



A funding pause to the Sehatmandi project – the backbone of the Afghanistan’s health system - will lead to an unprecedented shut down of life-saving health services across the country. The project is the main source of health care, which is provided through 2,309 health facilities and more than 25,000 health workers.



3M

People to be reached with health services coordinated by the Health Cluster, by the end of 2021

127 MT

Medical supplies delivered by WHO between Jul-August 2021

153K+

COVID-19 confirmed cases and 7,127 deaths as of 2 September

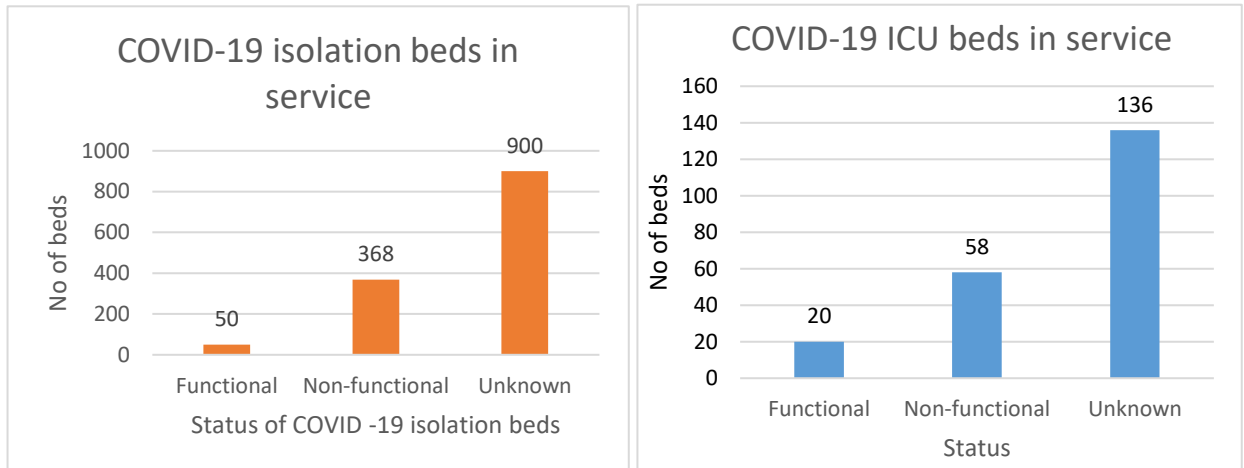
5%

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

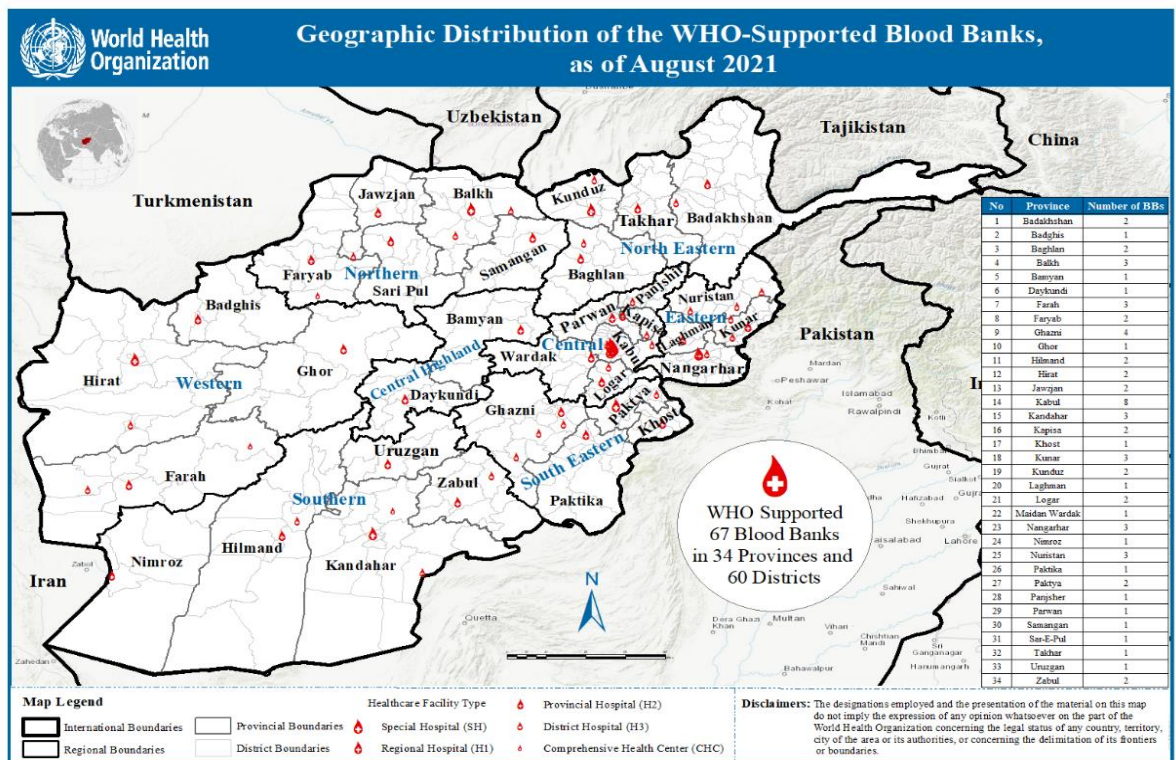
- **Supplies:** Kabul airport remains closed for all flights. WHO is continuing to explore options to get more urgently needed medical supplies into the country. Three flights carrying WHO medical supplies are expected to arrive over the next week, with support of WFP.
- **Sehatmandi suspension:** Over 90% of health facilities supported by the Sehatmandi project will close on September 5, leaving millions of Afghans without life-saving health services. Lack of health care will compound the impacts of conflict, food insecurity, poverty and the COVID-19 pandemic already being felt by Afghans, particularly women and children.

