

THE PROTECTION CLUSTER INCLUDES SUB-CLUSTERS ON CHILD PROTECTION, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, MINE-ACTION AND HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY TASK FORCE



Drought affected families settled in Herat © NRC Team Herat Province

HIGHLIGHTS

- Internal displacement:** From 1 January to 31 May 2018, some 120,000 individuals fled their homes due to conflict. 29 out of 34 provinces had recorded some level of forced displacement, while another 32 provinces are hosting IDPs. Fifty six per cent 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: Kunduz (18,788 ind.), Faryab (17,997 ind.), Kunar (9,540 ind), Badakhshan (9, 527ind) and Laghman (7,364 ind.)¹.
- Return to Afghanistan:** UNHCR resumed voluntary repatriation on the 1 March after a winter pause: 7,144 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted (as of 31 May 2018)². 14,860 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 299,158 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran from 1 January to 26 May 2018. 95% undocumented returnees from Iran and only 5% from Pakistan were assisted by IOM³.
- CHF 2nd Standard Allocation:** Based on the CHF Advisory Board's decision drought considered as a primary strategic focus in Afghanistan as yet people affected by drought have not received sufficient assistance, neither in the places of origin nor in the areas of displacement. The Advisory Board recommended allocating the 2nd Standard Allocation Funds to FSAC, Nutrition, WASH, and Protection Clusters in areas where needs are highest. The protection cluster is funded with the USD 2 million, the Protection Cluster response will be an integrated from of the CPIE and GBV Sub-clusters, both sub-clusters, CPIE and GBV, have been working on eligible activities in drought affected areas.

2018 1st Quarter at glance

120k	newly displaced persons during the 1 st quarter of year
2.2k	civilian casualties recorded by UNAMA
1.8k	vulnerable conflict- and natural disaster affected girls and boys assisted with direct child protection support activities
2.1k	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
22.5k	IDPs assisted with legal counselling, civil documentation issues, and acquiring, maintaining or restoring Housing, Land, and Property rights
52%	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 May 2018

² UNHCR Encashment Centre monitoring as of 31 May 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 26 May 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)

Increase in civilian casualties.

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. The security situation consistently deteriorated countrywide and during the first six months of 2018 high casualty rates being inflicted on the Afghan civilian population by the warring parties, a total of 5,122 civilian casualties (1,692 deaths and 3,430 injured) recorded, UNAMA document, of which 544 were women (157 deaths and 387 injured) and 1,355 children (363 deaths and 992 injured). Election related violence began with the start of voter registration in April, targeting of education facilities and attacks on Tazkira (national ID) distribution centres/voter registration sites caused 341 civilian casualties (117 deaths and 224 injured), including election-related personnel, through the use of IEDs, suicide attacks and targeted killings. (IEDs) in attacks remained the leading cause of civilian casualties, with the

combined use of suicide and non-suicide IEDs caused nearly half of all civilian casualties. Ground engagements were the second leading cause of civilian casualties, followed by targeted and deliberate killings, aerial operations, and explosive remnants of war. Actions by the Government of Afghanistan to prevent civilian casualties continued, resulting in a reduction of civilian deaths and injuries from their operations, particularly from ground fighting, an area that UNAMA has consistently focused its advocacy with parties to the conflict in recent years.

Natural Disaster Affected Displacement:

Around 50,000 individuals have been displaced from different districts of Badghis, Ghor, and Herat provinces to areas located in the outskirts of Herat city. Majority of these families are living in hard conditions under the makeshift shelters in a challenging environment with very limited access to water, food, and WASH facilities. Lack of access to medical treatment considered as a most significant concern. Negative coping strategies by the families have caused significant protection risks particularly the child labour and forced child marriage.

While a total of 2,600 families were assisted with food, water trucking, NFI, including 1,752 families with tents, however the most basic humanitarian needs' of the whole displaced community, including access to medical service, food, water, shelter and education are yet to be considered. Relevant agencies including the governments' counter parts are working together to find solution for the families. A comprehensive needs assessment by humanitarian agencies is planned and will take place soon, in addition, the CHF 2nd allocation will mostly target drought affected communities including the families in Herat.

Protection Monitoring Key Highlights:

Main concerns identified include lack of shelters, potable water, shortage of food, no privacy among IDP families where several families are living in single house, lack of services for pregnant women, school items for children, and lack of job opportunity for IDPs and returnees. In addition, civil documentation including Tazkira and school certificates are other gaps which IDPs reported. NRPC is working with cluster partners to address the reported risks under various sectors.

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