HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 30th Nov 2021, a total of 157,388 confirmed cases and 7,308 deaths reported due to COVID-19. The recovery rate is 89.3% with a 4.6% Case Fatality Rate (CFR).

- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups, as reported, were Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Acute Diarrheal Disease (ADD) across the country.

- A total of 513 (96.5%) functional surveillance sentinel sites in 34 provinces, which submitted reports through the Disease Early Warning System (DEWS).

- A total of 1,487 medical kits (828 IEHKs, 471 TESKs, 78 Pneumonia, 39 Cholera Kits, and 71 NCD kits) were delivered by WHO to the health facilities in 17 provinces. These supplies cover the basic needs of 1,032,200 population for three (3) months including 47,100 major and minor surgeries.

- A total of 130 health facilities (HFs) with trauma care supplies, training, and technical guidance to health personnel in 34 provinces continued with support by WHO. During the period, a total of 15,239 trauma cases were reported from these HFs supported by WHO.
Situation Update

- Afghanistan continues to be in a humanitarian emergency due to protracted conflict, frequent natural disasters, disease outbreaks and population displacement, with an increasing number of people in need of assistance during 2021 added due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2021, more than 14.5 million people (out of the total estimated population of 40.4 million) required humanitarian health assistance.
- So far in 2021, more than 682,031 individuals have been internally displaced due to ongoing conflict and natural disasters. In addition, nearly 959,295 people have returned from neighboring Pakistan and Iran.
- The recent displacement due to ongoing conflict affects all individuals with different needs: inadequate shelter, food insecurity, insufficient access to basic health services, as well as a lack of protection, resulting in precarious living conditions that jeopardize the wellbeing and dignity of the affected population.
- With the new onset of drought comes worsening food insecurity that leads to deteriorated malnutrition, which poses an increased risk of diseases and death, especially for children and vulnerable groups.
- Even before the recent drought declaration, the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Afghanistan estimated that almost half of the children under the age of 5 years (3.1 million) were at risk of acute malnutrition. Of these, 2.2 million were projected to have Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 895,000 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- As of Nov 2021, nearly 224,970 trauma cases have been recorded through 130 Health Facilities, which are supported by WHO. The capacity to provide timely first aid and subsequent rehabilitation services, to affected people, is limited.
- Emergency reproductive, maternal and child health services are not readily accessible to a significant part of the vulnerable population due to limited provider capacity, including a weak referral system.
- The COVID-19 pandemic provides another layer of complexity to one of the most challenging humanitarian emergencies. The health cluster partners continue supporting the COVID-19 response interventions to control the transmission of the virus through vaccinations, surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, and ICU care, risk communication, and community engagement to implement preventive measures. WHO and UNICEF have been supporting the MoPH in the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccination.

Public Health Risks, Priorities, Needs and Gaps

- There have been two wild polio cases were tested positive in Kunduz Province and the virus seems to be circulating in the province.
- The 4th wave of COVID-19 epidemic is expected during the upcoming months and if there will be adequate capacity including funding and other resources for keeping the designated COVID-19 hospitals functional, this will likely to create a catastrophe in the country.
- Suspension of COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams (RRT), and COVID-19 district coordinators’ activities due to lack of financial support is limiting the active case finding hence under-reporting of COVID-19 cases.
- Weak immunization coverage and frequent outbreaks of communicable diseases in the country due to suspension of disease surveillance and reporting.
- Detection of Cholera, Measles, and dengue outbreaks in Kabul, Wardak, Daikundi and Nangarhar provinces.
- Banking problem for the procurement of medicines and other medical supplies, which led to a shortage of medicines and medical supplies in health facilities hence affecting the day-to-day functioning of the health facilities to deliver health care.
- Capacity building of staff in diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 cases in the Eastern region.
- Rehabilitation of Health Facilities, which has been affected due to the last conflict, is urgently needed to continue.
• Advocacy for mobilizing resources for the continuation of services in designated COVID-19 hospitals and diagnostic laboratories.
• Provision of rabies vaccine is most needed in the central region.
• Resumption of Rapid Response Teams (RRT) and other surveillance activities for COVID-19 and other communicable diseases surveillance, for prevention and control of outbreaks.
• Enhanced advocacy for campaigns for COVID-19 and measles vaccination.
• Developing Mass Causality Management plan for the HFs with no plan.
• Training and awareness campaigns on use of safe drinking water are required in the north-eastern region.

