

AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

No. 29 | May 2023



World Health
Organization
Afghanistan

Key Figures (Monthly)

281,019

People reached with
emergency health services

8,946

People received trauma
care services

43.91MT

Medical and Non-Medical
supplies provided

616

Health workers trained

114

Surveillance support teams
deployed to outbreak areas¹

Summary of Outbreaks (May 2023)

5,964

COVID-19 confirmed cases

15,571

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)²

690,529

Acute Respiratory Infection

2,275

Measles

99

Pertusis

146

Dengue fever



WHO trained health workers from different hospitals in the southern region on Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) case management and infection prevention and control.

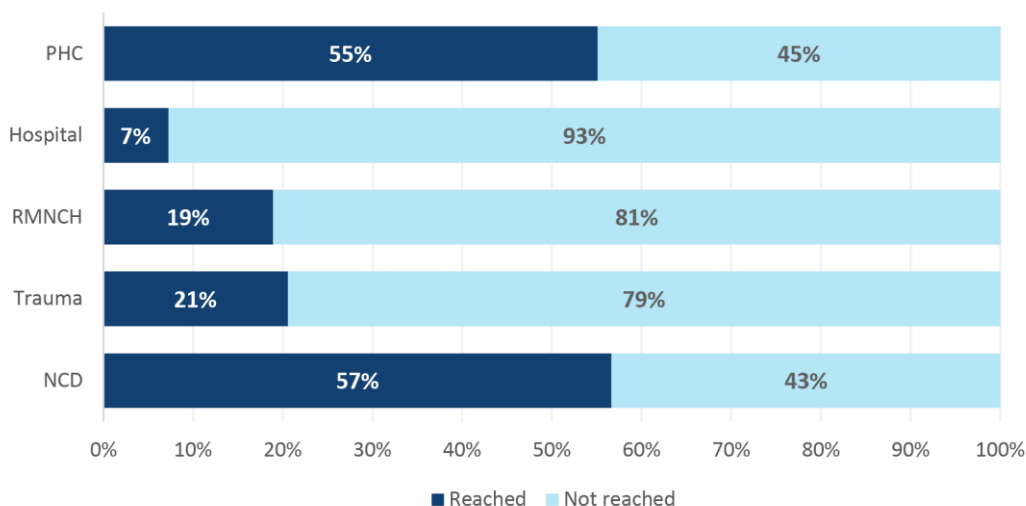
Highlights for May 2023

- WHO and Health Cluster partners served over 1.4M people in the 1,018 health facilities.
- WHO, through its 222 supported primary health facilities in underserved areas across the country, was able to assist 281,019 people. The services mainly included outpatient services, maternal newborn child health, immunization, nutrition screening, mental healthcare and non-communicable diseases.
- The Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTS) taskforce has developed the *Strategic Guide for the Rationalization of Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams, and Enhance Access to Health Services in Underserved Areas of Afghanistan*. This strategic guide will help the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and its partners in the planning and implementation of the integrated primary health care services in underserved areas of the country, and in responding to acute emergencies.
- WHO provided 43,91 metric tons (MT) of medical and non-medical supplies, which will benefit 1,467,050 people in 34 provinces, through 69 health facilities.
- WHO continues to lead 114 surveillance support teams (SST), or 228 health professionals, in their goal of preparedness and response to outbreaks and public health emergencies in 34 provinces across Afghanistan.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are being established in Khairkhana Hospital in Kabul which will provide much-needed critical healthcare services to malnourished children.
- The total number of beneficiaries of rehabilitation services served at WHO-supported facilities was 897.
- A total of 4,284 malnourished children (2,228 girls and 2,056 boys) with medical complications were admitted and treated in 130 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers (119 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers plus).
- **Funding shortage is affecting health with more health facilities closing down and support to main hospitals in the country is diminishing. This will have a serious impact in health service delivery, with possibilities of aggravated death among patients.**

¹ A classical rapid response team is a multi-disciplinary team stationed in each province under Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD). WHO supports the operational cost of the activities. 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

² AWD case data is reported from all 519 sentinel sites in the country.

