

Afghanistan Flooding

Situation Report No. 5 (17-20 May 2024)

(Information in the report is based on available data as of reporting period)



WHO-supported SST teams visit flood-affected areas of Baghlan province to conduct active disease surveillance and monitor the post-disaster situation.
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Key messages:

- WHO has activated the Incident Management Team (IMT) system to assess the impact of the new floods in western and northern Afghanistan, affecting six additional provinces so far and causing significant damage to tens of villages and districts.
- Several health facilities providing essential health and nutrition services in the western region are currently partially or non-operational due to extensive flood damage.
- WHO successfully transported a significant consignment of 30 metric tonnes of essential medicines, medical kits, tents, and solar lights to the most affected Ghor province in the western part of the country.
- Five additional shipments have also been arranged for dispatch on 20 May to support the provision of health services in Baghlan, Kunduz, Badakhshan, and Ghor.
- An assessment of Ghor Provincial Hospital has revealed a critical need for medicine and medical supplies in the affected district.
- To further support the response efforts, two WHE Assessment Teams have been deployed to join the newly flooded areas. Additional team of four WHO members has joined Ghor response teams to provide additional medical and technical support to the response operations there.
- WHO further scheduled the deployment of additional surveillance support teams (SSTs) to enhance active surveillance in the affected districts, allowing for early detection and timely response to potential outbreaks of communicable diseases, particularly waterborne diseases.

Situation update:

The recent floods in Afghanistan's western and northern regions have caused extensive damage. In the western Ghor Province, 10 districts have been affected so far and the Murghab district continue to face high risk due to debris obstructing the Murghab River, potentially leading to further flooding.

Accessibility remains a challenge, with the road from Hirat to Ghor blocked, necessitating the mobilization of additional resources from Kabul.

Initial reports indicate significant impact, with at least 120 people killed and hundreds more missed. Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with concerns about people trapped under collapsed structures.

In the northern region, initial reports suggest around 560 households were affected by the first wave of flooding, followed by an

additional 1,300 households impacted by a second wave on 18 May. Villages in Bilcheragh and Khaiber districts are currently unreachable due to difficult terrain and blocked roads.

The destruction of agricultural lands compounded the situation, as agriculture supports over 80% of Afghanistan’s population. The vulnerability to climate change is clear, with drought-affected land unable to absorb heavy rains. Children and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable to these climate-related impacts.

Urgent resources are needed for humanitarian support and to restore essential infrastructure such as houses, schools, and health facilities.

WHO, however, remains actively involved in assessing and responding to the health needs of affected populations, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups.

Epidemiological update:

- In Baghlan province, five Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) are deployed, with two originally located in Baghlan and three mobilized from neighboring provinces. During this period, the following infectious diseases have been detected:
 - » 715 cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Pneumonia
 - » 587 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration
 - » 71 suspected cases of measles
 - » 92 suspected cases of COVID-19
- 75 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) were conducted for suspected COVID-19 cases, with 10 testing positive (positivity rate: 13.3%). Thirteen Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) samples were also collected and sent to the laboratory, with results pending.
- Three RDTs were conducted for AWD with dehydration cases, all of which tested negative.
- Samples were sent to the laboratory for 22 suspected measles cases, and the results are pending.

Table 1: Number of reported cases of infectious diseases in flood-affected districts of Baghlan province

Diseases	Number of reported cases during 11-19 May 2024						
	Male		Female		Total		
	<5 Years	>5 Years	<5 Years	>5 Years	Male	Female	Total
ARI-Pneumonia	222	139	176	178	361	354	715
Suspected measles	39	2	28	2	41	30	71
AWD with dehydration	174	126	126	161	300	287	587
Suspected COVID-19	4	18	12	58	22	70	92
Total	439	285	342	399	724	741	1465

- During week 20-2024 (12-18 May 2024), the indicator-based surveillance system detected and reported a total of 752 cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Pneumonia, 158 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration, and 63 suspected cases of measles in five districts (Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan-e-Jadid, Borka, Guzareh-e-Noor, and Nahreen) of Baghlan province.
- Cumulatively from January 2024 to 18 May 2024, the indicator-based surveillance system in the districts of Baghlan detected and reported a total of 17,600 cases of ARI Pneumonia, 750 cases of AWD with dehydration, 518 suspected cases of measles, and no suspected cases of COVID-19.

