

# Health Emergencies

## KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Bird flu outbreak was reported from four poultry farms in Herat city on 17 January 2018. Precautionary measures were taken to quarantine the areas and dispose of the infected birds. The preventive and controlling activities are still ongoing in the province.
- ◆ A total of 1,047 families were displaced due to conflict in northeastern and southern regions.
- ◆ In Kunar and Nangarhar province, cross border shelling from Pakistan resulted in an increased number of trauma cases.
- ◆ A total of six health facilities were closed in January 2018 in Kandahar, Urozgan and Nangarhar provinces.
- ◆ Mobile Health Teams were deployed in Nangarhar province to provide healthcare services to the affected population.



Quarantine and disposal of chickens in one of the farms where bird flu was confirmed

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ 20,100 returnees / IDPs received outpatient services in Torkham zero point border crossing.
- ◆ 143,915 children received vaccination (OPV, IPV and Measles) in eastern and southern regions.
- ◆ Medicines, supplies, consumables, emergency trauma kits, interagency emergency health kits (IEHK), and cholera kits were distributed around the country to meet the needs of mass casualty incidents.
- ◆ Sub-National Immunization Days (NID) for polio eradication targeted over 6 million children on 29 January–02 February.
- ◆ WASH assessment was completed for two health facilities (Shajoy district hospital and Cheno Basic Health Centre) in Zabul province.
- ◆ Supervisory and monitoring visit to Zabul was conducted, focusing on Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) monitoring, WASH assessment, MCM planning and prepositioning and controlling for both Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS). WHO discussed and collaborated on prepositioning plan for natural disasters with Provincial Public Health Directorates and Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) implementer Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCD).
- ◆ Basic Life Support training was conducted in Kabul for 24 participants from 11 provinces and blood Transfusion training was organized for 34 participants in hard-to-reach district health facilities in Kandahar and Urozgan.
- ◆ Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) training course started on January 22 at Kandahar Regional Training Center for 21 participants from three provinces.



NGR EPR team investigating a measles outbreak in Behsud district, Nangarhar



WHO dispatched trauma A+B kits to Nangarhar Regional hospital





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## **PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS AND CHALLENGES:**

- ◆ Bird flu is reported in Herat as a result of a large number of birds being quarantined and disposed.
- ◆ A total of 21 measles outbreaks were reported in western, eastern and southern regions.
- ◆ Two new polio cases were confirmed in Kandahar province and one in Nangarhar.
- ◆ Due to political instability between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a large number of refugees are returning to Afghanistan, which will increase the risk of infectious disease outbreaks and can potentially overload the host communities healthcare centers.



Walking parade was organized in Kandahar to increase awareness on non-communicable diseases

## **FOCUS AREAS:**

- ◆ Contingency plan for the influx of returnees from Pakistan is being developed.
- ◆ An assessment of hard-to-reach areas for emergency health care services is being conducted.
- ◆ Health Emergency Risk Assessment (HERA) for the eastern region is ongoing.
- ◆ Non-communicable diseases mass awareness campaign was completed in Kandahar province. It included banners, a walking parade and messages on local radio channels.
- ◆ WHO Kunduz regional office was awarded an appreciation certificate from the provincial governor.



WHO dispatched medicines to Fatimatul Zahra hospital

## **Health Cluster Coordination:**

In January, Afghanistan Health cluster partners supported 102,896 beneficiaries. Cluster partners also continued to provide trauma care for people affected by conflict, providing 3,234 consultations, a 21% increase from the same time last year.

2,498 women received pre- and post-natal care from cluster partners.

Health Cluster is finalizing a contingency plan for potentially 700,000 newly incoming returnees from Pakistan. Health Cluster also endorsed the Attack on healthcare reporting form and will now work with the Ministry of Public Health to support an implementation strategy. The first standard allocation has been finalized by the Humanitarian Coordinator with a Health envelope of 3 million USD.

Health Cluster partners in the region also participated in winterization preparedness plan. Currently there is no outstanding need.

**WHO is grateful for the continuous support to emergency humanitarian action of our generous donors: USAID, European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)**



**Programme Update**  
**WHO Health Emergencies**

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