared to the 38% among the general population. Among returnees, households earning between 1,500 and 3,000 Afs are the more likely to rely on child labor than other income brackets, possibly because poorer households rely more on aid. Poorer IDP households are more likely to rely on child labor than wealthier households. The lower rates of child labor among returnee and IDP households potentially means that child labor as a negative coping strategy is less common in the first year of return / displacement, when returnees and IDPs are more likely to benefit from humanitarian assistance.

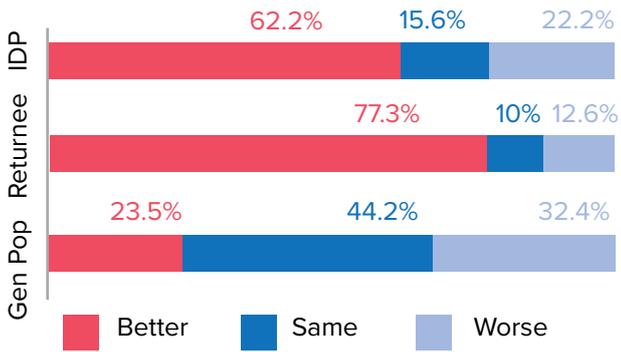
DID ANYONE SKIP A MEAL LAST WEEK?



HAVE YOU BEEN THE VICTIM OF A CRIME?



SECURITY SITUATION COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO



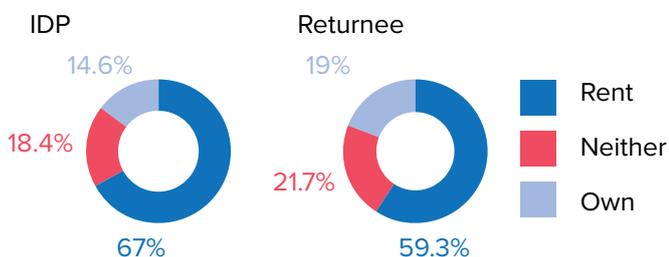
Livelihoods and Access to Shelter

The majority of returnees (54%) report incomes of at least 5,000 Afs per month; slightly less than half (44%) of IDPs report this level of earnings. This compares to an average monthly household income across the population as a whole of 11,859 Afs, according to The Asia Foundation’s 2017 Survey of the Afghan People. The relatively low income reported by returnees and IDPs could contribute to negative coping mechanisms, such as early marriage, migration to cities or other countries, child labor, engaging in illegal activities, etc..

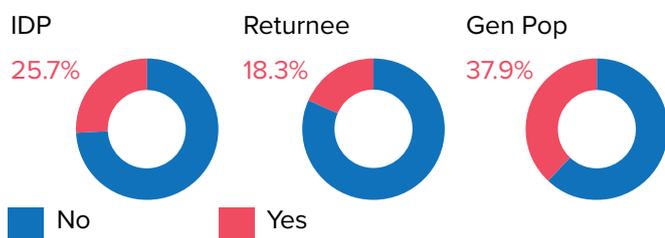
By far the most common source of income for both returnees and IDPs is unskilled labor. 19% of returnees and 15% of IDPs report owning their homes, and 59% of returnees and 67% of IDPs report renting. 23% of returnees and 19% of IDPs report that they are squatting, or living in an informal settlement. The average number of rooms to sleep for a returnee household is 3.3, and for an IDP household is 2.8. 38% of returnee and 42% of IDP households report sharing their home with another family. The low rate of home ownership among returnees attests to the lengthy period of their displacement outside of Afghanistan, and the fact that almost 40% of former refugees do not settle in their province of origin upon return, for reasons including insecurity, the presence of non-state armed groups, and a lack of services.

6% of returnees, 5% of IDPs and 43% of the general population report having faced a land or property dispute. These findings are consistent with the fact that returnees and IDPs are less likely than the general population to own land or property.

