



## AFGHANISTAN PROTECTION CLUSTER

# Protection Overview (Northern and North-Eastern Region - 2010)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, both the Northern Region (NR<sup>1</sup>) and the North-Eastern Region (NER<sup>2</sup>) were considered as secure, affected only by frequent but geographically limited inter-ethnic tensions. Some of which, resulted in displacement triggered by persecution and/ or intimidation. In 2010, however, the region has been progressively affected by the turmoil of direct hostilities between Anti Government Elements (AGE) and Pro-Government Forces (PGF).

The trend of spread of hostilities to the NR/ NER has a direct impact on protection of civilians and their diminishing access to humanitarian support. Over 2010, some AGE elements considered as “cadres” were reportedly dispatched from the South of Afghanistan to the North<sup>3</sup>. Where previously the upsurge of fighting was focused in the South and South East, insurgent activity and international military operations are now affecting large and peaceful areas in the NR/ NER.

Ordinary Afghan civilians are paying a heavy price for the conflict across the North with increase in civilian deaths and injuries and compounded by a resultant lack of access to assistance. Aid workers and NGOs continue to be targeted and access to and by affected populations is becoming increasingly difficult as humanitarian space continues to shrink. The conflict spread and intensity has impacted civilian populations in several ways including forced displacement; damage and destruction to property; loss of livelihoods; lack of access to essential services of health care, education and food etc.,. Displaced populations remain extremely vulnerable, and with large and urgent protection needs which risk being unmet due to ongoing insecurity and violence restricting the humanitarian community from reaching those affected.

#### ***<sup>4</sup>Number of individuals living in the 9 Provinces of the NR/ NER (in thousands)***

Province	Male	Female	Total in individuals
Badakhshan	443.8	440.9	884.7
Badghis	282.4	239.7	522.1
Baghlan	412.4	407.0	819.5
Balkh	585.3	596.3	1,181.6
Faryab	498.2	456.0	954.2
Jawzjan	236.4	240.2	476.5
Samangan	179.0	166.0	345.0
Sar-E-Pul	262.0	252.6	514.5
Takhar	477.4	452.5	930.0
Kunduz	209.2	207.8	417.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3586.1 individuals</b>	<b>3459 individuals</b>	<b>7045.1 individuals</b>

<sup>1</sup> The generic NR (Northern Region) terminology used throughout this document refers to the region which comprises the 5 northern provinces of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, and Sar-E-Pul.

<sup>2</sup> The generic NER (North-Eastern Region) terminology used throughout this document refers to the region which comprises the 4 northern-eastern provinces, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar.

<sup>3</sup> See The Northern Front, the Afghan Insurgency beyond the Pashtuns, Afghan Analysts Network, Antonio Giustozi and Christoph Reuter, June 2010. “Steadily, over years, and withstanding their initial failures, the Taleban leadership has established areas of local dominance by sending cadres to different parts of the north. Their attempt to reach out to areas without a Pashtun Majority can be observed by their appointment of ‘shadow governors’ even for those areas like the Panjshir Valley or Badakhshan which they did not govern under the Islamic Emirate. Another factor highlighting how keen the Taleban are on the Greater North is the dispatch of trained cadres from areas such as Helmand where fighting is much more intense.”, p.3 <http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=848>

<sup>4</sup> National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008, <http://nrva.cso.gov.af/population.html>

## 1. Security Situation

2010 was characterised by gradual deterioration of security in the NR/NER, and this trend continues.

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) supported by International Military (IM) conducted large operations in four provinces of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Sare Pul in the NR and in three provinces in the NER including Kunduz, Takhar and Baghlan. An offensive launched by the IM and the ANSF in Qaisar and Ghormach districts of Faryab province in late January 2011, particularly, air strikes, have affected large populated areas and caused displacements in the North-West. An estimated 1,350 families (over 8,000 individuals) are reportedly displaced.

Military authorities in Maimana indicate an intensification of operations in the near future and an increase in the deployment of Special Forces to Faryab.

### Faryab province – Security Assessment

Between 2004 and 2007, Faryab was relatively secure, which was conducive to development and reconstruction activities. The security steadily deteriorated from mid-2007 onwards. From 2006 onwards, the AGEs consolidated their activities in Faryab among both Pashtun and non-Pashtun populations. Recently, in 2010-2011, AGE presence is being felt in wider areas, and closer to population centers. In many districts, insurgents are able to move about in large groups during daylight hours. AGE activity has crept closer to population centers along the main ring road in Shirin Tagab and Dawlatabad. In 2010, AGEs have made incursions to previously unaffected areas such as southern Pashtun Kot and Kohistan. While the main target of AGE attacks focus on ANSF/IM, attacks on influential elders/commanders, abduction of government and civilian workers, taxation of local populations are spreading. Areas with regular reports of AGE activity include Ghormach, Qaisar, Almar, Pashtun Kot, Shirin Tagab, Dawlatabad, Bilcharagh districts. Faryab already has recent records of two suicide attacks in Shirin Tagab. The GoA is trying the practice of deploying local militia, arbaki, on the areas cleared from AGEs by ANSF/IM operations. However the effectiveness of them remains questionable due to their loose structure and poor sense of discipline.

*Winning Hearts and Minds? Examining the Relationship between Aid and Security in Afghanistan's Faryab Province, Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University, January 2011 p.23*

Increased insecurity on the main roads significantly decreased UN access to areas West of Mazare Sharif by the end of 2010. On 25 November, a UNAMA road mission came under fire in Chintal district, Balkh province and was followed by a joint ANSF/ IM operations in Chintal, Char Bolak and Balkh districts, (Operation “Ebtekar”). Although the operation was large, AGEs are reported to have since returned to the area. Similar military operations are in progress in Darzab and Qush Tepa districts. In order to obtain control over these areas, deployment of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and “Arbaki” (local militias units) was initiated by the Government.

In NER, security forces are conducting military operations covering the areas of Kunduz and Baghlan. Operation “Nawruz” was one of these in January-February 2011. Both in the NR and the NER, the AGEs are reported to be avoiding direct fighting, leaving the area to later return, following the withdrawal of security forces as in the case of Char Dara district of Kunduz Province. Local militias “Arbaki” supported by the State are reportedly expanding in the region.

The presence of AGE and the “Arbakis” further undermine state authority and that of the local Shuras. These mechanisms have been noted to have diminished in AGE controlled areas (Jawzjan, Balkh and Sare Pul districts), where AGE courts, often together with “Arbaki” groups, enforce laws, resolve disputes and mediate on property, family, and criminal cases.

## 2. Propensity to Natural Disasters

The NR and NER are prone to natural disasters, which are often related to seasonal changes. These include land slides, floods and minor earthquakes. While ANDMA through PDMCs respond to natural disaster affected populations, data management on the subject has been erratic. This is further confounded due to displacement of affected families to outside the region. The

affected communities usually tend to return to their places of origin, as soon as the immediate impact of the disaster is reduced.

A norm noticed in the NR/NER is that the displacement of such natural disaster affected families is for a few hours, or one or two days to neighboring villages or safer areas within the village. IOM's experience in the course of implementing emergency response projects to those affected by natural disasters, only cases of land/ mountain slides result in longer term displacements. This sort of disaster usually makes the area inhabitable either permanently or at least for a long period of time. A common protection concern among natural disaster induced-displacements in remote and mountainous terrains has been access to education and emergency health facilities as well as lack of livelihood/ employment which makes them further vulnerable.

## II. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

2010 registered the highest number of civilian casualties in the NR/ NER since 2003. Casualties spiked during the election period and began to increase in June 2010. The number of civilian casualties in the NR/ NER has steadily increased in 2010 compared to 2009 with a 76% increase<sup>5</sup>.

### *Civilian Casualties in 2010*

Region	AGE	PGF	Undetermined	Total
NER	118	32	17	167
NR	112	6	23	141
<b>Total</b>	230	38	40	308

### 1. Casualties resulting from Anti- Government Element (AGE) Activity<sup>6</sup>

IEDs constitute a prominent method of war against IM/ ANA, however that leads to the highest number of civilian casualties especially seen during the elections and in Faryab district. While IEDs usually do not directly target civilians, their impact on civilians is extremely severe and results in civilians bearing the brunt of the indiscriminate act. Respectively 57 and 52 civilians died in the NR and in the NER in September due to IEDs<sup>7</sup>. In 2010, 51 civilians were killed and 78 injured by IEDs in Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan districts<sup>8</sup>. AGE also targeted IM convoys with IEDs, resulting in civilian casualties. Targeted assassinations through the use of IEDs and suicide attacks occurred during the year. IEDs, mainly remote-controlled, were placed on motorbikes and rickshaws and targeted government officials.

i. Assassinations - The NR/ NER have seen an increase in selective assassination of high profile individuals. These are conducted with IEDs or with regular weapons. The targets were mainly government officials or community elders seen to be supportive of the government or the elections process. The most high-profile officials to be killed were the Governor of Kunduz and the Deputy Governor of Ghazni. The Governor died when a Body Borne Improvised Explosive Device (BBIED) detonated inside a mosque in Taloqan city centre, Takhar province. 12 civilians were also killed, including 2 children, and at least 36 others, were injured<sup>9</sup>. In March 2011, the Commander of police with 4 other policemen along with 36 civilians were killed by a BBIED.

ii. Check Points – In 2010, AGEs regularly resorted to establishing road blocks and check points on the main roads although these decreased after Operation “Ebtakar” in Chimal, Char Bolak and

<sup>5</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 & MONUSCO Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2009

<sup>6</sup> Inputs on civilian casualties is provided by UNAMA HR/ AIHRC. For further details please see the Protection of Civilian Report for 2010 : <http://unama.unmissions.org/Portals/UNAMA/human%20rights/March%20PoC%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 p. 6

<sup>8</sup> Figures from UNAMA Mazare Sharif

<sup>9</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 p. 13

Balkh districts. The main targets were government officials as well as ANA and ANP personnel who would be forcibly removed from vehicles, searched with ID cards checked to segregate government employees. The checkpoints severely restrict people's freedom of movement without fear or harassment. In some cases where military operations were underway, restrictions of movement blocked people's access to urgent medical treatment"<sup>10</sup>.

iii. Abductions - The NR registered 43 individuals abducted in July 2010 reportedly by AGEs. During the month, 26 were later released through the mediation of elders or because of payment of ransom. The fate of 17 others is unknown<sup>11</sup>.

