AFGHANISTAN
Weekly Humanitarian Update
(16 – 22 November 2020)

South: Fighting continued, winterisation aid needed

Fighting between Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and a non-state armed group (NSAG) continued in the south. In Hilmand province fighting continued in Lashkargah, Nahr-e-Saraj and Nad-e-Ali districts with a high threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). In Kandahar province, almost all internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Arghandab district returned to their places of origin however the presence of IEDs reportedly hindered their access to their farms. In Uruzgan province, fighting continued in Dehrawud and Gizab districts and affected shops and infrastructures. According to local authorities, 700 IDPs from Nimroz were displaced to Zaranj city due to fighting in neighboring provinces. A needs assessment to verify this information will be conducted.

On 17 November, humanitarians provided tents, food, water, sanitation & hygiene supplies and cash assistance to 247 families (1,729 people) affected by conflict in Kandahar province. In addition, 11,465 people affected by conflict will be assisted in the coming days in Kandahar, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.

With the onset of winter and mass displacement in Kandahar and Hilmand, there is an immediate need for winterisation assistance, particularly for warm clothes for children. Local authorities in Hilmand reported that 4,500 IDP families (approximately 30,000 people) require winterization aid in Lashkargah.

West: Needs assessments ongoing for 3,500 people

On 20 November, fighting between the ANSF and an NSAG in the Shorodak area in Shindand district, Hirat province reportedly resulted in the death of one civilian. Also on 20 November, two civilians were reportedly killed in the Nowabad area, Ab Kamari district in Badghis province. Needs assessments of approximately 3,500 people affected by conflict are ongoing in Badghis, Ghor, Farah and Hirat provinces.
Centre: Intensified insecurity resulted in civilian casualties

The security situation remained unstable in the central part of the country with incidents reported in Kabul, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktya, Khost, Paktika and Ghazni provinces. Eight civilians were reportedly killed and 35 injured by roadside IEDs in Kabul, Ghazni, Kapisa and Maidan Wardak provinces. According to government officials, eight people were reportedly killed and 31 wounded by multiple rockets hitting different parts of Kabul city on 21 November. The Islamic State of Khorasan claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 24 November, at least 15 people were killed and 60 others wounded by two IED detonations in Bamyan city, Bamyan province. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident.

This week, 693 IDPs received humanitarian assistance in Maidan Wardak and Logar provinces and food distributions to 6,125 IDPs are ongoing in GIZab district, Uruzgan province. 133 IDPs were identified to receive humanitarian assistance in Parwan province in the coming days.

North-east: 2,800 people displaced in Kunduz province

Fighting between ANSF and NSAGs continued in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. Five civilians were reportedly killed in armed clashes in Rostaq and Chahab districts in Takhar province and Argo district in Badakhshan province. Early alerts indicate that the fighting displaced approximately 2,800 people in Kunduz province.

Assessment teams identified 343 households (approximately 2,401 people) displaced by conflict in Baghlan, Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces to receive humanitarian assistance in the coming days. Humanitarian assistance reached 2,370 households (approximately 16,920 people) affected by conflict in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar and Kunduz provinces.

East: 47,012 people identified to receive humanitarian assistance

The security situation in the east remained unstable with the majority of security incidents taking place in Nangarhar province. Around 600 people were reportedly displaced from Sherzad in Nangarhar province and interagency assessment teams are coordinating the response. The Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan was reportedly closed to civilian movement on 21 November due to tension and unconfirmed reports of gunfire in the vicinity.

Interagency assessment teams identified 47,012 people to receive immediate humanitarian assistance. A total of 13,216 people received humanitarian assistance including IDPs, undocumented returnees, and people who received food aid as part of the COVID-19 response.

A total of 6,813 returnees, IDPs and people from host communities were reached with emergency outpatient health services and 4,861 children were vaccinated to protect against polio and measles.

North: 2,352 people received humanitarian assistance

Armed clashes between ANSF and an NSAG continued mainly in Balkh, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, Jawzjan and Samangan provinces. Interagency teams verified 2,079 people displaced by conflict to receive humanitarian assistance in Balkh, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul and Jawzjan provinces.

A total of 2,352 people in protracted displacement, host communities and recent returnees from Iran received cash assistance and COVID-19 prevention information in Maymana city, Faryab province.

Funding Update: $15 million allocated to Afghanistan from CERF

The Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated US$15 million for humanitarian action in Afghanistan from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The CERF allocation will provide timely assistance to mitigate the impact of rising food insecurity, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing unconditional cash assistance to people in areas that are most affected by food insecurity. WFP and FAO will develop an operational prioritization strategy and project proposals. The CERF allocation is being processed in consultation with recipient agencies and the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster.

For further information, please contact:
Linda Tom, Public Information Officer, OCHA Afghanistan, toml@un.org, Cell: +93 79300 11 10
For more information, please visit: unocha.org | reliefweb.int
facebook.com/UNOCHAAfghanistan | twitter.com/OCHAAfg