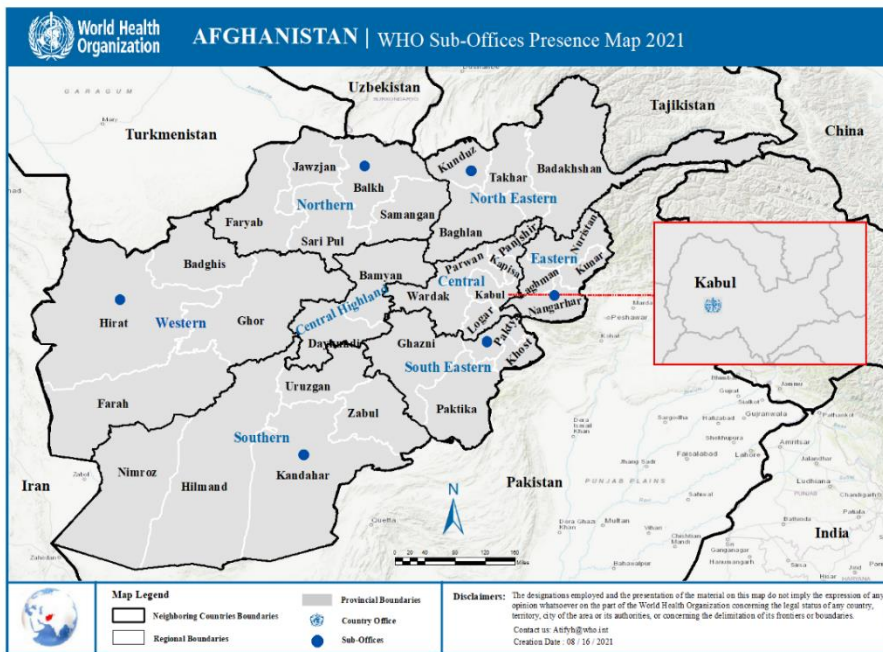




As humanitarian needs in Afghanistan increase, WHO's ability to respond is rapidly declining. WHO is working with countries and partners to address increasing and severe shortage of health and other supplies. The need for a reliable humanitarian air bridge is urgent.

WHO is staying and delivering for the people of Afghanistan. Of the 703 WHO staff and health workers, 684 are delivering the emergency response from Kabul and other provinces, while 19 are supporting remotely outside the country.



