



# MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PROLONGED IDPs

AFGHANISTAN

REPORT

JANUARY 2017

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### About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org).

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## SUMMARY

### Context

For nearly 40 years much of Afghanistan has been affected by conflict. Each year military operations, factional fighting, natural disasters and a lack of economic opportunities drive thousands of people from their homes. Lacking safety, stability and resources in their place of origin **many families and communities see mobility as a solution to their problems**. The fluid and unpredictable nature of the conflict in Afghanistan, juxtaposed with the countries' susceptibility to a variety of natural disasters, results in many being displaced for long periods of time and/or displaced multiple times.

The number of families enduring long periods of displacement in Afghanistan is increasing. Although it has often been presumed that those displaced for long periods eventually adapt to their surroundings and integrate into their host community, this assessment report shows that this is not the case. **Isolated from their social networks, internally displaced persons (IDPs) displaced over a long period of time struggle to secure regular employment, adequate shelter and are often food insecure**. Lacking adequate identification documents, many are unable to own and invest in land and property, while, for those able to, there is a reservation due to a constant fear of eviction and further displacement.

### Assessment

This prolonged IDP (PIDP) assessment report is designed to identify the needs and vulnerabilities of those displaced for prolonged periods of time, beyond the initial emergency displacement period. Only those newly displaced within a period of six months qualify for humanitarian assistance. PIDPs thus fall into a grey area whereby they are not eligible to receive support yet their needs often worsen the longer they are displaced. This report provides a quantitative evidence base for humanitarian decision makers with the purpose of identifying PIDPs across the country, comparing PIDP needs with those of their hosts/host communities, prioritizing sectors of intervention and informing potential future assessments and response plans. Coordinated through the cluster and OCHA focal points (including ESNFI, FSAC, Health, Nutrition, Protection and WASH) and designed in close collaboration with cluster partners, **the findings of this PIDP assessment report provide an insight into the key needs and vulnerabilities of PIDP communities across Afghanistan**.

Using key informants and local representatives, the report triangulates all secondary data sets and assessments concerning IDPs displaced between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in order to identify their population and current whereabouts. Then a variety of local actors including UN field staff and Community Development Council representatives were used to verify these communities. Finally using a household level survey the report offers a multi-sectoral analysis at the national level of PIDP communities and the host communities living alongside them. Where PIDP vulnerabilities are found to be more severe, they are then interrogated further at the regional level. Patterns and trends are exposed; questioning the relationship between different variables and thematic areas particularly relating to displacement characteristics. As PIDPs remain hidden from humanitarian assessments and intervention programmes **the aim is to reveal their vulnerabilities as well as the sequences that have contributed to their current condition**. An understanding of these structures will not only help to inform a potential humanitarian response plan in the year to come but offer us an understanding as to how these vulnerabilities may manifest themselves if left unassisted.

### Key Findings

The overall assessment findings are that PIDPs are more vulnerable than host communities. They have severe vulnerability characteristics and continuing needs that necessitate humanitarian assistance. They have not managed to build stable and secure lives in their new environments nor reach the same standard of living as the host communities around them. Their vulnerabilities far outweigh those of the host communities as they rely on insecure income generating activities. As a result they struggle to secure shelter and food all the while living in constant fear of eviction. It is this situation that exacerbates their needs resulting in them being more vulnerable over time.

- **The main reason accounting for most PIDP's current displacement was overwhelmingly the threat of armed conflict or military operations, as reported by 73%**. This was highest in the east and lowest in the north-east where half the sample were displaced by natural disaster. Seventy-one percent were displaced within their

province of origin and 22% were displaced within their district of origin. **Whilst 77% reported they had been displaced once, a further 14% had been displaced two, three or more times and showed a much higher susceptibility to shocks.**

- **In total, 55% of male headed PIDP households and 72% of female headed households reported their intention to stay at their current location and locally integrate.** Males however were more inclined to prioritise returning to their place of origin; 21% compared to 17% for females. The assessment showed that **the majority of PIDPs want to stay and integrate and the more times that they are displaced the less they are interested in returning to their place of origin.**
- **Protection concerns among PIDP communities were prominent, such as psychological trauma, which was identified as being the primary concern for boys and girls in PIDP communities with between 36-42% reporting it.** PIDP households that had at least one chronically ill or disabled member were twice as likely to have at least one under 18 female either married or earning an income. The assessment identified that females face a higher risk concerning administrative boundaries as well as negative financial coping mechanisms. Female headed PIDP households are less likely to have a Tazkera<sup>1</sup> as **4% of male headed PIDP households had no Tazkera whatsoever compared to 31% of female headed PIDP households.**
- **Overall PIDPs were much less likely to own property in comparison to host communities, just 10% compared to 68%.** As a result IDPs often resort to living in informal and impoverished neighbourhoods that offer inadequate access to services, vulnerability to disasters and no security of tenure meaning IDPs are constantly at risk of forced evictions. **A quarter of PIDP households sampled reported that they are currently staying with family, friends or in someone else's home with their consent.** If not being hosted, a third of all PIDPs are living on land whose tenure status is based on verbal permission whilst a quarter are living on a land based on some form of written or verbal agreement. As a result of these poor land tenure and accommodation arrangements **3/4 of PIDP households reported that they live in fear of being evicted.**
- **Just under half of both PIDP and host community households reported that they had to walk under 20 minutes to access their primary drinking water source and 10-12% over 20 minutes. As it is often a women's job to collect water in Afghan society this creates serious protection risks.** A lack of access to water also has an effect on communities' ability to upgrade their WASH facilities. **Four per cent of PIDP households reported using no latrine at all and thus resorting to open defecation in fields and bush and 20% reported using a community latrine.** There are protection issues concerning these poor WASH facilities and severe hygiene dangers considering that 39% of PIDP households reported that they don't have enough access to water for bathing.
- In both PIDP and host community households an average of one out of three children under five were reported not to have been vaccinated. **However, the more times a PIDP household had been displaced, the fewer children in their household had been vaccinated.** Only a small difference was found between the number of children vaccinated in female or male headed households, with **one quarter of children in female headed households reported as being unvaccinated.** There was also found to be considerable vulnerability concerning childbirth, with **21% of PIDP households giving birth at a medical facility with trained staff.**
- **In male headed PIDP households, 45% of school aged children had attended school in the past week while in female headed households, a slightly higher proportion of 47% attended school.** Disabled headed households were not found to have a lower school attendance rate. Children from PIDP households displaced more than once were particularly affected concerning school attendance. **Of PIDPs displaced once, 47% of school aged children in the household had attended school in the last seven days, for those displaced twice it was 31% and for those displaced three times only 9% had attended schools in the seven days prior to data collection. For girls whose households had been displaced three times the results dropped as low as 3%.**

<sup>1</sup> National identification documentation of Afghanistan

- **When asked what primary income source covered household expenses in the last 30 days 59% of PIDP households reported it was uncontracted and unskilled daily labour.** This dependence on casual daily labour places PIDP households in a precarious economic situation whereby they struggle to meet basic expenditure needs and are thus more vulnerable to shocks. This can lead to a dependence on borrowing as **14% of households in the central region reported that in the past 30 days their household expenses had been primarily covered by borrowing or loans.**
- **Thirty-nine per cent of all PIDP households interviewed were found to be moderately food insecure compared to 46% of the host community, whilst 36% of PIDPs were severely food insecure compared to 22% of host households.** Those households displaced multiple times were found to be increasingly food insecure. **Twenty-five per cent of PIDP households that had been displaced once were found to be food secure, however this dropped to 16% for those displaced twice and down to 6% for those displaced three times.** Those who cultivated land were found to be less food insecure however barriers of ownership hindered PIDP communities' ability to farm. Whilst a quarter of the host community cultivated land, only 7% of male headed PIDP households reported that they did and 0% of female headed. In comparison to the host community PIDP households' level of food consumption was poor. **A fifth of PIDP households sampled reported that in the previous seven days they had eaten no vegetables and 66% had eaten no fruits, compared to 13% and 36% of host community households.**
- **Eighty to eighty-three per cent of both PIDP and host community households reported that they have not received assistance whilst living in their current location between 2014 and 2016..** Much of the assistance that PIDP households received was in line with their most pressing needs and vulnerabilities such as food and shelter. Of those PIDP households that received assistance, over 75% received it in 2015 or earlier however in the **time since then their vulnerabilities have remained compounded and more severe than those of the host community.**
- **PIDPs' reported priority needs are highest concerning areas which are most often associated with emergency response initiatives, such as food and shelter.** Host community needs however were reported higher concerning more long-term developmental assistance such as training, education and health. **Seventy-four per cent of PIDP households reported that food was a priority need compared to 53% of host community households and shelter needs for PIDP households were almost double, 58% compared to 29%.** Once more, needs were particularly highest amongst the most vulnerable PIDP households; female headed, multiple displacements and no Tazkera ownership

PIDP households share many vulnerabilities with those of the host communities around them however, whilst host community households have had time to develop structure and stability PIDPs have not. When arriving in their new settlement they are forced to start again; to begin to build back their lives from scratch. This affects all manner of thematic areas covered in this report. The difficulties faced in rebuilding their lives and the vulnerabilities felt do not resolve themselves after the first six months of displacement, the timeframe for inclusion in emergency assistance provision. Although many international organisations in Afghanistan have funding and recognise the need to assist PIDP communities they are bound by their mandate which dictates assistance may only be given in the during the first six months of displacement. Without livelihood foundations in place and lacking transferable skills and social networks, PIDP households face a long road of recovery even to reach the minimum lifestyle standard of the host communities around them. For many, poor documentation, fear of eviction, secondary displacements and lack of a male household head, are severe factors that will further hinder their speed of recovery and leave them even more susceptible to future shocks.



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## List of Acronyms

<b>AOG</b>	Armed Opposition Groups
<b>ERM</b>	Emergency Response Mechanism
<b>ESNFI</b>	Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item
<b>GoIRA</b>	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
<b>HC</b>	Host Community
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>MoRR</b>	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>PMT</b>	Population Movement Tracking
<b>PIDP</b>	Prolonged Internally Displaced Person
<b>RAF</b>	Rapid Assessment Form
<b>SDR</b>	Secondary Data Review

## Geographical Classifications

<b>Region</b>	Unrecognised by Government but commonly used by the humanitarian community
<b>Province</b>	Highest form of official governance below the national level
<b>District</b>	One level below province, each province is subdivided on average into 11 districts

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## INTRODUCTION

Unprecedented levels of internal displacement were reported in 2016 in Afghanistan, contributing to Afghanistan's decades old displacement crisis that is both widespread and severely complex. In 2016 more than 636,000 people fled their homes<sup>2</sup> due to conflict, with 31 out of 34 provinces recording forced displacement, and OHCA reporting that **for the first time every province in the Afghanistan is hosting IDP communities**.<sup>3</sup> This internal displacement is further exacerbated by the near 700,000 undocumented and refugee returnees from Pakistan and Iran that have returned to settle in Afghanistan.<sup>4</sup> **Lacking shelter and/or livelihood solutions, many IDPs risk becoming trapped in a long-term state of displacement**.<sup>5</sup> Such protracted and prolonged forms of displacement have become a concern for humanitarian organisations in Afghanistan, with IDPs becoming increasingly vulnerable as displacement protracts.<sup>6</sup>

**IDPs are often socially and economically isolated from their host communities and lack the adaptive advantages that they are often believed to possess.** They are vulnerable because a) mobility has become their primary coping mechanism to manage risks,<sup>7</sup> b) when displaced they lose connections and networks with important local figures such as village elders, mullahs or wealthy figures, c) they are susceptible to secondary and tertiary displacements and d) they are often reliant upon humanitarian aid and assistance (which they only qualify for if displaced less than six months).

Once the first stage and initial package of emergency assistance is over, coordination between agencies becomes blurred and follow-up referrals are sparse.<sup>8</sup> **PIDPs fall into something of a 'grey area' of identification and assistance whereby they no longer qualify for immediate emergency humanitarian assistance** yet their vulnerabilities and needs remain in line with those that require it. While the emergency needs of newly displaced persons are largely being met through the cluster system, humanitarian regional teams and operational coordination teams in the field, the needs of prolonged IDPs who still require humanitarian intervention are not being addressed in a consolidated manner.<sup>9</sup>

The **difference in needs between PIDPs and host communities and the specific vulnerabilities of PIDP communities** was identified by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) as being an information gap that required immediate attention. Funding was made available through the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and the REACH Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment of Prolonged IDPs report was endorsed by OCHA in coordination with members of the ICCT. A rigorous identification, verification and mapping exercise was conducted in order to locate PIDPs across Afghanistan and formed the basis of the sampling methodology. A full explanation of this identification and verification exercise is available in **Annex 3**. Data was collected countrywide between 11<sup>th</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 through household level surveys. The assessment sought to answer the following questions:

- What are the key numbers and main locations of PIDPs?
- What are the key demographic and socio-economic characteristics of PIDPs?
- What are the future prospects of PIDPs?
- What are the humanitarian needs of PIDPs?
- How do humanitarian needs differ between PIDPs and population groups living in the same area?

<sup>2</sup> OCHA Afghanistan: Conflict Induced Displacements – Snapshot (Jan 2017)

<sup>3</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan 2017 (Nov 2016)

<sup>4</sup> IOM – Return of Undocumented Afghans Weekly Situation Report 25-31 December (2016)

<sup>5</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

<sup>6</sup> IDMC – New and long-term IDPs risk becoming neglected as conflict intensifies (16 July 2016)

<sup>7</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan Afghanistan January – December 2017 (Nov 2016)

<sup>8</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.



**PIDP Definition:**

PIDP as a specific category of IDP was defined for the purpose of this assessment. A full in-depth explanation of how the terms IDP and PIDPs were understood is available in **Annex 1**. For the purpose of this assessment a PIDP was identified as being an IDP displaced:

**-After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

**-Before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

These parameters were agreed by the ICCT in order to:

- a) understand the needs of PIDPs following the initial six month period of displacement**
- b) to address information gaps concerning the needs of IDPs displaced longer than six months**

In order to initially estimate number and locations of PIDPs a variety of secondary data sources were consulted. It was agreed that **those sources available prior to 2014 were deemed too inconclusive** and thus 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were set as **the period between the start of reliable secondary data and the start of the overall information gap**, thus allowing triangulation of the secondary and primary data.

First the report will outline the methodology of the assessment and how the findings have been determined. Following this will be a short introduction into the demographics of both PIDP households and those of the host communities. There will then be a chapter looking at the displacement trends and future mobility intentions of PIDPs. After which, each humanitarian sector or thematic area will be looked at in detail by comparing the needs of PIDP and host communities then interrogating the specific vulnerability characteristics of PIDP communities. Finally the report will offer a conclusion in which the main vulnerabilities of PIDPs will be identified and offer guidance as to the future direction of further assessment and humanitarian programming concerning PIDPs.

## METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Methodology overview

REACH coordinated with various partners including OCHA, I/NGOs, UN and national/regional clusters, in order to promote inter-agency cooperation through coordination platforms, such as the ICCT, and to ensure the support of clusters. A PIDP assessment steering committee was devised that included cluster, I/NGO and UN members as determined by the ICCT. This committee played a role in assessment design, the formulation of tools and analysis structure, and were kept abreast of all results and developments as the assessment progressed. This working relationship kept the assessment focused at all times, ensuring that the finished product is a tool that meets the needs of all parties.

Primary data was collected directly from the field by REACH staff. Probability sampling methods were used to enable generalisations of the population of interest (PIDPs) with a specific level of precision. At no point was primary data collection unfeasible and REACH teams were able to access all intended areas. The primary data collection was conducted at household level using a mobile data collection platform. This method allowed the geo-localisation of data points which enabled REACH to monitor proper implementation of the random sampling strategy and conduct geo-spatial awareness.

### 3.2 Population of interest

The population of interest in this assessment includes all those identified as PIDPs across Afghanistan. The exact definition of a 'prolonged' IDP used throughout the assessment was established in consultation with both OCHA and the clusters in order to ensure that findings can be generalized to a clearly defined population. This definition is outlined in brief in the introduction but a more in-depth explanation can be found in **Annex 1**. Host community participants were identified as those living within the area of interest who also had Tazkeras showing that this is their place of origin. Often these host community members were found living in areas immediately neighbouring those largely populated by PIDPs.

### 3.3 Secondary data review and verification

In coordination with OCHA, UNHCR, ERM partners and the ICCT, REACH gathered all available secondary data (qualitative and quantitative) on PIDPs. These data sources were then triangulated in order to:

- 1) Estimate PIDP numbers
- 2) Identify and map PIDP locations across Afghanistan
- 3) Inform the primary data collection methodology and tool design
- 4) Provide a basis for triangulation with primary data

Key datasets and sources consulted as part of the triangulation included:

- ✓ ERM (Emergency Response Mechanism)
- ✓ IOM RAF (Rapid Assessment Form)
- ✓ UNHCR PMT (Population Movement Tracking)

All data sources came from rapid assessments, conducted often only a few days/weeks following initial displacement. All datasets contained the date of assessment (and date of displacement), population and location information for IDPs. By selecting assessments that occurred within the timeframe of a prolonged IDP, a list of potential PIDPs today could be created.

These three datasets were then merged together to form a large single data set to the village level with values and locations of PIDPs over the two-year period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This data set allowed REACH to obtain an upper and lower estimate for each village where persons were reportedly displaced to

Aggregated Estimates – 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	
TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO location Lower estimate	666,300
TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO location Upper estimate	701,780

Following this was a rigorous cleaning exercise to remove all duplications of place names. This cleaning exercise significantly reduced the estimated number of PIDPs as it was found that different spelling of villages result in double, triple ad quadruple counting of PIDP communities. A full outline of the aggregation methodology is available in **Annex 2**. Given that these estimates came from assessments performed during the first phase after displacement there was an assumption that the numbers may be inflated and that many of the IDPs found in the assessment may have since returned home.

Alongside the cleaning exercise REACH thus conducted a verification process that involved confirming that those displaced during the period of interest, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, remain displaced at the respective locations and are in fact PIDPs. This involved going through the aggregated data set line by line in order to identify the geographical whereabouts of PIDP communities. REACH teams then contacted key informants and representatives of these areas in order to confirm estimates as to how many PIDP households, displaced between the given dates, remain living in those areas. This involved contacting UN/NGO and government offices, as well as representatives from Community Development Councils, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), village elders, community leaders etc. As part of this verification process REACH also asked these key informants to identify any additional locations where people may have been displaced to during the period of interest and whether they are still there. The number of current PIDP households reported by the key informants were then added back up to form the final identified estimate. A full description explaining in more depth the verification and identification process is available in **Annex 3**.