## **2. Casualties resulting from Recent Pro-Government Force (PGF) Actions**

Two distinct forms of PGF activities contribute to greater civilian casualties and these are air strikes and night raids. Reportedly these activities are conducted by ISAF in collaboration with ANSF. The use of air strikes is alarming as so far it has caused much fear and disruption in Faryab in particular leading to displacement of civilians. A critical challenge for UNAMA HR and AIHRC in dealing with ISAF in the NR is that the Special Forces units, which are embedded in RC-North, function independently of ISAF. This is a major dilemma as it makes it almost impossible to pin down accountability.

i. Tala Wa Barfak district, Baghlan province - IMF reportedly conducted an investigation into an air strike on 22 August 2010 in Tala Wa Barfak district in Baghlan province that caused 6 civilian deaths and 4 injuries. Reportedly, the strike was not coordinated with the authorities in Baghlan. It is also reported that although the investigation team was sent from RC North on numerous occasions, it received minimal cooperation from district authorities as the team was unable to interview victims, visit grave sites and the incident site. It is reported that the official ISAF investigation report has not been shared with district and provincial authorities, the AIHRC or UNAMA Human Rights in spite of requests. COMISAF must ensure that Tactical Directives are fully implemented through, among other means, creation of one central body that monitors, investigates and publicly reports on all incidents of civilian casualties. Such a process would support both appropriate follow up with victims including compensation and disciplinary action against those found responsible for violations<sup>12</sup>.

ii. Aerial Attack and Air Strikes in Kunduz Province<sup>13</sup>- Aerial attacks and night raids resulted in the killing and arrest of civilians. Several night raids occurred in Imam Sahib district, Kunduz province in January 2010. Further, a night raid allegedly carried out by US Special Forces and ANSF in Kunduz city, resulted in the arrest of five persons, including two minors. One minor was released two days later, but the other child reportedly remains in US custody. The provincial authorities have claimed that they were not aware of the raid or the location of the detainees and it appears that no contact forms were left with the relatives as stipulated in the December Tactical Directive on night raids. The raids have resulted in several demonstrations by civilians seeking the release of those arrested including two children, aged 10 and 12 years. On 2 September 2010, a Parliamentary Convoy faced attack in Rustaq District, Takhar Province by an IMF aerial action which led to the death of ten persons and two injured.

iii. Faryab Aerial attacks - Following a military offensive launched by ISAF and the ANSF in Faryab province in late January 2011, the populations of Khoja Kinti, Jawzak, Chikhtai, Ishaqzai, Jafari, Wakil Jalat, Qauchin Afghania, Kochghar, Afghania and Uruktu villages (Qaisar district) and Toor Jahr, and Nagarkhona, Khwaja Langari villages (Ghormach districts) were affected. An

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<sup>10</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 p. 3

<sup>11</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 p. 17

<sup>12</sup> UNAMA, Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010 p. 27

<sup>13</sup> UNAMA contribution to the February APC minutes

estimated 1,350 families (over 8,000 individuals) have fled largely to adjacent areas including to Maimana, the provincial capital<sup>14</sup>. The region had seen previous displacement of small numbers fleeing persecution and/ or intimidation, however since the air attacks in January, displacements have occurred on a larger scale. As the operations were expected to intensify, prospects of return of IDPs remain thin for now. Assistance and protection responses were coordinated by UNHCR with humanitarian actors on the ground. The impact on the local populations who may not have had the ability to flee remains unascertained due to the lack of humanitarian access in the places impacted by aerial attacks.

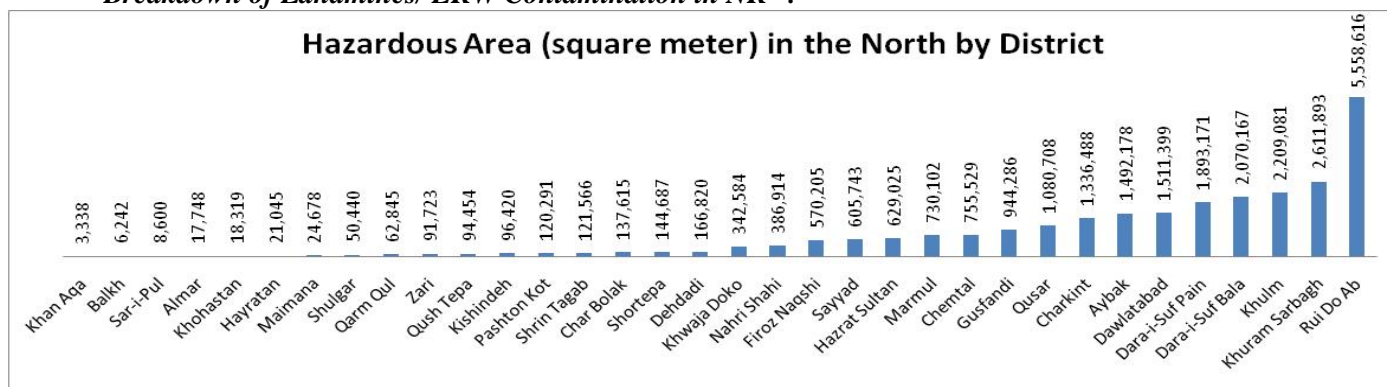
### 3. Landmines & Explosive Remnants of War in the NR and NER

#### A. Northern Region

According to the national data base of Mine Action managed by the MACCA, 205 communities in the NR (out of a total of 2912 communities in the 55 districts) are contaminated by land mine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs), affecting more than 677 hazardous areas with a total size of 25.9 sq km of contaminated land. In 2010, 7% of the victims of landmines and ERW were from the five NR provinces with Balkh and Samangan provinces being among the most heavily contaminated provinces (representing around 8% of the country's contaminated). **Land mines and ERW** also highly contaminate the East district of Balkh province and South side of Samangan province (Dar-i-Suf Bala, Dar-i-Suf Payin, Khuram Wa Sarbagh and Rui Do Ab districts) down through Khuram Wa Sarbagh and Dar-i-Suf districts.

MACCA and its partners are engaged in clearing the NR from landmine and ERWs. 19.6 Km<sup>2</sup> of minefield and 154.6 Km<sup>2</sup> of battlefield have been cleared since 2002, and it is considered that 20 districts are now free of landmines/ ERW, while 600 communities searched for ERW. It is estimated that 27,000 Anti Personal Mines (APM), 1580 Anti Vehicle Mines (ATM) and 2.6 million Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) have been eliminated. In addition, more than 1 million people adults/ youth, female and male have received mine risk education. As a consequence, the number of victims caused by landmine/ ERW has dropped by 60%. However, despite these continuing efforts landmines/ ERW still severely impact on the lives and the livelihood of the people in the NR and cause injuries to 4 persons every month.

#### *Breakdown of Landmines/ ERW Contamination in NR<sup>15</sup>.*



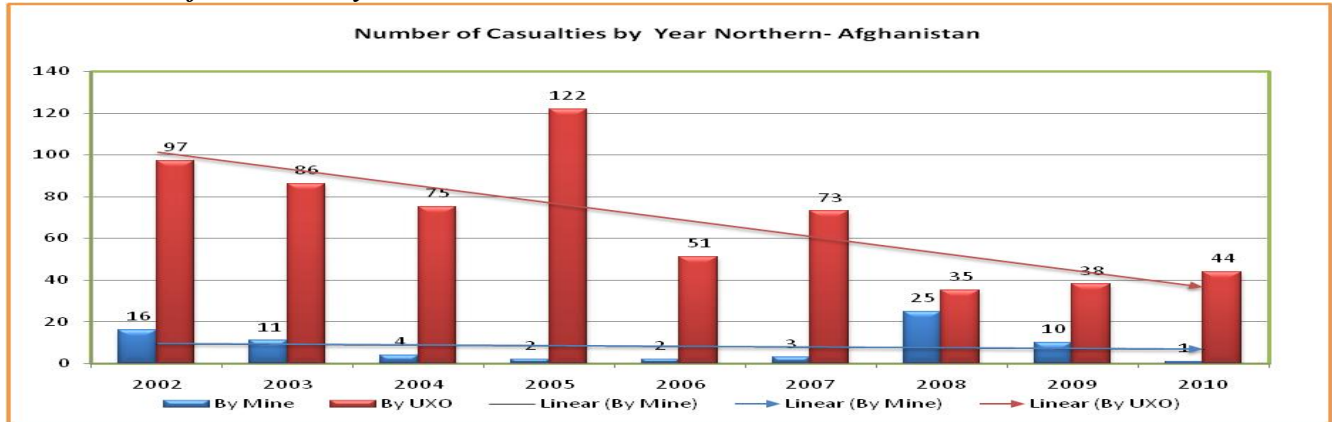
**Victims:** Although nationally the rate of casualties caused by mine and ERW has dropped significantly in the last ten years, the NR has seen this number fluctuating between 2002 and 2007 (with a peak in 2005) and increasing 2009 and 2010. 45 land mines and ERW casualties

<sup>14</sup> For further information on Internal Displacement please see Section III

<sup>15</sup> MACCA database, Northern Region

were recorded by the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA) in 2010 in Northern region of Afghanistan. These figures *exclude* casualties caused by IEDs.

