



AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

No. 33 | September 2023

Key figures (monthly)

387,040

People received emergency
healthcare service (PHC &
Hospitals)

10,308

people received trauma care
services (IPD+OPD)

137,828 KG

medical and non-medical
supplies provided

1,252

health workers trained

114

surveillance support teams
deployed to outbreak areas¹

Summary of outbreaks

910

COVID-19
confirmed cases

24,848

Acute Watery Diarrhea
AWD (2023)

1,207

Measles (2023)

91

Dengue fever (2023)

121

CCHF (2023)



WHO deployed emergency medical support to the landslide-affected communities in the Yawan district of Badakhshan Province.

Overview



This September, 52 Health Cluster partners provided humanitarian health services to approximately 1.4 million people.



Health Cluster partners delivered humanitarian health services through 972 health facilities across 321 districts of all 34 provinces.



WHO supports 24 hospitals (2 National Hospitals, 1 Special Hospital, 3 Maternal Hospitals, 3 Emergency Hospitals, 1 Polyclinic, and 14 Infectious Disease Hospitals), seven drug addiction treatment centers (DATCs), and 234 primary healthcare facilities, where a total of 387,040 people received healthcare services in September 2023.



A total of 4,956 (2,379 girls and 2,577 boys) with medical complications were admitted (102% of the total target in September 2023) and treated in 130 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers (119 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers).



Regarding COVID-19, 225,983 cases have been confirmed, with 7,947 deaths have been reported since February 2020. Currently, WHO is providing regular support to 34 COVID-19 laboratories, including reagents and supplies, and other miscellaneous items, with a testing capacity of 8,400.



A total of 10,308 patients received trauma care services (In-Patient Department and Out Patients Department) throughout September.



A total of 225,521 people received health education and awareness in WHO-supported health facilities (PHCs and hospitals).

¹A classical rapid response team is a multi-disciplinary team stationed in each province under Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD). The team consists of six personnel: an epidemiologist, a WASH & environmental health officer, a CDC officer, an EPI officer, and a laboratory technician and NGO staff. WHO supports the operational cost of the activities.

²A WHO-supported surveillance support team consisting of an epidemiology focal point to facilitate data collection and a laboratory focal point to support sample collection from suspected cases as well as aid the National Disease Surveillance and Response (NDSR) in investigating alerts and outbreaks.

³AWD case data is reported from all 519 sentinel sites in the country. Previously data extracted was only collected from sentinel sites reporting above-threshold numbers of AWD cases. The change in methodology will better capture the AWD cases using the standard case definition and ensure proper representation of the country, as it uses all sentinel sites in Afghanistan.

Health Cluster

- In September 2023, 52 Health Cluster partners provided humanitarian health services to approximately 1.4 million people. These services were delivered through 972 health facilities across 321 districts of all 34 provinces.
- The Health Cluster in Afghanistan has been actively involved in strengthening the capacity of health partners in various areas. In September 2023, a total of 121 Health Cluster partners staff received training on data management, data visualization, and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) at both national and sub-national levels.
- The development of the 2024 Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) has been initiated. The Health Cluster, in consultation with health partners, will be responsible for developing the health section of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).
- The Health Cluster team at the national and regional levels organized acute watery diarrhea (AWD) task force meetings to facilitate response activities in the field. Additionally, Regional Health Cluster Coordinators (RHCCs)



Regional Health Cluster Coordination Meeting in Paktya Province, SE Afghanistan

coordinated response activities for Crimean–Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), scabies, Leishmaniasis and rabies outbreaks at the field level.

- To support a coordinated health response, RHCCs conducted field visits to Torkham border, Balkh, Zabul, Paktya, Ghazni, and Herat. Additionally, RHCCs held bilateral coordination meetings with partners to facilitate their operations in all seven regions.

Health Service Delivery (Primary Health Care and Hospitals)

During the month of September, WHO reached 298,457 people with primary health care services through 234 health facilities in underserved and hard-to-reach areas of 32 provinces implemented by seven implementing partners.