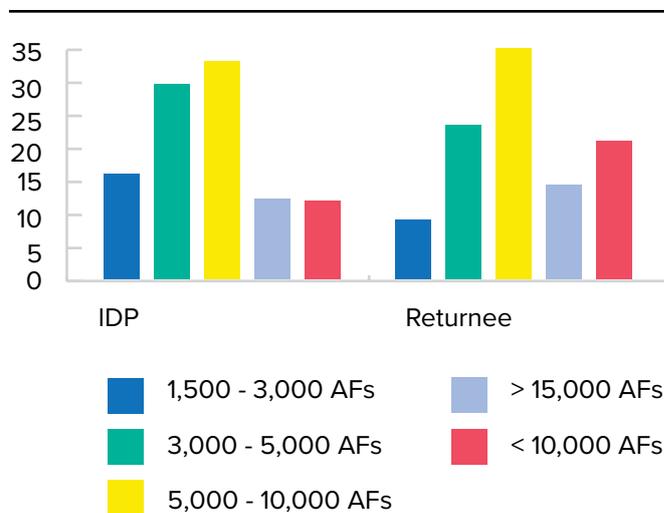
PERCENT OF RETURNNEES & IDPS WHO OWN THEIR HOME, RENT OR NEITHER



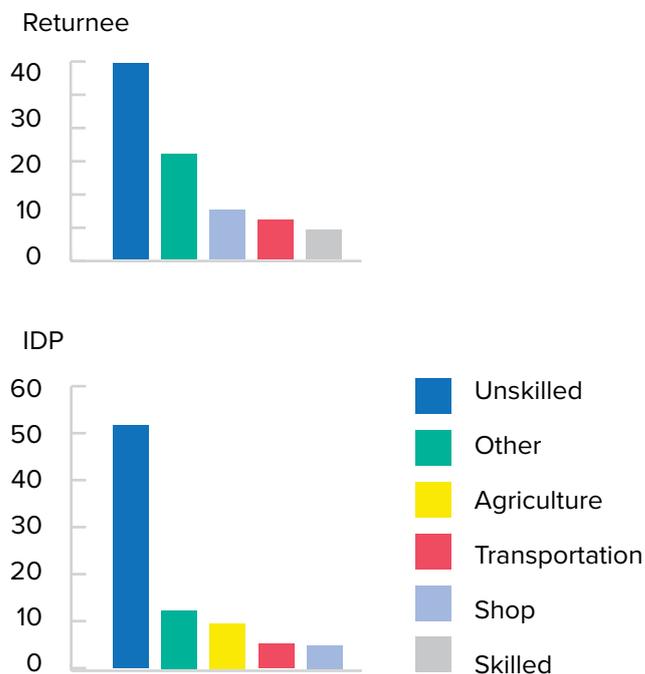
DO YOU HAVE A CHILD UNDER 14 WORKING?



AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME



FIVE MOST COMMON SOURCES OF INCOME



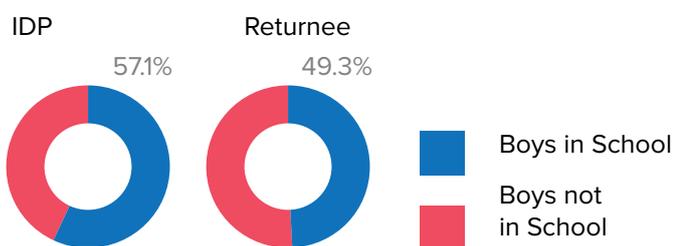
Access to Basic Services

49% of returnee male children and 27% of returnee female children are in school, compared to 57% of IDP male children and 37% of IDP female children. 68% of returnees and 72% of IDPs state that schools are available within walking distance. By comparison, UNICEF's 2016 statistics for Afghanistan's primary net attendance rate estimates that 62% of eligible male children and 46% of eligible female children were enrolled in primary school. The provinces with highest rate of returnee children in school are Sar-e Pol, Zabul, and Farah; Among IDPs, the provinces with the highest rate of children in school are Daykundi, Badghis, Badakhshan, and Ghor.

