



Health care provider delivers health education in Gardiz, using information material provided by WHO, Afghanistan



**3.7M**  
AFFECTED<sup>1</sup>



**62,476**  
DISPLACED<sup>1,2</sup>



**151,800**  
RETURNEES<sup>1,3</sup>



**161**  
IEHK KITS<sup>1</sup>



**36**  
OUTBREAKS<sup>5</sup>

## KEY FIGURES

394	WHO STAFF IN THE COUNTRY
60	HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS
2.1M	OUTREACH (POPULATION REACHED)
<b>HEALTH FACILITIES</b>	
2,865	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES
16	TOTAL NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES AFFECTED
10	HEALTH WORKERS, PATIENTS AND OTHERS KILLED
4	HEALTH WORKERS AND PATIENTS INJURED/ DETAINED
0	HEALTH FACILITIES RE-OPENED
<b>DISEASES<sup>5</sup></b>	
1,968,998	ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION CASES
342,172	ACUTE DIARRHEA CASES
55	MEASLES CASES DURING OUTBREAK
4	CCHF DURING OUTBREAK
51	MUMPS DURING OUTBREAK
41	DOG BITS DURING OUTBREAK

## SITUATION UPDATE

- A total of 9,457 people from 6 provinces fled their homes in March due to conflict, bringing the total number of IDPs to 62,476 in 2020.
- Around 151,800 people returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran between 1 January -31 March 2020, increasing the country's needs related to health and basic services.
- Around 34,593 people were affected by natural disasters throughout the country (27 killed, 14 injured and 2089 houses damaged or destroyed) between 1 Jan–31 March 2020.
- Seven attacks on healthcare were reported [in January 2020](#), resulting in closure of 16 health facilities, death of 10 health and supportive staff and detention of four others.
- A total of 36 outbreaks and a caseload of 921 linked to eight different diseases has, so far, been reported in 2020 so far.
- According to the projections of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, 3.7 million people will need emergency health services due to conflict, natural disasters and population displacement.
- In March 2020, Health Cluster partners provided lifesaving trauma care services to 3,178 in-patients and out-patients around the country.
- In March 2020 WHO and Health Cluster implementing partners reached 22,236 beneficiaries (including 5,342 women and girls).
- According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, a 28% increase is expected in the number of people seeking trauma care across the country.

<sup>1</sup> Since January 2020

<sup>2</sup> Only conflict related IDPs.

<sup>3</sup> OCHA AFGHANISTAN Snapshot of Population Movements (Jan, 2020)

<sup>4</sup> OCHA AFGHANISTAN Snapshot of Natural Disaster Events (Jan, 2020)

<sup>5</sup> NDSR Reporting (Jan, 2020)

## Public health concerns

- Health service provisions to IDPs and host communities continue to be impacted by war and conflict. Advocacy is needed at all levels to ensure parties to conflict respect International Humanitarian Law.
- Low routine immunization coverage and ban on the polio programme by AGEs in some areas continued to pose a public health risk in many parts of the country.
- Lack of trained and skilled health workers, especially females, in remote and hard-to-reach areas prevented many women from accessing health facilities.
- Over the next few months, there is an increased risk of emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks, particularly preventable diseases, COVID-19, dengue and CCHF.
- COVID-19 spread to 33 provinces, dominating the epidemiological map, with the highest number of cases reported in Herat & Kabul.

## Health needs, priorities and gaps

- Conflict in the country requires additional support to ensure provision of collaborative emergency health services for the vulnerable population and for covering underserved areas in many provinces.
- People continued to flee their homes and settle in Haji IDPs Camp due to conflict and military operations in Nangarhar. This will enhance health risks and the likelihood of disease outbreaks and health emergencies.
- Attacks on healthcare workers and health facilities deprived people from accessing healthcare services and also increased the risk of disease outbreaks in insecure areas.
- While, controlling outbreaks among IDPs remains a concern, the rapid spread of the coronavirus disease across the country requires refocusing attention and resources to the COVID-19 response.

## WHO action

- WHO provided health/nutrition services to IDPs in Herat and Badghis provinces, through 8 mobile health teams, (six in Herat and two in Badghis).
- Zero-point clinic located in Islam Qala border delivered health services to returnees and refugees from Iran. An additional 14 staff were deployed to people on arrival.
- WHO continued to support MoPH in COVID-19 response. This included equipping dedicated COVID-19 hospitals with patient beds, oxygen concentrator machines, laryngoscope sets, portable stretchers, examination gloves, N-95 masks, and safety boxes. Additionally, RNA extraction kits, VTM, swabs and other consumables were supplied to labs.
- WHO conducted COVID-19 case management and IPC training for around 192 health professionals from central and provincial hospitals.
- Training on Facility Based Prevention and Management of Post-Partum Haemorrhage (PPH), and Eclampsia and Pre-Eclampsia were conducted in two batches in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces.
- WHO delivered national and provincial COVID-19 awareness sessions on COVID-19 to health staff, CHWs, groups of volunteers reporting AFP cases, NGO partners, and religious leaders /community influencers at national and provincial levels. On the other hand, Health educations sessions were delivered to the returnees at PoEs.
- About 2.6 million brochures and 225,000 posters were distributed among target audiences through MoPH, polio teams, AMC, UNHCR, WHE/WHO sub offices and MoE. Some 26 billboards were also installed in the southeast region.
- Eight TV and radio spots were produced in local languages and aired on seven national TV and radio stations, 65 local radio stations and around 50 local TV channels across the country.
- Supported by WHO, three regional labs in Balkh, Kandahar and Paktia provinces were equipped and inaugurated in March to facilitate COVID-19 testing.

## Health cluster

- In March, Health Cluster partners reached 77,700 beneficiaries through the provision of primary health care services and delivered Trauma Care Services through designated MHTs to 20,600 individuals in response to conflict and natural disasters.
- Health Cluster partners delivered health emergency services to host communities and vaccinated 623 children in March. A total of 1,899 IDPs benefited from health services delivered through health centres in Herat and Badghis provinces.

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