

POPULATION MOVEMENT




From January to March 2019, 62,242 individuals fled their homes due to conflict. 22 out of 34 provinces have recorded some level of forced displacement, while 19 provinces are hosting IDPs. 58 % of 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, 16.5 % IDPs are displaced in hard to reach areas. Top hosting provinces are: Kunar (18,528 ind.), Takhar (9,562 ind.), Sar-i-Pul (9,548 ind.), Faryab (4,613 ind.), Kunduz (3,689 ind), Nangrahar (2,235 ind.), Balkh (2,226 ind) and Farah (2,051 ind.)



As of 01 January to March 2019, 1,049 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation grant. A total of 4,848 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 95,132 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran countrywide. 10% (686 individuals) undocumented returned from Iran and 90% (602 individuals) from Pakistan were assisted by IOM during March 24 to 30,2019.

PROTECTION CONCERNS

REGIONS	CONCERNS	MITIGATION	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>CENTRAL</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limited access to livelihood opportunities, durable shelter, and limited free of cost medical services to the IDPs'/returnees' families. ■ Increased in child labour among IDPs'/returnees'; returnee children have been forcing by the families for labour due to poverty. ■ Outstanding debt for many returnees after return to their places of origins. ■ Increase in the criminal activities e.g. robbery, abduction, and kidnapping of children, 7 children are missing in Maidan Shar mainly in Eslahat-Edary and Daud-Khan townships. ■ Limited access to primary education mostly due to long distance to school, IDPs' children are mostly affected. ■ Lack of documentation/NID, IDPs displaced from Ghazni have been denied access to humanitarian assistance in Kabul. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 396 returnee/IDPs received psychosocial counselling, and GBV awareness sessions were conducted for 1,093 women and men with more focus on child rights. ■ 114 GBV cases identified by GBV sub-cluster members in Khost, Kapisa, Ghazni and Kabul and were referred for services including systematic psychosocial support and legal assistance. 148 women and girls received Survivor Centered Multi-Sector Services (Health, Legal, Material, PSS), ■ 80 children have been organized in two CFS in Maidan-Wardak Province. ■ 163 Natural Disaster affected families received assistance from IOM, CARE and WFP. ■ IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to 10 cases in the central region (Kabul). ■ With the technical support from NRC, five community centers established in the KIS sites. ■ CHA/UNHCR assisted 68 PSN cases with direct cash and referred 62 to other service providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The unstable security situation will trigger new displacement in central region mainly in urban areas, responding to various emergency needs in a decreasing funding is becoming challenging. Role of government and developmental actors is considered essential to ensure sustainable durable solutions.

EASTERN



- Around 2,500 families were displaced in Chapadara district of Kunar and several civilians were killed during the fighting. One person was killed in Warsak village, one child was killed and two others were wounded in Bar Indor village. On 25 March 2019 two mortar rounds missed their target and impacted in a residential areas in Chambarak and Hindurak sub-villages injuring 8 persons (including 4 women, 2 boys and 2 girls) while a boy of 11 years old was killed.
- IDPs trapped in conflict areas reported widespread intimidation and harassment and not being allowed to flee by AGES.
- 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.
- 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 trend of civilian casualties caused by ERW and Victim Operated IEDs continue in North Region.
- The main areas of concern include; child protection/SGBV, loss of child education especially of adolescent girls; psychosocial distress; lack of adequate shelter, family separation; and, exposure to explosive remnants.
- Funding shortfall of Mine, ERW and VOIEDs civilian casualty's data collection resources.
- The humanitarian community and line departments deployed ten/10 joint teams for need assessment (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.
- Humanitarian interventions and response was made in terms of food, NFI, Health, WASH and CASH by UNHCR, WFP, AHDAA, 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.
- APC members WAW/UNHCR partner participated in protection monitoring/assessment and identified 39 PSN and referred to UNHCR community protection for further assistance.
- Advocacy continued with Parties to the Conflict and awareness raising to mine and ERW affected areas to prevent further civilian casualties.
- Collecting of information as possible with the existing capacity and verify the source of information with respective parties. Assessment and assistance.
- ERPC to accelerate the assessment and assistance process to reduce the suffering of DPs as well as the possibly of duplication and pressure by local authorities /population to assist families not directly related to the emergency
- ERPC to advocate with the government to reinforce and facilitate exit routes 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, the issue to be considered by the ERPC.
- APC to advocate at higher level/UNAMA, in particular with AGE leaders, in order to reduce use of mines and ERWs.
- APC with support from AHF to fill the funding shortfall reported by regional UNMAS.

NORTHERN



- 5,000 families were affected by the seasonal flood in Northern region. Reportedly 3,130 houses demolished of which 1,546 houses completely destroyed and 1,584 were partially damaged. Aid agencies addressed the basic needs of the population affected, however, food response remains pending in areas under AGEs' control.
- Killing, injuring and child recruitment as NRCP concerns affecting 49 children in the reporting period.
- ARCS have conducted the flood affected families' assessment, however assistance have not been delivered so far.
- Advocacy is ongoing with UNAMA on children casualties and attacks on hospital.

