

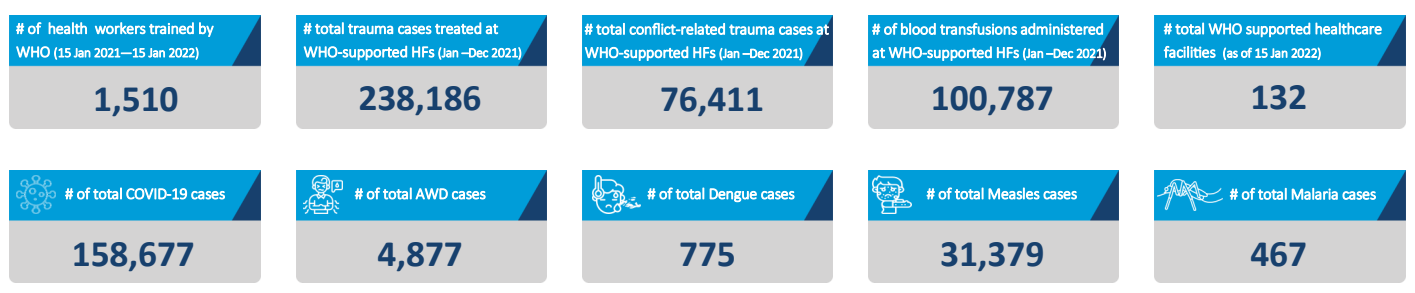


AFGHANISTAN

EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

No. 10 / 15 January 2022

WHO Health Emergency Key Figures



Overview

Afghanistan is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and its fragile health system remains in need of critical support. WHO and partners have scaled up support to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the lives of the Afghan people. 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, The remaining three provinces — Parwan, Kapisa and Panjsher — are supported by WHO and UNICEF through internal funding (162 health facilities).

Together with UNICEF, WHO has secured US\$100 million from the World Bank-managed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) to support the next phase of Sehatmandi from February until June 2022. UNICEF will support pri-

mary healthcare level services, while WHO will support secondary healthcare services across the 34 provinces. Thanks to this, essential medicines and medical supplies, as well as fuel for heating have been provided to the health facilities to cover their essential needs during the harsh winter. The funding also covers other operational costs, including salaries for around 25,000 health workers. There are still many gaps to address. Afghanistan is currently facing numerous outbreaks including acute watery diarrhoea, measles, dengue fever, COVID-19 and malaria, which have increased the burden on the already fragile health system. Despite all efforts, more than 1,200 health facilities and over 11,000 health workers are not covered through the support provided through UN CERF or ARTF. This includes the majority of hospitals designated for COVID-19 care.

Key Actions

- As part of the assistance to health facilities previously under the Sehatmandi project, WHO is supporting 1,202 health facilities in 17 provinces and covering the salaries of 14,000 health workers. The salaries for November have been dispersed. Payments for December have been finalized.
- The national polio vaccination campaign was held from 13 - 16 December. This was the second nationwide campaign after the August transition, the campaign was synchronized with the Pakistan NID. Over eight million children aged between 0 - 59 months were reached. In total, 2.6 million children have now been vaccinated for the first time in more than three years. The first National Immunization Day (NID) of 2022 will take place later this month.
- In response to the measles outbreak, WHO supported a measles vaccination campaign in six provinces during December 2021. The campaign targeted 1.4 million children aged 9–59 months.



WHO Representative in Afghanistan, Dr. Luo Dapeng administers polio vaccine to a young boy. The first national polio vaccination campaign for 2022 will take place later this month. Photo: WHO Afghanistan.



Situation and Response



Sustaining the Health System

With support provided by WHO and UNICEF, 2,311 health facilities previously under Sehatmandi, remain operational. Since November 2021, WHO has provided more than 1,674 medical kits to 534 health facilities through its Health Emergency Programme to mitigate against the increased risk of seasonal diseases of winter. These supplies cover the health needs of over 1.15 million people.

