

Afghanistan

Earthquake in Paktika and Khost

Situation Report No. 11

24 July 2022

(Reporting period: from 17 to 23 July)



WHO deployed 10 female health professionals to Paktika province in coordination with AFSOG



361,634¹

People affected



1,036²

People killed



2,989³

People injured



4,543⁴

Homes affected
(partially/fully)



79⁵

PHC facilities provide
basic health services
in affected areas



6⁶

Hospitals accepting
referrals in the
region

HIGHLIGHTS

- It's been a month since a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck the southeastern region of Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, devastating Paktika and Khost provinces. A 4.2 magnitude aftershock hit Giyan district in Paktika province two days later (24 June 2022).
- Another aftershock with a magnitude of 5.1 hit the southeastern provinces of Afghanistan at 16:52 local time on 18 July 2022, struck Khost and Paktika provinces. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) announced that 32 people were injured in Paktika province (18 injuries in Ziruk, 13 in Giyan, and one in Barmal) and eight were injured in Spera in Khost province, and more than 40 homes were heavily damaged in Khost.



Homes damaged by the aftershock on 18 July 2022, Khost province

- In the past few weeks, the incidences of flash flooding have increased due to the heavy rains in the southeast region including Paktika and Khost provinces. Further damage to the infrastructure has been observed. The road between Khost City and Spera district was closed in several areas and the homes made of mud have become more fragile and at greater risk of collapse.

- Considering the frequent natural and man-made disasters, WHO continues its efforts to enhance the emergency preparedness and response capacity, including building mass casualty management, both at national and provincial levels. From 17 to 21 July, WHO completed the Basic Emergency Care (BEC) course at Gardez in Paktika province for 49 healthcare professionals

¹ UN OCHA. (2022). Emergency Earthquake Response Plan Afghanistan

² Ministry of Public Health. (2022). Summary of Casualties in Khost and Paktika Provinces from 22 June 2022 earthquake (published on 26 June 2022)

³ Ministry of Public Health. (2022). In addition to 2949 injured cases announced by MoPH on 26 June 2022 (above), a total of 40 people were reported injured by the aftershock on 18 July 2022 (19 July 2022).

⁴ Ministry of Public Health. (2022). In addition to 4500 homes affected announced by MoPH on 26 June 2022 (above), a total of 43 homes were reported as fully or partially destroyed by the aftershock on 18 July 2022 (19 July 2022)

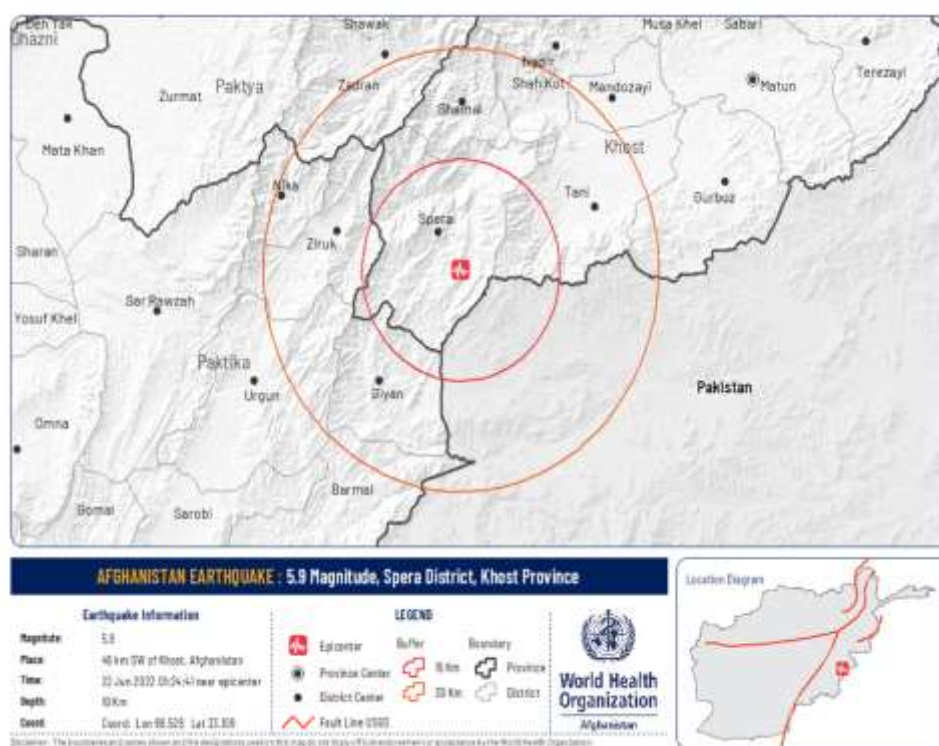
⁵ Health Cluster Afghanistan. (2022). Health Facilities in (MMI V+) districts of Earthquake in Paktika and Khost Provinces (Annex 1)

