

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

No. 24 | December 2022



World Health
Organization
Afghanistan

Key Figures (For December 2022)

152,253

People reached with emergency health services (PHC)²

32,405

People received trauma care services³

957.5 MT

Medical and Non-Medical supplies provided

489

Health workers trained

121

Surveillance support team deployed to outbreak areas⁴

Summary of Outbreaks (Cumulative Cases)

207,616

Total COVID-19 confirmed cases (from the beginning of the outbreak)

242,562

Total Acute Watery Diarrhoea cases

77,210

Total Measles cases

1,266

Total Dengue Fever cases

389

Total CCHF cases

993

Total Pertusis cases



WHO has established the Peyasak basic health center in Herat Province to improve access to healthcare service in remote areas.

Overview: Achievements for the Health Sector in 2022

In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Health Cluster partners have made significant contributions in serving the people of Afghanistan, in partnership with humanitarian organizations, United Nations agencies, other local non-government organizations and donors. WHO has strengthened the life-saving health interventions for the Afghan people affected by multiple humanitarian crises and continues to ensure mid- to long-term availability of services.

Afghanistan experienced multiple infectious disease outbreaks in 2022, including a historical nationwide measles outbreak, affecting 77,210 people, and an acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreak resulting in 242,562 cases. Also, there were 1,266 cases of dengue fever reported in Nangarhar, Laghman and Kabul and 993 suspected pertussis cases in the winter, which is a significant increase in cases. The country also experienced re-occurring natural and man-made disasters such as the 5.9 magnitude earthquake in June 2022 that killed more than 1,000 people, and an atypical surge of floods that affected more than 110,000 people. Furthermore, the security environment remains tense and unpredictable causing mass casualty events, such as an explosion at the Kaaj Education Center in Kabul in September.

To rapidly detect and respond to potential threats, WHO ramped up the National Disease Surveillance and Response system in 2022. The number of sentinel sites was expanded to 613, laboratory capacity was established at central and regional levels, and approximately 1,000 surveillance officers were trained to conduct outbreak investigations. As a result, WHO responded to more than 900 outbreaks in 2022, with support from 121 surveillance teams. In addition, WHO worked with its partners to reduce mortality and morbidity from vaccine-preventable diseases. Around 8.16 million children (6 to 59 months) were administered measles vaccine, and more than 10.8 million individuals were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. More than nine million children were reached with the polio vaccine in each of the six nationwide and three sub national campaigns conducted for the year. Only two cases of polio were detected in Afghanistan in 2022 and the country is closer to interrupting polio transmission than ever before.

WHO also scaled up its support of essential health services. In addition to 96 public hospitals WHO operated under the Sehatmandi Project through the end of June 2022, WHO established additional 189 primary healthcare facilities in 24 provinces, granting access to healthcare in remote areas. WHO also delivered 5,279.9 metric tons of medical and non-medical supplies to 1,228 health facilities in 2022, including supplies for winterization.

Significant efforts were made to build capacities in trauma care and mass casualty management (MCM) by training 741 healthcare workers (28% female) in basic emergency care, MCM, ambulatory care and safe blood transfusions. These skills are reducing avoidable deaths and disabilities by strengthening case management and referral pathways.

WHO expanded mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) service availability, including capacity building of 906 healthcare workers. Consequently, more than 900,000 people received MHPS counseling sessions. In addition, WHO increased women-focused services, including inaugurating the National Advanced Referral Center for Survivors of Violence, which provided health services and treatment to 423 survivors of violence.

Impact of the Ban on Women Humanitarians in the Health Service Delivery

The ban on female NGO workers issued on 24 December exempts the health sector and the Ministry of Public Health has advised NGOs in the health sector to resume their services. To date, all WHO operations are continuing, including the unimpeded implementation of the polio campaign in the last week of December, with involvement of women health workers. However, the ban may cause constraints especially to women and children. According to the Health Cluster, some health partners suspended delivery of health services at 288 health facilities, including 226 mobile health teams as of 28 December 2022. As a result, 1.5 million people will have no or limited access to essential life-saving health services. WHO and the Health Cluster partners will continue to ensure life-saving health interventions despite challenges.

