

# Afghanistan Flooding

## Situation Report No. 6 (21-23 May 2024)

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



WHO visits flood-affected community in Ghor province. (WHO)

### Key messages:

- Emergency response operations have been intensified in Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Takhar provinces, Northeast Afghanistan, following heavy rainfall on the 10th – 11th of this month. This has affected more than 8696 families, leading to infrastructure damage including roads, bridges, health facilities, and schools. Latest reports indicated 347 fatalities and over 1,651 injuries in these three provinces.
- Floods in the northern region have affected 1870 houses, with 84 reported deaths, 5 injuries, and approximately 40 individuals still missing.
- In the western region, floods have affected 6000 houses, resulting in 5 fatalities and over 100 injuries.
- In response to the devastating floods in Ghor province, west of Afghanistan, WHO Afghanistan Office successfully delivered a consignment of 25 metric tonnes of emergency medical kits, tents, and solar lights to support affected health facilities and communities in the province.
- WHO maintains a stockpile of medicines and medical supplies, mobilizing an additional 5 metric tonnes from WHO-Mazar warehouse to Faryab Provincial Hospital and partners Mobile Health Teams (MHT) providing health services in the affected districts of the Faryab province. These kits include acute watery diarrhoea and pneumonia kits.
- Health services provided by the Mobile Health Teams across affected districts include emergency and primary health services, vaccination, dressing (male/female), and health education materials.
- Field assessment visits and coordination meetings with health partners and stakeholders continue in the northeast region provinces to assess the required emergency response. The Health Cluster conducted a coordination meeting on May 21st with partners representing IMC, AADA, SCI, SAF, ORCD, World Vision, and NDSR.

### Situation update:

The situation in the flood-affected provinces across northern, western, and northeastern Afghanistan remains critical, necessitating the urgent mobilization of additional resources to address the escalating humanitarian and health needs.

Between May 10th and 23rd of this year, WHO Afghanistan has mobilized over 200 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies from various warehouses to support both mobile and static healthcare delivery points. More than 25 tonnes of essential and lifesaving medicines and medical supplies, including vital kits for various treatment purposes, have been delivered to Ghor Provincial Hospital and mobile health teams to provide care for the vulnerable population in one of the most severely flood-impacted provinces in the northern part of the country.

From May 10th to 20th, 10 Health Cluster partners in the three most affected northeastern provinces of Baghlan, Badakhshan,

and Takhar reached approximately 26,628 people with essential and lifesaving healthcare services, distributed among 16,903 females and 9,725 males.

WHO, health partners, and stakeholders continue to coordinate their response in the affected districts and villages across the impacted provinces. Further repositioning and mobilization of medical supplies and resources are required to alleviate the suffering of the flood-affected communities.

## Epidemiological update:

### 1. Active surveillance in Baghlan:

- A total of 5 Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) deployed to Baghlan reported the below detection of infectious diseases:
    - » 1,073 ARI Pneumonia cases
    - » 957 AWD with dehydration cases
    - » 95 suspected measles cases
    - » 155 suspected COVID-19 cases
  - A total of 99 RDTs were conducted for COVID-19 suspected cases; among which 14 were positive (positivity rate: 14.1%)
  - 19 PCR samples were collected and sent to the laboratory.
- Eight samples were tested, with six testing positive, resulting in a positivity rate of 75.0%. Additional 11 samples are currently under process in the laboratory.
- 8 RDTs were conducted for AWD with dehydration cases; none were positive.
  - 47 samples of suspected measles cases were sent to the laboratory, of which only one tested positive out of 3 samples tested (positivity rate=33.3%). The remaining samples are still under processing, considering the once-a-week testing modality in the laboratory.

Table 1: Number of reported cases of infectious diseases in flood-affected districts of Baghlan province

Diseases	Number of reported cases during 11-22 May 2024						
	Male		Female		Total		
	<5 Years	>5 Years	<5 Years	>5 Years	Male	Female	Total
<b>ARI-Pneumonia</b>	316	215	276	266	531	542	<b>1,073</b>
<b>Suspected measles</b>	50	3	39	3	53	42	<b>95</b>
<b>AWD with dehydration</b>	270	230	206	251	500	457	<b>957</b>
<b>Suspected COVID-19</b>	10	34	18	93	44	111	<b>155</b>
<b>Total</b>	646	482	539	613	1,128	1,152	<b>2,280</b>

### 2. Passive surveillance in the flood-affected provinces:

- The passive surveillance data for Baghlan is the same as shared in the previous report.
- As for other flood-affected provinces, below are the major diseases reported through the indicator-based surveillance system:

Table 2: Number of infectious diseases reported through Indicator-Based Surveillance (IBS) in 5 flood-affected provinces.

