



# AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

No. 34 | October 2023

## Key figures (monthly)

**370,135**

People received emergency healthcare service (PHC & Hospitals)

**9,890**

People received trauma care services (IPD+OPD)

**110,712 KG**

Medical and non-medical supplies provided

**834**

Health workers trained

**114**

Surveillance support teams deployed to outbreak areas<sup>1</sup>

## Summary of outbreaks

**1,261**

COVID-19 confirmed cases

**18,628**

Acute Watery Diarrhea AWD (2023)

**1,070**

Measles (2023)

**200**

Dengue fever (2023)

**75**

CCHF (2023)



WHO Representative Dr Luo Dapeng visits the earthquake-affected areas to support the health teams.

## Earthquake Response in Herat Province, western Afghanistan

Between 7 and 15 October 2023, a series of earthquakes and aftershocks hit Herat Province in western Afghanistan, causing 1,482 deaths, 2,100 injuries, and 3,330 homes damaged. Aftershocks continued until 28 October 2023. Around 43,400 people (23% are children under the age of five) are directly affected across six districts: Injil, Kushk/Rabate-Sangai, Zindajan, Gulran, Herat and Kohsan of Herat Province, and 114,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Many survivors were left in temporary shelters in Herat city or villages of their origin with congested and poor hygiene conditions.

WHO initiated an immediate response within few hours of the earthquake, such as the following:



**92 tonnes** of medicines and medical supplies were provided to health facilities where trauma cases were treated and referred.



**Three** mobile health teams established in the affected villages



**Five** WHO-supported surveillance support teams (SST) deployed for active surveillance



**175** healthcare workers trained on Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), including Stress Management.



**28** doctors trained on mhGAP including grief and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in order to diagnose, manage and treat the most common mental health problems.

<sup>1</sup>A classical rapid response team is a multi-disciplinary team stationed in each province under Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD). The team consists of six personnel: an epidemiologist, a WASH & environmental health officer, a CDC officer, an EPI officer, and a laboratory technician and NGO staff. WHO supports the operational cost of the activities.

<sup>2</sup>A WHO-supported surveillance support team consisting of an epidemiology focal point to facilitate data collection and a laboratory focal point to support sample collection from suspected cases as well as aid the National Disease Surveillance and Response (NDSR) in investigating alerts and outbreaks.

<sup>3</sup>AWD case data is reported from all 519 sentinel sites in the country. Previously data extracted was only collected from sentinel sites reporting above-threshold numbers of AWD cases. The change in methodology will better capture the AWD cases using the standard case definition and ensure proper representation of the country, as it uses all sentinel sites in Afghanistan.



**21** female healthcare workers deployed, comprising of midwives, medical doctors, and Obstetrician-Gynecologist (OB/GYN) to provide reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child healthcare services for the affected communities, in collaboration with the Afghanistan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AFSOG)



**40** health facilities were identified as partially or fully damaged following a systematic assessment of damaged health facilities



**18** ambulances were provided fuel sufficient for one month; worth 100,000 USD of support



**Six-person** team conducted a needs assessment for risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) interventions



**700** solar devices donated for the Health Cluster partners to ensure power supply in the affected health facilities

By the end of October, WHO and Health Cluster partners reached a total of 42,167 people (with almost 23% being children under the age of five) in highly affected districts of Zindajan, Herat City, Injil, Kohsan, Kushk, and Gulran. Among them, 35,177 people received primary health care and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS); 2,851 people received trauma care and rehabilitation services, and 4,139 people received various kits, including mama and baby kits, dignity kits, and individual cleaning delivery kits.

To support earthquake response in Herat, the Health Cluster supported the development of the Herat Earthquake Emergency Response Plan. Of the USD 7.9 million requirement to support the health response, USD 4.2 million has been mobilized.



Health Cluster Coordinator, Jamshed Tanoli, in Kushkah village in Balkh Province.

### Health Cluster Coordination

- WHO and 50 Health Cluster partners successfully reached approximately 1.3 million people with humanitarian health services through 857 health facilities across 313 districts of all 34 provinces.
- The Afghanistan Health Cluster has been actively involved in strengthening the capacity of health partners in various areas. Two batches of Risk Management and Contingency Planning and one batch of the Public Health in Emergencies training were conducted for staff of health partners.
- To support a coordinated health response for returnees primarily from Pakistan, the Regional Health Cluster Coordinators for the south and eastern Regions have been closely working with the health partners and other stakeholders.

