

Health Emergencies

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Bird flu continued to be the main challenge for the west region in February 2018. Initially in January, bird flu was found in 4 farms, but the disease has now spread to several hundred poultry farms. As a result 460,000 chicken were disposed from affected farms.
- ◆ The deteriorated security situation has resulted in the closure of several health facilities: two in Kandahar (Maruf Comprehensive Health Centre (CHC) and Nish CHC) and one in Urozgan province (Oshey CHC). At the same time, Speen Jomat Basic Health Center (BHC) is the only open facility in Chaparhar district. Mobile health services have been used by partners to cover the vulnerable population.
- ◆ Active fighting resulted in internal displacement of people in the Southern region, where in February alone 139 IDP families were identified in Kandahar, 489 in Urozgan and 205 in Helmand.
- ◆ Measles outbreaks have been the major public health issues of concern with low routine immunization coverage reported as one of the main causes.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ Blood transfusion and blood bank services were improved in Nangarhar and Helmand by WHO and Ministry of Public Health.
- ◆ WHO distributed health supplies for emergency care for the Central Blood Bank in Kabul, along with Nangarhar, Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat and Balkh regional hospitals and Helmand, Paktia, Faryab, Jawzjan and Khost provincial hospitals.
- ◆ WHO procured trauma care equipment for Imam Sahib and Kishm district hospitals and other regional and provincial hospitals.
- ◆ WHO EHA officer visited Nimroz province to design a health facility for undocumented returnees and deportees.
- ◆ WASH assessment was completed for four health facilities in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.
- ◆ WHO provided Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) training for hard-to-reach district health facilities in Helmand, Kandahar and Urozgan.
- ◆ WHO donated 3 Trauma Kits and 3 Basic Interagency Emergency Health Kit to Nimroz and Nooristan for prepositioning to cover any emergency and mass casualty incidents.
- ◆ Training on Health Emergency Risk Assessment (HERA) methodology was provided in eastern and southern provinces by WHO and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to 45 officials from nine eastern and southern provincial Public Health Directorates, NGOs and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities.



Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) training in Kabul



Monitoring Baghlan blood bank



Kunduz Trauma Care Service section's operating theater





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PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Measles outbreaks were reported, investigated and responded to in southern, eastern and western regions.
- ◆ Bird flu remains the main health risk for western region. H1N5 virus was confirmed as the agent of the outbreak. No human case has been registered. Preventive and controlling activities are ongoing.
- ◆ Ongoing active fighting caused health facility closures and population movement.
- ◆ One viral hepatitis outbreak was reported in the eastern region.
- ◆ Influx of returnees pressurized health services in the eastern region.
- ◆ Insecurity of the road between Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan and Takhar provinces led to the cancellation of a cluster meeting.



WHO dispatched emergency kits to Nuristan

FOCUS AREAS:

- ◆ Contingency plan for the influx of returnees from Pakistan was developed by the Nangarhar EPR team. The western region health cluster also developed a health contingency plan for a potential influx of returnees to the region.
- ◆ An assessment of hard-to-reach areas for emergency health care service was conducted.
- ◆ HERA assessment was completed in the east region.
- ◆ Negotiations are ongoing to start construction works of trauma care services in Zerkho CHC.



Health Emergency risk assessment data color training in the East region

Health Cluster Coordination:

Cluster partners have mobilized in preparation of returnees from Pakistan in both Torkham and Spinboldak crossing points. Assessment of Zero Point health facilities and referral centres in Nanagarhar and Kandahar have been completed with the guidance of the regional cluster focal point.

Reporting form for attacks on health facilities are endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health and will be implemented by health facilities to report and verify attacks on healthcare facilities and healthcare workers.

Health Cluster partners have reached a total of 240,112 beneficiaries to date, focusing on trauma care and emergency primary healthcare. 45% of beneficiaries are women and 17% are girls. The majority of the beneficiaries are conflict-affected people and Afghan returnees from Pakistan.

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Programme Update
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