



As shortage of medical supplies grows, WHO is using 70% of its emergency reserve stocks to provide urgently need supplies to key health facilities so that essential health services stay uninterrupted. Options to get medical supply shipments into the country are being explored and supplies are expected to be moved in the coming days. Funding cuts by donors could impact the availability of primary and secondary health care and leave millions of Afghans without health care.



4,522

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

300K+

new displaced persons in the last two months needing humanitarian aid

153K

COVID-19 confirmed cases and 7,101 deaths as of 26 August

5%

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **Trauma care:** The attack at Kabul airport on August 26 resulted in over 170 deaths and 200 injuries. Most patients were presented to Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, which is the main public medical centre providing trauma care in the city. WHO has been supporting Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital through its major trauma program, including the provision of supplies, equipment and training. In May-June a team of international trauma experts trained medical staff from five trauma centres on mass casualty management (MCM), including Wazir Akbar Khan. The team assisted these hospitals to develop MCM plans and has continued to provide remote technical support since, including the conduct of MCM simulation exercises. In addition, WHO supplied

Wazir Akbar Khan with trauma supplies two weeks ago. In response to the influx of casualties on August 26, Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital activated their MCM plan, which helped in the management of a highly complex and demanding situation. Medical staff have remained in contact with WHO experts to share details of the event and to receive additional guidance.

- **IDPs:** Urgent health care services remain available to IDPs in Kabul. Some IDPs are reported to be returning to their homes while others will get re-displaced as result of this movement.
- **Aid cuts:** Given the recent developments, the World Bank has frozen all aid to Afghanistan. More than 2,500 health facilities, and salaries of more than 2,000 health workers supported under the World Bank co-funded Sehatmandi project will be impacted as a result. Currently, more than 3,800 health facilities supported under the project remain fully or partially non-functional. However, NGOs delivering the project have scaled-down implementation, causing immediate suspension of some services at health facilities, including referrals and outpatient food provision. A small number of health facilities supported under the project have enough health supplies to continue services for a few months while majority are running out fast. In the absence of sustained funding, this aid cut could leave hundreds of thousands of Afghans without health care and disproportionately affect women.
- **COVID-19:** Afghanistan has reported 152,960 COVID-19 cases and 7,101 deaths as of 26 August 2021 with a PCR positivity rate of around 20%. Gaps in COVID-19 testing and surveillance persist due to shortage of laboratory reagents for testing and possible low utilization of services due to the recent insecurity. Shortage of testing supplies at public laboratories can't be plugged until WHO's consignment of 50,000 testing kits awaiting shipment can arrive in the country.
- **Disruptions of health services:** Hospitals managed by the Ministry of Public Health report lack of funds for operational costs including fuel, liquid waste management and staff salaries. Five mobile teams supported by a local NGO and health services for victims of gender-based violence have been stopped from operating in Nangahar province in east of the country for unknown reasons.

WHO RESPONSE

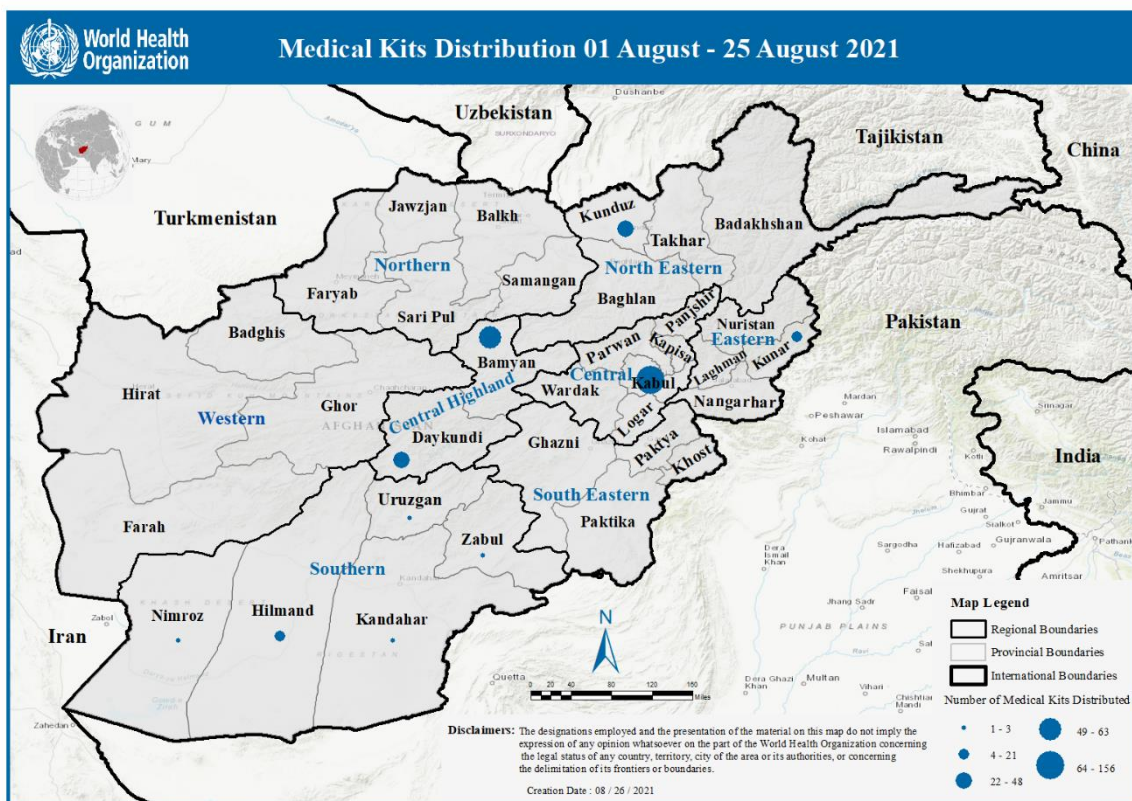
1. ASSESSMENT

- Based on assessments carried out by WHO, 150 priority health facilities across the country have been identified for distribution of urgent medical supplies.
- Further inter-agency assessments at Kabul IDP camps remain on hold.
- WHO staff in all 34 provinces continue to monitor developments.