To support earthquake response in Herat, the Health Cluster supported the development of the Herat Earthquake Emergency Response Plan. Of the USD 7.9 million requirement to support the health response, USD 4.2 million has been mobilized.

### Health Service Delivery (Primary Health Care and Hospitals)

In October 2023, WHO was able to reach 370,135 people in 33 provinces through 266 primary health care facilities: 3 comprehensive health centers (CHCs); 78 basic health centers (BHCs), 159 sub health centers (SHCs); 26 mobile health teams (MHTs); and 24 hospitals, in collaboration with 13 implementing partners.

There were 21,534 individuals who received immunization services (measles, PENTA 3, TT2+, and oral polio vaccine (OPV)); 11,054 women received antenatal care (ANC); 7,162 women received postnatal care (PNC); while 2,170 deliveries were assisted by skilled health workers.

### Primary Health Care



**370,135**  
People received OPD consultations



**298,185**  
Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services



**11,054**  
Women received ANC



**7,162**  
Women received PNC

### Sustaining healthcare services delivery

Beneficiaries of PHC & Hospital services at WHO-supported facilities for October 2023 (Total: 370,135)		
Age	Male	Female
Over 18 years	88,185	155,542
Under 18 years	64,368	62,040

 **2,170**  
Institutional deliveries

 **64,398**  
Number of consultations for Non-communicable diseases

 **21,534**  
Pregnant, CBA Women and under 5 children received TT2+, measles, and PENTA-3 Vaccination

### Trauma & Physical Rehabilitation

In the aftermath of the Herat earthquakes, most of those injured were treated in the Herat Regional Hospital located in Herat City. A total of 889 people received treatment, including those from Herat City and those transferred from the affected villages.

WHO ensured sufficient emergency supplies in both the central storage in Kabul and the regional storage in Herat to respond to emergencies effectively. WHO also donated two tents to Herat Regional Hospital to ensure space availability and readiness

for response in case of a mass influx of cases. In addition, WHO supported the Herat Ambulances with fuel for 18 ambulances sufficient for one month, worth 100,000 USD.

 **2,969**  
patients received physiotherapy

 **4,815**  
patients received blood transfusion

 **9,775**  
patients received minor surgical operation

 **2,944**  
patients received major surgical operation

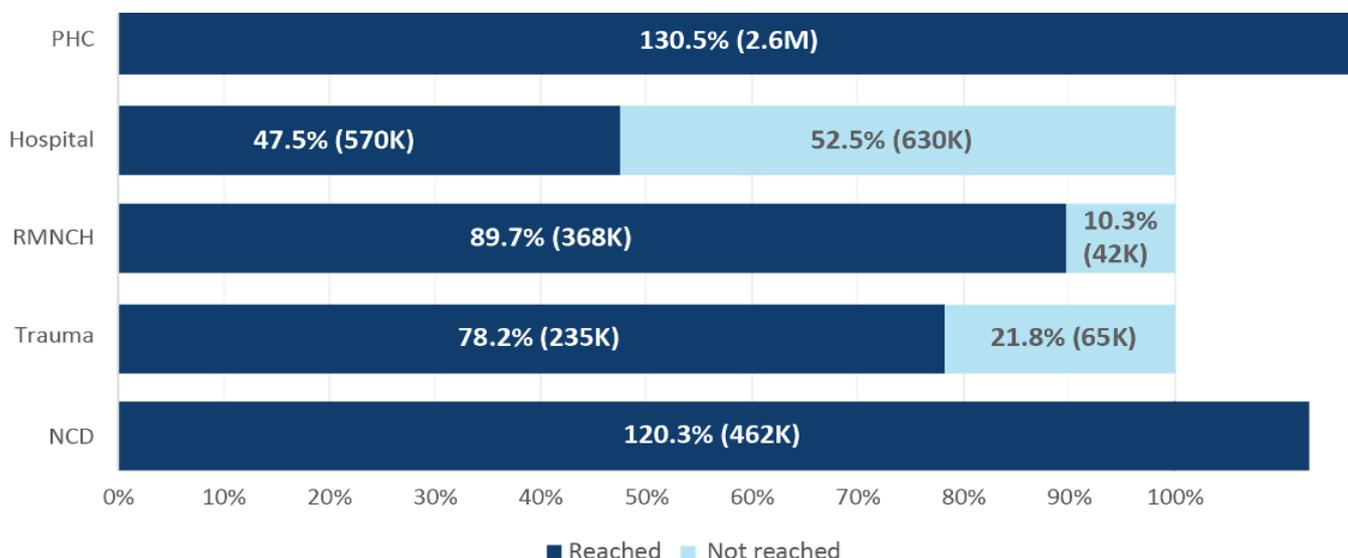
### Trauma care services

Beneficiaries of trauma care services at WHO-supported facilities for October 2023 (Total: 9,890)		
	Male	Female
Over 18 years	3,949	1,344
Under 18 years	2,771	1,826