Among both returnees and IDPs, households with higher levels of income are more likely to have all of their boys in school. Income, however, is not associated with girls attending school. Among returnee households, home ownership correlates to higher levels of school attendance for boys, but not girls. For IDPs, home ownership correlates with higher levels of school attendance for both sexes. Among both returnees and IDPs, a tazkira correlates with higher levels of school attendance for both sexes. According to survey responses, the main reasons that boys are not in school are distance to the school and the need to work to contribute to household income. The main reasons that girls are not in school are distance to school and cultural barriers.

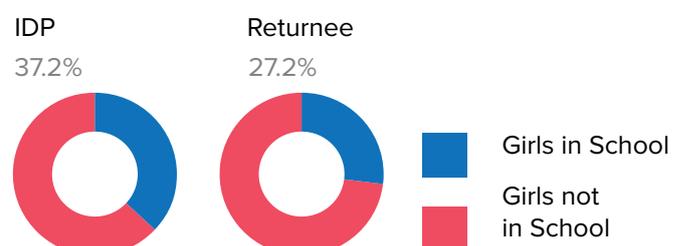
34% of male returnees and 39% of female returnees report that they are unable to access healthcare. IDPs face a harder time: 47% of displaced men and 54% of displaced women are unable to access healthcare. 87% of both returnees and IDPs report living within one hour of the nearest health facility. Among both returnees and IDPs, the main reasons for not being able to access health care are the cost of healthcare and the low quality of the available healthcare. Returnees have the least access to healthcare in Nangarhar and Kabul, where there is the highest concentration of returnees and demand for community services; IDPs have the least access to healthcare in Kunduz, Farah, Nangarhar, and Kabul. There are no clear relationships between access to healthcare and income, home ownership, or having a tazkira.

PERCENTAGE OF MALE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL



By comparison, UNICEF estimates that 62.9% of eligible male children were enrolled in primary school as of 2012

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

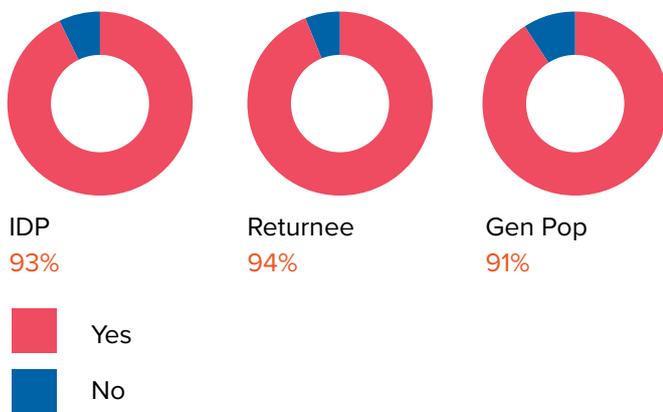


By comparison, UNICEF estimates that 46.4% of eligible female children were enrolled in primary school as of 2012

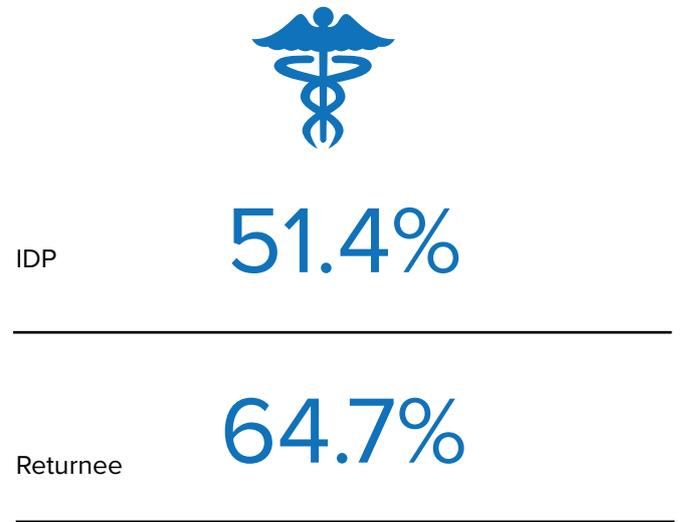
64% of returnees and 56% of IDPs report that they have the same access to water as the host community. The wealthiest returnees and IDPs (those earning more than 10,000 Afs per month) are most likely to report having the same access to water. Households with a Tazkira (both returnee and IDP) are more likely to have the same access to water as the host community, as compared to households without a tazkira. Returnees who rent their homes and IDPs who own their homes are more likely to have the same access to water.

