

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rain fed crops reduced by 80 per cent in parts of central highlands
- 40 per cent decrease in the number of Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in the first 3 quarters of this year
- Violations against humanitarians cause significant impediments to aid delivery

FIGURES

Total Afghan Population	27.5 m
Conflict Induced IDPs	~612,000
Undocumented Afghans in Iran	1.4 m
Registered Afghans in Iran	1 m
Undocumented Afghans in Pakistan	1 m
Registered Afghans in Pakistan	1.9 m
Registered in other countries	200,000

Source: UNHCR/IOM as of Sept 2013

CHAP APPEAL

474 million
requested (USD)

HUMANITARIAN AID COMMITTED TO CHAP

312 million(USD)

Source: FTS 1 Oct 2013



Credit: OCHA southern region Office

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Humanitarian response to failed crops in central highlands

Rain fed crops reduced by 80 per cent in parts of central highlands

Vulnerable families face a tough winter after dryness in the growing season caused crop failures in Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan provinces in the central highlands of Afghanistan. Without assistance, dryness-affected communities will face significant hardship and may leave their homes to go to urban areas in search of income to buy food.

The WFP/FEWSnet mission found that 80 per cent of rain-fed areas had been affected and 24 per cent of irrigated areas were affected. The Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) members worked to ensure targeting of the most vulnerable and most severely food insecure population. Two groups were identified that were most affected by the crop failure: very severely and severely food insecure, based on the preliminary results of the NRVA 2011/12 (March 2013).

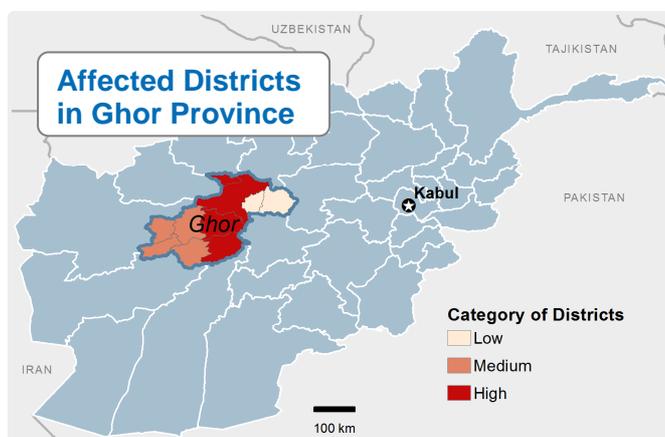
As a result, humanitarian stakeholders (WFP, the Afghan Red Crescent, and NGOs) will provide food assistance to about 10,000 food-insecure households, as well as cash transfer interventions in the hardest-hit province of Ghor.

In adjacent districts, in Daykundi and Bamyan provinces, WFP's winterisation program and food assistance from NGOs should address the most pressing needs. Funds from the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) are available to ensure evidenced based NGO projects have sufficient resources.

The Afghan government has planned to provide 8,700 metric tons (MT) of wheat grain from its strategic reserves, in addition to the international humanitarian response.

Distribution before winter

Livelihoods in these remote provinces are based on wheat growing and raising animals, so to ensure a good start to the spring season, improved distribution of wheat seeds and animal feed are needed before winter time. Afghan authorities are planning to distribute subsidised agricultural inputs to 2,800 recipients and 2,000 MT of animal feed in Ghor.