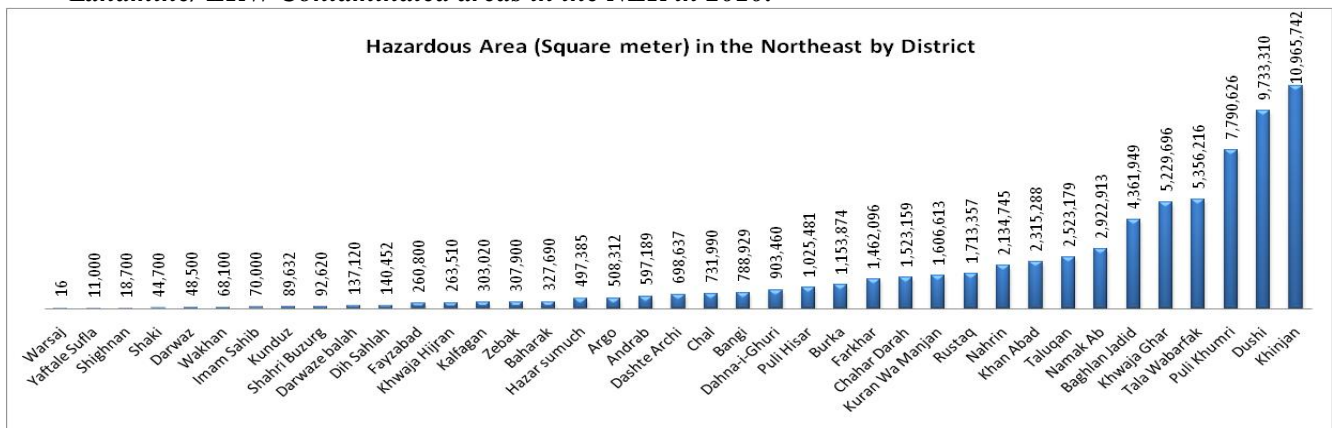
**Number of Casualties by Year in the NR since 2002**



**B. Northeastern Region**

According to the National Mine Action Database of Mine Action, managed by MACCA, 373 communities in the NER (out of a total of 3802 communities in the 67 districts) are contaminated by landmines/ ERW, affecting more than 1292 hazardous areas with a total size of more than 68 square kilometers of contaminated land<sup>16</sup>. In 2010, 10% of the victims of landmines/ ERW were from the four provinces of the NER. MACCA and its partners have been engaged in clearing the NER from landmines/ ERW and over 100 million square meters contaminated land by landmines/ ERW has been cleared. Thousands of landmines and million various ERW have been destroyed. It is considered that 21 districts are now free of known landmines/ ERW, while more than 700 communities have been searched for ERW. In addition, more than 0.5 million people adults/ youth, female and male have received mine risk education.

**Landmine/ ERW Contaminated areas in the NER in 2010.**



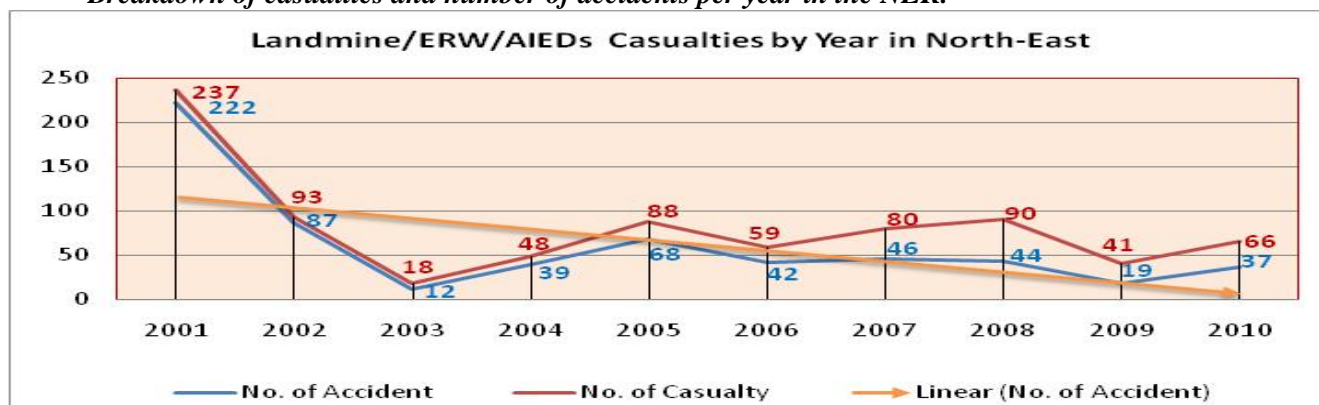
**NB.** In some areas of the region insecurity makes it difficult to continually update the data.

**Landmine/ ERW/ A-IEDs Victims:** The NER had both seen the number of casualties and the number of incidents dropping drastically since 2001, with a respective (83% and 90% diminution). Unfortunately, the rate of casualties has remained fluctuating between 2004 and 2010 (with a peak in 2005 and 2008), which is likely due to the ongoing conflict restricting humanitarian access and in some cases abandoned IEDs increasing contamination.

<sup>16</sup> Data from the National Database of Mine Action as of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2010

The reckless (*victim knows about mine/ ERW safe behavior but ignores it*) and intentional (*victim has no option but to intentionally adopt unsafe behavior, most likely economic necessity*) Risk Taker behaviors are other contributing factor in increasing casualties. 66 landmine and ERW casualties in NER were recorded by MAPA in 2010 including 18 casualties caused by abandoned IEDs (A-IEDs). These figures exclude casualties caused by IEDs.

**Breakdown of casualties and number of accidents per year in the NER.**



**Abandoned IED Fields (AIFs):** Abandoned Improvised Explosive Devices (A-IEDs) in the NER are threatening the lives of civilians, causing accidents leading to casualties, prohibiting economic development, livelihoods and impact on the right to housing and property restitution. Around 90,000 square meters of A-IED fields’ area<sup>17</sup> has been recorded in the Khwaja Ghar district of Takhar province at the end of 2010<sup>18</sup>.

**4. Access to Basic Services**

Insecurity and civilian casualties highlighted in the UNAMA HR PoC Report, 2010 illustrates serious insecurity across the swathe of NR/ NER with lack of services to affected populations. The provinces with the least access to safe drinking water are Kunduz and Jawzjan. The best positioned are Sare Pul and Samangam Provinces. An important factor in access to potable water is the geographical terrain and levels of snow in the past winter. Baghlan, Kunduz and some districts of Samangam are most constrained in terms of access to basic health services. Faryab, Sare Pul and Badakhshan also remain in need of further support in access of health facilities.

**Population with access to safe drinking water by (a) residence, (b) province (in thousands)<sup>19</sup>**

Province	Yes	No	Total	% access
Badakhshan	181.1	703.7	884.7	20.5%
Baghlan	197.5	622.0	819.5	24.1%
Balkh	339.8	841.9	1,181.6	28.8%
Faryab	241.8	712.4	954.2	25.3%
Jawzjan	204.5	272.0	476.5	42.9%
Kuduz	220.5	196.8	417.3	52.8%
Samangan	49.2	295.8	345.1	14.3%
Sar-E-Pul	62.3	452.2	514.5	12.1%
Takhar	243.8	686.2	930.0	26.2%

<sup>17</sup> Due to ongoing conflict in NE, where in some areas IEDs are being laid in a way similar to that of historical minefields, MAPA has exceptionally collected in 2010 information on these devices.

<sup>18</sup> MACCA does not possess such information for the Northern Region

<sup>19</sup> National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008 , <http://nrva.cso.gov.af/housing.html>



**Access to Land by Households<sup>20</sup>**

	Owning and cultivating	Owning only	Cultivating only	No access	Total	% of households with no access to land
Badakhshan	75.8	13.5	1.9	30.2	121.4	24%
Baghlan	51.5	12.8	11.6	30.2	106.1	28%
Takhar	57.2	12.6	3.7	70.4	144.0	49%
Faryab	48.5	15.3	2.2	66.6	132.6	50%
Jawzjan	12.0	3.1	0.4	57.4	72.9	79%
Samangan	31.7	3.1	0.0	15.0	49.7	30%
Sar-E-Pul	23.0	2.5	0.2	57.0	82.6	69%
Balkh	61.6	11.8	7.7	88.2	169.3	52%
Kuduz	24.4	1.0	4.5	16.3	46.1	35%
Afghanistan	1,566.8	181.9	126.9	1559.1	3434.8	45%

**Population, by time to reach any public health facility by foot, and by province (in percentages)<sup>21</sup>**

	1 Hour or less	More than 1 hour	No access
Badakhshan	69,9	30,1	0,0
Kunduz	50,2	43,6	6,2
Baghlan	52,7	31,1	16,2
Balkh	81,7	18,3	0,0
Faryab	49,3	49,7	0,9
Jawzjan	91,7	8,3	0,0
Samangan	54,6	43,5	1,8
Sar-E-Pul	53,6	46,4	0,0
Takhar	81,2	18,8	0,0

**Basic Services per District<sup>22</sup>**

Province	District	Education	Health
Jawzjan	Khamyab	6 schools	1 clinic
	Qarqin	2 high schools, 5 primary schools	1 clinic
Balkh	Shortepa	11 schools	1 Comprehensive Health Center (CHC) & 1 Basic Health Center (BHC)
	Karldar	7 schools	1 CHC
	Khulm	21 schools	1 hospital, 2 CHCs, 1 BHC
Samangan	Hazrati-Sultan	23 schools	1 CHC, 1 BHC, 28 health posts
	Khoram Wa Sarbagh	26 schools	1 CHC, 2 BHC
	Aybak	NA	NA
Faryab	Maimana	472 schools	1 CHC, 1 BHC
	Qaysar		1 Provincial hospital, 1 CHC, 1 CHC+, 1 BHC and 1 Sub Center
	Almar		1 CHC, 2 BHCs
	PashtunKot		4 CHCs, 5 BHCs
	Kohistan		1 CHC+, 1 BHC, 2 Sub Centers
	Gurziwan		1 CHC+, 2 BHC, 2 Sub Centers
	Bilchiragh		1 CHC, 2 BHCs
	Khawaja Sabz Posh		1 CHC, 1 BHCs
	Shirin Tagab		1 District hospital, 1 CHC, 1 BHC
	Dawlatabad		1 CHC, 2 BHCs
	Qaramqul		1 BHC, 1 Sub Center
	Qurghan		1 CHC, 1 BHCs
	Andkhoy		1 district hospital
	Khan Chaharbagh		1 BHC
	Ghormach		1 CHC, 1 BHCs

<sup>20</sup> National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008, <http://nrva.cso.gov.af/agriculture.html>

<sup>21</sup> National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/2008, <http://nrva.cso.gov.af/health.html>

<sup>22</sup> Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for snow meltdown flooding, July-August 2009, p. 8/9 and OCHA/Health Cluster figures

