Afghanistan continues to face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The major issue for the health system remains the suspension of funding for health services delivery. Currently, only the health facilities with external support are functional, leaving unfunded health facilities non-operational. Although the overall security situation in the country is good, there were reported security incidents in the eastern region that affected the health service delivery in the relevant districts.

The country is currently facing multiple outbreaks, including COVID-19, measles, acute watery diarrhoea, dengue fever and malaria, which have increased the burden on the already fragile health system. There were a number of natural disasters reported in the last two weeks: earthquake with 5.2 magnitude in the Qadis district of Badghis province that affected around 1,000 families; a landslide in Shahrak district of Ghor province and flooding in Guzara district in Herat province. Moreover, due to recent heavy snowfalls, roads from Ghazni-Nawa and Ghazni-Jaghuri have been blocked and this affected the shipment of medical supplies to the various locations.

The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to work with partners in delivering health services to the people of Afghanistan. The Trauma Care Units (TCUs) in Badghis, Herat and Ghor provinces were fully equipped with necessary equipment and supplies for Mass Casualty Management (MCM). Health services were provided to the people affected by the earthquake in Badghis province, landslide in Ghor province, and magnetic bomb blast in Herat province.

In addition, trauma and post-trauma physical rehabilitation services were provided to 15,199 people through the WHO-supported TCUs and physical rehabilitation centers.

Emergency primary healthcare services were extended to 14,393 people living in underserved and remote areas of Afghanistan through Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and Sub Health Centers (SHCs). The emergency medical supplies and kits deployed by WHO to various areas in the last two weeks reached 110,150 people in various parts of the country.

WHO Representative to Afghanistan Dr Luo Dapeng and Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union Mr Arnout Pauwels visited the Ata Turk National Children’s Hospital in Kabul on 31 January. WHO has provided a three-month full operational cost to the hospital, including payment of salaries for all staffs, food for patients, fuel for heating and ambulances, and provision of essential drugs, medical supplies and laboratory diagnostics. Additional medicines and medical supplies were also provided to fill in the gaps at the hospital.

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**Key Figures**

- **People reached with health services**: 2,563,560
- **Health facilities supported**: 1,544
- **Health workers trained**: 106
- **People reached by medical kits deployed**: 110,150
- **Rapid response teams deployed to outbreak areas**: 170

**Ongoing Outbreaks**

- **Total COVID-19 confirmed cases**: 162,111
- **Acute Watery Diarrhoea cases**: 5,023
- **Dengue Fever cases**: 775
- **Measles cases**: 35,609
- **Malaria cases**: 467

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**Overview**

Emergency primary healthcare services were extended to 14,393 people living in underserved and remote areas of Afghanistan through Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and Sub Health Centers (SHCs). The emergency medical supplies and kits deployed by WHO to various areas in the last two weeks reached 110,150 people in various parts of the country.

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After the suspension of development funding in August 2021, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF) provided US$ 45 million to WHO and UNICEF to sustain 2,149 primary and secondary health facilities in 31 provinces (previously supported under the Sehatmandi project) from November 2021 – January 2022. Based on agreed geographical split, WHO will provide primary and secondary healthcare services to healthcare facilities located in Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Parwan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Samangan, Daikundi, Bayman, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Takhar, Logar, and Wardak provinces. During the month of December 2021, a total of 2,423,349 people received primary and secondary health care through the health facilities supported by WHO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Facilities Supported by WHO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supported HFs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Hospital (RH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Hospital (PH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Hospital (DH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Health Center (CHC)</td>
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<td>Basic Health Center (BHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub Health Center (SHC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Health House (FHH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile Health Team (MHT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

As a health cluster lead agency, WHO works with various health partners to ensure coordinated response to the health emergencies. A one-day workshop was done last 17 January 2022 to discuss and review the Health Cluster Annual Plan for 2022 with 45 health cluster members participating.

A bi-weekly Health Cluster meeting was conducted last 25 January 2022 with around 70 health cluster partners attending the meeting. Health Cluster strategic review committees also reviewed and provided feedback to the proposals submitted to Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) 2021 first standard allocation.
During the month of December 2021, there were 15,199 people (3,886 female and 11,313 male) who received trauma care and post-trauma physical rehabilitation services through the WHO-supported health facilities and physical rehabilitation centres.

WHO is supporting 132 hospitals across the country through provision of trauma medical supplies, kits and equipment, developing mass causality management plans, training staff and upgrading emergency obstetric/new-born care (EmONC) wards. WHO Afghanistan has recently joined the Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative (GETI) which aims to save millions of lives.

There are also 67 blood banks across the country that are supported by WHO through provision of medical supplies, equipment, and training. In addition, 57 health workers from health facilities of Daikundi, Kabul, Bamiyan, and Logar provinces received ambulance training on 18-20 January 2022. WHO is providing full support to six post-trauma physical rehabilitation centers through contracting out modalities in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Zabul, Kunar, Laghman, and Paktia provinces.

In response to the ongoing emergencies, WHO was able to deliver the following medical supplies and equipment in the last two weeks:

- 4 Oxygen concentrators to Baghlan Provincial hospital
- 69 Trauma Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK) to health facilities of different levels in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktika, Panjshir, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and Takhar Provinces.

In the last 2 months, WHO has trained 108 ambulance nurses from 90 health facilities across 8 provinces of Afghanistan on first aid and ambulance services. The 3-day series of trainings were conducted in 4 batches for the provinces of Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, Logar, Wardak, Bamiyan and Daikundi.

WHO is supporting 132 hospitals across the country through provision of trauma medical supplies, kits and equipment, developing mass causality management plans, training staff and upgrading emergency obstetric/newborn care (EmONC).
During the month of December 2021, there were 14,393 people living in underserved and remote areas of Afghanistan who received emergency primary health care services through WHO-supported Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and Sub Health Centers (SHCs).