- COVID-19:** So far, Afghanistan has reported 153, 375 COVID-19 cases and 7,127 deaths with a PCR positivity rate of around 18%. Pause in funding to the Sehatmandi project is affecting efforts to contain COVID-19 amidst fears of rise in transmission due to the recently confirmed circulation of the Delta variant, low vaccination coverage and large-scale population displacements. According to data collected by WHO from 38 COVID-19 hospitals, at least nine have discontinued operations. After 5 September, only 3% isolation beds and 9% ICU beds will remain functional.



- Health service availability:**

Of the 2,179 health facilities (supported by Sehatmandi) that WHO is monitoring, 97% remain fully or partially functional for now but could close as early as 5 September due to funding gaps. Of these, 83% are currently delivering routine immunization services, 76% are giving oral polio vaccine to children up to 5 years of age, and 92% delivering curative services. WHO continues support to 130 trauma facilities and 67 blood banks across the country.



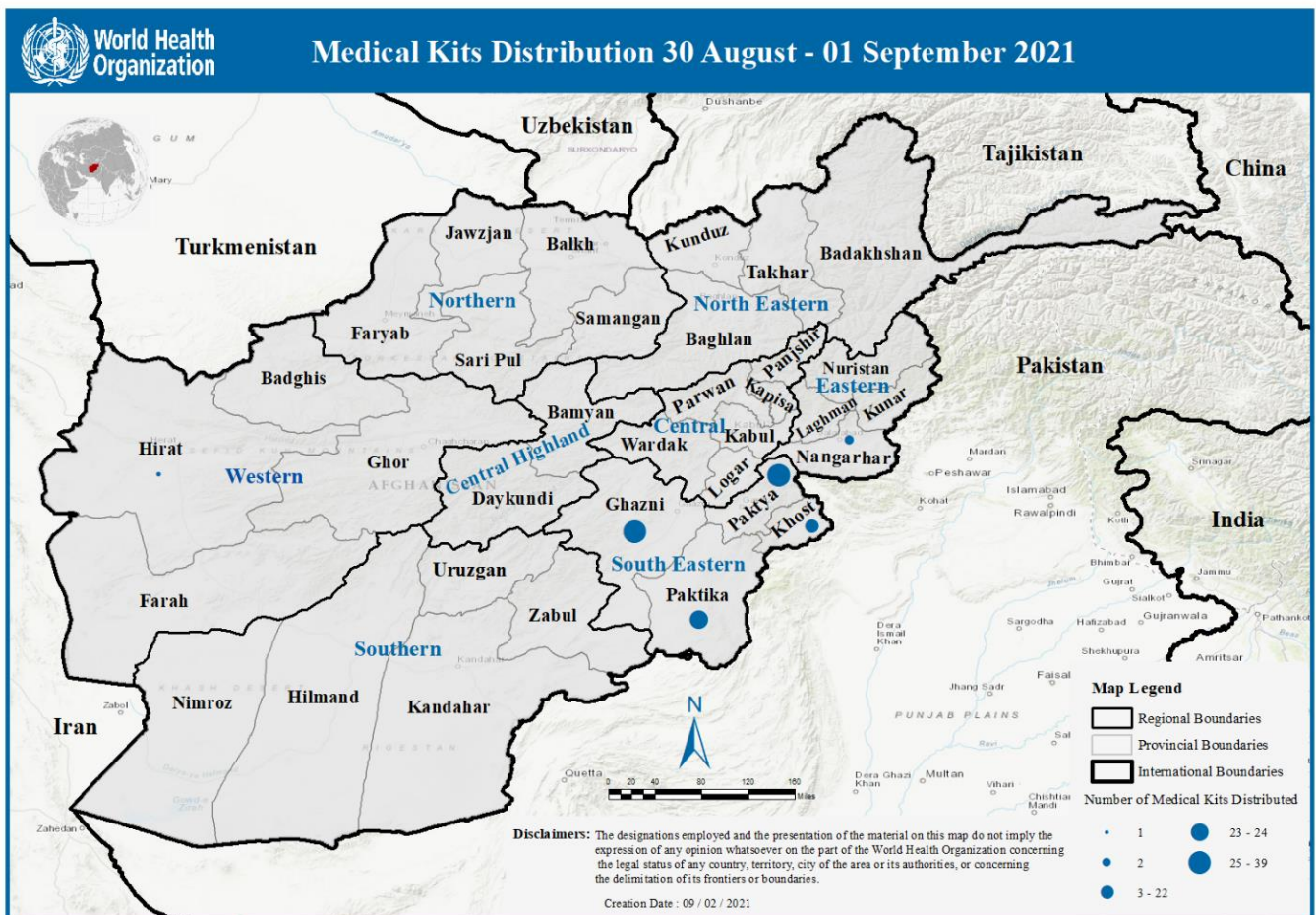
WHO RESPONSE

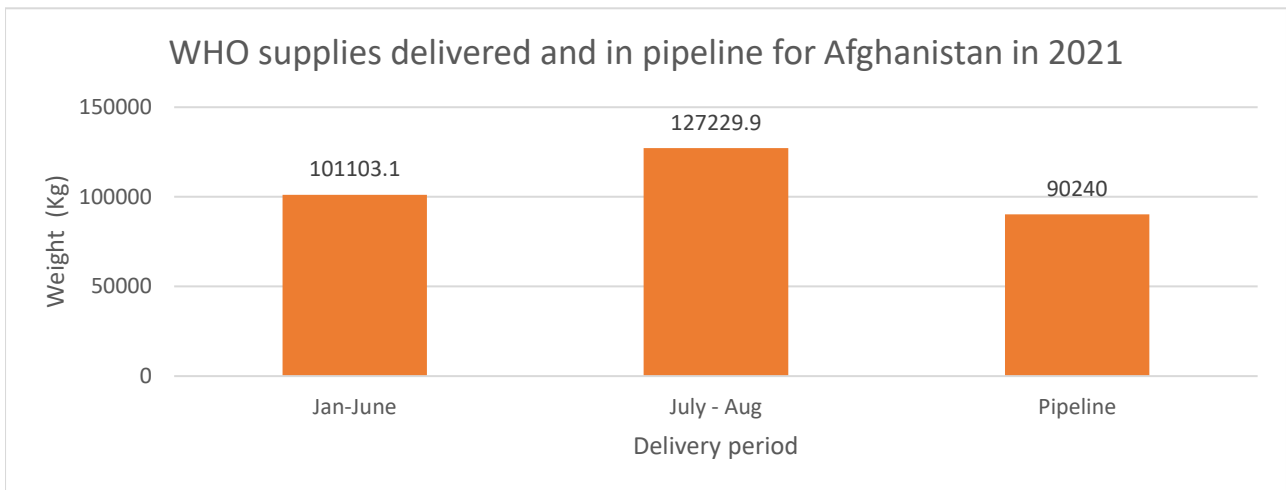
1. ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

- WHO has identified 538 health facilities and is working with the UN, NGOs and other health partners to ensure continuity of health services at these prioritized facilities that are affected by the current funding pause to the Sehatmandi project.

2. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

- Delivery of WHO medical supplies that were flown into Mazar-i-Sharif with support of Pakistan Government on 30 August is underway, covering 40 health facilities across 29 provinces. Three flights carrying WHO medical supplies are expected to arrive at Mazar-i-Sharif airport over the next week, with support of WFP.
- This week, WHO provided 4 cholera kits, 4 trauma kits and 111 units of different modules of medical kits to health facilities in Ghazni, Herat, Khost, Nangarhar, Paktika and Paktya province. The supplies provided are enough to cover the urgent health needs of approximately 111,400 people.





3. HEALTH SERVICES

- Four WHO supported mobile health teams that had been not functional since 5 August due to the recent insecurity, restarted delivering services in Helmand this week.
- Health needs continue to rise across the country, straining an already fragile health system. WHO has stepped up support to respond to the evolving situation. Since June 2021, WHO has provided around US\$ 1.7 million to implementing partners to respond to urgent health needs. Currently, ten partners are delivering emergency primary health care (PHC), physical rehabilitation services, trauma care, and providing health education to vulnerable people. Emergency PHC is being provided through 6 mobile health teams and 1 stationary health clinic in Helmand, Herat, and Badghis each; physical rehabilitation services being provided cover Nangarhar, Zabul, and Baghlan provinces; trauma care services are being supported in 130 trauma centers, while health education is being provided across all 34 provinces.

4. HEALTH CLUSTER

- Given the pause in funding for Sehatmandi, the Health Cluster partners have prioritized the delivery of life-saving health care services for 3 million people over the next 4 months. This includes reproductive health, maternal, new-born, child health care, trauma care and COVID-19 treatment services with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. Health assistance will be delivered through both static and mobile health service facilities.
- The Health Cluster is coordinating with international nongovernmental organizations to ensure availability of resources and scale up of support to health facilities to ensure continuity of the health services affected by the Sehatmandi project.
- The Health Cluster has proposed inputs to the OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 addendum and appeal to ensure rising health needs triggered by the current situation can be covered.



6,198 People Reached

10 Mobile Health Teams



INDICATORS	PEOPLE REACHED
Number of consultations	4,135
Nutrition screenings	331
Vaccination routine	259
Antenatal Care (ANC) consultations	243
COVID-19 Screenings	239
Nursing Care	221
COVID-19 suspects	175
Health Education	167
Family Planning	142
Postnatal Care (PNC) consultations	101
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	89
Measles / Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV)	52
Psychosocial services	41
Deliveries	3



HEALTH NEEDS

- Severe funding constraints in maintaining operations of health facilities and salaries of health workers are being faced due to the pause in funding to the Sehatmandi project.
- Regulations restrict the major international donors from channeling funds through the new authorities in Kabul, which could lead to delays in urgently sustaining and supporting health services that will be affected by the funding pause to the Sehatmandi project.
- Food and medical supplies remain short in the country. Delays in shipment due to airport disruptions urgently need to be addressed.
- COVID-19 testing remains extremely low due to the recent insecurity. Some labs have run out of testing supplies while others are critically low on supplies. The COVID-19 vaccine available in the country will expire in November 2021. There is an urgent need to scale-up the COVID-19 response, especially vaccination.

WHO RECOMMENDATION

1. Donors to immediately identify and operate a flexible funding mechanism to resume their funding to the most critical humanitarian needs and continuation of the Sehatmandi project. The international

community must also step-up support to meet the rapidly rising health needs triggered by the recent insecurity.

2. Health partners to work closely with humanitarian donors to sustain the critical life-saving health services provided by the 538 priority health facilities across the country to minimize maternal, child and other avoidable morbidities and mortalities.
3. UN and international partners to continue exploring options for sustaining and expediting a humanitarian airbridge.

Further information:

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