## 4,522

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) between 1-23 August 2021

## 300K+

new displaced persons in the last two months needing humanitarian aid

## 152K+

COVID-19 confirmed cases and 7,083 deaths as of 23 August

## 5%

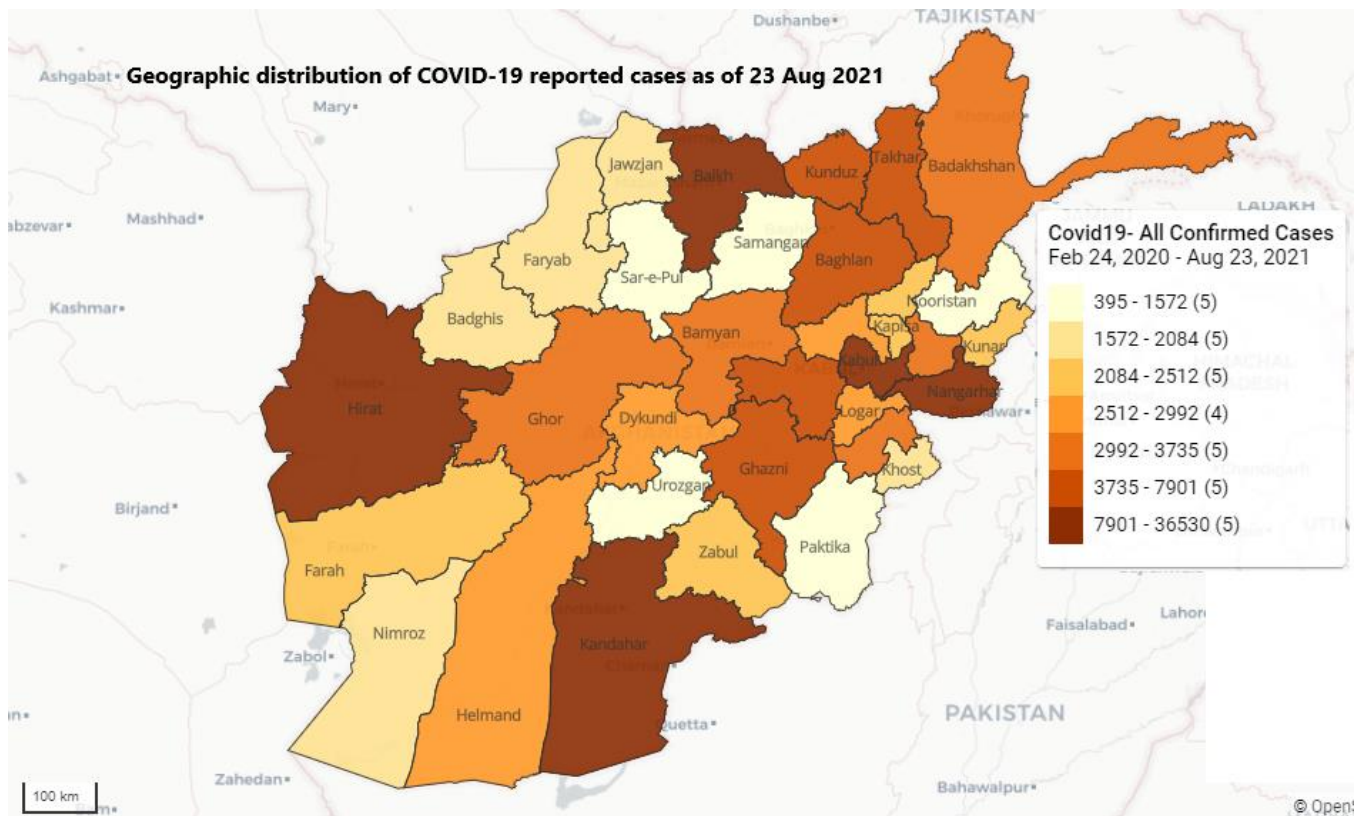
Of the population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **Conflict:** armed clashes are reported to gradually be stabilizing; however, massive humanitarian and health needs continue to unfold across the country. No significant reports of increased trauma casualties reported over the past week.
- **Urgent health issues:** based on a WHO assessment by our staff in all 34 provinces, 97% of over 2,200 health facilities are functional, with anecdotal reports of fewer women seeking health care. Some provincial health managers and staff are not reporting to duty due to security concerns. Health facilities across the country are experiencing critical shortage in medical supplies and

operational cost and concerns about gap in availability of medicines are mounting. Conflict has impacted COVID-19 vaccination and is delaying routine immunization, which could lead to secondary health emergencies.

- COVID-19:** Afghanistan reports over 152K COVID-19 cases and nearly 7,083 deaths as of 23 August 2021 with a PCR positivity rate of around 20%. However, COVID-19 response efforts hang in the balance as potential risk of COVID-19 transmission given current deteriorated humanitarian situation especially among IDPs clusters is anticipated. Around 5 % of the population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccination. The trend of decline in testing continues. Last week tests rates declined by 77% in both public and private laboratories, compared to the week before. Under reporting of COVID-19 cases is expected due to this noticeable decline in testing.



## WHO RESPONSE

### 1. ASSESSMENT

- In coordination with health cluster and humanitarian partners, fifteen inter-agency assessment teams were deployed in Kabul to verify internally displaced people (IDPs) and assess their humanitarian needs.

## 2. SERVICE DELIVERY

- 130 WHO supported trauma care health facilities remained open and provided case management services.
- Permanent transit teams in most regions and at cross border sites, including Friendship Gate (between Afghanistan and Pakistan) resumed vaccination for polio.

## 3. COORDINATION

- Health Cluster is delivering a coordinated response to the current emergency:
  - Six medical teams deployed in Kabul to provide lifesaving emergency primary health care services to 107,00 IDPs.
  - Fourteen medical team deployed to provide health services in the eastern region of the country.
  - Over 3000 consultations provided in the last week, including outpatient, antenatal and post-natal care, immunization, and screening for malnutrition.
- WHO is following up with WFP and humanitarian actors to explore options for expediting shipment of urgently needed health supplies and or establishing a humanitarian air bridge.

