

POPULATION MOVEMENT



Internal displacement:



From January to August 2019, 223,496 individuals fled their homes due to conflict in Afghanistan. 144 out of 399 districts have recorded some level of forced displacement, while 82 districts are hosting 223,496 IDPs. 58% (129,628) 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, 15% IDPs are displaced in hard to reach areas. Top hosting districts are: Chapadara (18,459), Maymana (14,315) and Taloqan (35,770).





Return to Afghanistan:

As of 01 January, up to 31 August, 5,038 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation. A total of 14,804 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 303,393 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran. 7% (20,500 individuals) undocumented returned from Iran out of 303,393 individuals and 85% (12,586 individuals) undocumented from Pakistan out of 14,804 individuals were assisted by IOM during the mentioned period in 2019.

PROTECTION CONCERNS

REGIONS	CONCERNS	MITIGATION	RECOMMENDATIONS
CENTRAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 security incidents occurred in the region, including Ground Engagement, IEDs and Suicide Attacks. The most high-profile incident documented was a Suicide Attacks/ BBIED detonated in a Wedding Hall in Kabul City. The explosion caused around 200 civilian casualties. 136 individuals forcibly displaced within the region. Availability and access to services for persons with specific needs and disabilities continue to be insufficient especially, considering their growing numbers due to continued conflict. Limited access to employment and job market frequently reporting by PoCs. 101 families affected by flood and lost their properties in Parwan province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRPC partner-UNHCR provided direct cash assistants to 167 Person with Specific Needs and referred 130 other cases to service provider organization. 136 IDPs received humanitarian assistance. 36 flood affected families received emergency assistance. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) was conducted to 17,739 women, men, girls, and boys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level advocacy and negotiation with parties to conflict for reducing of civilians' casualties and IHL violations. Further solution should be found for the protracted cases load situation.
EASTERN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 130 security incidents were reported across the region, with 59 in Nangarhar, 38 in Kunar, 23 in Laghman and 10 in Nuristan. Around 90 % of the reported incidents were directly related to the elections mostly armed attacks, IEDs and stand-off attacks. ANSF counterinsurgency operation against AGEs in several villages of Surkhrod district in Nangarhar provoked the displacement of some 1700 families. In addition, around 1,500 people were displaced from the Mazar Dara area in Nurgal district, Kunar province due to escalating clashes among NSAG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some 7,623 people were reached with food, relief items, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces during the last week. OCT and ESNFI meetings were convened and agreed to look into other modalities for shelter assistance other than tents, including support to families through cash for rent. Given the poor hygiene situation of some 500 families displaced from Surkhrod to Marghondai area, DACAAR installed emergency latrines and provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ANSF has established checkpoints at Khosa china area from where over 160 families have already fled and sought safety in neighboring community of Marghondai within Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province. ■ Several houses were destroyed while over 30 livestock were killed during the armed conflict. A clinic in Kakra village, Surkhrod district was destroyed as result of attack by ANSF. 460 families are currently living in makeshift tents and with no access to adequate services such as water, sanitation and food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ affected families with clean water through water tankers. ■ UNHCR through its partner WAW and WADAN identified and assisted 16 persons with specific needs including children at risk, elderly, single parent, widows and those suffering from chronic illness. 	
<p>NORTHERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 19 individuals killed and injured by planted Pressure-Plate Improvised Explosive Devices (PPIED) in Balkh and Samangan provinces. ■ Existence of ERW and UXO in the places of origin of IDPs', returnees and refugees' returnees- in Awlaad village Darzab district of Jawzjan province. ■ IDPs' group settled on government land in Aybek city exposed to force eviction. ■ Report of lack of documentations (NID) by IDPs in Mazar City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 890 individuals received MRE and 1,277,594 square meters land cleared from explosive hazards devices. ■ NRPC advocating through DoRR with government relevant departments on the force evction case. ■ NRPC shared the national ID card issue with HLP TF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NRPC to follow up with regional UNMAS on the outcome of their intervention. ■ HLP Task Force to liaise with Samangan's DoRR and Municipality on a possible solution in the same place or finding second location for IDPs. ■ Regional HLP TF to follow up documentation related concern particularly accelerate advocacy on inclusion of children to education centers.
<p>NORTH EASTERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 18 individuals, including 7 children killed and 120, including 23 children, injured during counter attacks by the AGEs in Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan and Badakhshan provinces. ■ IDPs have been physically tortured and their properties burned out by AGEs in the places of origin, Badakhshan province. ■ IDPs' in displacement areas, Taloqan city, suffering from psychological stress especially women and children. ■ Civilians' houses and properties have been destroyed, completely or partially, by cross firing and usage of heavy weapons. ■ Lack of livelihoods opportunities in the places of displacement caused child labor. ■ Lack of privacy among IDP families in place of displacement, as 5-6 families are accommodated in a single house due to being unable to afford the rent of houses separately. ■ Unavailability of fund for clearance of ERW and VOIEDs civilian casualty's data collection resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 36 HoH received Victims' Assistance (VA) through COMAC services who suffered injury or loss as a result of conflict. ■ Through NERPC advocacy with agencies, IPSO confirmed to deploy their team for providing PSS & rehabilitation support to affected women and children. ■ NERPC advocated and shared concern in civil military coordination meeting about damaging of civilians' properties and requested for compensation. ■ NRPC shared children labor concern during meetings with service provider organization for provision of possible job opportunities in the IDPs' sites. ■ 612 HoH (contained 2448 children) received NFI including children clothes under CPIE program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advocacy with conflict parties, especially with Afghan National Security Forces, should be conducted in order to reduce the shelling of heavy artillery toward civilian residences, further civilian casualties and property damages. ■ NERPC to raise the concern in the regional CIMIC meeting and as well as request APC to advocate at higher level- possibly through UNAMA with AGE leaders- in order to reduce use of victim-operated IEDs in civilians' populated areas. ■ Mapping of IDPs and returnee's location for the purpose of mine clearances and enhancing Mine/ERW risk education to avoid further casualties.

