

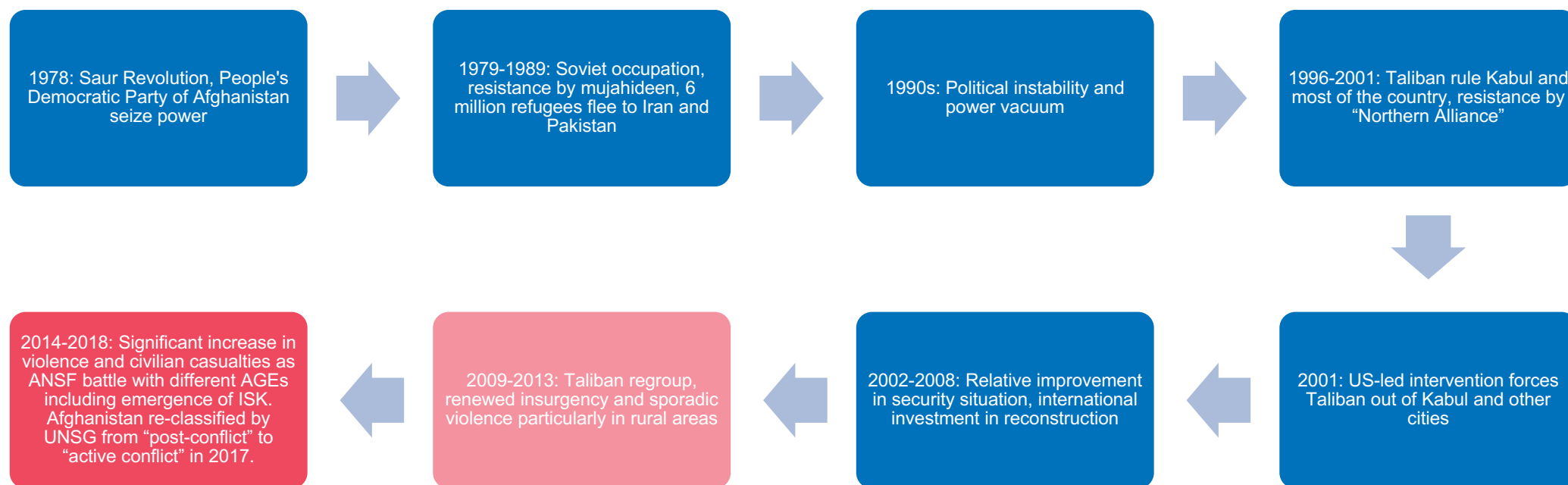
# International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan

12 March 2018 – Vienna, Austria

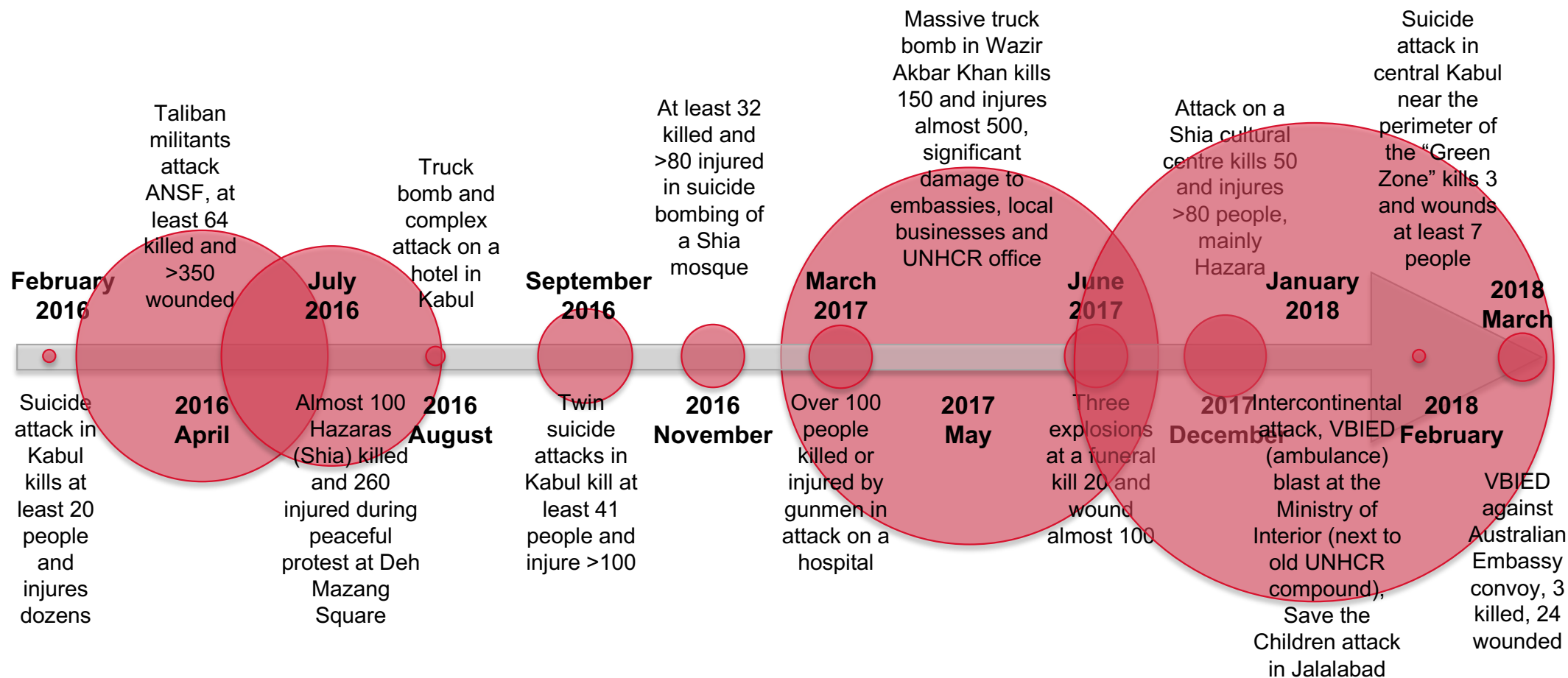
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# A brief history...

