**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The security situation drastically deteriorated in Faryab province, where anti-government elements (AGEs) launched attacks in Dawlatabad, Pashtunkot and Shirin Tagab Districts causing the displacement of 8,800 civilians.

- Chimaltal District in Balkh Province also experienced armed confrontations between Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) and AGEs which registered an unprecedented number of internally displaced people (IDPs). More than 500 families from Barga Village of Chimaltal District fled to other areas of Chimaltal and towards Mazar.

- 19 incidents were recorded by MRM CAAC, committed by parties to the armed conflict in the North and North-East regions with 5 children killed and 32 injured in 15 separate incidents. As part of community based prevention and mitigation, 170 CPAN members, community leaders and education personnel from volatile districts of Jawzjan and Baghlan provinces received orientation sessions on MRM CAAC.

- Family members of IDPs from Darzab District in Jawzjan Province have been abducted and ill-treated by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in their place of origin after their family members have received humanitarian assistance in the place of displacement. This trend, previously observed in Sayaad District of Sar-i-Pul suggests the need to assess locations of distribution sites, ensuring safety and confidentiality of civilians accessing assistance.

- A NRPC led assessment in Amanabad Village in Balkh District revealed serious protection concerns for single female headed IDP households living in makeshift shelters. The NRPC, jointly with the ES/NFI cluster organized a field assessment and identified vulnerable IDP families will receive shelter assistance under NRC’s emergency shelter program.

- The Northern Regional Protection Cluster (NRPC) conducted 4 trainings on IDP rights to receive humanitarian assistance and protection mainstreaming in joint assessments for humanitarian partners in four provinces. The training also included an induction session on protection monitoring for partners operating in hard to reach areas (ARCS and BPHS).

- NRC and WAW conducted information sessions on available services for 499 IDPs and registered returnees. Among these, 57 benefitted from counseling on civil documentation and HLP. ICLA conducted 3 legal training and 7 community sensitization sessions in Balkh, Samangan and Jawzjan Provinces and 458 IDPs (newly displaced as well as protracted) participated in protection oriented focus group discussions.

**GAPS AND CHALLENGES**

- The deterioration of security in Faryab and AGE’s control over villages located along the Maimana-Andkhoy Highway blocked access for humanitarian partners to Dawlatabad and Andkhoy from Maimana. This caused the response to the displacement from and within Dawlatabad to be organised from the neighbouring province of Jawzjan adding pressure on overstretched teams.

- Hard to reach districts of Darzab and Qoshpepa in Jawzjan still cannot be accessed by MRE partners due to security. Such mRE and decontamination needs remain unassessed.

- The number of IDPs identified by JATs do not reflect the actual number of displaced. In July only 20% of those who lodged a petition were identified as IDPs in need. The NRPC conducted monitoring on the petition and assessment system and consulted with partners across all 5 provinces, with a report on related protection concerns, currently being prepared. This discrepancy is due in part to different interpretations of the IDP definition by field staff, high rejection rates dictated by operational needs of agencies and the submission of false petitions.

- DoLSA and CPAN Balkh conducted an assessment to determine the extent of child labor in Mazar City; while the assessment will expand to other districts, preliminary results indicate that approximately 300 children are engaged in child labor in Mazar City with 90% of them being displaced from other provinces. There is a substantial gap in provision of child protection services across the five provinces to respond to the protection risks of children.

- The continuous identification of GBV cases suggests the need to increase the provision of services for GBV prevention and response. Specifically, the GBV Sub-Cluster and NRPC are advocating for funds to promote awareness raising through local media in hard to reach areas.

- Returnee children in Balkh District continue to face obstacles in enrolling in school due to the lack of an official stamp by MoE on their school records obtained in Pakistan - NRC and UNHCR are following this protection concern up with DoE.

**KEY MESSAGES**

- Partners involved in the distribution of ES/NFIs to review the safety of distribution sites to ensure the confidentiality of IDPs.

- GBV and CPE AoRs to consider the prioritisation of GBV and child protection in emergencies response against the current needs identified in the various districts in the field. Hence, CHF funding can be utilised for emergency and newly emerging protection concerns beyond district administrative centres.

- Advocacy required to all parties to the conflict to respect IHL principles to allow displaced people to access humanitarian assistance in safety and dignity. Partners involved in the assessment of IDPs to apply the IDP definition in the assessment and record the total number of IDPs, not only those found in need of assistance.