### Post trauma rehabilitation

Beneficiaries of post trauma rehabilitation services at WHO-supported facilities for October 2023 (Total: 23,799)		
	Male	Female
Over 18 years	7,662	6,936
Under 18 years	5,562	3,639

### Proportion of people reached (Jan-October 2023) against the target in year 2023



### Nutrition in Emergencies

In October 2023, a total of 4,561 children (2,251 girls and 2,310 boys) with severe malnutrition with medical complications were admitted and treated in 135 WHO-supported Inpatient departments for children with severe acute malnutrition (IPD-SAM) centers. These centers are located in 123 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers+, which is 103% of the monthly target for October 2023. Due to food insecurity and disease burden, the number of SAM with complication cases remains high.

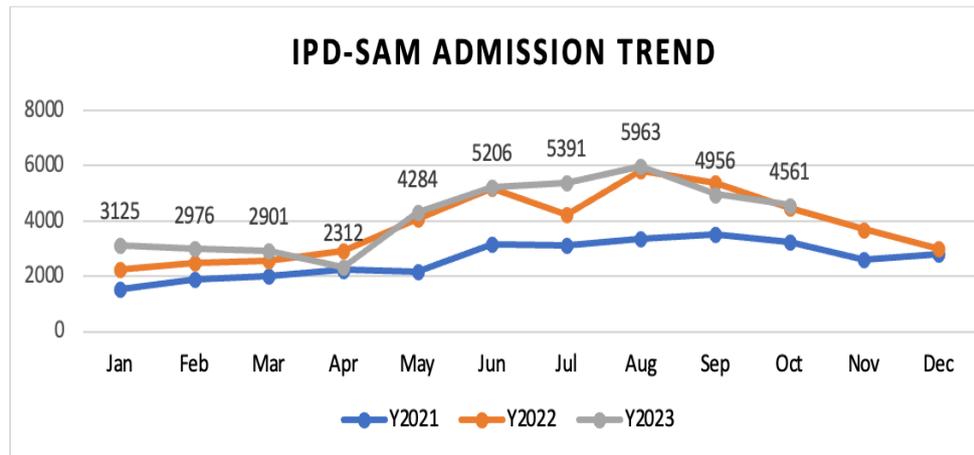
WHO has strengthened the national capacity to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition. WHO supported training on facility-based nutrition surveillance for 57 female nutrition nurses from Kunar, Laghman, Farah and Badghis provinces in October 2023.

Beneficiaries of 127 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers for October 2023		
Under five	Boys	Girls
4,561	2,310	2,251

**39,678**  
 Pregnant and lactating women received malnutrition screening and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling and treatment services

**12,613**  
 Women received family planning services and awareness

**80,501**  
 Under 5 children received OPV, malnutrition treatment and screening



### Infectious Hazard Preparedness and Surveillance

Monthly summary of infectious disease outbreaks in Afghanistan, October 2023

Indicators	AWD	CCHF	COVID-19	Measles	Dengue
Monthly new cases (% change compared to July)	18,628 (↓25.0)	75 (↓38.0)	1,261 (↑36.2)	1,070 (↓11.4)	200 (↑119.8)
Monthly new deaths (CFR%)	7 (0.04)	5 (6.7)	3 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cumulative cases	195,336	1,190	227,492	22,687	1,022
Cumulative deaths	94	110	7,953	62	1

#### Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration

- During the month of October, 18,628 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases with dehydration were reported, with a decrease of 25.0% compared to September 2023, and with a total of seven associated deaths (monthly CFR of 0.04%).
- Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, 195,336 cases of AWD cases with dehydration were reported, of which 56.9% were children under five years of age and 49.8% were females.

- Since January 2023, cumulatively, a total of 1,190 suspected CCHF cases have been reported; 30.9% (368) are females, and 99.8% (1,187) are aged more than five years. A total of 110 CCHF-associated deaths have been reported from 15 provinces; the majority are from two provinces: Kabul (51, 46.4%) and Balkh (15, 13.6%). In total, 1,052 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 370 samples were positive (positivity rate: 35.2%)

#### Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

- The number of suspected CCHF cases showed a 38.0% decrease (75 suspected cases in October compared to 121 in September), with five new associated deaths (monthly CFR% of 6.7%).