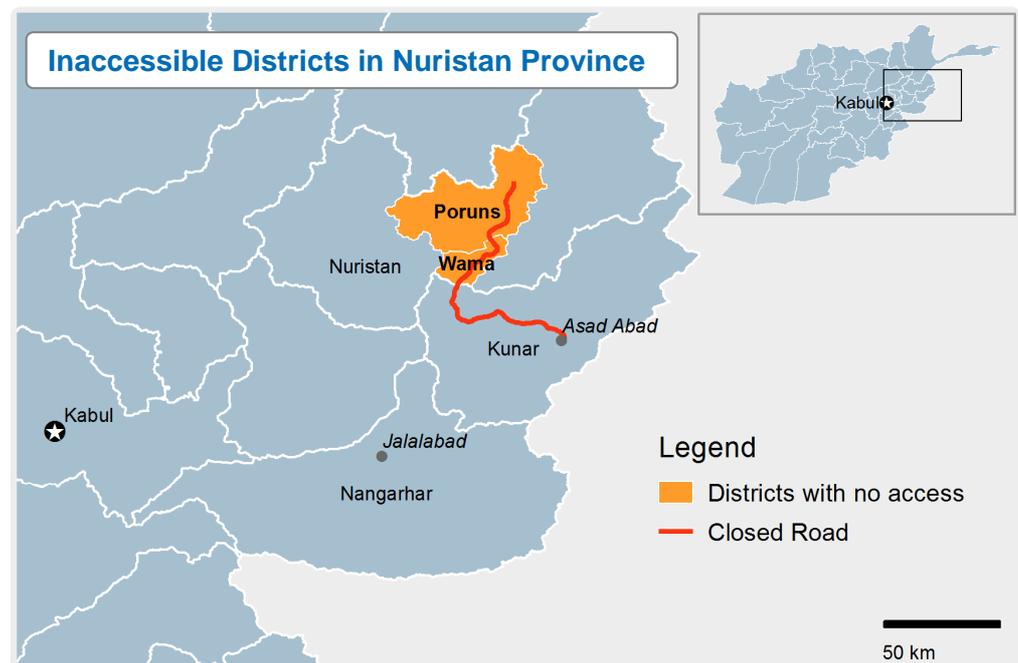
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Roadblocks in Nuristan cause rise in food price hurting poorest families

Over the last month the main supply road from Kunar Province, through Wama and Poruns Districts of Nuristan, has remained mostly inaccessible to regular commercial and vehicular traffic. WFP reports it has been unable to deliver food supplies with its transporters since August. As a result, transporters have been unable to regularly supply markets along that route with food and other goods.

Inflation on the rise

The provincial capital of Nuristan, Poruns, has been especially hard hit by the road blockage. Both Wama and Poruns Districts have seen inflation in food prices, with many vulnerable households now unable to purchase sufficient quantities. Local sources report that the price of a 50kg bag of flour has increased from 1,500AFN to 4,200AFN, while the price of 1kg of sugar is now reportedly 100AFN.



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Very high risk of looting

Humanitarian partners are few and scattered in the provincial districts; most of which are very difficult to access even when security is good. Despite their long standing presence and acceptance by communities, they have been hindered in their ability to deliver relief assistance. This is mainly because of the expanding presence of Anti Government Elements (AGEs) in the province, and the challenges faced by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to maintain control over large areas of Nuristan. With a very high risk of looting of humanitarian assistance, most agencies can only wait for an improvement in security.

Winter fast approaching

According to the Governor of Nuristan, Mohammad Tamim Nuristani, the Ministry of Defence has promised that additional security forces will shortly be deployed to secure the main supply road to the capital. However, others remain doubtful the local government can deliver on its promise to secure the province. With winter fast approaching it is essential that humanitarian organisations are able to deliver and pre-position assistance before the roads are closed.

Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

There has been a 40 per cent decrease in the number of Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in the first 3 quarters of this year. 5,739 registered refugee families (or just over 28,000 people) have returned with assistance by UNHCR this year to date.

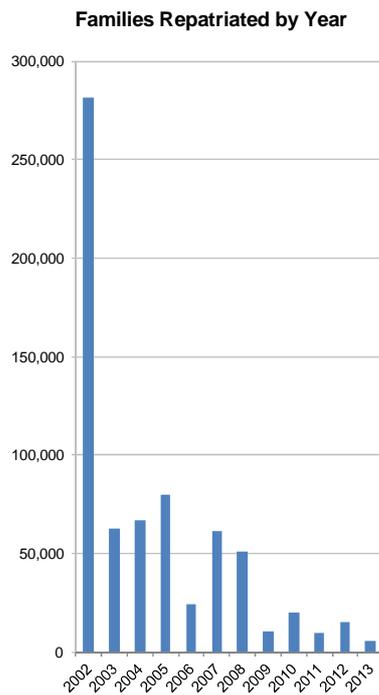
Recently the Government of Pakistan decided to extend the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation and the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards held by Afghan refugees until the end of 2015, and called for increased donor support to Pakistan.