Proportion of people reached (Jan-May 2023) against the target in year 2023



Health Cluster Coordination

- WHO, along with 50 Health Cluster partners, reached more than 1.4 million people with humanitarian health services through 1,018 health facilities in 326 districts of all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.
- In improving prevention, preparedness and timely response to acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks at the field level, joint Health and WASH Clusters coordination meetings were conducted in all seven regions to develop regional integrated AWD operational plans 2023.
- Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) Task Force, co-chaired by Health Cluster, developed a “Strategic Guide for the Rationalization of MHNTs, and Enhance Access to Health Services in Underserved Areas of Afghanistan”. The strategic guide is for endorsement by MoPH. Once endorsed, Health Cluster will coordinate with MoPH and partners to support its implementation.
- The Health Cluster and Cluster Lead Agency (WHO), are in the process of selecting agencies for Health Cluster co-coordinators at the national and sub-national levels, as effective and efficient cluster management is a shared responsibility held by all Health Cluster partners.
- The Health Cluster recommended 18 partners (12 National NGOs, 6 International NGOs) for the upcoming Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) allocation 2023 to deliver integrated Primary Health Care (PHC) services and support the communicable disease outbreak response in 161 priority districts of 29 provinces.
- In May 2023, the Health Cluster conducted two coordination meetings at the national and seven at the sub-national levels.

Health Service Delivery in Primary Health Care (PHC) and Hospitals

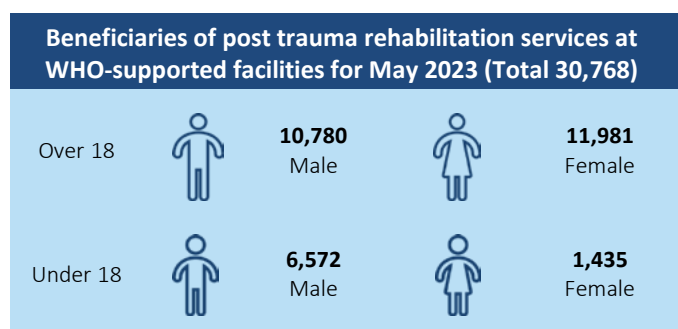
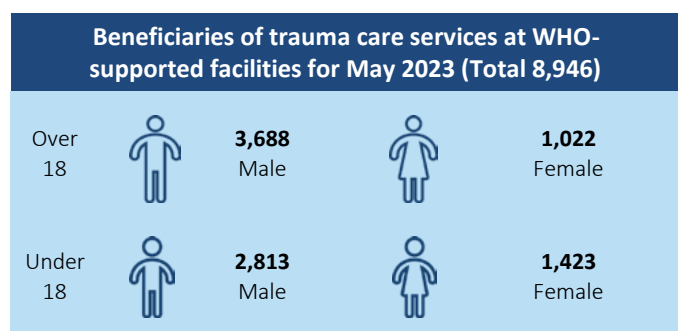
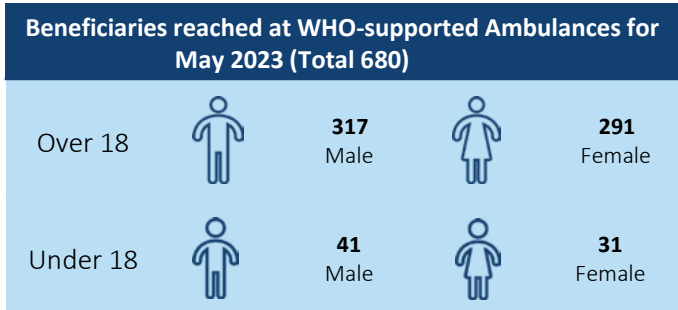
During the reporting period, WHO, through its 222-supported primary health facilities in underserved areas across the country, was able to assist 281,019 people. The services mainly included outpatient services, maternal newborn child health, immunization, nutrition screening, mental healthcare and non-communicable diseases. The facilities are supported through 14 implementing partners.