⁶ Six hospitals are Paktika (Sharan) Provincial Hospital, Urgun District Hospital, and Kairkot District Hospital in Paktika province, Khost Provincial Hospital in Khost province, Ghazni Provincial Hospital in Ghazni province, and Gardez Regional Hospital in Paktika province.

- (21 participants were female (42.9%)) from the four south-eastern provinces (Paktika, Ghazni, Paktya and Khost).
- The measles vaccination campaign for the earthquake-affected areas started on 23 July and will be completed on 28 July. The campaign covers seven districts in Paktika (6) and Khost (1) provinces targeting 125,267 children between 6 months and 14 years old.
- In support of MOPH, WHO has scaled up risk communication and community engagement on acute watery diarrhea and other infectious diseases in earthquake-affected areas. Ten teams composed of 21 social mobilizers were trained and deployed in Paktika to conduct dialogues in camps and communities.
- WHO and Health Cluster (HC) partners continue providing primary healthcare (PHC) services, including trauma care and mental health and psychosocial service (MHPSS).
- Despite all the efforts rapidly mobilized by WHO and HC partners, more funding is required to properly respond to the urgent life-saving needs of the affected people. WHO requests US\$ 6 million for three months for health and WASH interventions – of which US\$ 3.25 million were received, while the funding gap is US\$2.75 million.

SITUATION UPDATES

- A 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck the Southeastern Region of Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, devastating Paktika and Khost provinces and impacting 361,634 people in 17 districts in Paktika (10) and Khost (7) including Giyan, Barmal, Nika, and Ziruk districts in Paktika province, and Spera and Shamal districts in Khost province (Map 1).
- At 16:52 local time on 18 July 2022, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake struck the southeastern provinces of Afghanistan. According to The United States Geological Survey, the epicenter was Khost with a depth of 10 kilometers. MoPH announced that 32 people were injured in Paktika province (18 injuries in Ziruk, 13 in Giyan, and one in Barmal) and eight were injured cases in Spera in Khost province. In addition, 33 homes were fully destroyed, and 10 more homes were heavily damaged in the Spera district in Khost. Still, hundreds of families are living open space or makeshift shelters, which increase the risk of other health problems.
- In the past several weeks, the incidences of flash flooding increased in the southeast region. Paktika and Khost provinces also experienced heavy rains and flash flooding, in addition to dealing with the aftermath of the earthquakes. According to local reports (on 21 July), the road between Khost City and Spera District was closed in several areas, including Lak, Ghorwa Khshte, and Mana Kalay, due to flash flooding.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Health Cluster Response

Health Cluster (HC)

