

## POPULATION MOVEMENT



From 01 January to September 2019, 314,235 individuals fled their homes due to conflict in Afghanistan. 172 out of 399 districts have recorded some level of forced displacement, while 99 districts are hosting 314,235 IDPs. 58% (182,256) 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), Pul-e-Khumri (17,220) and Taloqan (46,018).



From 01 January to 30 September 2019, 6,053 refugee returnees have returned and were assisted with repatriation. A total of 16,528 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan and 371,902 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran. 7% (23,293 individuals) undocumented returned from Iran out of 371,902 individuals and 85% (14,012 individuals) undocumented from Pakistan out of 16,528 individuals were assisted by IOM during the mentioned period in 2019.

## PROTECTION CONCERNS

| REGIONS  | CONCERNS   | MITIGATION  | RECOMMENDATIONS   |
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| <b>CENTRAL</b><br>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 security incidents of IED detonations, suicide and complex attacks, threat, intimidation and harassment recorded in the region. The most large-scale incident was the SVBIED attack targeted Green Village (GV), Kabul city caused 122 civilian casualties and extensive property damage to nearby residential areas and educational centers.</li> <li>197 individuals displaced within the region.</li> <li>Limited access to employment and job market frequently reporting by PoCs.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection Cluster partners provided assistance to 31 PSN cases, including unaccompanied children, and referred 255 other cases to receive assistance.</li> <li>58 Community Base and School Management committees (CBSM) received child rights and awareness raising trainings.</li> <li>GBV awareness raising session were conducted to 1,052 individuals (boys, girls, men and women). 45 women and girls received dignity kits, survivor centered services provided to 3,518 (boys, girls, men and women), 789 (boys, girls, men and women) reached with PSS.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy with conflict parties, especially with Afghan National Security Forces, should be enhanced in order to reduce civilian casualties and property damages.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>EASTERN</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The highly unpredictable and politicized election environment continued to provoke security incidents, including intimidation harassment, planting of IEDs and targeting of civilians.</li> <li>130 security incidents were reported across the region, with 59 recorded in Nangarhar, 38 in Kunar, 23 in Laghman and 10 in Nuristan. Around 90 % of the reported incidents were directly related to the elections.</li> <li>ANSF counterinsurgency operation against AGEs provoked displacement of about 1700 families in Nangahar province, and around 1,500 people were displaced from Kunar province due to escalating clashes among NSAG to Jalalabad City.</li> <li>Several houses were destroyed and over 30 livestock were killed. A clinic in Surkhrod district was</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7,623 individuals were reached with food, relief items, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.</li> <li>Provision of emergency shelter assistance to displaced families in Nangarhar province was discussed in OCT and ESNFI meetings. It agreed to look into other modalities for shelter, including support to families through cash for rent.</li> <li>Protection partners installed emergency latrines and provided affected families with clean water through water tankers.</li> <li>Protection partners assisted 16 persons with specific needs including children at risk, elderly, single parent, widows and those suffering from chronic illness.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy with local authorities to ensure that there is a meaningful end to the ongoing clearing of military operations so that the affected families can immediately return to their places of origin and resume a normal life.</li> <li>The lack of access to education for displaced IDP children in areas of displacement. Provisional solutions are recommended to ensure continuity of education in the period of displacement such as temporary school tents. The issues have been brought to the attention of UNICEF for their dialogue with the competent authorities.</li> <li>Consider supporting displaced population currently living in makeshift accommodation in Nangahar province with</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>destroyed as result of attack by ANSF.</p>  |  | <p>Winterization assistance and cash for rent given that the imminent onset of the winter and the lack of adequate sanitation in the current areas where IDPs reside.</p>  |
| <p><b>NORTHERN</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child labor remained a major challenge amongst IDP groups in the region. This concern hinders their attendance to school and expose them to physical and health risks.</li> <li>Underage and arranged marriages repeatedly happening among IDPs due to poverty and lack of income.</li> <li>Limited access to employment and livelihood, crowded shelters and WASH facilities and poor hygiene among IDPs in the region, specifically affecting women and children.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy through NRPC with child protection actors is ongoing about child labor including UNICEF partners and Save the Children.</li> <li>Awareness raising on child marriage and to reduce and mitigated the risks through GBV SC has been planned.</li> <li>Livelihood, income generation re-integration activities have been planned by various actors.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRPC to refer and follow up the reported concerns through Cluster platform.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>NORTH EASTERN</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 killed and 60 injured during ANSF counterinsurgency operation against AGEs in Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, and 19 schools attacked by AGEs during the election process in the region</li> <li>From Jan to end of Sep a total of 49 civilian casualties recorded in the region, caused by victim-operated IEDs (VOIEDs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW)).