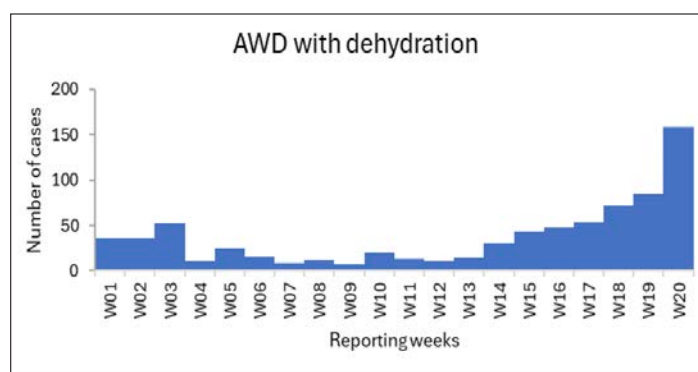


Figure 1: The epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024

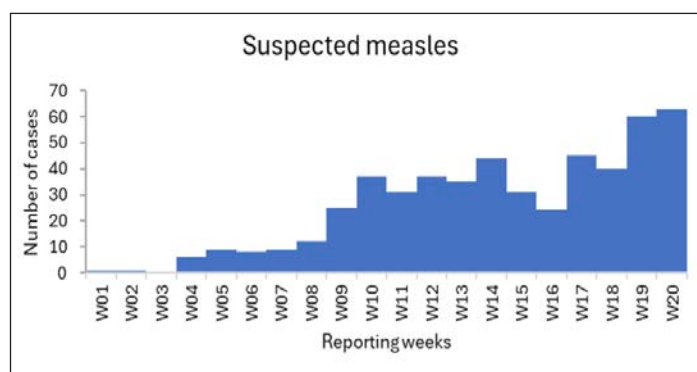


Figure 2: The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024

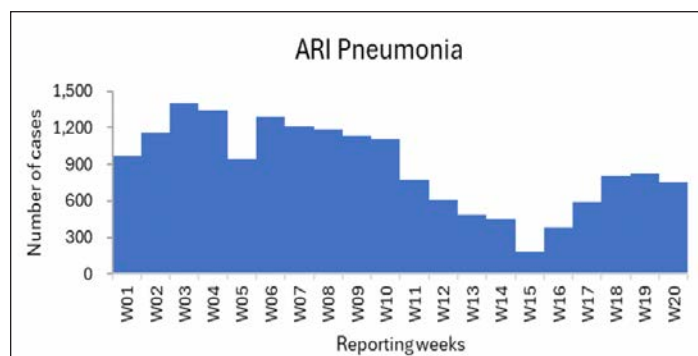


Figure 3: The epidemiological curve of ARI Pneumonia cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024

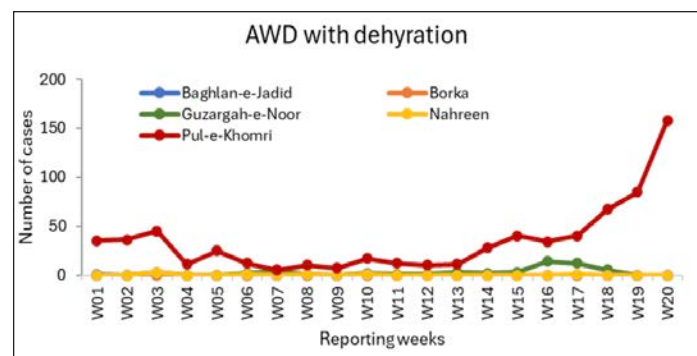


Figure 4: AWD with dehydration cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024

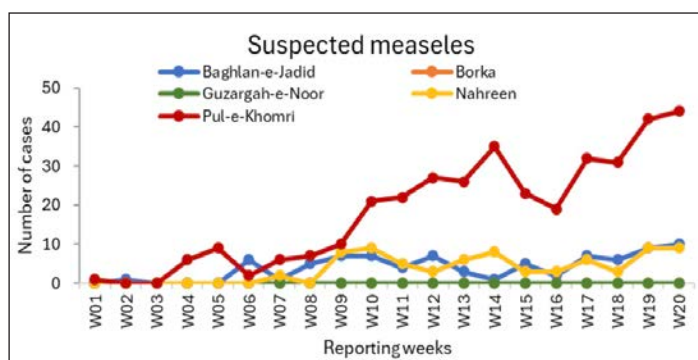


Figure 5: Suspected measles cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024

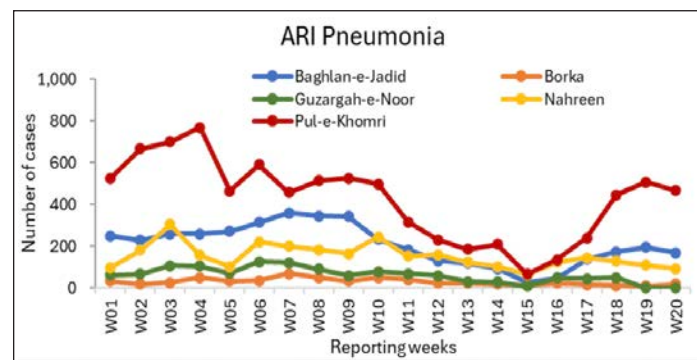


Figure 6: ARI Pneumonia cases in the five districts heavily affected by floods, Baghlan, Afghanistan – 01 Jan – 18 May 2024



WHO response:

WHO continues its lifesaving response to the flood emergency in northern, western, and northeastern Afghanistan by deploying emergency response teams and distributing essential medical supplies, including trauma kits and medications, to affected areas. Efforts are also underway to enhance disease surveillance and coordinate access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. These initiatives aim to mitigate the health impacts of the floods and maintain the provision of essential healthcare services to the affected communities.