### 3.4 Primary data collection

The primary data methodology was defined by the findings of the secondary data review (SDR). In particular, the SDR identified the necessary parameters of the sampling framework (eg. estimated number of locations / number of PIDPs / strata of interest) and informed development indicators (eg. depending on type of geographical setting where PIDPs are living).

Primary data was collected directly from the field by REACH staff. Probability sampling methods were used to enable generalisations of the population of interest (PIDPs) with a specific level of precision. At no point was primary data collection unfeasible and REACH teams were able to access all intended areas. The primary data collection was conducted at household level using a mobile data collection platform. The method allowed the geo-localisation of data points which enabled REACH to monitor proper implementation of the random sampling strategy and conduct geo-spatial awareness.

**The SDR and verification process resulted in a final identified estimate of 324,927 PIDPs spread across every region of Afghanistan**, with higher populations found in and around urban centres. To achieve statistically representative findings, a cluster sampling approach was used to select locations and the number of households to be surveyed from the complete dataset of locations. **The sampling strategy targeted 73 districts containing PIDPs across 28 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces and host community households in 26 provinces.** Data collection was conducted between 11<sup>th</sup> November and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 with a minimum 90% level of confidence and a maximum 10% margin of error. The 2900 PIDPs sampled statistically represent the PIDP populations found in each region so that we can make regional comparisons on vulnerabilities. In order to address the final research question concerning the difference in needs compared to neighbouring populations, a sample was drawn of 415 host households, more often than not directly neighbouring sampled PIDP communities.

A data collection tool was developed based on the indicators proposed and reviewed by OCHA and cluster representatives. These indicators were in part based on existing indicators in order to maximize comparability with the existing datasets. A questionnaire was built on the mobile data collection platform KoBo Toolbox and downloaded onto smartphones to allow for field data collection. Completed forms were then uploaded to a dedicated server and monitored on a daily basis for any errors or misunderstandings that could be corrected and fed back during daily debriefings with the data collection teams. GPS coordinates recorded for each form at the location of the interview were plotted to monitor compliance with the devised sampling strategy. After data collection was completed the data collection teams conducted a thorough end of assessment debriefing with the Country Focal Point and geographical information systems (GIS) / database officer to review and aid interpretation and analysis. In total 30 enumerators were used to conduct the SDR verification and the primary data collection exercises. In addition to data collection, this period also included training, travel between locations and debriefing sessions.

### 3.5 Data analysis plan

After data was collected and the results cleaned as part of the debriefing session, the final data set was analysed and triangulated with secondary data sources with a view to address the specific research questions. Upon completion of the initial analysis REACH presented a preliminary findings and joint analysis workshop at OCHA, attended by members of the steering committee, UN, I/NGO and cluster partners. This gave those with a vested interest in the assessment the chance to interrogate the preliminary findings, advise avenues for further investigation and outline to REACH how they would like to see certain chapters develop. REACH thus revised the analysis plan and consolidated all recommendations into this final assessment report.

### 3.6 Limitations

One of the recommendations that arose from the preliminary findings and joint analysis workshop was the need to not only outline in detail the reports limitations, but to ensure that those reading understand what the report is and what it is not, **to understand the information and value of the report whilst also accepting that the findings are nationwide and cover a number of different sectors.**

The report offers a realistic and well-informed estimate on the number and whereabouts of PIDPs across Afghanistan, based on all available data sets between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, and this data's verification using key informants. Using this data the report outlines differences in needs and vulnerabilities nationwide between PIDP communities and their neighbouring host communities. When these differences in needs are of value the report offers further analysis, looking into patterns and trends between vulnerabilities as well as geographical areas of concern and future risks. The assessment is limited in that the sample size of PIDPs is much larger than that of the host community, however at the national level findings are weighted to ensure accuracy. The assessment is also restricted in its scope due to the limited budget, timeframe and the depth of the questionnaire. The project did provide scope for extensive enumerator training and piloting of the questionnaire, confirming clear understandings of the survey and ensuring responses were recorded in a uniform manner. As a multi cluster/sectorial assessment there is no limit to the detail in which we could go into within each section of the questionnaire. However, to keep interview times to a professional and realistic length and the report findings focused, each thematic section of the questionnaire had to be somewhat restricted. Thus there were many more questions REACH would have liked to have included that would have offered us an even more precise understanding as to the reasons behind PIDP communities' vulnerabilities but we were unable to include everything.

Some of the key limitations acknowledged by UN, I/NGO and cluster partners as part of the joint analysis workshop are:

- 1) The time-period in which data was collected posed some limitations to the assessment. Firstly, data gathered in the winter months may affect seasonal aspects of the study. For instance, seasonal migrants seeking daily labour and the amount of daily labour available are likely to differ during this period. Similarly, food consumption is likely to be affected, with household durable-goods stocks and food availability potentially lower than at other times of the year. Measures were taken to reduce the impact of these limitations, however it should be understood that the findings in this report accurately represent the moment at which data was collected and thus only provide insight into the broader conclusions drawn in this report.
- 2) Despite the fact that it is legal to marry and work at the age of 16 in Afghanistan there were surprisingly low scores concerning both males and females under the age of 18 and married/earning an income. This low score must be noted as a limitation as a result of the cultural concerns and sensitive nature of discussing marriage, relationships and employment, particularly those of young women, with the data collection teams.
- 3) The host community sampled in the assessment were in most cases those living immediately next to the sampled PIDP households. However no differentiation was made as part of the assessment in terms of the type of host community they were. In that, were they hosts unintentionally and due to their proximity living next to PIDP communities or were they actively participating in the hosting of these displaced persons. There is also a strong chance that different host community samples encompassed different levels of acceptance of PIDP communities and thus different styles of hosting. This was not identified in the assessment and thus should be considered as a limitation.
- 4) Most data collection came from male headed households, since the proportion of female headed households is far lower. Whilst this may be an accurate representation of the population, it is a limitation in all areas of data collection. In particular, this reduces the ability to accurately disaggregate responses for girls, boys, women and men, as well as limiting the validity



of protection sections. There was no question to differentiate between a definitive female headed household, because the husband, father or oldest male has left or passed away, and ones that may only be temporarily headed by a female. With the level of outward migration in Afghanistan, internal urban migration and migrant labourers travelling to Iran, there is a chance that some of the households who were reported as female headed may not be that way forever. There is also chance that families may have returned from Pakistan leaving a breadwinner there to send remittances, or that the household head has travelled abroad with the aim of family reunification at a later date. Either of these scenarios might create a situation whereby a household identifies as being female headed. However that does not necessarily mean that the male head will not return at some point nor that the female head is reliant upon her own resourcefulness to provide household income forever.

5) Shelter questioning asked about both the materials and accommodation arrangement of household's 'indoor living space.' This wording was used to differentiate between indoor living areas and any outdoor livestock shelter areas or storage space that may, in certain circumstances, be used for shelter. However there was the option for some respondents to report that they live in tarpaulin or handmade tents whilst owning their accommodation with documentation or renting it. It was found that 1% of respondents reported this scenario which is confusing. After discussions with enumerators in the field it was decided that this was either a case of respondents misinterpreting the question and referring to their land agreement. Another option suggested by enumerators was that these PIDP households were generally letting it be known that they own their tent or perhaps are renting it from someone else for a very small fee.

6) The assessment focusses on those IDPs displaced between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 regardless of whether it is primary, secondary or tertiary displacement, whether they have returned from a distant or neighbouring foreign country in the past 20 or past 3 years. However it is true that these different displacement categories may have an effect on regional disparities and vulnerability trends when looking at PIDPs in Afghanistan. Particularly those who have spent considerable time as documented refugees in Pakistan prior to returning may represent a considerably different socio-economic profile to those PIDP households from which no family member has ever lived outside Afghanistan. PIDP strengths or vulnerabilities that link to these displacement categories will be focussed on. However the nature of displacement of both IDPs and returnees compels them to leave much of their assets/possessions behind thus they often share very similar vulnerabilities.<sup>10</sup> There is also a need to maintain the assessment as one focusing on the needs of all PIDPs of Afghanistan, and avoid it becoming an assessment dominated by the needs of returnees, as this is a topic receiving far more funding and attention from the international community.

7) When asked the main reason for their displacement from their original location 3% of those sampled chose the answer 'other' and then went on to state some sort of financial or economic reason. Although these may be considered as economic migrants and thus not covered by the UN definition of IDPs, REACH decided to leave these participants in the dataset. It is very difficult in many situations to distinguish between economic migrants and IDPs. Evidence suggests that often both have very similar reasons for choosing to leave their place of origin and make dangerous journeys.<sup>11</sup> In Afghanistan the consequences of poverty are immediate and result in the same dangerous vulnerabilities as those displaced by conflict or disaster; lack of shelter, livelihood opportunities and food.

<sup>10</sup> Samuel Hall, IOM – Displacement Dynamics: IDP Movement Tracking, Needs and Vulnerability Analysis (2014)

<sup>11</sup> ODI – Why people move: understanding the drivers and trends of migration to Europe (Dec 2015)

## FINDINGS

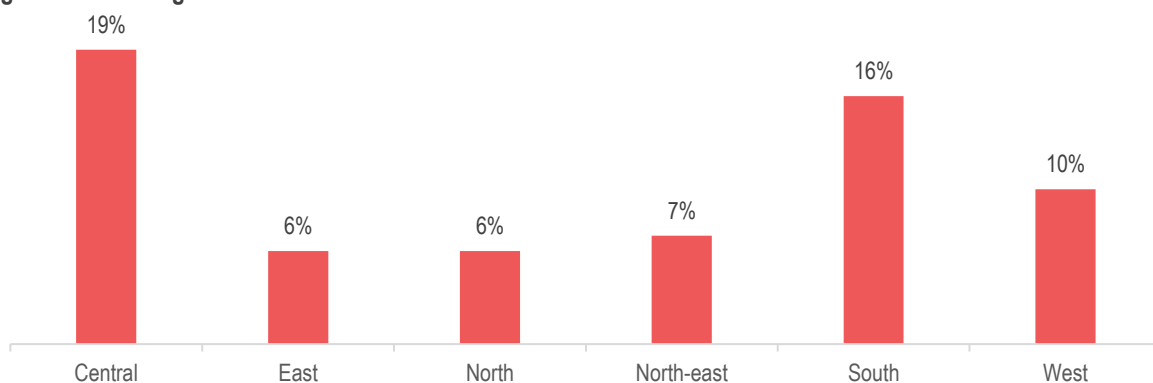
### 4.1 Demographics

Not unexpectedly the demographic characteristics between host community and PIDP households nationwide were broadly similar. Both types of households contained on average two families of between 10 and 11 people, often with two adult couples and a number of children sharing the household. Household heads were on average between the ages of 44 and 46 and were in both households overwhelmingly male.

Nationwide, **PIDP households recorded a higher number of female headed households**. An average of 5% of host communities sampled were recorded as having female household heads compared to 8% of PIDP households. For PIDP households these statistics were also largely dependent on the region. In the south, only 2% were female headed households compared to the central region which was as high as 14%. These numbers are largely due to displacement trends and population sizes. This will be discussed further in the next section of the report however it is commonly known that the Afghan conflict is at its most ferocious in the south of the country and that many of those displaced are moving towards the relative safety and economic security of urban centres in the country's centre, east and northern regions. The high number of female headed households amongst PIDP communities may also possibly be linked to a high number of male breadwinners having to work abroad or elsewhere and send remittances home. This possibility is further discussed as part of the limitations section of the methodology.

When looking at the average number of households with a disabled household head, once more, PIDPs recorded much larger numbers than host communities as **7% of host community households sampled reported having a disabled household head compared to 14% of PIDP households**. These percentages were again affected by regional trends as for PIDPs in the north, east and north-east only 6-7% reported having a disabled household head compared to 16% in the south and 19% in the central region. These high numbers may again be linked to heavy conflict in the south and displacement trends. The high number of disabled household heads in the south is very likely linked to the ongoing conflict, whilst those in the central region may well have come from the south attracted by the economic opportunities of Kabul and the relative ease of transport along the Kandahar-Kabul highway. The minimal numbers of disabled household heads in the north-east are quite likely as a result of the relative peace there and the difficulty of transport and road networks from other parts of Afghanistan.

Figure 3: Percentage of disabled headed PIDP household



Both PIDP and host community households however reported an average of 1% of household heads who are both disabled and female and thus extremely vulnerable. In line with earlier regional trends concerning disabled household heads 50% of these extremely vulnerable households for both communities were reported in the south and central provinces of Afghanistan. PIDP households reported a slightly higher number of vulnerable members. Twenty-two percent of both communities' households reported having at least one member who is pregnant and between 59-60% of both reported having at least one who is breastfeeding. However, for members requiring care, disabled and chronically ill household members, PIDP households reported slightly more. For host community households, 15% reported having at least one

disabled member and 25% reported having at least chronically ill, whilst for PIDP households these percentages were 22% and 29%. More vulnerable household members often increase a household's vulnerabilities due to a heightened dependency, less members earning an income, money for health care and need for healthy levels of food consumption.

## 4.2 Displacement

**The main reason accounting for most PIDP current displacement was overwhelmingly the threat of armed conflict or military operations.** The next most popular reason was natural disaster with 8%. This is still considerably less than the 73% who reported armed conflict and military operations as their main reason for displacement. Other reasons that scored high results are somewhat linked to armed groups and the wider conflict in Afghanistan. Clashes amongst AOGs intimidation and harassment from AOGs and other inter-tribal or inter-factional fighting all were reported as causing displacement by 3-6% of all PIDP respondents.

Regional trends had a big effect on PIDPs main reasons for displacement. Whilst only 9% of those sampled nationally said that natural disasters were their main reason for displacement, **49% of households in the north-east reported that they were displaced due to natural disasters.** As a mountainous region known for flood risks, landslides, avalanches and seismic activity, these numbers are in stark contrast to the 1% in Afghanistan's west reportedly displaced by natural disasters. The west however did suffer from a heightened risk of inter-tribal / inter-factional fighting and intimidation and harassment from AOGs reporting on average 15% of PIDPs displaced for each of these reasons, much higher than any other region. Interestingly **PIDP communities in the east had the highest number of PIDP households displaced by armed conflict with an average of 94%** compared to the next highest in the north 86% the south 83%. There is a stark difference between those displaced by conflict in north and the north-east which may link to the strong presence of AOGs in Kunduz province, their assaults on Kunduz city and the subsequent governmental removal operations. Of those that chose 'other', 88% reported economic and financial reasons as their primary reason for leaving their area of origin. Although this would technically place them under the title of economic migrants and thus not under the UN definition of an IDP, REACH decided to leave this sample in. A full explanation as to why is explained in the limitations section of the methodology.

Figure 4: Primary reason for leaving area of origin

	Central	East	North	N-East	South	West
Armed conflict and military operations	59%	94%	86%	31%	83%	62%
Clashes amongst AOGs	7%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%
Cross-border rockets and shelling	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Inter-tribal or factional conflict	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%	15%
Intimidation and harassment from AOGs	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%
Land dispute / land occupation	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%
Natural disaster	8%	4%	11%	49%	10%	1%
Other	5%	0%	0%	15%	0%	5%

PIDP households generally moved to neighbouring or close by provinces. **The assessment found that most people displaced from their area of origin remained settled in the same geographical region of Afghanistan.** In the north-east 100% of PIDPs assessed were displaced from the same region whilst in the central regions, 82% of those assessed were original from this region, the lowest of any region. Generally, those displaced for a prolonged period of time were found to be living within the same province that they originated from but have since moved to another district. Across **Afghanistan 71% of PIDPs sampled were displaced within the same province whilst only 22% were displaced within the same district.** Although only representing 18% of the PIDPs who also stated they were returnees, those returnees with at least one family member holding UNHCR registration were more likely to be displaced outside of their province of origin. Overall 48% of returnees with at least one family member holding UNHCR registration were displaced outside their province of origin, compared to 31% of undocumented returnees and 30% of PIDPs with no household members having ever lived outside Afghanistan.

Nationally, **half of those sampled reported that they were IDPs with no family member having ever lived outside of Afghanistan,** 19% were undocumented returnees, 4% documented returnees and the remaining 28% reported that they

did not know their status. The fact that these respondents chose to answer the question, as opposed to providing no response, suggests that perhaps they do not know whether a family member has migrated or that they are returnees and perhaps they do not know if a family member has registration. The samples' current displacement status was largely effected by their geography.

The south, eastern and, in part, western regions recorded the highest numbers of respondents claiming they don't know their current displacement status. Interestingly these are also Afghanistan's porous border regions which last year recorded 474,000 spontaneous undocumented returnees and almost 218,000 deported undocumented returnees from both Iran and Pakistan.<sup>12</sup> It was also the east and west that recorded almost no returnees with UNHCR registration, only 1% in the west. However the central region and the east recorded relatively high numbers of undocumented returnees, 39% in the central region and 20% in the eastern. This is perhaps a reflection of the movement of undocumented returnees from Pakistan that returned between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 settling in the urban centres of Kabul and Jalalabad. The number of PIDPs with family members having ever lived outside of Afghanistan was considerably higher in the north, north-east and western regions, between 80-85%.