**NORTH
EASTERN**



- IDPs' children in Shighni Ha village of Ali Abad district of Kunduz province have been developing malformation after their 2-3 years of birth, particularly girls, 30 children identified by service provider organization so far.
- Girls' education remained concern, most of the families do not allow girls to attend school due cultural barriers.
- Limited accesses to employment, potable water, shelter by IDPs in most part of the region.
- The trend of civilian casualties and property damages caused by aerial attacks and indiscriminate use of light and heavy weapons by Parties to the Conflict has been increased.
- Funding shortfall by Mine Action caused ERW and VOIEDs civilian casualties and delay in data collection.
- Mostly the needs such potable water, income generation activities and shelter have been covered in the context of emergency and durable solutions needs remained unmet.

- Planning for JA of the areas by NERPC and members is ongoing, health cluster/relevant organization will be informed about the outcome.
- Advocacy and follow up was made by the NERPC in OCT meeting with children protection agencies and relevant humanitarian agencies were informed and planning for awareness raising sessions will be undertaken in most affected areas.
- Advocacy with Parties to the Conflict especially with ANSF to be conducted on usage heavy artillery toward civilian residence in order to prevent further civilian casualties.
- Based on the reports from Mine Action they will continue capturing the information with the existing capacity and verify the source of information with respective parties.
- NERPC followed up the concerns with relevant humanitarian actors and OCHA. Partners will also cover some of the needs under community based protection projects.

- NERPC to continue raising the concern with Health cluster in the region for possible intervention.
- NERPC to coordinate with humanitarian agencies to conduct focus group discussion and awareness raising sessions on basic rights of children in the community, in order to remove the negative thoughts and customs in the society regarding for girls education.
- Intervention by APC is recommending on linking humanitarian response with development programmes so the key needs such as potable water, livelihood and other basic facilities are addressed for longer term as a durable solution.
- NERPC to raise the concern in the regional civil military coordination meeting and as well as have the advocacy with provincial governor and ANSF, in order to not target the civilian residential areas.
- APC with support from AHF to fill the funding shortfall reported by regional UNMAS.


SOUTH



- Civilian casualties- caused by military operations, airstrikes, stray bullets, bombardments, and IEDs. Local Houses are used as entrenchments by parties to the conflict and in some cases AGEs do not allow people to leave conflict areas. Limited access to affected population, and a number of health facilities and schools occupied by armed groups.
- Majority of the areas in SR followed by road blockages and presence of IEDs which cause limited access to affected population.
- Due to decrease in funding and the capacity of service providing organizations the IDPs'/returnees' assessment and assistance provision faced challenges.
- Elderly, disabled and women HoH are become more vulnerable and their vulnerabilities caused child dropping out of school, early marriages, and begging.

- SRPC jointly with its members drafted flood contingency plan.
- Through joint assessment and protection monitoring (Gvo. UN and NGOs) of flood affected families was conducted, 9,351 families identified to be in need of assistance. 10 PSN cases identified and referred for assistance- 1,710 families received emergency shelter/tents and the remaining families are still a gap- 9,351 families received food items, as well as some medical kits distributed to the families.
- The government allocated 123 million Afghanis to the flood affected families in Kandahar province.
- After negotiation with AGEs, OCT members were allowed to conduct flood assessment in Dishu, Garmser, Khanashin, Nad Ali and Marja districts of Helmand province, under the AGE control.
- SRPC regional cluster advocacy with UNAMA is ongoing on the civilian casualties, COMAC is providing assistance to those affected by conflict.

- SRPC to prepare contingency plan to respond to emergencies.
- SRPC to advocate with ES/NFIs, WASH and IOM for extending assistance to flood affected families until the gaps are filled.
- APC to advocate with Humanitarian Access Group for enhancing negotiations with AGEs and facilitating humanitarian organizations' intervention in the areas under the AGE control particularly during emergencies.
- Central level advocacy with Parties to the Conflict for respecting the IHL and decreasing civilian casualties
- National level advocacy by protection, ES/NFIs, WASH and FSAC clusters is

