

# Afghanistan Flooding

## Situation Report No. 3 (14 May 2024)

(Information in the report is based on available data as of reporting period)



WHO delivers aid in flood-affected areas, taken 14 May 2024. © WHO

## Key messages:

- On May 14, 2024, WHO provided an additional 2 cholera kits, each sufficient to treat an average of 100 cases, and 2 emergency kits, each sufficient for over 50 cases, as part of its ongoing support efforts.
- WHO assisted local health authorities in floods affected areas by providing a new batch of health information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, as well as personal protective equipment (PPEs), to raise awareness about water and vector-borne diseases in affected areas.
- WHO's emergency response teams, deployed to flood-affected regions, continued their assessment visits to health facilities to evaluate their current capacity for trauma and hospital care.
- Four additional assessment teams, consisting of Health Cluster partners, have been deployed to Burka, Baghlan Jadid, Pul-e-Khomri, and Guzargai Noor districts of Baghlan province to identify the urgent needs and challenges faced by the affected communities.
- The Health Cluster partners have augmented their response by deploying 2 additional Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) to the flood-affected areas of Baghlan province. This brings the total number of teams to 32, dedicated to supporting essential healthcare services. Partners include JACK, ORCD, MMRCA, AKHS, AKF, provincial public health directorates, and the private sector are among the partners involved in this deployment effort.

## Situation update:

The flood emergency situation in Baghlan province, northern Afghanistan, remains critical, with reports indicating over 2400 affected by the floods. Thousands of individuals are still displaced, urgently requiring food, shelter, and immediate health services.

Several villages have suffered severe damage, with many unable to report their status due to internet disruptions. In Tishkan district, Badakhshan, the situation is particularly dire following Friday's flooding. Nearly all water resources in the area have been compromised, and health facilities are grappling with a shortage of essential medicines. Moreover, critical infrastructure such as main roads has been destroyed, impeding relief efforts.

These flooding disasters have significantly impacted rural areas, exacerbating the effects of previous floods last month, which claimed around a hundred lives. Aid agencies continue facing substantial challenges in reaching affected populations due to the extensive damage to transportation infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Consequently, communities remain isolated, unable to move between villages due to the continued flow of rivers.

Reflecting on the situation, it is evident that the ongoing flooding has deepened the humanitarian crisis in the region, necessitating urgent and coordinated efforts to provide assistance to those affected.

## Epidemiological Update:

In the flood-affected districts of Baghlan province, a total of 8 WHO-supported Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) are currently deployed. This includes 2 teams originally stationed in Baghlan and 6 teams mobilized from neighboring provinces.

Between May 11 and May 13, the following infectious diseases have been detected by these teams:

- 106 cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) with pneumonia
- 115 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration

Diseases	Number of reported cases during 11-13 May 2024						
	Male		Female		Total		
	<5 Years	>5 Years	<5 Years	>5 Years	Male	Female	Total
ARI-pneumonia	29	23	26	28	52	54	<b>106</b>
Suspected measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
AWD with dehydration	36	18	36	25	54	61	<b>115</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>221</b>

## WHO response:

- As of today, WHO has provided a total of 240 kits, including Measles, Cholera, TESK, and IEHK kits, which have been greatly appreciated by authorities and partners for their timely assistance. The provision of trauma kits by WHO demonstrates their invaluable support and reflects the collaborative efforts between international organizations and local authorities in times of crisis. The swift mobilization of resources by the WHO Emergency team and Health Cluster underscores our commitment to providing immediate assistance to those affected by the flood.
- During a visit to Burka district on May 13, 2024, which has been severely affected by the flood, WHO Emergency and Health Cluster teams agreed that the number of existing Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHTs) should be reduced. This matter was discussed with the Minister of Public Health of the de facto government and the Director of Public Health in Baghlan, resulting in reducing the number of MHTs to 8-10 out of the existing 17 in Burka district.
- The de facto public health minister has highly appreciated WHO's efforts, and the solidarity and support shown by partners and authorities in the wake of this tragedy, emphasizing the importance of unity and collaboration in our collective response efforts.
- WHO has also provided a sufficient number of medicine and medical consignments including various medical kits to Baghlan Markazi DH and Burka district since the beginning of the flood's emergency.



