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Afghanistan Security Update Relating to Complementary Forms of Protection

In the context of Afghanistan, UNHCR advocates for complementary forms of protection being considered for persons originating from areas where any or several of the following features have been reported or observed within the past months:

- Intensified counter insurgency activities, including aerial bombings, by ISAF/NATO and OEF (US forces) which have escalated into open warfare in the south, southeast, eastern, and partly in western and central provinces and which affect safe movement to and from these provinces;
- Possible military operation in places where the AGE have established their presence;
- Indiscriminate attacks by anti-government elements, including foreign fighters *inter alia* through the increased and consistent use of asymmetric tactics (IED on the roads, missile attacks, bombs and suicide bomb attacks), attacks on “soft targets” such as schools and teachers, religious figures, health community (health centres and workers), UN and NGOs;
- Systematic acts of intimidation, involving arbitrary killings, abductions and other threats to life, security and liberty, by anti-government elements and by regional warlords, militia commanders and criminal groups, including on the highways;
- Illegal land occupation and confiscation with limited possibilities for redress;
- Religious and tribal conflicts, conflicts over the use of pasture land and inadequate responses by the central government to address violence and protect civilians.

Furthermore, UNHCR considers that Afghans should not be expected to travel through unsafe areas to reach their final destination in view of the increased insecurity even on main arterial routes.

Any or several of the above mentioned threats have been observed or reported in the past months in the below mentioned parts of Afghanistan and thus assessed as being insecure:

South

- All districts of **Hilmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul** and the highways to these provinces and also from Kandahar to Nimroz through Delaram are assessed as being insecure.

South East

- All districts of **Paktika, Khost, Paktia** and the highways to these provinces are assessed as being insecure

North West

- **Faryab**: Kohistan, Qaisar and north of Almar districts are assessed as being insecure.

North East

- **Baghlan**: Baghlan Jadid, Baghlan Kohna, Nahreen, Andarab (now divided to Banu, Deh Salah and Pul-i-Hesar districts), Khost, Fereng, Guzargah Noor, Jelga districts are assessed as being insecure,

- **Kunduz:** Chardara, Dasht-e-Archi, Akhtash area of Khan Abad districts and the highway to Dasht-e-Archi are assessed as being insecure.

East

- **Kunar:** The whole province except Asad Abad (the provincial capital), is assessed as being insecure.
- **Laghman:** The whole province except central and eastern parts of Mehtarlam (the provincial capital) is assessed as being insecure.
- **Nangarhar:** Khogyani, Pacheer Wa Agam, Deh Bala, Naziyan, Shirzad, Chaparhar, Door Baba, Goshta, Lal Poor, Achin, Hisarak and Kot districts are assessed as being insecure.
- **Nooristan:** The whole province except Paroon (the provincial capital), is assessed as being insecure.

West

- **Hirat:** The whole province except Hirat city, Kohsan, Kushke Rubat Sangi, Guzara and Engil districts are assessed as being insecure.
- **Farah:** The whole province, except Farah city is assessed as being insecure. The highways from Hirat to Farah, from Nimroz to Farah and from Farah to Kandahar are also assessed as being insecure.
- **Nimroz:** The whole province except Zaranj city and the highways from Hirat to Nimroz and Farah to Nimroz are assessed as being insecure.
- **Badghis:** The whole province, except Qala-e-Naw (the provincial capital) Aab Kamari and Qadis districts are assessed as being insecure. The highway from Qala-e-Now (provincial capital of Badghis) to Faryab is also assessed as being insecure.
- **Ghor:** The whole province, except Chakhcheran city (the provincial capital) is assessed as being insecure.

Central

- **Ghazni:** The entire province including the highways from Kandahar to Ghazni and from Kabul to Ghzani is assessed as being insecure.
- **Maidan-Wardak:** The entire province and the highways within the province is assessed as being insecure.
- **Logar:** The entire province apart from the highway from Kabul to Gardez is assessed as being insecure.
- **Kapisa:** Alasay, Nijrab, Kohband and Tagab districts and the highways from Mahmood Raqi (the provincial capital of Kapisa) to the mentioned districts are assessed as being insecure.
- **Kabul:** Sarobi, Paghman (Arghad-e Bala and Arghand-e Payan), Khak-e-Jabar, Musahi and Charasyab districts are assessed as being insecure.
- **Parwan:** Koh-e-Safi, Siya Gird and Shinwari districts are assessed as being insecure.
- **Daikundi:** Kiti and Kijran districts and the highway from Uruzgan to Daikundi are assessed as being insecure.

Updated on 05 October, 2008