- To support the implementation of the multi-sectoral earthquake response plan, Health Cluster developed an allocation strategy for the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), 2nd Reserve Allocation (RA) 2022 with the request of US\$ 4.7 million.
- Health Cluster coordinated with 23 Health Cluster partners to update the 4Ws in 13 districts (Annex 1&2).
- Regional Health Cluster held several meetings during the reporting period:
 - HC meeting on 18 July 2022 in Khost province to discuss the distribution of the areas for newly deployed mobile health teams (MHTs) in Spera district, Khost to avoid duplication of the service. Khost Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD), IOM, AFGA, HN-TPO, HADAAF, UNICEF, ARC, and OHPM attended the meeting.
 - Provincial health committee meeting in Khost province on 19 July 2022 to review the overall health situation and the services provided in the earthquake-affected areas in Khost province.
 - Emergency coordination meeting with OCHA, IOM, IRC, WSTA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, NRC on 19 July 2022 to discuss the preparedness and response for the July 18 earthquake which affected Paktika and Khost provinces.
 - Attended the area coordination hub meeting with OCHA, IOM, IRC, WSTA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, NRC on 20 July 2022 to enhance earthquake response coordination and to discuss the assessment in the southeast region.

Health Cluster partners

- Health Cluster partners conducted several meetings at different levels:
 - The health partners delivering essential healthcare services in the affected districts attended the coordination meetings organized by the Health Cluster coordination team.
 - International Medical Corps (IMC) attended a joint stakeholder meeting with Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD) and participated in the humanitarian NGOs coordination meeting.
 - HN-TPO attended Operational Coordination Team (OCT) meetings.
 - JIA/HADAAF attended two joint meetings with PPHD and ANDMA in Khost to discuss emergency and AHF projects.
 - IOM met with the head of young children and school-age child health department, MoPH on 18 July to discuss the ongoing activities in Giyan district.
 - IOM participated in the meeting with PPHD new representative in Paktika on 19 July and discussed the distribution of the coverage areas with the partners, where IOM MHTs were assigned to seven villages.
- OHPM (UNICEF) has provided first aid health services, general health services for outpatients, nutrition, MCH, vaccination and CDC services in Giyan and Barmal districts in Paktika province. Also supported the referral of trauma and emergency cases to Urgun District Hospital (DH) and Sharan Provincial Hospital (PH).
- UNICEF, in partnership with HN-TPO, has distributed hygiene kits and provided health kits in Spera district in Khost province, deployed the mobile team in Spera and provided emergency health & trauma care services.
- JIA/HADAAF has provided mother and child health care, outpatient department (OPD) trauma management, and psychosocial services in Spera district, Khost.
- JIA/HADAAF has conducted a rapid assessment on 516 households in four villages (Asar, Kantinar, Nary Zawara and Gurbuza) of the affected areas in Spera district to evaluate the current situation including the number of affected populations, shelter and accommodations, families currently living in open space, damages of household items and damages of their

livestock or agricultural land as well as access the available humanitarian resources of NGOs in those areas.

- IMC has supported the UN assessment during the field-level data collection.
- IOM has provided basic healthcare including trauma care with the provision of free medicines through two MHTs in Giyan in Paktika province.

Trauma and hospital care

- Six hospitals in Paktika, Khost, Paktya and Ghazni provinces have been operating to provide trauma care, physical rehabilitation and disability support: Paktika (Sharan) PH, Urgun DH, and Kairkot DH in Paktika province, Khost PH in Khost province, Ghazni PH in Ghazni province, and Gardez Regional Hospital (RH) in Paktya province.
- Due to the aftershock on 18 July, 10 new earthquake-related trauma cases were received at Paktika PH and Urgun DH in Paktika province. No death cases were reported during the reporting period. A total of 7,772 ; earthquake-related trauma cases were received from 22 June to 23 July, and among them, 395 cases were fatalities (Table 1).
- To enhance mass causality management, WHO completed the Basic Emergency Care (BEC) course at Gardez Regional Hospital in Paktya province from 17 to 21 July. A total of 49 healthcare professionals (21 were female) from the four south-eastern provinces (Paktika, Ghazni, Paktya and Khost) were trained on the assessment and treatment of acutely unwell patients and trauma patients. (ref. FOCUS)