As of 20 May 2024, WHO Afghanistan's emergency team has provided urgent services, including:

- Activating the Incident Management Team to support the response to the new floods hitting multiple provinces/regions, with a meeting held on 19 May to assess the current situation in the affected provinces.
- Successfully transporting 30 metric tonnes of essential medicines, medical kits, tents, and solar lights to Ghor province.
- Arranging for additional shipments of essential drugs and medical supplies from the Kabul Warehouse to Ghor province in the western region via Bamyan.
- Deploying two WHE Assessment Teams to assist in the lifesaving response efforts in the newly flooded areas, with another team providing additional medical and technical support in Ghor.
- scheduled the deployment of additional surveillance support teams (SSTs) to enhance active surveillance in the affected districts, particularly for waterborne diseases.
- Ensuring close coordination with Health Cluster partners and OCT members in Ghor province.
- Ensuring a provision of medicines, medical supplies, and consumables to health facilities serving the affected population for the next three months.
- Maintaining regular meetings with Health Cluster partners to coordinate response efforts, engage with partners, and monitor casualties, with strict adherence to safety measures.
- Considering deploying Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) to ensure continuity of healthcare services in areas where facilities are damaged.
- Continuing efforts to address the evolving situation and provide necessary support to the affected population.



WHO distributes essential medical supplies, including trauma kits and medications, to flood-affected community in Ghor Province.

Health Cluster response:

Coordination:

- Health Cluster partners, including AADA, ARCS, ACF, BARAN, ORCD, MOVE, RHDO, IOM, IRC, SAF, World Vision, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, supported the health response to flood-affected communities in Ghor and Badghis provinces. This support included the deployment of MHNTs, provision of medical kits and supplies, deployment of ambulances for first aid and referral support, and assessment of the affected areas.
- The Health Cluster partners deployed ten MHNTs (AADA [2], BARAN [5], and World Vision [3]) in FirozKoh, Shahrak, Dolyna, Morghab, and Totak districts of Ghor province to deliver emergency healthcare services to the affected communities.
- In Badghis, the Health Cluster partners deployed three MHNTs (MOVE [1], SAF [1], and World Vision [1]) in Abkamary, Jawand, and Bala Morghab districts affected by the recent floods.
- A field visit was conducted to the flood-affected areas of Baghlan Jadid and Sheikh Jalal districts in Baghlan province, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and including representatives from various UN agencies. The mission aimed to assess the situation, determine the extent of the damage, understand the immediate needs of the affected populations, and coordinate a comprehensive response effort.
- Health Cluster partners, including AADA, AFGA, AKF, AKHS, ARCS, ICRC, IMC, IOM, JACK, MMRCA, MoPH, MSF, Muslim Hand International, MSI, ORCD, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and WYFA, supported the health response to flood-affected communities in Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces. This support included the deployment of 22 MHNTs, provision of medical kits and supplies, deployment of ambulances for first aid and referral support, and assessment of the affected areas.
- In Baghlan province, Health Cluster partners deployed 19 MHNTs (AFGA [2], AKF [5], ARCS [6], ORCD/UNFPA [2], Save the Children [1], MSI [1], Muslim Hand International [1], WYFA [1]) in Burka, Baghlan Markazi, and Guzargai Noor districts. These teams delivered emergency healthcare services to the affected communities.

Response:

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- Between 10-18 May 2024, Health Cluster partners provided health services to a total of 13,951 flood-affected individuals across the three provinces of Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan. The beneficiaries included 5,517 women, 3,005 men, 3,477 girls, and 1,952 boys. Out of the total beneficiaries, 7,825 individuals received primary health care consultations, 3,724 were reached with health promotion activities, 1,542 received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, 768 received maternal, newborn, and child health services, and 92 received trauma care services.

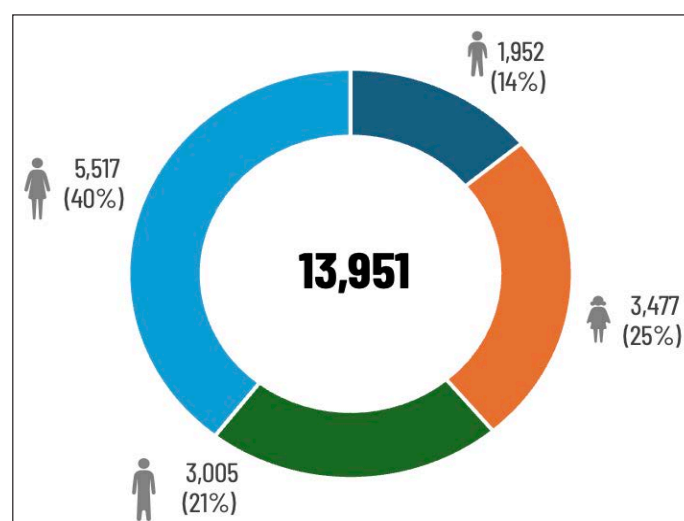


Figure 7: Beneficiaries of the Health Cluster healthcare service delivery

Needs:

- Access to safe drinking water remains a critical need within the community, as emphasized by WHO Afghanistan's technical team and Health Cluster coordination partners during ICCG/OCT meetings. Immediate action is required to address this issue.
- There is a severe shortage of mental health services and medication in addition to a lack of trained doctors, midwives, and nursing staff.
- Additional support is required for MHNTs in terms of medical supplies and capacity to deliver quality services. WHO's field team is gathering information to determine the type and scale of additional required support.
- Including at least one female health worker or female psychosocial counselor in each response team is essential, as the affected population is predominantly women and children.
- Significant challenges in accessibility due to the destruction of the main roads and bridges, necessitating alternative transportation methods to reach isolated flood-affected areas to deliver essential supplies.
- Rehabilitation or reconstruction of damaged health facilities is essential to ensure the continuity of healthcare services. Prioritizing these efforts will enable healthcare services to resume effectively, providing access to care for affected individuals.
- The current ambulances/referral services in affected areas are unable to reach remote and inaccessible areas within districts. Enhancing the referral system, including upgrading ambulance capabilities, is crucial to saving the lives of vulnerable individuals by ensuring timely access to healthcare services.
- There is a need for coordination of water quality

monitoring in affected areas, including joint assessments with WASH, to check for waterborne and infectious diseases. Safety measures such as chlorine are in place. WHO can provide support, including training on testing and treating water quality, if needed by WASH cluster partners.

- Health Cluster partners are supporting assessments in various locations. The reports will be shared upon completion of the assessments. Additionally, a sector-based assessment is planned for the affected areas of Ghor province.
- A joint needs assessment is also underway in the affected areas of Badghis province, with the participation of Health Cluster partners. The assessment report will be shared upon finalization.



Save the Children International emergency response team in flood-affected area. © SCI

Serving and nonfunctional health facilities:

Following the flood in Ghor province on 18 May 2024, initial reports indicate damage to a total of 30 health facilities, including 2 Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs), 8 Basic Health Centers (BHCs), 17 Health Sub Centers (HSCs), and 3 Family Health Houses (FHHs) in seven affected districts. Among these, four health facilities (1 BHC and 3 HSCs) are fully destroyed, while the remaining 26 are partially damaged. The breakdown of damaged health facilities by district is as follows:

- Morghab: 1 CHC and 6 HSCs
- FirozKoh: 1 CHC, 3 BHCs, and 1 HSC
- Shahrak: 2 BHCs, 1 HSC, and 1 FHH
- Lal o Sarjantal: 2 BHCs and 2 HSCs
- Tay Wara: 4 HSCs
- Dolyana: 1 HSC
- Tolk: 1 BHC and 1 FHH
- Dawlatyar: 2 HSCs and 1 FHH

After the recent flooding, reports indicate that a total of four health facilities (1 CHC, 1 HSC, and 2 FHHs) are damaged in four affected districts of Badghis province. Among these, 1 FHH is fully destroyed in Qadis district, while the other three

health facilities are partially damaged.

No alternate modality has been considered for the fully destroyed FHH to ensure the continuity of health services delivery. The breakdown of damaged health facilities by district is as follows:

- Jawand: 1 CHC
- Abkamary: 1 HSC
- Bala Morghab: 1 FHH
- Qadis: 1 FHH

On May 11, the following health facilities were reported as partially or totally damaged in the affected areas of the northeast region:

- Ghara CHC in Guzargai Noor district of Baghlan.
- A health facility in Chal district of Takhar.
- Baghlan: Sheil Jalal BHC in Baghlan Markazi, and Folool BHC in Burka districts.
- Takhar: Mandara BHC in Chal, Lataband BHC and Shurab HSC in Taloqan, and Mashtan BHC in Farkhar districts.
- Badakhshan: Dai Ostayan HSC in Teshkan, and Bazar-e-Etefaq HSC in Yaftal Payeen districts.

Challenges:

As of 20 May 2024, challenges reported include:

- Scarcity of safe drinking water, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases. Consequently, there is a critical shortage of safe drinking water in health facilities across the affected areas of both Ghor and Badghis provinces, further straining the already overwhelmed healthcare infrastructure.
- WHO and Health Cluster partners have difficulties reaching affected populations due to severe damage to transportation infrastructure, including roads and bridges. As a result, communities are isolated, and movement between villages is hindered by flowing rivers. In addition, the blockade of the Herat to Ghor road is hindering the delivery of emergency supplies from Herat, exacerbating the challenges faced by relief efforts.
- Poverty and a lack of community awareness regarding communicable diseases are significant obstacles to effective response and recovery efforts.
- Inadequate financial resources are hindering the deployment of additional mobile teams and ambulances in flood-impacted regions.
- Enhancing collaboration among partners is crucial to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to the crisis. This includes improving information sharing, coordinating activities, and leveraging each partner's strengths to maximize the impact of the response efforts. Strengthening collaboration can lead to better resource allocation, reduced duplication of efforts, and ultimately, more efficient assistance to those affected by the flood crisis.