¹ The third mapping conducted on 13 January 2023 shows that 97 health facilities have either fully or partially suspended their operations (79 are mobile health teams and 18 are static health facilities). Around 0.5 million people will have no or limited access to essential life-saving health services due to the suspension of operations of the 97 health facilities.

² The number of patient received consultations in outpatient department of WHO-supported PHC facilities

³ The number of people who received either trauma care services and post trauma rehabilitation services at WHO-supported health facilities in their dwellings.

⁴ A WHO-supported surveillance support team consisting of an epidemiology focal point to facilitate data collection and a laboratory focal point to support sample collection from suspected cases as well aid the National Disease Surveillance and Response (NDSR) in investigating alerts and outbreaks.

Health Cluster

As a Health Cluster lead agency, WHO continues to enhance the coordination mechanism within the cluster and leverage their efforts on the ground. In December 2022, the Health Cluster held several meetings to coordinate operations on the ground such as the joint Health and WASH cluster lessons learned workshops on acute watery diarrhea (AWD) response. The key findings will be taken into account for the development of an integrated AWD preparedness and response plan for 2023.

A consultative meeting on an action plan for Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) was held with partners. CCPM aims to enhance the coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of the cluster functions, strengthen transparency and partnerships and raise awareness of needed support.

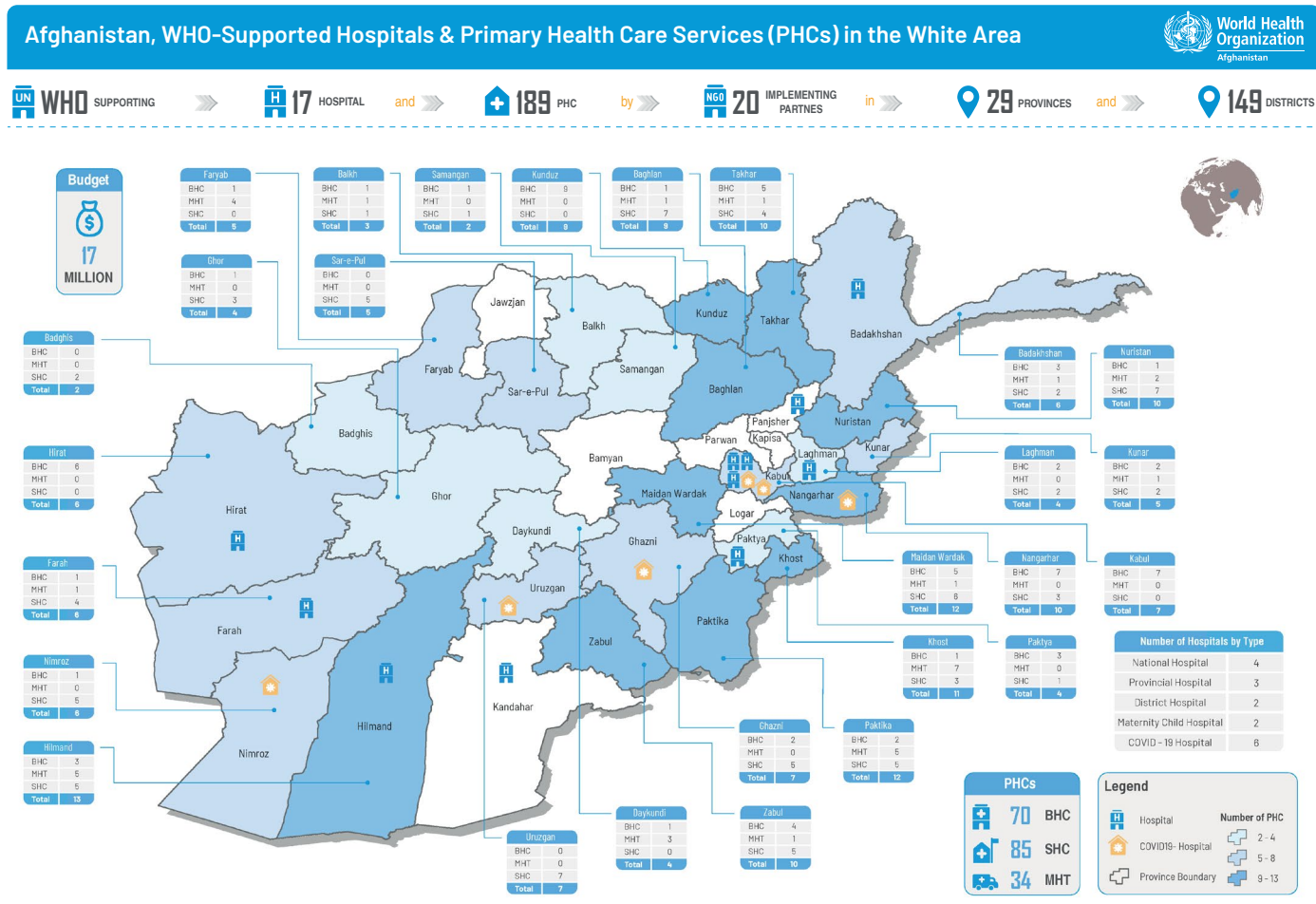
Responding to the recent ban on female NGO workers issued in December 2022, the Health Cluster called for various meetings with stakeholders, including with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Public Health, as well as with health partners, to ensure that life-saving support continues. Based on the Health Cluster mapping on the operational impact on the health service delivery, conducted on 28 December 2022, most partners continued their service provision through static and mobile health facilities without interruption. However, 14 partners fully or partially suspended their operations, impacting 288 health facilities, including 62 static health facilities and 226 mobile health teams (MHTs). *(The third mapping conducted on 13 January 2023 shows that 97 health facilities have either fully or partially suspended their operations (79 are mobile health teams and 18 are static health facilities). Around 0.5 million people will have no or limited access to essential life-saving health services due to the suspension of operations of the 97 health facilities.)*







