

## Emergency Humanitarian Action

### KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Measles outbreaks continue to be a major public health threat: 21 measles outbreaks from 13 provinces with 516 related cases and 3 deaths were reported during the first two months of 2016
- ◆ There is an increase in the number of conflict-related incidents where health facilities and healthcare workers are deliberately targeted
- ◆ In February there were 14 abductions of healthcare workers and four incidents against healthcare facilities, including a raid on a clinic funded by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and a suicide attack near a health facility in Parwan (OCHA)



Tahira waits for her medical check at a WHO-supported mobile clinic in Bamyan province

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO distributed essential medical supplies and medicines to benefit 164,860 people seeking healthcare—supplies, including Diarrhoeal Disease Kit (DDK), Trauma Kits A+B, the Inter-agency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), Supplementary Malaria Module and the IEHK Basic Unit, were delivered to provincial health directorates in Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Kapisa, Kunduz, Logar and Parwan provinces
- ◆ WHO supplied 11 provinces with equipment for blood banks and trained health facility focal points on the installation and use of supplies and equipment
- ◆ WHO is supporting the reconstruction of Momand Dara comprehensive health centre in Kunar province—the health facility was badly damaged in the earthquake that struck Afghanistan on 26 October 2015
- ◆ Support to a measles awareness campaign provided by WHO in Nangarhar province, targeting areas with low immunization coverage to reach more children with life-saving vaccines

#### Capacity Building Activities in February:

- ◆ An Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) refresher training for 57 EPR committee members from 8 provinces
- ◆ WHO conducted a training on Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE) in Kabul for public health managers from all 34 provinces, facilitated by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
- ◆ WHO conducted a training of trainers (ToT) on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in emergencies for 73 environmental health staff from 10 provinces



Participants from eight provinces completed a five-day training on environmental health in Kabul



Public health officers from all provinces took part in a training on Public Health in Complex Emergencies



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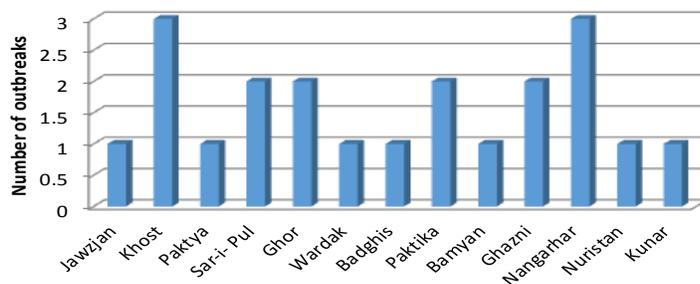
### PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

- ◆ 23 health facilities remain temporarily closed due to insecurity in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand, Paktia, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces, hampering access to healthcare for 312,130 people
- ◆ Measles outbreaks are reaching an epidemic status after a nationwide measles vaccination campaign, posing a serious threat to public health in Afghanistan
- ◆ Increased attacks on health facilities and health workers, including abduction of health workers and indiscriminate attacks on ambulances
- ◆ Continuing mass casualty incidents require serious efforts for strengthening capacity building on mass casualty management and trauma care

*Medical facilities, medical personnel and those who are receiving treatment, for disease or conflict-related injuries, must never be placed at risk, let alone subject to attack.*

— Mark Bowden, UN Humanitarian Coordinator and the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan

Number of Measles outbreaks by province from 1st Jan to 20th Feb 2016



WHO is supporting the renovation of an isolation ward in Nangarhar Regional Hospital

### KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ All parties to conflict must abstain from actions that place healthcare workers or health facilities at risk
- ◆ It is crucial to have a national dialogue and reach consensus on preventing attacks on health service providers
- ◆ More resources must be allocated for strengthening mass casualty management capacity in all high-risk provinces
- ◆ A specific strategy for Afghanistan should be formulated on the control of measles epidemics for 2016



Refresher training on emergency preparedness and response for provincial health officers from the southern region

**Programme Update**  
Emergency Humanitarian Action WHO Afghanistan

**Contact:**  
Dr Iman Shankiti, Emergency Coordinator  
Email: shankitii@who.int

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