



Naw Abad IDP site, discussion with IDPs, Herat city

HIGHLIGHTS

- In May 2017 there were no reports of major displacement, although displacement did occur and cases reported through OCT teams were assessed and assisted following the verification. There is a very slight increase of individual IDPs verified compared to the trends reported in April 2017 (1,790 families or 11,922 Individuals) of which only 418 families (2,908 individuals) were verified and assessed as genuine IDPs.
- Security situation remains tense in some parts of the region, limiting humanitarian access mostly to the provincial and district centres with the exception of districts of Fersi, Shindandand, Adraskan, Cheste Sharif in Herat province, Bala Bluk, Qala Kah, Gulistan and Purchaman in Farah province, Bala Murgab, Javand and newly difficult to access district of Qades in Badghis province.
- To address access constraints in Western region OCHA recently re-activated Humanitarian Access WG to meet monthly to discuss policies and evaluate the reported incidents.
- In May 48 IDP families of Now Abad site in the Herat city were asked by the authorities to vacate the site within a week. Advocacy initiatives of the PC and OCHA were successful and temporarily halted the eviction.

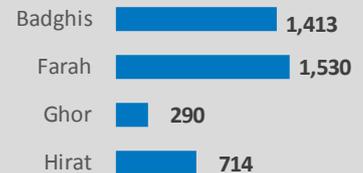
GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Humanitarian access is limiting provision of services to affected populations in western region, especially when displacement happens in the insecure and AGE controlled areas.
- As at the end of May 2017, due to lack of budget UNMAS Physical rehabilitation centre (PRC) was closed in Farah city. This centre provided physiotherapy, limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation services and community awareness for more than 25 individuals daily covering Farah and Nimroz provinces. The discontinuation of PRC in Farah will hugely affect the local population and limit their access and eventually force them to travel a greater distance to access the PRC in Herat province.
- Out of the 2,618 schools registered with the Departments of education in the western region 101 are reportedly closed (40 schools in Farah province alone) affecting some 7,400 students. This is a major protection concern to be followed by the EiE WG.
- 87% men and 21% women among IDPs were found to possess Tazkira ([NRC study](#)). Lack of valid civil documentation among IDPs prevents them from accessing basic services including education, legal, health and employment. Civil documents include national identity documents such as birth, marriage, death certificates, identity card or Tazkira and passport. People with no civil documents are unable to exercise their rights to access land, to pursue legal remedies via statutory justice system or to vote. Therefore, lack of civil documents results in further obstacles to achieving durable solutions. Most affected IDP community members are women and girls.
- Following the closure of Islam Qala border crossing point deportation from Iran continues to take place thorough Milak in Nimroz. There is limited presence of humanitarian actors and facilities at Milak border crossing point exposes deportees to further protection risks.
- Although the Herat provincial action plan for the implementation of the National IDP policy was developed in 2016, yet no major progress on durable solutions and PAP implementation has taken place by the provincial authorities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



2,947 internally displaced in May 2017 (**11,329** IDPs in 2017)



133 registered refugees returned in May (**597** in 2017)

466 undocumented returnees returned (**2,914** in 2017)



50,656 protracted IDPs (2014-2016) in the Western region



21 protection cluster partners active:

AHRC, ARAA, CHA, CRDSA, CRS, DRC, HELP, HI, IMC, IOM, IRC, NRC, UNAMA, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNOCHA, VOW, WASSA

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KEY MESSAGES

- APC to advocate for the opening of the Islam Qala border crossing point
- The APC to continue its advocacy on access of humanitarian assistance to affected population in insecure areas
- APC to advocate with donors for the extension of the PRC contract with UNMAS in Farah
- APC and HLP TF to advocate with ARAZI for the durable solution of the affected IDP families in Naw Abad
- The Durable solutions WG at national level to follow up on the implementation of the Herat PAP