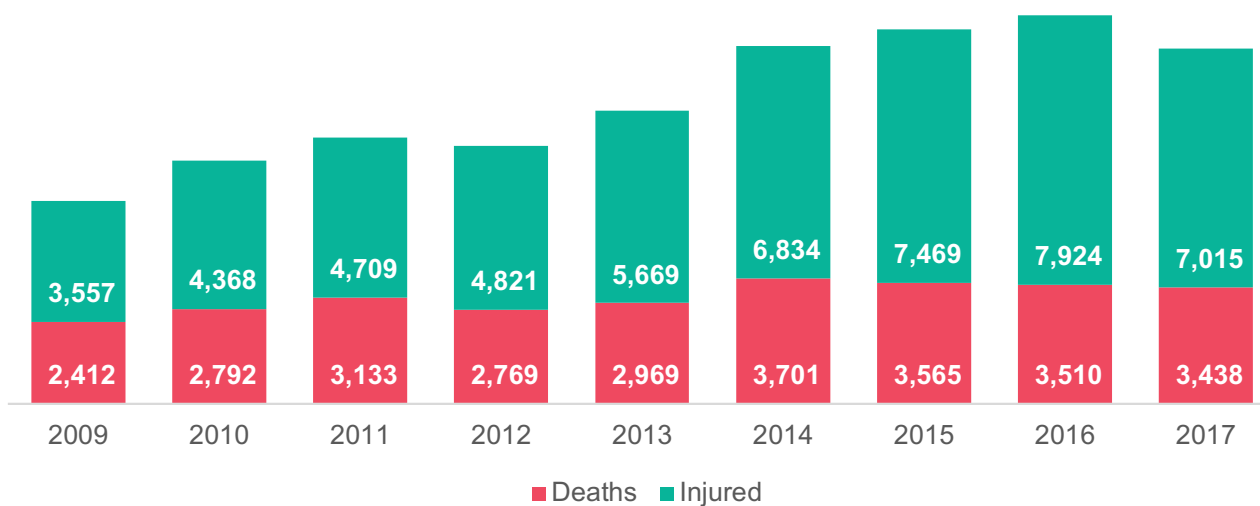


# Major incidents in Kabul, 2016-2018

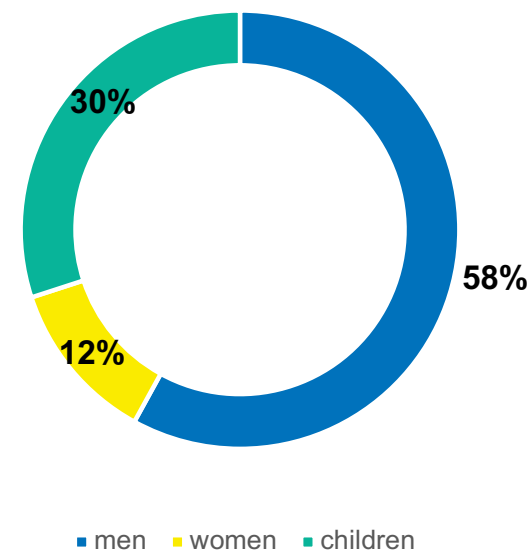


# Afghanistan at war

Civilians casualties in Afghanistan, 2009-2017



Victim profile

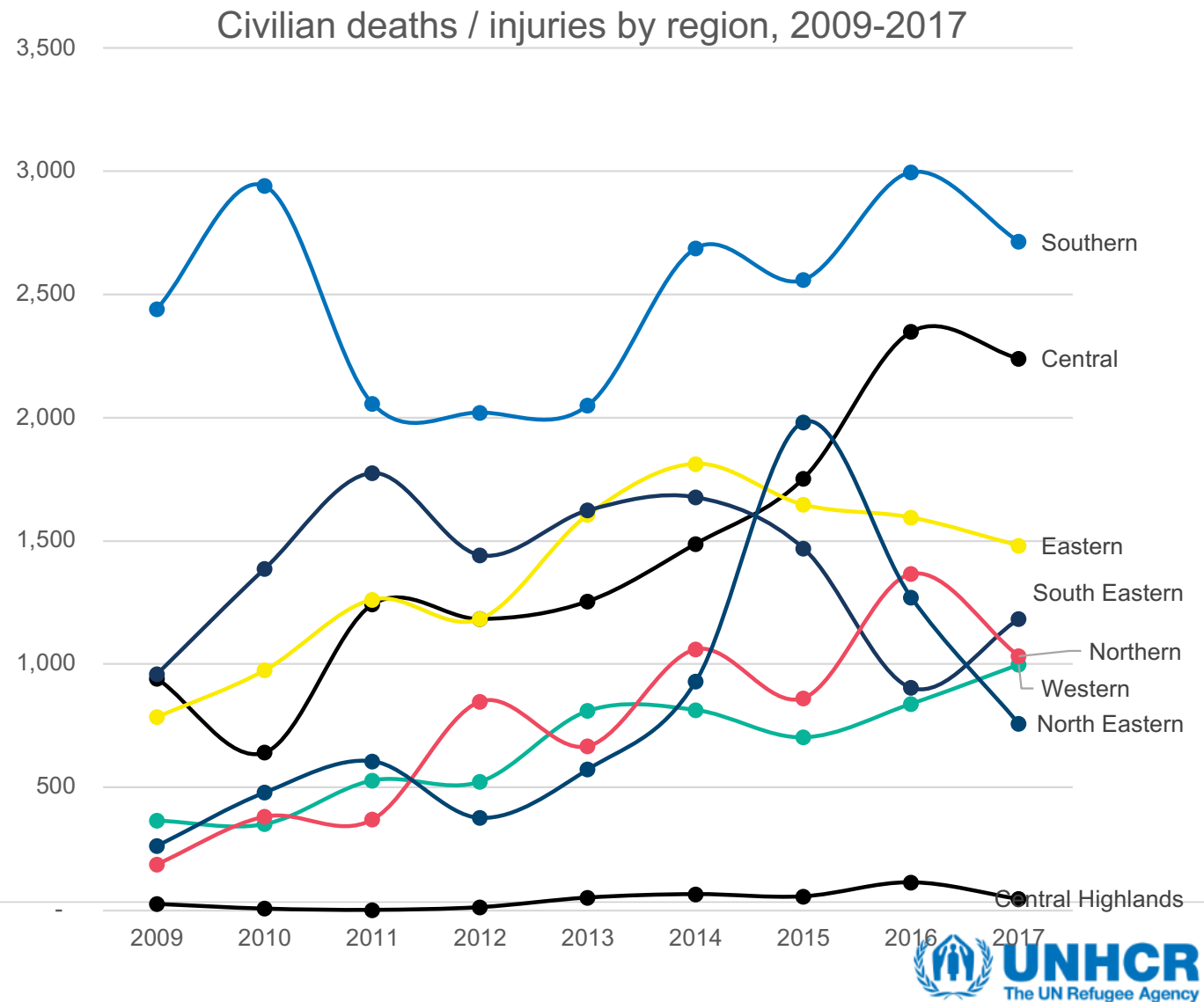


# Regions most affected by conflict

16% of verified civilian casualties were recorded in Kabul city in 2017

For the first time, in 2017, UNAMA recorded attacks by ISK outside of Nangarhar or Kabul, in Herat province

In 2017, conflict caused new internal displacement in 31 out of 34 provinces



# Attacks on religious leaders & worshippers

38 separate attacks on places of worship, religious leaders and worshippers verified in 2017