Health Cluster conducted Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) consultative meeting in Kabul

Sustaining the Health Service Delivery

WHO continues to work towards delivering healthcare services to the people of Afghanistan at ever-increasing levels. In partnership with 20 health partners, WHO is currently supporting 17 hospitals (including six COVID-19 hospitals) and 189 primary healthcare (PHC) facilities to improve healthcare access in underserved (white) areas. The PHC facilities supported include 70 Basic Health Centers (BHCs), 85 Sub Health Centers (SHCs), and 34 Mobile Health Teams (MHTs), where 152,253 people received services in December 2022.



Beneficiaries of PHC services at WHO-supported facilities for December 2022 (Total 152,253)				
Over 5		39,565 Male		70,376 Female
Under 5		21,308 Male		21,004 Female

Services provided at WHO-supported PHC facilities for December 2022	
152,253	Individuals received outpatient (OPD) consultations
4,340	Women received antenatal care (ANC)
2,226	Women received prenatal care (PNC)
573	Institutional deliveries
142,610	Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services
6,994	Child bearing age (CBA) women and under 5 children received TT2+, measles, and PENTA-3 Vaccination
5,134	Women received Family planning services and awareness
72,226	People living in remote and underserved areas received health education and awareness
9,012	Pregnant and Lactating Women received nutrition screening and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling
43,526	Children under 5 received nutrition screening, and referral services.
7,510	People received immediate psychosocial counselling

Trauma and Physical Rehabilitation Care Services


WHO is supporting the provision of trauma, emergency care, and physical rehabilitation services across the country by providing medical/non-medical supplies to health facilities, including 67 blood banks, capacity building, and full operational support of a rehabilitation center in Paktya.