Services Provided at WHO-supported health facilities (May 2023)	
281,019	Individuals received outpatient (OPD) consultations
11,592	Women received antenatal care (ANC)
4,952	Women received prenatal care (PNC)
1,200	Institutional deliveries
239,529	Patients received essential drugs for their basic health services
13,893	Pregnant women, child bearing age (CBA) women and under 5 children received TT2+, measles, and PENTA-3 Vaccination
7,054	Women received family planning services and awareness
137,478	People living in remote and underserved areas received health education and awareness
37,577	Pregnant and Lactating Women received nutrition screening and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling
65,222	Under 5 children received OPV, malnutrition treatment, and screening
12,983	People received mental health consultations
43,878	Number of consultations for Non-communicable diseases

Beneficiaries of PHC services at WHO-supported facilities for May 2023 (Total 281,019)				
Over 18		64,809 Male		121,342 Female
Under 18		48,955 Male		45,913 Female

Trauma and Physical Rehabilitation Care Services

There were 8,946 patients who received post-trauma rehabilitation services that included psychological counselling (7,760), physiotherapy (4,424), blood transfusion (5,271) and minor and major surgical operations (17,254).

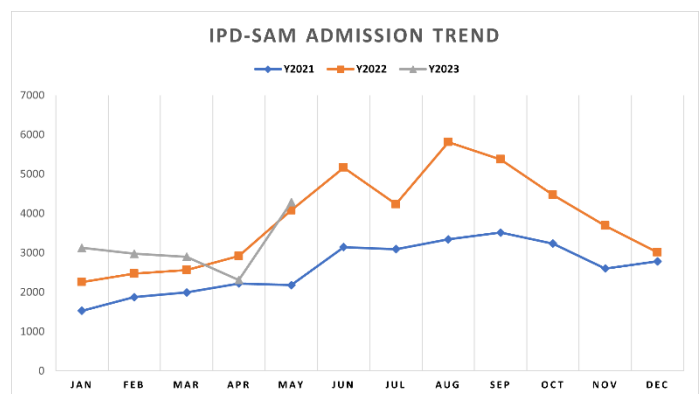
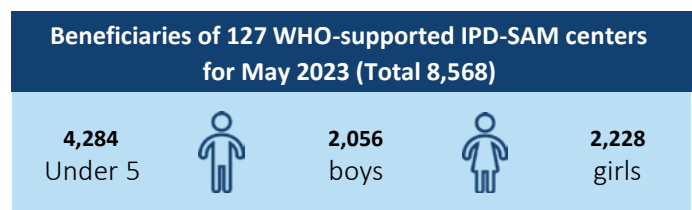


Service Provided at WHO-supported facilities (May 2023)	
4,424	people received physiotherapy
7,760	people received psychological counselling
5,271	people who received blood transfusion
13,836	people who received minor surgical operation
3,418	people who received major surgical operation
612	People With Disabilities Received Physiotherapy Services
170	People With Disabilities Received Rehabilitative Care
60	People With Disabilities Provided With Repaired Assistive Device and Walking Aids
55	People With Disabilities Received Assistive Devices And Walking

Nutrition in Emergencies

There were 4,284 malnourished children (2,228 girls and 2,056 boys) with medical complications admitted and treated in 130 WHO-supported IPD-SAM centers (119 hospitals and 11 Comprehensive Health Centers plus). The number of cases in May increased compared to April 2023 and this is due to increase in the data completeness, timely reporting and strengthened referral system from community. As we are nearing the peak season of malnutrition, WHO is expecting the increase of cases in the upcoming months.

WHO is helping strengthen the national capacity to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition. A total of 30 health staff members were trained in the management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications in Kandahar province.