- 3 x the number of attacks recorded in 2016

500 civilian casualties, predominantly Shia Muslims (Hazara), verified in 2017

- Double the number of casualties with this profile, compared to 2016





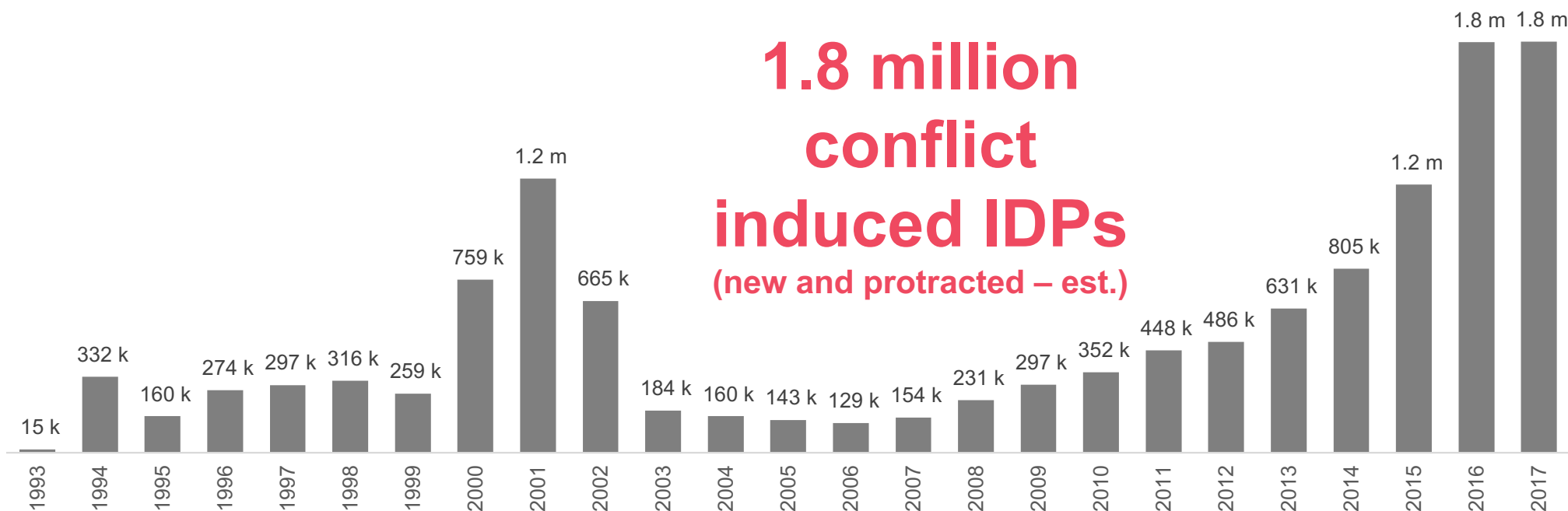
© UNHCR / S.Rich

Gulbibi, a 70 year internally displaced women from Kunduz province. Gulbibi is a widow who lives with her daughter-in-law who has four young children. She lost her only son, who was a victim in a suicide attack. Gulbibi's eldest grandson is six years old and collects garbage to help the family. Gulbibi survives through the charity of her neighbors and by begging in Kabul city.



