

Key Messages

Situation

- Fighting in Ghazni City centre has subsided with the Taliban reportedly regrouping in the northern, western and southern areas. Afghan National Security Forces reinforcements continue to arrive and clearance operations are ongoing.
- Improved security within the city centre itself may result in small pockets of humanitarian access opening up, allowing partners to initiate needs assessments and response activities, although continuing security concerns and limited communications remain a hindrance.
- Electricity and water supply are still down according to sources, and while one telecommunications network operator has reportedly started functioning again partners have indicated that communications in general remain challenging.
- There are reports of widespread contamination with explosive remnants of war within the city, including around the provincial hospital.
- Highway 1 connecting Kabul with Ghazni from the north remains contested with reports of several checkpoints manned by Taliban.
- Civilians and aid workers have no safe routes into or out of the city, however medical organisations have dispatched supplies for the hospital that have now reached the city.

Humanitarian Impact

- Reports of civilian casualties remain in the region of 150 according to unverified reports, although the number is expected to rise over the coming days. The provincial hospital remains overwhelmed by admissions and has reportedly stopped counting dead bodies.
- The city is heavily contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and possibly mines, increasing the risk of further civilian casualties as residents attempt to resume daily activities and humanitarian partners consider entry to and movement inside the city.
- Between 160 and 230 people from Ghazni City reportedly arrived in Gardez, Paktya, 100 kilometres from Ghazni, according to authorities. An unspecified number of displaced people reportedly have arrived in Kabul and are being hosted by relatives.
- Residents of Ghazni City have reportedly tentatively ventured back into the streets, after having taken shelter in their homes.
- Unverified reports via social media show heavy destruction of a market place and shops in Police District 2, that had been the frontline for fighting during three days.

Response

- Humanitarian partners remain on standby to scale up activities once safe and secure access is ensured both for aid workers and people in need. Initial priorities include extraction of war wounded and the management of mortal remains, provision of emergency health services, food and water.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) informed that the provincial hospital in Ghazni has been provided with dressing packages, oral and intravenous medicine, fresh water and material for the management of mortal remains.
- ICRC, with the support of the volunteers of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), began collecting bodies for transportation to their families, the hospital or military bases. The ARCS has also deployed 500 additional hygiene packages and 250 coffins.
- Trauma kits and emergency health and medical supplies for 3,000 patients dispatched by the World Health Organization (WHO) reached the main hospital on Wednesday afternoon.
- A first team of specialists is deployed in Ghazni to assess the contamination with ERW and unexploded ordnance and is expected to commence assessments tomorrow.
- Approximately 60 local NGO workers are reported available to initiate needs assessments once conditions allow.

The next situation update will be issued once new information becomes available or is warranted by the situation on the ground.