



Damaged houses and houses in Sarchakhlo village, Tirinkot city, Uruzgan province

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sporadic confrontations between ANSF and AGE have led to some 3,795 people displaced in May 2017 in Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.
- Tense security situation in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul, including military operations and ongoing ground engagements led to the increase in civilian casualties and triggered more internal displacement. There is a threat of Tirinkot city falling under control of AGEs.
- Generally, only district centers are under control of the government, while the rest of the communities remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to insecurity.
- Indiscriminate use of weaponry by both parties to the conflict led reportedly to a minimum of 250 civilian casualties in Tirinkot (60 deaths and 190 injuries); approximately 2,500 houses were destroyed since September 2016.
- Child recruitment by both parties to the conflict and sexual abuse and harassment of boys by security forces is amongst key protection concerns reported in the region.
- The market in Tirinkot city does not have capacity to supply food, NFIs and agricultural products limiting access of the civilian population to the goods.
- As result of the displacement, negative coping mechanisms of reduced food consumption, begging and child labour are reported among the displaced people. Psychological trauma is high due to the effects of the fighting, displacement and the constant threat of Tirinkot falling under the control of AGEs.
- Families cannot return home as their shelter and crops have been destroyed, assets have been looted, houses have been used as bases by AGEs and the areas are contaminated with mines.
- People are at constant risk of injury or death due to blind firing and landmines, there are cases of illegal taxation, IDPs forced to re-build houses for local authorities and families subject to harassment.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Access remains a primary challenge undermining assessments and response in hard-to-reach areas (i.e. recently displaced people in Nad Ali district of Hilmand province remain non accessible due to active conflict). There are few humanitarian agencies in Tirinkot City with little capacity to scale up - lack of emergency stockpiling has led to overreliance on Kandahar – road blocks are common.
- Interference by local authorities and community representatives in the petition process and distribution of assistance continues: preference given to members of own tribes.
- There is a gap in knowledge of the needs of the affected population in areas that are hard to reach or where the fighting is ongoing. Joint assessments and distribution is undertaken when new displacement is identified, however assistance is limited to areas in Tirinkot City which are accessible.
- There is a lack of telecommunication and internet in many areas (esp. in Uruzgan), limiting communication and dissemination of information.
- There is a lack of humanitarian actors across all sectors with the main assistance needs being protection (mine risk education and clearing, education, psycho-social support, child protection) and other sectors (food, NFIs, safe drinking water, health, WASH).

SITUATION OVERVIEW



3,795 internally displaced in May 2017 (29,781 IDPs in 2017)

Helmand	-
Kandahar	2,521
Nimroz	-
Uruzgan	345
Zabul	929



93 registered refugees returned in May (668 in 2017)

1,138 undocumented returnees returned in May (10,170 in 2017)



105,941 protracted IDPs (2014-2016) in the Southern region



16 protection cluster partners active:

APA, HAPA, HRDA, InterSOS, IOM, IRC, MC, Medair, NRC, OCHA, OHW, SHAO, UNAMA, UNHCR, UNMAS, WHO

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KEY MESSAGES

- More robust GBV coordination is required in the region, to enhance the case management, needs identification and response as well as advocacy for resource mobilization to cover the gaps.
- Child recruitment remains a serious issue in the southern provinces: high level advocacy for solutions is required.
- Measures to improve access in the field need to be taken
- Standard approach to the IDP petition system and IDP assessment by the humanitarian actors