WHO staff teaching basic airway skills together, Ghazni, Paktya

Province	Health Facility	Total OPD Cases (# of cases received 17-23 July)	Total IPD Cases	# of Orthopedic Cases (out of IPD)	# of other Surgical Cases (out of IPD)	Total Treated and Discharged (earthquake)	Total Deaths (by earthquake)	Total Referred Cases
Paktika	Paktika (Sharan) PH	85 (1)	46 (1)	16	29	129	0	15
	Urgun DH	117 (8)	30	21	9	139	0	31
	Kairkot DH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Giyan CHC	4229	0	0	0	3984	245	220
	Barmal CHC	3187	0	0	0	3037	150	11
Khost	Khost PH (refer in)	14	7	6	1	22	0	1
Ghazni	Ghazni PH (refer in)	2	3	2	1	5	0	0
Paktya	Gardez RH (refer in)	30	22	15	7	52	0	3
Total		7664 (9)	108 (1)	60	47	7368	395	281
Overall Hospital Cases		7,772 (10)						

Table 1: Number of new earthquake-related trauma cases received by healthcare facilities between 22 June and 23 July 2022

- Health Cluster partners are providing trauma care through primary healthcare facilities (Annex 1&2).
 - Two health camps are functioning through the joint efforts of WHO, UNICEF, OHPM, MSF, AIMA, and ARCS in Giyan and Barmal districts in Paktika with more than 100 healthcare workers (HCWs). PHC services (incl. MHPSS service and physical rehabilitation) are provided until the end of July. Two ambulances deployed by EMERGENCY NGO are stationed in those two camps.
 - EMERGENCY NGO continues the provision of PHC at BHC in the camp area in Barmal. 737 primary health care consultations were performed during the reporting period.
 - AABRAR in close coordination with WHO has deployed two MHTs from Laghman and Paktya provinces to Giyan district in Paktika and Spera district in Khost. The MHTs have provided physical rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, orthotics, repair and assistive devices.



AABRAR support trauma patients with physical rehabilitation in Giyan district, Paktika



PHC service is provided by JIC/HADAAF through MHT in Khost province

Vaccination

To response to the measles outbreak, the micro plan was developed, and the training on expanded program on immunization (EPI) for frontline workers and cluster supervisors was conducted from 16 to 21 July. A measles vaccination campaign is launched on 23 July and will be completed on 28 July, targeting 125,267 children between 6 months and 14 years old in six districts in Paktika province (Sarobi, Barmal, Giyan, Urgun, Ziruk, Nika) and a district in Khost province (Spera).

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

- WHO kicks off 2-days Psychological First Aid Training (PFA) and Stress Management Training on 30 July targeting 400 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Community Health Supervisors (CHSs) in Paktika (109), Khost (98), Paktya (91), and Ghazni (102). This will enable CHWs and CHSs to help the community to reduce stress and assist in a healthy recovery after traumatic events.
- WHO is scheduled to start a series of training workshops for 100 doctors at BPHS facilities in Paktika, Khost and Paktya provinces from 30 July to 18 August. The training focuses on the integrated management of priority mental health and neurological conditions using algorithms for clinical decision making. This training will help the doctors provide non-specialized diagnoses and manage most common mental health problems in post-disasters.
- In Spera district of Khost province, UNICEF, in partnership with HN-TPO, has mobilized psychosocial counselors to provide psychological first aid (PFA) and emergency counseling with 18 sessions, and UNFPA has provided health and psychosocial services to 134 individuals.
- IOM has mobilized five female MHPSSS counselors in Giyan district in Paktika and provided MHPSS services to a total of 469 individuals (135 girls, 76 boys, 141 women and 117 men) through group and individual basic counseling sessions and peer-support group.