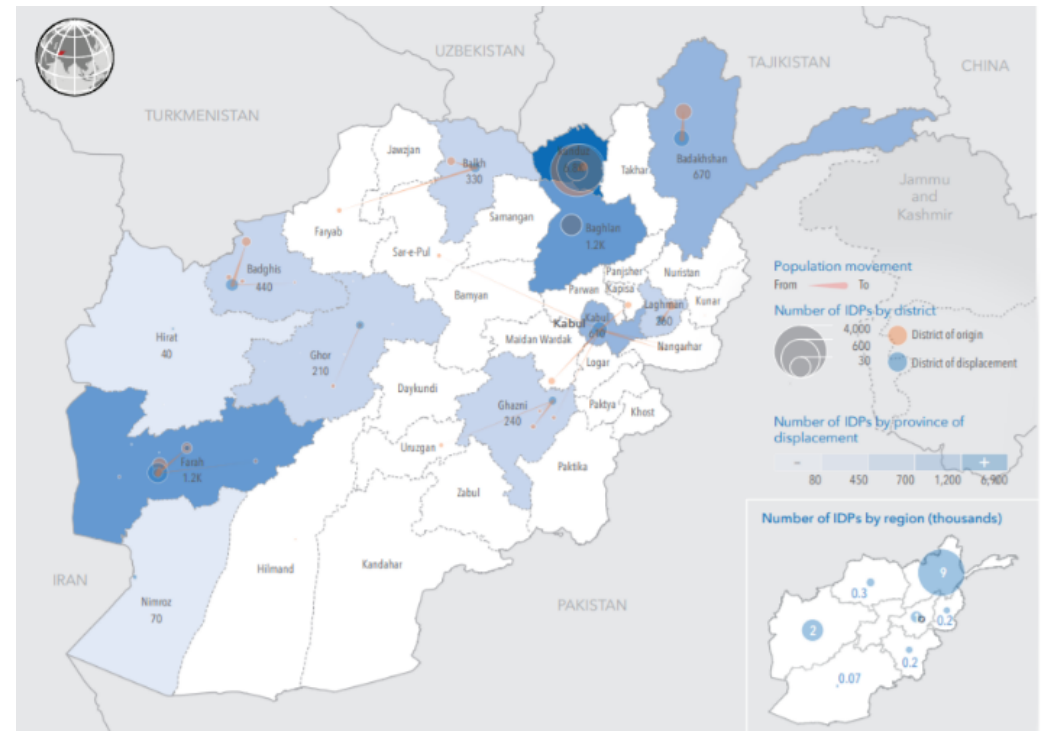
# Internal displacement - timeline

**1.8 million  
conflict  
induced IDPs  
(new and protracted – est.)**

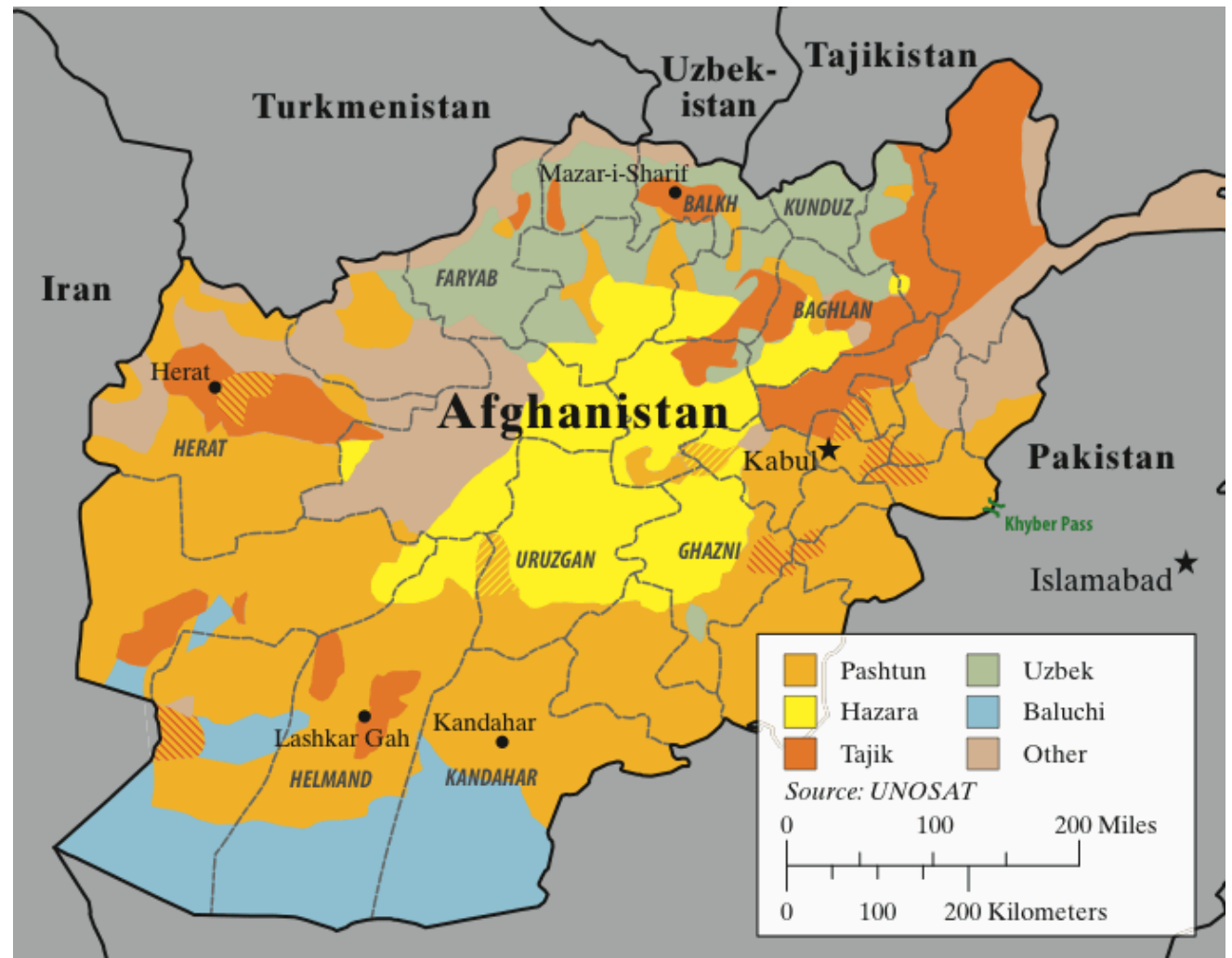


# Context

- Elections in July 2018, with National Unity Government facing significant political challenges
- Lack of government capacity to fund or implement development programs and basic services
- Deteriorating security, diminishing humanitarian access
- Emergence of Islamic State-Khorasan (ISK)
- Internal displacement
- Economic growth crashed from 14% in 2012 to 2% in 2013 (2.6% in 2017)



# Ethnic diversity



# Risk Profiles

*(NB: illustrative of certain risks, not exhaustive)*

Individuals perceived to support Government or international community, and their family members

Humanitarian aid and development workers, human rights activists, and their family members

Tribal elders and religious leaders

Women and children in certain circumstances

Journalists and media professionals

Men of fighting age, children at risk of forced recruitment

Religious/ethnic minorities, diverse sexual orientation/gender ID

Men and women suspected of violating Shari'a or contravening social mores

# Internal Protection Alternatives



Must be “**relevant**” and “**reasonable**”



Is the area of relocation practically, safely, and legally accessible to the individual?