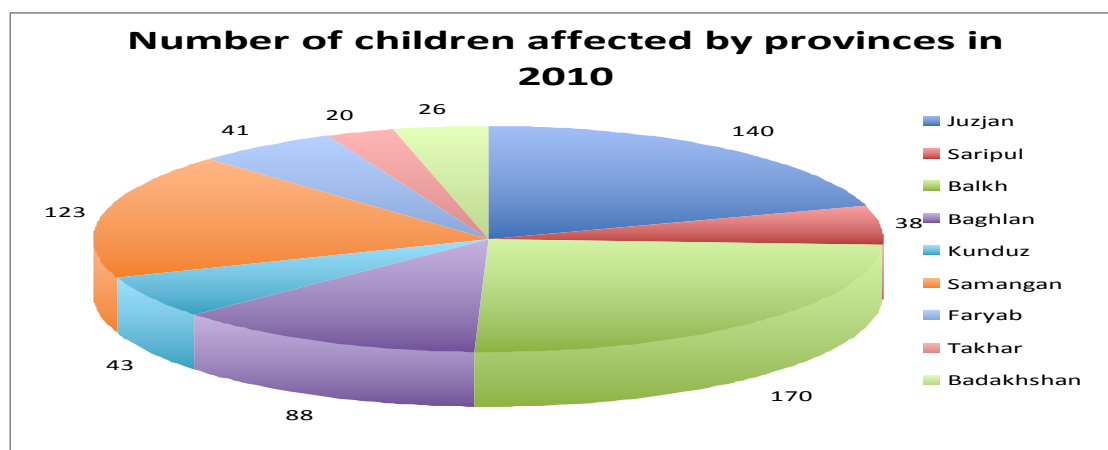
## 5. Basic Rights of Children Severely Hampered in 2010

In 2010, children have been increasingly directly or indirectly affected by the conflict through kidnapping, separation from family members, recruitment in armed groups and armed forces, trafficking or domestic violence. Jawzjan, Balkh and Samangan provinces affected by military operations in 2010 host the greatest number of children whose basic rights have been negated.

### *Incidents Affecting Children by Northern Province in 2010 – CPAN*<sup>23</sup>

Provinces	Total Number of children affected	Girls	Boys	Rape	Sexual abuse (except for rape)*	Physical abuse	Trafficking	Abduction/Kidnapping	Child marriage	Hazardous Child labor	Children in conflict with the law	Children separated from family	Drug abused	Disability	others, specify
Jawzjan	140	42	98	2	7	7	1	0	1	1	85	21	0	11	4
Sare Pul	38	16	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	0	0	7	17
Balkh	170	74	96	5	31	1	8	3	10	2	52	49	1	6	30
Baghlan	88	20	68	1	0	14	12	1	1	30	18	14	0	1	0
Kunduz	43	12	31	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	17	14	0	4	0
Samangan	123	48	75	5	0	4	9	3	2	0	41	32	0	9	18
Faryab	41	3	38	6	1	4	1	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	3
Takhar	20	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	12	0
Badakhshan	26	19	7	1	3	3	0	0	8	0	5	6	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>72</b>

Attacks against Schools - Attacks against schools spread to the NR, especially in Takhar and Badakhshan districts.<sup>24</sup>



## 6. Specific Protection Concerns relating to IDPs

*This segment is provided in Section IV further below*

<sup>23</sup> Monthly CPAN Compiled Report, covering January-December 2010, Zonal Office of Mazar, UNICEF

<sup>24</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan 3 February 2011, s/2011/55, p. 11

### III. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

It is difficult to quantify the actual threat to aid workers given the challenges of access to insecure areas, however deteriorating security has resulted in a risk-averse approach, limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies including the UN and NGOs to assist populations in need. Faryab district was left with minimal presence of NGOs between June 2004 and the summer of 2008 following an attack on MSF in which 5 staff members were killed<sup>25</sup>.

In some of the conflict affected districts (Archi, Chahardara- Kunduz province), (Darqad- Takhar province) (Dahani Ghorri, Baghlani Jadid-Baghlan province) government authority is limited to district centers, with vast areas inaccessible to it. Humanitarian operations and program delivery are limited, as humanitarian workers face a high risk of being targeted by parties to the conflict. This fact, combined with the volatile security situation generally, has dramatically limited the international humanitarian presence on the ground and humanitarian access to people in need in many parts of Kunduz Province and to a lesser extent in Baghlan and Takhar<sup>26</sup>.

In May 2010, UNDSS considers that the number of districts (Provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Kunduz) where security conditions are considered as “unstable or high” have jumped from 12 (Dec. 2007) to 29, which constitutes a 242% increase. Currently, nearly half (42%) of all NER districts have now reduced humanitarian access (as against 18% in 2007)<sup>27</sup>. Of the 55 districts of the NR, 9 are currently inaccessible to the UN. Further, 11 districts are partially closed for UN agencies. Of the remaining 35 districts, several provide access only to the District Center, leaving only 30 districts where UN agencies have full access<sup>28</sup>. Humanitarian access is further compounded by poor road network and particularly harsh weather: 50% of Badakhshan’s 28 districts are accessible only two-three months during the year and more than one fourth of Baghlan’s 15 districts have limited access in winter. The below table provides the nature of access for UN Agencies according to UNDSS classification for the NR and the NER.

#### *Nature of Access for UN organizations by Province and District in the NR and NER, UNDSS*

Humanitarian Access (NR)	Provinces	District
Districts closed	Balkh	Kishindih, Zari
	Faryab	Qaisar, Ghormach
	Jawzjan	Darzab, Qosh Tapa, parts of Fayzabad
	Samangan	Dara-i-Sufi Bala, Dara-i-Sufi Payin
	Sare Pul	Kohistanat, Sayyad
Districts partially closed	Balkh	Balkh, Chintal, Charbolak, Sholgara
	Faryab	Almar, Bilchiragh, Dawlatabad, Pashtun Kot, , Shirin Tagab, Khoja Sabz Posh, Gurziwan
	Jawzjan	Fayzabad
	Samangan	NA
	Sare Pul	NA
Districts with access to Administrative District Centers	Balkh	Balkh, Chahar Bolak, Chintal
	Faryab	Almar, Bilchiragh, Dawlatabad, Pashtun Kot, Qaysar,
	Jawzjan	Fayzabad
	Samangan	NA
	Sare Pul	Gosfandi, Sangcharak, Sare Pul, Sozma Qala
Districts with full access	Balkh	Mazar,Dawlatabad,Chahar Kint,Dihdadi, Kaldar, Khulm, Marmul,, Nahri Shahi ,Shor Tapa,
	Faryab	Maimana, Andkhoy, Khan Charbagh, Qurghan, Qaram Qul
	Jawzjan	Shiberghan,Aqcha, Khamyab, Khaniqa, Khwaja Do Ko, Mingajik, Murdian, Qarqin, (8 out of 11)
	Samangan	Aibak city, Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrati-Sultan, Khoram Wa Sarbagh, Ruyi Du Ab (5 out of 7)
	Sare Pul	Saripul, Sangcharak,Gosfandi,Sozmaqala, Balkhab (5 out of 7)

<sup>25</sup> Winning Hearts and Minds? Examining the Relationship between Aid and Security in Afghanistan’s Faryab Province, Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University, January 2011 p.20

<sup>26</sup> Inter Agency Contingency Plan for the North-Eastern Region, August 2010 p.12

<sup>27</sup> Inter Agency Contingency Plan for the North-Eastern Region, August 2010 p.12

<sup>28</sup> North Region Contingency Plan February/ March 2011, p. 9

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Humanitarian Access (NER)	Provinces	District
Districts closed	Kunduz Baghlan Takhar Badakhshan	Chardara, Archi, Nahrin, Khust, Tala Wa Barfak, Jelga, Fering, Burka, Dahana-e-Ghori, Guzar Gahi Noor Chayab, Ishkamish, Khuja Ghar, Yangi Qala, Darqad N/A
Districts partially closed	Kunduz Baghlan Takhar Badakhshan	Kunduz District centre, Imam Saheb, Qala-i- Zal Banu, Poli Khomri Bangi, Namak Ab, Khoja Bahauddin, Baharak, Dashti Qala Koran Wa Munjan, Yaftal Payan, Shahri Buzurg, Argoo, Kishim, Tagab
Districts with access to Administrative District Centers	Kunduz Baghlan Takhar Badakhshan	Khan Abad, Baghlan-i-Jadid N/A N/A
Districts with full access	Kunduz Baghlan Takhar Badakhshan	Ali Abad, Dushi, Khinjan, Poli Hesar, Deh Salah Taloqan, Chall, Rustaq, Farkhar, Hazar Somoch, Warsaj, Kalafgan Faizabad, Baharak, Jurm, Khash, Yamgan, Shuhada, Zebak, Ishkamish, Wa Khan, Khawan Arghanchkhw, Sheghnan, Yawan, Kohistan, kafab, Shaki, Nussai, Darwaz Bala, Registan, Daraeem, Teshgan,

i. Attacks against humanitarian workers - A development since 2009 was the sharp rise in incidents affecting humanitarian action in the NR and NER (Kunduz, Balkh and Faryab provinces). Majority of the incidents have been attributed to AGEs, and include complex attacks against compounds and vehicle/ convoy ambushes and threats to staff of humanitarian agencies<sup>29</sup>.

Life-saving humanitarian activities in the NER are also impacted by lack of operational humanitarian presence on the ground in the districts. Main clusters/ sectors impacted are Education, Nutrition and WASH while there are substantial gaps in Protection, Food Security and Agriculture, Emergency Shelter/ NFIs and Health cluster who have partners on the ground although they too are limited in scope and access.<sup>30</sup> In the NR, humanitarian presence gaps are less stark however with the deteriorating security their ability to remain present and respond is questionable. There remain gaps in some districts in Education, FSAC, Nutrition and WASH<sup>31</sup>.

ii. Security in 2011 and its Potential Impact on Humanitarian Access - With the increase in asymmetric attacks, and regional instability, the security situation is expected to deteriorate further and the risk to both national and international aid workers will increase. Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Sare Pul are expected to face further deterioration in security in 2011. It is pertinent that ANSF and IM operations are also expected to target the same provinces. This could lead to a temporary suspension of UN road missions between Mazar-e-Sharif and Shiberghan city, between Shiberghan city and Sare Pul city and between Shiberghan city and Maimana city<sup>32</sup>. ANSF and IM military operations in these mentioned four provinces will likely trigger displacement from those areas and further limit the access of humanitarian actors<sup>33</sup>.