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limitation in water, shelter, employment, and health added to the risks confronting the displaced population. ■ Lack of women safe house in the region. ■ Recent flood affected human, animals, and destroyed agricultural land in Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul provinces. The majority NFIs and Emergency Shelter needs remained unmet including lack of dignity kits for flood affected women and girls. ■ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Specific PSN assistance reached elders however not enough due to wider need and limited resource. ■ Child Friendly Spaces through UNICEF and partners are functioning, child protection activities which are covering the most vulnerable children include psychosocial care, health and hygiene practices, family reunification, CBCPM, CRC trainings, and primary education however it is not enough for the entire needs. EiE, MRM and CPAN are also active and playing its role for finding solution to the protection concern of children. Beside all ongoing activities most of the needs have not been covered due to limited assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ required to encourage partners and donors to consider vulnerable IDP returnees for assessment and assistance. ■ Further mine clearance activities including clear SoPs for areas' prioritization.
<p>WESTERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Large scale employment of negative coping mechanisms within the drought-related IDP population, 282 cases of child marriage (142) and begging (140) in Herat 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 Herat, Badghis and Ghor provinces. Employment of negative coping mechanisms occurs as a result of poor livelihoods conditions and lack of coping abilities. ■ Majority of drought affected IDPs settled on the private lands in Herat, Badghis and exposed to force ejection; in Herat despite of advocacy by protection cluster/ HLPTF the government is still to specify a suitable state land for the relocation of the IDPs, as the already specified lands are either under dispute or not suitable for the IDP relocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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; ■ 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. ■ In Badghis with the strong advocacy of the HLPTF government is in the process of paying rent for the land owners to mitigate the risk of force eviction. ■ In Herat advocacy is ongoing to find a suitable land for the relocation of the IDP currently under the threat of force eviction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. ■ Since drought is not new in Afghanistan, unless we assist the government of Afghanistan to address the root cause, otherwise each year the problem will repeat and humanitarian agencies need to spent resources on the problems which could have been solved differently, and to do that replication of a successful drought response is recommendable.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

During the reporting period, Central region experienced the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by eastern region. Complex attacks, ground engagements, Escalation of Force/Force Protection and aerial attacks remained the leading causes of civilian casualties.

The following are some of the instances of major incidents which caused large number of civilian casualties during the reporting period.

Kunduz Airstrikes killed 13 civilians, mostly children

UNAMA issued a press statement on 25 March 2019, expressed its concern about an airstrike conducted by International Military forces in support of Pro-Government forces during which, 13 civilians were killed, and three others were injured. The Mission fact-finding indicated that 10 of those killed were children, part of the same extended family whom were displaced by fighting elsewhere in the country. The incident occurred in the Telawka neighborhood close to Kunduz city during operations conducted by pro-government forces against Taliban in the area.

UNAMA urges relevant authorities and parties involved in the airstrike to conduct their own enquiries in to the incident and to take immediate steps to safeguard civilians from harm. Parties are urged to publish results of their findings, as well as provide appropriate compensation to victims.

UNAMA condemned attacks targeting a civilian festival in Lashkar Gah city, Helmand province

On, 24 March 2019, UNAMA condemned the attack carried out Saturday during celebrations around Nowruz in the southern town of Lashkar Gah, Helmand province. The Mission findings indicated that, at least three civilians were killed, and dozens were injured in an attack that deliberately targeted local civilian government officials.

UNAMA noted statements purportedly from the Taliban that were issued to the media in which they claimed responsibility for the bombing, as well as assertions that they had not harmed any civilians in the attack, despite acknowledging that government officials had suffered casualties. UNAMA reminds parties that the definition of civilian under international law includes members of the civilian government administration. The deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime. UNAMA reiterates that under the principle of distinction parties to the conflict are always obligated to distinguish between combatants and civilians. Those who have organized and enabled such attacks must be brought to justice and held to account.

UNAMA takes note of the government's decision to address civilian casualties caused by pro-government forces

On 14 March 2019, UNAMA noted the recent decision by the Afghan Government to address reports of civilian casualties apparently caused by pro-Government forces in three separate incidents on 8 and 9 March in Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar and Paktika provinces, including the instruction of the President for a review of mechanisms and procedures used in military operations with a view to prevent civilian casualties.

UNAMA will continue its independent fact-finding and share the findings with the concerned parties. Initial findings indicated that most of the victims were women and children. UNAMA noted with concern the high number of deaths in these three incidents, as compared to injuries.

Similar incident on 9 March 2019, a pro-Government armed group supported by international forces, carried out an evening search operation in Barmal district, Paktika province, against Taliban, that resulted in civilian casualties, including children.

UNAMA expressed its condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

UNAMA reminds all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians from harm, including their obligation to take all feasible precautions to avoid death or injury to civilians.

NATURAL DISASTER

Drought:

Protection Cluster has been a key player in leading and facilitating joint protection monitoring missions and joint need assessments, 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. 22 protection cluster partners have been working on the ground and providing emergency assistance to affected families, so far under protection cluster: 1,307 protection monitoring mission conducted to the affected sites, 691 PSN cases identified and their protection concern shared with involved actors. 9, 971 GBV survivors received legal, health, psychosocial support and 3, 537 cases referred for case management, of women and 12,620 girls reached with GBV and PSS services through Women Friendly Health Spaces. 23,137 women, girls, men and boys reached with GBV awareness through community dialogues, and 3,755 dignity kits distributed and Mine risk education was provided to 2, 140 persons. 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.

Flood:

Heavy and continuous rainfall caused flash flooding in different parts of Western, Southern, North Eastern and Central Regions. Initial reports indicated that around 200,000 individuals have been affected, houses, irrigation land and irrigation canal have been destroyed and roads were blocked in most province of mentioned regions. Under the APC leadership protection monitoring and joint assessments have been conducted in affected areas and the findings having been shared with relevant actors and government entities. Humanitarian assistance were provided to some of the affected families within the available resources however there is still gap for covering the remaining population, for further intervention APC shared response plan with OCHA – the budgetary requirement is USD 1.670.000.