94% of all returnee heads of household have a Tazkira, including 72% of female returnee head of households. Similarly, 93% of all IDP heads of household have a Tazkira, including 70% of female IDP head of households. Among the general population interviewed under this exercise, 91% of all respondents have a Tazkira, including 63% of female respondents.

HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD WITH A TAZKIRA

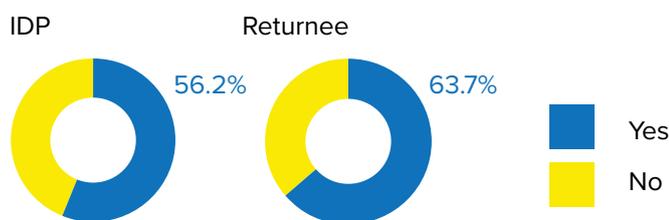


UNABLE TO ACCESS HEALTH CARE

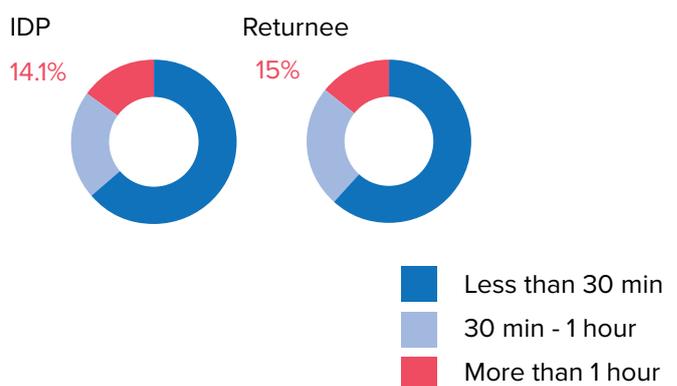


76.5% of returnees and 79.4% of IDPs report being within one hour of the nearest health facility, compared to 83.4% of the population as a whole (The Asia Foundation, Afghanistan Survey 2014)