DEWS and Epidemiological Updates

Surveillance performance
• A total of 513 functional Surveillance sentinel sites, 96.5 % have submitted reports for November 2021.
• A total of 1,752,222 new consultations, 698,495 (39.8%) were due to Surveillance targeted diseases.

Morbidity
• The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups were ARI and ADD (Figure 1). The breakdown of the leading morbidity is as follows:
  • ARI (Cough and Cold): 445,940 accounting for 25.4% of total consultations.
  • Acute Diarrheal Disease (ADD): 147,689 accounting for 8.4% of total consultations.
  • ARI (Pneumonia): 82,822 accounting for 4.7 % of total consultations.
• A total of 990 deaths were reported, of which 239 were due to Surveillance targeted diseases.

![Figure 1: Proportion of Morbidity of top 3 diseases among the total consultation between week 1 and week 47, 2021](image)

COVID-19 Updates, 1 January – 30 November 2021
• A total of 157,388 COVID-19 cases reported from 34 Provinces.
• The COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths are illustrated in figures 2 and 3. Overall recovery rate is 89.3%.
• The total number of COVID-19 deaths is 7,308 and CFR= 4.6%.
• COVID-19 case distribution by gender is 58 % male and 42 % female. The average age is 39 years (Fig. 4).
- COVID-19 cases reported in Nov. shows and increase by 19% compared with the cases in Oct. (Fig. 5).
- The confirmed COVID-19 cases among health workers reached to a total positive cases to 4,698, and the increase is mainly in Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunar provinces.
- A total of 483,485 laboratory tests were performed in the designated public health laboratories. The current testing rate is 2,554 tests per 100,000, and the positivity rate is 32.5%.
- The chart below shows the geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases for the period of January – November 2021.

**Figure 2: Geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases.**

The chart below shows the Epi-curve of COVID-19 cases and deaths for the period from January to November 2021.

**Figure 3: EPI curve of COVID-19 cases and deaths as of 30 Nov, 2021**

The chart below shows that the case distribution in both genders (male and female). Among all the age groups, the group between the ages of 18-40 years is higher as compared to the other age groups.
The chart below shows an increase in cases reported in November 2021 compared to October 2021.
COVID-19 Updates – Afghanistan – 1-30 November 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Confirmed cases</th>
<th>Confirmed deaths</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Samples tested</th>
<th>Vaccine coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2021</td>
<td>1,211</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11,924</td>
<td>19,075</td>
<td>962,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A total of 19,075 samples were tested.
- A total of 1,211 confirmed COVID-19 with 28 deaths, which shows an increase as compared to a total of 1,042 confirmed cases in Oct. 2021.
- A total of 11,924 cases reported recovered.
- A total of 962,875 individuals received COVID-19 vaccination.
- WHO provided with support to establish 35 public health laboratories, to perform confirmatory test, with a maximum capacity of more than 8,252 tests per 24 hours.
- As of Nov. 2021, WHO supported MoPH with 56 PCR machines, 46 ECG machines, 701 vital sign monitors, and trained 306 laboratory staff on PCR.
- A total of 307 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) are deployed through the technical and financial support of WHO to investigate COVID-19 outbreaks and 474 RRTs providers received Training of Trainers (ToT) on case investigation, specimen collection, health education and referrals.
- WHO supplied 38 ventilators to designated COVID-19 hospitals and trained 4,508 health care workers on IPC, 1,852 health workers on case management and 1,287 ICU staff on ICU care.
- WHO provided support to two projects with implementing partners on risk communication and community engagement to ensure social mobilization, awareness raising and adherence of COVID-19 protection measures.

**Attacks on Health Care**

- In 2021, a total of 46 attacks on health care including facilities or workers have been reported from the 30 districts of 16 provinces. This has resulted in the closure of 18 health facilities, deaths of 14 health personnel and injuries sustained by 21 health staff, and 4 patients. There has been a clear trend of an increased direct and violent attacks to health care.
- In November 2021, 3 attacks on 3 health care facilities located in Kabul, Kandahar and Herat provinces happened. As a result, 1 heath personnel has been killed. No report of health care facility closed in November.