Figure 5: Current displacement status

	Central	East	North	N-East	South	West
Households in which all members are IDPs	46%	27%	85%	80%	38%	82%
Households including at least one member who is a registered refugee	8%	0%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Households including at least one member who is an undocumented returnee	39%	20%	3%	14%	13%	0%
Don't know	8%	53%	10%	3%	46%	16%

Of those who answered the question regarding how many times they had been displaced **77% said they had been displaced once, 10% twice, 3% three times, and 1% said four time or more.** A further 9% said they did not know how many times they had been displaced which seems to imply it may well be more than once. Regionally there was little difference apart from the scores relating to being displaced twice. In the east and north-eastern regions 4-6% of the sample reported that they had been displaced twice whereas for the other regions this was 10-14%. Statistics concerning the reason for displacement nor length of time displaced offered any evidence to explain why some households are displaced once and others four or more times. Those who are forced to flee their homes are among the most vulnerable communities in Afghanistan as they arrive in new environments without kinship networks, employment prospects, housing or property.<sup>13</sup> **Thus those who have experienced several waves of displacement are even more susceptible to acute shocks. It is these vulnerabilities that make PIDPs most at risk of shock that also reduce their ability to recuperate following a shock.**

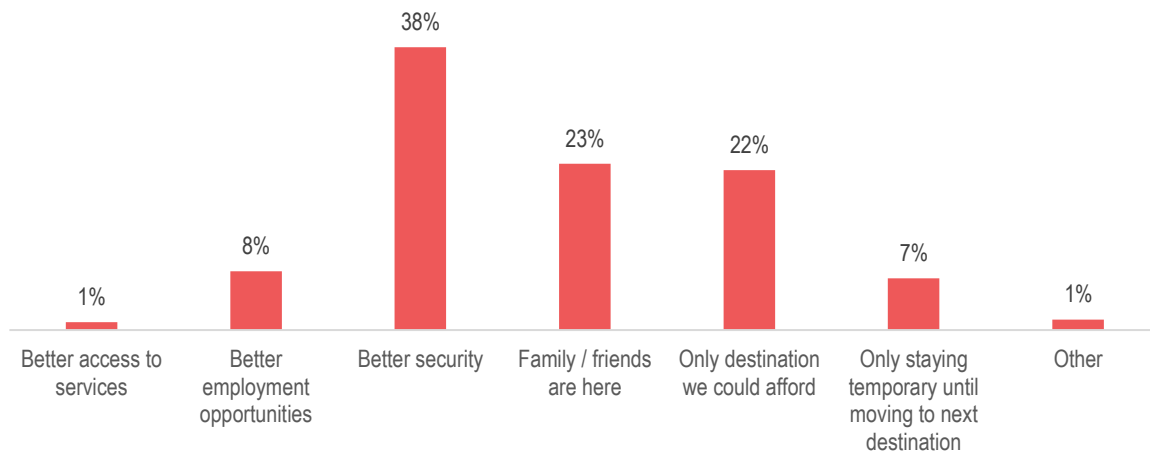
The main reason that PIDP households chose their current location was due to the improved security. This is not surprising given that **73% reported that they were displaced as a result of armed conflict and military operations.** The next most important reason reported was the fact that family and friends were there. When displaced many communities are forced to sever ties with networks of employment, safety and stability that they have built up over time and which can be instrumental to livelihood opportunities and economic strength. Thus it is natural that so many choose to relocate to areas already settled by their family and friends. The third and fourth most reported reasons for choosing locations; the only place a household can afford and having better employment opportunities, are linked. Households forced to leave their place of origin often lose any economic opportunities and networks they once had as well as their home, thus forcing them into a dangerous economic situation. All the reasons cited for PIDPs choosing their current location are logical given their current circumstances and may continue to attract further IDPs in the future.<sup>14</sup> This shows how **when there are successive waves of displacement, as Afghanistan has had for decades, many newly displaced frequently settle in areas already hosting large numbers of prolonged displaced.** These destinations are chosen by newly displaced communities for the same reasons that those displaced earlier chose them.

<sup>12</sup> IOM – Return of Undocumented Afghans Week Situation Report 1-7 (Jan 2017)

<sup>13</sup> Amnesty International – “My Children Will Die This Winter” Afghanistan’s Broken Promise to the Displaced (2016)

<sup>14</sup> Peacebrief – The Forced Return of Afghan Refugees and Implications for Stability (Jan 2016)

Figure 6: Main reason for choosing to live at this current location



When you look at PIDPs reasons for choosing to live at their current location by region the results often coordinate with the main reason for being displaced in that current region. For example, in the north-east, where 49% were displaced due to natural disaster, only 19% chose their current location due to better security, whereas 44% chose due to their family and friends being there, higher than any other region. Interestingly in the west, only 7% reported family and friends as their reason for choosing their current location, compared to 21% in the north, the next lowest percentage. However, in the west 73% reported better security as their primary reason, compared to 46% in the north, the second highest. This is an interesting and surprising result as the security situation in the west of Afghanistan is not known for being particularly violent in the past few years and, after the central and north-eastern region, the west had the lowest percentage of PIDP households displaced due to armed conflict and military operations.

### 4.3 Intentions

**Although IDPs have been forced to leave their homes they retain their right to freedom of movement and choice of settlement which is enshrined in Article 39 of Afghanistan's constitution.**<sup>15</sup> The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (GolRA) identifies three future options for IDPs; voluntary and safe return, local integration, or settlement in another area of the country.<sup>16</sup> Importantly they maintain that all three must be accompanied by security of tenure, compensation for loss of property, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.<sup>17</sup> However the reality of PIDPs securing these rights is, as we will see, far more complicated. One danger is that IDPs choose to return to their place of origin while it is still unsafe in order to protect their property and possessions. There are also examples of some members of IDP households returning to conflict-affected areas prematurely in an effort to maintain agricultural incomes.<sup>18</sup> These choices greatly endanger the lives of all members of PIDP households both through direct violence and the financial repercussions of a household head or primary breadwinner becoming injured or killed.

PIDP households across Afghanistan reported having almost no interest in migrating abroad or in resettling somewhere else. There is a theory that the longer displacement lasts the more that IDPs' desire to return may wane and the data collected certainly supports this.<sup>19</sup> **More than half of all PIDP households assessed stated that their future intention was to stay in their current location and locally integrate.** This reinforces the proposal that PIDPs require support in order improve their living standards so that they are on par with the host communities living alongside them. Half as many female headed PIDP households reported an urge to return to their place of origin as male headed households, whilst their desire to stay in their current location and integrate was stronger.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

<sup>16</sup> Samuel Hall – Policy Brief National Policy on IDPs in Afghanistan (2015)

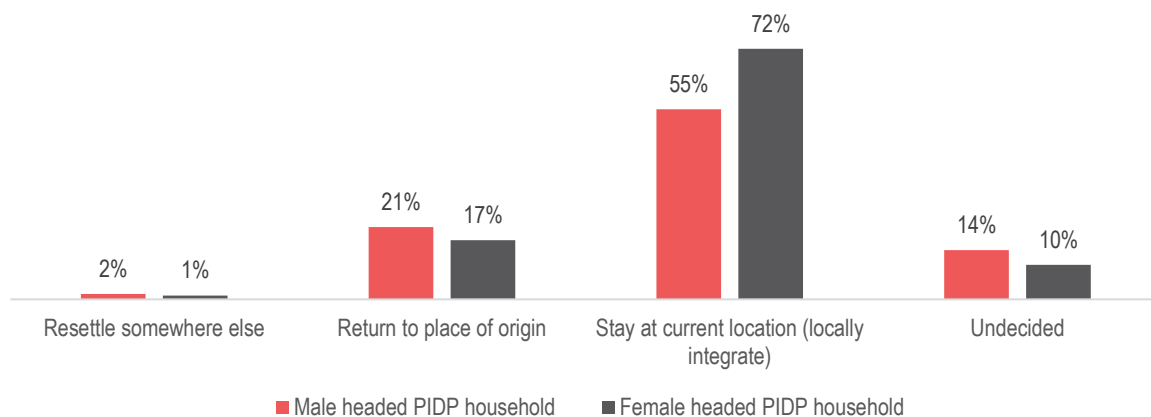
<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> IDMC – New and long-term IDPs risk becoming neglected as conflict intensifies (16 July 2016)

<sup>19</sup> Brookings LSE Project on Internal Displacement – Under the Radar: Internally Displaced Persons in Non-Camp Settings (Oct 2013)



Figure 7: Future intentions of PDIP household



In the western region 91% reported that they wished to stay in their current locations and locally integrate compared to only 35% in the south. As a result, the south reported the highest number of households wishing to return to their place or origin with 45%. This may be due to the constant state of conflict in the south and level of displacement this causes. In the south 87% of those sampled were displaced within the same region so it may be that they feel the conflict is inescapable and so they would much rather just return home.

**The more times PIDP households are displaced the less they are interested in returning to the place of origin** or the more they realise that this is not a realistic possibility. Of the PIDP households that had been displaced once or twice, a quarter reported that they still wished to return to their place of origin however for households that had been displaced four or more times only 4% reported the same intention.

#### 4.4 Protection

Given the cross-cutting nature of the protection section, it should firstly be noted that whilst the following presents the main protection-based findings in this assessment, other sections include relevant findings which could in part be considered a protection concern. As such, the protection theme remains consistent throughout this assessment.

One of the main concerns identified for both PIDP and host community households concerning protection is the level of psychological trauma identified by boys and girls. Nearly half of all PIDP girls reported that they were suffering from psychological trauma. It was also found that slightly more male headed households reported psychological trauma amongst household boys and girls, although this was not a significantly greater proportion. Regarding this sensitive topic, it ought to be acknowledged that enumerators were not trained in the identification of psychological trauma. Between this and the fact that the responses are presented by the potentially biased or misinformed understandings of the household head, these results can mainly be considered indicative only. Female headed households are at a strong disadvantage concerning ownership of a Tazkera which can strongly hinder their households' access to rights and services. Although young marriages are often underreported, it was found that they are more prevalent in households that contain at least one member with a health vulnerability, either disabled or chronically ill.

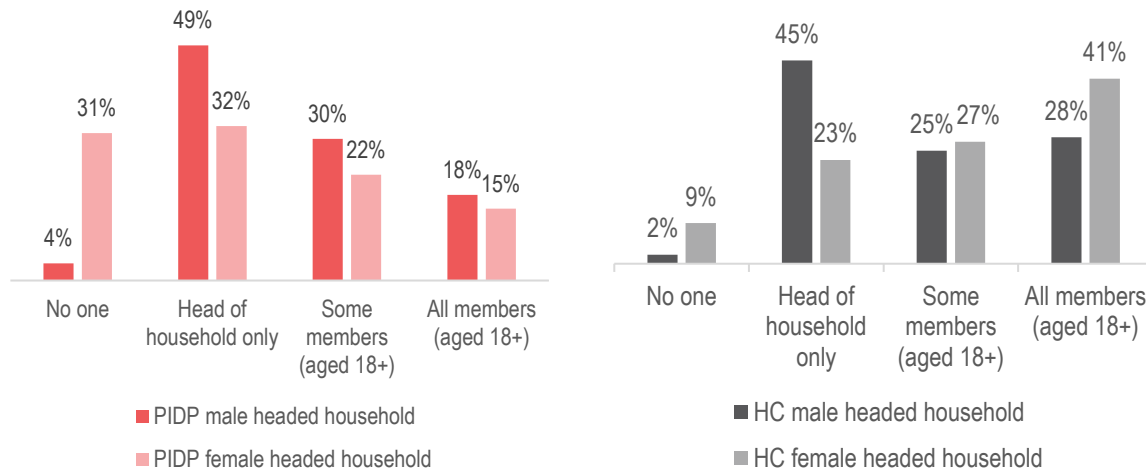
In Afghanistan, a Tazkera is the national, most recognized and in theory most obtainable document of citizenship. **All Afghans regardless of sex and age can get a Tazkera and its ownership facilitates the realisation of its holders' rights to education, ownership of land and properties and other liberties, rights and entitlements under Afghan law.**<sup>20</sup> However in actuality there are many complications to getting one. In order to apply you must submit the Tazkera of a close male relative on your father's side, your husband, or his male relatives.<sup>21</sup> This can create problems for those who perhaps do not have close male relatives living in the same location, a common difficulty amongst IDPs. You also can only

<sup>20</sup> UNHCR – "Frequently Asked Questions" National Identification Cards (Tazkera) (2005)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

apply for a Tazkera in your province of origin.<sup>22</sup> This creates a huge barrier for those who are displaced and cannot return to their place of origin due to conflict, natural disaster, funding or perhaps just the logistics of being a household head with a family and needing to travel a long distance. The result of these obstacles is that IDPs and returnees with no relatives or who cannot return to their place of origin are deprived of rights to services, liberties and land and property ownership.<sup>23</sup> This can have a catastrophic effect on the ability of those already highly vulnerable to find manageable coping mechanisms to lift them out of their insecure and unsafe situation.

Figure 8: Tazkera ownership by PIDP and host communities



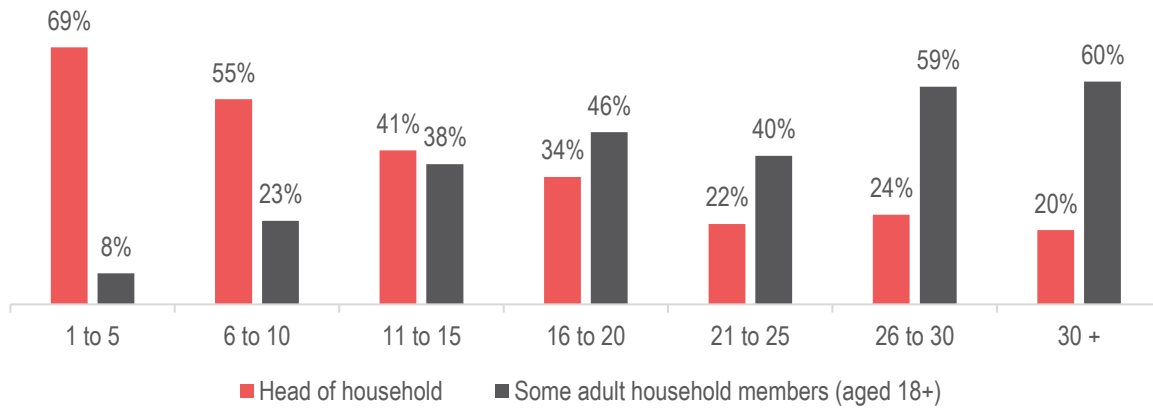
The assessment identified that PIDP households that are headed by a female are far less likely to have a Tazkera than those headed by a male. Of those assessed, **4% of male headed PIDP households had no Tazkera whatsoever compared to 31% of female headed PIDP households**. For both PIDP and host community households the male household head was more likely to own a Tazkera than the female household head, 49% compared to 32% for PIDP households and 45% compared to 23% for host community. Without access to a Tazkera these female headed households' vulnerabilities are exacerbated as potentially all household members are unable to access crucial services. Regionally there were some fluctuations regarding Tazkera ownership amongst PIDP households. The central and eastern regions had the lowest numbers concerning the head of household and all household members having a Tazkera. However on average in 18% of PIDP households nationwide all household members aged 18+ have a Tazkera, in over a quarter of households some member aged 18+ have one, in just under half of all households the household head has one whilst in 5% no one has one.

Concerning PIDPs displacement status **those who have been displaced only in Afghanistan and who do not have a family member who has left the country were slightly more likely to own a Tazkera compared to those who at some point have fled abroad and then returned**. In IDP households who have remained in Afghanistan 48% reported that the head of household had a Tazkera compared to 35% of households who have returned from another country and are undocumented. Surprisingly the ownership of a Tazkera had no effect on PIDP households' future intentions regarding their displacement. Statistics regarding whether they aim to return to their place of origin, resettle elsewhere or stay at their current location were not affected by how many members of the household, if any, owned a Tazkera. The assessment also showed that the larger the PIDP household, the less likely they were to have a household head who owns a Tazkera but the more likely it was that some members of the household had one. For example 69% of PIDP households between 1 and 5 members in size had a household head who owned a Tazkera compared to 20% of households that had 30 or more people. Whilst for PIDP households with 1-5 members only 8% reported that some members aged 18+ had a Tazkera compared to 60% of households with 30 or more members.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC – Access to Tazkera and other Civil Documentation in Afghanistan (2016)

Figure 9: Percentage of PIDP households with a Tazkera by household size

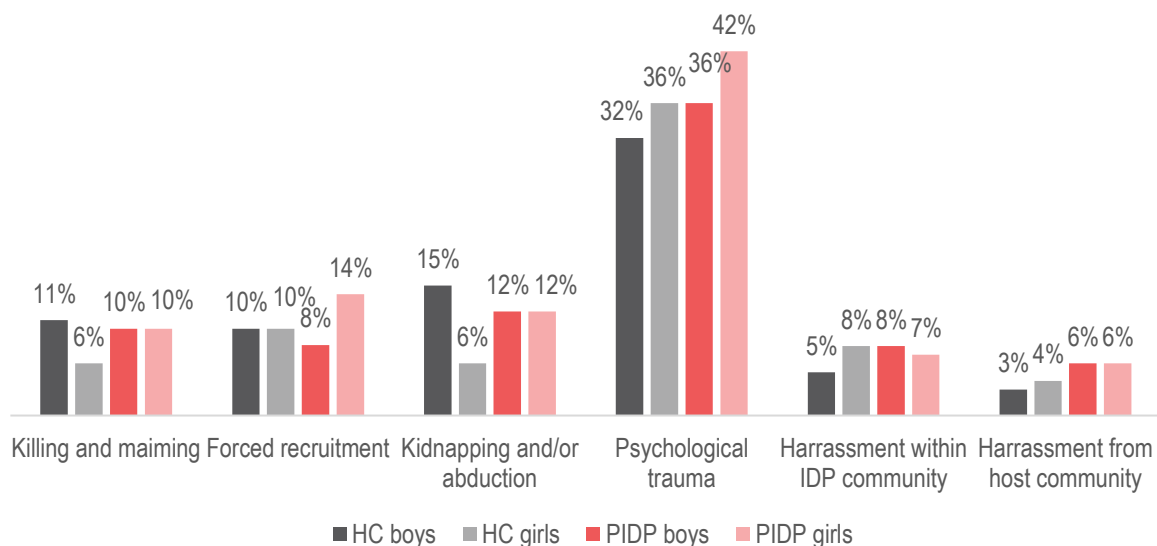


The main concerns reported for boys and girls in both host community and PIDP households were largely similar. Boys and girls refer to male and females in the household under the age of 18. **Psychological trauma was identified as being the primary concern for boys and girls in both communities.** However the figures were slightly higher for those in PIDP communities with 36-42% of boys and girls reporting psychological trauma compared to 32-36% of the host community. Many PIDP households did not originally enter psychological trauma as an answer but instead selected 'other' and then went on to describe psychological problems such stress and life without one or both parents being the main answers. These were identified as being psychological issues and as such the answers were corrected during the data cleaning process. Security issues such as killing, maiming, kidnap and abduction were also identified as concerns for both boys and girls in PIDP and host community households. However these were reported as being slightly more pressing concerns for host community boys as they were for host community girls.

The main concerns of boys and girls in PIDP households was also effected by their region. Interestingly **for PIDP boys in the southern region, an area known for high conflict levels, forced recruitment was a much higher concern than killing and maiming, 19% compared to 2%.** In a reverse pattern killing and maiming, 18-21%, were twice as much of a concern for boys in the north and west as forced recruitment was, 9-10%. For both boys and girls, psychological trauma was reported as a concern highest in the north and the north-east with 62% in the north and 86% in the north-east. This may be as a result of the shift in focus of AOGs in 2015 and 2016 to the north and north-east, an area historically known as one of Afghanistan's safest.<sup>24</sup> It should again be noted here that these findings reflect only the given perspectives of the potentially biased household head, and consequential conclusions should be interpreted cautiously.