During August-September 2021, utilization of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services was reduced by more than 20% in addition to already reduced service coverage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“ WHO is delivering essential life-saving maternal and child health services in 17 provinces through 1,202 Sehatmandi health facilities.

Since November, with emergency funding, WHO is delivering essential life-saving maternal and child health services in 17 provinces through 1,202 Sehatmandi health facilities. In December 2021, WHO organized the Sexual Reproductive Health and Right (SRHR) Training Package and Guide-



Sexual Reproductive Health and Right (SRHR) Training Package and Guideline Dissemination Workshop in Kabul. Photo: WHO Afghanistan

line Dissemination Workshop in Kabul for stakeholders (especially female health workers and experts) from the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to disseminate three key national guidelines for scaling up maternal and child healthcare services across Afghanistan.

The second monthly meeting between WHO, USAID and implementing partners for the first phase of Sehatmandi (under CERF funding from November 2021 to January 2022) was held virtually. The geographical scope of the project activities for the WHO-managed NGOs encom-

“ Since November 2021, WHO has provided more than 1,674 medical kits to 534 health facilities to mitigate against the increased risk of seasonal diseases of winter.

passes 17 provinces for a total of 1202 health facilities. The meeting was part of the monitoring activities managed by WHO, ensuring that the project activities are on track, targets are being met and gaps identified that may be hindering the implementation of project activities.



The second monthly meeting between WHO, USAID and implementing partners for the first phase of Sehatmandi. Photo: WHO Afghanistan

WHO is staying and delivering to ensure

**#HealthForAll
in Afghanistan**

Outbreaks Response

COVID-19



Testing and Surveillance

To date, 158,677 cases of COVID-19 and 7,377 deaths have been reported. WHO has stepped up efforts to train technicians and procure necessary supplies and equipment needed to ensure that Afghanistan has the capacity to detect COVID-19 variants. However, due to recent changes and shortage of test kits, the country is currently unable to detect the Omicron variant. A slight increase in the number of COVID-19 cases has been reported in the last few weeks. Though the 40 WHO supported labs remain functional across the country and are being provided with supplies, overall testing remains low. To a large extent, this is linked to the disruption of rapid response teams (RRTs) which

facilitate sample collection and case investigation. WHO is providing technical and financial support for the recruitment of 170 RRTs to boost COVID-19 testing.

Vaccination

WHO and UNICEF have recently concluded a COVID-19 vaccination acceleration campaign in all 34 provinces. Despite this, as of 10 January 2022, overall 4,910,204 people (around 13% of the total population) are fully vaccinated. As of 13 January, 260,758 doses of Sinopharm vaccine and 1,833,600 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine are available.

 <p>9,500 Daily testing capacity of WHO supported COVID-19 laboratories</p>	 <p>40 WHO supported laboratories</p>
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 <p>13% Total fully vaccinated population</p>	 <p>2,094,358 Total available doses of vaccine</p>
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With support from the European Union (EU), WHO is working to protect people in Afghanistan from the COVID-19 pandemic. EU and WHO Country Office in Afghanistan are scaling up prevention and response activities in 34 provinces. Activities include expanding testing, enhancing surveillance and diagnostics, helping provincial hospitals and facilities to improve case management and infection control. Photo: Mehdi A. Jovini / WHO Afghanistan



Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

The AWD outbreak continues in five provinces: Kabul, Kapisa, Kandahar, Laghman and Zabul. Since September 2021, a total of 4,877 cases of AWD have been recorded and eight deaths. A significant decrease in cases has been observed since the start of December 2021. WHO is continuing support for 14 rapid response teams that are responsible for AWD outbreak detection, case investigation, laboratory sampling and referrals to AWD treatment centres. Medical and non-medical supplies sufficient for 15,000 cases were provided. They were utilized to manage the reported cases.