Infectious Hazard and surveillance

COVID-19

- During the reporting period, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases showed an increase by 24.4% with 21 associated deaths (CFR 0.35%). There were 7 deaths reported during April 2023 compared to May 2023.
- There were 24,359 tests that have been conducted in public laboratories, which is higher by 31.5% compared to April 2023. The test positivity increased from 10.9% in April 2023 to 24.5% in May 2023.
- The 2nd Phase of the COVID-19 immunization campaign implementation commenced in 15 provinces which had been postponed in March due to winter. This campaign will continue until June 7th. The target population for this campaign is all adults ≥18 years that have not yet received the full primary series of COVID-19 vaccine doses or have not yet received a booster dose.

- The COVID-19 vaccine is administered by trained teams that are delivering vaccine at temporary established sites such as mosques and community centers throughout the 15 provinces. To date, 800,000 doses of primary dose J&J and 600,000 booster doses of J&J vaccine have been administered. Meanwhile, an additional 800 fixed site locations throughout the country are providing COVID-19 vaccination to the adult population. The proportion of those who received at least one dose of the vaccine slightly increased to reach 39.0%.

Monthly summary of infectious disease outbreaks in Afghanistan May 2023

Outbreaks	AWD with dehydration	ARI	COVID-19	Pertussis	Measles	Dengue fever
Monthly new cases (% change compared to May)	15,571 (↑24.0)	690,529 (↑7.6)	5,964 (↑20.4)	146 (↑47.5)	2,275 (↓10.1)	99 (↑62.3)
Monthly New deaths (CFR%)	6 (0.04)	182 (0.03)	21 (0.35)	0 (0.00)	10 (0.43)	0 (0.00)
Cumulative cases	59,526	3,968,553	221,559	415	14,455	314
Cumulative deaths	30	1,336	7,914	0	43	1

All figures except COVID-19 have been updated to reflect only the number of cases reported since the beginning of 2023.

Acute Respiratory infection (ARI)

- During the reporting period, the number of ARI cases showed 7.6% Increase (690,529 suspected cases in May 2023 compared to 641,922 in April 2023), with 182 new associated deaths reported (CFR of 0.03%).
- Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, more than 3.9 million ARI cases have been reported, 52.1% (2,065,988) are females, and 44.9% (1,780,332) are under five years.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration

- During the reporting period, the number of reported AWD cases with dehydration was 15,571, which shows an increase by 24% when compared to April 2023, with a total of six associated deaths (CFR of 0.04%).
- Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, more than 59,000 cases of AWD with dehydration, (56.6%) were children below 5 years and 49.6% were females.

Pertussis

- During the reporting period, the number of suspected pertussis cases showed an increase by 47.5% (146 suspected cases in May 2023 compared to 99 in April 2023), with no new associated deaths.
- Cumulatively, since the beginning of 2023, there have been 415 suspected pertussis cases reported, of which 45.5% (189) are females, and 85.1% (353) are under five.

Measles

- During the reporting period, the number of reported suspected measles cases was 2,275 which represents a decrease by 10.1% compared to April 2023, with a total of 10 associated deaths (CFR of 0.44%)

Dengue Fever

- During the reporting period, 99 new suspected cases were reported which shows a 62.3% increase in the number of suspected cases compared to April 2023. No new associated deaths were reported during the last month.

- During May 2023, the new suspected dengue fever cases were reported from Nangarhar and Laghman provinces.