**Health Cluster Action**

- Continued Health Cluster Coordination meetings at national and sub national levels to ensure effective coordination with health partners on humanitarian health service delivery.
- Two national and 1 sub national health cluster meetings were conducted in Kabul with the participation of the health cluster partners including MoPH, UN agencies, donors, and international and national organizations implementing health sector activities/services.
- Health cluster partners conducted risk communication and community engagement activities through which a total of 130,923 individuals were provided with health information on various health topics.

**Reproductive and Child Health, November 2021**

- A total of 113,958 children were immunized for Penta-3, and 108,945 children received measles vaccination.
- Skilled birth attendants conducted 72 normal deliveries.
- A total of 354,644 mothers visited health facilities for Antenatal Care (ANC), while the number of Postnatal (PNC) visits reported to be decreased to 194,214 during the month as compared to previous month.
Health Cluster Partners Updates

WHO

- Health/Nutrition services were provided to IDPs through 7 teams (MHT, SHC, BHC) in Herat province and 2 teams (1 SHC, 1 MHT) in Badghis province. 12357 IDPs benefited from health services in the western region.

- WHO provided around USD 1.7 million to implementing partners for supporting people in need. 10 health implementing partners continued delivering Emergency PHC, Physical Rehabilitation, Trauma Care, and RCCE services to vulnerable people.

- Emergency PHC services were provided through 6 MHTs and 1 SHC in Hilmand, Herat, and Badghis provinces; Physical Rehabilitation was carried out in Nangarhar, Zabul, and Baghlan provinces; Trauma Care Services were provided in Kandahar Province, while the RCCE activities cover across the Country.

- During the period, 4 days Basic Life Support (BLS) training conducted for 50 nurses working in Trauma Care Units of HFs in Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Provinces.

- WHO Conducted Mass Casualty Management (MCM) training for 26 medical doctors who are involved in mass casualty management from Herat, Badghis, Ghor and Farah Trauma Care Units.

- 29 cartons (69800) of surgical mask distributed to Health Facilities in Nangarhar BPHSs for the prevention of communicable diseases.

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), Health Cluster Coordination, ICCT, and PPHCC meetings were conducted in all seven regions with the presence of WHO National Health Coordinators.

- A Container is supplied to Kunduz Sub Office for stocking the Health Kits including the medical supplies.

- WHO rehabilitated Logar and Parwan COVID-19 diagnostic centers.

- As part of winterization plan, during the period WHO supplied 584 emergency medical kits including IEHK basic, IEHK supplementary, TESK, Cholera, Pneumonia, SAM and NCD kits along with some loose medicines to Kabul, Bamyan, Parwan, Daikundi, Logar and Wardak provinces.

- WHO conducted 3 days Ambulance training for 57 Nurses from Kabul, Kapisa, Panjshir and Parwan provinces.

- Reparation of Logar public health directorate is done with technical and financial support of WHO.

- WHO trained 32 doctors and midwives from 15 Health facilities in Kabul on improving family planning services they are providing through the HFs.

- WHO is supporting Emergency NGO to run emergency hospital in Kabul and Anaba hospital in Panjshir province.

- All the Health Facilities under SEHATMANDI project in 17 provinces being supported by WHO are fully functional; the medical supplies are delivered, staff received their salaries for the month of Nov. and heating materials are also provided for the Health Facilities.

- Monitoring missions were carried out to Hirat, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Hilmand provinces by the technical team of WHO County Office with the objectives to observe and verify WHO supported health activities in the field.
IOM

• As of 30 Nov 2021, IOM is supporting 19 Mobile Health Teams (MHTs), 10 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and 2 Health facilities in 11 provinces (Badghis, Badakhshan, Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Takhar) providing direct life-saving essential health services and supporting COVID-19 response at the Point of Entries (PoEs), and among migrant, IDP and host communities.

• Two additional Vaccination teams have been trained and ready to be deployed in Kabul.

• Support to Covid-19 response in four provinces (Nangarhar, Herat, Helmand and Kandahar) through two local NGOs Relief Humanitarian Development Organization (RHDO) and Organization for Health Promotion and Management (OHPM)

• A series of online training for IOM staff was organized on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Mainstreaming of MHPSS Approaches into other Sectors.