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



- Local government do not have clear plan for the drought affected IDPs who might choose to stay in displacement.
- 128 IDP families are exposed to forced eviction, Herat province, Kahdestan settlement.
- large scale employment of negative coping mechanisms within the drought-related IDP population – including cases of child marriage and begging in Hirat province and Badghis provinces.
- 189 PSN cases referred to different cluster partners for assistance.
- WRPC partners conducted 49 PSS sessions to drought affected IDPs in Herat province.
- CPiE sub cluster partners conducted child protection assessment and identified 8,906 most at-risk children, although child protection agencies at the ground have been providing assistance but it not enough.
- Integrated package and prioritization of assistance from humanitarian actors.
- Rapid linkages to livelihoods actors and projects, in order to mitigate the employment of negative coping mechanisms.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

The highly unpredictable and politicized election environment continued to provoke security incidents, including intimidation harassment, planting of IEDs and targeting of civilians across the country. Based on UNAMA reports:

KABUL, 7 August 2019 - The United Nations expressed deep concern at the Taliban's stated threat to target civilians participating in the 28 September presidential election process. According to international humanitarian and human rights law, the electoral process in Afghanistan is a civilian undertaking and everyone has the right to take part in public affairs, to vote and to be elected to government without discrimination and without unreasonable restrictions. All citizens whether voters, candidates or election-related staff have the right to be free from fear, intimidation and violence at all stages of an elections process. The United Nations urged the Taliban to respect and protect civilians and not to threaten them or carry out violence should they engage in their constitutional right to participate in elections. The United Nations emphasized that attacks directed against polling centers and civilians participating in the electoral process are clear violations of international law, and perpetrators of such crimes must be held accountable.

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

KABUL, 3 September 2019 – “The violence this week across Afghanistan underscores the urgency of ending the conflict through a negotiated settlement. The suffering of the Afghan people must end. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to family and friends of the victims, all civilians, who once again suffered indescribable loss in the recent violence in northeast Afghanistan and elsewhere across the country. Days earlier, Taliban

assaults in Kunduz and in Baghlan resulted in grave harm to the civilian population. There were scores of civilian casualties. The United Nations remains concerned about the harm caused to civilians by the impact of pro-government aerial and search operations, including the 31 August aerial operation in Faryab that resulted in the death of 12 civilians and injured five others, the majority women and children”, said Tadamichi Yamamoto the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA.

On 19 August 2019, the members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attacks (IEDs-Improvised Explosive Devices) in Jalalabad, the day of Afghanistan’s centennial independence celebrations which resulted in killing and injuring of several civilians. The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. They reaffirmed the need for all states to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

On 17 August 2019, Taliban attacked a wedding hall in Kabul, which resulted in more than 70 civilians killed and 180 civilians injured, for which the so-called “Islamic State Khorasan Province” has claimed responsibility. The Secretary General of the UN, the members of the Security Council and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the attack in the strongest terms. On 11 August, 11 civilians were killed during an Eid by pro-government search operation in Zurmat district, Paktya province. On twitter, UNAMA expressed grave concern and stated that accountability is essential. On 07 August 2019, a SVBIED detonated near a district ANP-HQ and MoD recruitment center (PD#06) Kabul province in which several civilians were killed and injured, including women and children.