It is further anticipated that the re-routing of 75% of US Army military supplies through Hayraton port, Balkh province which starts in February 2011 will result in security incidents along the route Haryaton – Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh) – Aybak (Samangan) – Pul-i-Khumri (Baghlan)<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan 3 February 2011, s/2011/55, p. 13

<sup>30</sup> See the attached Who's doing What Where matrix for the North East Region, March 2011.

<sup>31</sup> See the attached Who's doing What Where matrix for the Northern Region, March 2011

<sup>32</sup> NR CP February/march 2011, p. 7

<sup>33</sup> NR CP February/march 2011, p. 7

<sup>34</sup> NR CP February/march 2011, p. 7

## IV. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

*Detailed information per IDP caseload in the NR and NER is provided in Annexe 1*

Basic humanitarian needs are further compounded in the NR and NER by the growing trend of internal displacement, as populations flee intimidation from AGEs/ AOGs and are uprooted as a result of conflict. Displacement is also becoming more protracted, as many are unable to return after the end of local conflicts as quickly as they have in the past.

**i. Causes of Displacement and Inability/ Unwillingness to Return-** In Jawzjan, Balkh and Sare Pul, forced taxation “*osh*” by AGEs, confiscation of vehicles especially motorcycles, weapons and food commodities, and forced recruitment of men between 18-40 years were cited as the main causes of displacement. IDPs state that they fled to areas with better security situation and would not return until the security situation improves. Most of the IDPs are unable to bring belongings with them when they leave their homes. Yaka Toot IDPs reported instances of abuse by AGEs while they were fleeing. In Sare Pul, IDPs have informed that men had to flee their homes at night while others provided excuses to the AGEs in order to gain approval to leave.

In Faryab, recent displacements have been directly related to armed offensives by the ANSF/ IM against the AGE, with the civilian population caught in the midst. In Kunduz ANSF and IM operations have been concentrated in Imam Sahib and Archi districts with government forces continuing to consolidate their hold in Char Dara and Gor Tepa. This has had an adverse impact on the ability of IDPs to return as further displacement from villages around Imam Sahib and Archi districts continues. IDPs from Kunduz reported that they fled at night because of bombardments between August-November 2010 while IDPs from Khan Abad and Gor Tepa traveled at night and crossed rivers, as roads were inaccessible due to fighting.

Some IDPs that had family members in Afghanistan National Army (ANA) or worked for the government claimed they were displaced due to ongoing AGE persecution while IDPs from Char Dara state that they were displaced due to local “Arbaki” abuses including beatings and confiscation of money and other moveable properties belonging to the community. IDPs from Imam Sahib encountered land mines and were also at risk from AGEs during their flight, resulting in some injuries and deaths. These IDPs do not plan on returning until the security situation improves. In two focus group discussion led by NRC teams<sup>35</sup>, IDPs have indicated that they do not plan to return due to fear of AGE persecution and risk to their lives and as well because their land is either occupied by “Arbaki” or destroyed during IM bombardments.

In Sare Pul, Yaka Toot and Shiberghan, the majority of IDPs indicate that their privately owned properties have been illegally occupied and are under the control of AGEs. Those who lived in their places of origin in rented homes remain unaware of the condition of their properties.

**ii. Shelters and Living Conditions** - Uprooted from their homes, IDPs face an urgent need for shelter in the areas of displacement. Predominantly, displaced families arriving in rural settings in the NR and the NER seek refuge with host families (mostly relatives or families of the same tribe), as also seen in the aftermath of airstrikes in Khoja Kinti, Faryab. On the other hand, in urban areas especially in Shiberghan and Kunduz city, IDP families (that can afford so) tend to rent houses, often jointly with other IDP families. 90% of IDPs in Yaka Toot and Sare Pul rent a house, while a minority lived with relatives. From a focus group discussion in Shiberghan City, Sare Pul IDPs related that they pay approximately 800-1500 Afs monthly for accommodation while in Yaka Toot IDPs generally paid 1000 Afs monthly. For the poorest families, renting accommodation has led to further impoverishment due to absence of regular income. In

<sup>35</sup> Conflict Induced Internal Displacement – Northern Region, NRC Field Assessment Information, 2010, p. 6

Shiberghan, Jawzjan IDPs arranged customary (oral) agreements with the owners of the houses they were living in but did not have any formal lease or rental agreement.

While evictions were not predominant in areas of displacement and IDPs generally have good relations with host communities, the situation tends to become stressful for both the IDPs and the host family with delay in the ability of the IDPs to return. In case of rented accommodations, if a family was asked to leave it was reported that a month's notice was the standard time provided to a family, unless there was a dispute between the owner and the renting family. In both cases, reports indicate that IDP families live in cramped houses, with up to 5 families accommodated by one host family. This further leads to deterioration of living conditions, both for IDPs and the host family, exposing those vulnerable to further decline in living conditions.

In the eventuality of re-establishment of peace in places of origin, and resultant voluntary return, IDPs have indicated that they hope they will be able to reclaim their land and properties if they have support from the authorities. The likelihood of this option, as indicated by IDPs remains in the realm of anticipation considering that such prospect would not be possible under the current circumstances whereby AGEs control their areas of origin.

**iii. Livelihoods and Access to Food/ Non Food Items-** The main source of income in rural NR/NER is agriculture, animal husbandry and carpet weaving. The main crops are wheat, barley, rice, cotton, sesame, and watermelons, while the main livestock are sheep, goats, donkeys, mules, cows, camels and horses. As a consequence of conflict and displacement, IDPs lose their livelihoods and income generating activities, since livestock and crops are either left behind or confiscated by parties to the conflict. IDPs are forced to rely on the generosity of host families, humanitarian assistance, low-income daily labor (including child labor), and loans that further impoverish them but are necessary for access to food and potable water; fuel-to heat and cook; plastic sheets; and clothing. This situation has a trickle-down effect on host families as it severely stretches their capacity to cater to the combined needs of their guests and their own families.

**iv. Access to water-** In rural areas, IDPs often lack access to water, especially in host villages without accessible and running rivers or streams. In those contexts, the arrival of numerous displaced families places an additional strain on the water reserves that villages are ill-equipped to respond to. In particular is the constraint relating to potable water. *Also see Section II above.*

**v. Access to education-** Access to school and education is greatly hampered by the ongoing insecurity and military operations. A number of schools have been seriously damaged or destroyed, notably in Ghormach and Qaisar, as a consequence of targeting by AGEs, and in some cases, as a result of air strikes. In addition, displaced children face difficulties to attend school in places of displacement for cumulative reasons:

- Limited number of accessible schools in the places of displacement to where parents are reluctant to send their children;
- Parents rely on children to contribute to the family income through low income labor;
- Lack of income to pay the school fees;
- Lack of schooling certificates necessary to attend school in places of displacement.

**vi. Documentation-** In their great majority, IDP males are found to possess relevant documentation "*Tazkera*" but usually cannot escape with property documents (proof of ownership or *Qabala*-title deed). It is custom for women not to possess ID cards hence female IDPs have no *Tazkeras* leading to particular vulnerability for single women headed families.

## V. CONCLUSION

The Northern and the North Eastern Regions comprising one third of the country, have faced the burden of conflict through the last three decades. The region was in the front line of the initial Russian invasion of the country and through the fluctuating violent dynamics between ethnic and political powers that unfolded across the NR/ NER in subsequent years. The upheaval resulting in the fall of the Taliban in 2001 led to another wave of persecution and resultant displacement of minority groups (Pashtun in particular) to other parts of the country. A short phase of comparative peace that followed provided the illusion of calm in the North and the North East.

The NR and NER have also witnessed the facilitated return of 954,239 individuals (368,121 individuals in the NR and 586,118 individuals in the NER as of 31st December 2010) which constitute around 21% of total registered refugees returned from Iran and Pakistan from 2002 to 2010. Many of these have returned to a situation of internal displacement due to their inability to return to their villages of origin, while many others have chosen to remain in urban centres due to their inability to resume life in their demolished and isolated villages of origin.

The NR/ NER are further confounded by their geographical terrain resulting in frequent and almost predictable seasonal floods and landslides. Frequent tremors and blockage of roads due to heavy snow storms plague the region. The absence of development, limited services and economic activity are additional factors resulting in an overall challenging existence for the local population. The additional presence of AGEs and 'Arbakis' as well as the rapidly expanding conflict further radically challenges the capacity of civilian populations to cope.

The reality of a humanitarian emergency unfolding in the region is evident. It is essential therefore, that stakeholders re-assess their role in the deteriorating protection situation and develop a response appropriate to the scale of humanitarian needs. An acknowledgement of the existence of a humanitarian crisis and failure to provide adequate responses is essential. In facing up to the realities of the conflict, including its toll on civilian population and deteriorating security conditions on the ground, humanitarian work must receive a higher priority from the government, donors and other stake holders who must ensure prevention of further casualties and displacement as well as direct funds towards responding to emergency needs.

A humanitarian approach distinct and decoupled from political and security agendas will reap dividends in meeting needs and laying the groundwork for more effective recovery as it will enable the aid community to prioritize a needs-led response appropriate to the context. This includes engaging with local power structures, taking risk-averse approaches in accessing populations and utilizing humanitarian principles as the means for negotiating access.

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**IDP Populations in the Northern and North Eastern Region**

*Protection Information on IDPs is provided in Section IV above*

Below please find information on current IDP groups, the vast majority of which are recent displacements although some protracted IDP groups that still remain in displacement are also included. Data on Natural disaster and Conflict induced displacements are reported separately below but are included together in the narrative. The IDP figures are estimates of visible IDP groups and do not include IDPs scattered in urban areas in small groups or individual families. Nor does the data include IDPs displaced within non accessible zones.