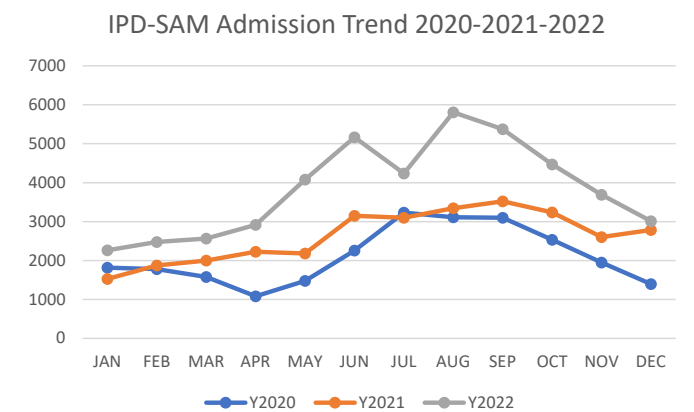
In December 2022, WHO trained 20 physicians on intensive care unit (ICU) management in Kabul, 48 frontline health workers from Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces on Basic Emergency Care (BEC), and 50 blood bank staffers on safe blood transfusion. In addition, WHO is maintaining the country's only existing pre-hospital referral/ambulatory system, with 60 ambulances in four provinces (Kabul, Herat, Parwan and Wardak). During December 2022, a total of 1,748 patients were transported through the ambulatory services, including trauma cases due to explosions and burns .



Also, in December 2022, there were several mass casualties due to armed clashes and incidents; a fuel tanker exploded and caught fire inside the Salang Tunnel located between Baghlan and Parwan Provinces (2.67 kilometers) on 17 December, which killed at least 26 people were killed (including five children) and 35 injured. WHO supported the provision of trauma kits through the Baghlan Provincial Hospital, where the patients were referred.

Nutrition in Emergencies

WHO supports 127 In-Patient Department-Severe Acute Malnutrition (IPD-SAM) centers in 116 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers plus (CHC+s) across Afghanistan. With the worsening food insecurity, the country has experienced a critical increase of malnutrition throughout 2022. More than 46,000 SAM children with complications were admitted during this year, which is the highest figure over the past three years and increased by 46.0% compared to 2021. In December alone, there were 3,010 malnourished children (1520 boys; 1480 girls) with medical complications admitted and treated in these WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers. WHO continued to support those IPD-SAM with the provision of medical and non-medical supplies and capacity building of health care workers on case management and nutrition surveillance. This month, a total of 29 healthcare workers from the eastern region received training on IPD-SAM management, including diagnosis and case management of SAM.

Beneficiaries of 127 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers for December 2022 (Total 3,010)			
3,010 Under 5		1,520 boys	1,480 girls



Beneficiaries of trauma care services at WHO-supported facilities for December 2022 (Total 32,405)			
Over 18		9,571 Male	8,266 Female
Under 18		7,481 Male	7,087 Female

Service Provided at WHO-supported facilities (December 2022)	
3,538	people received physiotherapy
12,224	people received psychological counselling
2,343	people who received blood transfusion
14,167	people who received minor surgical operation
3,034	people who received major surgical operation

Infectious Hazard Preparedness/ Surveillance

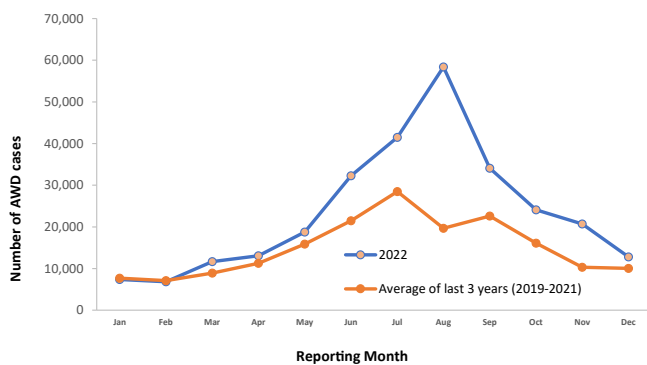
WHO has been working closely with MoPH on its national disease surveillance response (NDSR) for early detection and verification of alerts, investigations and immediate responses to public health hazards. Regular updates on disease outbreaks are available in the weekly situation reports at this link: [Afghanistan's infectious disease outbreak situation reports](#).