ORCD health services provided in Takhar, Farkhar district. © UNFPA

For more information about WHO's work in flooding, contact:

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6,000 Affected families



50 People killed



100 People injured



- People missing



6,000 Houses destroyed or damaged



5 Health facilities fully damaged



28 Health facilities partially damaged

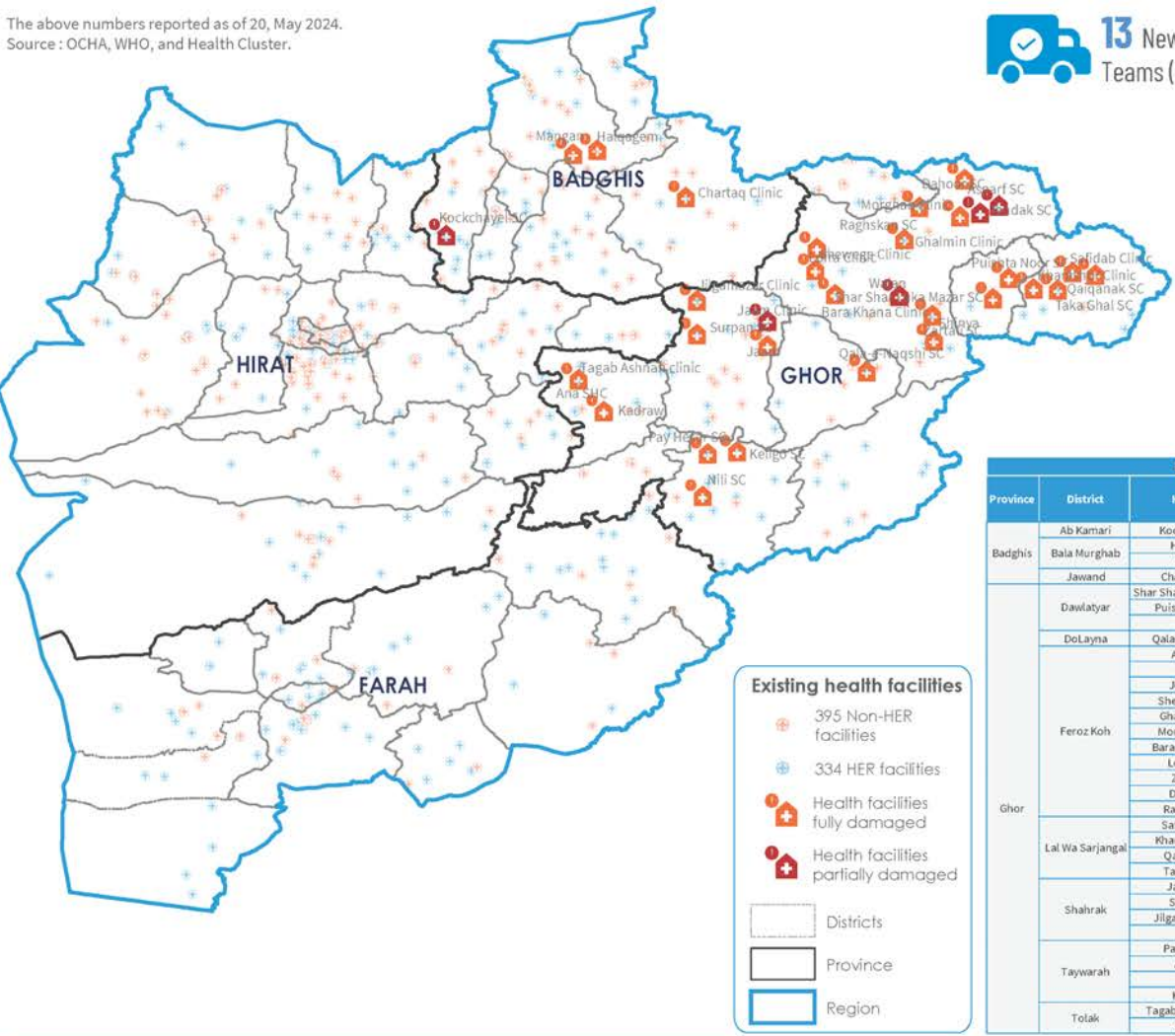


729 Total existing health facilities

The above numbers reported as of 20, May 2024.
Source : OCHA, WHO, and Health Cluster.



