

Afghanistan Flooding

Situation Report No. 1 (12 May 2024)

(Information in the report is based on available data as of reporting period)



The catastrophic floods caused extensive damage, including to health facilities, as shown in this image of Lata Band health facility, taken on 11 May 2024. © WHO/WHO Afghanistan

Key messages:

- **Commencement of Flooding:** The flood in Baghlan province began in the afternoon of May 10, affecting several districts including Nahrin, Baghlan Markazi, and Burka. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) has declared today, May 12, that six villages are inaccessible for humanitarian teams. ANDMA is arranging for air force lifting of response teams to these villages.
- **Impact and Casualties:** The devastating flood caused significant damage to over 2000 houses and resulted in the tragic loss of approximately 300 lives, with around 100 individuals sustaining injuries.
- **Response Efforts:** In response to this tragedy, WHE team and Health Cluster immediately mobilized resources through Health Cluster partners.
- **WHO Assistance:** WHO has provided 7 metric tonnes of medicine and medical supplies, including trauma and primary healthcare (PHC) kits which have been greatly appreciated by authorities and partners for their timely assistance.

Situation update:

Northern Afghanistan witnessed an unprecedented rainfall, triggering violent flooding that has affected **over 2,000 homes** across 8 districts as of May 11, 2024. The disaster has claimed the lives of more than 300 individuals, with several others still missing and many left homeless. Hundreds remain trapped in their homes beneath debris and mud. Extensive rescue and search operations are ongoing, suggesting that the death toll could rise significantly.

The full extent of the damage is not yet known, and the country lacks the necessary resources to manage a disaster of this magnitude. Several health facilities have been affected and are currently non-operational:

Epidemiological Update:

Recent data indicates an increase in cases of waterborne illnesses, notably diarrhea and skin infections, in regions affected by the floods. Health authorities are actively monitoring the situation and implementing preventive measures to curb the spread of these diseases. Furthermore, initiatives are in place to provide access to safe water, distribute hygiene kits, and offer medical treatment to alleviate the public health impact.

WHO response:

- Approximately 7 metric tonnes of medicine and medical supplies, including trauma and primary healthcare (PHC) kits, were dispatched to Baghlan Provincial Hospital, Baghlan Jadid District Hospital, Nahreen District Hospital, and Burka Comprehensive Health Center on the evening of May 11.
- 46 kits containing medication for pneumonia, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), malnutrition, and trauma were sent, sufficient to treat approximately 20,000 people and 500 trauma cases.
- Two Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) from Baghlan are currently aiding the response effort with three SST teams from neighboring provinces relocated to Baghlan to provide extra support, with the possibility of more teams being relocated in the coming days.
- 17 mobile health teams were deployed by WHO and

Health Cluster to support the delivery of healthcare and to aid in rescue and response operations in affected villages and districts.

- WHO Health Emergency Focal Point and regional health cluster coordinator for the Northeast Region have already moved to station in Baghlan. A National Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Officer will visit Baghlan to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) to the affected population, train healthcare workers and Health Cluster partners, and support the Rapid MHPSS Needs Assessment with the Provincial Public Health Department (PPHD).
- One epidemiologist, an emergency officer, and a trauma care officer have arrived Baghlan today 12 May to assist in various aspects of the response.

Health Cluster response:

- The Regional Health Cluster Coordinator is in close coordination with health partners to ensure an effective response.
- The Regional Health Cluster Coordinator for the Northeast region have arrived Baghlan today, 12 May 2024 to oversee the health response, facilitate joint needs assessments, and address any gaps in the response.
- Essential items from the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) were delivered via helicopter to Burka and Guzarghai Noor.
- AKF has also deployed 7 mobile teams to provide immediate assistance in affected areas, while AKHS has ensured the availability of sufficient ambulance services to transport the injured. Additionally, ORCD has deployed 4 mobile teams to support response efforts on the ground.
- JACK Kunduz has extended their support by dispatching one mobile team to Baghlan province, further enhancing our response capabilities. The contributions of organizations such as MSF and ICRC in providing essential medical supplies and wounded kits have been pivotal in bolstering our capacity to address the urgent needs of affected communities.
- Health Cluster and WHE partners collaborated to assist communities. They promptly provided aid to those in need.
- Mobile teams were deployed to provide assistance, and essential medical supplies were distributed to those affected by the flood. The collective aim is to support the affected people and strengthen their communities.
- A Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Team, including one female doctor, has been deployed to provide health, nutrition, and MHPSS services, consisting of four staff and two Community Protection (CP) staff.