COVID-19

WHO has supported the establishment and ongoing operations of 35 COVID-19 laboratories in 34 provinces through the provision of diagnostic equipment/supplies, rehabilitation of infrastructure, and capacity building. COVID-19 vaccination activities continue to be conducted, and more than 176,000 additional individuals were vaccinated in December 2022. To date, more than 10.8 million individuals were fully vaccinated and almost 12.5 million individuals (31.8% of the total population) have received at least one vaccine dose.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)

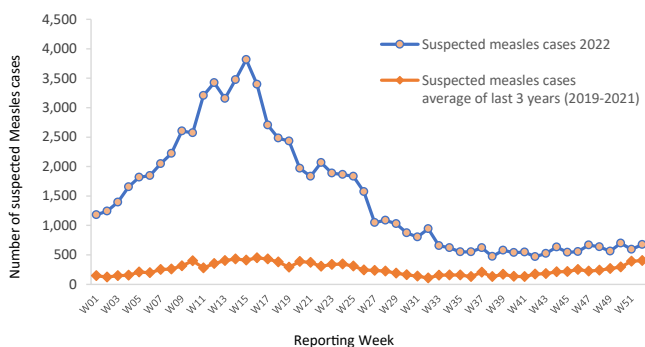
WHO has worked on building the national capacity for case management. There were 58 medical doctors and nurses from the southern region who were trained on the proper treatment of AWD cases in line with national guidelines (7-8 December). In addition, WHO distributed 700 Cary-Blair transport mediums to Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar Provinces.



Trend of AWD cases (NDSR data) in Afghanistan, (2019-2021 and 2022)

Measles

WHO and partners completed the nationwide measles and polio vaccination campaign in 329 districts of 34 provinces in December (3-12 December in the eastern region and 26 November - 5 December in the rest of the country). The campaign targeted vaccination of 5,400,353 children from 9 to 59 months and reached 5,360,735 with 99% of administrative coverage (51% of girls and 49% of boys aged 9 to 59 months old were administered).



Weekly incidence rate/100,000 population of suspected measles cases in 49 districts where measles campaign was conducted and the remaining districts in Afghanistan, January-December 2022

Surveillance

WHO continues to support the expansion of event-based surveillance (EBS) in the country, which can capture information about potential public health risks through different channels. In December, WHO trained 566 community health supervisors and medical officers in Badakhshan (11-13 December), Nangarhar (12-15 December) and Kandahar (18-20 December) on identification of signals and events, triage and verification of the events, and reporting.



WHO trained 250 health workers on event based surveillance in Nangarhar Province.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Drug Addiction

WHO has scaled up its support for MHPSS in the country to improve access to the emergency-affected populations in Afghanistan. In December, WHO commenced support for the national mental health hospital in Kabul with 100 beds, the only facility in the country that provides tertiary mental health care service. In Khost, WHO has operated four MHPSS outreach teams to provide mental health counseling services for those affected by the 22 June earthquake. To date, more than 2,700 people were reached.

WHO is working on translating the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) Intervention Guide (version 2.0). This guide helps healthcare workers with clinical decision-making for the priority mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) disorders in non-specialist health settings.



WHO operated four MHPSS outreach teams in Khost, and provided counseling service and referral.

