



Time Period

01/05/2024 to 31/05/2024

Key Highlights

Humanitarian partners continue to observe increased humanitarian constraints impacting the operational environment, with **some 113^[1] humanitarian access incidents reported in May 2024**. The incidents in this reporting period have shown a 16 per cent decrease from the same time last year and a 32 per cent decrease compared to the previous month^[2] in 2024, mostly in the Eastern, Southern, and Western regions, consecutively. Furthermore, the incidents in May resulted in the temporary suspension of 69 programs and the relocation of one program to another location.

The majority of reported incidents fell under one of the following categories: 'Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities', followed by 'Physical environment' and 'Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities', respectively.

Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities remained the main driver of access impediments in 2024, with **64 access incidents related to interferences by De facto Authorities (DfAs) reported in May**. This included 26 incidents directly affecting program implementation, 20 incidents requesting sensitive staff information, 10 incidents restricting women humanitarian workers' participation, four incidents of occupation of facilities or assets, two incidents attempting to interfere with beneficiary selection, one incident involving requests for illegal taxation, one case disrupting staff recruitment. In May, humanitarian partners reported increased challenges related to the Ministry/Directorates of Public Health's audit of NGOs in at least four provinces. OCHA has been engaging with DfAs at national and subnational levels to address the challenge.

In March, 10 directives were issued nationally and across various regions, including the Southern, Northern, Northeastern, and Central Highlands regions. These directives have had a direct impact on the humanitarian response in Afghanistan. In May, the third edition of the "DFA Procedure on Coordination and Regulation of NGOs" was issued, and the involvement of Ulema Shura in the project proposals review was included in this version. The majority of these directives were issued to reinforce the existing procedures. The authorities responsible for issuing these directives include the Ministry/Directorate of Economy (four directives), the Directorate of Public Health (two directives), the General Department of Intelligence (two directives), the Directorate of Monitoring and Supervision of Decrees and Orders (one directive), and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (one directive).

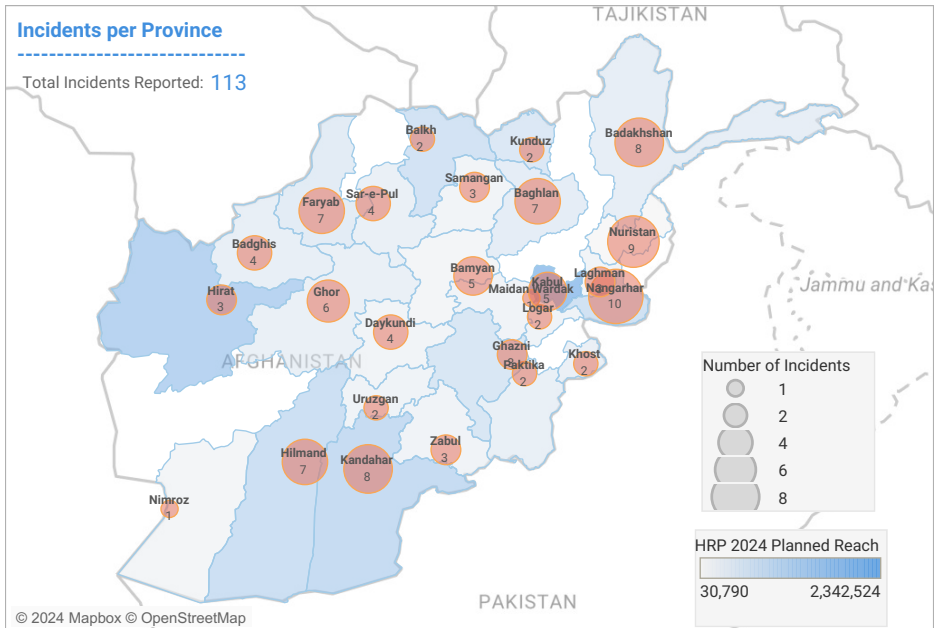
In May, the humanitarian response was significantly hindered by flash floods, which delayed or halted the movement of humanitarian personnel attempting to reach the affected populations. This disruption led to **the temporary suspension of 39 humanitarian projects for at least two weeks due to road closures**. The floods, impacting 15 provinces, closed the roads connecting districts to the centers of 11 provinces, thus severely disrupting aid delivery and increasing the urgency for emergency assistance. Between 1 and 28 May, **flash floods affected 79,149 people, resulting in 261 deaths, 333 injuries, damage to 5,389 houses, and the destruction of 3,597 houses.**^[3]

Furthermore, **there were five incidents of violence targeting humanitarian personnel, assets, and facilities**. These incidents led to the detention of five humanitarian workers, including two female staff members, a physical attack that injured one humanitarian worker, and one incident involving threats against workers. Humanitarian partners continue to operate in a volatile environment, often risking their safety and security; tragically, the explosion of an abandoned Improvised Explosive Device (IED) **killed one humanitarian worker and injured one** in Uruzgan province.

