

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Flooding in the southeastern region caused loss of life and damaged buildings and agricultural land in July
- ◆ Outbreaks of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), rabies, measles and diarrhoeal diseases continue to be the threats to public health
- ◆ WHO continues to support mass casualty management preparedness and response in high-risk provinces
- ◆ The provision of emergency primary healthcare services is supported by WHO in areas without government healthcare provision in Kunar, Kandahar, Khost, Paktia and Wardak provinces

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ The second phase of measles vaccination campaign was carried out in 31 provinces on 25–31 July, targeting 1.5 million children aged 9–59 months
- ◆ WHO, in collaboration with health cluster partners, conducted a rapid assessment in flood-affected provinces and distributed two diarrhoeal disease kits, basic health kits to treat 2000 patients over 6 months on common diseases, and one pneumonia kit to Ghazni province which was most affected by flooding
- ◆ Diarrhoeal disease kits and basic kits have been prepositioned to all flood-prone provinces since May 2015
- ◆ WHO supported the establishment of an isolation ward for viral haemorrhagic fever cases in Herat Regional Hospital
- ◆ An assessment mission visited Jalalabad Regional Hospital to improve infection control activities in order to manage the increasing number of CCHF cases in the eastern region
- ◆ Mass casualty management simulation exercises were conducted in Gardez and Khost provinces
- ◆ Health facility functionality and rationalization census was completed by Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO) – a draft report has been shared with MoPH and WHO
- ◆ WHO supported the reinforcement of hospital hygiene conditions by improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in two therapeutic feeding units (TFUs) in Kunar province in Asadabad Provincial Hospital, Manogai District Hospital and a TFU in Khost Provincial Hospital to reduce the risk of hospital-acquired infections' transmission to hospitalized children under five



Shukria holds her three-year-old son Ali Husain while visiting a WHO-supported mobile clinic operating in a camp for internally displaced persons in Kabul



Floods in Shinkai district of Zabol province caused four deaths, affected 60 houses and damaged agricultural land



Measles vaccination campaign was conducted in Parwan province

MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Tens of thousands of children not immunized against measles under routine vaccination continue to be a challenge in Afghanistan. Vaccination campaigns help to improve coverage but strengthening routine vaccination is the sustainable solution
- ◆ Possible outbreaks of waterborne diseases among flood-affected people in the southern and south-eastern regions will be a major challenge in the coming month
- ◆ Enhanced surveillance, standard case management and public awareness campaigns need better coordination and collaboration between the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to reduce the burden of CCHF
- ◆ High turnover of hospital staff, particularly in surgical departments, necessitates continuous trainings at different levels

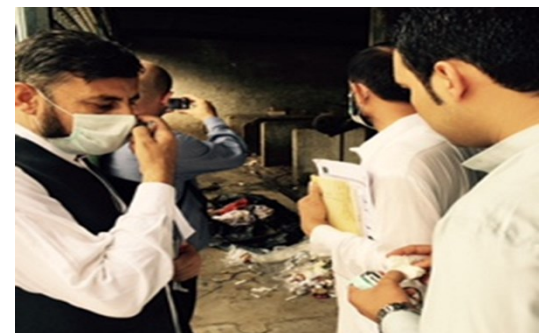
KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Routine vaccination could prevent many avoidable deaths among children under five years of age
- ◆ Safe water, basic sanitation and better hygiene practices could save many lives from endemic seasonal diarrhoeal diseases
- ◆ Increasing community awareness is crucial for preventing many communicable diseases, including viral haemorrhagic fever
- ◆ Better coordination and collaboration between public and animal health departments is mandatory for successful control of zoonotic diseases

Flooding in late July affected 15 provinces and 23 districts – nine people lost their lives and 6,259 people were affected



Measles continues to pose a health threat in Afghanistan as many children are not immunized



WHO staff complete the infection prevention and control assessment checklist in Nangarhar Regional Hospital



Pre-hospital mass casualty management simulation exercise in Gardez province