<sup>24</sup> IDMC– New and long-term IDPs risk becoming neglected as conflict intensifies (16 July 2016)

Figure 10: The main concerns for boys and girls from both PIDP and host communities (HC)



However the assessment found that both PIDP and host community households reported similar numbers of under 18 household members either married or earning an income. For both communities between 7-8% of households reported having at least one female member under 18 and married and 4-7% reported having at least one male household member. For host community households 1% and PIDPs 3% reported having at least one female household member under 18 currently earning an income. More than double the amount of PIDP households reported having at least one male under the age of 18 and earning an income, 7% compared to 18% for PIDP households. This immediately shows the financial vulnerability of PIDP households in comparison to the host as they are more likely to have teenage males contributing to the household income. These numbers are quite low for the context of Afghanistan, especially since it is legal to work full time *and* get married once you are 16 years old. However as outlined in the limitations section of the methodology, this is a sensitive question and thus there is a strong likelihood that it has been underreported by participants.

**PIDP households that had at least one chronically ill or disabled member were twice as likely to have at least one under 18 female either married or earning an income.** The absence of a male in Afghanistan significantly increases economic vulnerability, leaving houses to turn to other sources of revenue such as early marriages and child labour.<sup>25</sup> Sixty-one per cent of PIDP households with at least one chronically ill or disabled member had at least one married under 18 female living there compared to 33% of households without these vulnerable members. Concerning under 18 females earning an income the results were even stronger. Seventy-two per cent of households with at least one of these vulnerable members also had at least one under 18 female earning an income compared to 35% of households with no disabled or chronically ill members. As has been noted results concerning under 18 marriages and income earning activities are somewhat dubious due to the sensitive nature of the question. However these results indicate that households with vulnerable members are more likely to have under 18 females married and working and, if we had more honest data concerning early marriage, these findings could possibly be even stronger.

As IDP communities across Afghanistan lose the security and safety networks they possessed in their place of origin, protection concerns become more prevalent and complex. Vulnerabilities multiply and resilience worsens for these groups with specific protection needs, such as women, children, older people and the disabled.<sup>26</sup> Displacement and loss of land forces many to live in the shadows of society, sheltering in informal settlements and avoiding security forces at all costs for fear of eviction. This transitory existence exacerbates protections concerns as without social networks or lawful institutions to turn to for help IDP communities are left completely alone and unprotected.

<sup>25</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

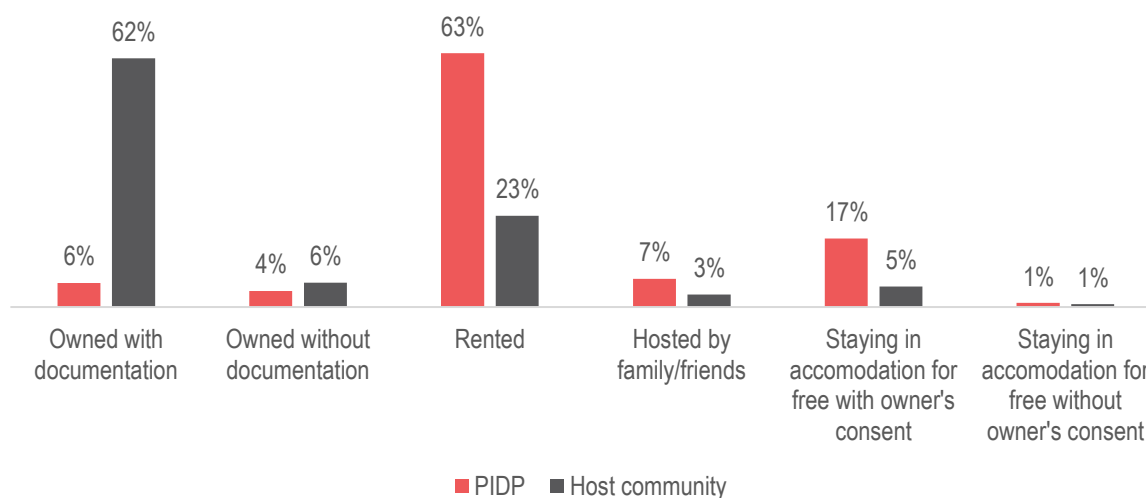
<sup>26</sup> OCHA – Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan 2017 (Nov 2016)

## 4.5 Shelter and Land

As the assessment focussed on PIDP and host communities living next to one another, the materials used to construct their households were quite similar. With 81% of host community households using it, and 89% of PIDP, mud bricks were by far the most common construction materials countrywide. However host community households reported a larger number of households using concrete as their main shelter type; 14% compared to only 4% for PIDP households. PIDP households countrywide were also slightly more crowded than those of the host community, with an average of 4 people per room compared to 3 for the host.

Host community households reported a far higher number of owned properties, both with and without documentation, than PIDP communities. A 2014 study into the vulnerability dynamics of IDPs in Afghanistan maintained that IDPs not only fail to possess the deeds to their land and properties but generally have no property to speak of.<sup>27</sup> **Overall 68% of host community households reported that they owned their property, compared to just 10% of PIDP households.** Afghanistan's land management law does not recognise the customary system, which means that the establishment of ownership is conditional upon valid documentation, which many PIDP households are unable to access.<sup>28</sup>

Figure 11: The current accommodation arrangement of PIDP and host community household



Sixty-two per cent of host community households reported owning their property with documentation, arguably the safest and most secure shelter arrangement an Afghan household can obtain. However almost the same percentage of PIDP households reported that they are reliant upon renting. Although a safe form of shelter arrangement, renting is dependent upon constant unwavering access to income, something that few PIDP households have. It can also be increasingly expensive considering that many PIDPs have moved from rural areas to the relative safety and security of urban areas where prices are much higher. **A quarter of PIDP households sampled reported that they are currently staying with family, friends or in someone else's home with their consent.** PIDP households who fail to pay their rent are in constant fear of being evicted whereby they may end up homeless, or reliant upon the hospitality of family/friends which could involve them moving settlement once more.

Households displaced by natural disaster, which were mostly found to be in the north-eastern region, were those mostly likely to own shelter documentation. Thirty-seven per cent of PIDP households displaced by natural disaster were owned with documentation compared to just 5% of those displaced by conflict. This might be as a result of the fluidity and unpredictable nature of conflict in Afghanistan along with the relative peace in parts of the north-east. Those displaced by conflict were more likely to be displaced two or three times and often displaced in areas where the conflict may still spread. Thus they seem less likely or able to invest resources into long term shelter arrangements thus hindering their ability to fully integrate.

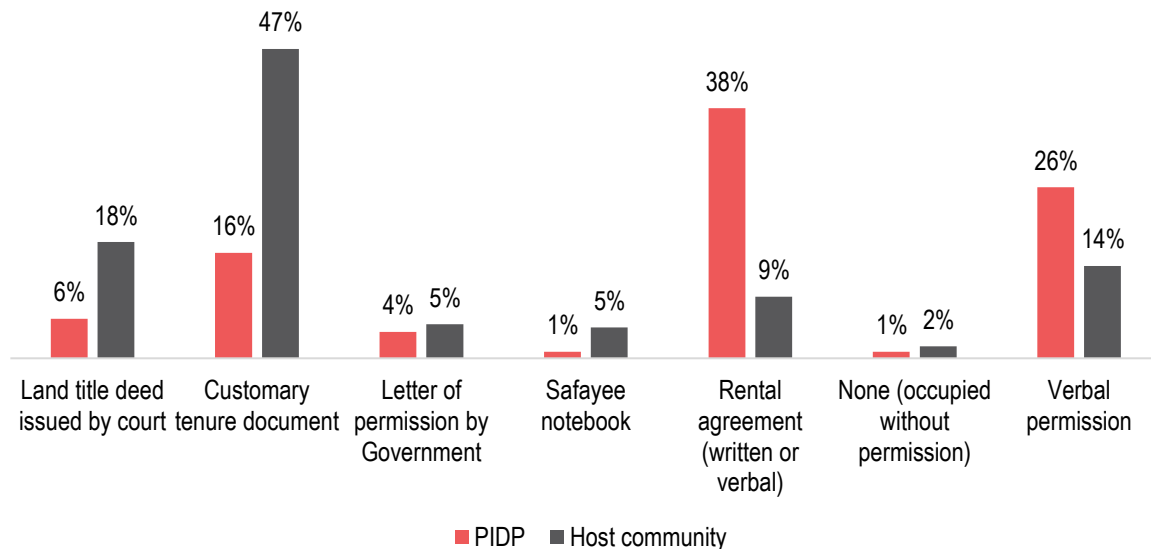
<sup>27</sup> Samuel Hall, IOM – Displacement Dynamics: IDP Movement Tracking, Needs and Vulnerability Analysis (2014)

<sup>28</sup> IDMC – New and long-term IDPs risk becoming neglected as conflict intensifies (16 July 2016)



Similar to property ownership, PIDP households reported much lower levels of land ownership than host community households. Having a land title deed issued by an Afghan court is the strongest and most secure ownership of land a household can obtain in Afghanistan. Second to this is a customary tenure document, commonly known as a ‘common document’, which is issued to a land owner by a Government registered property dealer and is a precursor to securing a court issued document of ownership. **Host community households reported much higher levels of ownership of their land as 18% reported having a land title deed issued by the court, compared to only 6% of PIDP households.** Second to this, 47% of host community households reported having a customary tenure document compared to only 21% of PIDP households.

Figure 12: The current land tenure status of PIDP and host community household



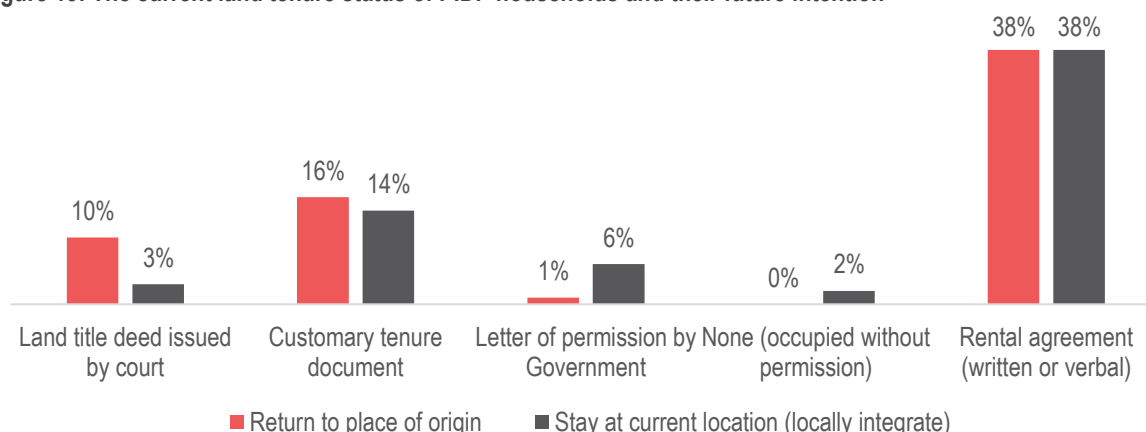
The land PIDP households use, as with their accommodation arrangement, is less securely occupied and PIDP households are dependent upon unstable contracts of tenure. **Twenty-six per cent of PIDP households reported that their land tenure status is based upon the verbal permission of the land owner whilst 38% reported that they have some form of written or verbal rental agreement.** As a result of PIDP accommodation arrangements many live in constant fear of being evicted. As a result of their dependency on insecure verbal agreements concerning land tenure, PIDP households are unable to fully commit to settling within their chosen community. Although 55% of PIDP households reported that in the future they plan to settle in their current location, many are unlikely to be willing to invest any expenses into shelter development so long as they live in fear of being evicted from the land they live upon. This is particularly true considering that 89% of PIDP households are made of mud bricks, a material that cannot be dismantled, moved and reassembled in the same way that concrete bricks can.

**The combination of poor land tenure status and accommodation arrangements amongst PIDP households creates a dangerous shelter scenario which traps PIDPs in a state of constant marginalisation.** This was particularly visible when communities were asked the question “do you fear your household may be evicted from this living space?” In almost direct correlation with their dependence upon verbal agreements and rental reliance, **75% of PIDP households reported that they live in fear of being evicted.** This is starkly different from host community households, whose shelter and land arrangement is overwhelmingly based on documented ownership, where only 28% reported that they fear they may be evicted.

PIDP household’s land tenure and accommodation arrangement has an effect on whether they live in fear of being evicted. **Fear of eviction can act as a barrier to a families’ positive integration into a community and is likely to have psychological effects on its members.** Of those PIDP households who reported living in fear of eviction only 1% owned their accommodation with documentation compared to the 64% who reported renting. Concerning land tenure 20% of those fearful of eviction have customary tenure documents whilst 41% only have verbal permission. This is compared to those not fearful of eviction where 37% have customary tenure documents and only 21% verbal permission. Those with more secure property and land ownership agreements are less likely to live in constant fear of eviction and less likely to suffer psychologically as a result.

Interestingly those that own their own accommodation are more eager to return to their place of origin. This might be due to the fact that as they have secured ownership of their property they now legally own capital. Often during times of displacement PIDPs homes are occupied by others during their absence and they have no legal method of reclaim. PIDPs who own their property can leave and aim to return knowing that their house is owned legally and theirs to reclaim. They also have the option to legally sell their house before returning now that they have documentation of ownership. In the graph below, letter of permission from government and occupied without permission, both show more enthusiasm to stay in the current location than return to place of origin. However, these land arrangements are most commonly related to squatting and informal settlements and thus are arguably the most marginalised of PIDP communities. Their eagerness to settle might be more a reflection of their fear of eviction, knowing the precarious nature of their shelter arrangement and the poor options they have in these circumstances. For those renting the results are the same. Those PIDP households renting must struggle to make their payments each month and thus during precarious times must mentally prepare themselves for the reality of being evicted and possibly having to return to their place of origin.

Figure 13: The current land tenure status of PIDP households and their future intention



**Lack of property and land ownership creates a dangerous precedent whereby PIDP households are reliant upon insecure shelter arrangements, such as illegal documentation, and those necessitating regular monthly income, such as renting.** Those who secure ownership documentation are more likely to be interested in truly investing in their future at their current location and are less likely to be fearful of eviction. Shelter security is likely to improve PIDP households' confidence, allowing them to develop within their new environment and build up the networks that are so crucial to livelihood sustainability.

As identified, PIDP households, particularly female headed PIDP households, are more likely to have no household members that own a Tazkera. This prevents IDP households from owning their property, land, and excludes them from government-sponsored land allocations schemes. As a result **IDPs often resort to living in informal and impoverished neighbourhoods that offer inadequate access to services, vulnerability to disaster and no security of tenure meaning IDPs are constantly at risk of forced evictions.**<sup>29</sup> They often illegally occupy private or government land and may be evicted, lawfully or unlawfully, in order to make room for infrastructure projects and other urban developments.<sup>30</sup> Ironically however in past assessments IDPs have reported that they believe the high visibility of their informal settlements on government and private land reduces their threat of eviction.<sup>31</sup> Without secure land ownership PIDP households are likely to require emergency shelter and NFI support into the future.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Brookings LSE Project on Internal Displacement – Under the Radar: Internally Displaced Persons in Non-Camp Settings (Oct 2013)

<sup>30</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

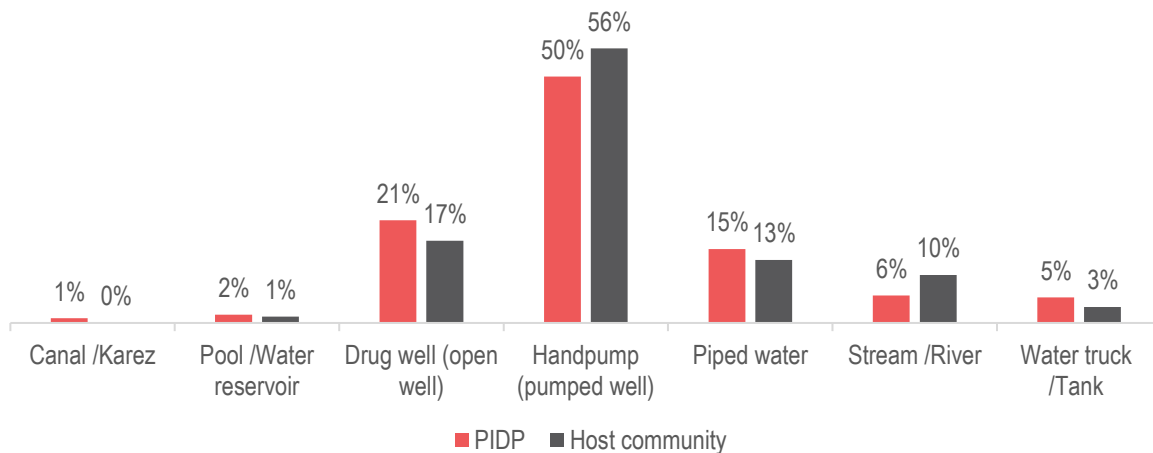
<sup>32</sup> OCHA – Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan 2017 (Nov 2016)

#### 4.6 Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)

The type of drinking water most used by both PIDP and host community households was largely found to be the same. For both communities, the primary source was from a hand pumped well with between 50-56% of all households reporting this as their most used source. The secondary source of drinking water for both households, with between 17-21% of households reporting it, was a dug or open well. There were no increased vulnerabilities concerning drinking water access for female and disabled headed households. In fact female headed households secondary source of drinking water was piped water, with 15% of households reporting it. This is positive as piped water is normally found much closer to family compounds, if not within the compound itself, thus reducing the distance and numbers of times females have to collect water which can put them at risk.

The type of drinking water most used by PIDP households was largely affected by their regional area. The mountainous north-east reported by far the lowest number of households reliant upon hand pumped and dug wells. Instead households in these areas are using streams, rivers and piped water to supply their drinking water, although in reality most of this piped water is channelled directly from rivers and streams. **The north displayed some dangerous water habits, with 6% of households there reportedly using mud-made water reservoirs to supply their drinking waters** which are not maintained and may contain harmful bacteria particularly after heavy rains. Also between 6-8% of PIDP households in the central, northern and southern regions reported that they are reliant upon water trucks and tanks to provide them with clean drinking water which is an insecure and unsustainable source.

