

POPULATION MOVEMENT



Internal displacement:



Since January to July 2019, a total of 222,859 individuals fled their homes due to conflict in Afghanistan. 144 out of 401 districts have recorded some level of forced displacement, while 82 districts are hosting 222,859 IDPs. 58% (129,258) 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 July, 4,198 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation. A total of 13,059 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 259,037 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran. 6% (17,623 individuals) undocumented returned from Iran out of 259,037 individuals and 92% (10,862 individuals) from Pakistan out of 13,059 individuals were assisted by IOM during the mentioned period, 2019.

PROTECTION CONCERNS

REGIONS	CONCERNS	MITIGATION	RECOMMENDATIONS
CENTRAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 304 individuals forcibly displaced within the region and identified eligible for humanitarian assistance. 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. Displaced community members continue to use harmful coping mechanisms such as early marriage and dropping out of school to work to minimize and mitigate the risks. IDPs' communities remain highly dependent upon humanitarian assistance for survival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DACAAR, CARE, and DRC provided emergency relief assistance to the eligible families. War child Canada has provided Stationery, school bags and shoes to children. AYVO has provided assistance (shelter, food, health, education and vocational training services) to IDPs and returnees including women GBV survivors, deportees and separated children in Kabul province. DMAC delivered MRE and areas survey in Kapisa and Panjsher provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further solution should be found for the protracted cases load situation. The state as first duty bearer with the support of humanitarian actors should work together and response to the needs of IDPs and returnees.
EASTERN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in civilian casualties; In Nangrahar province; 20 people including women and children were killed and many injured in an incident of suicide attack targeted a wedding ceremony. 16 casualties were recorded by Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and Victim Operated Improvised Explosive Device (VOIED). In Sherzad and Khogyani districts AGEs threatened medical service providers' personnel to assist in treatment of their injured fighters in the conflict. In Kunar Province, abduction incidents were reported which targeted school teachers (by ISK) and civilians (by Taliban) on account of supporting the government or a party to the conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF will re-activate CFSs in Eastern region and provide PSS service supports to 20,000 children including IDPs, returnees and host communities in 16 districts of Kunar, Laghman, Nangrahar and Nuristan provinces. UNMAS surveyed 698,248sqm (6.9sqkm) in 39 hazards areas contaminated by VOIED and the affected communities also conducted MRE sessions to 3,090 people. 87 GBV cases consulted and followed up by cluster partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level advocacy and negotiation with parties to conflict for reducing of civilians' casualties and IHL violations. Clearance of areas from war remains ordnance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Alinga district of Laghman Province, a rocket impacted on civilian house resulted one killing, and six injures including women and children. Since the beginning of Jan, a total of 2,178 families / 15,342 individuals are affected by natural disasters in the region. 		
<p>NORTHERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 civilians killed and injured by UXO/ERW in Balkh and Smangan provinces. Displaced population living in poor economic condition, with lack of proper shelter, livelihood opportunities, health and education services which led to engagement with negative coping mechanism including child labor and marriage. IDPs facing obstacle to retune due to ongoing insecurity in their places of origin which caused protract displacement and inaccessibility to resource and properties they left behind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine/ERW Risk Education conducted to 662 individuals and 972,313 square meters of land cleared from UXO/ERW. 14 civilian victims received COMAC medical support. 151 Immediate Assistance Packages distributed to 102 families. 19 families received income generation kits. 19 victims were referred to psychosocial support services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRPC to discuss shelter and water related concerns with provincial health departments, WASH and shelter clusters for further follow up. NRPC to discuss IDPs' negative coping engagement relevant concern with GBV sub-cluster and other actors further follow up. The child labor has to be referred to child protection actors and those vulnerable families to UNHCR PSN partners.
<p>NORTH EASTERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 individuals, including children, have been killed and injured in Baghlan, Badakhshan, Takhar and Kunduz provinces. Civilians' properties have been occupied and used for military propose by ANSF which caused threaten/warning by AGEs and protection risk to the civilians IDPs' in Taloqan city suffering from psychological stress in displacement especially women and children. Civilians' houses and properties have been destroyed, completely or partially, by cross firing and usage of heavy weapons and caused major concerns. Lack of access to potable water, health and education services by IDPs' families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NERPC advocated and shared concern about the occupation of civilian properties in civil military coordination meeting and requested for releasing/compensation of occupied houses. 71 humanitarian aid assistance packages, including basic food and household sanitary items, distributed to families suffering from losse or injured members as the result of conflict. NERPC raised WASH, health and education relevant concerns with respective clusters, DACAAR agreed to assess and follow up mentioned concerns for further intervention. The NERPC will further request for enhancing awareness of displaced population on the importance of education. 35 GBV cases received consultation and referred to other services. 455 men, women, boys and girls received GBV awareness raising. 	<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. Through NERPC advocacy with relevant health sub-cluster partners to deploy their mobile clinic to the area for providing health services to IDPs' communities especially to women and children. NERPC to further advocate at field level with relevant humanitarian agencies and cluster partners; ARCS and other health actors for providing health services to displaced families.