ACCESS TO SAME WATER AS HOST COMMUNITY



LIVE WITHIN ONE HOUR OF NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY



Population Movement Dynamics

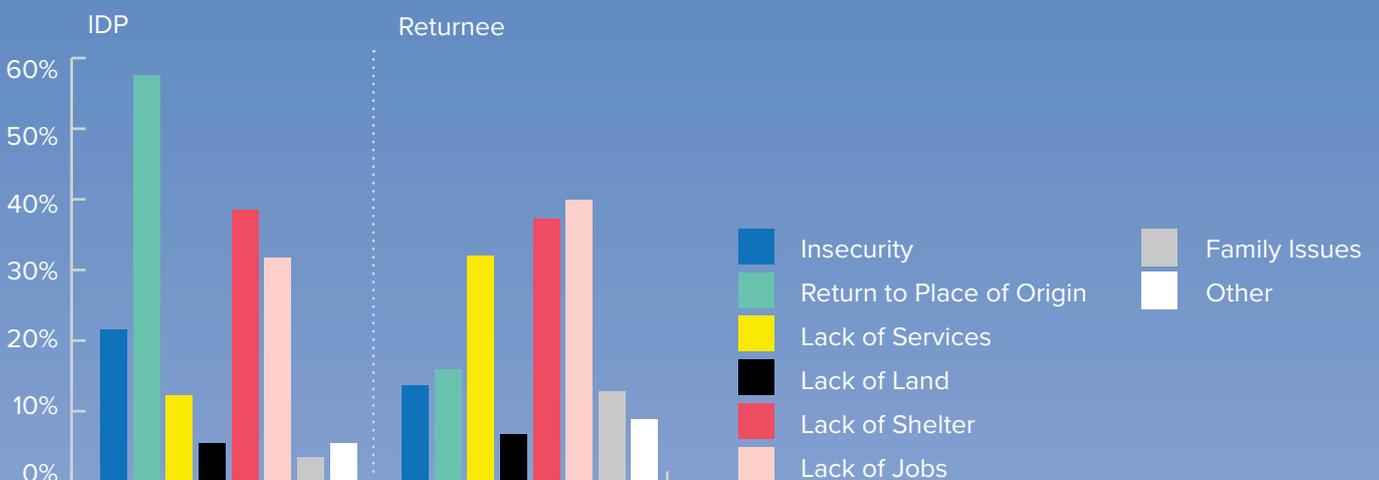
62% of returnees are living in the same destination that they indicated to UNHCR as their preferred destination when registered at an Encashment Center. Of the remaining 38%, 14% returned to their province of origin (which was different than the intended destination indicated to UNHCR), and 24% are currently in some other province (i.e. neither the destination they indicated to UNHCR nor their home province.) 76% of returnees are living in either their stated destination or their province of origin. Returnees living in their intended destination reported similar monthly income than returnees who are not in their stated destination.

60% of returnees and 70% of IDPs are currently living in their province of origin. 24% of returnees are living in neither their preferred destination nor their province of origin, due to insecurity, lack of job opportunities, and / or lack of services. 10% of returnees and 11% of IDPs plan to leave their current location, and this desire to leave does not depend on living in their province of origin. Among both returnees and IDPs, those with higher incomes are more likely to plan to leave their current locations. The most common reasons are: returning to their province of origin, fleeing insecurity, and seeking better access to services.

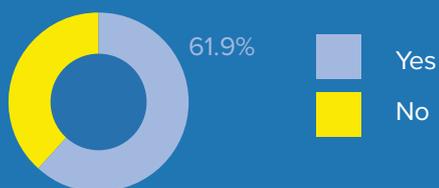
The provinces with the greatest percentage of returnees who wish to leave are Samangan, Kunar, and Kunduz. The provinces with the greatest percentage of IDPs who wish to leave are Uruzgan, Helmand, Wardak, Laghman, and Takhar. Among both returnees and IDPs, individuals with higher incomes are more likely to say they plan to leave their current location.

The most common use of the repatriation grant provided to returnees was food (65%), followed by rent/shelter (38%) and transportation (31%).

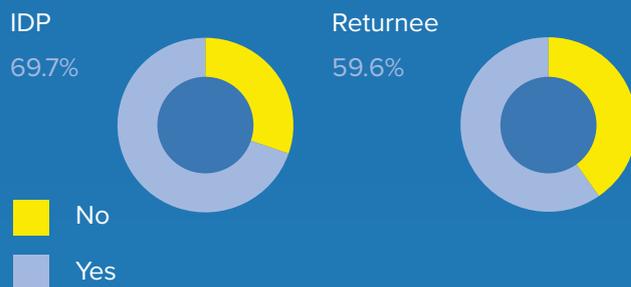
REASONS FOR WANTING TO LEAVE CURRENT LOCATION