**Matrix on Internal Displacement in NR and NER<sup>36</sup>(by persons)**

Place of Displacement		Displaced		Cause of Displacement	Displacement Date (M/Y)	Place of Origin	
Province	District	FAM	IND			Province	District
Mazar	Mazar City	36	267	Deteriorating security situation	Aug10	Balkh	Chimtal
Faryab	Qaisar	1033	7284	Armed conflict and AGE control	Aug10	Faryab	Qaisar
Faryab	Gurziwan	44	244	Inter-tribal conflict and insecurity	Oct-10	Ghor	Charsada
Faryab	Maimana City	16	91	Tribal tension, threats by commanders	Oct-10	Ghor	Charsada
Faryab	Gurziwan	27	214	AGE intimidations/persecution/ insecurity	Nov10	Faryab	Belcheragh
Faryab	Qaisar	1270	7620	US/ISFA/ANSF Operation and Air strikes	Jan-11	Faryab	Qaisar
Faryab	Ghormach	300	1877	Military operation, air strikes, insecurity	Jan-11	Faryab	Ghormach
Faryab	Qaisar	312	1872	Presence of AGes and insecurity	Sep-08	Faryab	Qaisar Ghormach
Faryab	Qaisar	86	516	intertribal tension & clashes	Dec-08	Badghis	Jawand
Faryab	Qaisar	63	375	insecurity and fighting AGE & ANA/IM	Mar-09	Badghis	Murghab
Faryab	khoja Sabzposh	87	531	intertribal tension & armed clashes	Dec-08	Faryab	Khoja Sabzposh
Kunduz	ImamSahib City	68	465	Insecurity and volatile situation	Oct-10	Kunduz	Imam Sahib
Kunduz	Kunduz City	79	614	AGes infiltration and armed conflict	Jan-11	Kunduz	Archi
Kunduz	Kunduz City	148	1067	Military Operation and insecurity	Jan-11	Kunduz	Kunduz Center
Kunduz	Kunduz City	334	1670	AGes infiltration and armed conflict	Jan-11	Kunduz	Archi
Kunduz	Kunduz City	73	425	AGes infiltration and insecurity	Nov10	Kunduz	Archi
Sar-e-Pul	Sar-e-Pul City	556	3336	Insecurity and AGE domination	Jun-10	Sari-e-Pul	Sayaad
Sar-e-Pul	Sar-e-Pul City	140	840	Insecurity and AGE domination area	Apr-10	Sari-e-Pul	Sayaad
Sar-e-Pul	SarePul City	240	1440	Conflict between AGES and Government	Feb-11	below*	See below
Jawzjan	Shiberghan	198	1230	AGes infiltration and security threats	Sep-10	Jawzjan	Darzab
Jawzjan	Shiberghan	496	2976	AGes presence, insecurity and threats	Feb-11	Jawzjan	Darzab, Qushtepa
Jawzjan	Shiberghan	111	781	Insecurity and fighting between warlords	Oct-10	below**	Sayed, Kohistanat
Jawzjan	Darzab	1000	6000	Ongoing conflicts and threats by AGes	Nov10	Jawzjan	Darzab
Jawzjan	Shiberghan	142	852	Insecurity and Presence of AGes	Jan-11	Faryab	Bilcheragh
Samangan	Aybak City	13	87	Conflict and insecurity in the area	Aug10	Samangan	Dara-e-Suf
Samangan	Dar-e-Suf	72	350	dispute over rain-fed land	Feb-02	Samangan	Dara-e-Suf
Baghlan	Pul-e-Khumri	63	378	Land occupation of returnees	Apr-02	Baghlan	Pul-e-Khumri
Baghlan	Dushi	95	471	Accused as supporter of AGes	Mar-10	Baghlan	Nahrin
Baghlan	Old Baghlan	1000	6000	Joint Military Operation "Nawroz"	Feb-11	Baghlan	Baghan
Takhar	Khuja Ghar	192	1224	AGes activities and intimidation	Nov10	Takhar	Khuja Ghar
Takhar	Khuja Bahauddin	56	280	dispute over land/ land occupation	Aug08	Takhar	Khuja Bahauddin
		<b>8350</b>	<b>51377</b>				

<sup>36</sup> The data is from the combined source of UNHCR and DoRR from the NR and NER



**Matrix of Natural Disaster Induced Displacement (by families)<sup>37</sup>**

NO	Date Of Displacement	Place of Origin	Current Location	Type of Natural Disaster	No of families
1	22-Feb-11	Balkh	Mazar (Nar Shahi)	Floods	3
3	6-Apr-11	Balkh	Balkh (Marmul)	Landslide	185
4	9-Apr-11	Balkh	Balkh (Marmul)	Landslide	120
5	10-Apr-11	Faryab	Faryab (Sherin Tagab)	Floods	Have returned
9	29-Sep-10	Badakhshan	Badakhshan (Yaftal Payan)	Mountain slide	156
10	22-May-10	Badakhshan	Badakhshan (Yawan)	Land Slide	76
11	13-Jun-10	Badakhshan	Badakhshan (Argo)	Mountain slide	51
12	22-May-10	Badakhshan	Badakhshan (Shari Buzarg)	Mountain slide	80
13	21-Mar-10	Badakhshan	Badakhshan (Arghnchkhwa)	Snow Avalanche	35
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>706</b>

## 1. Balkh Province

**Chimtal district to Mazar City - 36 families/ 267 persons** originally from Chimtal district of Balkh province were displaced to Mazar City in mid 2010 due to deteriorated security in places of origin. The IDP families have reportedly accessed social services and have access to livelihoods.

**Within Bakh Nahre Shahi district - 3 families** of Tajik ethnicity were displaced from Balkh Nahre Shahi district to near by villages on 22nd Feb 2011 due to floods. These families were assisted by IOM/ ANDMA/ UNICEF with winter kits food items, kitchen set and emergency tent.

**Within Marmul district -185 families** of Tajik ethnicity were displaced from Marmul district to Parwaz village on 6th April 2011 due to land slide. These families were assisted by IOM, ANDMA, Save the Children, WFP and Mercy Corps with winter kits, NFIs, kitchen set, food items and cash. There were also **120 families** of Tajik ethnicity who were displaced due to ongoing landslide in Marmul district and these families were displaced to Baghe Quti village of Marmul district on 9 April. On 12 April 2011 there was a DMC meeting scheduled in order to discuss further on the needs and relief mobilization and the next day as well, but due to some issues it was postponed and the result of the assessment will be discussed at the PDMC.

## 2. Faryab Province

**Qaisar-** In August 2010, 1,856 families/11,136 individuals of Uzbek and Tajik origin were displaced within Qaisar district, Faryab province due to AGE control in some areas and prevailing insecurity in most parts of the district. A joint DoRR, ARCS, ANDMA and UNHCR mission to Qaisar district centre took place to assess their situation and due to the volatile security situation, the team had to confine its assessment to Qaisar district center. The places of origin are 20 small villages of the Tagab Erak valley and are displaced in several villages of Qaisar District. A further assessment revealed that 823 families were reported to have returned to their places of origin, leaving **1,033 families / app. 7,284 individuals** currently in displacement. Humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items) was distributed in September by UNHCR and WFP. INTERSOS and NRC provided transportation for the distribution.

**Charsada, Ghor Province to Gurziwan district-** Due to inter-tribal conflict and insecurity, 33 families /198 individuals of Tajik ethnic origin were displaced from Ghor province to Pakhahal and Badgha villages of Gurziwan district of Faryab province in October 2010. In January 2011, an assessment of the displaced families was conducted by a joint team composed of UN,

<sup>37</sup> Data collected and reported by IOM

Government and NGOs. ICRC and NRC assisted the families with food and non-food items. Intertribal problems (persecution, threat and harassment by a local influential armed person in the place of origin) are reported as the cause of displacement. Reportedly, the IDPs are staying with the local community and relatives. As per information, another 11 families have joined the IDPs and the total of displaced families from Charsada has reached **44 families/ 264 individuals**.

**Charsada District, Ghor Province to Maimana city** - Due to inter-tribal conflict, insecurity and threats by a commander, **16 families/ 91 individuals** of Tajik ethnic origin were displaced from Charqodogh and Shoterghal village of Charsada district of Ghor province to Maimana City of Faryab province in October 2010. In January 2011, an assessment of the situation of displaced families was conducted by an inter-agency team. Priority needs of the displaced families were identified as food and non-food items and these were provided by WFP, UNHCR and IOM.

**Balcheragh district to Gurziwan district** - In November 2010, **27 Tajik families/214 individuals** were displaced from Tashqala village of Balcheragh district of Faryab due to AGE intimidation/ persecution and threats. The IDPs are currently in Dongqala village of Gurziwan district of Faryab province. 20 extremely vulnerable families were included in UNHCR winterization assistance program, while NRC assisted them with stoves.

**Khoja Kinti, Qaisar district** - Due to joint military operations by IM and ANSF on 19 January 2011 followed by air strikes in Khoja Kinti (central areas and in Khalifa Saleh village) of Qaisar district of Faryab 1,270 families from 8 Shuras have fled into the vicinity of Shakh area and neighbouring village of Khoja Kinti. On 26 January 2011, an inter-agency mission of DoRR, NRC, UNAMA, OCHA and UNHCR met the IDP representatives at Qaisar district centre, due to lack of security in the places of displacement. Reportedly, 390 families have returned and the remaining families **are 880 families/ 5,280 individuals**. The majority of the IDP families are Tajik and Uzbek and some are of Pashtun ethnicity. The IDPs are accommodated with the host community and some have received assistance (food and non-food items) by the host communities while most borrowed money in order to purchase food and warm clothes.

Following assessment through representatives, basic needs identified were food, NFIs, firewood, shelter and health. Some IDP men were able to return to their village of origin to pick up clothes/ blanket/ food/ firewood. UNHCR has co-ordinated assistance and protection response with IOM/NRC/WFP. As neither UN agencies nor ICRC could access the displaced persons, it was suggested at a coordination meeting at UNHCR on 9 February 2011 that ARCS would conduct an assessment which was eventually not undertaken as the national Red Cross could not undertake it before 20 February and UNHCR intervened through the IDP Task Force. Key cause of displacement was reportedly prompted by military units landing in the villages and searching civilian homes. Reportedly the surrounding walls of the houses and gardens of civilians were punctured by the forces in order to transform them into defensible position during clashes with AGEs. IEDs planted by AGEs have been highlighted as a serious protection concern.