## Health Cluster response:

- The Regional Health Cluster Coordinator for the Northeast, along with WHO's Regional Health Emergency Team, held a meeting with the National Disaster Surveillance and Response (NDSR) Officer of Baghlan province to discuss and enhance surveillance interventions in the areas affected by the floods.
- The Regional Health Cluster Coordinator for the Northeast and the WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) team arranged a meeting with the Minister of Public Health. During this meeting, they presented the Health Cluster's support and WHO's assistance in the response efforts. They also highlighted the main challenges and outlined plans to address the needs and overcome these challenges.
- Four assessment teams, consisting of Health Cluster partners, have been deployed to Burka, Baghlan Jadid, Pul-e-Khomri, and Guzargai Noor districts of Baghlan province. The primary objective of these teams is to identify the urgent needs and challenges faced by the communities affected by the floods. This assessment will inform targeted and effective response efforts to address the most pressing health needs in the area.
- The Health Cluster partners, comprising AADA, AFGA, AKF, AKHS, ARCS, ICRC, IMC, IOM, JACK, MMRCA, MoPH, MSF, ORCD, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, maintained their collaborative health response support for flood-affected communities in Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces. This support included the deployment of additional 2 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) to make a total of 32 now as of today 14 May 2024 supporting the provision of medical kits and supplies, deployment of ambulances to provide first aid and referral support, and assessment of the affected areas.
- In Baghlan province, the Health Cluster partners deployed 29 MHNTs (AFGA [1], AKF [7], AKHS [1], ARCS [1], IMC [1], JACK [6], MMRCA [2], MoPH [4], ORCD/UNFPA [4], and Save the Children [2]) to Burka, Baghlan Markazi, and Guzargai Noor districts. These teams were tasked with delivering emergency healthcare services to the affected communities.
- Between May 10-13, 2024, Health Cluster partners (AAH, JACK, ORCD, SCI, UNFPA, and UNICEF) provided health services to a total of 2,400 individuals affected by the floods in Baghlan and Takhar provinces. This assistance reached 840 women, 551 men, 599 girls, and 410 boys. Among the beneficiaries, 1,671 individuals received primary health care consultations, 497 were engaged in health promotion activities, 99 received maternal, newborn, and child health services, and 133 received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.

Figure 1: MTHs deployed to floods affected areas as of 14 May 2024

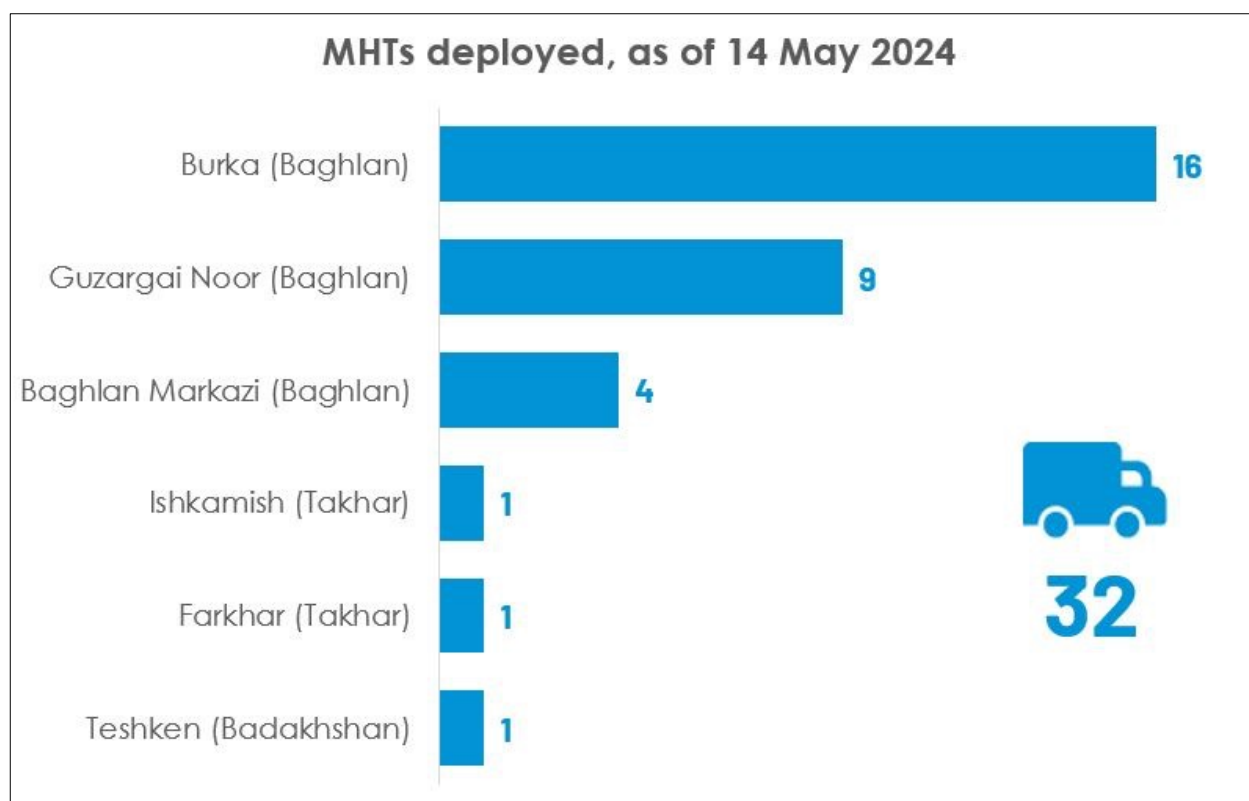
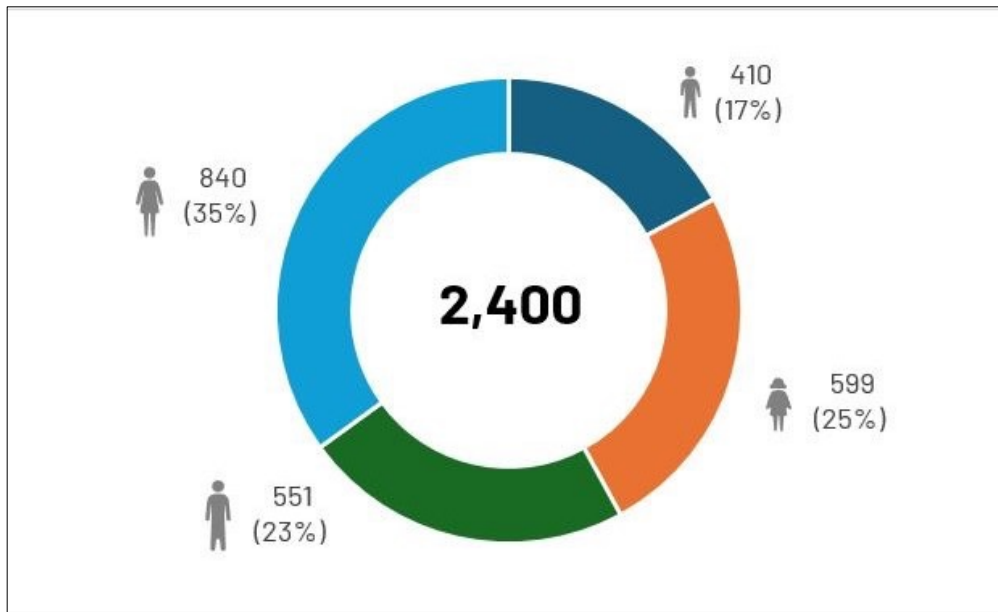