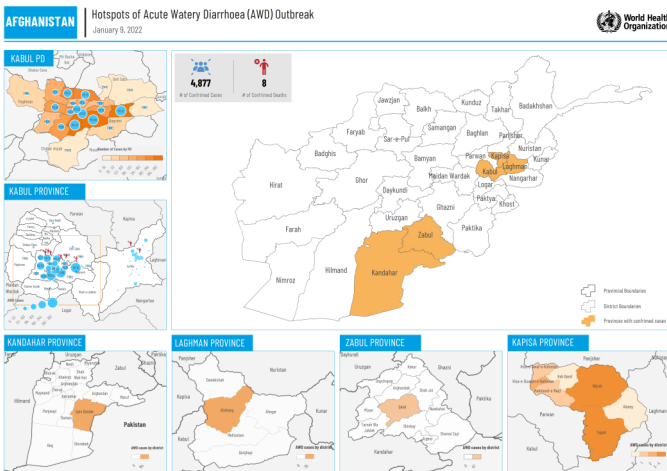


Fig.1. Hotspot areas of AWD cases (n=4,877) (Sep 2021 - Jan 2022)



Dengue Fever

Dengue fever outbreak continues in Nangarhar province. Since 20 September 2021, a total 775 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Nangarhar. With the arrival of winter, a decline in cases has been observed since November 2021. WHO is supporting the provision of vector surveillance and control supplies to strengthen the outbreak response. A public information TV and radio campaign has also been supported to raise awareness among the population of Nangarhar. All reported cases were managed, using medications and supplies provided by the WHO.

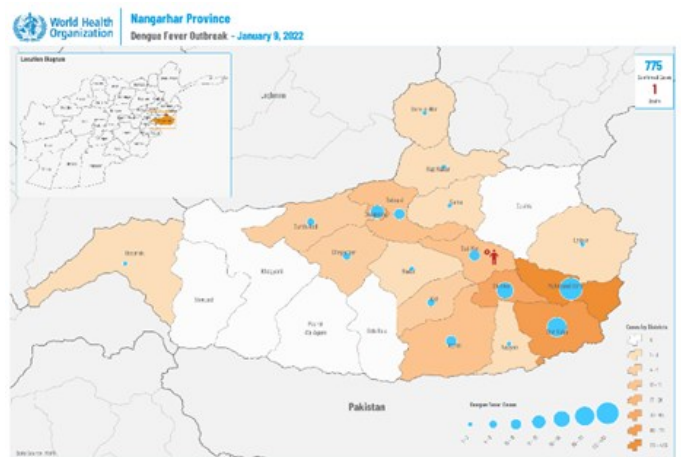


Fig. 2. Hotspot areas of dengue cases (n=775) (Sep 2021 – Jan 2022)



Measles

Around 31,379 cases of measles and 106 deaths have been reported in Afghanistan since 01 January 2021. Of this, 2,451 are lab confirmed cases. WHO is monitoring the measles outbreak and supporting the planning for a national measles vaccination campaign due to take place in the first quarter of 2022. In response to the measles outbreak, WHO supported a measles vaccination campaign in six provinces during December 2021. The campaign targeted 1.4 million children aged 9–59 months.



Malaria

A recent cluster of confirmed malaria cases has been reported from Alishang district of Laghman province, which is a key endemic area for malaria which is a key endemic area for malaria in Afghanistan. WHO is supporting in strengthening testing, case management and surveillance for malaria. Eight health facilities in Alishang district have been supplied with anti-malaria medicines.