Through a visit to the Qaisar district centre on 13 February by UNHCR, DoRR, Qaysar district Governor and Advisor to the provincial governor's office, figure of **1,000 families** who have been displaced within Qaysar was shared. Following discussions with district authorities and humanitarian actors, it was agreed that all assistance will be provided in Qaisar district to IDP representatives accompanied by male heads of IDP families who will transport the aid to areas of displacement (more than 25 Km away). UNHCR agreed to provide transportation costs for each family. Distribution of humanitarian assistance started on 16 February by IOM (NFI), UNHCR (NFI) and WFP (FI) and was supervised by UNHCR and its partner (DHSA), while WFP field staff agreed to monitor the arrival of relief supplies in villages of displacement.

However on 17 February, when humanitarian agencies initiated distribution of relief items to the 1000 displaced families from Qaisar, the distribution was interrupted by the Qaisar district police chief who accused the agencies of assisting only the Pashtuns. It may be noted that the majority of the beneficiaries were Tajiks and Uzbeks. An OCHA staff member was also assaulted in the process resulting in halt in the distribution. A formal protest was lodged with the Provincial Governor/ Provincial police chief by humanitarian agencies and the incident is being investigated by the authorities. The PG promised humanitarian agencies that such incidents will not happen in future and promised to provide adequate security for the resumption of distribution.

When humanitarian agencies resumed distribution on 23 February, the Qaisar District Chief of police along with 400 supporters, again tried to prevent the distribution, claiming that additional families from the local population (mainly family members of ANP) should be included in the beneficiary list. It was thereafter agreed to hold a *jirga* between the influential elders of Qaisar District and the protesters to explain the details of the beneficiary selection process and to defuse tension. Following the *jirga*, the protestors accepted the reasons and the distribution could resume on 23 February and was successfully completed by 27 February.

**Ghormach - 156 families** of Pashtun ethnicity were displaced from Ghormach district, of Khoja Langari and Jari Seya villages to neighbouring villages in Ghormach on 24 – 25 January 2011. Causes of displacement were stated as fear of persecution, abductions by the AGEs and ensuing military operations. The representatives reported of continued air strikes accompanied by troops on the ground searching houses. Later on the number of families for this caseload **reached 300 families and 1877 individuals**. All these families were assisted with food and NFIs in March.

**Nagharakhana, Qaysar**- In September 2008, 312 families were displaced from Nagharakhana village on the border of Ghormach and Qaysar districts. The families were dispersed over several villages in Qaysar district where they were living with host families: 60 in Dahane Sinjatak village; 170 in Khishqiyani village; 30 in Doabi village; 10 in Abzalik Nayak village; 40 in Qalinbalaq village; only 4 families remained in Nagharakhana village because they were too weak to move. The group was first profiled in February 2009. During a follow up mission in January 2010, 205 families remain in displacement while 100 have returned to Nagharakhana in the hope of receiving reintegration assistance. The families currently in displacement are dispersed as follows: **60 in Dahane Sijitak; 110 in Khishqiyani; 25 in Doabi; 10 in Nayak Golkha; an additional 17 families are displaced to Mazar city** from Nagharakhana.

According to the representatives, there was major AGE activity in the areas surrounding the village. During summer 2008, the AGEs attempted to attack a mission from ACTED but the local community defended ACTED and was able to resist the attack. Subsequently, several AGE groups from Ghormach and Faryab have declared the defenders a *kafir* and formed a coalition against them. Ever since, the village has become prone to AGE attacks. At night, regular attacks with rockets were carried out against their village, and they took refuge in 2008 with relatives in different villages in Qaisar which they report as being relatively safe.

The community head of the defenders later reported that the security situation in Nagharakhana has significantly improved and encouraged 100 families to return at the end of 2009 believing they would be assisted with reintegration assistance. During the period of displacement their houses were neglected and most houses collapsed during the rainy season and materials were pilfered. Reportedly another 200 families might be willing to return if shelter and reintegration assistance is forthcoming. Only those families who are close relatives to Akhundzada still feel they are at risk from AGE reprisals and do not feel comfortable to return.

**Jawand to Shakh, Qaysar** - In December 2008, a group of **86 families** was displaced from three villages in Jawand (20 from Teraj, 20 from Lalabay and 46 from Khoja Sorkhian) belonging to the Tajik tribes of Taymani, Shabazi and Lalabay. Reports indicate intertribal tension in the area and different armed factions linked to warlords and militia regularly clash. As tribe members, they feel under pressure from the tribe to take part in the fighting and are legitimate targets for the opposing faction. Intertribal revenge killings of tribe members of the opposing side are a common tactic so the families decided it was safer for them to flee. They are dispersed over several villages in the Shakh area and do not expect to be able to return to Jawand in the near future.

**Marchaq village in Morghab to Sawr Unbegi in Qaysar** – Since early 2009, a group of 30 Uzbek families were displaced from Morghab to Qaysar due to insecurity and fighting between AGE and ANA/IM around their village as well as taxation and forced recruitment by both sides. In the second half of 2009, 33 more families joined them in Qaysar, bringing the total to **63 families**. According to them, many more families are displaced within Badghis and towards Herat. They are currently living with host families in Sawr Unbegi and have no intention to return as long as the government is unable to provide security in Morghab.

**Ghonda Sang to Khoja Sabz Posh**- **87 Uzbek families** were displaced in November/ December 2008 due to fighting within their own community amongst non-official armed commanders. In order to escape persecution, they had taken refuge with relatives in villages in Khoja Sabz Posh. (15 in Khoja Qishli, 16 in Ghizari, 27 in Somlik, 24 in Loghman and 5 in Maimana). As a temporary solution, the IDPs have now settled temporarily in Khoja Sabz Posh where they have access to some agricultural land in Morchaghal and Aqmazar villages. ACTED has provided them with 30 shelters which was left over from the shelter allocation for flood-victims. Their preferred durable solution is return to their village of origin but they do not expect that to happen in the near future for fear of continued persecution.

**Within Sherin Tagab district** - **63 families** were displaced from Sherin Tagab district to near by village in Sherin Tagab. These families were displaced due to recent floods on 10 April 2011 and According to PDMC, UNCHR, ANDMA and ARCS took responsibility to provide food and non food items to 63 natural disaster effected families. These families have returned to their place of origin and are no more IDPs. These IDPs may face protection problems due to their ethnicity but no reports have been received yet. However, a common protection concern among natural disaster induced-displacements in remote and mountainous terrains is access to education and health facilities as well as lack of employment.

### 3. Kunduz Province

**Imam Sahib to Kunduz city** - **68 families/465 individuals** of mixed ethnic groups originally from Imam Sahib were displaced to Kunduz City in October 2010. Places of origin of the affected families were Gulbad, Bayka, Alchain, Darman, Koldadman, Tazalaqi, Gharo villages. The affected IDPs were surveyed by ARCS Kunduz who provided food and non-food items. Further monitoring by UNHCR is pending due to insecurity. The IDPs are scattered across the town and surrounding areas and are living with host communities and relatives.

**Archi to Kunduz city** - **79 families/614 individuals** of mixed ethnicities (Pashtun and Uzbek) were forced to leave their places of origin in Archi district, Kunduz province to Kunduz City in November 2010-January 2011. Causes of displacement were stated as insecurity, AGE infiltration and armed conflict. UNHCR and DoRR Kunduz assessed the situation of these displaced families and all of them were assisted under UNHCR the winterization program, and ARCS and ICRC assessed and assisted these families with food.

Another group of **334 families/ 1,670 individuals** of mixed ethnicity (Pashtun and Uzbek) left their places of origin in Archi district to Kunduz City in January 2011. Cause of displacement is stated as insecurity, AGE infiltration and armed conflict. ARCS and ICRC have assessed the situation and provided food assistance. Both the above groups are different and displaced to different locations, **73 families** were displaced from Archi to Kunduz city during the last quarter of 2010. The second group was also recently displaced from Archi district to Imam Saheb district. This group was displaced to inaccessible area and only ARCS could assess them and provided them with food and non-food assistance.

**Kunduz city - 148 families/1,067 individuals** of Pashtun ethnicity left their place of origin in Kunduz District Center to Kunduz City in November 2010-January 2011. Cause of displacement was stated as military operation, insecurity, and presence of AGEs. UNHCR, DoRR Kunduz and NRC assessed their situation in February and all were assisted with NFIs by UNHCR and NRC and assessed and assisted with food by ICRC and ARCS.

In December/ January a large operation in Kunduz province was launched by IM/ ANSF. Most of the above civilian groups were displaced due to fear of possible fighting in their villages. In some cases flight was prompted due to fear of violence by Arbaki militia.

#### 4. Sare Pul Province

**Sayaad district to Sare Pul District Centre-** In April 2010, UNHCR identified a group of **140 families / app. 840 individuals** in Sare Pul Centre who have been displaced from Sayaad district of Sare Pul, due to continued insecurity and threats. The IDPs are of mixed ethnic composition (Uzbek, Tajik, Hazara and Aimaq). Cause of displacement is stated as insecurity and AGE control of the area. The families are accommodated by friends and relatives in Sar-e-Pul Centre and have been assisted with food and non-food items by humanitarian agencies following an assessment from 16–19 January 2011.

**Others to Sare Pul - 240 families/ 1,440 individuals** of mixed ethnic group (Tajik, Uzbek) were forced to leave their place of origin (73 families from Chighcheran district, Ghor Province, 35 families from Qurchi district, Faryab province, 25 families from Darzab district, Jawzjan, 30 families from Kohistanat district, Sare-e-Pul, 30 families from Sheram village, Sar-e-Pul and 47 families from Sayaad district, Sari-e-Pul) to Sar-e-Pul District Center. Cause of displacement was insecurity and conflict between AGEs and PGF. All the above were assessed by the DoRR in Sar-e-Pul on 24 February 2011 and will be assisted following clarification on numbers.