The ban on female humanitarian workers and its enforcement on NGOs and the UN persistently pose challenges to aid delivery, particularly impacting the ability to reach women and children beneficiaries. In May, **18 per cent of reported incidents by partners were gender-motivated**. Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners ensured female participation in the response to flash flood-affected areas by employing different practices, such as female staff traveling directly to the field accompanied by a mahram (male guardian).

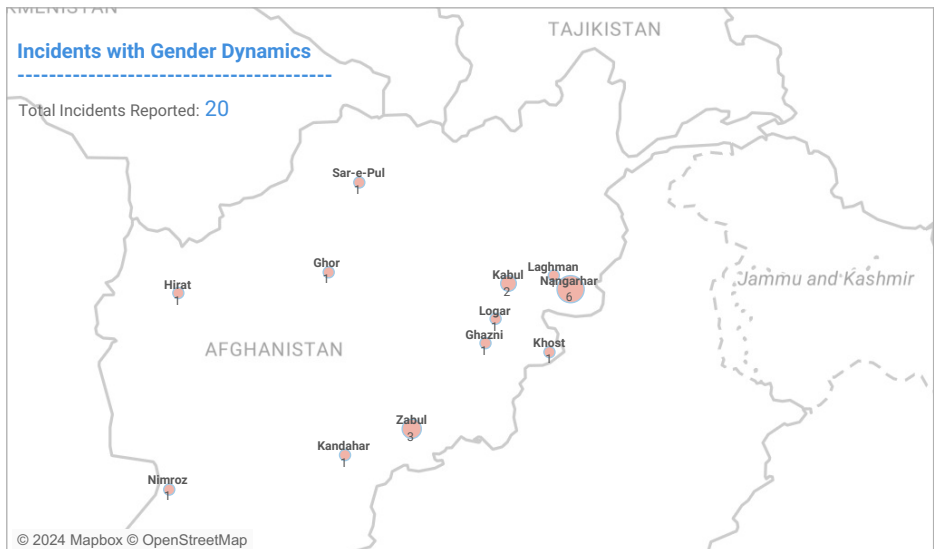
Incidents per Province

Total Incidents Reported: 113



Incidents with Gender Dynamics

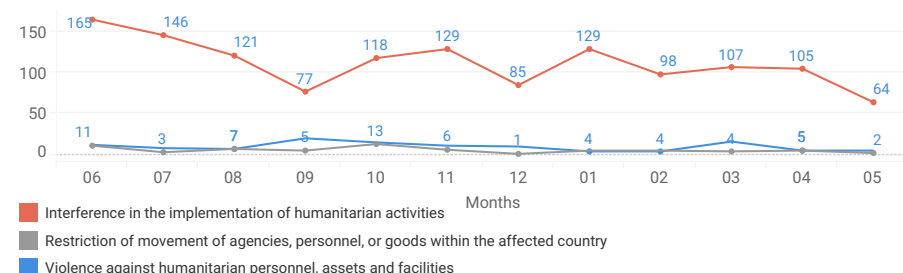
Total Incidents Reported: 20



Impacted Group and Reaction

Reaction service pro	Broader humanitarian community	International NGO	International Organization	National NGO	Grand Total
Adherence to Request		4			4
No Reaction				2	2
Refusal to Adhere to Request	3	20	13	1	37
Relocation of Program to Another Location			1		1
Temporary Halt of Program	12	22	30	5	69

Interference, Restriction and Violence Incidents Trends



(1). The access incidents are reported to the Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework (AMRF) either directly by humanitarian partners to OCHA or through the cluster coordinators and working group, DSS, and INSO. (2). The incidents referenced as 'the previous month' include late reporting, which impacts the percentage comparisons. Accordingly, the incidents reported in May are expected to increase in the coming months. (3). For more information, see <https://response.reliefweb.int/afghanistan/natural-disasters-dashboards>. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Sources: Access Constraints/ Humanitarian Incidents. Feedback: ocha/haaccess@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int