Figure 14: The main source of drinking water for PIDP and host community household

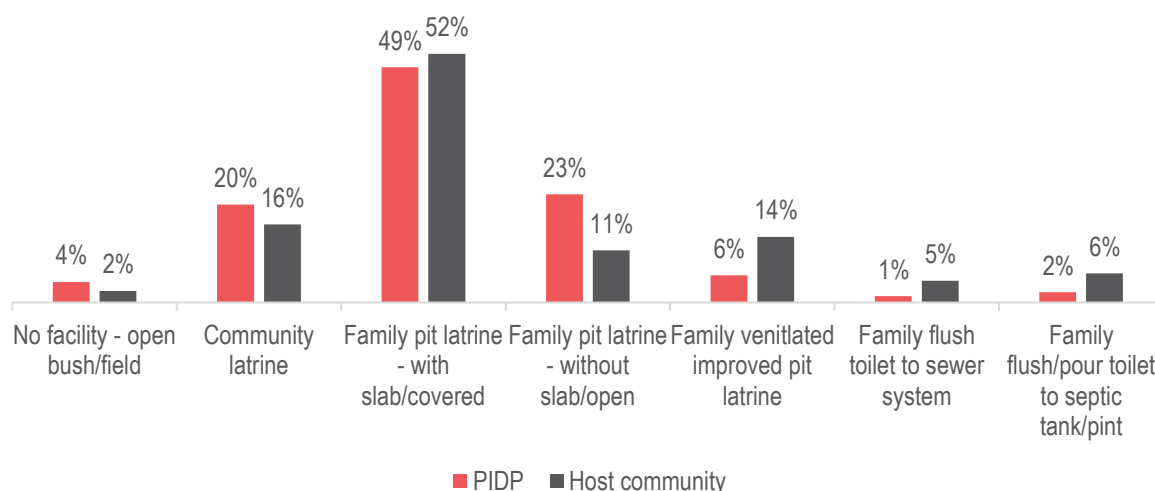


#### **PIDP households' distance to their primary source of drinking water was generally the same as host communities.**

Just under half of all host community and PIDP households assessed reported that they had access within their house or compound. Just under half of all PIDP households assessed reported that they had to walk less than 20 minutes to reach their main source of drinking water, whilst 10% of PIDP households walk more than 20 minutes. However when looking at these results by region the north fared the worst as just 6% reported having access to drinking water in their homes compared to **38% of PIDP households assessed in the north who reported having to walk more than 20 minutes.**

Sixty-one per cent or more of both PIDP and host community households reported having enough access to water for drinking, cooking and bathing. However households are, understandably, prioritising water usage for drinking and cooking as only 61% of PIDP households reported having enough water for bathing compared to 82% of the host community. Once more this was of most concern in the north where less than half of those assessed reported having enough water to bathe. This is of course a health and hygiene concern and very much linked to their reliance on water tanks and reservoirs for drinking and the distance they must travel to reach these water sources.

Figure 15: Primary type of latrine used by PIDP and host community household



A covered family pit latrine was reported by between 49-52% of both PIDP and host community families as their primary latrine used. However, it is when we look at both unhygienic methods of excreta disposal and better quality latrines that we see the difference in vulnerabilities between the two communities. **Four percent of PIDP households reported using no facility at all and thus are resorting to open defecation in fields and bush**, compared to 2% of host community households. This may be due to the fact that between 16-20% of PIDP and host community households reported that their primary latrine used was a community latrine. Community latrines are often over crowded, unmaintained and may be built close to an area used for cooking or water gathering. They may be used by men, women and children from the local community and be built in an unlit area at a distance from dwellings thus creating a significant number of protection risks.<sup>33</sup> Twice as many PIDP households reported using an open family latrine compared to those of host community households. Although better than community latrines as they are used by less people, these latrines offer no privacy and as they are open to the elements and are at an increased risk of dangerous flooding and drainage patterns in case of heavy rains.

Host communities reported higher numbers than PIDPs using safer and more developed styles of latrines. **Eleven per cent of host community households reported having some form of flushing toilet compared to just 3% of PIDP households.** The ability to flush improves the safe and hygienic management of waste however it is dependent upon regular access to water which, as established, many PIDP households do not have. Common styles of PIDP latrines were also dependent upon their geographical area. The north reported the highest number of households with no facility whatsoever with 15%, double that of the next highest regions, whilst in the south half of those sampled were reliant upon community latrines. Interestingly the central and eastern regions, those areas that have seen the most recent inward migration as a result of both conflict displacements and returnees, reported some of the safest latrine styles of the PIDP households assessed as between 53-64% reported covered family pit latrines as their primary latrine.

Those **PIDPs whose land tenure status was based on a letter from the government reported 32% of their households dependent on water trucks/tanks** whilst those illegally occupied reported 13% reliant upon the same means. This is in stark contrast to the 4% of those living on rented land reliant on water tanks and the 0% of those with some form of documentation for their lands. Informal settlements occupying land either illegally or with some limited form of governmental permission are thus dependent on a water source that is insecure, limited, unsustainable and reliant upon constant outside assistance. Host community households who inhabit an area longer have better access to water and thus more opportunity to invest resources into better hygiene, sanitation and waste facilities. PIDP households hosted by family or friends reported a much higher number of households using community latrines and uncovered family latrines than those who rented or owned their property. Thirty-four per cent of PIDP households hosted by family or friends reported using uncovered family pit latrines compared to 22% of those renting and 20% of those who own their property. This implies how constant displacements and an inability to put down roots and develop ones shelter leads to overcrowding and dangerous water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

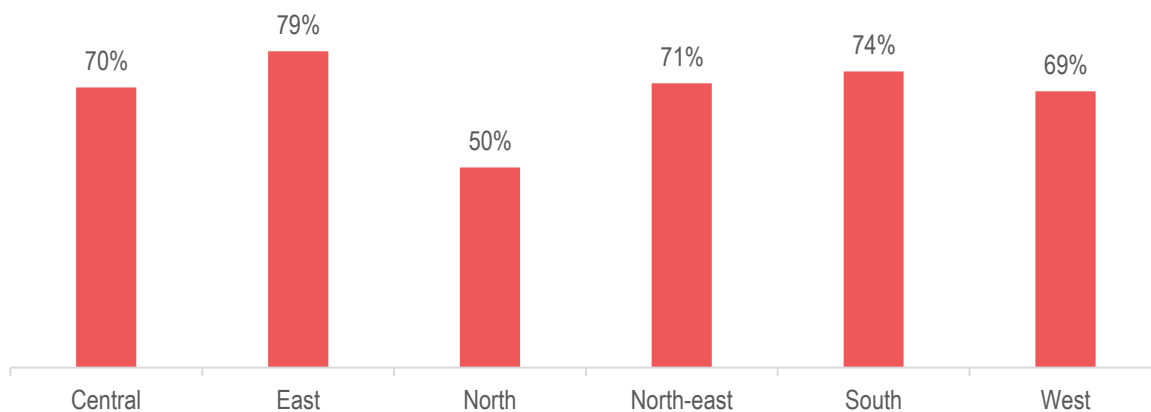
<sup>33</sup> The Sphere Project – Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (2011)

PIDP households are suffering worse water, sanitation and health vulnerabilities than their host community neighbours. They are reliant upon unsafe and unsanitary sources of water that do not meet all their needs in terms of drinking, cooking and bathing. **For many PIDP communities these water sources involve travelling long distances and, as it is often a women's job to collect water in Afghan society, this is creating serious protection risks.** PIDP households are far more reliant upon the use of field, bush and community latrines for defecation which is a risk to the health of all those within their community. When juxtaposed with the recorded lack of water for bathing this is a serious health hazard for both communities but more severely for PIDPs. Constant displacement is hindering PIDP households' ability to invest in their WASH facilities. Without access to ownership of land or property and constantly fearing eviction it is not surprising that many PIDP communities are relying upon the bare minimum of water, sanitation and health resources.

#### 4.7 Health

In both PIDP (70%) and host community (66%) households children under five were nearly equally as likely to have been vaccinated. In both communities, **close to one out of three children under the age of five in each household nationwide were reported not to have been vaccinated.** This percentage is relative to the number of children aged under five found in each individual household. As the question asked households how many children under the age of five have been vaccinated, there was no way to disaggregate the data by gender of children. However, the assessment did show that in disabled headed PIDP households, just over one out of four of the children under five in each household remained unvaccinated. **In female headed PIDP households the statistics show about the same level of vulnerability. In these female headed households, one quarter of children under five were reportedly unvaccinated.** These results were also dependent upon the region of Afghanistan that was assessed. Whilst roughly one out of three children under five was the average in PIDP households across the region, in the north the results showed higher vulnerabilities. One in two children under five in the northern region were reported to have not been vaccinated whilst in the east this figure was only one in three, much more positive results.

Figure 16: Percentage of unvaccinated PIDP children under 5 years old by region



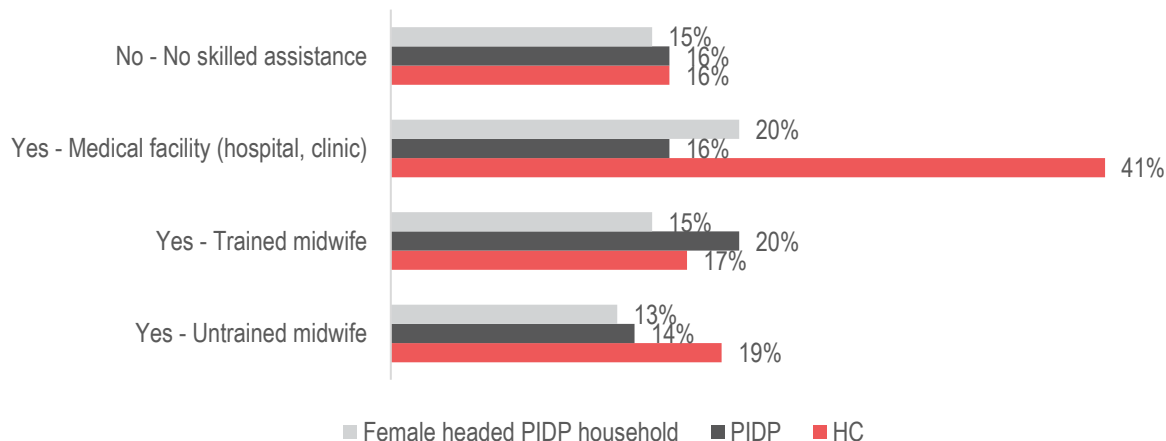
There was found to be little impact on child vaccination caused by Tazkera ownership. A report from 2016 identified that, although there are no laws in Afghanistan which stipulate it, in practice some facilities, particularly government ones, require identification to treat people.<sup>34</sup> However, in reality it was found that Tazkera ownership had little bearing on child vaccination. For PIDP households where no one owned a Tazkera, 29% of children under five were unvaccinated, compared to 27% for households in which the head had a Tazkera and 31% when all adults have a Tazkera.

For those households that reported that there had been a recent birth in the house and who knew about the level of assistance received during the birth, the results showed some interesting vulnerabilities. Sixteen percent of PIDP households reported that there was no skilled medical assistance present at the birth compared to 17% of the host community. These findings were similar for female headed PIDP households, in which it was found that 15% of households

<sup>34</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC – Access to Tazkera and other civil documentation in Afghanistan (2016)

had no medical assistance present at the birth. Over twice as many host community households reported having given birth in a medical facility (hospital/clinic) as female headed PIDP households, 44% compared to 16%. When recent births were assisted by a medical attendant it was, for PIDP households more likely to be by a trained mid-wife than an untrained one; the same as for host communities.

Figure 17: Percentage of PIDP and host community household births assisted by a medical attendant



The results showed that **the more times a household had been displaced, the fewer children in their household have been vaccinated**. For those displaced once, 27% of children in their home were unvaccinated. For those displaced twice it was 34%, three times 47% and for PIDP households displaced four or more times 51% of their children under 5 were not vaccinated. PIDP households, and particularly female headed PIDP households, are more at risk of children suffering from avoidable diseases and complications concerning childbirth. A lack of documentation and their constant displacement means that they are suffering from dangerous health vulnerabilities. What's worse is that the same aspects that cause these vulnerabilities, such as hinder them seeking assistance if health complications do occur.

#### 4.8 Education

**PIDP children of school age (5-15) are slightly more likely (56%) to be outside of school than those of the host community (51%).** To determine this REACH calculated the percentage of school aged children that attended at least four days of school out of the previous seven per household based on how many school aged children were reported as living in that household. This was done for each individual household in the data set and then averages were taken. The questionnaire asked separately about boys and girls attending school so we can determine how certain vulnerabilities effect one groups' attendance levels more than the other and if sending boys to school is prioritised over girls.

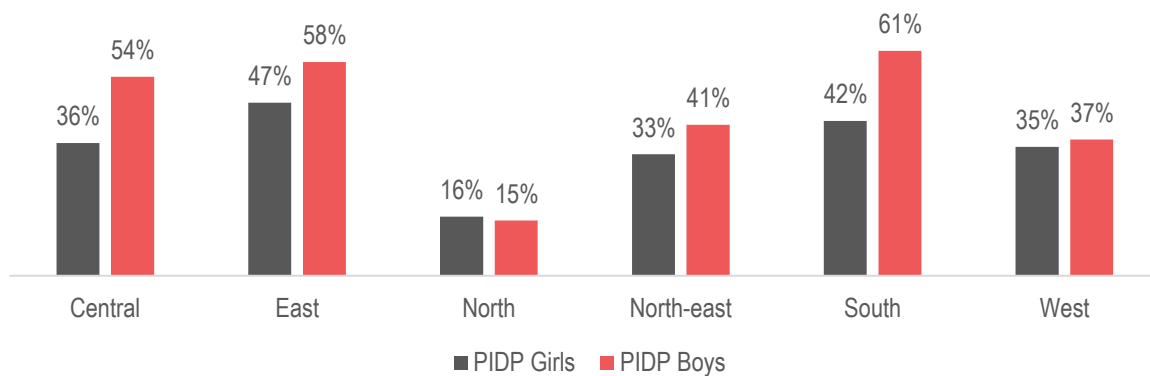
In host community households countrywide, just under half of the school aged children in the household attended school at least four days or more out of the seven days prior to the interview being conducted. **In male headed PIDP households, 45% of school aged children had attended school. This figure was very slightly higher for female headed households, with 47% of children regularly attending school. It was also found that disability had little impact with the proportion of children attending school for disabled and non-disabled household heads remaining the same.** Education attendance was reported the best in the east and southern regions of the country, where at least half of school aged children in PIDP households had attended school. This is in stark contrast however to the north where only 14% of school aged children in PIDP households attended school at least four days in the seven days prior to data collection.

The number of times a PIDP household had been displaced had a large effect on the percentage of school aged children within the household having attended school four out of the seven days prior to data collection. **Of those PIDPs displaced once, 47% of school aged children in the household had attended school in the last seven days, for those displaced twice it was 31% and for those displaced three times only 9% had attended schools in the seven days prior to data collection.** Multiple displacements are disrupting school aged children's education as they are forced to move from place



to place; missing valuable learning time as they change school and go through registration procedures. There is also the danger that schools may be overcrowded and full as more IDPs move into an area and thus children are unable to attend.

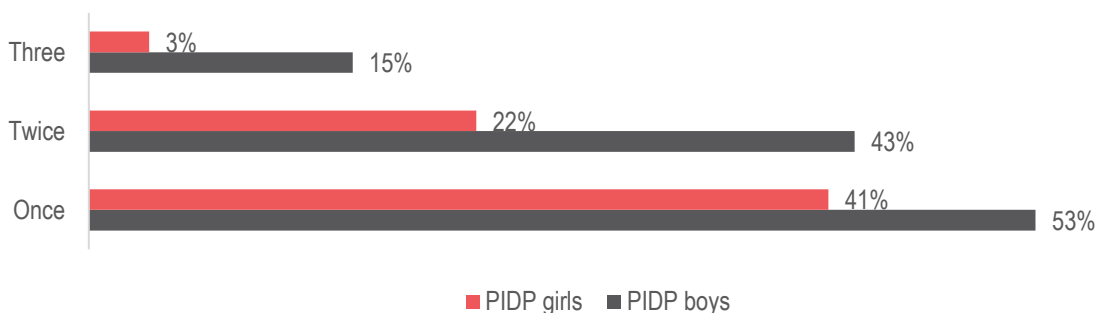
**Figure 18: Average percentage of school aged PIDP boys and girls per household who attended at least 4 days of school out of the last**



Proof of documentation is important to registering one's child or children into education in Afghanistan. Whilst not necessary to attend school in all cases, ownership of a Tazkera is likely to improve attendance. A 2016 report into Tazkera's in Afghanistan identified that the lack of birth certificate prevented access to education for one third of those households interviewed whilst nearly three quarters of those interviewed reported the same for the Tazkera.<sup>35</sup> For PIDP households in which no one held a Tazkera, 36% of school aged children were reported to have attended at least four days of school in the seven prior to the interview. These numbers were improved for those households with a Tazkera as in households where the household head had a Tazkera 44% of school aged children were reported to have attended, and in households where some members had a Tazkera this figure was 47%.

Households' displacement status also had an effect on PIDP households' childrens' level of education attendance. For those who reported their displacement status as displaced and with no family member having ever left Afghanistan, only 36% of their school aged children were reported to have attended at least four days school out of the last seven. For returnees the numbers were higher as returnee households both with (47%) and without UNHCR documentation (63%) were more likely to have attended school.

**Figure 19: Average percentage of school aged PIDP boys and girls per household who attended school and their number of displacements**



Female school aged children are particularly affected by these hindrances and the assessment identified that PIDP households often choose to send boys to school over girls. This was found to be the case in this assessment, with 51% of boys attending school compared to 38% of girls. This relationship was even more pronounced for female headed households, which were found to send 44% of household boys to school and only 28% of girls. In comparison, for male headed households, 51% of boys attended school in the past week compared to 38% of girls. Concerning the low results found when looking at school aged children's educational attendance alongside multiple displacements, displacement status

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

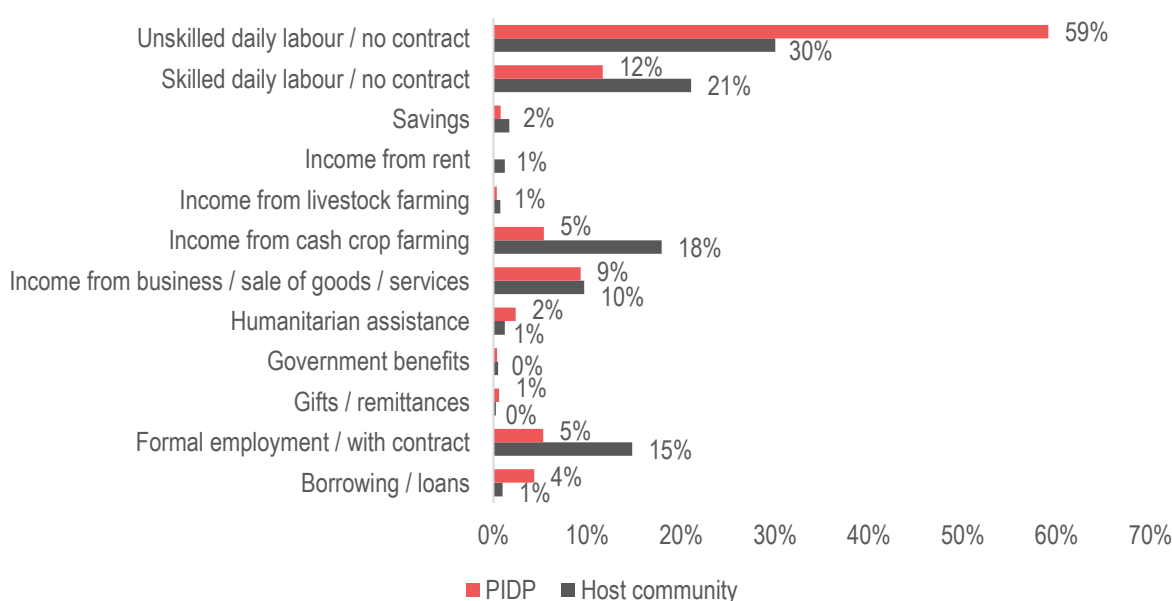
and ownership of Tazkera, female school aged girls reported less attendance in both of these categories. Some of the results were significantly different to those of boys in the household and thus very worrying. Multiple displacements have a particular effect on female school aged children. **The average of 15% attendance for boys from PIDP households in their third displacement having attended at least four days of school in the last seven sunk to as low as 3% for school aged girls.** For both documented and undocumented PIDP children, whilst 32% and 56% respectively of school aged girls in the household had attended at least four day of school, these results were higher for boys with 61% and 70% respectively attending.