The services included 27,615 children with immunizations (PENTA3, measles, and OPV), 2,370 skilled birth attendance, 12,044 antenatal care (ANC), 7,369 postnatal care(PNC), 15,805 MHPSS service. In addition, a total of 49,641 children were screened for malnutrition status.

Primary Health Care



387,040

People received OPD consultations



331,356

Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services



12,044

Women received ANC



7,369

Women received PNC

Sustaining healthcare services delivery

Beneficiaries of PHC & Hospital services at WHO-supported facilities for September 2023
(Total: 387,040)

Age	♂ Male	♀ Female
Over 18 years	83,852	173,950
Under 18 years	64,151	65,087



2,370

Institutional deliveries



71,975

Number of consultations for Non-communicable diseases



24,026

Pregnant, CBA Women and under 5 children received TT2+, measles, and PENTA-3 Vaccination

Trauma & Physical Rehabilitation

WHO supports 175 healthcare facilities across the country with medical equipment, consumables, capacity building training, Basic Emergency Care (BEC), mass casualty management (MCM), emergency care toolkit (ECT), infection prevention and control (IPC), as well as in strengthening service delivery, developing contingency and mass casualty management plans.

WHO continues to support more than 60 blood banks in health facilities across the country with consumables and capacity building training (Safe Blood and Safe Blood Banking Training).



3,708 patients received physiotherapy



4,582 patients received blood transfusion



11,990 patients received minor surgical operation



3,055 patients received major surgical operation

Trauma care services

Beneficiaries of trauma care services at WHO-supported facilities for September 2023 (Total: 10,308)

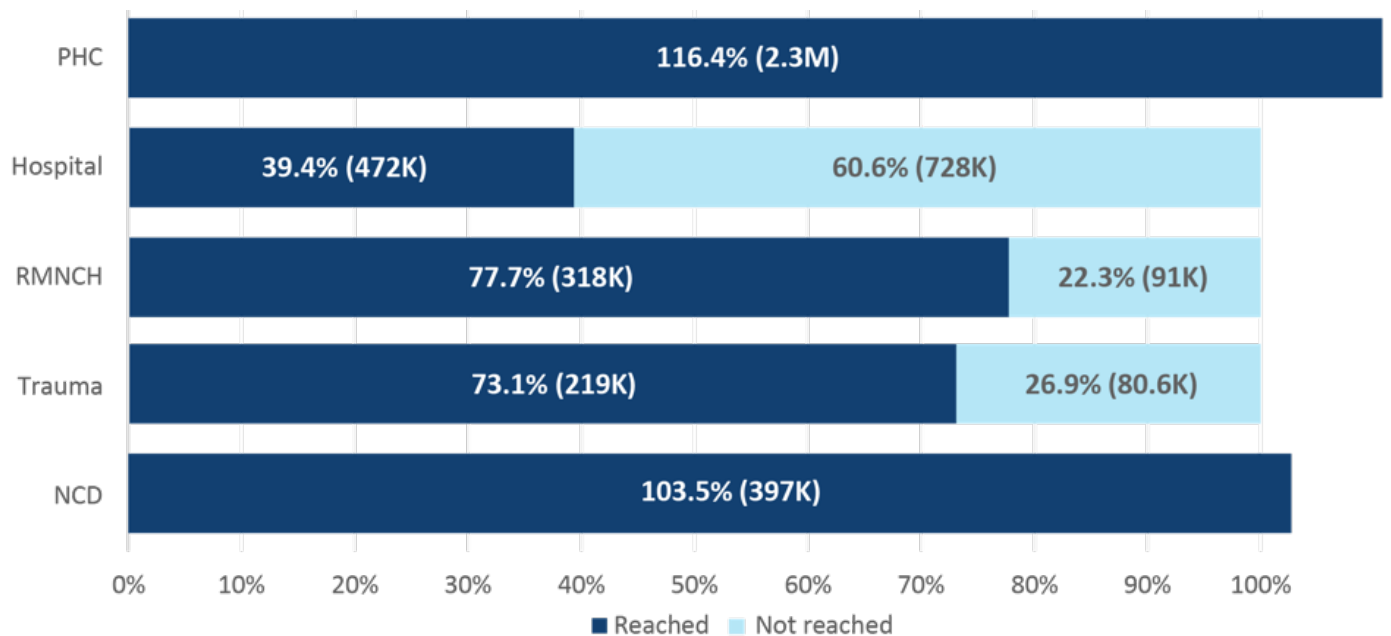
	♂ Male	♀ Female
Over 18 years	4,215	1,188
Under 18 years	3,106	1,799

