

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the month of November, 1,683 individuals were displaced to or within the Central Region due to conflict, with the majority hosted in Kabul and Parwan provinces. Some 27,056 new IDPs in the Central Region have been recorded in 2017 as of 30 November.
- Male and female community-based focus group discussions are conducted with IDPs at various different stages of displacement to inform protection risk analysis and to support a participatory humanitarian response. The leading causes of displacement include armed conflict between and among anti-government elements (AGEs) and pro-government forces (PGF), intimidation, abduction, aerial bombardment, looting of homes and destruction of property, disappearance or killing of family members, threats of forced recruitment, and illegal taxation.
- In November, PGF conducted operations to recapture Andar district of Ghazni from AGEs, with associated clashes displacing 160 families to neighbouring villages. IDPs from Andar continue to fear further attacks by AGEs, undermining their hopes of a safe return to their place of origin.
- In Tagab district of Kapisa province, air strikes by Afghan government and international forces, and clashes between AGEs and PGF in several villages resulted in the displacement of another 600 families to neighbouring villages and the provincial centre.
- Across the Central Region, humanitarian agencies are distributing winterization assistance (cash-based and in-kind) in close coordination with ES/NFI cluster partners, Ministry of Refugees and repatriation and its departments in the provinces, and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), however, it is anticipated that freezing temperatures in coming months will contribute to a heightened risk of preventable mortality and severe hardship. For IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable families in the Kabul informal settlements (KIS), essential services including healthcare remain limited, and there is a lack of adequate shelter, sanitation, and livelihoods.

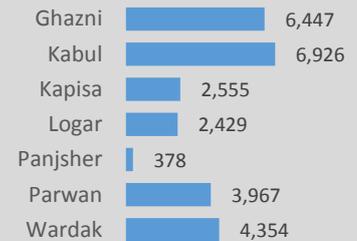


Photo 1 Winterization Assistance Distribution in Kabul, Oct 2017 / UNHCR

SITUATION OVERVIEW



27,056 new conflict-induced IDPs displaced in the Central region since January 2017



20,354 former refugees who received voluntary repatriation assistance have returned to the Central Region in 2017



28 Protection Cluster partners are currently active in Central Region:

ACTED, APA, AIHRC, CARE, Caritas, CHA, CIC, Concern, CRSDO, ORCD, DACAAR, DRC, IPSO, IR, IRC, NRC, UNOCHA, PIN, RI, SI, STC, UNAMA, UNMAS, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHH, WSTA, UNHABITAT

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GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- The Central Region, particularly Kabul, has received the highest number of former refugees (35%) returning to Afghanistan so far in 2017, and historically since 2002. The capacity of both national and provincial authorities to reintegrate former refugees, as well as undocumented returnees, and a growing number of new and protracted IDPs, is minimal. There are worrying indications of rising poverty in the Kabul Informal Settlements (KIS), contributing to street begging by children, young girls and women, over-crowded accommodation, and heightened risks of Gender Based Violence.
- The limited access to livelihoods contributes to negative coping mechanisms, such as hazardous forms of labour, child labour, and reduced school attendance among children who are working to support their families. Surveys conducted by UNHCR in 2017 indicate that returnee and IDP children are significantly less likely than children among the general population to be enrolled in school. A majority of IDPs do not expect security to improve in their places of origin in the foreseeable future.

KEY MESSAGES

- The use of improved explosive devices (IEDs) by anti-government elements (AGEs) is the leading cause of civilian casualties. In 2017, more civilian casualties have been recorded in Kabul than in any other province. Aerial bombardment in areas populated by civilians has also contributed to civilian casualties, which have increased each year for the past six years, and forced displacement. All parties to the conflict are urged to act in accordance with international humanitarian law, and to negotiate a peaceful resolution.
- The international humanitarian community, government agencies and development actors must continue to strengthen their presence in the Kabul informal settlements (KIS) and respond to protection risks, while finding durable solutions for IDPs and returnees.