13 Newly Deployed Mobile Health & Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) for Flood Response



Existing health facilities

- 395 Non-HER facilities
- 334 HER facilities
- Health facilities fully damaged
- Health facilities partially damaged

Districts
Province
Region

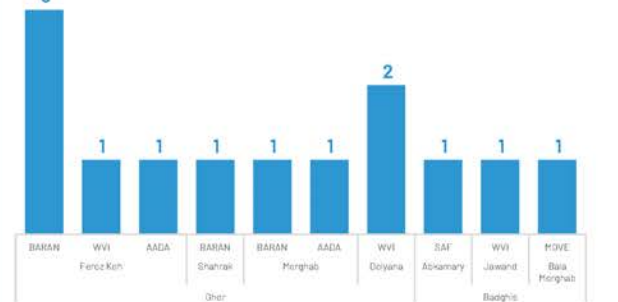
Damaged Health Facilities						
Province	District	HF Name	HF Type	HER	Managing Partner	Remark
Badghis	Ab Kamari	Kockchayel SC	SHC	Yes	MMRCA	Partially Damage
	Bala Murghab	Halqagem	FHH	No	MOVE	Fully damaged
	Jawand	Chartaq Clinic	CHC	Yes	MMRCA	
	Dawlatyar	Shar Shar Luka Mazar SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	Partially Damage
Ghor	DoLayna	Puishta Noor SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Shinya	FHH	No	AADA	
		Qala-e-Naqshi SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Asparf SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	Fully damaged
		Wajan	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Jendak SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Shevege Clinic	CHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Ghalmin Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Morghab Clinic	CHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Bara Khana Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Lofra Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	Partially Damage
		Zartali SC	SHC	Yes	CHA	
Lal Wa Sarjangal		Dahoor SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Raghosian SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Safidab Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Khamshor Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Qaiganak SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Taka Ghal SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Jaam Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	Fully damaged
		Surpan SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Jilgamazar Clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Jaam	FHH	No	AADA	
Taywarah		Pay Hesar SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	Partially Damage
		Ana SHC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Nili SC	SHC	Yes	CHA	
		Keligo SC	SHC	Yes	BARAN	
Totak		Tagab Ashnan clinic	BHC	Yes	BARAN	
		Kadraw	FHH	No	AADA	



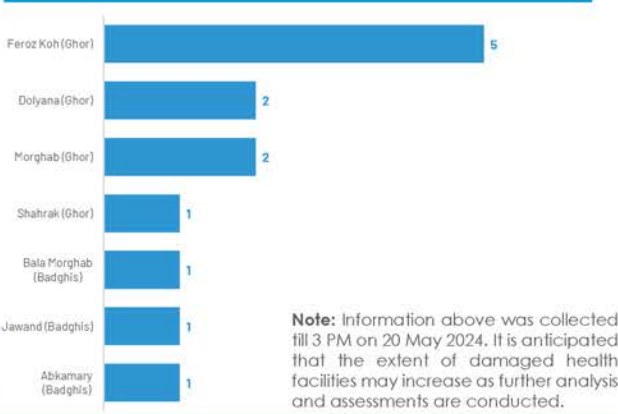
NUMBER OF MHNTs BY ORGANIZATION



5 Implementing Partners Presence



NUMBER OF MHNTs BY PROVINCE/DISTRICT

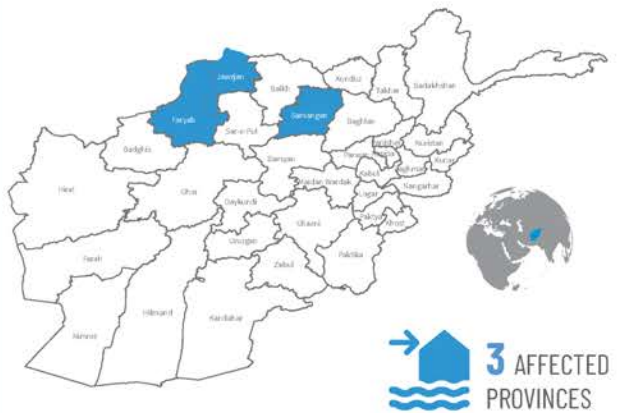
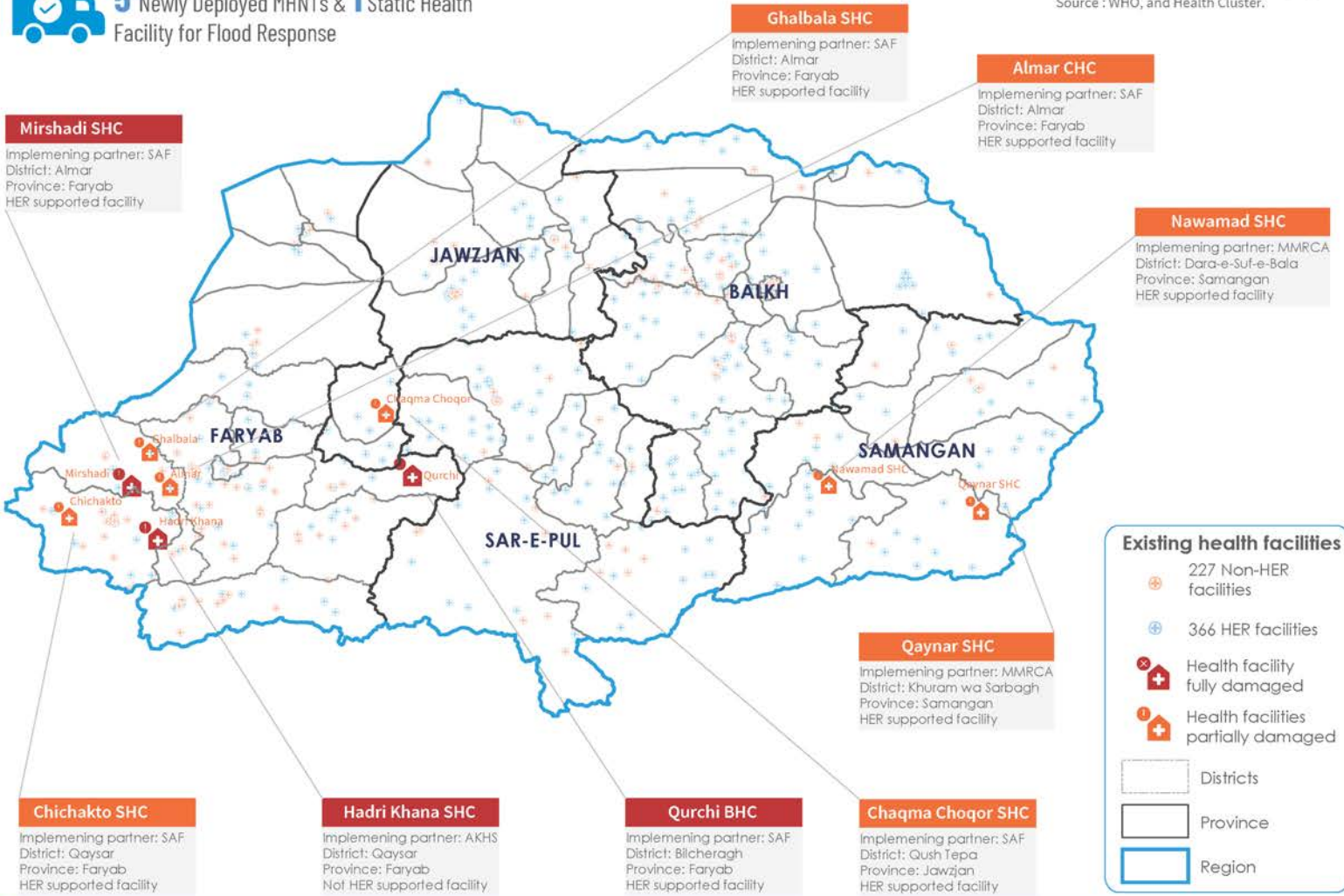


