

POPULATION MOVEMENT



Internal displacement:


From January to end of April 2019, 101,278 individuals fled their homes due to conflict in Afghanistan. 87 out of 399 districts have recorded some level of forced displacement, while 51 districts are hosting 101,278 IDPs. 58% (58,741) of IDPs are children, facing additional risks due to the flight and plight of the displacement, including child recruitment, child labor and increased GBV risks. According to OCHA, 14% IDPs are displaced in hard to reach areas and top hosting districts are recorded: Chapadara (18,340), Mazar-e-Sharif (6,664) and Sar-e-Pul (10,241).



Return to Afghanistan:

As of 01 January up to end of April, 1,683 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation. A total of 8,829 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 157,252 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran. 4% (469 individuals) undocumented returned from Iran out of 12,779 individuals and 80% (720 individuals) from Pakistan out of 905 individuals were assisted by IOM during 28 April to 4 May, 2019.

PROTECTION CONCERNS

REGIONS	CONCERNS	MITIGATION	RECOMMENDATIONS
CENTRAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDPs' children have limited access to primary education mostly due to long distance to school. IDPs have limited access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food due to their poor economic conditions and limited access to employment. IDPs in Midan Wardak province live in poor hygienic situation and do not have access to potable water, for getting water they need to walk long distances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although effort is ongoing to response to the highlighted needs however due to ongoing conflict and limited resource most of the needs remained unmet During the reporting period WCC established 50 TLS and 70 CBE classes for 3,244 boys and 3,485 girls Qarabagh, Bagrami and DehSabz districts of Kabul province and provided stationary, schools bags and text books. Conducted training on CRC, and child rights messages have been distributed among IDPs and returnees communities. Protection cluster partner CHA/UNHCR assisted 63 PSN cases with direct cash and referred 56 to other service providers. IOM provided assistance to 6 unaccompanied minors and 5 female-headed households. DMAC conducted 633 MRE sessions to a total of 14,762 males and females including girls and boys on mine risk education in Kabul, Parwan, Lager and Kapisa provinces, in the KEC the DDG team conducted 633 MRE sessions for returnees, and distributed mine risk education (MRE) material including brochures, posters, notebooks, pen, pencil and hotline cards distributed to the returnees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The state as first duty bearer with the support of humanitarian actors need to work together and response to the needs of IDPs and returnees, particularly the one who remained in a prolong displacement situation with limited access to economic opportunities.

EASTERN



- 2,500 families were displaced in Chapadara district of Kunar. The main concerns include SGBV; loss of child education especially of adolescent girls; psychosocial distress; lack of adequate shelter, family separation; and, exposure to explosive remnants.
 - IDPs trapped in conflict areas reported widespread intimidation and harassment and not being allowed by AGES to flee.
 - Access to health and education ceased in areas captured by ISK. Two BHCs in Nakura and Degal village of Chapa Dara district were closed.
 - The department of education in Kunar reported that 21 schools have been closed due to continued armed clashes. In total affected over 7,000 students of different grades were denied access to education
 - IDPs further reported that several civilians were killed during the fighting. One person was killed in Warsak village, while in Bar Indor village one child was killed and two others were wounded.
- The humanitarian community and line departments deployed 10 joint teams (8 teams in Kunar and 2 Teams in Nangarhar provinces), which comprised of IMC, PU-AMI, IRC, WFP-PAT, DACAAR, WAW/UNHCR, IOM, ARCS and DoRR staff members.
 - Humanitarian interventions and response was made in terms of food, NFI, Health, WASH and CASH by UNHCR, WFP, AHDA, IMC, PU-AMI, IRC, IMC, ANDMA and ARCS to some 3,535 families (24,745 Individuals).
 - In response to the risks of ERWs and UXOS, UNMAS deployed an extra team from Kabul to support mine risk education and awareness in affected area.
 - Protection partner WAW/UNHCR identified 39 PSN and referred to service providing organizations for further assessment and assistance.
- Accelerate the assessment process and assistance provision is recommending to reduce the suffering of DPs as well as the possibly of duplication and pressure by local authorities /population to assist affected families.
 - Advocacy with the government to reinforce and facilitate exit and create a safer corridor for the movement of civilians from areas of conflict to safer areas.
 - The number of women and children among IDP families is predominant and will likely require deployment of CPIE and GBV related activities especially in areas hosting a large number of IDPs.

