



Tagab IDPs informal settlement in PD 12, Kabul city

HIGHLIGHTS

- During April and May, there have been three waves of conflict-induced displacement from Khas Uruzgan district of Uruzgan province to Ghazni province. In Jaghuri district, 166 IDP families arrived in the month of May, after 269 families arrived in the month of April; another 52 families displaced from the same area arrived in Ghazni provincial centre, and 122 families reportedly arrived in Malistan district. Given the ongoing armed conflict between ANSF and NSAG in Khas Uruzgan, it is anticipated that substantial displacements will continue over the coming weeks.
- Jaghuri and Malistan districts are hard to reach due to the mountainous terrain, and insecurity associated with the presence of non-state armed groups; however, ERM partners reached Jaghuri by a chartered flight to assess and respond to immediate humanitarian needs with cash assistance, reducing the vulnerability of IDPs and affected host communities and supporting early recovery. Another joint assessment is planned in Malistan in the first week of July, once a chartered flight can be organised.
- Air-strikes in Logar and Kapisa provinces have contributed to an increase in the number of civilian casualties. Advocacy is required at national level for the protection of civilians in areas outside of government control which may be targeted by the Afghan Air Force.
- CRPC partners had an initial meeting with the Kabul Governor's office regarding the preparation of a Provincial Action Plan and committee to implement national IDP policy.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- UNMAS is yet to receive funding to continue MRE activities at Encashment Centers, which could adversely impact on children at risk of being injured or killed by mines and remnants of war/UXO. An appeal for emergency funds from the CHF has been made to ensure continuity of the programme until December. Partners observed the need for predictable funding and early planning for 2018, given the critical importance of MRE to reducing civilian casualties, particularly among children.
- UNHCR has observed significant GBV risks in Kabul informal settlements (KIS), where there is a minimal presence of humanitarian agencies, a lack of consolidated data to inform a protection response, and indications of rising poverty leading to street begging by children, young girls and women. GBV sub-cluster and CPAN have been alerted to the concerns and the need for a joint assessment to support appropriate interventions.
- Kabul province has received the highest number of returnees in 2017, and historically since 2002. Its capacity to absorb and reintegrate refugees returning to Afghanistan, as well as IDPs from other provinces, is minimal. IDPs and returnees are mostly settling in the outskirts of the capital (eg. PD 21, Bagrami, PD 8, PD 12, PD 16) where basic services are lacking. Sustainable development programmes are essential to meet the needs of the affected population for WASH, health care, and shelter (housing and land).

KEY MESSAGES

- Access to hard to reach areas hosting IDPs, including Jaghuri and Malistan districts in Ghazni province, depends essentially on chartered flights, which is costly but necessary to facilitate joint assessments and delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Enhanced civil-military coordination is needed to provide a timely response to internal displacement from Uruzgan province, to minimise the use of airstrikes in areas populated by civilians in Logar and Kapisa provinces, and to mitigate risks of civilian casualties (eg. by early warnings, and avoidance of protected objects in accordance with international humanitarian law).
- The international humanitarian community, government agencies and development actors must strengthen their presence in Kabul informal settlements (KIS) and develop a coordinated response to the increasing protection risks, and find durable solutions for IDPs and returnees hosted in these locations.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



1,624 internally displaced in May 2017
(**11,594** in 2017)



9,197 registered refugees returned in May (**13,765** in 2017)

6,471 undocumented returnees returned



92,704 protracted IDPs (2014-2016) in the Central region



25 protection cluster partners active:

ACTED, AIHRC, CARE, Caritas, CHA, CIC, Concern, CRSDO, DACAAR, DRC, IPSO, IR, IRC, NRC, OCHA, PIN, RI, Solidarités International, STC, UNAMA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHH, WSTA

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