



Photo 1 IDPs from Ghor province fleeing from violence and armed conflict / Ms. Haniyeh Haghighi

## HIGHLIGHTS

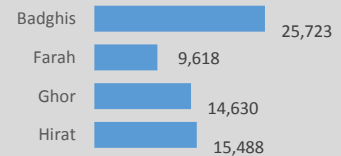
- Protection Cluster and Housing, Land and Property Task Force (HLP TF) have submitted a formal advocacy letter to the governor of Herat in September 2017, who has taken action to stop relocation of people and destruction of shelters for the winter time. The Governor Office has committed to officially communicate with all relevant sectoral governmental departments to prevent any potential forced eviction. Despite it, some IDP shelters along Herat Karokh main road were destroyed in November 2017. This particular case is of concern in light of the winter season coming, which means that people will be out in the street during the coldest times of the year. The problem has been brought to the attention of DoRR and Deputy Governor. Protection Cluster and HLP TF are advocating to ensure effective protection prior, during and after an eviction of individuals, groups and communities against forced evictions and its consequences in line with [Annex 4 of the National IDP policy](#).
- Initial NRC assessment is indicating that the Jogi ethnicity in Herat can obtain Tazkira from Mazar province where some other Jogies have already obtained it. Hence national HLP TF will be assisting the Jogies heads of the families with transportation cost to Mazar to obtain Tazkiras.
- According to HLP TF, Ustad Kamaladdin Behazad Township (Maslakh) master plan will be finalized in early 2018, the township will accommodate approximately ten thousands IDPs under the durable solution framework.
- During November 2017, 565 undocumented unaccompanied minors returned from Iran (372 from Milak and 193 from Islam Qala border) and reunified with their families by UNICEF.




## GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Continuation of ACAP III Project<sup>1</sup> beyond 2017 remains uncertain at the moment.
- Lack of data on protection concerns in hard to reach areas, is a serious concern, as violations of human rights are continuously reported but there is limited possibility to verify reports.
- The construction of the reception for unaccompanied minors at the Islam Qala zero point has been postponed until early 2018. UNHCR provided rub hall will be used as temporary reception place.
- While there are gaps in humanitarian response in the accessible areas of the Western region, the delivery of assistance to IDPs in hard to reach areas remains a concern. Transparency of assistance delivery is reported as a challenge for international organizations in areas with limited or no humanitarian access.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

 **112** internally displaced in Nov 2017  
**65,459** internally displaced since Jan 2017



 **837** registered refugees returned from other countries  
 **268,288** protracted IDPs in the Western region  
 **11** protection cluster partners active:

UNHCR, AIHRC, DRC, UNAMA, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNOCHA, NRC, UNMAS, IRC, UNFPA.

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## KEY MESSAGES

- National HLPTF to assist the WR HLPTF and support DoRR Herat with drafting of an IDP relocation plan.
- Advocacy to continue ACAP III is necessary as the suspension of it will create a substantial gap in service provision for war wounded persons.
- Increased attacks on civilians, civilian objects and humanitarian assistance is a concern and all engaging parties to the conflict should respect the IHL and humanitarian principles and ease access to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected people.

<sup>1</sup> The program, funded by USAID, aims to mitigate the impact of conflict, mines, and other explosive remnants of war on civilians, enabling them to cope and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of trauma. Assistance is provided through seven regional offices established across the country, and it is coordinated closely with government institutions; the Afghanistan Protection Cluster, as well as civil society and non-governmental organizations and local communities.