Reproductive maternal and child health (RMCH)

- In coordination with the Afghan Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AFSOG), WHO deployed six female medical doctors and four midwives to Paktika province to support maternal and child healthcare service delivery in Giyan and Barmal districts in Paktika from 15 to 20 July.
- UNFPA continues to provide RH services at UNFPA Family Health Houses (FHH) in the affected areas;
 - Giyan district in Paktika province: 71 pregnant women received Antenatal Care (ANC), 36 women received Postnatal Care (PNC), 104 women attended awareness-raising sessions on reproductive health, eight women received family planning services. Three safe deliveries were attended by midwives, one complicated delivery was referred to the health facility
 - Spera district in Khost province: 10 pregnant women received ANC and seven women received family planning services.
- IOM has provided RMCH services including ANC and PNC to 98 females in Giyan district, Paktika.



WHO supported the deployment of female health professionals in Paktika in coordination with AFSOG

Disease surveillance/potential diseases outbreak prevention & response

AWD/cholera

- While the number of acute water diarrhea (AWD) cases have been slightly decreased compared to the last week, however, a high number of AWD cases have been reported in the affected areas (figure 1 & 2).⁷
- During the reporting period (from 17 to 23 July), a total of 506 AWD cases were newly detected in the affected districts: 337 cases were reported in Giyan district in Paktika, 110 cases in Barmal district in Paktika, and 59 cases in Spera district in Khost. All cases received treatment (IV fluid, ORS, zinc) at the health facilities, and severe cases were sent to referral hospitals. No death was reported.
- Out of 506 cases reported last week, three cases reported in Spera district were found to be positive for cholera by rapid diagnostic test (RDT).
- Since 25 June 2022, a total of 2,214 AWD cases including one associated death have been reported in three districts (Giyan and Barmal in Paktika province, and Spera in Khost province). Among them, 17 cases were positive for RDT cholera (eight cases reported in Barmal, three in Giyan, and six cases in Spera districts)..
- WHO has delivered cholera RDTs to the affected provinces: 50 RDTs to Paktika, 10 to Khost and 40 to Ghazni.

⁷ Fluctuations in the trend curves could be explained by delays in weekly data reporting



Figure1: Number of AWD cases in Spera district, Khost (2022 and average of 2019 to 2021)

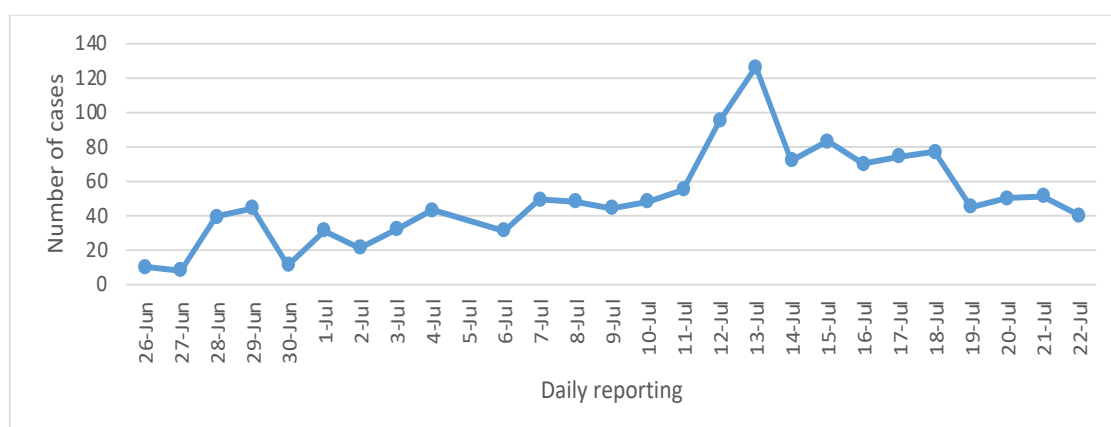


Figure 2: Number of AWD cases in Giyan, Paktika, 2022 (26 June to 22 July)

Malaria

- WHO is working on the delivery of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), strengthening surveillance for malaria, and risk communication to the communities in the most-affected districts where the risk for malaria and other mosquito-borne disease is high.

