



WHO provided electricity equipment to COVID-19 PCR section at the NRH-RRL to maintain 24/7 electricity in the east region



**3.7M**  
AFFECTED<sup>1</sup>



**151,196**  
DISPLACED<sup>2</sup>



**488,578**  
RETURNEES<sup>3</sup>



**850**  
MEDICAL KITS



**187**  
OUTBREAKS<sup>4</sup>

## KEY FIGURES

394	WHO STAFF IN THE COUNTRY
60	HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS
2.1M	OUTREACH (POPULATION REACHED)
<b>HEALTH FACILITIES</b>	
2,865	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES
35	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES AFFECTED
15	HEALTH WORKERS, PATIENTS AND OTHERS KILLED
18	HEALTH WORKERS AND PATIENTS INJURED/DETAINED
12	HEALTH FACILITIES RE-OPENED
<b>DISEASES<sup>4</sup></b>	
3,437,024	ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION CASES
1,131,935	ACUTE DIARRHEA CASES
278	MEASLES CASES DURING OUTBREAK
132	CCHF DURING OUTBREAK
51	MUMPS DURING OUTBREAK
58	DOG BITS DURING OUTBREAK

## SITUATION UPDATE

- Due to conflict, natural disasters and population displacement in Afghanistan, more than 3.7 million people are still in need of emergency health services
- A total of 19,929 people fled their homes due to conflict in August, increasing the total number of IDPs to 151,196 in 2020
- Around 488,578 people returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan (2,979 people) and Iran (485,599 people) between January - August 2020
- Around 46,115 people were affected by natural disasters throughout the country (32 killed, 26 injured, 3,236 houses damaged and 884 houses destroyed) between January - August 2020
- Some 30 attacks on health care have been reported since January 2020, which have shut 35 health facilities, killed 2 health workers and injured 2 people, including 1 patient
- In August 2020, 2 health facility were re-opened, 5 health facilities were closed and 8 were attacked. In total, 1 health worker was detained, and no health workers were killed
- Some 6,517 (OPD 5,352 and IPD 1,165 ) trauma cases have been reported in 2020, so far
- A total of 187 outbreaks have been reported since January 2020. Of this, 66 (64 CCHF, 1 chickenpox and 1 measles) outbreaks, and 11,082 cases of ARI and 5,954 cases of ADD were reported in August 2020
- WHO and Health Cluster implementing partners provided services to 2,007 beneficiaries (1,265 men and 742 women) in August 2020
- A total of 2 trauma kits (A+B), 93 IEHK basic kits, and 3 cholera kits were distributed to cater to 93,800 beneficiaries in August 2020
- According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, a 28% increase is expected in the number of people seeking trauma care across the country

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview, humanitarian program cycle, December 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idp>

<sup>3</sup> <https://afghanistan.iom.int/pakistan-returns>

<sup>4</sup> MoPH Surveillance Data

## Public Health Concerns

- There is a need to enhance COVID-19 risk communication in the north region as evidence from the field shows that most people do not follow preventive measures
- Students, teachers and staff have been noticed disregarding COVID-19 precautionary measures at schools and universities in the west region
- The re-emergence of the local transmission of COVID-19 in Ghazni and Paktia provinces remains to be concerning
- Essential health services in the east region, including immunization and maternal health care continue to stay compromised due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has increased the likelihood of diseases outbreak among populations with limited or no access to health services
- Destruction of properties caused by floods and loss of life among the vulnerable people continues to enhance the likelihood of communicable diseases
- Lack of access to health care facilities remains to be one of the biggest concerns of families living in the villages of the north region. Long distances coupled with bad road conditions make commuting extremely difficult
- The continuing outbreak of CCHF in Herat province remains to be concerning
- Security situation in many part of the west region is continuing to deteriorate
- Ban on EPI services in Paktia and Paktika provinces remains to be a critical concern
- Active conflict, land mines, population movement, underserved areas, cutoff phone networks, weak EPI coverage, and attacks on health facilities remain to be the main concerns in the south region
- The risk of the vaccine preventable/epidemic disease outbreaks and MCI especially in Urozgan and Helmand provinces continues to grow

## Health Needs, Priorities and Gaps

- Equipment and supplies for COVID-19 isolation wards continue to be needed
- With the possibility of secondary spikes looming, risk communication activities need to continue sensitizing the public on COVID-19 prevention
- Standard ICUs are needed for the management of severe COVID-19 cases in the east region
- There is a continued need for the provision of collaborative emergency health services to the vulnerable population such as returnees, IDPs, and those living in under-served regions
- There is a need for improvement of nutrition services in the existing package of emergency services
- Routine and polio immunization coverage in the east region need to be improved
- There is a need to address the on-going occasional shortage of medicine and supplies at health facilities for the treatment of patients in routine OPDs across different provinces
- The lack of budget for the provision of health care services to the refugees in Gulistan Refugee Camp in Khost province needs to be addressed
- Lack of health care services for North Waziristan refugees in the Laman area of Bermal district of Paktika province needs attention
- There is a need to improve primary health care and trauma care for people living in the hard-to-reached districts and under-served of the south region
- Shortage of lab equipment at the Herat Agriculture Lab, which is preventing it from being operationalized needs to be addressed

## WHO Action

- Supported the provision of vaccination to people of all ages at the Torkham zero point/crossing point, IOM Transient Camp and UNHCR encashment centres
- WHO provided one trauma kit and a buffer stock to the Balkh Regional Hospital Trauma Center to cater to the 3 casualties and 23 cases of injury brought to the hospital after the SVBIED detonation at the ANA compound
- Provided PCR-RRL together with electricity equipment to maintain 24/7 electricity in the east region labs
- Delivered essential supplies to the recently established Trauma Care Unit at the Gozarah District Hospital
- Organized and conducted an IPD-SAM training for the southern region health staff in Kandahar province. This was done in close coordination with the district provincial hospitals. A total of 17 participants were trained
- Provided technical input to the COVID-19 Nangarhar Provincial Taskforce Committee
- Provided input and feedback to the COVID-19 Provincial Technical Sub-committee
- The Zabul provincial hospital and the Greshk district hospital triage areas were constructed through WHO's financial support

## Health Cluster

- A total of 13% (7.8k) of the Health Cluster beneficiaries are existing beneficiaries while 87% (53.3k) are new. These beneficiaries received primary health care, trauma care, mother and child care services, and health education and awareness including on COVID-19 and vaccination/immunization

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