



COVID-19 Diagnostic Centre inaugurated at the Kandahar Reference Laboratory with support from WHO



3.7M
AFFECTED¹



67,532
DISPLACED^{1,2}



272,868
RETURNEES^{1,3}



297
IEHK KITS¹



45
OUTBREAKS⁵

KEY FIGURES

394	WHO STAFF IN THE COUNTRY
60	HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS
2.1M	OUTREACH (POPULATION REACHED)
HEALTH FACILITIES	
2,865	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES
16	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES AFFECTED
10	HEALTH WORKERS, PATIENTS AND OTHERS KILLED
4	HEALTH WORKERS AND PATIENTS INJURED/DETAINED
0	HEALTH FACILITIES RE-OPENED
DISEASES⁵	
2,460,894	ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION CASES
487,930	ACUTE DIARRHEA CASES
97	MEASLES CASES DURING OUTBREAK
9	CCHF DURING OUTBREAK
51	MUMPS DURING OUTBREAK
41	DOG BITS DURING OUTBREAK

SITUATION UPDATE

- According to the projections of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, some 3.7 million people will need emergency health services due to conflict, natural disasters and population displacement
- A total of 2,849 people from five provinces fled their homes due to conflict in April, increasing the total number of IDPs to 67,532 in 2020
- Around 272,868 people returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran between 1 January - 30 April 2020, increasing needs related to health and basic services
- During the same period, around 40,032 people were affected by natural disasters throughout the country (28 killed, 18 injured and 2,847 houses damaged or destroyed)
- Seven attacks on health care were reported in January 2020, resulting in the closure of 16 health facilities, death of 10 health and supportive staff and detention of four others. No new data was reported in April 2020
- A total of 45 outbreaks and a caseload of 1,008 linked to eight different diseases have, so far, been reported in 2020
- In April 2020, Health Cluster partners provided lifesaving trauma care services to 2,809 in-patients and out-patients around the country
- In April 2020, WHO and Health Cluster implementing partners reached 17,563 beneficiaries (including 3,566 women and girls)
- According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, a 28% increase is expected in the number of people seeking trauma care across the country

¹ Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview, humanitarian programme cycle, December 2019 <https://bit.ly/2MJIT4v>

² Only conflict related IDPs

³ OCHA AFGHANISTAN Snapshot of Population Movements (Jan, 2020)

⁴ OCHA AFGHANISTAN Snapshot of Natural Disaster Events (Jan, 2020)

⁵ NDSR Reporting (Jan, 2020)

Public health concerns

- Health service provisions to IDPs and host communities continue to be impacted by war and conflict. Advocacy is needed at all levels to ensure parties to conflict respect the International Humanitarian Law
- Low routine immunization coverage and ban on the polio programme by AGEs in some areas continued to pose a public health risk in various parts of the country
- Over the next few months, there is an increased risk of emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks, particularly preventable diseases, COVID-19, dengue and CCHF
- COVID-19 spread to 33 provinces, dominating the epidemiological map, with cases expected to rise further in the next 3-4 weeks. The highest number of cases were reported in Herat, Kabul and Kandahar

Health needs, priorities and gaps

- People continued to flee their homes and settle in Haji IDPs Camp due to conflict and military operations in Nangarhar. This will enhance health risks and the likelihood of disease outbreaks and health emergencies among IDPs
- Controlling outbreaks among IDPs remains a concern, but the rapid spread of the coronavirus disease requires refocusing attention and resources to the COVID-19 response
- Intensive surveillance and community engagement efforts are required as part of the COVID-19 response

WHO action

- 500 RNA extraction kits and an electricity generator provided to the Balkh Reference Lab
- WHO continued to support the MoPH's COVID-19 response. In April this included: equipping dedicated COVID-19 hospitals with patient beds, laryngoscopy and intubation sets, stethoscopes, autoclaves, oxygen concentrator machines, ECG machines and IEHK kits. WHO also equipped laboratories with RNA kits, freezer boxes, examination gloves, hygiene kits and infrared thermometers
- IDPs in Herat and Badghis provinces received consultations through Nine Mobile Teams (MHTs). The MHTs also delivered health and nutrition services in their catchment areas. The zero-point clinic located in Islam Qala border delivered consultations to 894 refugees/returnees; 11 severe COVID-19 cases were referred to the Herat Regional Hospital in April 2020. Fourteen additional staff were deployed in the border area to screen people coming from Iran
- WHO installed Infrared Body Temperature Thermometers at 11 PoEs in the Northeast region, conducted health education sessions for returnees at the PoEs and supported 11 Rapid Response Teams in four provinces of the Northeast region
- Religious leaders were engaged in COVID-19 awareness through the distribution of 500,000 brochures, 150,000 posters and installation of 136 billboards through the Ministry of Religious Affairs in close coordination with the WHE regional focal points. Additionally, 400,000 posters on COVID-19 were distributed among health care providers and orientation sessions were delivered to community influencers and religious scholars
- In support of the NDSR system, WHO maintained effective surveillance and response in the Eastern region by establishing and assisting 73 sentinel/reporting sites
- Training of Trainers was conducted on COVID-19 Case Management, IPC and ICU for 233 health staff at the central level
- WHO established a COVID-19 Diagnostic Centre in the Paktia Regional Laboratory
- A second batch of COVID-19 Case Management and IPC training was conducted for 26 staff from the Jalalabad Provincial Hospital and 43 staff from provincial hospitals in the Southeast Region. Some 26 laboratory technicians were provided Blood Bank Training while six medical specialists received Critical Care and ICU Training in the Southeast region

Health cluster

- Health cluster partners provided primary health care services to 77,500 individuals while trauma care services were delivered to 17,600 conflict affected people through MHTs
- In April, 3,500 people received health education and awareness on COVID-19. On the other hand, 616 children were immunized. A total of 3,684 IDPs benefited from health services in Herat and Badghis provinces through the health centres

Gratitude: WHO is grateful for the continuous support of our generous donors: USAID, ECHO, CHF, Japan, Republic of Korea and CERF