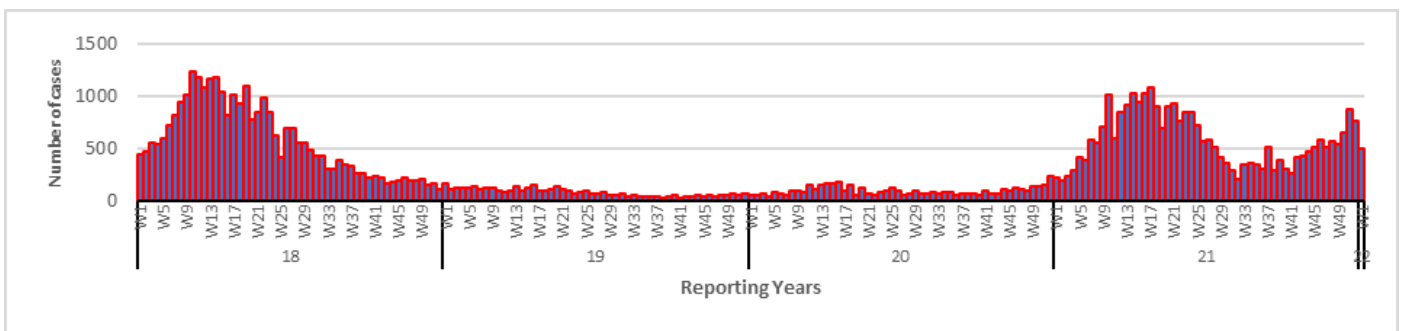


Fig. 3. Measles Weekly Epidemiological curve in Afghanistan (Jan 2018 – Jan 2022)



Polio

Four cases of wild poliovirus (WPV1) were reported in Afghanistan in 2021. The first National Immunization Day (NID) of 2022 will take place later this month. Six supplemental immunization activities are planned for 2022.



Logistics and Supplies



Medical Supply Airlift

As part of an emergency response for more than 1,000 hospitalized children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, WHO airlifted 34.6 tons of life-saving health supplies to Afghanistan. The supplies, which arrived in Kabul on 5 January 2022, also include enough medicines to treat 150,000 people in need of medical care for three months. On January 7, WHO also airlifted around 31 tons of medical supplies contains 602 kits of Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) 2017, Basic Module, Renewable and Equipment. Each IEHK 2017 contains essential medicines and medical devices (consumables and equipment) for a population of 1000 for a period of three months.



WHO airlifted 34.6 tons of life-saving health supplies to Afghanistan. The supplies, included enough medicines to treat 150,000 people in need of medical care for three months. Photo: Mehdi A. Jovini / WHO Afghanistan



Supporting Health Facilities

For this reporting period, WHE Team was able to provide 3,235, 200 surgical face masks to a total of 142 hospitals (27 prov. hosp., 94 district hospitals, 21 specialized & regional hosp.) across the 33 provinces in Afghanistan. This is to ensure implementation of Infection, Prevention and Controls on these hospitals and especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. In response to emergency and trauma care support, WHE provided essential medical equipment to 16 health facilities (2 CHCs, 12 district hosp., 2 teaching hospitals) in 16 provinces across Afghanistan. WHE also provided installation and training for the new digitalized x-ray machine for Nangarhar Teaching Hospital, including installation a new portable x-ray machine Kabul Ataturk Hospital.



WHE provided essential medical equipment to 16 health facilities in 16 provinces across Afghanistan. Photo: Mehdi A. Jovini / WHO Afghanistan