The main achievements in Nov 2021 are as follows:

  o 28,602 out-patient clinical health services (over 17,445 of these were women and girls).
  o 3,208 Women and girls reached through reproductive care services.
  o 1531 persons (1314 female and 217 male) received MHPSS services.
  o 8,803 returnees and displaced population vaccinated against COVID-19.
  o 128,663 persons screened for Tuberculosis at Points of Entries (PoEs) with 35 confirmed case.

International Medical Corps (IMC)

IMC implement a project (Life-Saving Basic Primary Health Services, Trauma Care and Referral Services to Conflict-Affected People) in Kunar, Nuristan and Paktika provinces by support of GAC (Global Affairs of Canada) Fund.

The major achievements in the month of Nov. 2021 as follows:

• Medicines, medical supplies (consumables) and IPC materials are supplied to all above mentioned HFs and available for one quarter with them.

• A total of 9554 people reached with humanitarian assistance activities in Kunar, Nuristan and Paktika provinces

• A total of 1071 individuals benefited from Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, and 1279 trauma affected patients received trauma care services.

• 9086 OPD consultations is done which included including ANC, vaccination, skilled birth attendance, and other PHC services.

• Capacity building program for 20 staff in pharmaceutical supply change management.

• One full day orientation training and one full day refresher training conducted for 8 IMC supported vaccinators.

• Vaccinated a total of 4,854 individuals (2137 female, 2717 male).

HealthNet TPO


• 21,181 patients, mostly children and women, received OPD consultation services in Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces.

• 1,081 pregnant women received antenatal care (ANC) services in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces, and 740 mothers received postnatal care (PNC) services in Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Kandahar provinces.

• 119 women received family planning services in Kandahar province.

• 83 women received TT2+ vaccine in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar provinces

• 16 children under two received Penta 3 vaccine in Kunar and Nangarhar province

• 752 vulnerable persons received psychosocial support services in Kabul and Kandahar provinces.

• 5213 vulnerable persons received COVID-19 risk communication and education services in Kunar and Laghman provinces.

• 399 patients received trauma care services by FATPs in Kabul, Kunar, and Laghman provinces.

• 2,225 trauma cases, which needed advanced trauma care, were treated in the Nangarhar Regional Hospital (NRH) Trauma Center
• 118 severely acute malnourished children under five enrolled in the severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment program in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 220 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children cured in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 9 severely acute malnourished children under five were referred to secondary and tertiary hospitals for IPD SAM services in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 230 acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women received the management of acute malnutrition (OPD-MAM) services in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 122 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition were cured after receiving proper treatment services in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 665 moderately acute malnourished children under five admitted in management of acute malnutrition (OPD-MAM) program in Kunar and Laghman province.
• 573 moderately acute malnourished children under five were cured after receiving acute malnutrition management services through the OPD-MAM program in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 1305 children under two received growth monitoring services, and their mothers received recommended IYCF counseling in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 11 frontline health workers received training on health and MPHSS topics in Laghman province.
• 772 trauma cases treated through FATPs in Laghman and Kunar provinces.
• 1,407 trauma cases, which needed advanced trauma care, were treated in the Nangarhar Regional Hospital (NRH) Trauma Center.
• 5,309 vulnerable individuals received COVID-19 related awareness-raising and risk information through MHPSS outreach teams in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
• 949 vulnerable individuals received focused psychosocial and psychological care through MHPSS outreach teams in Kunar and Laghman provinces.
**La Chaîne de l'Espoir (The Chain of Hope)**

The Chaîne de l’Espoir intervenes in Afghanistan since 2001. In 2005, CDE built and equipped the FMIC in Kabul. The main achievements in Nov. 2021 are as follows:

- 146 new patients registered in November 2021, which were referred by La Chaîne de l’Espoir partners from different provinces.
- La Chaîne de l’Espoir supported 542 patients (393 for OPD service and 149 for Surgical procedures) at FMIC. 32 patient treatments were completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>OPD</th>
<th>New admission</th>
<th>Surgery</th>
<th>Treatment completed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2021</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HADAAF**

The NGO is providing primary health care services to IDHs and host community through Golan CHC and 3 MHTs funded by Johanniter international in Khost province. It also strengthen COVID-19 response project Nangarhar and Balkh provinces in partnership with Cordaid. The main achievements in month of Nov. 2021 are as follows:

- A total of 9634 clients screened for COVID-19 in Khost.
- A total of 8715 consultations were performed through HADAAF MHTs in Khost province.
- Around 21,391 individuals at both community and school levels received awareness on COVID-19 in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces.
- Nov. 2021, 18 CHWs received COVID-19 prevention and treatment measures in Nangarhar in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces.
- 70 food baskets distributed to 100 COVID-19 patients in Nangarhar and Balkh provinces.
- Distributed 3968 Iron folic Acid tablets to the out school girls at community level in Balkh province.