Can the claimant lead a relatively normal life without facing undue hardship?



Must be more than a “safe haven” away from the area of origin



If an individual would be without family links or effective social protection from an established community network, relocation is unlikely to be reasonable

# Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative

“The claimant must be able to find **safety** and **security** and be free from **danger** and **risk of injury**. This must be **durable**, not illusory or unpredictable. In most cases, countries in the grip of **armed conflict** would not be safe for relocation, especially in light of shifting armed fronts which could suddenly bring insecurity to an area hitherto considered safe.”



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23 July 2003

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**GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION:  
“Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative” within the Context of  
Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol  
relating to the Status of Refugees**

UNHCR issues these Guidelines pursuant to its mandate, as contained in the *Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, and Article 35 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol. These Guidelines supplement the *UNHCR Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees* (1979, re-edited, Geneva, January 1992). They further supersede UNHCR's Position Paper, *Relocating Internally as a Reasonable Alternative to Seeking Asylum – (The So-Called “Internal Flight Alternative” or “Relocation Principle”)* (Geneva, February 1999). They result, *inter alia*, from the Second Track of the Global Consultations on International Protection which examined this subject at its expert meeting in San Remo, Italy, in September 2001 and seek to consolidate appropriate standards and practice on this issue in light of recent developments in State practice.

These Guidelines are intended to provide interpretative legal guidance for governments, legal practitioners, decision-makers and the judiciary, as well as UNHCR staff carrying out refugee status determination in the field.

