



Photo 1 An IDP family from Helmand living in improvised shelter in Mirwaise Mina Area of Kandahar/Oct-2017/ Ahmadullah Afghan/NRC South

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The volatile security situation continued to affect overall humanitarian efforts throughout the region. The major humanitarian challenges are lack of humanitarian access/response to displaced and affected population in Anti Government Elements (AGE's) controlled areas.
- Situation of Khakraiz, Maywand, Shahwalikot and Nesh districts of Kandahar deteriorated with clashes between Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and AGEs leading to civilian casualties and displacements. AGEs coordinated an attack on the Afghan National Army (ANA) base in Maiwand district and to the Marouf District Administrative Centre (DAC) which resulted in casualties and displacement within the district centers including Spin Boldak district and Kandahar city. Inter-agency joint assessment is on-going for verification of conflict induced IDPs in Kandahar province.
- The road between Nad Ali and Lashkergah has been re-opened but the situation in Helmand province still remains tense particularly in Nawa, Nahri Siraj, Basharan and Nad Ali district. The military operation continues in Nad Ali, Changer, Basharan and Babajee. Reportedly, 3,000 families are displaced in Lashkergah and Nawa district, Helmand province.
- The security situation is deteriorating in Urozgan province around Tirinkot city, where AGEs reportedly attacked Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) checkpoints. Furthermore, in the past two-months, health facilities have been closed and nearly **500,000 persons are deprived of health services**. Due to interference of local authorities in humanitarian programs, the Joint emergency assessment is suspended.
- After a year break in missions due to insecurity, OCHA managed to conduct a mission to Tirinkot to meet various humanitarian partners and government authorities to discuss the ongoing situation, un-necessary interference in humanitarian assistance and other humanitarian issues. The main roads between Tirinkot and other districts are still closed and the local population uses alternative roads. Meanwhile due to the road blockage, high prices for the commodities are also reported. Except Salam tele-communication which is partially working other communication systems are totally down.
- During November 2017, Mine Action has reported to have cleared 410,154 sqm of land in Kandahar and Nimroz provinces including destroying 05 anti-vehicles and 39 anti-personnel mines. Mine Risk Education training through 19 teams including in the UNHCR and IOM Transit center has been provided to 26,562 males and 20,418 females respectively. 740 explosive remnants of war (ERWs) mainly in Kandahar and Helmand provinces have been destroyed. Meanwhile, ACAP III has assisted 14 cases (06 cases in Zabul and 08 cases in Urozgan) provinces.
- According to the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM), from Jan-Nov 2017, a total of 544 schools are closed throughout the Southern region which has affected around 900,000 children. In October 2017, a Child Protection Unit (CPU) was established in the Afghan National Police (ANP) recruitment center in Kandahar to avoid child recruitment while in November-2017, CPU's were also established in ANP recruitment centers in Helmand, Zabul and Nimroz Provinces. A CPU in Urozgan is in the process of being established. UNAMA reported that 34 incidents involving children have occurred where 22 children have been killed while 58 have been injured. Majority of the incidents are from ground engagements and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

## Gaps and challenges

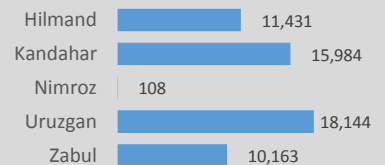
- Absence of the Gender based Violence sub-cluster in the Southern Region leads to gaps in identification and coordination. Advocacy is also challenging.
- Access remained the biggest challenge in the region and efforts continue through Southern Region Protection Cluster (SRPC), HRT, OCT and Humanitarian Access Group (HAG) to discuss different approaches to get access. However, access to Grishk, the capital center of Nahri-Siraj was achieved where joint assessments including IDP Protection monitoring was conducted. Similarly, Nawa district of Helmand which was inaccessible saw a humanitarian joint assessment team get access and start an assessment.
- Communication systems that are down in Southern region remain a challenge
- Closure of health facilities and road blockage particularly, in Urozgan province.
- Interference of authorities in humanitarian interventions.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**3,140** internally displaced in November 2017



**55,830** internally displaced since January 2017



**739** registered refugees returned from other countries



**1,521** undocumented returnees returned



**337,798** protracted IDPs in the Southern region



15 protection cluster partners active:

UNHCR, NRC (Co-lead) UNICEF, WHO, UNMAS, ICRC, HI, YHDO, DRC, CoAR, APA, OHW, SHAO, InterSoS, SCI, HRDA, Medair, NRC

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## KEY MESSAGES

- Negotiation and advocacy at the national level to re-open health facilities/services in Urozgan province.
- Advocacy at the national level to avoid unnecessary interference of local authorities in humanitarian intervention.
- Advocacy to avoid child recruitment by **Afghan Local Police (ALP)/ANP** polices in SR particularly in Urozgan and Helmand provinces.