Flooding in Baghlan, northern Afghanistan, on 11 May 2024.
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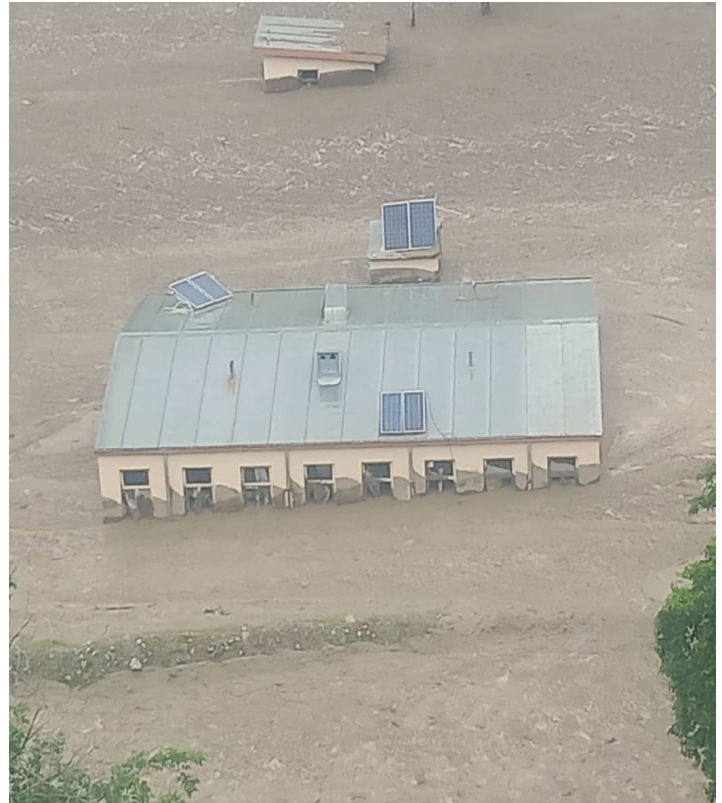
- The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has deployed two Mental Health Teams (MHTs) to Burka district to provide additional support.

Partners contribution:

WHO	Provided enough Trauma kits to help those injured in the flood.
AKF	Sent out 7 mobile teams to help in different areas.
AKHS	Made sure there are enough ambulances available to take people to the hospital.
ORCD	Sent out 4 mobile teams to help in areas affected by the flood.
IMC	Sent a mobile team from Kabul to Baghlan province to provide assistance.
JACK Kunduz	Sent a mobile team from Kunduz to Baghlan province to help out.
MSF and ICRC	Provided sheets for bodies and medical supplies to treat wounded people.

Needs:

- WHO has received requests from partners for additional medical supplies and kits. These requests will be reviewed by WHO to prioritize and provide the necessary kits accordingly, ensuring an efficient and targeted response
- In response to the emergency, WHO is establishing a provincial emergency drug stock to ensure the availability of essential medications and supplies to meet the increased health needs of the affected population.
- To facilitate a comprehensive and efficient response, WHO is conducting multi-sectoral assessments and coordinating response activities closely with other agencies. This approach aims to avoid duplication of efforts and resources, ensuring a more effective and streamlined response to the crisis.
- Baghlan Provincial Hospital and Baghlan Markazi Hospital need significant urgent support with medicines and medical supplies and kits considering the severity of the crisis.
- Since many families have lost their homes, there is also an urgent need for shelters and Non-Food Item (NFI) kits, including hygiene kits and food items, to provide immediate relief and support to those affected.
- Ensuring Availability of Essential Primary Healthcare (PHC) Services including reproductive health services, to displaced people and in locations where health facilities are damaged. This includes access to maternal and child health services, vaccinations, and treatment for common illnesses.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Services are essential to address the mental health needs of affected individuals given the traumatic nature of the flooding and its aftermath. This includes



Basic health center submerged in floodwater.
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- counseling, psychosocial support, and interventions to prevent and treat mental health disorders.
- Health Education and Promotion efforts are vital to prevent disease outbreaks in the aftermath of the flooding. This includes educating communities on safe water and sanitation practices, promoting hygiene measures, and raising awareness about common health risks following natural disasters.

Serving and nonfunctional health facilities:

Health facilities delivering healthcare services for the injuries due to flood:

- Baghlan Jadid DH
- Pul e Khumri PH
- Burka CHC
- Guzar Gahi Noor CHC
- Nahreen DH

Damaged or Partially Damaged Health Facilities:

- Mandara Health Facility
- Lata Band Basic Health Center
- Malekar Health Sub-Center
- Pachigam Comprehensive Health Center (bridge destroyed, operational but accessibility issues)

Baghlan province:

- Gharo CHC partially destroyed in Gozar gahi Noor district.
- Folol BHC destroyed in Burka district.
- Shikh Jalal BHC was partially destroyed in Baghlan Jadid district.

Takhar province:

- Mandara BHC completely destroyed, which is located in the Chal district.
- Shor Ab SHC and Lata band BHC partially destroyed, which are located in Taleqan city.
- 3- Mashtan BHC is partially destroyed, which is located in Farkhar district.

The assessment of health facilities is ongoing, and more reports on fully or partially damaged facilities are expected.



WHO medical supplies reach affected areas in northern Afghanistan on 11 May 2024. © WHO Afghanistan

Challenges:

- **Accessibility:** The towns of Burka and Nahreen pose significant accessibility challenges following the destruction of the main road. This has necessitated the involvement of the air force for transportation, highlighting the critical need for alternative transportation methods to reach these areas and deliver essential supplies and aid.
- **Collaboration Among Partners:** Enhancing collaboration among partners is crucial to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to the crisis. This includes improving information sharing, coordinating activities, and leveraging each partner's strengths to maximize the impact of the response efforts. Strengthening collaboration can lead to better resource allocation, reduced duplication of efforts, and ultimately, more efficient assistance to those affected by the flood crisis.

Funding gap:

WHO's funding requirements for the flood response operations are estimated at 7.3 million USD.

For more information about WHO's work in flooding, contact:

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