Currently, WHO is supporting 25 MHTs and SHCs in underserved areas of Herat, Badghis, Helmand, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan provinces. The MHTs and SHCs provide primary healthcare services such as immunization, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, nutrition counselling/screening and referral, skilled birth attendance and other basic primary healthcare in accordance with the standard MHT package of services.

There were 106,700 people living in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktika, Punjab, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and Takhar provinces that benefited from the WHO-provided Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK).

In December 2021, a total of 2,325 malnourished children with medical complication (1,105 boys and 1,220 girls) admitted and treated in WHO-supported In-Patient Department Severe Acute Malnutrition (IPD-SAM) centers across the country.

Meanwhile, 126 bedside chairs, medicine, and medical equipment were distributed to 12 IPD-SAM centers located in Laghman, Khost, Logar, Sar-e-Pul, Balkh, Baghlan, Parwan, and Ghazni provinces.

WHO is providing regular support to 123 IPD-SAM centers located across the country in terms of medicine, medical and non-medical supplies and equipment, and staff training. The IPD-SAM centers are for management of SAM cases with medical complications which need hospitalization and specialized medical treatment.
During the last two weeks, three major outbreaks (acute watery diarrhea, dengue fever, and measles) were investigated and response measures were provided.

In addition to outbreak investigation, reporting and response, WHO also provides medical and non-medical supplies to affected communities, supports the rehabilitation of laboratories, develops technical guidelines and Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs), and facilitates capacity building activities.

Moreover, WHO has deployed 170 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) across all 34 provinces for outbreak investigation, data line listing, sample collection and sample management of COVID-19 and other epidemic-prone diseases in the country.

WHO is also providing support to the National Infectious Disease Hospital in Kabul (main referral hospital for all infectious diseases across Afghanistan) through provision of food for patients, heating system, maintenance of ambulances, waste management, including provision of essential drugs and supplies.

Technical guidelines for event-based surveillance and laboratory surveillance of AWD, and SoPs for RRTs have been recently developed.

![Weekly epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 2018-2022 (n=35,609)](image)

**Figure 1.** Weekly epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 2018-2022 (n=35,609)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative Number of Cases</th>
<th>Disaggregation of Cases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)</td>
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<td>5,023</td>
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**Figure 2.** Hotspot areas of acute watery diarrhoea cases, Sep 2021 - Jan 2022 (n=5,023)

**Figure 3.** Hotspot areas of dengue cases in Nangrahar province, Sep 2021 - Jan 2022 (n=775)
During the reporting period, there were 162,111 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country, including 7,408 deaths. The daily testing capacity in WHO-supported laboratories all over the country remains at 40.

WHO and partners continue to scale up national capacity for effective response. WHO, with support from the European Union, is strengthening the skills of health workers to test and detect cases. On 30 January, a new batch of trainers composed of 13 laboratory technicians from 11 provinces were trained on RT-PCR testing for COVID-19. The training was held at Ghazanfar Institute of Health Sciences and will continue until 10th of February 2022.

**Vaccination**

WHO and UNICEF continue to support vaccination for COVID-19. As of 29 January 2022, there were 5,120,920 people who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of this, 3,891,067 (27.1%) are fully vaccinated and 1,229,853 (8.6%) are partially vaccinated.
As a normative agency for WASH, and as part of its global mandate, WHO supports the implementation of WASH services, including medical waste management system in health facilities to ensure safe and hygienic environment. During the last two weeks, some of the WASH-related activities at the health facilities supported by WHO are:

- Construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in four health facilities (2 BHCs, 2 CHCs) located in Kunar, Paktia, and Laghman provinces.
- Rehabilitation and WASH facilities in Sarobi DH, Kabul in response to acute watery diarrhoea outbreak.
- Establishment of four water wells with water supply network and solar power system in Kunar, Paktia, and Laghman provinces.
- Rehabilitation of 10 toilets at the health facilities located in Kunar, Paktia, and Laghman provinces.
- Supply and installation of four incinerators for medical waste management at the health facilities located in Kunar, Paktia, and Laghman provinces.
- Rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in six WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers in Logar and Parwan provinces.

Gender Based Violence / Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (GBV/ PSEA)

During the last two weeks, a total of 23 GBV cases have been reported and received proper and required health services and treatment in national advanced GBV referral center. This includes six physical violence, four emotional violence, three denial of resources, five forced marriage and five sexual violence. Moreover, a follow-up session on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was conducted for 16 WHO non-government organization partners.

Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS)

Essential drugs and medical supplies were provided by WHO to the national mental hospital in Kabul, the main referral hospital for mental health patients across Afghanistan.

To enhance capacity of health workers in providing mental health services, WHO has conducted:

- 12-day training on basic mental health and introduction to mental health gap action program (mhGAP) for 49 medical doctors from Kabul, Parwan, Panjshir and Kapisa.
- 2-day training on psychological first aid and stress management for 220 community health workers (CHWs) and community health supervisors (CHS) across Afghanistan. Recently, 55 of them just completed the said training from eastern province of Afghanistan.
- Needs assessment of the national mental hospital in Kabul, the psychiatric unit in Nangahar, the drug addiction center in Nangahar and also the drug addiction hospital in Kabul.
- There were two coordination meetings with mental health department of MOPH that were carried out, and one with national mental hospital directors on mental health situation in Afghanistan.

The Health Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) has started implementation to support information needs in responding to outbreaks and emergencies. This online platform will have up to date information on available resources of the health facilities across Afghanistan. During the last two weeks, five monitoring visits were conducted to the health facilities supported by WHO in the north-eastern region.

For more information about WHO’s work in emergencies, contact:

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