Pakistan hosts over 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees.

Pakistan's minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Abdul Qadir Baloch, announced on June 30 in Kabul that his country would extend refugee cards for Afghans, known as proof of registration (PoR) cards. The cards had been due to expire on June 30.

3rd Quadripartite meeting held 18-19 September

As part of ongoing attempts to find durable solutions for refugees in urban settings, a third Quadripartite meeting since the launch of the Solutions Strategy, was held in Islamabad on 18-19 September to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the strategy, as well as joint resource mobilisation. This meeting sought to identify areas where national development programs can support progress on refugee return, to identify gaps in current programmes, and to identify ways to integrate returnee support into national development programs. This third quadripartite followed on from the "Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees" (SSAR), adopted at a conference in Geneva in May 2012.



Source: UNHCR Pakistan Oct 2013

Violations continue against humanitarians

34 incidents against humanitarian personnel recorded in September

Active hostilities and the threats of violence again impeded humanitarian access in September. 34 violent incidents against humanitarians were recorded in 16 provinces, including one death, twelve injuries and the abduction of nine staff members. Other incidents included: vehicle hijackings, robberies, small arms fire, intrusion and search of humanitarian facilities and health centres; detention and interrogation of personnel; threats, intimidation and collateral impacts, and an attack on a food relief convoy.

Eastern region most affected

The majority of incidents were registered in the eastern region where increased hostilities and scrutiny of aid agencies continues to lead to interferences with aid workers in rural Nuristan, Nangarhar and Laghman. Conflict related hostilities in Badakhshan, Wardak, Kabul, Logar, Nangarhar, Kunar, Kandahar and Hilmand provinces interfered with access during the reporting period.

Highest number of violations against health facilities and personnel

September has seen the highest number of incidents against health facilities and personnel this year, with 11 incidents reported.

The most violent incident was the attack on a health facility in Wardak with an improvised explosive device, causing injuries to 12 aid workers and 21 patients inside the provincial hospital. Most of the injuries were caused by glass debris, and a collapsed wall seriously injured two people.

Other incidents recorded include the abduction of health personnel in Nuristan, the intimidation of a nurse in Hilmand, a mortar strike and subsequent intrusion and search of facilities in two separate incidents in Hilmand, and the abduction and retribution killing of a health facility volunteer in Kunar province.

Respect from all parties to the conflict

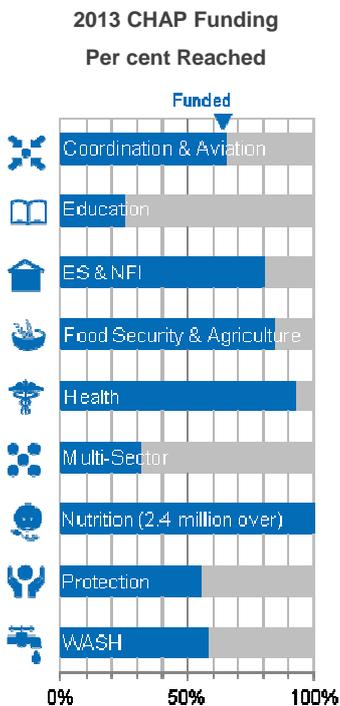
Humanitarians continue to reaffirm the need to respect health facilities and personnel by all parties to the conflict and call for strategies to improve compliance with human rights

Region	Restrictions on movement within the affected country	Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations	Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities	Restrictions on, or obstruction of, conflict affected populations access to services and assistance	Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities
Capital	38	63	8	31	3
Central Highland	0	2	0	0	0
Eastern	8	22	11	6	5
North Eastern	7	9	1	7	0
Northern	4	3	1	0	0
South Eastern	3	6	0	0	0
Southern	19	29	7	16	4
Western	10	11	6	4	3
Grand Total	89	145	34	64	15

- Restrictions on movement within the affected country
- Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations
- Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities
- Restrictions on, or obstruction of, conflict affected populations access to services and assistance
- Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities

law, international humanitarian law and medical ethics to enhance protection and accountability. Regular reporting on violations needs to be developed across the humanitarian community.

