

## Emergency Humanitarian Action

### KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Recent security situation in North Waziristan Agency (NWA) in Pakistan has displaced thousands of people to surrounding districts of Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan
- ◆ The number of people displaced in Afghanistan is estimated at 14,614 families, including approximately 138 Afghani families who also have crossed the border from NWA and are living in several districts in Khost and Paktika
- ◆ WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA are supporting health care services in the provinces through ARCS, HNTPO, IMC and MSF



A woman being examined in a temporary health clinic established in a school in Khost

### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO has provided 5 emergency health kits (each covering 3,000 people per month), diarrhea disease kits to manage 500 cases, 5 pneumonia kits to treat 1,500 cases and medicines to cover 2,000 various cases and injuries through government health departments in hosting districts to cater to current needs
- ◆ WHO Polio and EPI teams organized emergency vaccination activities for polio and measles in the provinces in collaboration with UNICEF and IMC and vaccinated 24,364 children against polio and 8,410 children under 10 against measles
- ◆ Communicable disease surveillance and zero reporting established—so far no significant outbreaks are detected
- ◆ 6,124 refugee patients have been treated by the health facility and mobile teams in Khost
- ◆ WHO and OCHA offices organized regional health cluster coordination meetings in Farah, Jalalabad and Kandahar with all relevant provincial, regional stakeholders focusing on:
  - ⇒ strengthening health cluster coordination and communication
  - ⇒ improving provincial health sector coordination mechanisms and operational modalities during emergencies
  - ⇒ finalizing pre-hospital and hospital mass casualty management plans

470,000+ displaced from NWA to other parts of Pakistan as of 2 July

112,000+ estimated displaced from NWA to Afghanistan as of 3 July

74 % Of the NWA IDPs are women and children



Treating injuries in Khost provincial hospital

## MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS:

- ◆ Tens of thousands of children and women not immunized against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases are moving to Khost and Paktika, providing an opportunity to vaccinate children but at the same time increasing the risk of the spread of polio
- ◆ Possible outbreak of waterborne diseases among the refugees and host community is a major challenge. The temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius and the lack of water is among the most pressing concerns. Currently, water is being trucked into the site by surrounding villages. There is a potential concern of a cholera outbreak.
- ◆ Priority needs include protection, food, shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene
- ◆ Health facilities are overburdened and have low capacity to manage IPD care
- ◆ There are serious gaps in reproductive health and basic obstetric care in health facilities

## KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Vaccination plays a major role in saving the lives of children suffering in emergencies
- ◆ Safe water and basic sanitation are crucial for saving lives threatened by endemic seasonal diarrheal diseases
- ◆ Community-based hygiene promotion is a strong weapon in the fight against communicable diseases
- ◆ Preparedness for a mass cholera outbreak needs to be strengthened to ensure timely and effective response
- ◆ Maternal, neonatal and child health, mental health and non-communicable diseases must be addressed by expanding available health services

**Polio is a health  
emergency of  
international  
concern**

- 24,364 children <10 years vaccinated for polio
- 8,410 children <10 years vaccinated for measles
- WHO medical supplies reached Khost to treat additional 20,000 patients for one month



Mobile health teams examining patients at Gurbuz camp in Khost