Risk comms and community engagement

To scale up support to the MOPH, WHO has trained 110 social mobilizers on risk communication and community engagement. Ten teams composed of 21 national and local community members were deployed to Giyan and Barmal districts of Paktika to engage communities on prevention of AWD and other infectious diseases following a disaster. To date, more than 5,000 people have been reached, of which more than 3,000 were women.





MoPH and WHO conducting community engagement sessions for AWD and other infectious diseases in Paktika

Operational support and logistics

WHO distributed 61 modules of different kind of WHO trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESK) and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to the health facilities in Giyan and Barmal in Paktika province to respond to the aftershock of the 18 July 2022. The recipients include Paktika PH, Urgun DH, Giyan CHC, Barmal CHC, health camps, and MHTs.

- UNICEF has distributed 15 different types of AWDs kits to Paktika and Khost provinces.
- IMC has distributed 807 hygiene kits, along with hygiene-related messages to 320 families in Giyan district in Paktika.
- UNFPA has provided the following items;
 - 10 Emergency RH Kit (directly benefiting 2,000 women) in Giyan.
 - 50 clean delivery kits and 91 dignity kits were distributed through MHTs Giyan.
 - 53 clean delivery kits in Barmal.

NEEDS AND GAPS

- Further damage to the infrastructure by the aftershock on 18 July has been observed: homes made of mud have become more fragile and at greater risk of collapse. Some health facilities (Ziruk CHC, Giyan CHC in Paktika, Spera CHC in Khost) remain damaged and have not been rehabilitated.
- Logistic challenges remain: the flash floods have damaged bridges and roads, which disrupted livelihoods and response activities. Multiple road closures are reported in Khost province. The poor road conditions have increased the risk of road accidents and travel hours to reach to the affected area. Phone signals are still largely unavailable.
- Sustaining the health care service provision after the withdrawal of some health partners from the affected areas, especially those requiring long-term interventions, including MHPSS and physical rehabilitation.
- Urgent response to the upsurge of AWD cases in the affected areas in Paktika and Khost provinces including provision of safe water supply to mitigate the further spread of AWD among the vulnerable populations residing in deteriorated living conditions and being impacted by the floods and heavy rain.
- Support for referrals and secondary health care is needed. In addition, there is a need for rehabilitative services.
- Shortage of female healthcare workers, especially for the emergency room, trauma centers, and MHPSS, to meet the increased needs among the affected population.



UNICEF and IMC are conducting hygiene sessions to the community

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- Continued provision of medicine, medical supplies, and equipment to health facilities to prepare for other health risks among the affected communities, including outbreaks, malnutrition, mental health problems and chronic health issues.
- Multi-sectoral coordination to be enhanced, such as WASH and Protection, to streamline responses and tackle cross-cutting areas, including AWD/cholera and communicable diseases. For example, a sustainable, safe water supply and proper WASH facilities (latrines and shower/bathrooms) are vital for preventing infectious diseases.
- IPC measures and proper medical waste management to avoid further infections, including the establishment of incinerators in HFs.
- Restoring functionality of partially damaged health facilities in the affected areas.
- Expanded provision of essential medical care for mothers and children, including basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC), comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CEmONC), and vaccinations.
- Specialized medical care, such as reconstructive surgeries, physical rehabilitation, and disability support.
- Expand the capacity of mass casualty management at healthcare facilities by training healthcare workers, equipping emergency and resuscitation rooms, and pre-posting trauma kits and supplies.
- Building resiliency of the health staff and the communities for future natural and/or man-made disasters, and public health emergencies.