RETURNEES LIVING IN INTENDED DESTINATION

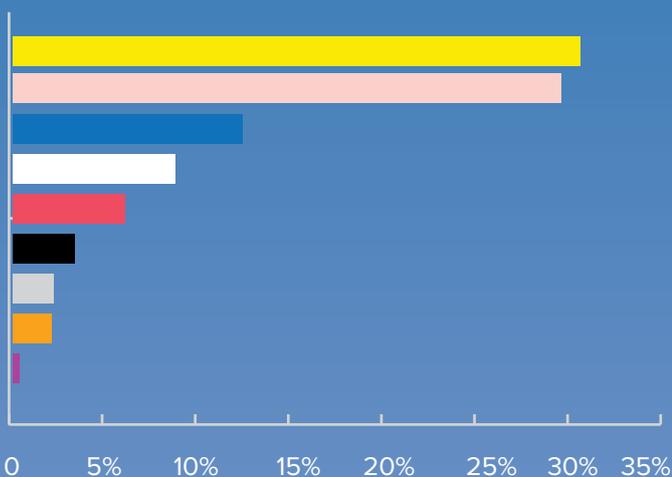


LIVING IN PROVINCE OF ORIGIN



The five most common provinces of origin for returnees surveyed to date are Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz, Logar, and Paktya. The five most common provinces of origin for IDPs surveyed to date are Kunduz, Nangarhar, Farah, Helmand, and Faryab.

PRIMARY USE OF REPATRIATION CASH GRANT



When you received the reintegration cash assistance from UNHCR, what is the MAIN thing you spent the money on? Respondents could select one option



PLAN TO STAY IN CURRENT LOCATION



* Returnees are provided with USD 200 per person upon arrival by UNHCR to cover their immediate needs in the first two to three months of their return.

Appendix

Survey Respondent Demographic Data

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RETURNEE RESPONDENTS:

Age	18-25	24.3%
	26-35	32%
	36-45	21.7%
	46-55	14.2%
	56+	7.8%
Sex	Male	96.8%
	Female	0.31%
Number of people in household	1-5	16.8%
	6-10	45.6%
	11-15	21%
	16+	16.6%
Number of Children	0	3.7%
	1-3	23.2%
	4-6	38.2%
	7+	34.9%
Monthly Income	<1,500 AFN	14.1%
	1,500-3,000 AFN	8.9%
	3,001-5,000 AFN	22.5%
	5,001-10,000 AFN	35.2%
	>10,000 AFN	19.3%

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF IDP RESPONDENTS:

Age	18-25	23%
	26-35	33.5%
	36-45	23.9%
	46-55	12.1%
	56+	7.5%
Sex	Male	84.9%
	Female	15.0%
Number of people in household	1-5	20.1%
	6-10	53.9%
	11-15	16.3%
	16+	9.6%
Number of Children	0	2.3%
	1-3	25.2%
	4-6	41.2%
	7+	31.3%
Monthly Income	<1,500 AFN	10.7%
	1,500-3,000 AFN	15.5%
	3,001-5,000 AFN	29.6%
	5,001-10,000 AFN	33.3%
	>10,000 AFN	10.9%

Next Steps

The telephone survey will continue until early January 2018, with additional data contributing to a final report in late January 2018. The data gathered as of 31 October 2017 indicates that, in most areas, the general population faces similar protection risks and challenges in terms of access to social and economic rights, and physical safety, compared to returnees and IDPs who are more likely to benefit from humanitarian assistance. Returnees reported higher levels of social integration and cohesion in communities of origin or destination, compared to returnees who settled in other locations, and IDPs.

Challenges to sustainable reintegration are clearly linked to the lack of livelihoods and shelter, which is more likely to impact on IDPs and returnees than the general population. The findings underscore that the voluntary repatriation grant helps returnees to address their humanitarian needs in the initial phases of return, but has limited impact in their reintegration and longer-term protection outcomes.

The findings of this report underscore the need for targeted support in both rural and urban areas for livelihood interventions, and continued advocacy to ensure access to land and shelter, education, and healthcare. Conflict and insecurity, as well as access to basic services, influences patterns of return and displacement, with returnees often deciding to settle in locations other than their place of origin, or intended destination.

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*Photo: Returnee monitoring with newly arrived returnee men at Kabul Encashment Centre - 2017
Credit: UNHCR/ M. Haroon