SOUTH			
 <p>WESTERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12 civilians including children and women have been killed by IED in Kandahar province. ■ Conflict continued in most part of the region which caused properties damage, loss of materials and human casualties, including psychosocial stress and disorder to civilians. ■ Lack of access to proper WASH facilities by IDPs in most part of the region. ■ AGEs banned health service particularly polio vaccination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health and GVB clusters are providing PSS support however more advocacy is needed to cover region wide problem. ■ Advocacy by SRPC is ongoing with WASH actors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Due to unavailability of sufficient PSS actors in the region national level advocacy to raise the concern in coordination forums for possible interventions is requested. ■ Negotiation by national and regional actors with AGE should be conducted on resuming health service.
<p>WESTERN</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In Herat province- Kahdestan settlement- 128 IDP families are exposed to forced eviction. ■ 1,400 out of 19,000 drought affected families stayed in different settlements of Badghis province remaining families either returned to their places of origin or displaced to unknown locations. ■ The tents distributed to IDPs spoiled and most of the IDPs are concerned about the issue particularly about upcoming winter. ■ Lack of a stable source of income, poor hygiene situation, child labor and children out of school are main concerns for IDPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The HLPTF regularly monitoring the situation and records the forced eviction threats in Kahdestan, Rashid Abad and Nasim Abad settlements. ■ CPIE sub-cluster partners are working to establish community-based child protection committee and improve participation of IDPs' communities on reporting of child protection issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ WRPC to advocate with shelter service provider organization on possible distribution of new tents for IDPs. ■ WRPC to share the IDPs' needs with involved actors and finding possible solution.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

UNAMA reports: During the reporting period, Central region recorded the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by South-Eastern and Southern region. Complex attacks, ground engagements and aerial operations were the leading causes of civilian casualties.

STATEMENT ON COMMENCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD

KABUL, 29 July 2019 - As the presidential election campaign period started on 28 July and runs to 25 September, all candidates and supporters are expected to engage in a fair campaign as outlined in the Election Law. As all stakeholders must work toward building trust and confidence in the election process, it is hoped that the campaigns will provide the Afghan people with sufficient information and understanding for them to exercise an informed choice for their next president. The media plays a particularly important role in the elections process. Registered voters are encouraged to participate in the elections to enable the Afghan people, including women, to express their democratic will. UNAMA reiterates its continued commitment and support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned election, and acknowledges the efforts made by electoral management bodies, the government and other stakeholders to hold a timely, transparent and credible presidential election.

STATEMENT: UN URGES PARTIES TO HEED CALL FROM AFGHANS: ZERO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES-MIDYEAR UPDATE SHOWS 3,812 CIVILIANS KILLED & INJURED

On 30th July 2019 - The conflict in Afghanistan continues to have a devastating impact on civilians. UNAMA documented 3,812 civilian casualties (1,366 deaths and 2,446 injured) in the first half of 2019. While the number of civilians killed and injured is 27 per cent down from the same period in 2018 –the year that saw record high numbers of recorded civilian casualties– the UN noted with concern disturbing patterns such as the 27 per cent increase in civilian deaths in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the first.

The UN welcomes the reduction in civilian casualties in the 1 January-30 June 2019 period, but continues to regard the level of harm done to civilians as shocking and unacceptable. UNAMA acknowledges that parties have announced efforts to reduce civilian casualties, but they are insufficient. More must be done. "Everyone heard the message loud and clear from Afghan delegates in the Doha talks – 'reduce civilian casualties to zero!'" said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "We urge all parties to heed this imperative, to answer the call of Afghans for immediate steps to be taken to reduce the terrible harm being inflicted," added Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA.