Trauma Care

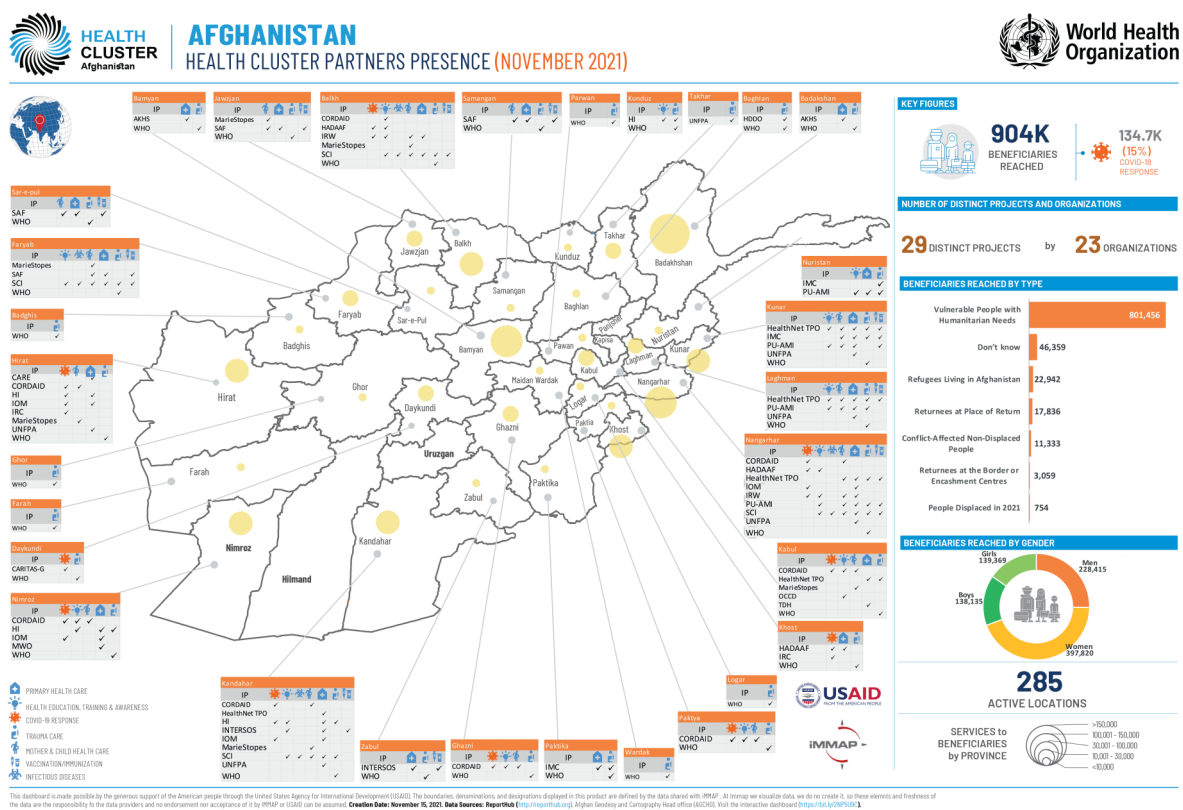
WHE Team is coordinating with the WHO-Headquarter and WHO-EMRO as a follow-up on the trainings on emergency and trauma care implemented last Dec 2021. The WHO Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative (GETI) which aims to save millions of lives through improvements to national emergency care systems will be implemented here in Afghanistan. This Initiative will be fully implemented in this 2022 in Afghanistan in cooperation with the De Facto Ministry of Health. It will include advocacy, assessment and planning, mobilizing networks, clinical care training, clinical process guidance and quality improvement of emergency and trauma care, across Afghanistan.



Mirwais Regional Hospital in war-affected Kandahar Province received 13 types of lifesaving equipment to treat patients of mass casualty events in the region. Photo: WHO Afghanistan

Health Cluster

The Health Cluster is continuing to coordinate and support a multi-pronged health response. In the first half of January 2022, it is aimed to reach more than 225,000 people with the primary health, and more than 2,500 people with trauma care through Health Cluster partners. The Health Cluster supported finalization of Health chapter of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2022. Support has been provided for the finalization of 15 proposals submitted by Health Cluster partners under AHF 1st Standard Allocation.



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WHO Recommendations

- Ensure support from donors to sustain non Sehatmandi health facilities and COVID 19 treatment hospitals including support surveillance systems and rapid response teams.
- Health cluster partners to mobilize resources and sustain the critical life-saving health services in underserved areas and remote locations to minimize maternal, child, and other avoidable morbidities and mortalities.
- COVID-19 vaccination campaign must proceed urgently to increase the coverage and protect the people.
- A national-wide measles campaign needs to be urgently planned and implemented due to the increase in measles cases and deaths across the country.

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