Women Specialized Services

WHO is supporting the operation of the national advanced referral center for survivor of violence in Kabul, which provides medical treatment and counseling for survivors of violence. In December, a total of 122 cases of the survivor of violence (199 are female) were received at the center, which were provided with the required healthcare services, treatment and counselling.

WHO is also working on capacity building of healthcare workers to provide care to cases of violence and related health problems. WHO carried out a training on “preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PRSEAH) and health response to survivors of violence in emergency setting” from 18 to 22 December in Takhar Province. There were 28 healthcare workers (54% were female), primarily nurses and midwives, who received 13 training modules, including history taking, physical examinations, wound and burn management and rape management.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) at Health Facilities

WASH in healthcare facilities and provision of water, sanitation and healthcare waste management are essential for patient safety. WHO has been proactively engaged in improving WASH in healthcare settings in the country. In December, WHO completed the establishment of a proper water network and waste management system in 69 health facilities (65 PHC facilities and four district hospitals) in 12 provinces in the southeastern, western, southern and eastern regions. To date, WHO has expanded its support to additional 24 health facilities (12 PHC facilities and 12 hospitals) in 10 provinces, namely Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, Takhar, Kunduz, Samangan, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Farya and Kabul. Around 24 bore wells, 24 water supply systems with reservoirs and solar power systems, and 11 incinerators will be equipped in these health facilities, expected to be completed in September 2022.

Health Information Management

WHO has worked with its partners on data collection and analysis of health interventions across the country for evidence-based decision-making. The Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) provides information on the current availability of resources and services from 4,225 health facilities, which account for 98% of the existing health facilities in the country. WHO has regularly updated data sets and dashboards of HeRAMS, underserved (white) area analysis and trauma care service, available [WHO’s open-access health Information portal](https://dashboards.who-him.org/)



To access the WHO Afghanistan Information Hub, access this link: <https://dashboards.who-him.org/> or scan the QR code on the left with your mobile phone.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

To ensure proper oversight of project implementation, WHO has conducted systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities through 30 monitoring officers on the ground using specific tools developed for each type of health intervention. In December, WHO conducted monitoring visits to 117 PHC facilities, 96 therapeutic feeding units (TFUs), eight hospitals (including three COVID-19 hospitals), and two ambulatory services stations. WHO has followed up with the implementing partners on the areas for improvements identified during the monitoring visits and ensured the mitigation measures are made. In addition, WHO also conducted two bilateral meetings with the implementing partners to review the implementation status and identify the best way forward to ensure quality healthcare services as a part of M&E.

Operational Logistics Support

WHO provided 957.5 MT for a volume of 3,858 cubic meters (CBM) of medical and non-medical supplies in December 2022, which will benefit 6,852,200 people in 34 provinces through 223 health facilities, including:

- 3,183 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) composed of 2,849 basic modules and 334 supplementary modules to 21 hospitals and 198 PHC facilities across 21 provinces, including Ayno Mena hospital in Kandahar and Herat regional hospital.
- 595 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits (IARH) 28 district, provincial and regional hospitals in nine provinces (Badghis, Faryab, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Mazar, Sar-e-Pol)
- 336 WHO Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK) to 31 hospitals and 73 comprehensive health centers (CHCs) in 10 provinces (Badghis, Balkh, Bayman, Daikundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, and Sar-e-Pol) including Mohammad Ali Jinnah Hospital in Kabul, and Nangarhar Teaching Hospital.
- 21 cholera kits to seven provinces including Gardez Regional Hospital, and Sharan provincial hospital in Paktika.
- 700 Cary Blairs transport mediums to Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar Provinces for sample collection and transportation.



WHO delivered winterization emergency supplies to health facilities such as in Ghoriyan District Hospital

Field Visits

WHO country and regional technical teams conducted field visits to Kabul, Laghman, Nuristan, Kunar, Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Khost, and Paktika in December 2022. The missions provided technical support and oversight on the WHO programme implementation, including the nationwide measles and OPV campaign, pre-hospital and referral system, primary healthcare services, AWD and malaria case management, and MHPSS.