FUNDING NEEDS

- WHO's initial response to the 22 June 2022 earthquake in Afghanistan has been possible thanks to an injection of funding from each of the following donors who have generously contributed to the operation: Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF), EU ECHO, EU DEVCO, Italian Government, Italian Regions, USAID, Japanese Government, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Health Cluster requires at least US\$ 6 million to properly respond to the urgent and essential health needs of the affected people in Khost and Paktika during these crucial first three months (July to September 2022). US\$ 1.25 million will be received under CERF and US\$ 4.7 million under AHF-RA2.
- WHO requires US\$ 6.0 million for three months for Health and WASH interventions, including medical supplies, rehabilitation, essential healthcare service, and provision of LLINs. To date, US\$ 3.25 million were received (US\$ 2.25 million from UN CERF, and US\$ 1 million from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), while the funding gap is US\$ 2.75 million.

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FOCUS: Equipping Afghan Health Workers with Basic Skills to Respond to Health Emergencies and Disasters

As part of WHO's continuing work to ensure health workers are equipped to provide health care during disasters, emergencies and mass casualty events, a Basic Emergency Care (BEC) course was held on 17-21 July at Gardez Regional Hospital. There were 49 specialists, doctors and nurses who attended from South East region, representing 10 regional, provincial and district hospitals. About 43% of participants were female (21). Throughout the five days, participants learned and practiced initial assessment and management of patients with trauma, difficulty in breathing, shock, and altered mental status – time-sensitive conditions where early intervention saves lives. An internationally recognized 'ABCDE' (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure) approach was employed. To date, WHO has already trained 337 frontline health workers on BEC from various provinces of Afghanistan. The country has a pool of 37 trainers and 6 master trainers.

The six BEC trainers for the South-East region course have shared their experiences:

Why is the BEC course important for the South-East region at this time?

"In this province, there were many injuries from the recent earthquake. We have in this region the threat that natural disasters can happen again. We need to train to be ready and offer our patients advanced professional care." (Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, Trainer)

What do participants learn on the BEC course?

"The BEC course shows the steps which should be done for emergency cases, and how to uncover hidden pathologies such as internal bleeding in trauma patients. Because of this course, these pathologies will not be hidden from us." (General Surgeon, Hospital Director, Trainer)

Can you tell us more about the 'ABCDE' approach?

"We are training our students so when they receive an emergency patient, whether medical or surgical, it is easy for them. Some specialists think that this course is simple, but they still need to follow the ABCDE approach. Often they cannot describe the steps so it is important to learn." (General Surgeon, Trainer)

How have you used the BEC course?

"I took this BEC course last year with Dr Emilie, we learned many new things including the management of choking. After the training, on my hospital night duty at 11pm, I faced a child in acute respiratory distress from inhaling a coin. I applied the manual and my new skills to remove the coin. I was very happy that I had learned and applied the knowledge so soon to save the life of the child." (Chief of General Surgery, Trainer)

Can you tell us about your experiences with learning and teaching BEC?

"I received BEC training from master trainers 8 months ago then ToT training. As medical director for a provincial hospital, I deliver the topics to my technical staff in my hospital e.g. in morning reports, weekly presentations. Thanks for the support from WHO to refresh the practical techniques." (General Surgeon, Medical Director, Trainer)

How do you engage your participants to learn? And how do you see the future of BEC?

"Thank you for the efforts to make this course exist, to take action and come to life. When the students have practical sessions this makes it real and interesting. It is said that an active teacher makes for active students. BEC is the most vital for all frontline Afghan healthcare providers. We would like to have more courses to improve our learning and train more healthcare workers." (General Surgeon, Trainer)



Practical session on moving patients with spinal injury

With thanks to the WHO South-East team, BEC trainers, South-East PHD, Gardez Hospital, Dr Mohammad Ismail Abid, Dr Emilie Calvello-Hynes and Dr Rachel Beth Tullet.

Annex 1: Health Facilities in (MMI V+) districts of Earthquake in Paktika and Khost Provinces