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

The United Nations in Afghanistan reminds all parties to the conflict of their responsibility to protect civilians and to comply with their obligations under international law, as the latest UN documentation shows that civilian casualty rates returned to record high levels in the month of July. On 31st July 2019- The Secretary-General strongly condemned the attack on a bus traveling along the Kandahar-Herat Highway in Afghanistan. The Secretary-General reiterates that international humanitarian law explicitly prohibits indiscriminate attacks and attacks directed against civilians and appeals to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to uphold their obligations to protect civilians. The Secretary-General expressed his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Afghanistan. On 30th July 2019, in Kandahar province, Spin Boldak district, RCIED attached to a motorcycle parked in the residential area was detonated. As a result, several civilians were killed and injured, including children.

There were several high-profile attacks in July for which no party claimed responsibility, such as the 28 July complex attack that used remote-controlled and suicide IEDs against the Green Trend offices in Kabul. In this attack, which targeted the Afghan electoral process, at least 21 civilians were killed, and 50 others injured. The UN is particularly appalled by numerous incidents when AGEs have deliberately targeted civilians. On 25th July 2019, Daesh/Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) claimed a suicide attack in Kabul against a Ministry of Mine and Petroleum bus and an explosion targeting first responders. Seven civilians were killed, including six women and a three-year-old boy, with 32 others injured. On 19th July, eight civilians were killed and 36 injured when attackers focused on civilians at Kabul University. Deliberately targeting civilians or civilian objects amounts to a war crime.

UNAMA reiterates that the killing, by any party to the conflict, of persons taking no active part in hostilities is explicitly prohibited by Common Article 3 at any time and any place and may amount to a war crime. On 19 July, in Bala Murghab district, Badghis province, Pro-Government Forces conducted an airstrike that hit a residential home and resulted in the deaths of seven civilians, including three children and one woman, with three more civilians injured, including a baby. UNAMA documented an increase through July in the number of disproportionate and indiscriminate Taliban attacks in urban areas against Afghan military and security objects and personnel. These attacks caused great harm to civilians. On 1 July, Taliban claimed an attack on an Afghan Army logistics center in Kabul killing seven civilians and injuring 144 others. Taliban also claimed responsibility for the 18 July attack on a Kandahar police facility resulting in seven civilians killed and 72 others injured. In Ghazni, on 7 July, Taliban attacked a National Directorate of Security (NDS) facility resulting in 174 civilian casualties, the vast majority of whom were injured. More than 80 of the victims were children.

Other types of AGE-employed IEDs that caused significant loss of civilian life during July were victim-activated pressure-plate IEDs (PPIEDs) that are inherently indiscriminate. On 15 July, 13 civilians were killed and 40 injured, mostly women and children, when a minibus ran over a PPIED near Kandahar. On 30 July, at least 24 civilians were killed and 18 more injured when a PPIED detonated against a bus on the Kandahar-Herat highway.

Civilian casualties from operations by Pro-Government Forces (PGFs) remain at concerning levels, mainly from air and search operations, including by NDS Special Forces that are supported by International Military Forces. In Maiden Wardak overnight from 8 to 9 July, NDS special forces entered a medical clinic and interrogated health workers. NDS special forces shot and killed three civilian males, two of whom worked at the clinic and one of whom was accompanying a patient. UNAMA is deeply concerned about this incident and reminds all parties of the special protection afforded to health facilities and personnel under international humanitarian law. In addition, UNAMA reiterates that the killing, by any party to the conflict, of persons taking no active part in hostilities is explicitly prohibited by Common Article 3 at any time and any place and may amount to a war crime. On 5th July 2019, in Faryab province, Khwaja Sabz Push district, as a result of mortar round fired by ANA toward the location where the Taliban had attacked, one of the mortars landed in a civilian area in which several civilians were killed and injured, including women and children.

On 2nd July 2019 - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is appalled by the Taliban-claimed attack in a civilian-populated area of Kabul, where schools, homes, media outlets and other civilian facilities were immediately nearby. The complex attack began with the detonation of explosives and caused scores of civilian casualties, among them women and many children, and led to damage to schools and other civilian infrastructure. Preliminary figures standing at more than 100 civilian casualties, the majority of whom were injured. Among those injured were women and many children (students) media workers and other civilians. "It is particularly egregious that a premeditated act of extreme violence was conducted without regard to the safety of civilians," said Yamamoto. "UN staff were at hospitals in the immediate aftermath of the attack, and I have been deeply saddened by reports of many wounded children there, along with the photos of students clutching their schoolbooks as they are moved into ambulances."