WHO visited Yakawlog district hospital in Bamyan province to ensure the quality of health care service through supervision and monitoring.

WHO's health emergency response in Afghanistan has been made possible thanks to the generous contributions of donors and partners. Throughout 2022, WHO was able to reach 12.9 million people with at least one health assistance.



12.9 M
People Reached

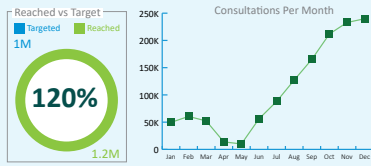


12 M
People Targeted



23
Active Partners

Primary Health Care



1,297,504
Total people received out-patient consultations

622,866
Total people received health education and awareness

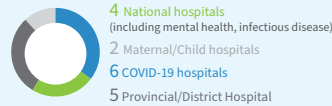
189
Supported PHC centres in the white areas

10
Implementing partners

Secondary & Tertiary Care

89,009
People received Outpatient consultations

17
Hospitals supported directly by WHO with full operation cost



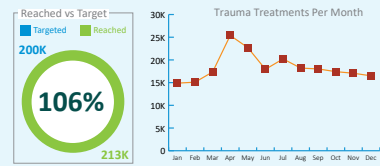
Services for children with SAM

46,369
Patients with SAM with medical complications receiving treatment

457
Health care providers trained on SAM case management

127
Inpatient department of severe acute malnutrition (IPD-SAM) supported

Emergency Trauma Care



213,278
Total Trauma treatments across 34 provinces

14,819
Total people with disabilities received rehabilitative care

154
Health facilities reporting

6
Physical rehabilitation centers supported

Surveillance

613
Sentinel sites



935
Alerts investigated and responded to in a timely manner

121
Surveillance support teams (SST) deployed for outbreak investigation/response

Immunization

8.16M
Number of children (6 to 59 months) vaccinated against measles

10.8M
Number of eligible individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19



Environmental Health Services

110,400
Patients received water supply, sanitation and hygiene services

77
Primary health facilities equipped with proper WASH systems, bore wells, solar-powered water supply systems, toilets, and incinerators

12
Hospitals rehabilitated, including repairing electric and mechanical system, fixing door & windows, and wall painting

3
Specialized wards constructed with electric and water supply systems equipped

MHPSS & Drug Demand Reduction

79,966
Mental health and psychosocial support interventions provided by implementing partners

4
MHPSS Outreach teams providing services in earthquake affected provinces.

Logistics & Operational Support

23,596
Total number of emergency kits distributed across the country

26.4 M
Total People benefited with emergency kits distributed across the country

1,228
Health facilities received kits

72
Health partners

474
Supplies received by Air

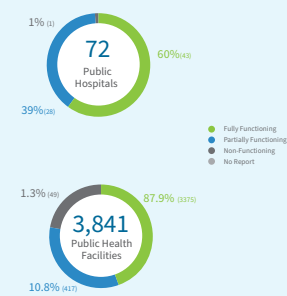
794
Supplies received by sea

1
Supplies received by road

1762.17
Total weight (metrictons) of medical-non-medical supplies delivered across the country

Health Information and M&E

Functionality status



Health care providers trained 6,789 Total of healthcare providers trained

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

423
survivor of violence received proper treatment in the national advanced referral center

227
front-line healthcare providers trained on health response to GBV in emergency setting

10,000+
health staff members received Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

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

- Dr Alaa AbouZeid, Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO Afghanistan, Email: abouzeida@who.int**
- Ms Joy Rivaca, Head of Communications, WHO Afghanistan, Email: caminadej@who.int**
- Mr Mohamed Kakay, External Relations & Partnerships Lead, WHO Afghanistan, Email: kakaym@who.int**
- Ms Akiko Takeuchi, Technical Officer, WHO Afghanistan, Email: takeuchia@who.int**

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