Humanitarian Financing Update



2013 CHAP funded 66 per cent or \$312 million

As of 30 September 2013, overall humanitarian funding for Afghanistan reached (US Dollar) \$422 million. Of this total, UN, IOM and NGO funds aligned with the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) account is \$312 million towards the \$474 million appeal requirement.

Funding reported for the CHAP on the Financial Tracking Services (FTS) indicates donor contributions in the current year of \$278 million which constitutes 89 per cent of the resources available, while carry-over funds from 2012 is \$34 million which accounts for 11 per cent.

Cluster funding

Almost all clusters have received good funding to date. The Nutrition cluster received 106 per cent of its funding requirement, the Health cluster 92 per cent, the Food Security and Agriculture cluster received 84 per cent, and the Emergency Shelter cluster 80 per cent, respectively.

The balance of other humanitarian funding available for Afghanistan according to FTS is \$110 million, of which \$70 million has been reported for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement following their own appeals process. The rest of the balance is aligned to the CHAP and further review will determine alignment to a specific clusters and nonaligned to CHAP.

Emergency Response Fund continues to support emergency projects

As of 30 September 2013, \$4.3 million is available in the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) for NGOs responding to new or unforeseen emergencies. Contributions in 2013 made by Norway, Sweden, Ireland and Denmark, and the recent \$3.8 million contribution of Canada have helped the ERF to continue its support to emergency projects. To date, \$6.5 million has been disbursed for 23 projects run by NGOs in 2013.

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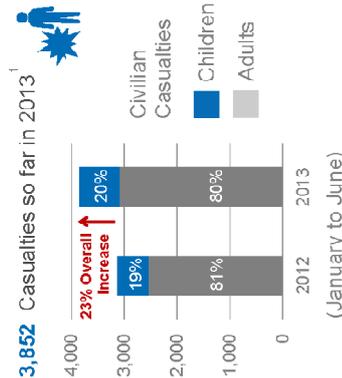
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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: <http://afg.humanitarianresponse.info> | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