Post trauma rehabilitation

Beneficiaries of post trauma rehabilitation services at WHO-supported facilities for September 2023 (Total: 27,258)

	♂ Male	♀ Female
Over 18 years	8,594	7,380
Under 18 years	6,808	4,476

Proportion of people reached (Jan-September 2023) against the target in year 2023



Nutrition in Emergencies

In September 2023, a total of 4,956 (2,379 girls and 2,577 boys) with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with complications were admitted (102% of the total target in September) and treated in 130 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers (119 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers).

The total target for the month of September was 4,671 children. There was a decreased of IPD-SAM admission from August to September, but the cases are still high compared from January until April 2023. WHO is supporting to strengthen the national capacity to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition.

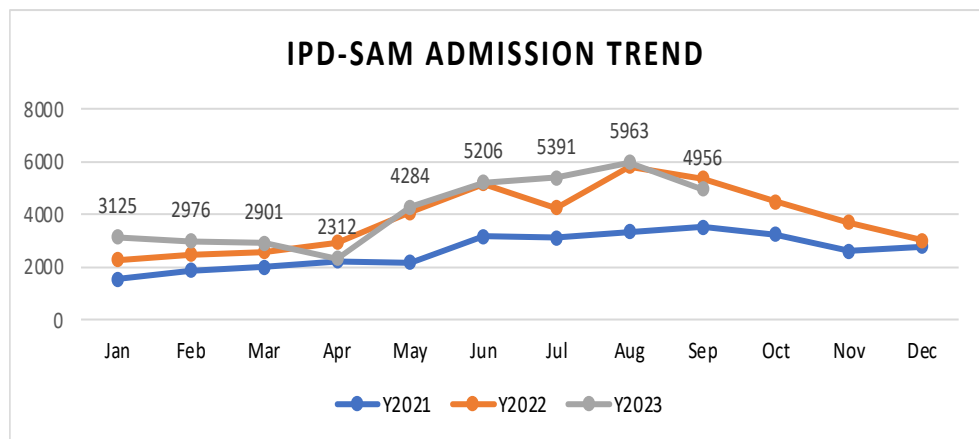
A total of 25 health staff from Nangarhar, Ghazni and Paktika provinces (male) were trained on treatment of SAM with complications, and 64 female nutrition nurses received training on facility base nutrition surveillance as well WHO provided 30 milk formula kits specific for IPD-SAM centers.

Beneficiaries of 130 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers for September 2023		
Under five	♂ Boys	♀ Girls
4,956	2,577	2,379

38,329
 Pregnant and lactating women received malnutrition screening and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling and treatment services

12,073
 Women received family planning services and awareness

72,876
 Under 5 children received OPV, malnutrition treatment and screening



Infectious Hazard Preparedness and Surveillance

Monthly summary of infectious disease outbreaks in Afghanistan, September 2023

Indicators	AWD	CCHF	COVID-19	Measles	Dengue
Monthly new cases (% change compared to July)	24,848 (↓36.5)	121 (↓31.3)	910 (↓13.9)	1,207 (↓29.3)	91 (↓57.3)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration

- During September, a total of 24,848 AWD cases with dehydration were reported, which shows a decrease of 36.5% when compared to August 2023, with a total of 10 associated deaths (CFR of 0.04%).
- Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, 176,704 cases of AWD with dehydration were reported, of which 56.9% were under-five children and 49.7% were females.