**Bakhtar Development Network (BDN)**

Bakhtar Development Network (BDN) is operating in 3 provinces of Takhar, Baghlan and Balkh reaching out a total of 3,570,324 populations by implementing various developmental projects in terms of health services, nutrition, hygiene, and community development. BDN conducted the following main activities:

- With the support of WHO under Sehatmandi project has provided health services to 432,439 clients through 280 HFIs in Takhar, Baghlan and Balkh provinces whilst 2153 Health Posts were also functional providing HP level services and referrals.
- With the support of World Food Program (WFP) provided nutrition services in Balkh and Takhar provinces under TSFP project to 11780 beneficiaries including 8904 children with moderate acute malnutrition and 2876 Pregnant and lactating women having acute malnutrition for which 132.167 MT food commodities were distributed.
- With the support of UNDP continued implementation of Malaria project in Balkh and Takhar provinces where 8 Malaria cases were diagnosed and treated at health facility levels.
With the support of UNICEF has newly launched provision of essential and lifesaving health and nutrition services for children and women in need affected by the emergency in Afghanistan through Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNT) in Balkh, Baghlan and Takhar provinces. The project is planned to serve 1,872,000 affected population (1,033,000 women and 839,000 children).

AFIAT
MSH - through the USAID/Assistance for Families and Indigent Afghans to Thrive (AFIAT) project conducted the following activities:
- Supported 125 vaccination sites in five targeted provinces (Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Herat)
- Provided essential supplies to supported sites. This included 34 small size tents for the establishment of temporary vaccination site in crowded areas, 20 foldable tables, 69 foldable chairs, rented 65 equipped vehicles for distribution of vaccine supplies and transportation of mobile vaccinators and monitors.
- Expanded Program and Immunization (NEPI), as the J and J vaccines approaching their expiration date.
- During the month of November, 19,075 tests have been performed at the national level.
- A total of 963,678 people vaccinated in November

Success story – Cordaid
Bibi Mariam is a 61-year-old woman, she was a cleaner in Jamal Karz High School of Dand district (located to the south of the Kandahar city). After the fall of the government on 15th of August all employees of the former government like teachers and others including Bibi Mariam were sent home, after a few weeks some of the employees were called back but sadly not Mariam.
She was the only one in her family who has income and were the only one to support her widowed daughter-in-law and grandchildren financially but being a woman it was very hard for Mariam to go back to her previous job as a cleaner at Jamal Karz High School, because the de-facto authorities has stopped women to work alongside with men.
On 20th October 2021, when AHDS Organization’s employee Esmatullah working as a Community Mobilizer at Dand district for the project “Strengthening COVID-19 Response in Afghanistan” searching for COVID-19
positive patients in order to donate them food basket (project’s key activity) he accidentally discovered Mariam, a financially disrupted lady, Mariam asked him if she is eligible for the Food Basket and if she can get one, but Esmatullah brought a better opportunity for her, even better than donating a food basket, he linked Mariam to one of the local Business named KC (Khayati Course) the company that teaches women tailoring skills in order to financially support their families.

Mariam is now very happy, the local business (KC) is paying her enough money to support her family and her grandchildren, and she is now stable mentally and financially because she has found a place where she can get financial support for all her family members. She is very thankful of Esmatullah working as a Community Mobilizer in the project “Strengthening COVID-19 Response in Afghanistan” for AHDS organization.

Plan For Next Month

- Final review of HNO and HRP 2022 – Health Cluster Chapter
- Support and provide guidance to health cluster partners in developing proposals for AHF -Standard allocation
- Review of proposals by SRC/TRC in coordination with HFU- OCHA.
- Continue health cluster coordination meetings at central and regional levels.

Contact Us

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFGHANISTAN HEALTH CLUSTER</th>
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<tr>
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