AFGHANISTAN: Protection of Civilians Snapshot

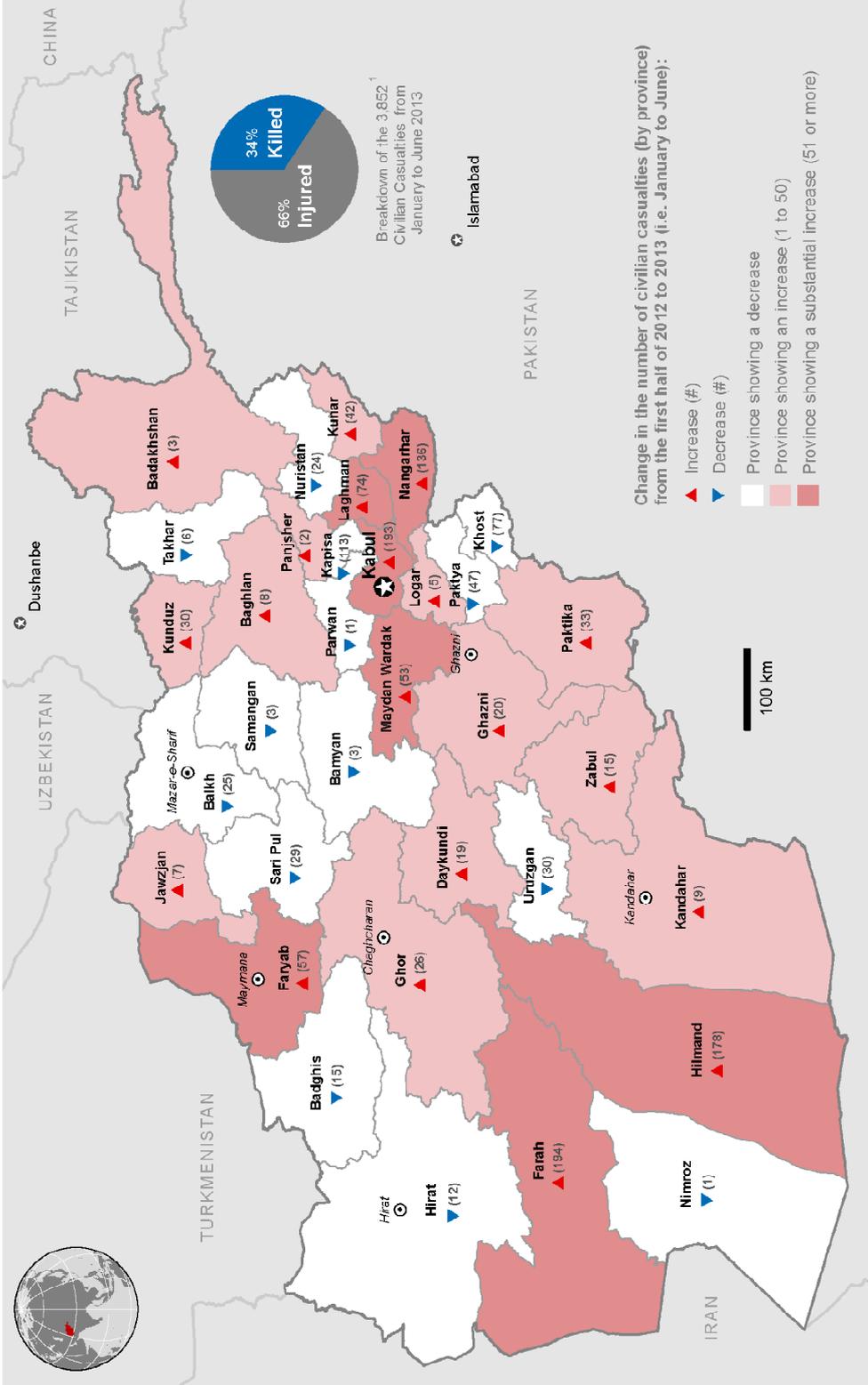
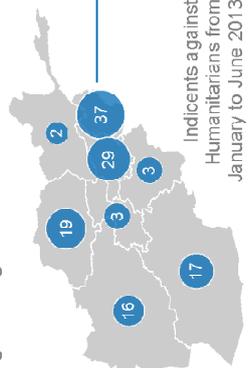


The number of civilian casualties rose by 23% in the first six months of 2013 compared with the first six months of 2012, reflecting intensified ground engagements and increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in populated areas.



Safety and Security of Humanitarian Workers²

Violence against humanitarian workers is growing. 125 incidents of violence were recorded from January to June, a 78% increase from last year. Afghanistan is an increasingly unpredictable and dangerous environment, where direct targeting of humanitarian workers is forcing some agencies to scale back their programming.



Total	Killed	Injured	Abducted
125	15	25	38

↑ **78%** From 2012 to 2013 Comparison of January to June period only

Military Intrusions into Health Facilities

There has been a sharp increase in military intrusions into health facilities in 2013. 80% of these incidents are attributed to Pro-Government Forces (PGF), who use health facilities as bases for military operations. More effort is needed by all parties to respect the neutrality of health facilities, personnel and transport.

How to Stay and Deliver

Humanitarian access is expected to shrink further. To face this challenge, humanitarians are moving towards more flexible programming and trying to engage with all parties to conflict in order to reach more people in need.

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Creation date: 1 October 2013 **Sources:** UNAMA¹ (Civilian Casualties as reported by UNAMA from 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2013), OCHA² (Incidents against humanitarian workers as recorded by OCHA from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013). The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.