

MAY 2017 – EASTERN REGION UPDATE

AFGHANISTAN PROTECTION CLUSTER



HIGHLIGHTS

- In May 2017, the return trend continued to be low with an average 171 refugee returnees and 572 undocumented returnees per day approaching UNHCR and IOM for assistance.
- In Laghman, displacement of civilians occurred in Alishang and Alingar districts to Mihtarlam following clashes between the government and Taliban which are still ongoing.
- IDPs remain in inaccessible areas such as parts of Khogyani, Chaparhar, Pachir Agam districts in Nangarhar and Alishang and Alingar districts in Laghman province. OCHA is coordinating with Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) to see the possibility for carrying out assessment in these inaccessible areas.
- Under the auspices of the national displacement and return executive committee (DiREC),
 UNHCR led the process of establishing the provincial level committee (P-DiREC) in coordination with relevant stakeholders under leadership of the Provincial Governor.
- The interagency protection community assessment was carried out:
 - From 1st to 24th May 2017
 - By 18 protection cluster partners (APA, IRC, NRC, RSSAO, TABISH, Terres des hommes, UNHCR, CPAM-UNICEF, IMC, AIESO, PU-AMI, IOM, NPO-RRA, SCI, ACTED, relief International, NCRO);
 - In 113 villages of high returns and displacement in three provinces of Eastern region.
 - To identify the main protection risks faced by population of concern

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

- Access to humanitarian assistance is a challenge to newly displaced population in some parts of Chaparhar of Nangarhar, and in Alingar and Alishang of Laghman where the clashes are still ongoing. Those areas are not accessible to humanitarian organizations.
- Since the fighting started between the Taliban and IS-K, civilians have been fleeing or attempting to flee parts of Khogiyani where hostilities are taking place. AGEs have established check points along the escape routes, while civilians are not allowed to take their luggage/livestock. There are reports of the illegal taxation on the side of AGEs and recruitment.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



1,876 internally displaced in May 2017 (**14,826** IDPs in 2017)

Nangarhar 110

lunar -

1,766

Nuristan -

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4,680 registered refugees returned in May (8,204 in 2017) 10,136 undocumented returnees returned in May (32,299 in 2017)



44,832 protracted IDPs (2014-2016) in the Eastern region



25 protection cluster partners active:

AHEAD/OXFAM, AIHRC, APA, DRC, HEWAD, IMC, IOM, IRC, NCRO, NPORRA, NRC, OHW, PU-AMI, RI, RSSAO, SCI, TABISH, TDH, UNAMA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, UNOCHA, WAW, WCC

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- Rate of rejections for assistance after IDPs assessment remains high (63.1%); UNOCHA has been working closely with DoRR Nangarhar to ensure pre-screening of the petitions is taking place. So far, there were numerous challenges in carrying out pre-screening of the petitions from different districts.
- Since last year, as a result of conflict some 27 schools are still closed in the Eastern region

KEY MESSAGES

 To initiate revision of DoRR petition system and harmonize criteria that define IDPs that are assessed by partners.

- To advocate for respect to safe humanitarian passage of civilians by all parties to the conflict
- To advocate for respect of humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.