Figure 2: Beneficiaries of the Health Cluster MHTs healthcare service delivery.



## Needs:

- There is a need for additional medical support for the MHNTs in terms of supplies and capacity to deliver quality services. WHO field team is collecting information to determine the required support.
- It is recommended to include at least one female health worker or female psychosocial counsellor in each team, as reports indicate that the affected population is predominantly women and children.
- Baghlan Provincial Public Health Directorate (PPHD) has requested tents specifically for MHNTs to enhance their operational capacity.
- Burka and Nahreen districts face significant accessibility challenges due to the destruction of the main road, requiring air force involvement for transportation. Alternative transportation is crucial to reach these areas and deliver essential supplies.
- To ensure the continuity of healthcare services in the areas where health facilities are damaged, an alternate approach involving the deployment of Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) has been considered.
- Conducting a multisectoral needs assessment is essential for a comprehensive and efficient response to the crisis, ensuring a more effective and streamlined approach.
- Rehabilitation or reconstruction of damaged health facilities is necessary to ensure the continuity of healthcare services. Prioritizing these efforts will enable healthcare services to resume effectively, providing access to care for affected individuals.



Flood-affected community. © WHO

- The current ambulances in affected areas cannot reach remote and inaccessible areas within districts. Enhancing the referral system, including upgrading ambulance capabilities, is crucial to saving the lives of vulnerable individuals by ensuring timely access to healthcare services.

## Serving and nonfunctional health facilities:

Initial assessments following the recent flooding in the northeastern region indicate damage to a total of nine Health Facilities across Baghlan (3 HFs), Takhar (4 HFs), and Badakhshan (2 HFs) provinces.

These include 5 Basic Health Centers (BHCs), 1 Comprehensive Health Center (CHC), and 3 Health Sub Centers (HSCs).

Among these facilities, two have been completely destroyed.

These include:

- Gharo CHC in Guzargai Noor district of Baghlan.
- A health facility in Chal district of Takhar.

The specific facilities affected are as follows:

- -Baghlan: Sheil Jalal BHC in Baghlan Markazi, and Folool BHC in Burka districts.
- Takhar: Mandara BHC in Chal, Lataband BHC and Shurab HSC in Taloqan, and Mashtan BHC in Farkhar districts.
- Badakhshan: Dai Ostayan HSC in Teshkan, and Bazar-e-Etefaq HSC in Yaftal Payeen districts.

## Challenges:

- **Accessibility:** The towns of Burka and Nahreen pose significant accessibility challenges following the destruction of the main road. This has necessitated the involvement of the air force for transportation, highlighting the critical need for alternative transportation methods to reach these areas and deliver essential supplies and aid.
- **Collaboration Among Partners:** Enhancing collaboration among partners is crucial to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to the crisis. This includes improving information sharing, coordinating activities, and leveraging each partner's strengths to maximize the impact of the response efforts. Strengthening collaboration can lead to better resource allocation, reduced duplication of efforts, and ultimately, more efficient assistance to those affected by the flood crisis.



- WHO and Health Cluster partners are challenged with reaching the affected populations due to severe damages to transportation infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Consequently, communities are isolated and unable to move between villages due to flowing rivers.

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