2. LOGISTICS AND SUPPLIES

- For the past 3 weeks WHO has been unable to bring urgently needed medical supplies into the country due to a range of security and operational constraints. This is creating large problems as humanitarian needs increase and stocks in-country are depleted. Insurance costs for planes and trucks entering Afghanistan have sky-rocketed since the attack on 26 August, which will further complicate the aid effort. Nonetheless, WHO is working with partners on options and hopes to have an aid shipment moving in the next few days.

3. Within 24 hours of receiving a request for supplies, WHO provided 6 different modules of basic health kits to Indra Gandhi Children's Hospital to cover the urgent health needs of 5000 people.
4. Five basic medical kits provided to UNFPA Mobile Health Teams to serve the urgent medical needs of 5000 IDPs in Kabul.



3. COORDINATION

- WHO and Health Cluster partners are coordinating to identify health facilities which will be affected by funding cuts and freeze from donors. Contingency planning is underway to ensure live-saving health services remain uninterrupted to avoid morbidities and mortality from rising.
- WHO is coordinating with its offices in the region to maintain preparedness to respond to health needs arising from a potential refugee influx into neighboring countries and Europe due to the current situation.

4. COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The COVID-19 response has slowed due to the multiple other competing demands arising from recent events.
- WHO is working with partners to scale-up COVID-19 vaccination. There are currently 2 million doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the country that will expire in November 2021.

5. WASH SERVICES

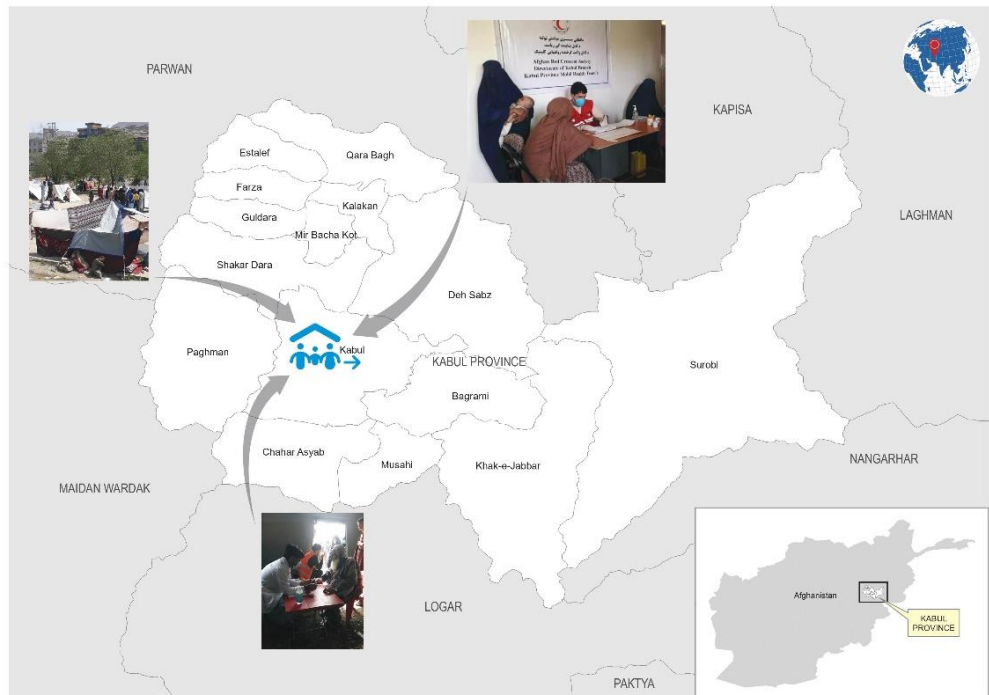
- 8 hand washing stations installed in 4 health facilities of Helmand and 8 toilets rehabilitated at a health facility in Kandahar province.
- Work ongoing to install 5 bore wells in health facilities in Badghis, Kunar and Zabul and construct 2 toilets in health facilities in Badghis and Zabul provinces.



7 Mobile Health Teams

8,661 People Reached

Indicator	People Reached
Number of consultations	2,105
Number of people screened for COVID-19	2,105
Health Education	2,105
Nutrition screening	781
Number of COVID-19 vaccinated	300
Nursing care	288
Diarrhea	210
Acute Respiratory Infection	182
Number of Suspected COVID-19	140
Number of routine vaccines	133
Psycho-social counselling	130
Number of ANC consultations	58
MAM and SAM children treated + Vitamin A and Deworming	58
Number of PNC consultations	32
Family Planning	24
RTI (Reproductive Tract Infection)	10



HEALTH NEEDS

- Capacity of many health facilities needs to be strengthened to cater to returning or re-displaced IDPs.
- Urgent medical supplies and equipment to be allowed into the country. WHO stocks are only sufficient for less than one week.
- Urgent funding is needed to ensure health facilities and health workers affected/could get affected by budget freeze from donors can continue to operate.
- COVID-19 and routine vaccination needs to be scaled up to prevent secondary health emergencies.

WHO RECOMMENDATION

- UN and international partners to continue exploring options for sustaining and expediting aid shipments into Afghanistan on urgent basis.
- COVID-19 testing capacities and surveillance needs to be enhanced across the country.

Further information:

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