#### 4.9 Income, Employment & Livelihoods

**When asked what primary income source covered household expenses in the last 30 days, 59% of PIDP households reported it was uncontracted and unskilled daily labour,** compared to 30% of host community households. This indicates that PIDP households have less long-term economic securities than host communities, as well as fewer employment rights. This was the most popular primary income generating activity for both communities as it covers 70% of their household expenditures. After this, for both communities, uncontracted skilled daily labour was the second most reported primary source of income with 12% of PIDP and 21% of host community households reporting it. Other popular income generating activities for PIDP households included cash crop farming and income for business and services however for both of these activities twice as many host community households reported them as primary sources of income. Fifteen per cent of host community households reported their primary source of income as formal contracted employment, compared to just 5% of PIDP households. **Female headed PIDP households were found to be in an even worse economic situation than male head PIDP households.** They are more reliant on humanitarian assistance, 18% of female headed PIDP households compared to 2% of male.

In the north and western regions PIDP households were particularly reliant upon uncontracted unskilled daily labour, more so than other parts of the country. Between 5-6% PIDP households in these regions reported skilled daily labour as their primary income source of the previous 30 days whilst 74-78% reported unskilled daily labour as their primary income source. In the north-east 18% of households reported their primary income source was cash crop farming, twice the percentage of any other region. The central region displayed a worrying dependency on borrowing and loans to support their household expenditures. **Fourteen per cent of households in the central region reported that in the past 30 days their household expenses had been primarily covered by borrowing or loans.** In half of the regions no PIDP households reported borrowing as their primary source of income over the previous 30 days and after the central region the next highest was the east with only 2% of households. The worrying dependency in the central region is likely due to Kabul city and the wealth of displaced persons trying to build a life there where prices are higher than in rural areas.

Figure 20: Percentage of PIDP and host community households' primary source covering household expenses



**PIDP households in which no member owns a Tazkera were reported to rely more heavily on humanitarian assistance in order to fund household expenditure over the 30 days prior to data collection.** Sixteen per cent reported it as their primary source of income, compared to 3% of households in which the head owns a Tazkera and 1% of households in which some, or all, of the household has a Tazkera. Returnees without UNHCR documentation are highly dependent on borrowing money as 9% reported it as their primary income source in the past 30 days compared to just 1% of documented returnees and PIDPs who have never left the country. Half of all undocumented returnees sampled reported borrowing and loans as their secondary income source. Voluntary documented returnees receive \$400 per person from UNHCR and there is also suggestion that some returnees coming back from Pakistan are bringing with them business knowledge and skills that improve their economic security in Afghanistan. Combining these two things may allow some registered returnees to invest money into business and services as an income generating activity. Only 4% of PIDP households who have never left the country reported income from business, sales and services as their primary income source, this was 24% for documented returnees.

PIDP and host community household spending patterns were almost identical. **Both PIDP and host community households spent just under half of their previous months household expenditure on food.** A high household allocation towards food expense is a strong indicator for income-poverty and is suggestive of the fact that employment levels and income are insufficiently meeting household consumption needs. It also increases households' food insecurity as any income shocks will immediately limit their spending capacity and may force them to turn to negative food coping strategies. The largest difference in spending between the two different communities is on rent. For PIDP households difficulties faced in accessing a Tazkera means that households struggle to gain legitimate ownership of both land and property. As a result PIDP households reported spending 20% of their monthly income on rent compared to host community households who spent just 5%. Barriers in owning land may be a reason as to why 18% of host community households reported cash crop farming as their primary income source compared to 8% of PIDP households. An improved number of income generating activities would help to secure PIDP households against economic shocks and the consequences of poor employment opportunities.

Earning habits differ between PIDP and host community households as the hosts are generating income from a wider variety of sources. **PIDP households' income is dependent on irregular work in the informal sector and as a result their families' ability to buy food changes from day to day.**<sup>36</sup> This dependence on irregular work leaves many PIDP families susceptible to economic shocks and often their access to paid employment is reduced by seasonal weather changes. Without the necessary skills and support networks to help IDP to integrate in new urban labour market, PIDP households will continue to be reliant upon casual labour and other insecure income generating strategies

#### 4.10 Food Security and Agriculture

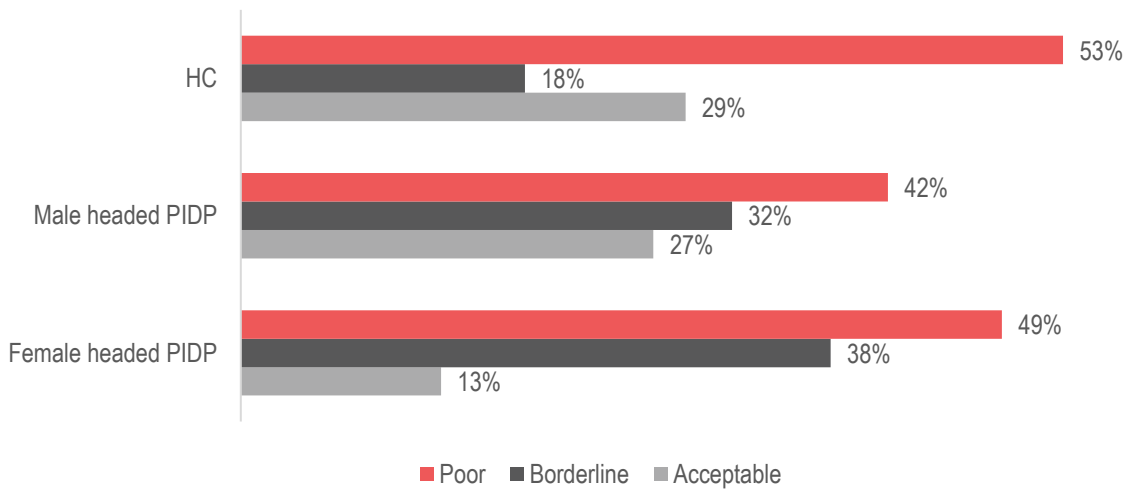
By asking households about what foods they consumed in the 7 days prior to data collection we get an understanding of their food consumption habits. Host community households' food consumption level was higher than that of the PIDP households meaning that they are consuming a more balanced and nutritionally valuable diet over the previous seven day period. Between 27-29% of host community and male headed PIDP households reported an acceptable food consumption score. Female headed PIDP households however are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity as only 13% of households sampled were found to have an acceptable level of food consumption. Interestingly more host community households reported a poor level of food consumption at 53% compared to 49% for female headed PIDPs and 42% for male.

Host community households reported eating different categories of food more often during the seven days prior to data collection than PIDP households. Although both households reported having eaten nothing for certain categories during the previous seven days, the percentage of PIDP households reporting this was significantly higher. **A fifth of PIDP households sampled reported that in the previous seven days they had eaten no vegetables and 66% had eaten no fruits, compared to 13% and 36% of host community households. Just under half of PIDP households reported that they had eaten no meat or dairy in the past seven days compared to 30% of host community households for meat and 40% for dairy.** In host community households between 26-28% reported that they had eaten sugar and fats every day during the last seven days compared to 18-20% of PIDP households. Both PIDP and host community households are

<sup>36</sup> Amnesty International – “My Children Will Die This Winter” Afghanistan’s Broken Promise to the Displaced (2016)

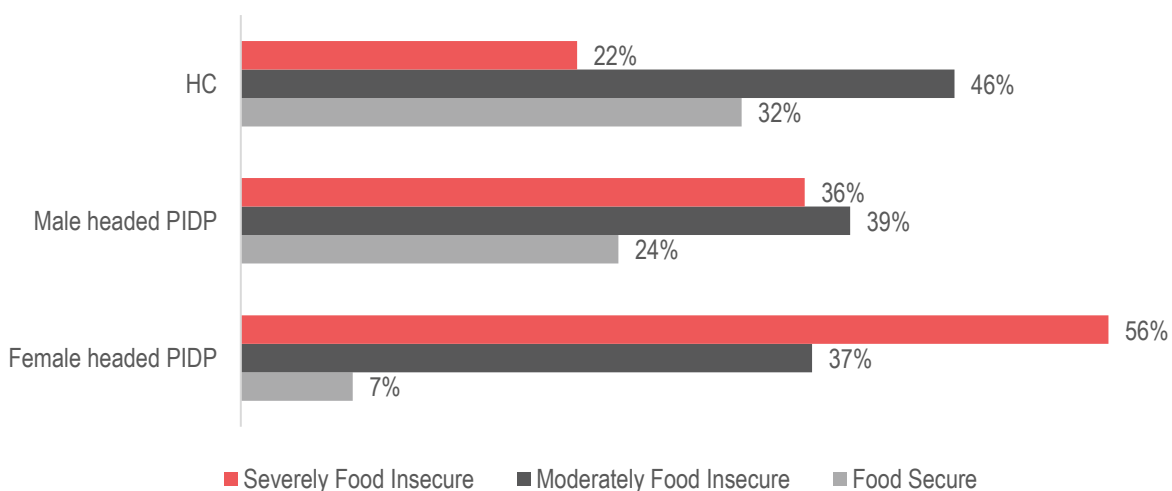
struggling to maintain food security. However, PIDP households are reliant on cereals and oils which are not providing them with the nutritional value needed. Host community households have access to a more varied and balanced diet resulting in a better level of food consumption.

Figure 21: Food consumption level of host community and male and female headed PIDP household



PIDP households have a lower overall food security level than those of the host community. By triangulating households' food consumption patterns over the seven days prior to data collection and their negative coping strategies we are able to see how food secure each household is. Only 24% of male headed PIDP households were found to be food secure in comparison to 32% of the host community. **Thirty-nine percent of all male headed PIDP households interviewed were found to be moderately food insecure, whilst 36% were severely food insecure compared to 22% of the host community. Female headed households showed even worse results as only 7% were food secure whilst over half were severely food insecure.** In the central and southern region PIDP households showed the most positive results as between 31-40% of households were found to be food secure. In the north and west however 44% of PIDP households were found to be severely food insecure whilst in the east this figure went as high as 53%.

Figure 22: Overall food security status of host community and male and female headed PIDP households



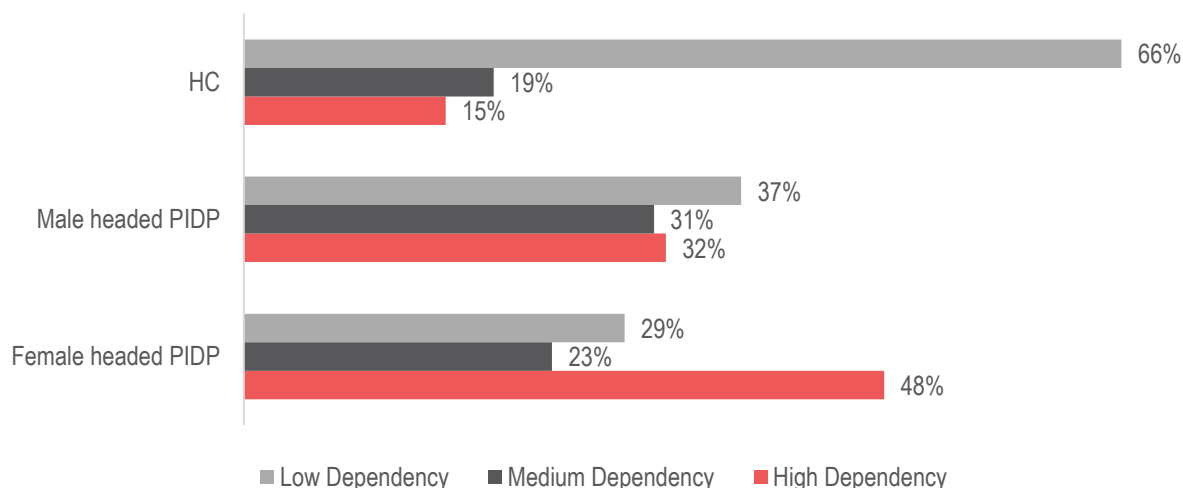
PIDP households in which members owned a Tazkera were found to be more food secure. Forty-nine per cent of PIDP households in which no member has a Tazkera were found to be severely food insecure however this figure dropped to 41% in households in which the household head has a Tazkera. The more times that PIDPs suffered displacement the more severely food insecure they appear to have become. **Twenty-five per cent of PIDP households that had been displaced**

once were found to be food secure, however this dropped to 16% for those displaced twice and down to 6% for those displaced three times.

**Twenty-eight per cent of PIDP households who reported that they cultivate land were found to be severely food insecure in comparison to 38% who reported that they don't.** However, as mentioned, there remains a difficulty for PIDPs in Afghanistan to achieve ownership of land or property which has adverse effects on their income generating habits and thus food security. A quarter of host community households sampled said that they cultivate land compared to just 7% of PIDP households. The administrative and bureaucratic barriers that hinder PIDPs owning land and property are even more imposing for females and **no female headed PIDP households reported owning land.** The north-east was the area where many of the more positive results came from as it was here that a quarter of PIDP households sampled reported cultivating land. This is not surprising as it was also the north-east where 18% of households reported cash-crop farming as their primary income source. Cultivation of land is key to boosting cash crop farming as a stable income source for PIDP households. It is also an income generating habit that can reduce overall food insecurity as the north-east had the lowest levels of severe food insecurity, 10% compared to the next lowest or 31% in the south.

PIDPs households are using negative and dangerous coping strategies as part of their regular food consumption. By asking PIDP and host community households whether they have used any common coping strategies concerning poor food consumption in the last seven days we get an understanding of how dependent on these strategies households are. PIDP households, and particularly those female headed, are a lot more dependent on negative coping strategies concerning food consumption than those of the host community. **Fifteen per cent of host community households were found to be highly dependent on negative coping strategies compared to 32% for male headed and 48% for female headed PIDP households.**

Figure 23: Level of negative coping strategy dependence for host community and male and female headed PIDP households



The most popular negative coping strategies for PIDP households are relying on less expensive/less preferred food and borrowing food from friends and relatives. **A quarter of PIDP households reported that on two days out of the seven prior to data collection they had borrowed money from friends or relatives.** This is a dangerous coping strategy as it is contributing to the food insecurity of other households who may be food insecure themselves. If households are unable to borrow food then they may also turn to borrowing money and loans in order to maintain household food levels, particularly for children. **Over a quarter of PIDP households reported that they had limited portion sizes at mealtimes and 18% reported they had reduced the number of meals eaten in a day on two days out of the last seven.** Reducing meal numbers and portion sizes is considered a dangerous strategy that is turned to only when families are desperate and given the results so far it is not surprising that many PIDP families are making these choices.

PIDP households that reported that they cultivated land were found to be far less dependent on negative coping strategies, however the tenure status of the land also made a large difference to how dependent families were. For those that cultivate land they own, 83% of households had a low dependency on negative coping strategies whilst only 2% were found to be highly dependent. However for those cultivating rented land, 11% were highly dependent on negative coping strategies and

this doubled to 22% of those cultivating sharecropped land. Once again we see how difficulties in accessing ownership of land and property for PIDPs has a knock on effect, negatively influencing shelter, livelihoods, income generating habits and food security.

There is a considerable difference in ownership between those host community and PIDP households that reported cultivating land. Whilst 81% of host community households who cultivate land reported that they own the land, the figure for PIDPs was only 14%. Instead PIDP households who stated they cultivate land were renting or cultivating sharecropped land. **Twenty two per cent of PIDPs reported that they cultivate rented land, compared to 1% of host community, whilst 64% of PIDPs said they farmed sharecropped land compared to just 19% of host community households.** Twice as many PIDP households who cultivate land they owned were found to be food secure as those who cultivate land they rent. Aside from the difficulty in accessing ownership and documentation of land, PIDP households are likely to be reluctant to invest resources into owning land for fear of secondary or tertiary displacements. As previously mentioned, three quarters of PIDPs sampled reported that they fear eviction. By renting or farming sharecropped land PIDP households involved in cash crop farming are protecting themselves against the economic losses of displacement, something they may well understand from experience.

More than double the amount of host community households countrywide reported owning livestock than those of PIDPs, 17% compared to just 7%. Host community households who owned livestock on average possessed a higher number than those of PIDP households, four times as many goats and sheep and three times as many poultry and donkeys. Livestock are an important entity both to food security and livelihoods as they contribute to household work, transport, cash crop farming, food consumption and have a cash value. Of the PIDP households who owned livestock only 17% were found to be severely food insecure compared to the 39% who didn't own any livestock. Livestock such as donkeys are essential in rural areas for transporting people and goods to market areas. Interestingly 41% of PIDP households reporting living 1km away from their nearest market compared to just 15% of the host community. Whilst 16% of PIDP households reported living 5km or more away from the market 48% of PIDPs reported the same. This is one very few serious vulnerabilities which affects host communities more than PIDPs and might be a result of PIDP households' mobility, in which due to their recent displacement and poor shelter they have been able to settle close to local markets. Another hypothesis might be that with a large influx of displaced persons who know one another, local markets have taken advantage of the new population and moved closer to them.

