

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Conflict between anti-government elements and Government forces in Kunduz escalated on 28 September and led to large-scale displacement of people from Kunduz City, multiple civilian casualties and major disruptions in health service provision
- ◆ A Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) clinic in Kunduz was bombed and completely destroyed on 3 October
- ◆ A 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Badakhshan on 26 October— Verified reports indicate 115 fatalities with 524 injured; 11,616 homes damaged and 6,929 houses destroyed. Assessment carried out by IOM indicates 130,093 people are in need of humanitarian assistance
- ◆ Injuries were managed well by health services and no significant disease outbreaks have been reported in the provinces affected by the earthquake



Earthquake casualties were brought to the hospital in Jalalabad by staff trained in mass casualty management

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO delivered trauma kits to Kunduz and Nangarhar regional hospitals to support emergency trauma care and surgeries for people affected by the earthquake and conflict
- ◆ WHO and the Balkh Provincial Health Directorate conducted an assessment of internally displaced persons from Kunduz settled in Mazar-i-Sharif and supported the vaccination of children under five against measles and polio
- ◆ Mass casualty management simulation exercises were conducted in Farah and Paktika provinces for health workers
- ◆ WHO stepped up training activities during October:
 - ◇ A refresher course on the prevention and control of acute respiratory infection and pneumonia during winter conducted for 120 public health officers from all provinces
 - ◇ WHO conducted a training for 26 health workers from Balkh focusing on pertussis, brucellosis and environmental health in emergencies
 - ◇ Basic Life Support training for medical officers from comprehensive health centres and district hospitals of high-risk provinces
 - ◇ 42 environmental health focal points from MoPH trained on water quality monitoring and household water treatment, food safety, healthcare waste management and radiation protection
 - ◇ 21 healthcare workers were trained on the management of severe acute malnutrition in the southern region



Mass casualty management simulation exercise in Farah



WHO delivered trauma kits to Nangarhar regional hospital

PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Conflict has resulted in a large number of IDPs and casualties and the impact of the earthquake on the same provinces has increased the burden on health service provision
- ◆ There are likely to be increasing outbreaks of water-borne, vector-borne, vaccine-preventable and air-borne diseases and infections
- ◆ Leishmaniasis outbreaks have been reported from Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan and Dawlatabad and Khulm districts of Balkh where the disease is endemic. Low community awareness, inadequate supply and use of insecticide-impregnated bed nets and shortage of anti-leishmaniasis medicine with BPHS implementers contributed to the outbreaks

KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Ongoing conflict and natural disasters demand continuous mass casualty management capacity building efforts in Afghanistan
- ◆ Enhanced vaccination activities are needed in high-risk districts
- ◆ Vector control activities must be stepped up to combat leishmaniasis and malaria
- ◆ Community awareness and participation in mass casualty management and prevention of communicable diseases must be strengthened
- ◆ Planning and implementation for contingency plans with an all-hazard approach is crucial

WHO calls on all parties to observe their obligations under international law and to ensure the protection of health services in conflict – a time when they are most needed



Vaccination of children at a camp for internally displaced persons in Balkh



WHO delivered a trauma kit to Kunduz with essential medicines and supplies for 100 surgeries



Training on the prevention and control of acute respiratory infection and pneumonia