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

- During the reporting period, the number of suspected CCHF cases showed 31.3% decrease (121 suspected cases in September compared to 176 in July), with five new associated deaths.
- Cumulatively, since January 2023, a total of 1,115 suspected CCHF cases have been reported, 31.8% (355) are females, and 99.8% (1,113) were above five years of age.

- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from two provinces: Kabul (48, 45.7%) and Balkh (15, 14.3%).
- Totally, 994 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 355 samples were positive (positivity = 35.7%)

COVID-19

- During September, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases showed a decrease by almost 14.0% (910 cases were reported during September compared to 1,057 during August 2023) with six associated deaths (CFR 0.7%).
- A total of 11,447 tests have been conducted in public laboratories, which is lower by 10.1% compared to August 2023. The test positivity decreased from 8.5% in August 2023 to 7.9% in September 2023.

- During the reporting period, around 153,000 individuals have been vaccinated, and the proportion of those who received at least one dose slightly increased to reach 43.1%.
- There have been 225,983 cases confirmed with 7,947 deaths. Currently, WHO is providing regular support to 34 COVID-19 labs in terms of medical and non-medical supplies and other miscellaneous items, with a testing capacity of 8,400/day.
- From 16-30 September 2023, a total of 5,468 samples have been tested by these laboratories, of which 487 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate of 8.9%) with four deaths reported.
- WHO is planning to scale up the testing scope of the labs and integrate some new tests (hepatitis and HIV) to maintain sustainability.

Measles

- During the reporting period, the number of suspected measles cases was 1,207 which represents a decrease by 29.3% compared to August 2023, with no reported deaths (CFR 0.0%).
- With the goal of increasing laboratory capacity for diagnostic testing for Measles-Rubella (MR) and improving overall surveillance quality, WHO EPI supported the two-day training of 11 CPHL laboratory technicians on PCR testing of MR samples and a three-day training for 22 regional lab technicians on Elisa testing for Rotavirus and Measles-Rubella samples. The training was conducted in CPHL and facilitated by WHO international consultants from September 23-28.
- Additional vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) and adverse events following immunization (AEFI) surveillance refresher training was provided to 35 regional hospital staff from September 17-20 in the Kabul training facility with the aim of strengthening the overall VPD surveillance in Afghanistan.

Dengue fever

- During the reporting period, 91 new suspected cases were reported which shows a 57.3% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to August 2023. No new associated deaths were reported during the last month.

Supplies



500 kits of dengue fever Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) arrived to the country.



180 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) and 50 Cary blair were dispatched to 3 provinces (Kandahar, Nangarhar and Kabul)



2 AWD with dehydration central case management kits, 10 community kits and antibiotics (ceftriaxone) were distributed to two provinces from the South region (Kandahar and Hilmand).

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS)



15,805

Individuals received mental health consultations



3,923

people received psychological counselling

- MHPSS experts from WHO-HQ and WHO-EMRO joined the WHO country office in Afghanistan for a joint field mission and provided technical support and advice to the country team. During this mission, they visited various hospitals, universities, and engaged in meetings with different stakeholders to assess the progress of EU-supported Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Drug Addiction activities, including bilateral meeting with UNODC.
- The WHO country office in Afghanistan hosted a two-day workshop on September 9-10, 2023, titled “Mastering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordination and Services Scale-up.” for the members of the MHPSS Technical Working Group members from national and regional levels.
- A bilateral advocacy meeting with the Mental Health Department of the MoPH was conducted to discuss the implementation and supervision of MHPSS activities in various provinces, including Nangarhar, Kabul and Kandahar.

Drug Demand Reduction Services (DDRS)

- Joint field visits were conducted by WHO HQ expert, UNODC HQ expert along with WHO country office staff to drug treatment and harm reduction programs in Kabul, UNDP-supported Methadone Clinic at Kute Sangi, and the 100-bed Female and Children Drug Addiction Treatment Center (DATC) in Kabul that will be fully supported by WHO.
- A three-level field monitoring visit (WHO HQ, WHO EMRO, WHO AFG) was carried out to Kabul’s 100-bed National Mental Health Hospital, and the 170-bed Adult Male and Female DATC in Nangarhar region. The mission provided technical support and recommendations to improve the services. The said hospital is fully supported by WHO.
- Meetings were carried with the Mental Health Department of MoPH on how to enhance better collaboration and made recommendations to improve the MHPSS Program for the country.