Note: Information above was collected till 3 PM on 20 May 2024. It is anticipated that the extent of damaged health facilities may increase as further analysis and assessments are conducted.

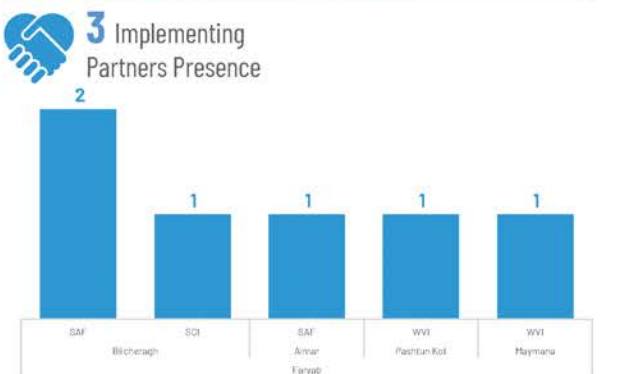


 **5** Newly Deployed MHNTs & **1** Static Health Facility for Flood Response

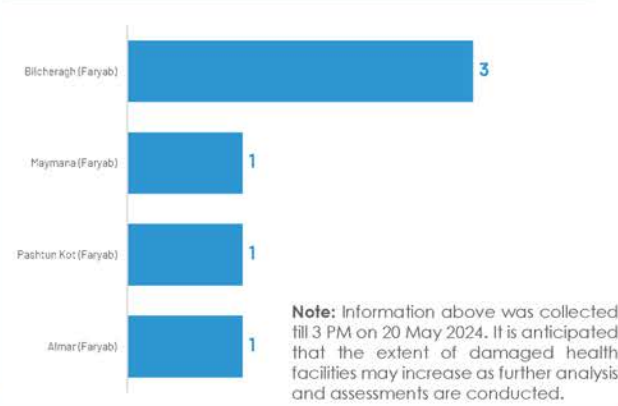
The above numbers reported as of 20, May 2024.
Source : WHO, and Health Cluster.



NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES BY ORGANIZATION



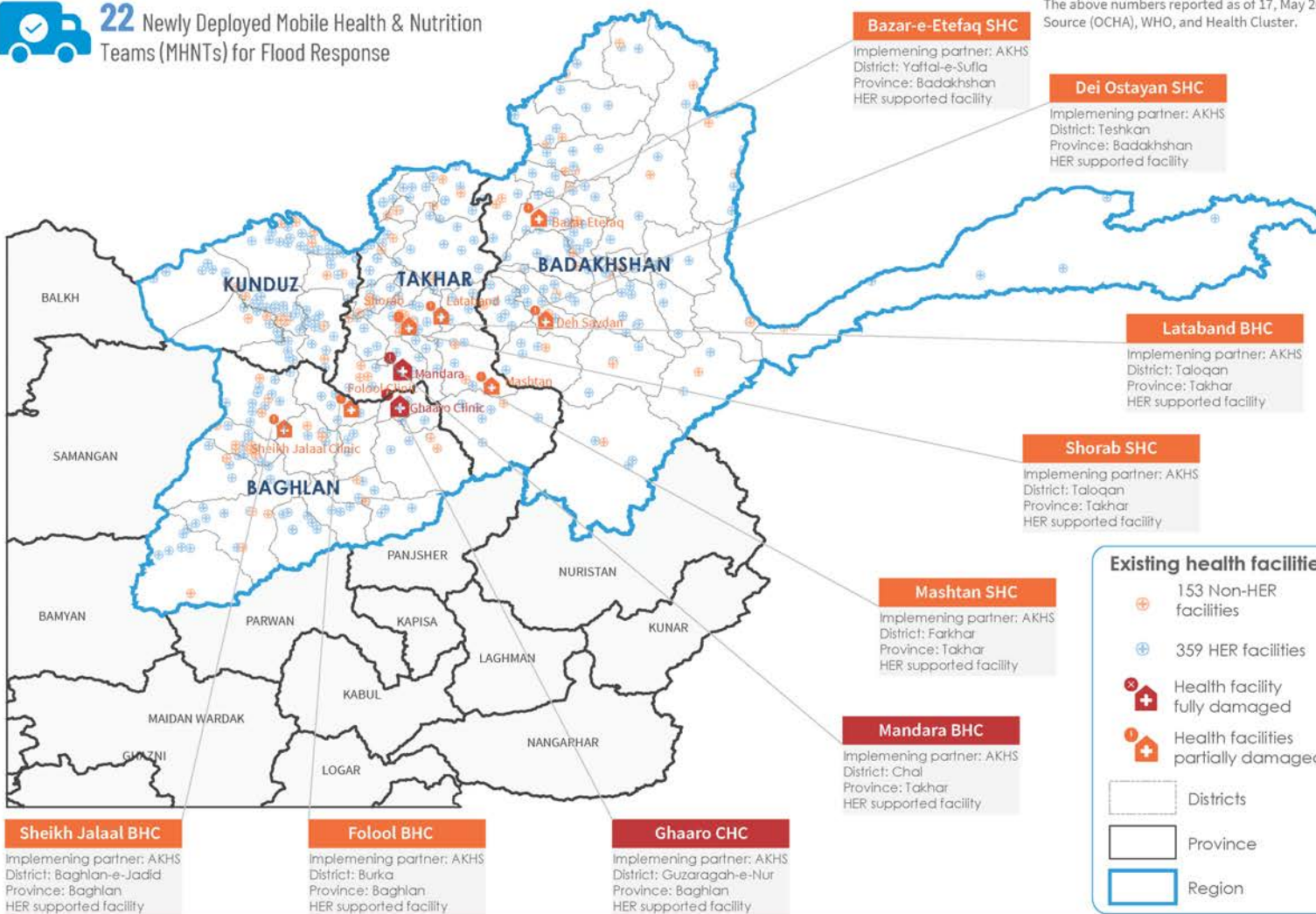
NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES BY PROVINCE/DISTRICT





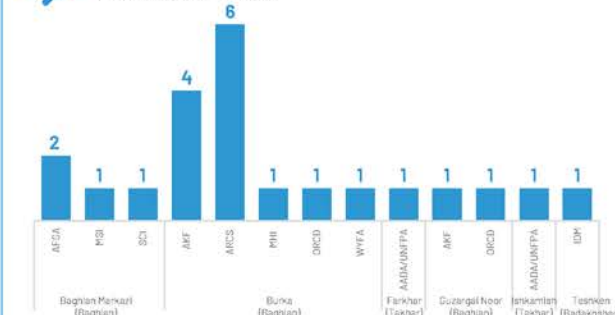
22 Newly Deployed Mobile Health & Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) for Flood Response

The above numbers reported as of 17, May 2024.
Source (OCHA), WHO, and Health Cluster.

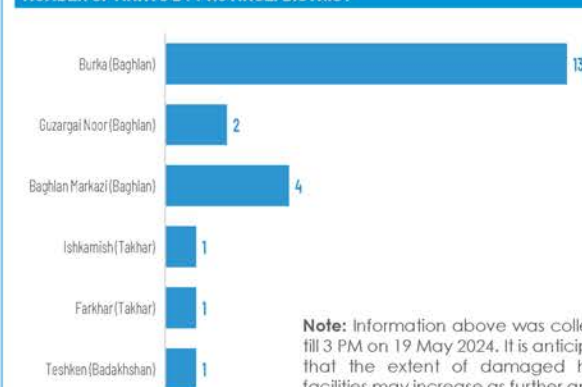


NUMBER OF MHNTs BY ORGANIZATION

10 Implementing Partners Presence



NUMBER OF MHNTs BY PROVINCE/DISTRICT



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