

HIGHLIGHTS



Drought affected IDPs in Herat © CRDSA

- Internal displacement:** From 1 January to the end of August 2018, 223,169 individuals fled their homes due to conflict. 32 out of 34 provinces had recorded some level of forced displacement, while another 32 provinces are hosting IDPs. 56% IDPs are children, facing additional risks due to the flight and plight of the displacement, including child recruitment, child labour and increased GBV risks. According to OCHA, 18% IDPs are displaced in hard to reach areas. Top hosting provinces are: Ghazni (33,458 ind.), Kunduz (29,582 ind.), Faryab (26,929 ind.), Farah (19,219 ind), Badakhshan (12,957 ind) and Takhar (11,459 ind.)¹.
- Return to Afghanistan:** As of 01 March up to end of August, 11,599 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation grant (as of 31 August 2018)². A total of 22,767 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 507,811 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran since 01 January to 01 September 2018. 96% undocumented returned from Iran and only 4% from Pakistan were assisted by IOM³.
- Response to Drought:**

The number of people displaced due to drought has exceeded 150,000 in August in the Western Region. Most of them are located in informal sites in Hirat and Qala-e-Naw cities. Protection monitoring is ongoing, and Joint Need Assessment have been conducted in most of the affected rears, and some needs are covered by humanitarian aid providers. 311,000 people received food, cash or livelihood assistance in Badghis, Ghor, Hirat, Jawzjan, Faryab and Kandahar provinces. As the planting season and winter approach, humanitarian partners in the Western Region are preparing a transition plan to i) enable voluntary returns to areas of origin; ii) provide alternative solutions to encourage off-site movement; and iii) provide winterization sup-port.

2018 2ND Quarter at glance

173k	newly displaced persons during the 2 st quarter of year
5.1k	civilian casualties recorded by UNAMA
2.5k	vulnerable conflict- and natural disaster affected girls and boys assisted with direct child protection support activities
25.7k	female and male GBV-survivors, including girls and boys, assisted with direct protection support services focused on specialized healthcare, psycho-social support, legal, and protection
39.5k	IDPs assisted with legal counselling, civil documentation issues, and acquiring, maintaining or restoring Housing, Land, and Property rights
68%	of population in prioritized areas contaminated by mine/ERW have been provided with Mine Risk Education

2018	1.5M	acute humanitarian need
	2.5M	chronic needs of children
	28%	psychologically distressed due to conflict
	46%	of IDPs lack land documentation
	1.1M	people targeted
	USD 67M	required

¹ Source: Conflict induced displacement in Afghanistan, OCHA. Available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>. Accessed on 31 August 2018

² UNHCR Encashment Centre monitoring as of 31 August 2018

³ Source: Weekly Situation Report "Return of undocumented Afghans". Available at: https://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/default/files/Reports/iom_afghanistan-return_of_undocumented_afghans-situation_report-20-26_may_2018-nb.pdf. Accessed on 31 August 2018

KEY PROTECTION CONCERNS

Protection risks at glance

- 37% of IDP HHs that were displaced within the last 6 month encountered armed fighting during their displacement, while 28% non-recent IDP HHs encountered armed fighting during displacement. (REACH PACAP)
- 26% IDPs and 18% returnees report having a child under 14 years of age working (UNHCR protection monitoring)
- While 29% of female-headed HHs state 'harassment or bullying' as the main concern of women in the HH, 22% of male-headed households note 'harassment or bullying' as the main concern of women
- 62% of HHs fear imminent eviction (REACH JENA)
- Child Bread winners (REACH PACAP): On average, 16% of female-headed HHs rely on breadwinners under the age of 16, compared with 10% of male-headed HHs
- Protracted IDPs fear forced recruitment (25.6%) more than recent IDPs (9.4%) or returnees (17.5%) (REACH JENA)

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

The security situation consistently deteriorated countrywide. Despite the fact the conflict caused serious damage to the life of civilians' in Afghanistan, conflict related violence continued to erode the rights to education, healthcare, freedom of movement and other fundamental rights. In August 2018, UNAMA REPORT, south eastern region experienced the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by eastern region and central region. Suicide and complex attacks, ground engagements and aerial attacks remained the leading cause of civilian casualties, followed by.