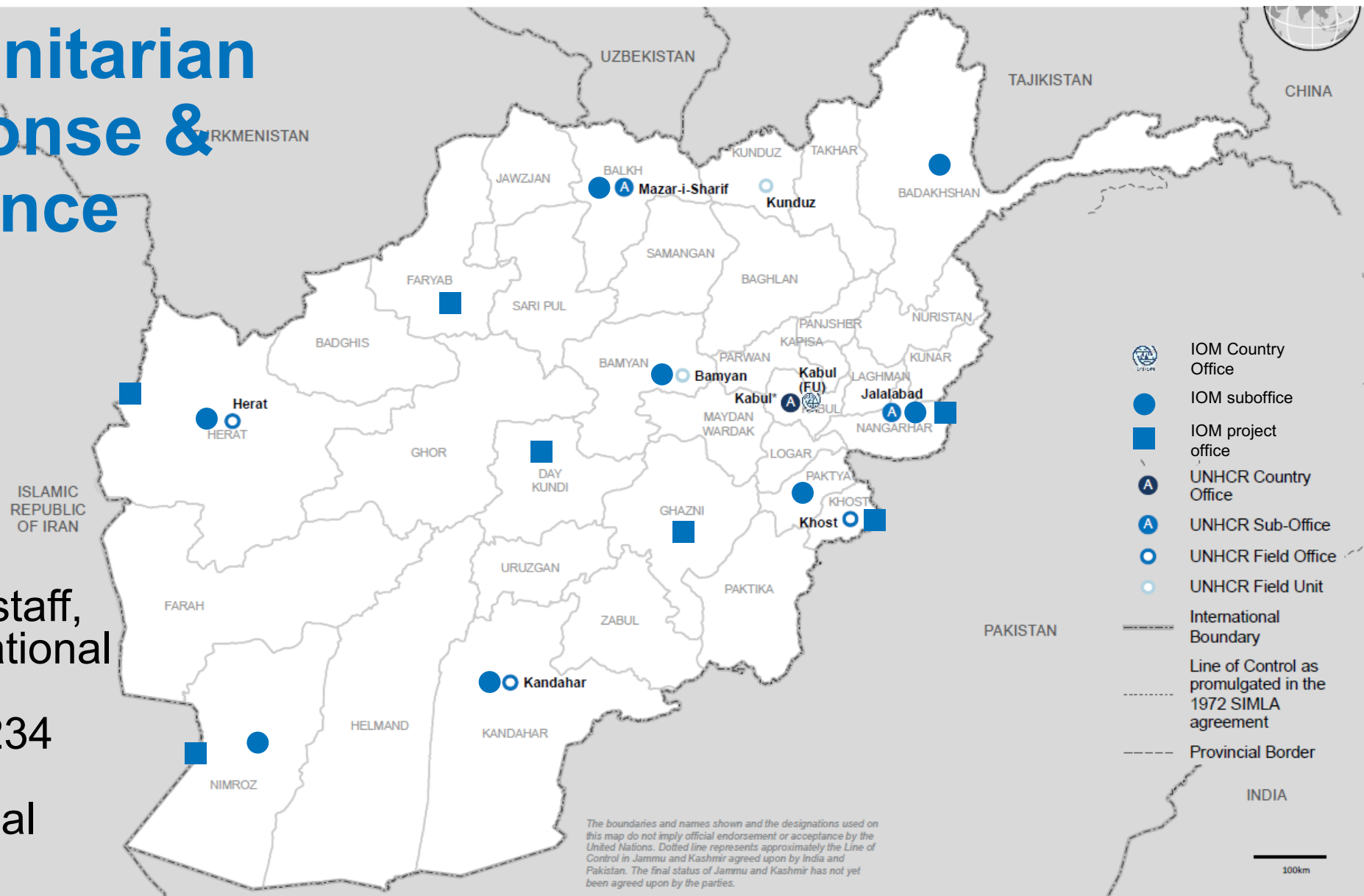




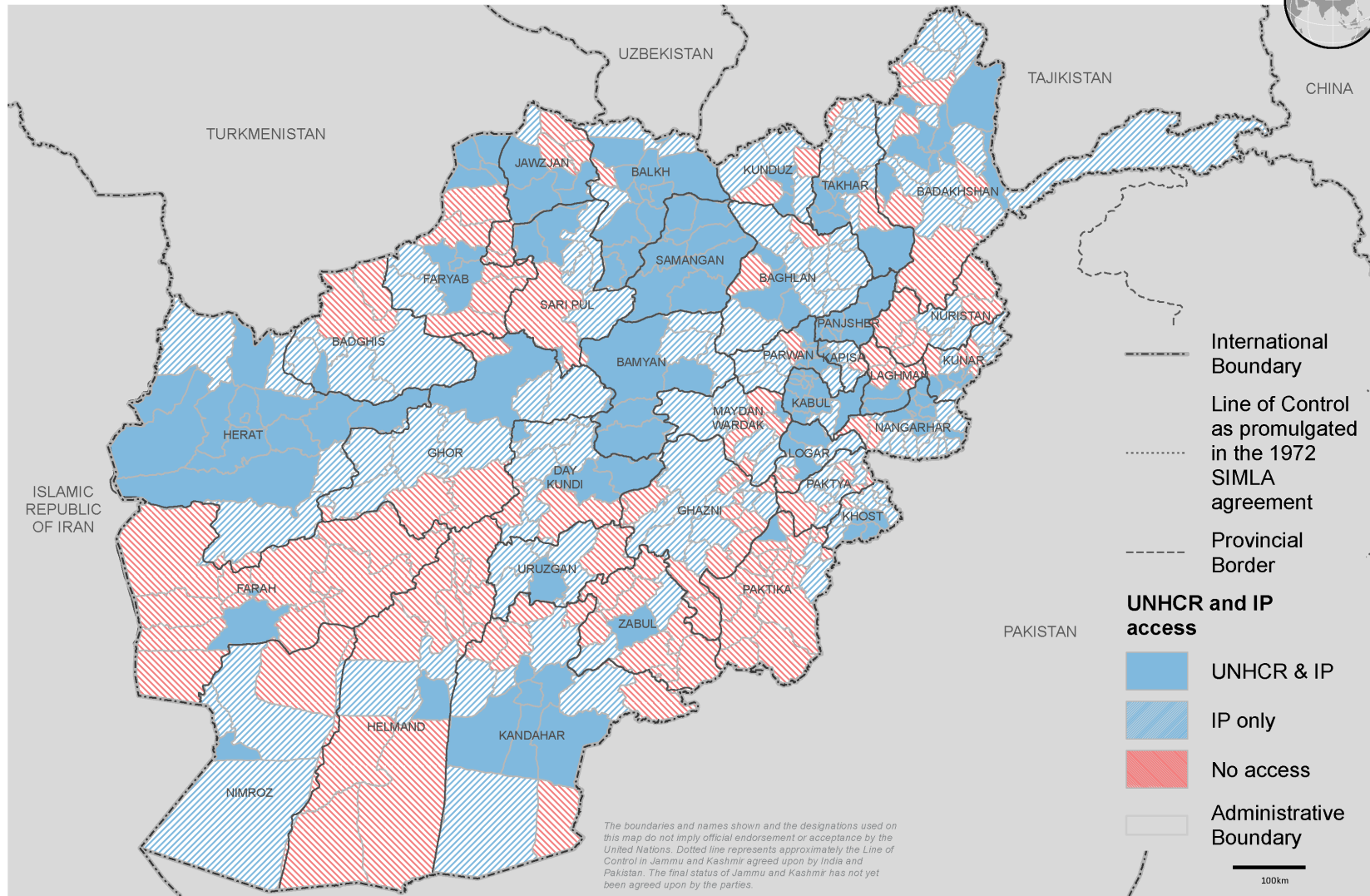
# Humanitarian Response & Presence

**IOM:** 448 staff,  
4% international

**UNHCR:** 234  
staff, 12%  
international



## Afghanistan: Humanitarian access (preliminary)



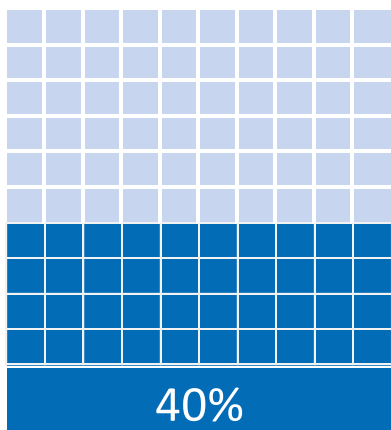
37% districts  
inaccessible;

11% districts  
where only  
district  
administrative  
centre is  
accessible

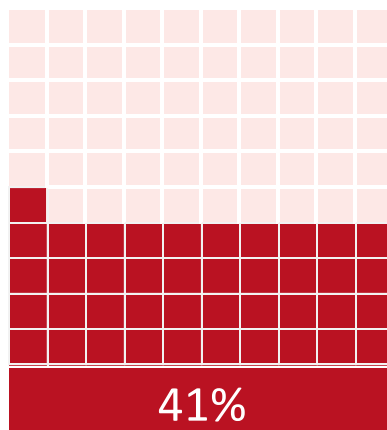
# UNHCR community protection measures programme

video

# Food Security



people are **food insecure**

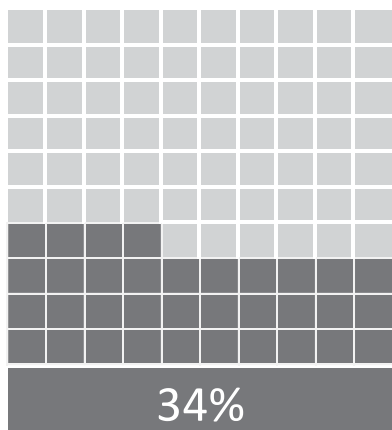


children < 5  
**stunted**

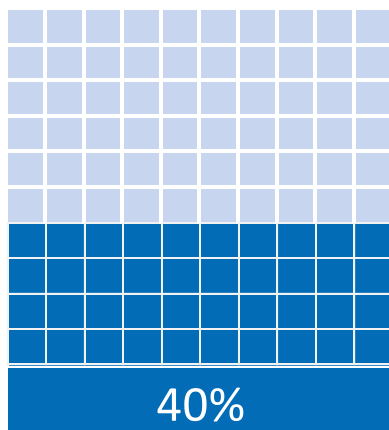


Gull Andam, age 35, with her children Hamiedulla, age 8, and Khadija, age 4, cooking food outside her house. Gull Andam and her family were displaced to Mazar city seven months ago. Here, she works in the houses of her neighbors and washes their clothes.

# Livelihoods



working-age  
population are  
**unemployed** /  
underemployed



Afghan population  
