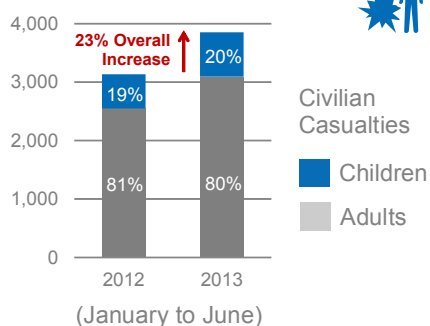


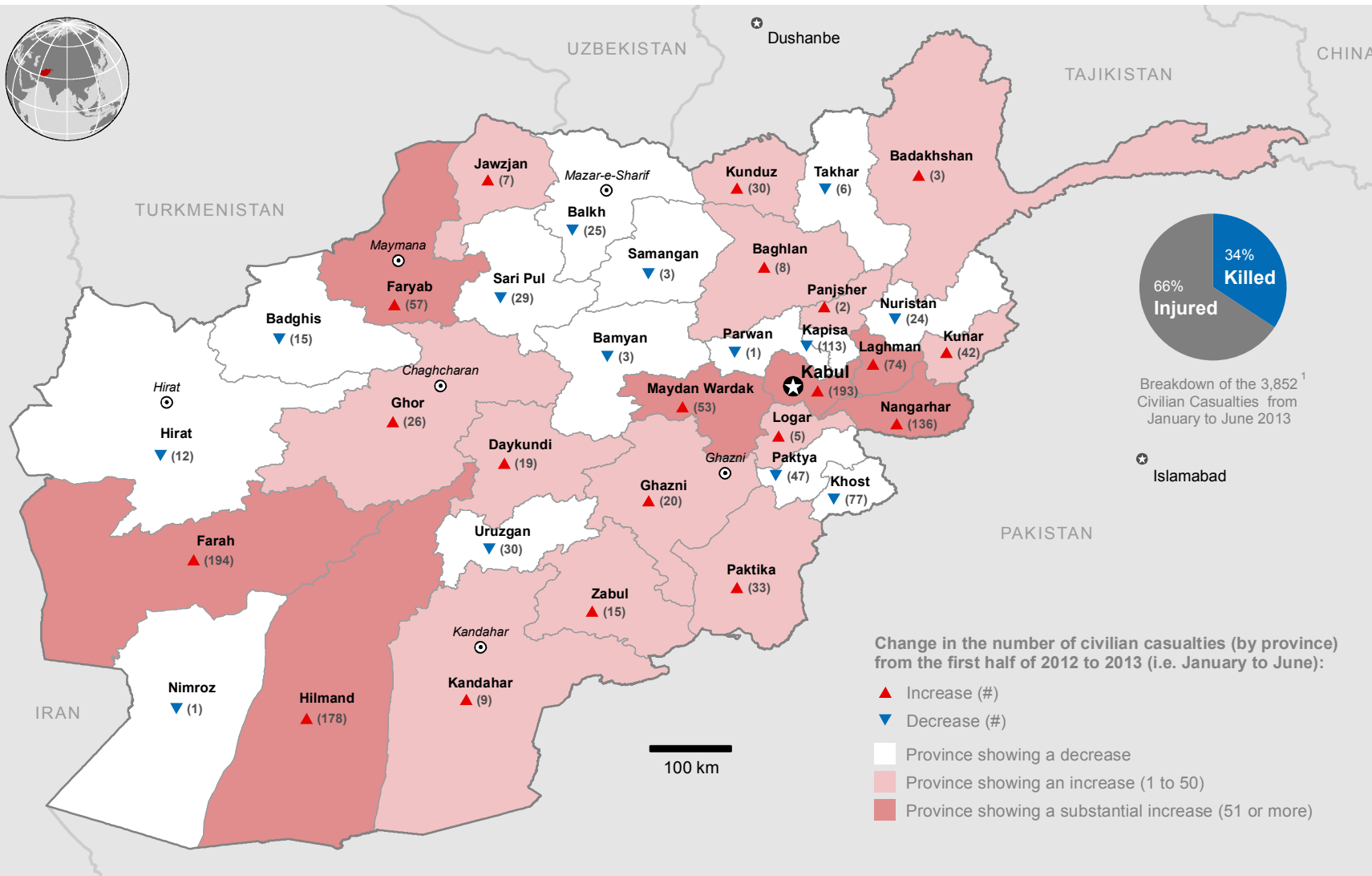
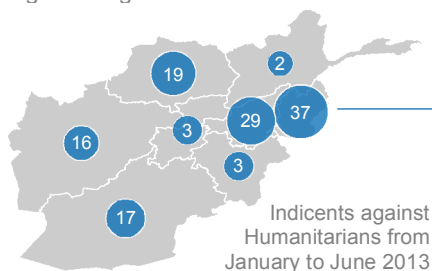
The number of civilian casualties rose by 23% in the first six months of 2013 compared with the first six months of 2012, reflecting intensified ground engagements and increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in populated areas.

3,852 Casualties so far in 2013¹



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 humanitarians is forcing some agencies to scale back their programming.



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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