In the reporting period, the situation in Ghazni province deteriorated seriously with intense fighting between Government and Taliban forces in Ghazni City and surrounding districts. On 10 August 2018, the Taliban launched a coordinated attack on Ghazni city, mainly targeting ANSF checkpoints as well as key ANSF and government buildings such as the Provincial Governor's compound, NDS headquarters and ANP headquarters, and occupied some parts of Ghazni City Centre. The Taliban attacked the telecommunication antennas, which cut off communication networks, and used civilian homes, mosques, and education facilities during the fighting. Residents experienced power outages along with water and food shortages, and civilians were largely confined to their homes due to the fighting and blockages on the roads, which

prevented people from fleeing. After clearing operations began on 13 August, the ANSF regained control of the city and basic services resumed, but civilians paid a heavy toll from the fighting. The fighting caused heavy civilian casualties, overwhelming the capacity of the Ghazni Public Hospital, and forced many families to displace to neighboring provinces.

NATURAL DISASTER AFFECTED DISPLACEMENT:

Drought-induced displacement continues, with an estimated 150,000 people at informal displacement sites. The number of displaced people in and around Qala-e-Naw, Badghis, is estimated to be 66,500, most of them from Muqur and Abkamari districts. Around 5,000 people have reportedly displaced to Abkamari district centre from surrounding villages and small-scale displacement has been reported in the Qadis district centre. In Hirat City, where some 84,000 displaced people were registered in July, another 3,000 family petitions have reportedly been submitted to the authorities, indicating that the total number of drought-induced IDPs in the city may be higher than 100,000. In Chaghcharan City, Ghor, the number of drought-induced IDPs is currently 4,060.

In Qala-e-Naw, operational capacity and existing supplies are insufficient to meet the life-saving needs of newly-arrived families, and an immediate scale-up across all sectors is required to respond. The most urgent gaps are in emergency shelter and non-food items (ESNFI), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection. In Hirat City, food, cash and WASH assistance have been provided, and health and nutrition services are increasingly available on the ten informal sites. The response is however hampered by uncertainty regarding the tenability of the sites, difficulties in registration, and limited capacity to respond. Many families remain exposed to the elements, surviving in make-shift shelters, while some have resorted to self-building mud-brick huts. Serious protection concerns have also been reported from the sites, with a spike in early marriage and child labour.

Food distributions continue in drought-affected areas of origin across the country. In August, around 311,000 people received food, cash and livelihood assistance across the country. In two districts of Badghis Province, emergency water supplies reached 34,000 people in rural areas. Plans are in place to expand the provision to another 50,000 people in three districts of Hirat Province. There is a need for a scale-up in food and livelihoods assistance in the coming months, supporting people to return to their areas of origin, or remain in their homes and close to their fields to take advantage of the next planting season. Complementary activities in health, nutrition, protection and WASH remain essential.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Around half of the target population for food and livelihoods assistance under the prioritized, three-month response plan have yet to be reached. Existing assessments and information from partners on the ground indicate the need to significantly increase the number of people targeted with food distributions in areas of origin to prevent further displacement.
- The lack of funding is limiting the scale of planned support for seasonal agricultural activities in drought-affected areas that rely on rains.

UNHCR released **Returnee and IDP monitoring report**, based on the findings of the post-return monitoring of refugee returnees that have returned to Afghanistan in 2016 and 2017, as well as IDPs and general population, for comparison purposes.

For more details, [see report](#).

PROTECTION CLUSTER 2018 INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE

Protection Incident Monitoring System (APC in-house)

Revision of the Protection Monitoring (UNHCR)

Nation-wide Protection Assessment for Afghanistan (REACH)

Support to the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment

Strengthening GBV IMS;

Continuation of MRM (child protection) and IMS MA (mine action)

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

-  **Stefan Gherman**, Protection Cluster Coordinator, ghermans@unhcr.org
-  **Andrea Castorina**, Protection Cluster Co-Lead, andrea.castorina@nrc.no
-  **Darinne Jeong**, Child Protection in Emergencies Sub-Cluster Coordinator, djeong@unicef.org
-  **Niaz Muhammad**, Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster Coordinator, niaz@unfpa.org
-  **Depika Sherchan**, Housing, Land and Property Task Force Coordinator, depika.sherchan@unhabitat-afg.org
-  **Caitlin Longden**, Mine Action Sub-Cluster Coordinator, caitlin@unops.org