live in **poverty**



© UNHCR / S.Rich

His name is Ali Muhammad. He is 57, has 8 children. His two sons-in-law were beheaded by the Taliban. In his place of origin, he was busy with agriculture and livestock. Now, not having my livestock with him, he earns 150 Afs a day. They are three families in one house and pay 2,500 Afs per month for rent.



# Health

- Poor quality services, inequity in services provision, shortage of qualified health care providers particularly women
- High rates of preventable maternal, infant, and child mortality and morbidity;
- **46% of Afghan women were married <18**
- Afghanistan is one of three remaining **polio endemic countries** in the world
- **Vaccinations** impeded by lack of security/humanitarian access



# Education

- 2/3 girls do not go to school
- almost 50% girls marry before turning 18 years of age
- 41% of schools in Afghanistan do not have buildings



Ziarahman, age 8, (left) and Rehimullah, age 10 (right) use the solar lamps provided by UNHCR and partner to read and write and study their lessons. Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

# Conclusion

Widespread and escalating conflict causing record # civilian casualties especially in Kabul, forced displacement in every region, increase in violence and targeted killings with impunity

Internal protection alternatives (eg. in Kabul, Herat) are not “relevant and reasonable” in the absence of family support or an effective community network

Weak governance and rule of law, limited capacity of National Unity Government and provincial authorities to deliver basic services and implement policies in practical terms

AGEs control or contest almost half the country, young men and boys targeted by parties to the conflict based on perceived support/opposition, high risk of forced recruitment

Many development gains since 2001 have been lost as a result of armed conflict, and serious human rights violations by State and non-State actors, which are the leading causes of internal displacement and forced migration