Filed visit at Nangarhar 150-bed adult and 20-bed adolescent drug treatment center

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities plays a vital role in preventing infections and ensuring the delivery of safe and high-quality healthcare services. WHO is actively involved in improving WASH services in 105 healthcare facilities across 11 provinces. This support involves rehabilitating and constructing 105 solar-based safe water sources, sanitation services, hygiene, and waste management, and almost 95% activities completed.

Monitoring the progress and enhancement of WASH services in healthcare facilities is a priority for WHO. The WASH FIT tool is utilized to assess and evaluate the WASH and waste management services in 35 health facilities. The assessments have revealed limited availability of water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management services, indicating areas for improvement.

In addition to infrastructure development, WHO is also involved in supporting water quality surveillance in healthcare facilities and responding to waterborne disease alerts or outbreaks. WHO's WASH team has conducted water quality testing in 8 healthcare facilities, revealing microbiological contamination in 15% of the samples. The results have been shared with hospital administrations, and necessary measures have been implemented or recommended to minimize the risk of contamination.

By addressing WASH-related challenges and promoting safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management practices, WHO aims to enhance the overall quality and safety of healthcare services in these facilities.

Health logistical support



338,900

Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services



2,196,950

People benefited from assorted medical supplies

In September, a total of 2,250 modules of varying medical kits (over 137,828 kg in total) were delivered to Afghanistan. The reach of these kits, which included Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) supplementary and basic modules, Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kit (TESK), cholera kits, Inter-Agency Emergency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits, measles and Non-Communicable Diseases Kits (NCDK), which benefited over 2,196,950 people.

Project Monitoring Unit (PMU)

To ensure proper oversight of project implementation, WHO has conducted systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation

(M&E) activities through 35 monitoring officers on the ground using specific tools developed for each type of health intervention.

In September 2023, WHO conducted monitoring visits of:

- **138** primary healthcare facilities
- **96** Therapeutic Feeding Units (TFUs) and **26** hospitals (including Integrated Infectious Disease and COVID-19 hospitals, DATCs and rehabilitation centers)
- **47** health facilities in terms of WASH project implementation and **96** hospitals under HER projects in 34 provinces.

The identified areas of improvement were strictly followed up at the health facility level, and the new identified areas will be followed up with the implementing partner to ensure mitigation measures take place. Identified areas will be followed up with the implementing partner to ensure mitigation measures take place.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



225,521

People living in remote and underserved areas received health education and awareness

During September 2023, WHO has concluded a national training for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Officers of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Kabul. A total of 25 MoPH RCCE staff, including eight women, from various departments were trained on risk communication and community engagement strategies and plans for emergency preparedness and response. The participants were also equipped with better understanding and practical skills to promote public awareness about different infectious diseases, especially among priority groups.

WHO Afghanistan has handed over almost one million information, educational, and communication (IEC) materials on CCHF, AWD, ARI, and measles for use in the health facilities and communities in Afghanistan to MOPH/HPD. A total of 477,700 IEC materials (including 241,800 posters and 235,900 brochures) were distributed by the Health Promotion Directorate to NGOs and other partners, including the IRC, OHPM, AKHS, MOVE, RHDO, AADA, OAHS, ORCD, RELIEF, OPHCD, SAF, Kapisa Public Health Directorate, Panjshir Public Health Directorate, and Mental Health Hospital. These NGOs and partners distributed the IEC materials in health facilities and affected communities in Kabul and throughout Afghanistan.

These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response, especially in areas that are at high risk of disease outbreaks and affected communities, as and when needed.



Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) Training in Kabul on 18-20 September 2023

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