Trainings conducted on Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- In May, WHO sent out 228 surveillance officers in 114 surveillance support teams (SSTs), with two members each team.
- These teams were deployed nationwide in the 34 provinces of Afghanistan and involved in the outbreak investigation and necessary response to support the National Disease Surveillance and Response (NDSR) team.
- Across Afghanistan, these teams have participated in the investigation of over 50% of all of the outbreaks which occurred last year in 2022.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Drug Addiction

- Preparations and coordination are being carried out with MoPH, members of MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG), partner NGOs and identified 47 future Master Trainers (25 female health workers and 23 male health workers) on Problem Management Plus, a WHO Training Manual for health workers at focused BPHS and EPHS (nurses and midwives) who may provide this technique on how to help adults who are in distress and anxiety, especially in this fragile, conflict and vulnerable setting.
- WHO has already called for Expressions of Interest among implementing partners who are interested on the EU-supported three large (Kabul, Nangarhar and Kandahar) and three small (Bamyan, Uruzgan and Bamyan) Drug Addiction Treatment Centers and nine outreach service teams. A total of 16 implementing partners submitted their interest to the WHO Selection Committee and was shortlisted into eight.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) at Health Facilities

- WASH in healthcare facilities is crucial for preventing the spread of infections and ensuring safe and quality healthcare services. WHO is currently supporting the improvement of WASH services in 31 therapeutic feeding centers (TFUs) across nine provinces through rehabilitation which will target beneficiaries up to 49100/year.
- Minor repair and maintenance of WASH services is completed in 28 out of 31 TFUs: established/repared hand washing stations; repair and maintenance of water supply network; environmental cleaning; electrification; doors, windows, and safe sanitation systems.
- WASH services are being established in Khairkhana Hospital Kabul, which will provide critical healthcare services to malnourished children.
- Two training sessions (four days each session) were conducted to build the capacity of 51 environmental health staff from 21 provinces on different prevailing environmental health issues such as drinking water quality (monitoring and surveillance), WASH in health facilities, waste management etc., with recommended mitigation measures.
- There were 600 rapid water quality testing kits provided to environmental health unit which will be used for water quality surveillance in areas with limited access to water quality testing labs.
- WHO is monitoring the progress and improvement of WASH services in health care facilities using WASH FIT tool wherein 36 health facilities were assessed for WASH and waste management services showing the limited availability of water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management services. Only 38% of health facilities meet the requirements of basic waste management services.



Training sessions held in Kabul, WASH in health facilities, the curriculum included drinking water quality control (monitoring and surveillance) and outbreak mitigation.

Operational Logistical Support (OLS)

WHO provided 43,91 metric tons (MT) of medical and non-medical supplies in May 2023, which will benefit 1,467,050 people in 34 provinces, through 69 health facilities across the country including:

- 675 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to Primary Health Care facilities in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, Paktika and Khost provinces as well as to the National Infection Disease Hospital in Kabul.
- Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to Primary Health Care facilities in Badghis, Ghor, Hirat, Helmad, Nimroz, Zabulk and Urozgan, as well as to the Infectious Disease Hospital in Farah province.
- 71 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits (IARH) to the Paktika and Khost provinces, as well as Kunar, Nuristan, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces, through the WHO implementing partners.
- 8 WHO Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK) to the National Infection Disease Hospital in Kabul.
- 16 Cholera kits to the National Infection Disease Hospital in Kabul.
- 4 Measles kits to the National Infection Disease Hospital in Kabul.

Health Information Management (HIM)

- The Health Information Management (HIM) Team continues to improve and consolidate data and information needs.
- In May, activities have been geared towards improving the quality of data and the volume of products. Towards this, there have been updates to major products covering the full coverage of WHE interventions such as trauma reported from 121 facilities, medical supplies, outbreak response data analyzed and presented on six outbreak diseases, partner operations monitoring from 14 implementing partners and Health Resources and Availability Monitoring (HeRAMS).
- Related Activities include routine updating of the HeRAMS, continuous quality controls on trauma care services, medical supplies and outbreak response, retraining of province-level managers on HeRAMS data collection and facilitating trauma care readiness and capacity assessments.

Find more information here: <https://dashboard.whe-him.org/>

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
Mr Grattan Lynch, Communications Officer, WHO Afghanistan, Email: lynchg@who.int

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