

## Emergency Humanitarian Action

### KEY UPDATES:

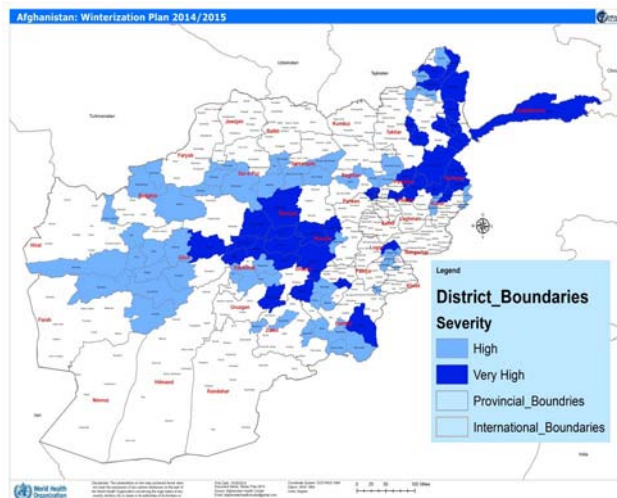
- ◆ **Ebola preparedness:** EHA, together with WHO's Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response (CSR) team is establishing an Ebola Isolation Unit in Kabul as a preparedness plan—there are currently no reported Ebola cases in Afghanistan. EHA WASH team is providing support for infection control and prevention by installing a proper wastewater disposal system and a safe healthcare waste management system to avoid the spread of the virus to the environment in the event of hospitalization of an Ebola patient in the isolation unit.
- ◆ Displacement of refugees from Pakistan's North Waziristan into Khost and Paktika provinces continues: 33,481 families and 251,108 individuals remain displaced. Emergency healthcare service provision by Healthnet TPO and International Medical Corps (IMC) continues: 36,861 patients were treated by mobile and static clinics in both provinces, including 77 deliveries and 6,704 routine vaccinations.

### PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO supported a training organized by Emergency NGO on "Basic Trauma Management/Triage during Mass Casualties" for 160 surgeons and 45 doctors and nurses from district, provincial and regional hospitals from 13 high-risk provinces
- ◆ WHO, UNICEF & IMC supported vaccinations for 47,280 children under 10 in Khost and Paktika against polio with ongoing campaigns within districts
- ◆ Training on "Emergency Preparedness and Response" (EPR) was conducted in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat for northern and western regions by WHO/EHA. 65 EPR committee members were trained on coordination and provincial-level planning and response for health emergencies based on regular surveillance reports
- ◆ WHO EHA has released 10 acute respiratory infection (ARI) A+B kits which will cover 3,500 beneficiaries in Ghor and Paktia provinces through ACTD and BPHS implementer NGOs. 119 ARI kits will be released to EPHS/BPHS implementing NGOs to cover 41,650 beneficiaries in 25 provinces. 120 basic emergency health kits will be supplied to provincial health directorates to cover 120,000 beneficiaries in 25 provinces prone to extreme cold weather during the winter
- ◆ WASH cluster, coordinated by WHO/EHA, conducted a workshop on "Rapid Assessment in Emergencies" on 1 October for 36 NGO and ministry staff, covering topics such as standard formats for assessments, developing checklists for specific scenarios such as flash floods and population displacement, and the process of carrying out rapid assessments



Evaluation of different medical waste incinerators in Kabul for Ebola infection control



Provinces WHO and EPR will focus on for winter response and preparedness during 2014/2015



Demonstration of a mass casualty situation setup during a basic trauma course in Emergency Hospital in Kabul

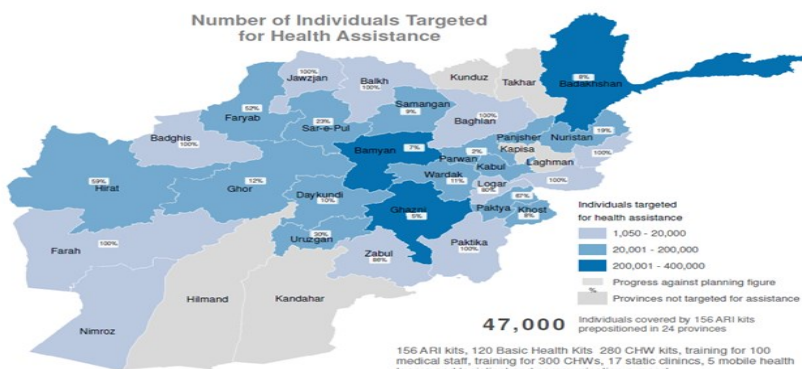
### MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS:

- ◆ Pneumonia and acute respiratory infections (ARI) are major concerns for the upcoming winter season as many provinces and districts face extreme cold weather. 98 districts have been identified as high risk, and WHO and partners have provided assistance supplies to cover 400,000 people in these areas.
- ◆ Due to harsh winter weather conditions, many people will face difficulties in accessing health facilities—temporary and static clinics will be established in high-risk provinces to ensure continued access
- ◆ Many people, especially children, experience discomfort when hand-washing and bathing with cold water and might be discouraged to comply to basic hygiene practices
- ◆ Recently displaced people might be facing their first winter in a harsh environment, rendering them more vulnerable
- ◆ Sanitation, water quality and hygiene remain public health concerns in Khost and Paktika provinces



For developing Afghanistan's preparedness plan for Ebola, WHO visited hospital wards that could be transformed into possible isolation units

**33,481 families and 251,108 individuals from Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency remain displaced in Khost and Paktika provinces**



Number of people targeted for health assistance in the coming winter (Map: OCHA)

### KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Multi-sectoral preparedness and response for the upcoming winter season is crucial for reducing morbidity and mortality due to natural disasters and extreme weather conditions
- ◆ Awareness needs to be raised on the specific health and hygiene risks people can face in the upcoming winter season
- ◆ Emergency response and surveillance in Khost and Paktika must be sustained to respond effectively to any emerging disease outbreaks

**While there are no cases of Ebola in Afghanistan, the development of a national Ebola preparedness plan is underway**



A workshop on Rapid Assessment in Emergencies was conducted in October