**Qarakhawal, Shahtoot and Elaytoo villages in Sarepul centre-** On 7 April 2010, UNHCR SOM and DoRR Sarepul held a meeting with representatives of **140 Aymaq families**, recently displaced from Sayyad district. Of the 140, 70 families are from Qarakhawal, 40 from Shahtoot and 30 from Elaytoo and were displaced in early 2010. Cause of displacement was due to the increasing insecurity in Sayyad district, domination of AGE in the area and intimidation of the local population. AGE forces reportedly came to the villages to demand food, weapons and for forced recruitment. On several occasions, the AGE rounded up all the men of the village and forced them to destroy roads and bridges in order to prevent ANA/IM from patrolling. The IDP families are living with host families, mostly 3-4 families per compound. Some have been provided with a room by host families while some are living in the garden which they tend. They have no intention to return to their places of origin in the near future.

**Sayaad district to Saripul Center-** **556 families (3336 individuals)** of mixed ethnic composition (Uzbek, Tajik, Hazara, and Aimaq ethnic groups) were displaced from Sayaad district in mid 2010 to Sare Pul center and continued until end 2010 due to presence of AGEs in

the area and conflict between the government and AGEs. These families were assessed jointly by UNHCR and some other organizations on 16-19 Jan 2011. All these families were assisted with food and NFIs by ARCS, WFP and NRC.

## 5. Jawzjan Province

**Qush Tapa and Darzab to Shiberghan city** - Due to AGE presence and security threats, **198 families /1,230 individuals** of Uzbek ethnic origin were displaced from Qush Tapa and Darzab districts of Jawzjan to Shiberghan city in September 2010. Due to continued insecurity, more families (**83**) were displaced in January 2011. Main cause of displacement was stated as AGE presence, insecurity and threats. The IDP families are staying with the host community. UNHCR and DoRR have assessed their situation and 136 vulnerable families were included in UNHCR winter assistance program. ARCS has completed assessment of the IDPs in Shiberghan, where 187 IDP families (101 from Qush Tapa and 86 from Darzab) were identified and assisted.

Due to the evolving security situation and AGE activity numbers of IDPs from the above districts further increased and the number has reached to **496 families/2940 individuals by the end of Feb 2011**. All these IDP families were assisted with the necessary food and NFIs.

Further, UNHCR has received a letter from the Jazwjjan Provincial Governor requesting assistance to around 1,000 families in Darzab and Qustepa districts of Jawzjan affected by the military operation. They have not left their villages and continue to live in their places of origin. Currently humanitarian agencies do not have access to the area and thus it is difficult to assess their living conditions and humanitarian needs as a result of on-going military operations.

**Neek, Ghor and Sayyad and Kohistanat, Sare Pul to Shiberghan** - Due to insecurity and fighting between warlords, **111 families/ 781 individuals** of mixed Tajik & Uzbek ethnicity were displaced from Neek district of Ghor province, Kohistaanat and Sayaad districts of Sare Pul province in October 2010. Due to continuation of insecurity and fighting, another 41 families (28 from Kohistanat and 13 from Sayad) have been displaced in January 2011 and joined their families in Shiberghan. The IDPs are staying with the host community in Nawabad Turkistan village, Shiberghan. The IDP representatives have indicated that 80 families are from Ghor province and the remaining are from Sayyad and Kohistanat district of Sare Pul. UNHCR and DoRR assessed the situation of this group and included them in the winterization assistance program. The number of Ghor IDPs increased to **217 families 1376 individuals** by the end of Feb. These families were also assisted with food and NFIs.

**Balcheragh to Shiberghan** - **142 families/ 852 individuals** from Tash Qala and Qurchi village of Balcheragh district, Faryab province left their village of origin to Jawzjan District Center (Shiberghan) in January 2011. The cause of displacement was stated as insecurity and presence of AOG in the area. DoRR and UNHCR have assessed the situation of these displaced families in February 2011 and then they were assisted with food and non food items.

## 6. Samangam Province

**Dara e Suf Pay district to Aybak city** - Due to conflict and insecurity, **13 families/ 87 individuals** of Aymaq ethnic origin originally from Dara-e-Suf Pay district of Samangan province were displaced to the capital of Samangan Aybak City. As per preliminary assessment, the affected families are staying with their relatives and host community and have been able to find job opportunities as daily labourers. UNHCR and DoRR Samangan assessed the situation of displaced families and they were included in UNHCR winterization assistance program for 2010.

**Yaka Archa to Dara-I-Suf Payan District** - 72 IDP families in Siarali Zeraki village of Dara-I-Suf Payan, were forced to leave their place of origin (Yaka Archa) in 2002 by a local commander with links to Parliamentarians. The main cause of the displacement was a dispute over 200 Jeribs of rain-fed land between the IDP group and the commander. However, factional affiliations and related animosities between the community and the commander were also said to be the main factors of the displacement. According to IDPs, the commander also destroyed their village and looted their belongings. Currently only some *candas* (water reservoirs) and one mosque remain in the village and all else has been destroyed by the commander and converted into agricultural land although IDP group hold legal document showing that the area is their inherited property.

The government was unable to bring the commander to justice who is still an important player in the area despite his continued persecution of IDPs. This was reported to district and provincial authorities. In mid 2009, some of these IDPs bought land in the current settlement (Zerkai village) and UNHCR built shelters for them during the same year as they were living in difficult conditions. They are not willing to return to their place of origin unless they recover their village/lands and the commander is removed from power. NRC and AIHRC are following their land case with relevant officials, but no positive progress has been made as of yet.

## 7. Takhar Province

**Khuja Ghar, Takhar** - 192 families / 1,224 individuals of Uzbek ethnic origin were displaced in Khuja Ghar district of Takhar province in November 2010 due to AGE activities and intimidation. Following an assessment conducted by DoRR Takhar, it was found out that 62 families have spontaneously returned to their places of origin, while 130 families still remain in displacement. ICRC and ARCS assessed these families and assisted 110 of them with food. According to DoRR Takhar, non-food items were distributed to 110 eligible families out of 130 surveyed and in addition some cash assistance was provided by the Provincial Governor of Takhar to the most vulnerable families. In early February 2011, ANDMA, DoRR and ARCS conducted an assessment in Khoja Ghar and reported that all the above IDPs have returned to their place of origin. IOM assisted these families with winterization assistance program in their places of origin.

**Khuja Bahauddin, Takhar**- On 19 August 2008, a group of Pashtun families repatriated from Balochistan through Kandahar Encashment Centre and returned to their village of origin after 25 years in exile. They arrived at Khoja Bahauddin (their place of origin) and the following day some thousand members of the Uzbek and Tajik local communities (including those who had occupied the Pashtuns' land) started violently demonstrating against their return. The local authority evacuated the returnees to a safe-haven compound (an ex-prison) for their safety. To date **56 families** continue to live in the same location. Subsequently a government delegation from Kabul mediated to find an amicable solution to the land problem. The returnees and the local community reached an agreement with the government commission that:

(i) Government owned land will be provided for the returnees next to their village of origin for housing; (ii) The dispute over agricultural land will be solved through the courts.

A special commission was established to work on this case. After months of investigation, the special commission finally made a decision in favour of the returnees in March 2010. The Ministry of Interior has also requested the police department in Takhar to help implement the decision of the court. However this has still not happened. In mid 2010 UNHCR together with NRC, UNAMA HR and AIHRC visited the Takhar PG and urged him to implement the court's decision as soon as possible and were advised that he is looking into the issue on a priority basis but stated that the authorities need to find alternate lands to settle the local Uzbeks before if they are to be evicted from the returnees land.

## 8. Baghlan Province

**Puli Khumri, Baghlan** - A group of 63 Ismaili returnee families claim that 10 Jeribs of land was allocated for each by the Najibullah Government in 1988. In 1998, when the AGE captured the province, the Ismailis were forced to flee to Pakistan but in 2002 they returned to Afghanistan. However the Larkhabi tribe which lives across the road from the disputed land prevented the Ismailis from accessing the area by claiming ownership to the particular land. Currently the Ismailis are living in displacement in an area close to Pul-I-Khumri of Baghlan province.

**Nahrin to Dushi, Baghlan**- The representative and some elders of **95 families/471 individuals** from this Nahrin group said that following the defeat of AGE, they were forced to leave their villages of origin by the neighboring non-Pushtoon (Tajik and Hazara) communities. They were accused of supporting AGE, and were forced to leave their land and properties in which they have lived for more than 100 years. Subsequently their houses were occupied by the Tajik and Hazara communities. The IDPs reported that they are living in a very bad condition as they had to leave all their belongings which were later looted by the opposition group. The houses were also destroyed. All the families are Pashtun and were distributed lands by the King Zahir Shah's government and they claim they have all related documents to prove the land belongs to them.

The IDP representatives claim that during the revolution the non-pashtun tribes forcefully occupied their lands and during the Taliban regime they reclaimed their lands through the Taliban province Governor for Baghlan, who ordered the return of the lands to the Pashtun IDPs based on the documents they have. But upon the fall of the Taliban the previous occupiers reoccupied their lands. The representative of group then approached President Karzai for help and based on instructions from the President, the presidential office sent a letter to Baghlan PG asking him to help these families with housing plots in the area, however no action has been taken on this.

**Recent Temporary IDP movements** - Due to joint military operations "Nawroz" which started in February 2011 in Baghlan province, reportedly around **1,000 families** were forced to leave their places of origin Na Khail, Mata Khail, Himat Khail, Sardar Khail, Mullah Khail, Abkol, Ali Khuja, Temoriha and Jari Khusk cluster, in old Baghlan, Central Baghlan district. All these are reported to have now returned to their places of origin in accordance with the assessment of ARCS-Baghlan and confirmation from local sources (Returnee/IDP representatives).

## 9. Badakhshan Province

**Within Yaftal Payan, Yawan, Argo, Shari Buzarg and Archghanchkhwa districts** - 398 families of Tajik ethnicity were displaced during the period (1st March 2010- 29th Sept 2010) from Yaftal payan, Yawan, Argo, Shari Buzarg and Archghanchkhwa districts to near by villages of Pistai kalan, Sari pol, Toghbay, Malwaan and Zoor Badoor. These families were displaced due to land/mountain slide and snow avalanches which were reported by ANDMA and IOM assisted them with winter kits in December 2010. The IDP families are living in temporary shelters and are in need of construction tools and materials for building permanent houses. In Badakhshan province where families were displaced due to land and mountain slides as well as snow avalanches; school children have to walk for two hours to reach school and the same was applicable in case of health facilities.

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