</li> <li>IDPs in Dashti Archi district have been living in open areas, and in other areas 6-7 families living together in a single house due to high cost of house renting. Lack of privacy among IDP families in place of displacement creating protection risk.</li> <li>No proper and separated latrines for IDPs females especially for young girls and pregnant women in place of displacement in Badakhshan.</li> <li>Unavailability of education, WASH and sufficient health facilities at the places of origin exposing IDPs to further risks.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NERPC initiated advocacy through civil military coordination meeting with conflict parties, especially with Afghan National Security Forces to reduce civilians' casualties.</li> <li>596,526 square meters land cleared from ERW, 244 anti-personnel mines and 808 UXO/ERW neutralized in Baghlan and Takhar provinces. 2,049 individuals received Mine/ERW Risk Education in Kunduz and Baghlan provinces.</li> <li>Advocacy by NERPC is ongoing with WASH and shelter cluster and concern have been raised in different other forms too. The partners repaired wells and planned for digging other wells in the needed areas.</li> <li>Through NERPC advocacy at field level, DACAAR agreed to provide separate latrines and conduct hygienic awareness to IDPs in place of displacement.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further advocacy is recommending with conflicting parties, especially with Afghan National Security Forces, in order to reduce civilian casualties and property damages.</li> <li>Through NERPC advocacy with relevant humanitarian agencies for establishing skilled/vocational trainings and livelihood facilities for IDP, Refugee returnee and extremely vulnerable host community members in place of displacement.</li> <li>NERPC to advocate with health, WASH and education actors for extending their services in affected areas.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>SOUTH</b></p>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing armed conflict continually affecting civilian's lives in the region, particularly killing and maiming of children due to IEDs and UXOs, and child recruitment by armed groups remained a major concern.</li> <li>Child marriage- young girls to old men- for exchange of money- which constituting and ending up with domestic violence as well.</li> <li>Pregnant women do not have access to proper medical services due to unviability, particularly during the</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of the situation and reporting of the incidents through MRM program by UNICEF and UNAMA HRU is ongoing, including provision of support through CPAN.</li> <li>Advocacy and awareness raising programs by GBV partners is ongoing in the most afflicted areas.</li> <li>SRPC following up the issue with relevant GoV. Departments and health clusters.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRPC members to enhance; situation's monitoring, UNAMA to advocate with conflict involved parties, MRM to establish CPUs at the ANP provincial recruitment centers.</li> <li>SRPC and APC to advocate for additional livelihood opportunities and income generation programs particularly targeting women and to mitigate the GBV risks.</li> <li>GoV. and humanitarian actors to create more job</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>evening hours in remote areas, as well as cultural barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to limited job opportunities qualified youths fleeing region to other countries or choosing illegal way of obtaining income.</li> <li>Despite that the GBV intervention is ongoing in the region the communities are unwilling to report the cases and most of the events remaining undisclosed.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing activities for responding to the situation include; CPM, livelihood and vocational training projects by the PC members and other clusters, however it is not enough due to the existence of huge needs.</li> <li>Advocacy is ongoing by SRPC including awareness programs by the GBV sub-cluster members.</li> </ul>   | <p>opportunities, enhance equal access to resources and provide social welfare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRPC and APC to advocate for further GBV awareness raising programs to cover men, women, boys and girls, community elders are recommended. Increasing child protection activities in affected areas, particularly CFSS.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>WESTERN</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local government do not have clear plan for the drought affected IDPs who might choose to stay in displacement.</li> <li>128 IDP families are exposed to forced eviction, Herat province, Kahdestan settlement.</li> <li>large scale employment of negative coping mechanisms within the drought-related IDP population – including cases of child marriage and begging in Hirat province and Badghis provinces.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>189 PSN cases referred to different cluster partners for assistance.</li> <li>WRPC partners conducted 49 PSS sessions to drought affected IDPs in Herat province.</li> <li>CPIE sub cluster partners conducted child protection assessment and identified 8,906 most at-risk children, although child protection agencies at the ground have been providing assistance but it not enough.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated package and prioritization of assistance from humanitarian actors.</li> <li>Rapid linkages to livelihoods actors and projects, in order to mitigate the employment of negative coping mechanisms.</li> </ul>  |

## PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Insecurity and conflict related violence continued to have a negative impact on the people countrywide. During the reporting period, Central region recorded the highest number of civilian casualties, followed by southern and eastern regions. Suicide and complex attacks, ground engagements and aerial operations were the leading causes of civilian casualties.

### CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CAST THEIR VOTE IN SAFETY AND TO EXPECT CREDIBLE ELECTIONS:

In a press statement issued on 25 September, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, urged all stakeholders to play their part in creating conditions for citizens to vote in safety and for the credibility of the electoral process to be safeguarded. He further stressed that perpetrators of such crimes must be held accountable and urged the Taliban to retract any instructions which could disrupt elections. UNAMA praised the work performed by the security forces in supporting the elections, safeguarding the distribution of sensitive election materials and ensuring the security of the polling locations on and before election day so that all Afghans, including women, can participate. The members of the Security Council in a statement issued on 02 Oct, also appreciated the courage of Afghan voters, poll workers, election observers and security forces, who made the 28 September presidential election possible despite technical challenges and security threats; also condemned the actions of those who attempted to disrupt the elections, such as attacks against civilians, including election personnel and candidates, and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of the attacks.

### UN: EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO DEFEND CITIZENS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE:

In a press statement issued on 16 September 2019, UNAMA recognized the efforts of the Afghan electoral authorities, as well as security forces and others, in preparing 28 September presidential elections under challenging circumstances. "An emphatic message from delegates at UN Security Council session on Afghanistan was that the international community fully supports presidential elections taking place on 28 September," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. He further added that, the credibility of any election is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, not solely that of the IEC and ECC. Candidates, civil society organizations, media, ulema and others have important roles to perform, not least in looking to mobilize the electorate in exercising their democratic right to cast their ballot on 28 September. No one has the authority to disenfranchise Afghans who are registered to vote. UNAMA is committed to doing all within its mandated authority to support the IEC and ECC in the conduct of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned election that is credible, transparent and inclusive.

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

In a press statement issued on 26 September, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA and also member of Security Council by continuing high number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan and reiterates that all parties to the conflict must do their utmost to protect civilians from harm. The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of Afghanistan and they wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured.

On 19 September, 25 civilians were killed and 93 injured in a Taliban-claimed attack in Zabol. The disproportionate and indiscriminate truck bomb caused extensive damage to a nearby hospital with terrible harm to health workers and patients inside. On 17 September, the Taliban claimed

responsibility for a suicide attack in Parwan at the site of an election rally. Thirty civilians were killed in the attack and 51 were injured. Multiple credible reports indicated high numbers of civilians were killed and injured when the United States military carried out airstrikes on 19 September in Nangarhar and on 22 September in Helmand. In Nangarhar, UNAMA's preliminary findings indicated that, the airstrikes killed at least 16 civilians and injured 12 others. In Helmand, United States and Afghan forces conducted a ground operation, supported by US airstrikes, with preliminary findings indicated that at least 20 civilians were killed and injured, mainly women and children. In a press statement issued on 25 September, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, stressed that the election is a civilian undertaking. He highlighted that, attacks directed against polling centers and civilians participating in the electoral process are clear violations of international law and may amount to war crimes.

In the campaign period, there have been increased reports of intimidation of eligible voters by insurgents threatening retaliation for persons involving themselves in the election. On 24 September, three civilians were killed in Kandahar when an improvised explosive device detonated at an election office of President Ghani. A journalist working for the local Hewad TV station was killed, as were two children. On 28 September 2019, Taliban fired a mortar round on a polling center (Jama Mosque) Sozma district, Sar-e-Pul province, several civilians were killed and injured, including women and children.

On 28 September 2019, on the border between PD1 and PD4, Shah Bazar, Kandahar province, an RCIED exploded near to the mosque and Ahmad Shah Ba Ba Madrassah polling center in which injured several civilians including members of IEC and ECC.

#### **ENDING THE CONFLICT AND HARM TO CIVILIANS THE FOCUS OF A GARDEZ RADIO DISCUSSION:**

Participants of an UN-backed radio programme in the southeastern province of Paktya have called for urgent measures to end the conflict which has caused tens of thousands of civilian casualties. Organized by UNAMA regional office in Gardez works with various institutions and individuals, including media stations, religious leaders, provincial councils, community leaders, youth groups and women to create platforms using radio, social media, and television for Afghans to engage in dialogue on pressing issues affecting their communities.