NORTHERN



- Newly displaced IDPs reported illegal taxation by AGEs in their places of origin. The pressure added continues internal displacements in the region as civilians cannot afford to pay.
 - Refugee returnees from Pakistan reported that women and girls have no freedom in the areas controlling by AGEs. They cannot attend school and health facilities.
 - IDPs reported lack of shelter, difficult access to water and health services.
 - The trend of civilian casualties caused by ERW and Victim Operated IEDs continued in Northern Region. 206 persons affected in 2018, 45% of casualties were due to VOIEDs, and 54% due to explosive remnants of war (ERW).
 - Funding shortfall of Mine, ERW, and VOIEDs civilian casualty's data collection section.
- As a part of information sharing, the issue of illegal taxation by AGEs has been discussed in the NRPC meetings, additional follow up will be conducted with UNAMA human Rights.
 - NRPC through protection partners continued monitoring/identifying the needs of vulnerable individuals/communities and referring the needs to services providing organizations.
 - Survey of VOIED and ERW impacted communities are in progress. Advocacy with parties involved in the conflict through UNAMA, and awareness raising about ERW and VOIEDs as well as the affected areas is ongoing.
 - NRPC through the members will continue assessing the incidents and civilian casualties.
- NRPC and JATs involved organization to continue monitoring of the IDPs' situation, advocate on behalf of them and provide required response.
 - NRPC to continue following up sectoral gaps in coordination with other clusters and services provider in the region.
 - NRPC to raise the concern in the regional CIMIC meeting while APC to advocate with UNAMA at higher level to reduce the casualties. UNMASS to develop VOIEDs specific clearance standards, SOPs and advocate for pilot projects focusing on mapping and clearance affected areas.
 - APC with support from AHF to fill the funding shortfall reported by regional UNMAS.

**NORTH
EASTERN**



- Existence of planted PPIEDs in residential and agricultural areas which remained from ANSF military operations.
- Lack of school attendance by short terms IDPs' children in the places of displacement, education facilities do not enroll the children due to their short stay in the area.
- Unavailability of P&O (Prosthetics & Orthotics) services in the region, most of cases need to be sent to Mazar for further medical treatment.
- Unavailability employment, emergency shelter, potable water, health and educational facilities for IDPs and refugee returnee families in Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces.
- Insufficient mine risk education and awareness raising among IDPs places of displacement including for children at educational facilities.
- NERPC will continue advocating the issue with the cluster members and other humanitarian agencies who are implementing the EiE project in Kunduz province.
- Based on NERPC advocacy, UNMAS raised the concerns with relevant state actors including Kunduz provincial governor for possible continuation of demining operations in residential areas.
- NERPC followed up with Handicap International office to re-establish the P&O services in Kunduz province, however due to unavailability of funding it is still pending and cases need to be referred to other provinces.
- NERPC to raise the issue of MRE awareness program at schools level with UNICEF.
- Most of the assistance in the region such as potable water, shelter and income generation activities have been providing in the context of emergency, advocacy for long term solution need to be done by APC.
- NERPC to follow up with OCHA on the establishment of EiE working group in the region.
- APC to further enhance advocacy through UNAMA with GoIRA at national level for reducing human casualties amongst refugee returnees and host community.

SOUTH



- Ongoing armed conflict continually affecting civilian's lives in the region, particularly killing and maiming of children due to IEDs and UXOs, and child recruitment by armed groups remained a major concern.
- Child marriage- young girls to old men- for exchange of money- which constituting and ending up with domestic violence as well.
- Pregnant women do not have access to proper medical services due to unviability, particularly during the evening hours in remote areas, as well as cultural barriers.
- Due to limited job opportunities qualified youths fleeing region to other countries or choosing illegal way of obtaining income.
- Despite that the GBV intervention is ongoing in the region the communities are unwilling to report the cases and most of the events remaining undisclosed.
- Monitoring of the situation and reporting of the incidents through MRM program by UNICEF and UNAMA HRU is ongoing, including provision of support through CPAN.
- Advocacy and awareness raising programs by GBV partners is ongoing in the most afflicted areas.
- SRPC following up the issue with relevant GoV. Departments and health clusters.
- Ongoing activities for responding to the situation include; CPM, livelihood and vocational training projects by the PC members and other clusters, however it is not enough due to the existence of huge needs.
- Advocacy is ongoing by SRPC including awareness programs by the GBV sub-cluster members.
- SRPC members to enhance; situation's monitoring, UNAMA to advocate with conflict involved parties, MRM to establish CPUs at the ANP provincial recruitment centers.
- SRPC and APC to advocate for additional livelihood opportunities and income generation programs particularly targeting women and to mitigate the GBV risks.
- GoV. and humanitarian actors to create more job opportunities, enhance equal access to resources and provide social welfare.
- SRPC and APC to advocate for further GBV awareness raising programs to cover men, women, boys and girls, community elders are recommended. Increasing child protection activities in affected areas, particularly CFSSs.