#### COVID-19

- During the last month, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases increased by 36.0% (1,261 cases were reported during October compared to 910 during September 2023) with three associated deaths (CFR 0.2%). This increase

could be attributed to seasonality, low vaccination coverage (only around 39% of the population are fully vaccinated and around 6% received booster doses) as well as congested living conditions in internally-displaced person (IDP) camps following the Herat earthquakes.

- In October 2023, a total of 11,795 tests were conducted in public laboratories, which is nearly equal to the number of tests performed in September 2023. The test positivity rate increased from 7.9% in September 2023 to 10.7% in October 2023.
- During the reporting period, over 106,000 individuals have been vaccinated, and the proportion of those who received at least one dose slightly increased to reach 43.5%.

**Measles**

- In October 2023, 1,070 suspected measles cases were reported, which indicates a decrease of 11.4% compared to September 2023, with no reported deaths.

**Dengue fever**

- During the reporting period, 200 new suspected cases were reported, which shows a 120% increase in the number of suspected cases compared to September 2023. No new associated deaths were reported during the last month.
- Enhanced surveillance activities could be one reason for this increase. Another reason could be linked to the vector seasonality. This is evidenced by the fact that this pattern was also noted in 2021 and 2022 where the peaks were observed during weeks 43 and 45, respectively.

**Medical supplies**

In October 2023, WHO delivered several kits for prevention and response to infectious disease cases;

- Anti-hepatitis B and C medicines to the whole country (mainly 5 regions of Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Herat, and Nangarhar); 6423 Sofosbuvir (6,423), Daclatasvir (6,426), and Entecavir (1,200).
- 1,720 standard Q COVID-19 kits to three provinces (Wardak, Kabul and Herat).
- 32 Standard Q Dengue Fever kits to Nangarhar.
- 55 investigation kits for AWD with dehydration to three provinces (Kandahar, Baghlan and Herat).
- 400 doses of Rabies immunoglobulin to Balkh.
- PPE to Kabul NDSR team (gloves (42 packs) and masks (22,000)).
- 1,550 Diphtheria Antitoxins to all 7 WHO regional sub-offices.
- 50 different kits to Herat to support the response to the earthquakes (measles, pneumonia and PED SAM kits).

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS)**



**13,857**

Individuals received mental health consultations



**3,296**

people received psychological counselling

- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services-Technical Working Group (MHPSS-TWG) coordination team (ACF & WHO) closely collaborated with different clusters and organizations to map and coordinate MHPSS services in Herat province. A task force, supervised by the National MHPSS TWG, was established specific to western region (Herat) to immediately respond to the earthquake-affected communities.
- WHO trained 175 healthcare staff (psychosocial counselors, medical doctors and nurses) Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Stress Management for the affected persons/ families from the earthquake.
- WHO conducted its Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MhGAP) training for 28 healthcare providers, including seven female doctors and nurses for managing patients with mental health conditions at PHCs in eight earthquake-affected districts in Herat Province.



Dr Fawzia Rahimi, Mental Health Officer at the Provincial Public Health Directorate of Herat.

**Drug Demand Reduction Services (DDRS)**

- WHO has conducted “WHO-UNODC Consultative Workshop on Unification of Service Delivery and Reporting of Drug Use Disorders Treatment Activities” to bring together national and international stakeholders who are knowledgeable and experienced in treating drug use disorders for standardization of activities and programs.
- WHO organized an introductory meeting with the new director of the Afghanistan National Programme for Control of AIDS/HIV, STI & Hepatitis (ANPASH) and ANPASH team.
- Collaboration on the revision of the EU proposal on “Increasing access of vulnerable populations in Afghanistan to quality and comprehensive MHPSS and drug use disorder services” through several online meetings with colleagues of our counterpart organization, UNODC. The revised proposal

with €10 million top-up was approved by the EU and was countersigned by WHO and EU on 25 October 2023.

- Coordinated for the WHO-UNODC Joint visit with Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan’s to the Kabul 60-bed female and children last October 26, 2023
- Developed the 5-day curriculum and training contents for the training package to be provided to all health staff working at focused Drug Treatment Centers. Series of trainings will start by Nov 2023.