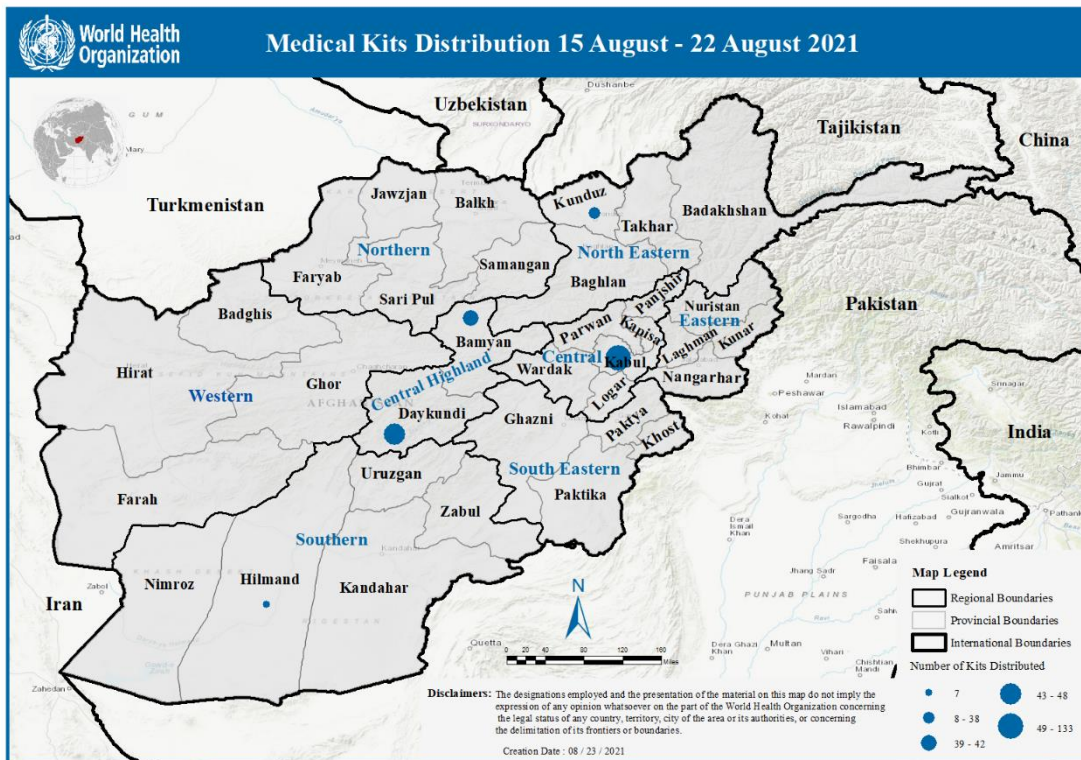
## 4. COVID-19 RESPONSE

- COVID-19 vaccination has dropped by 80%. Approximately 30,500 were reached with COVID-19 vaccine in 23 provinces out of 34 between 15-19 August. This is alarmingly low as compared to 134,000 people reached in 30 provinces between 8-12 August. WHO is working closely with the current health authority at the Ministry of Public Health and partners to resume and scale-up COVID-19 vaccination activities.
- WHO has 50,000 COVID-19 testing kits awaiting shipment as disruption at Kabul airport continues.
- Surveillance, testing and support for clinical management of critical cases, including ICU care were gradually scaled up over the last week.

## 5. SUPPLIES

- In the past week, WHO delivered 74 different modules of trauma kits, 145 basic medical supply kits and 6 cholera kits to health facilities in Bamyan, Daikundi, Ghazni, Helmand Kabul and Kunduz provinces. These supplies are enough to cover urgent health care needs of 152,700 people
- In the absence of commercial flights to Kabul airport, over 500 metric tons of WHO supplies await shipment. This includes:
  - 30 trauma and emergency surgery kits sufficient for 3,000 major and minor surgical interventions.
  - 2,100 different modules of basic health kits sufficient for 2,000,000 people for up to 2 months

- 50 pneumonia kits sufficient for treating 5,000 cases of childhood pneumonia
- 60 PED/SAM 2020 kits sufficient for 3,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition with medical complications.
- 30 non-communicable diseases kits sufficient for 300,000 patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension for covering needs up to 3 months.
- WHO nutrition program dispatched kits to treat severe acute malnutrition, medical equipment, bedside chairs, and medicines to 22 malnutrition centers in the last two weeks. Similar items for 48 severe acute malnutrition centers are available in WHO stock awaiting distribution.



## HEALTH NEEDS

- Urgent medical supplies and equipment to be allowed into the country. WHO stocks are only sufficient for less than one week.
- Provision for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services to newly displaced people in Kabul and other cities.
- Mental health and psychosocial counseling services needed for new IDPs.
- Shortage of COVID-19 testing supplies is already being experienced in some laboratories. Concerns about gaps in availability of testing kits across all 31 COVID-19 public testing laboratories mount as disruption at Kabul airport continues.
- Maintain COVID-19 vaccination and other routine immunization, including polio vaccination.

- Control of infectious diseases, especially at overcrowded sites hosting displaced populations.

### **WHO RECOMMENDATION**

- Immediate establishment of a humanitarian airbridge for the sustained and unimpeded delivery of aid into Afghanistan.
- UN and international partners to explore options for expediting aid shipments.

#### **Further information:**

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