

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ A record number of civilian casualties was reported in 2016 by UNAMA, with 3,498 civilians killed and 7,920 injured. Children are suffering disproportionately from the conflict: an increase of 24% in child casualties was recorded from the previous year
- ◆ 304 families were reported to be internally displaced due to escalating violence and insecurity in Helmand in January 2017
- ◆ Over 650,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in 2016—an increase of 38% from 2015 (OCHA)
- ◆ Heavy rains and snowfall resulted in floods affecting 23 houses in Kandahar, eight houses in Helmand and 33 in Zabul in January
- ◆ Two wild poliovirus cases (WPV1) have been reported in January 2017

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO-supported Kunduz Regional Hospital Trauma Care Unit (TCU) provided trauma care for 569 outpatients and 72 inpatients, and conducted 67 major and 110 minor surgeries in January 2017
- ◆ WHO continued to support the provision of health services to returnees at Torkham border's "zero point" through mobile health teams
- ◆ Tuberculosis (TB) screening and routine immunization of returnees has been strengthened at the Torkham border through WHO support with CERF funding for 6 months —over 80,000 people will benefit from these services at the "zero point" health centre managed by AADA NGO
- ◆ WHO provided two Pneumonia Kits A+B and two Basic Health Kits to Nangarhar regional hospital for the management of a rising number of acute respiratory infection (ARI) cases in the paediatric ward
- ◆ A Diarrhoeal Disease Kit containing essential drugs and supplies was provided by WHO to the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul
- ◆ Through funding from ECHO, WHO is conducting extensive monitoring of 86 blood banks in all 34 provinces to assess and improve standard operating procedures (SOPs) in blood banks
- ◆ A waste management training for 130 national blood bank staff was conducted by WHO in Kabul to reduce the accidental transmission of blood-borne infections
- ◆ WHO continued to support trauma care in conflict-affected areas as well as emergency primary healthcare services for internally displaced persons living in Kabul Informal Settlements
- ◆ 90 community health workers from Nangarhar province were trained on first aid by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in collaboration with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), with financial support from WHO



Sitara was treated at the WHO-supported trauma care unit in Kunduz after a rocket destroyed her house, causing serious injuries to her and her four sisters (WHO/S.Ramo)



Children receive vaccines from teams supported by WHO at the Torkham border (WHO/S.Ramo)



WHO supported a first aid training for community health workers in Nangarhar, implemented by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) (WHO/A.Alkozai)



PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

- ◆ Intensifying insecurity has since 2016 led to the closure of 29 health facilities in the eastern, southern and south-eastern regions, leaving over 377,000 people with limited access to healthcare services
- ◆ A Basic Health Centre was burnt down and completely destroyed by an armed group in Helmand province in January
- ◆ 15 measles outbreaks were reported from nine provinces in January, an increase of 50% from December 2016
- ◆ Flash floods are expected in the coming months due to heavy snow and rainfall, particularly in the eastern region
- ◆ Population movements due to conflict and the influx of returnees and refugees from Pakistan have led to existing health services being overburdened in many areas. Poor and crowded living conditions of many IDPs and returnees expose them to multiple health risks



5.6 million children were targeted during January's Sub-National Immunization Days polio campaign. WHO/S.Ramo

KEY MESSAGES:

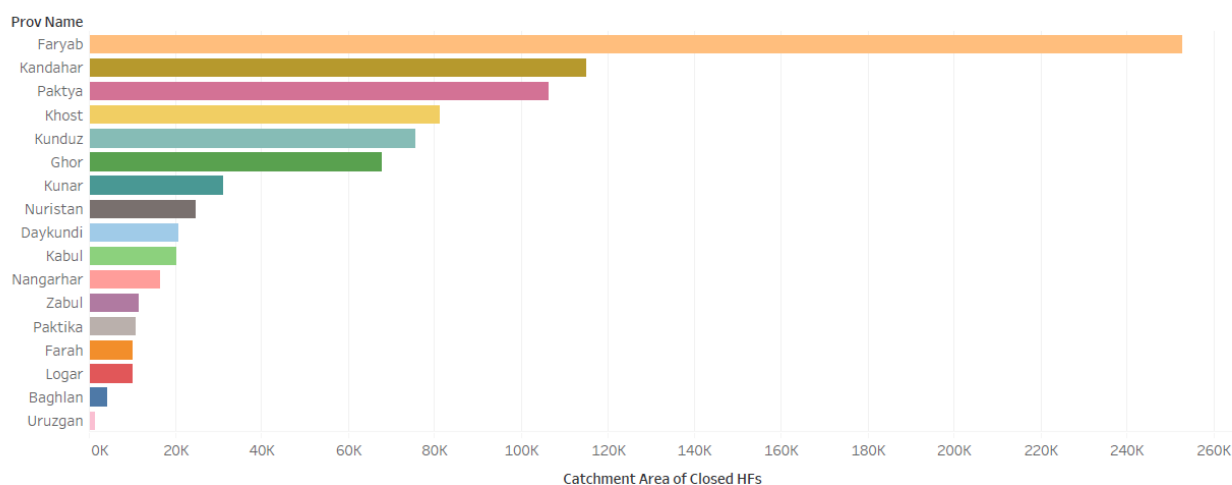
- ◆ Attacks on humanitarian workers and on health facilities are a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.
- ◆ Aid workers are not a target. Attacks on healthcare in emergency situations disrupt the delivery of essential health services.



Children bear the brunt of Afghanistan's conflict, with the number of child casualties spiking 24% from last year. WHO/G.Elham

Population Catchment Area of Closed Health Facilities

857,990 people are deprived of access to basic health care services due to the closure of projects providing humanitarian health services in 2016:



Sum of Catchment for each Prov Name. Color shows details about Prov Name.

Programme Update
Emergency Humanitarian Action WHO Afghanistan

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