### Noncommunicable deases

WHO started the National Implementation of NCD Program for the country by contextualizing the Package of Essential NCD (PEN) Protocol with focus on hypertension, diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, aaudio vascular diseases (stroke, angina, myocardial infarction, hearth failure, etc.), hypertension in pregnancy, diabetes in pregnancy, and epilepsy. WHO was able to conduct the training of trainers on PEN for Afghanistan for 24 doctors for six days, plus conducting Training of Trainer for 12 midwives specific on PEN for pregnant women.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WHO is actively involved in improving WASH services in 105 healthcare facilities across 11 provinces. This support involves rehabilitating and constructing 105 solar-based safe water sources, sanitation services, hygiene, and waste management and almost 80% of activities were completed.

Besides, WHO supports the Environmental Health Department in the Ministry of Public Health (EH/MoPH) for water quality testing in response to AWD and other waterborne disease outbreaks. WHO conducted training on field water quality testing, chlorination of water points, and waste management for 32 EH/MoPH officers.

WHO conducted water quality testing in 12 healthcare facilities, revealing microbiological contamination in 30% of the samples. The results have been shared with hospital administrations, and necessary measures have been implemented or recommended to minimize the risk of contamination.

### Health logistical support



**298,185**

Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services



**1,193,150**

People benefited from assorted medical supplies

In October, WHO delivered a total of 1,894 modules of varying medical kits (over 110,712 kg in total) to the partners, which included Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) supplementary and basic modules, Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kit (TESK), cholera kits, pneumonia kits, measles, and Non- Communicable

Diseases Kits (NCDK), which benefited over 1,193,150 people.

To respond to the earthquake in Heart, WHO donated the following:

- **700 solar** devices for the Health Cluster for power supply
- **six tents** to OCCD to establish a PHC HF at Qaseeri Shareen in Zindajan district.
- **20 tents** in Herat Regional Hospital
- **69 different modules of kits** (IEHK, TESK), medicines, and medical supplies, including medicines for trauma care, pneumonia, and treatment of severe malnutrition; orthopedic and surgery equipment; basic hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, and 200 IV stands.

On 30 October, 20 tons of essential health kits from WHO arrived in Herat through the EU humanitarian air bridge flight, which ECHO facilitated. These kits consist of various models of IEHK, TESK, and PED-SAM kits.

### Project Monitoring Unit (PMU)

To ensure proper oversight of project implementation, WHO has conducted systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities through 34 monitoring officers on the ground using specific tools developed for each type of health intervention.

In October 2023 WHO conducted monitoring visits of 110 primary healthcare facilities, 96 Therapeutic Feeding Unit (TFU) and 27 hospital (including Integrated Infectious Disease and COVID-19 hospitals, Drugs Addiction Treatment Centers, Emergency Hospital, and Rehabilitation Centers), and 96 hospitals under HER projects in 34 provinces.

The identified areas of improvement were strictly followed up at the health facility level and the new identified areas will be followed up with the implementing partner to ensure mitigation measures take place.

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



**191,399**

People living in remote and underserved areas received health education and awareness

WHO has concluded a series of three-day training sessions on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for **242** participants from across different regions, that included RCCE officers, CDC officers, NDSR officers, social mobilizers, health promotion officers, PHC officers from the:

- **Southern region** (Kandahar, Zabul, Nimroz, Urozgan, and Helmand) and Western region (Herat, Ghor, Badghis and Farah)
- **Northern region** (Mazar-e- Sharif, Jawzjan, Sare Pul, Faryab, Samangan, Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakhshan)

- **Central region** (Kabul, Bamyán, Ghazni, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar and Maidan Wardak)
- **Eastern region** (Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktia, and Khost)

The participants that included **60** females, were trained on risk communication and community engagement strategies and plans for outbreak-prone diseases, especially in preparedness for winter diseases. The participants were also equipped with better understanding and practical skills to promote public awareness about different infectious diseases, especially among priority groups.

WHO also conducted social listening sessions in six provinces (Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar, Herat, Badakhshan, and Kandahar) with more than **70** community members, religious leaders, community health workers, and representatives of youth and women groups.

WHO supported MoPH to conduct an assessment in Herat province to identify the RCCE needs of the people in earthquake-affected areas. WHO is currently working with MoPH to conduct an RCCE campaign across seven districts of Herat province to raise awareness of the communities about COVID-19 and other outbreak-prone diseases, as well as provide psychosocial support and awareness on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.



Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) Training in Herat



Social listening in Badakhshan

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