In Afghanistan there are 1.6 million people severely food insecure and 9.7 million moderately food insecure.<sup>37</sup> Host community households sampled were more reliant on certain negative coping strategies than the PIDP communities and similarly displayed a worryingly high level of food insecurity. For example 8% of PIDP households, compared to 2% of the host, reported that every day during the seven days prior to data collection they had restricted the food consumption of adult household members in order to feed children. This shows how food needs are so pressing a challenge for both PIDPs and host communities in Afghanistan that reducing both quantity and quality of food is a fairly common coping strategy. As shown, expenditure on food represents just under half of PIDP households' monthly expenditure, leaving little left to cover other essentials such as rent, fuel, health care etc. However these essentials must also be covered and during times of need, harsh winters or low employment, food consumption is likely to suffer as a result.

#### 4.11 Assistance

**Eighty per cent of host community households and 83% of PIDP households reported that they have not received any assistance whilst living in their current location.** Of the 17-20% of households that reported having received assistance, PIDP households reported receiving more assistance and a wider variety of different types of aid. Much of the assistance that PIDP households received was in line with their most pressing needs and vulnerabilities identified in this report. Of the households that reported having received assistance, 6-10% of PIDP households reported receiving shelter and food compared to 2-3% of host community households. Also, 3% of PIDP households reported receiving cash assistance compared to just 1% of host community households. However, 8% of host community households reported receiving psychological support compared to 5% of PIDP households. This is concerning as, although boys and girls in both sets of households reported psychological trauma as a main concern, it was reported by more PIDP households. Also,

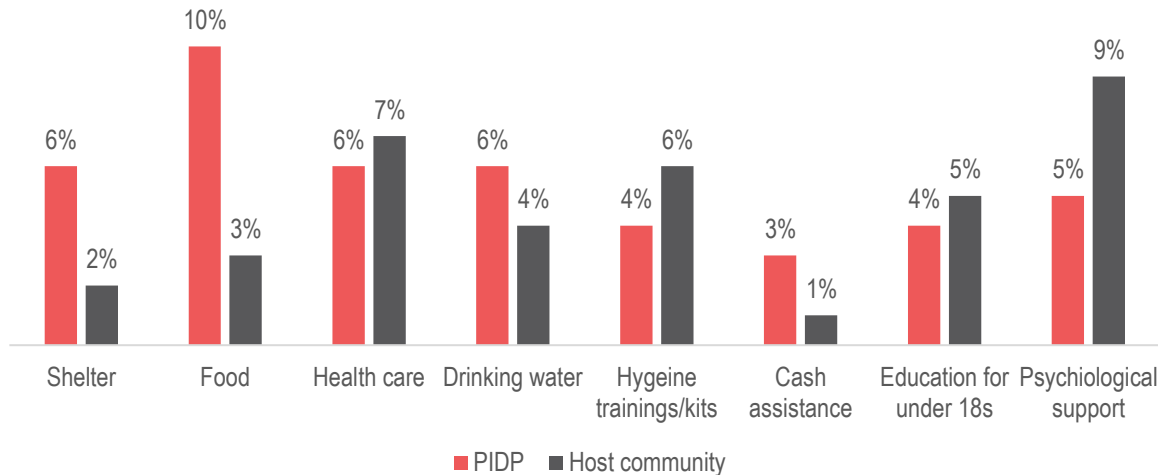
<sup>37</sup> FSAC – Seasonal Food Security Assessment (2016)



given that many PIDPs are displaced due to armed conflict, it is an even more pressing need for their households to have access to psychological support assistance.

Of those PIDP households that received assistance, over 75% received it in 2015 or earlier. **The humanitarian assistance they received may have been given during the first 6 months of their displacement yet as the report has shown their vulnerabilities remained compounded and more severe than those of the host community.**

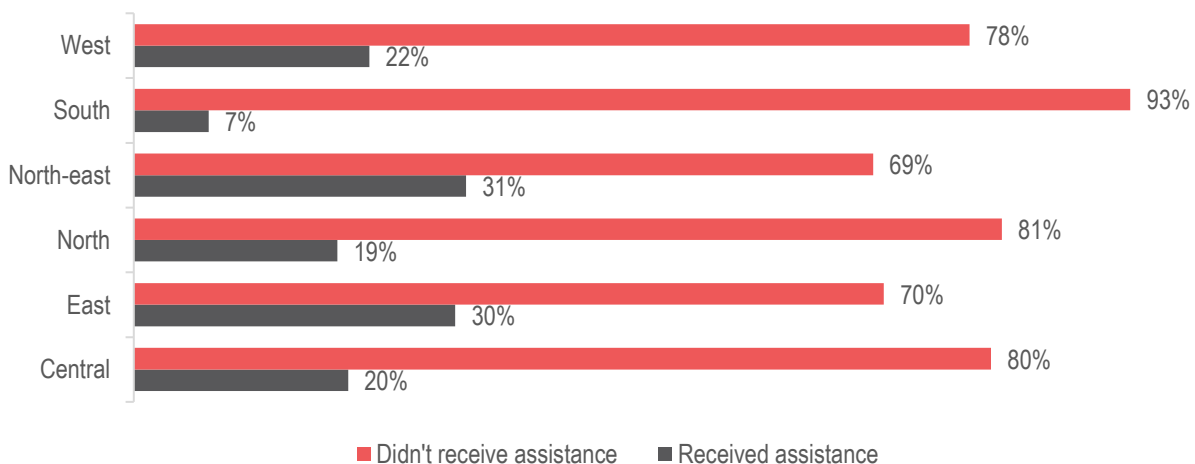
Figure 24: Percentage of PIDP and host community households that reported receiving assistance and what type



Female headed PIDP households reported receiving more assistance than male headed. Seventy-three per cent of female headed PIDP households reported that no assistance has been given in their current locations compared to 83% of male. Also 19% of female headed PIDP households reported receiving shelter assistance and 10% food compared to 6% for shelter and 9% for food in male headed PIDP households.

Both PIDP and host community households reported facing similar difficulties in trying to access aid. The most common grievance amongst both was that all households in need received too little assistance, between 26-35% of PIDP and host community households said this. For PIDP households the next biggest difficulty was very similar in nature as it was reported that some households in need receive less assistance than others while for the host community it was that the type of assistance delivered was not what was needed. Receiving assistance in the current location was found to have no significant bearing on PIDP households' future mobility intentions. **Of the houses that didn't receive assistance 57% plan to locally integrate and 25% want to return home compared to 62% and 20% for those that did receive assistance.**

Figure 25: Percentage of PIDP households that reported receiving assistance



PIDP households in Afghanistan's south reported having received the least amount of assistance in their current location. This is concerning given the level of conflict in the south but unfortunately not surprising given the difficulty in accessing many areas in Helmand, Uruzgan, Nimroz etc. The east and north-eastern regions reported receiving the most amount of assistance in their current locations. Again this is not entirely surprising. Given the heavy levels of displacement in the north-east due to natural disasters, the conflict in Kunduz pushing communities east and the wave of documented and undocumented returnees from Pakistan it is not surprising that more displaced communities in these regions have secured humanitarian assistance.

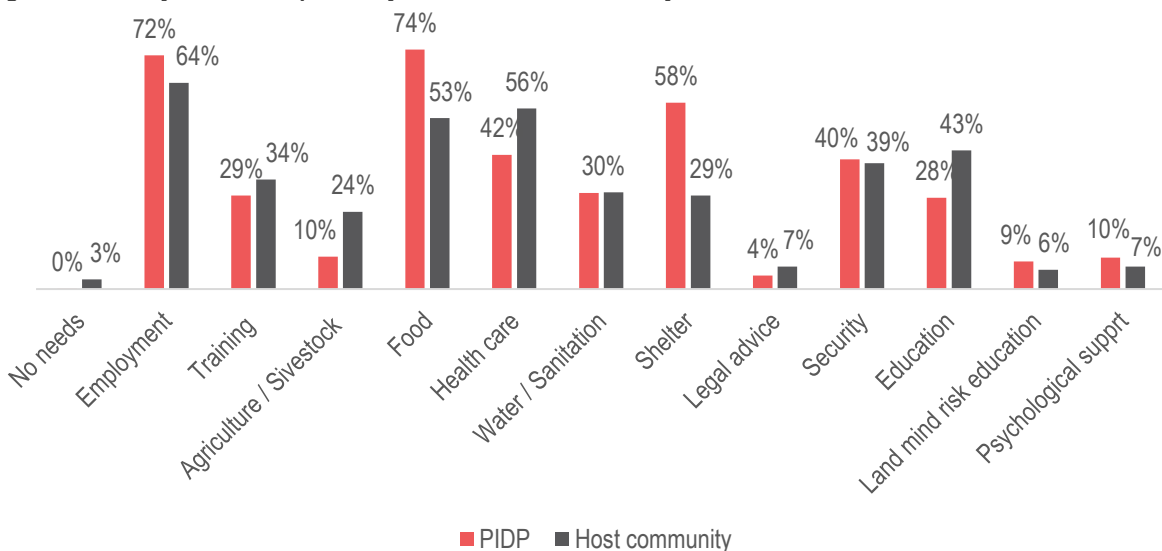
As explained in the introduction, part of the rationality behind this report is **to identify if PIDP vulnerabilities are more pressing than their host communities so that they may qualify for immediate assistance**. As it stands displaced persons in Afghanistan only qualify for immediate humanitarian assistance during the first 6 months after their displacement. After this they are only targeted through developmental programming despite the fact that, as shown, prolonged IDP's needs are for worse than host communities.

#### 4.12 Priority Needs

Both PIDP and host community households reported priority needs closely linked to their most extreme vulnerabilities. Although PIDP communities' vulnerabilities are greater than those of the host community in almost every sector, this did not result in them identifying higher household needs in every category. When given the opportunity to outline the priority needs of their household, PIDP communities took the chance to list their most pressing and crucial needs. It is these needs which align with the most pressing of PIDP vulnerabilities. **PIDPs reported priority needs are highest concerning assistance that the humanitarian community of Afghanistan is accustomed to providing in emergency situations such as food and shelter**. Host community needs are high concerning areas that are more developmental in nature such as education, training and healthcare.

The key PIDP vulnerabilities of shelter, food, employment and livelihoods that have been identified during the report were also reported as PIDP households' priority needs. **Seventy-four per cent of PIDP households reported that food was a priority need compared to 53% of host community households**. This is understandable given that PIDP households reported a lower overall food security status than the host community. **Shelter needs for PIDP households were almost double that of the host community, 58% compared to 29%** and employment was slightly more, 72% compared to 64%. Female headed PIDP households reported even higher needs than male headed households for shelter with 74% reporting it as a priority needs. This is fitting given that female headed households reportedly were less likely to own their household.

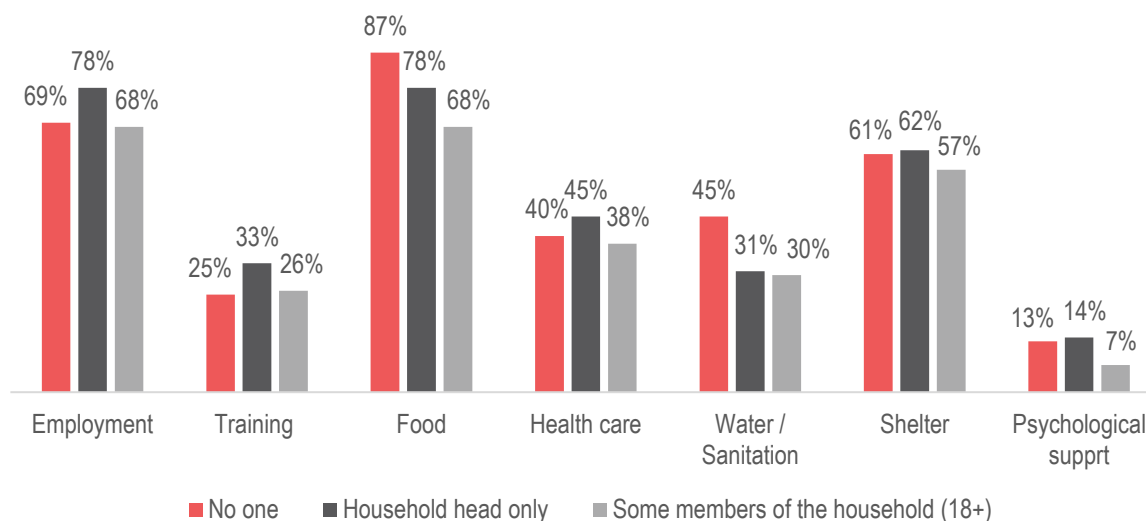
Figure 26: Priority needs as reported by PIDP and host community household



The north, which has seen a rise in fighting over the last few years, reported the highest employment, shelter and water/sanitation needs. This suits the vulnerability findings, particularly concerning WASH, as northern PIDP households reported the highest number reliant on canals and reservoirs for drinking water, travelling the furthest distance to collect

water and the highest number of households openly defecating. Priority needs such as food and shelter were reported more by households who were reported as being displaced more times. **Whilst 72% of PIDP households who had been displaced once reported food as a priority need this went up to 88% for those households displaced three times.** Similarly, while 57% of PIDP households who had been displaced once reported shelter as a priority need, this went up to 69% for those displaced twice and 80% for those displaced three times. Interestingly other needs such as health, WASH, training and education were reported less, the more times a household had been displaced. A possible hypothesis for this may be that secondary and tertiary displacements are more strategic as they move into areas that offer key household needs. Another may be that with multiple displacements PIDP households are not only realising what are the most crucial priority needs but also those for which they are most likely to receive assistance, i.e. food and shelter.

Figure 27: Percentage of PIDPs household with/without Tazkeras and their reported priority need



Some key priority needs were reported less by households in which more members had access to a Tazkera and more by those that don't. For example **87% of households in which no family member owns a Tazkera reported food as a priority need. However this dropped to 78% for households in which only the household head has a Tazkera and to 68% for households in which some members of the household who are 18+ have a Tazkera.** This shows how PIDP households who lack ownership of and access to documentation not only have high vulnerabilities but recognise this themselves and prioritize their needs accordingly.

Concerning PIDP households' current displacement status, **PIDPs who reported that no family member had ever left Afghanistan reported higher priority needs in the key areas of food and shelter than those who have returned from other countries.** While food was identified as a priority need by 80% of PIDP households who have never left Afghanistan, it was 63% for those in which at least one family member has been abroad and has UNHCR registration and 58% for those who have returned and are undocumented. The results were similar for shelter, 71% for PIDPs compared to 49% for documented returnees and 34% for undocumented. Interestingly it is the households with at least one undocumented returnee member who had the least priority needs concerning food and shelter. This is surprising considering the cash assistance package that documented refugees receive compared to the assistance the undocumented returnees receive. **However it is important to note that PIDPs in which no family member has ever left Afghanistan are reporting highest level of priority needs in the key areas of shelter and food.**

## CONCLUSION

This assessment aimed to identify the needs and vulnerabilities of Afghan IDPs displaced between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, and that of their neighbouring host communities. The assessment findings will inform evidence-based planning by decision makers, determine the need for further detailed assessments, and support future assistance interventions.

Although PIDP and host communities share vulnerabilities in a variety of thematic areas, the overall vulnerabilities of PIDP households are higher as a result of their prolonged and often multiple displacements. These displacements have depleted assets, made coping mechanisms futile, and severed PIDPs social networks that are key to providing safety, security and regular employment. **Without these networks PIDP communities are forced to depend on themselves and each other in order to develop a manageable existence within their new settlement.** This is difficult because those around them are often in the same position so reliance upon them is further exacerbating the situation. A quarter of PIDPs sampled said they aimed to stay in their current settlement because family and friends were there, however a quarter also reported that they are currently staying with family, friends or in someone else's home. A quarter also stated that during two out of the last seven days they borrowed food from their friends or family. **Thus we see how PIDPs negative coping mechanisms have the capacity to prolong and exacerbate the community's vulnerabilities.**

As well as experiencing prolonged forms of displacement many IDPs interviewed were also suffering from multiple displacements. Whilst 13% reported they had been displaced at least twice a further 13% stated that they did not know how many times they had been displaced. These multiple displacements aggravated households' fear of eviction. **Although 3/4 of PIDP households displaced once reported that they feared being evicted from their current household, a telling statistic even on its own, this went up to 84% for households displaced two or more times.** Even if able to invest time, money and materials into improving their facilities and shelter, it is unlikely that many PIDPs have the will to as a result of their constant fear of eviction.

**Psychological concerns were identified as the primary concern of both PIDP boys and girl with between 36-42% of households reporting them.** Some answered 'other' to this question and then went on to describe psychological concerns such as stress, homelessness, security and fear of growing up without one or more parents. Multiple displacements were found to have a very negative effect on children's school attendance. **Whilst an average of 47% of school aged children attended school at least four days out of the previous seven in PIDP households displaced once, this dropped to 31% for households displaced twice and 9% for those displaced three times.**

PIDP households struggle to obtain the most basic and supposedly accessible forms of Afghan national identity documentation which hinders their access to crucial rights and services. The main barriers being that Tazkeras must be applied for using another immediate relatives Tazkera, a problem for families split up or in which no member has a Tazkera, and must be applied for in one's province of origin, a problem for families displaced, financially stretched and whose province of origin may be wracked by conflict. **In 5% of households no members had a Tazkera whilst in just under half only the household head had one.** Remembering that in most households there are at least 2 families residing, this places many of the household members at risk of not being able to access crucial rights and services.

Ownership of land affects not only a families' ownership of property but their income earning habits. **Whilst only 1% of PIDP households in which no member had a Tazkera reported that they cultivated land, this went up to 5% for those in which the household head had a Tazkera and to 11% for households in which some member 18+ have one.** When those cultivating land were asked about the land status 100% of households without Tazkera reported farming sharecropped land, 20% of households where the head owned a Tazkera reported farming land they owned and 13% reported farming land they rented. **The effects of poor access to documentation for PIDP households are far reaching, multi-sectoral and result in higher vulnerabilities for PIDP than host communities.**

**Food was reported by PIDP households to be their most priority need for the future as 74% of both male and female headed households reported it.** Both PIDP and host community households reported spending between 47-48% of their household income over the last 30 days on food showing how financial stability is essential to ensuring food security. The host community however are more financially secure as they are reliant upon a much more diverse range of income

generating activities than PIDPs. **More than three times as many earn through cash crop farming, three times as many through formal contracted employment and twice as many through skilled daily labour.** With limited access to labour opportunities due to a lack of social, technical and marketable skills, as well as networks of employment, many PIDPs are forced to rely on casual employment to support their needs.

