

AFGHANISTAN

From 1 January to 30 June 2017, 159,000 individuals fled their homes due to conflict. The government of Afghanistan continues to be challenged by insurgent groups, including the Taliban, the Taliban-related Haqqani network and ISIL-Khorasan province.

A total of 29 out of 34 provinces have recorded some level of forced displacement, with the northern and north-eastern regions of the country the most affected, accounting for 45 per cent of the total displacements.

Following the launch of spring offensives at the end of April, conflict between the Taliban and the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) intensified, with an uptick in violence in May and June. Many of the displaced were in Kunduz province. There was also a significant spike in clashes between non-state armed groups and the ANSF in southern Nangarhar, from 11-18 June, displacing over 10,000 people.

In the southern provinces, clashes between the Taliban and the ANSF were a regular occurrence. Most of the displacement in this region occurred in March, when the Taliban captured Sangin district in Hilmand province, while strategically and politically important provincial capitals such as Lashkar Gah and Tirinkot remain under virtual siege at time of publication.

Kabul was a significant battleground in the first half of 2017, with a high impact on civilians. A bomb blast killed more than 150 people and wounded more than 300 on 31 May. Additionally, in the first week of June, three attacks in four days caused civilian casualties and also destabilized support for the National Unified Government.