

### KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Since 1 February 2015, an estimated 6,181 families have been affected by floods, heavy rain, snow and avalanches in 120 districts in 22 provinces: 224 people have died and 74 injured. 1,381 houses were completely destroyed and 4,632 houses were damaged.
- ◆ 160 families were reportedly displaced by heavy snowfall in four districts of Faryab province. 300 families are at risk of possible landslides in Kaledi Qashlaq village of Shal district in Takhar province
- ◆ The influx of refugees from Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency (NWA) into Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces continues due to active military operations —36,511 families and 254,537 individuals remain displaced.
- ◆ Emergency healthcare services for refugees from NWA are provided by Healthnet TPO, ACTD and International Medical Corps (IMC) in Paktia and Paktika in collaboration with WHO: 59,979 patients were treated by mobile and static clinics and 9,251 children received routine vaccination.



Manizha lives in a Kabul IDP camp where WHO is supporting the provision of health services through a mobile clinic

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ A mass casualty management workshop and simulation exercise was conducted for provincial health directors, medical coordinators, hospital directors and NGO staff from Wardak and Jalalabad provinces. Under an ECHO-funded project, WHO supports the development of mass casualty plans and the training of health managers and healthcare providers on mass casualty management.
- ◆ WHO delivered five IEHK Basic Health and five Pneumonia A&B kits to Panjshir to cover 6,750 people in areas affected by avalanches and heavy snow; five IEHK basic kits and five Pneumonia A&B kits have been prepositioned in MoPH emergency preparedness and response (EPR) department. WHO distributed 14 Trauma A&B kits and 12 IEHK Supplementary Modules to 10 provinces to cover 10,600 people.
- ◆ First aid training conducted for 59 community health workers (CHWs) from 16 provinces
- ◆ A training on the prevention and control of pertussis, brucellosis and environmental health monitoring was conducted for 24 health workers from Herat, Farah, Badghis and Ghor provinces
- ◆ WHO deployed missions to Kunduz, Jalalabad, Herat and three districts in Kabul to assess hospitals on their mass casualty management capacity – mass casualty management plans will be developed based on the assessment findings.



A WHO-supported first aid training simulation was conducted by ARCS trainers for community health workers



Mass casualty management simulation exercise in Kabul EMERGENCY hospital

### MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS:

- ◆ Heavy snow, avalanches and floods mainly in Panjshir, Badghis, Badakhshan, Logar and Nangarhar provinces increased the risk of acute respiratory infections, pneumonia and diarrhoeal disease outbreaks.
- ◆ The continuing measles epidemic continues to pose a challenge for public health stakeholders in Afghanistan.
- ◆ 59 measles outbreaks and four pertussis outbreaks have been reported during the first two months of 2015.
- ◆ The first polio case reported from Helmand province in January 2015 was confirmed in February.
- ◆ In comparison to 2014, war-related weapon injuries have increased by 38% during the first two months of 2015 in Helmand province.
- ◆ A basic health centre in Helmand's Baghran district was burned down by community members due to an internal conflict regarding the relocation of the facility. Internal conflicts among communities present another challenge for public health service providers in Afghanistan.

**The recent heavy snow and flood-related loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure and internal displacement might cause increasing diarrhoeal disease outbreaks in the coming weeks**

### KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Flood-related emergency preparedness, including the repositioning of supplies, enhanced surveillance and refresher trainings for hospital staff, are priorities in high-risk provinces prone to flooding and related water-borne disease outbreaks.
- ◆ The increase in conflict-related injuries and destruction of health facilities in Helmand province should be addressed through appropriate negotiations and conflict resolution processes.
- ◆ Measles, pertussis and polio continue to pose major threats for the public health sector in Afghanistan – strengthening routine vaccination coverage through appropriate strategies should be a key priority for the humanitarian community in the coming years.

**A nationwide measles immunization campaign has been planned and will be conducted in Afghanistan in April 2015**

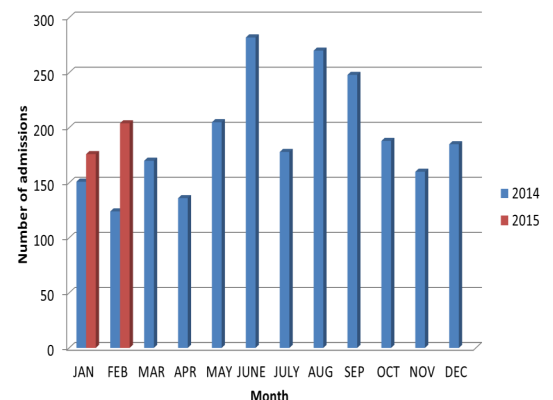


A boy injured during the avalanche in Panjshir province is treated in the EMERGENCY hospital



This boy received medicines to treat his respiratory infection at the WHO-supported Bagrami IDP camp mobile clinic run by SHRDO

Number of total war injuries admitted to EMERGENCY hospital in Lashkargah by month From Jan 2014-Feb 2015



**Programme Update**  
Emergency Humanitarian Action WHO Afghanistan

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