**Fifty-nine per cent of PIDP households reported that their primary source of household expenditure last month was uncontracted and unskilled daily labour, compared to just 30% of the host the community.** In the central region, where competition for daily contracts is at its fiercest, the figure was the lowest with just 43%. However, in the same region 14% of PIDP households reported that borrowing or loans covered their household expenditure over the previous month. When income decreases food is often compromised with quality and quantity reduced.<sup>38</sup> **Although families will employ negative coping strategies regarding food consumption they will also turn to borrowing and loans to maintain household food levels.**

Although it is true that in some thematic areas host community households and PIDP households share a similar vulnerability profile, **the vulnerabilities and immediate humanitarian needs of PIDP households concerning food and shelter far outweigh those of the host community.** Whilst both these vulnerabilities are in part linked to documentation, ownership, land access, feelings of psychological stress and fear of eviction/future displacements, they are both also highly linked to income. **Social stigma, poor networks of reciprocity, lack of skills and opportunities all contribute to PIDP households' reliance upon casual daily labour which is, as shown, unable to meet crucial household needs.** In total 55% of male headed and 72% of female head PIDP households reported that their future intention is to stay in their current settlement and locally integrate. Thus, any sustainable assistance programme that concentrates on the immediate humanitarian needs of shelter and food for PIDP households ought to also consider livelihoods, training, and income generating diversification in order to secure a living environment that can be maintained into the future. **Not only will this grant PIDP households' food and shelter security but it will grant them agency, ownership of their future and a sense of identity that many have lost multiple times through their constant displacement.**

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<sup>38</sup> Samuel Hall, NRC, IDMC, JIPS– Challenges of IDP Protection: Research study on the protection of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan (November 2012)

## ANNEXES

**Annex 1: PIDP Definition**

**Annex 2: Aggregation Methodology**

**Annex 3: Verification and Identification Process**



## Annex 1 – PIDP Definition

# AFGHANISTAN MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PROLONGED IDPs

### 1. Detailed definition of Prolonged IDPs for the purpose of this assessment

#### 1.1. Internally Displaced Persons

Internally Displaced Persons will here be defined in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>39</sup> and the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons:<sup>40</sup>

*“... persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”*

“**Homes or places of habitual residence**” will here be specified as village (rural) or neighbourhood (urban) of origin, hence persons that have been forcibly displaced from their village or neighbourhood to another village or neighbourhood within Afghanistan will be considered as internally displaced persons for the purpose of this assessment.

“**Forced or obliged to flee or to leave**” will here be specified as the status at the time of the original displacement, regardless of factors triggering subsequent movements, following the original displacement.

#### 1.2. Prolonged Internally Displaced Persons

Further refining the definition outlined above for the purpose of this assessment, **Prolonged IDPs** will here indicate IDPs that have been displaced:

- After 1 January 2014
- Before 1 March 2016

These parameters are set to meet the overall objectives of the assessment:

- ✓ To address information gap in consolidated information on **vulnerability and needs of longer-term IDPs**, as identified by OCHA and humanitarian actors. Several ongoing data collection initiatives cover IDPs within 6 months of displacement, hence the key information gap starts once IDPs have been displaced for more than 6 months, which the primary data collection component of this assessment will focus on.
- ✓ To identify **estimated numbers and locations** of prolonged IDPs based on available **secondary data**. After reviewing core secondary data sources (UNHCR PMT; IOM RAF; ERM), the secondary data available prior to 2014 was concluded to be too incomprehensive to serve as a basis for number and location estimates.
- **To triangulate secondary and primary data**. With 6 months and longer identified as the start of the overall information gap and 1 January 2014 identified as the start of reliable secondary data, this period was adopted for both secondary and primary data to enable triangulation of findings. Furthermore, to ensure cleaned and aggregated secondary data covering IDPs displaced for at least 6 months as of 1 October 2016 could be directly matched with the full primary data sample, primary data collection will also focus on households displaced before 1 March 2016.

#### 1.3. Returnees

<sup>39</sup> UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998); Natural disasters as a cause of internal displacement were added to the Guiding Principles through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s (2006) “Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters”

<sup>40</sup> The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, 25 November 2013

Returnees (persons returned to Afghanistan from other countries) will be considered prolonged IDPs for the purpose of this assessment when:

- ✓ They have since returning been displaced from a location in Afghanistan to a location in Afghanistan between 1 January 2014 and 1 March 2016.

---ENDS---

## Annex 2 – Aggregation Methodology

# AFGHANISTAN MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PROLONGED IDPs

### Objectives

- 1) Generate one dataset aggregating UNHCR PMT; IOM RAF; and ERM data on persons displaced to locations between 1 January 2014 and 1 March 2016
- 2) Aggregate the data sets to obtain a lower and upper estimate for 2014, 2015 and January/February 2016 respectively, for each village where persons were reported displaced to.

### A. Overall methodology

The aggregation methodology was first conducted within each data set for each year individually.

- Step one: Aggregate recorded locations within each dataset to village level.
- Step two: Join all datasets to create one aggregated village level dataset

The result was a dataset with a unique record for each village (within each unique province and district), with values (where existing) for each dataset, across three years. This was complemented by basic calculations to present an estimated number of persons recorded as displaced to each village/site. The following sources were included in the aggregation:

Table 1: Data sources included in the aggregation: variables included<sup>41</sup>

Data Source	Lowest Geographical Level	Province name variable	District name variable	Village name variable	Lat Column	Lon Column	Population individuals variable
ERM	Village	Province	District	Village	XDEST	YDEST	Total members of HH
PMT	Village	Province of Displacement	District of Displacement	Village of Displacement	-	-	Individuals
OCHA	District	#admin1+name+x_destination	#admin2+name+x_destination	-	-	-	#affected+displaced
RAF	Village	Province	District	Village or Nahya	-	-	IndividualsDisplaced
PMT – returnees	Village	Province of Displacement	District of Displacement	Village of Displacement	-	-	Individuals

### B. Preparing the datasets for aggregation: data cleaning

#### Provinces

To complete step two in the aggregation process (joining all datasets) a unique and consistent identifier was needed for provinces and districts. Ideally, the province and district names in each record would be matched with the standardized list of provinces and districts obtained from OCHA (the Common Operational Dataset). However, the spelling of province, district and village names was found to be inconsistent, both within and between datasets. To enable step two in the

<sup>41</sup> Some entries in the aggregated datasets seemed to refer to a more granular level than village (e.g. camps). These entries have been included retaining the name entered under Village with a view to identify the Village nearest to the site during the Verification and Identification exercise that followed the Aggregation.

aggregation process, province and district names were cleaned. However at village level, given that many villages have very similar names, which could easily be mistaken for different spellings of the same village, names were retained as per the original datasets and included as individual entries in the aggregated dataset, to enable field teams to verify which records were in fact differently spelt names of the same village, during the verification and identification exercise. For each dataset, a csv file cleaning log was created to record all corrections carried out on the original datasets, as seen below in table 2 for the ERM dataset:

Table 2: Aggregation cleaning log

old_province	new_province	province_code
Baghlan	Baghlan	9
Balkh	Balkh	18
BADAKHSHAN	Badakhshan	15
BADGHIS	Badghis	29
Badkhshan	Badakhshan	15
Badakhshan	Badakhshan	15
BAGhlan	Baghlan	9
Baghaln	Baghlan	9
Baghla	Baghlan	9
BAGHLAN	Baghlan	9

Each occurrence in the old\_province column was given a correct value, either through an excel VLOOKUP or through manual cross checking of the names. If a correct value could not be found, “n/a” was added to the “new\_province” and “province\_code” columns. This cleaning process was followed for all datasets, for both province and district. A short section of code was then created in Python to create a new variable for province and district names which was populated with the correct spelling of all provinces and districts for each entry in each dataset.

1. New column is created – either “Province\_Match” or “District\_Match”.
2. New column selects the values from the original, unclean province or district column.
3. New column matches the unclean value with the column “new\_province”.
4. The process is then repeated for the match between “new\_province” and “province\_code”.

This resulted in four columns being added to all datasets: Province\_Match, Province\_Code, District\_Match and District\_Code. The process was then repeated, matching the newly cleaned Province with the Region they belong to.

### C. Preparing the datasets for aggregation: filtering by Year

The datasets that were aggregated covered a number of years, as outlined in the table below:

Table 3: Years with recorded displacement – by dataset included in aggregation

Data Source	2014	2015	2016 (until 1 March 2016)
ERM		X	
PMT	X	X	X
OCHA			X
RAF	X	X	X
PMT - returnees		X	

A column called “Year” was manually added to the datasets, either sourced from a date column in the dataset, or from information gathered on the year the dataset came from.

Each dataset was then divided by year, resulting in one distinct dataset per source and year, as seen for PMT below:

1. “PMT\_2014”
2. “PMT\_2015”

## 3. "PMT\_2016"

**D. Aggregation within datasets**

The aggregation was first conducted *within* each individual dataset, to obtain one record for each village. For each aggregation, several indexes were used. For example, several village records were only aggregated into one where a perfect match was found for Region, Province, District and Village across records. Where a match was missing, the records remained separated. This process was followed to ensure that where the same village name, e.g. Village\_1 was found in Districts 1 and 2; these were not aggregated into one single record.

**E. Joining datasets**

The datasets were then joined (merged) into one aggregated dataset. As each dataset may or may not contain villages (or even districts or provinces) found within other datasets, we used an "outer" join. This means, for example, if we were to join two datasets such as:

Village	Value
a	12
b	54

Village	Value
b	31
d	45

The resulting joined dataset would be:

Village	Value
a	12
b	67
d	12

When joining the datasets, the join was based on the sum of the values (as opposed to the maximum value or the average value). The joined datasets resulted in a final aggregated dataset, with a column for each dataset and year.

Table 4: Aggregated dataset structure – aggregated variables

ID	Type	Region	Province	District	Village	PMT 2014	RAF 2014	ERM 2015	PMT 2015	RAF 2015	Returns 2015	ERM 2016	PMT 2016
1													

**F. Calculations**

For each year across all datasets, the following calculations were conducted for each village entry:

- ✓ The lowest recorded value from all sources that cover each year
- ✓ The highest recorded value from all sources that cover each year
- ✓ The source of the lowest and highest value for each year
- ✓ The sum of the lowest and highest values across the three years
- ✓ The sum of the lowest and highest (minus the number of persons recorded as returned) across the three years

Table 5: Aggregated dataset structure – calculated variables

2014 Lower Est.	2014 Upper Est.	2015 Lower Est.	2015 Upper Est.	2016 Lower Est.	2016 Upper Est.	TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO <u>location</u> Lower estimate	TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO <u>location</u> Upper estimate	TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO <u>location</u> <u>MINUS</u> <u>RETURNS</u> Lower estimate	TOTAL Individuals reported displaced TO <u>location</u> <u>MINUS</u> <u>RETURNS</u> Upper estimate

### G. Repeating the Process

The following steps should be followed to repeat this process:

- ✓ For existing datasets, new data can be appended to the bottom of the datasets aggregated here. As long as the required columns are populated with the appropriate values, the existing script could be applied to regenerate the aggregated dataset including new data.
- ✓ The values province and district name variables need to be compared to the names in the existing cleaning log. If new names appear in the new data, they can be added. The cleaning sheets mean that the more data added the less likely new names will appear. For datasets not already included in the aggregation, the same steps are required, with the datasets added to the “Joining datasets” and a new cleaning sheet created.

---ENDS---



## Annex 3 – Verification and Identification Process

# AFGHANISTAN MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PROLONGED IDPs

### Objectives

1. Verify if people that were recorded displaced during the period of interest (1 January 2014 to 1 March 2016) are still displaced at the respective location (Prolonged IDPs); and
2. Identify any additional locations to where people were displaced during the period of interest, where they are still displaced

### Tools

Please print and save the following tools for each data collection team:

- ✓ **Verification list – one and the same copy used for all rounds:** listing provinces/districts/villages where IDPs have been recorded displaced to, between 1 January 2014 and 1 March 2016, with spaces for recording verification information
  - One paper copy; A3 landscape; fit all columns to one page.
  - One soft copy (Excel)
- ✓ **Identification list – one and the same copy used for all rounds:** template to record locations that do not exist on the verification list
  - One paper copy; A3 landscape; fit all columns to one page.
  - One soft copy (Excel)
- ✓ **District maps – one and the same copy used for all rounds:** showing the locations of all displacements listed on the verification list and all villages in the district, to enable identification of any locations of previously unidentified displacements
  - One paper copy per district, A3.

### Overall Verification and Identification methodology

**Round 1 (Regional/Province level):** The teams first visit Regional and Province level offices of UN, NGO, MoRR and other government bodies to conduct the first round of Verification and Identification, following these steps:

- The Verification list paper copy; Identification list paper copy; and District maps are used to record information gathered from each office.
- All answers recorded on the Verification list paper copy are entered into the soft copy version of the tool on a daily basis.
- The Verification soft copy is emailed to REACH coordination at the end of every day.
- The paper copy of the Verification list; Identification list; and District maps are scanned and emailed to REACH coordination at the end of every week.

**Round 2 (District level):** For each district where entries have not been possible to verify, the teams visit UN/NGO and Government district offices to conduct a second round of Verification and Identification, recording answers on the same tool paper copy used in Round 1 and following the same procedure outlined above.

**Round 3 (Village level):** Where entries remain unverified after the Regional/Province/District level verification, village level key informants will be contacted to obtain clarification on whether prolonged IDPs remain. If verification remains unclear after consulting key informants, visits to specific sites may be undertaken, recording answers on the same tool paper copy used for Round 1 and 2 and following the same procedure outlined above.

### Verification and Identification process to follow in each Round

**\*\*\*The same process is followed and the same copy of the tools are used during each Verification and Identification Round, until all entries on the Verification list are verified\*\*\***

#### Verification: for all entries where **Village names are listed on the Verification list**

**1. Verification list: Find out if people listed as displaced to each Village during the period of interest (1 January 2014 to 1 March 2016), remain in each Village.**

- a. For each Village (each row in the **Verification list**), record the answer to each of the questions listed in the red columns:
  - i. Out of the total persons displaced to each Village during the period of interest (1 January 2014 to 1 March 2016):
    1. How many remain in the Village at this time? (Q1)
      - a. Probe about Lower and Upper Est. (estimates) – and any reported returns (D1; D2; D3)
    2. Which source is verifying this? (Q2)
    3. What evidence does the source have for these figures? (Q3)
      - a. Documented records by the office
      - b. Documented records by a secondary source (to be specified)
      - c. General knowledge only
    4. Comments and explanations (Q4)
  - ii. To avoid accidentally merging two different villages with similar spelling, all village names with recorded displacements are listed on different lines in the Verification list. This is because the:
    1. Same village name is sometimes spelt in different ways  
OR
    2. Different villages may have very similar names
      - a. When you review the list with your Sources, please confirm where the Same village has been spelt in two or more ways, and enter the correct spelling under the 'Village name corrected' column (G1) where appropriate
        - i. If the same village has been spelt in two or more ways, identify the number of individuals remaining (Q1) out of the total listed on each of the lines for the same village.
  - iii. Some district names are unidentified although the Village name has been recorded. Please review these Villages names and enter the District names that your Sources can confirm under the 'District name corrected' column (G2).

**\*\*\*If an office report that a recorded displacement is incorrect – i.e. they do not believe it exists – Enter this in the Comment section (Column XX) and confirm with other offices\*\*\***

Figure 1: Verification list – example

ID	Province	District	VERIFICATION	Village	VERIFICATION	2014		2015		2016		D1: TOTAL Individuals reported displaced <u>TO</u> location Lower estimate	D2: TOTAL Individuals reported displaced <u>TO</u> location Upper estimate	D3: TOTAL individuals <u>reported to return FROM location</u> out of those displaced (2015)	VERIFICATION			
			Q1: District Name Corrected <i>Enter when applicable</i>		Q2: Village Name Corrected <i>Enter when applicable</i>	Lower Est.	Upper Est.	Lower Est.	Upper Est.	Lower Est.	Upper Est.				Q3: Individuals remaining at location, out of those displaced to location between 1 January 2014 and 1 March 2016 only (D1-3) <i>Enter Number</i>	Q4: Source providing information about Q1 <i>Enter Source Name</i>	Q5: Type of Source knowledge information about Q1 is based on <i>Enter type of Source knowledge (e.g. own documented records; other organisation documented record; general knowledge)</i>	Q6: Comments <i>Explain higher figures or previously unidentified locations or other details</i>
854	Badakhshan	Argo		AB BAREK		4900	4900					4900	4900					
855	Badakhshan	Argo		ALI MANKO								0	0					
856	Badakhshan	Argo		<i>Unidentified</i>								0	0					
857	Badakhshan	Baharak		Baharak		927	927	3850	3850			4777	4777	3294				
858	Badakhshan	Baharak		Dasht Faragh		215	215	143	143			358	358	1055				

**2. District map: Check that all Villages where prolonged IDPs are confirmed to still remain in the Verification list are marked on the District map.**

- a. If a Village is not marked on the map identify the approximate location of the Village on the **District map** and mark the following on the map:
  - i. Village location – mark with “X”
  - ii. Village name – write name next to the X on the map using same spelling as Verification list

**Identification: for all entries where Village names are recorded as “Unidentified” on the Verification list**

**3. Identification list: Find out if there are any additional villages in the district not listed on the Verification list (or in Districts not listed on the Verification list, if District name is also ‘Unidentified), where people were displaced to during the period of interest (1 January 2014 to 1 March 2016), who are still displaced;**

- a. Record any additional Villages where sources say Prolonged IDPs are currently living, on the **Identification list**:
  - i. Village name/Province/District – use the same spelling as what you see on the District Map for each Village
    1. If Village name does not exist on District map:
      - a. Mark location with “X” on District map and write Village name next to the X
      - b. Record the Village on the Identification list using exactly the same spelling as you used on the map
    2. Village longitude and latitude – if already known by your source
    3. Number of IDPs displaced to the Village during the period of interest (1 January 2014 to March 2016)
    4. Number of IDPs displaced to the Village during the period of interest, that still remain at the location
    5. Source and type of Source knowledge

**Figure 2: Identification list - example**

Q1a: Village Name (English)	Q1b: Village Name (Dari/Pashto)	Q2a: Village Latitude (if known)	Q2b: Village Longitude (if known)	Q3: Marked on the map Enter: 'Exists' if village exists on map OR 'Marked' if village does not exist and was marked with 'X' on map	Q4: Province	Q5: District	Q6: TOTAL Individuals displaced to location between 1 January 2014 and 1 March 2016	Q7: Individuals remaining displaced to location out of TOTAL (Q6)	Q8: Individuals remaining displaced from location out of TOTAL Enter Source	Q9: Individuals remaining displaced from location out of TOTAL Enter type of Source knowledge (documented records, general knowledge)	Q10: Comments
Qadziya n.		34.8746	71.1468	Exists	Kunar	Asadabad	38	38	Asadabad District Office	General knowledge	

---ENDS---