WESTERN



- Drought affected IDPs will face risks if the humanitarian assistance scale down, and without proper planning a great number of the IDPs in Herat and Badghis provinces will remain in vulnerable situation.
- Large scale employment of negative coping mechanisms within the drought-related IDP population – 282 cases of child marriage (142)
- Discussion is ongoing for smoothly phasing out at the ICCT level.
- Community awareness activities on GBV-related issues and coverage in the national legislation;
- Case referral and case management;
- Specific PSN assistance (available with some protection actors, not all);
- Awareness and response through Women Friendly Health Spaces;
- The HCT to discuss the modality of reducing/discontinuation of the assistance to the drought affected IDPs with the relevant governmental department. The government and humanitarian agencies' response plan in displacement and development phase to be specified.

and begging (140) in Hirat province and 63 cases of child marriage in Badghis province. All incidents are verified by protection agencies and this is likely underreported by PoCs. Also most likely to further engage in negative coping mechanisms are a population of 6,718 PSN throughout Hirat, Badghis and Ghor provinces. Employment of negative coping mechanisms occurs as a result of poor livelihoods conditions and lack of coping abilities.

- Specific Child Protection monitoring and responses at Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS).
- Community awareness on child protection risks through mobile teams
- Training of community Shuras, elders and religious leaders on negative coping mechanisms.
- Regular monitoring of the child protection risks within the IDP communities.
- Protection monitoring.

- Integrated package and prioritization of assistance from humanitarian actors (ICCT)
- Rapid linkages to livelihoods actors and projects, in order to mitigate the employment of negative coping mechanisms.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Despite the fact that the peace talk is ongoing conflict continued in most parts of the country and affected civilians. During the reporting period, Eastern region recorded the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by south and central regions. Complex attacks, ground engagements and aerial operations remained the leading causes of civilian casualties.

Following are instances of some major incidents which harmed more civilians during the reporting period.

On 1st April 2019, along Urozgan-Kandahar highway, International Military Forces in an aerial attack bombed a hotel which resulted in killing and injuring of several civilians including children. On 20 April 2019, in Kabul province, Anti-Government Elements attacked on the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology which resulted in killing and injuring of several civilians including women.

UNAMA Quarterly Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict released and highlighted:

In the first quarter of 2019, UNAMA continued to document high levels of harm to civilians from the armed conflict. From 1 January to 31 March 2019, UNAMA documented 1,773 civilian casualties (581 deaths and 1,192 injured), including 582 child casualties (150 deaths and 432 injured). This represents a 23 per cent decrease in overall civilian casualties as compared to the same period last year and is the lowest for the first quarter since 2013. Ground engagements, use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), aerial operations, Targeted killing and explosive remnant of war were the leading causes of civilians casualties, where ground engagements alone causing approximately one third of the total civilian casualties.

During the first three months of 2019, Anti-Government Elements- remained responsible for 963 civilian casualties (227 deaths and 736 injured). UNAMA attributed 39 per cent civilian casualties to the Taliban, 12 per cent to Daesh/ISKP, and three per cent to unidentified Anti-Government Elements. Between 1 January and 31 March 2019, UNAMA attributed 608 civilian casualties (305 deaths and 303 injured) to Pro-Government Forces, representing a 39 per cent increase from the same period last year. UNAMA notes with concern that Pro-Government Forces were responsible for more civilian deaths than Anti-Government Elements during the first quarter of 2019. UNAMA attributed 17 per cent of civilian casualties to the Afghan national security forces, 13 per cent to international military forces, two per cent to pro-Government armed groups, and two per cent to multiple Pro-Government Forces.

Parties to the conflict must abide by International Humanitarian and Human rights laws on protection of civilians-Kandahar Panelists:

29 April 2019-The TV debate organized by UNAMA southern regional office in Kandahar was aired by Hewad TV and Radio –reaching audiences of around 450,000 in Kandahar province.

KANDAHAR-The protection of civilians is the obligation of all parties to the conflict, stressed panelists at an UN-backed televised discussion in southern province of Kandahar. The audience at the debate, university students from faculties of journalism, political science and law, human rights activists and defenders, shared their concerns about the widespread impact of the armed conflict on their daily lives. All participants of the debate called upon the parties to stop killing civilians and ensure respect for legal obligations and as well Sharia law during the fighting.

NATURAL DISASTER

Drought

Protection cluster continued responding to drought situation, lead protection monitoring missions and joint assessments, provided response to specific needs of individuals and affected communities through the PSN, GBV, CPIE and HLP programs. Coordinated activities in the region through regular operational coordination team ICCTs and working in partnership with OCHA and the government of Afghanistan for provision of assistance to 2.2M individuals estimated to be affected by drought across Western and South Western regions. From the beginning of response up to the end of April; 1,742 protection monitoring mission conducted to the affected sites, 66,490 individuals received assistance mainly; PSN cases identified and their protection concern shared with involved actors, GBV survivors received legal, health, psychosocial support and referred for case management, women and girls reached with GBV and PSS services through Women Friendly Health Spaces. GBV awareness through community dialogues were provided to women, girls, men/ boys, dignity kits distributed to women and girls and Mine risk education was provided to communities and individuals. Seven mobile child protection teams are monitoring and screening at-risk children in Herat City and four in Qala-e-Naw. Identified child protection cases were registered and managed by social workers and two additional child friendly spaces have been established.