

Emergency Humanitarian Action

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Around 16,177 families displaced from Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency have been assessed in Khost province and necessary assistance has been provided by humanitarian agencies. In Paktika province, 6,333 families who fled the conflict have been assessed and assisted
- ◆ In addition to vaccination activities at border entry points, mop-up, subnational and national polio immunization campaigns were conducted in the southeastern region targeting all children under 5
- ◆ Mass casualty management plan development and related trainings were accelerated during the month for provinces with a high risk of conflict and security incidences
- ◆ Emergency preparedness and response (EPR) planning and provincial level implementation were focused on during August
- ◆ 75 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases were reported from Kandahar prison and two out of five samples were tested positive for Vibrio Cholera Inaba. Timely investigation and response by the provincial emergency response team (ERT) successfully contained the outbreak



Practical exercise during a training on mass casualty management

256,209 children under 5 in Khost and 165,780 children in Paktika province were vaccinated against polio during Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) in June

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ A first aid training of trainers (ToT) was conducted for 42 community health workers from 14 provinces between 16–28 August, facilitated by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
- ◆ A training of trainers on emergency preparedness and response (EPR) was conducted for regional EPR officials from 11–13 August in Kabul. Training topics included: provincial level planning, coordination and response for health emergencies based on regular surveillance reports
- ◆ Representatives from MoPH and EHA/WHO participated in a regional workshop on health sector disaster management planning held on 15–19 August in Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Mass casualty management plans for Farah, Jalalabad and Wardak have been finalized through provincial level meetings
- ◆ The communicable disease situation has been closely monitored in the country, particularly in Khost and Paktika provinces with thousands of displaced people. Technical guidance and support has been provided to improve WASH-related issues in the provinces



Deputy Minister of Public Health addressing trainees in emergency preparedness and response training

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MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS:

- ◆ Water storage and WASH facilities are inadequate, including access to latrines—they do not meet health and hygiene standards in Paktika's refugee locations
- ◆ The detection of six acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases in Khost and one in Paktika provinces among the refugee population over the last two months shows that polio continues to be a threat in the southeastern region in Afghanistan
- ◆ Although there were no emergencies related to natural disasters during the month, the number of people injured by weapons remains high with 229 cases in the central region and 239 in Helmand province
- ◆ Continuing tensions between Afghan security forces and anti-government elements, together with election-related protests, hamper access to health services as well as field-level supervision efforts

WHO and partners vaccinated 34,715 children under 10 in Khost & 12,565 children in Paktika against polio with ongoing campaigns within districts



WHO-supported mobile clinic in Urgun district of Paktika province

KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Water quality monitoring is a key priority for health in emergencies
- ◆ More investments and focus on mass casualty management and emergency preparedness are needed due to the continuing political tension and risk of escalating conflict
- ◆ Children with severe malnutrition with complications must to be prioritized

The first confirmed cholera outbreak of the year was reported in Kandahar province



Water supply for the refugees in Gulan camp in Khost province

Programme Update
Emergency Humanitarian Action WHO Afghanistan

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