Diseases/ Provinces	AWD with dehydration		Suspected measles		ARI-Pneumonia		COVID-19	
	Cumulative 01 Jan - 18 May 2024	Week 20 (12 - 18 May 2024)	Cumulative 01 Jan - 18 May 2024	Week 20 (12 - 18 May 2024)	Cumulative 01 Jan - 18 May 2024	Week 20 (12 - 18 May 2024)	Cumulative 01 Jan - 18 May 2024	Week 20 (12 - 18 May 2024)
Badakhshan <sup>1</sup>	1	0	11	4	1,769	48	7	0
Takhar <sup>2</sup>	0	0	77	11	2,918	77	79	0
Badghis <sup>3</sup>	5	0	9	0	2,048	63	65	7
Ghor <sup>4</sup>	153	1	663	15	5,515	166	0	0
Faryab <sup>5</sup>	169	63	307	32	8,718	297	1	0

<sup>1</sup>Data from 2 districts (Argo and Tashkan)

<sup>2</sup>Data from 2 districts (Chaal and Farkhar)

<sup>3</sup>Data from 4 districts (Jowand, Bala Morghaab, Aab Kamari, and Qades)

<sup>4</sup>Data from 5 districts (Chaarsadah, Cheghcheraan, Doleena, Morghab, and Shahrak)

<sup>5</sup>Data from 5 districts (Almaar, Balcheraagh, Dawlatabad, Maimana, and Qaysaar)

## WHO response:

- On 23 May, 120 metric tonnes of medicines, medical kits, and supplies have been mobilized from WHO Kabul warehouse to Ghor Province.
- Two WHO technical teams have been deployed to two districts of Ghor Province to conduct needs assessments and evaluate the situation in health facilities and surrounding communities.
- As of 23 May, a total of 7476 people in the provinces of Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Takhar have been reached with essential healthcare services. However, the situation in these provinces remains critical, with casualty figures expected to increase as assessment missions and rescue efforts continue.
- The Khawish area in Baghlan province suffered another flood on May 22, causing significant damage to hundreds of houses and vast agricultural land. A joint health assessment team from WHO and the HC partner ORCD visited the area to assess the health needs of the affected community, and the assessment report will be shared shortly.
- On May 23, a WHO mission visited health facilities managed by humanitarian health partners in flood-affected areas, including Kasi SHC, Shakh ha MHT, and Badgah BHC. The team assessed structural and operational capacity of the affected facilities and engaged with staff to understand post-flood challenges.
- WHO's efforts in disease surveillance and coordinating safe drinking water and sanitation are ongoing. Surveillance Support Teams (SST) are mobilized to control waterborne and other communicable diseases in affected regions.
- WHO is continuously monitoring medical resources to ensure the availability of essential medicines, supplies, and consumables in health facilities serving the affected population for the next three months.
- WHO continues its lifesaving response to the flood emergency in northern, western, and northeastern Afghanistan. Emergency teams are deployed to assess access to essential healthcare services for the affected communities with a focus on the most vulnerable population of women, children, and elderly.
- Maintaining regular meetings with Health Cluster partners to coordinate response efforts, engage with partners, and monitor casualties, with strict adherence to safety measures.
- Considering deploying additional MHNTs to ensure continuity of healthcare services in areas where facilities are damaged.



WHO distributes essential medical supplies, including trauma kits and medications, to flood-affected community in Ghor Province.

# Health Cluster response:

## Coordination:

- The Regional HCC and partners participated in i) ICCG meeting; ii) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) meeting; and iii) Operational Coordination Team (OCT) meetings. These meetings revisited the distribution of MHNTs to ensure a coordinated and effective response to flood-affected populations.

## Health Cluster Response activities:

### Northeastern region

- Health Cluster partners including (AADA, AFGA, AKF, AKHS, ARCS, ICRC, IMC, IOM, JACK, MMRCA, MSF, Muslim Hand International, MSI, ORCD, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and WYFA) supported the health response in the flood-affected communities in Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces. This support included deploying 25 MHNTs, ambulances for referral services, medicine, and medical supplies, in addition to assessment field visits.
- Between 10-22 May 2024, HC partners provided health services to a total of 26,628 flood affected people, of which 10,186 females and 5,756 males in the in 3 provinces.
- A total 15,772 individuals received primary health care consultations, approximately 7,095 reached with health promotion activities, 2,231 received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, 1,183 received maternal, newborn, and child health services, and 347 received trauma care services.

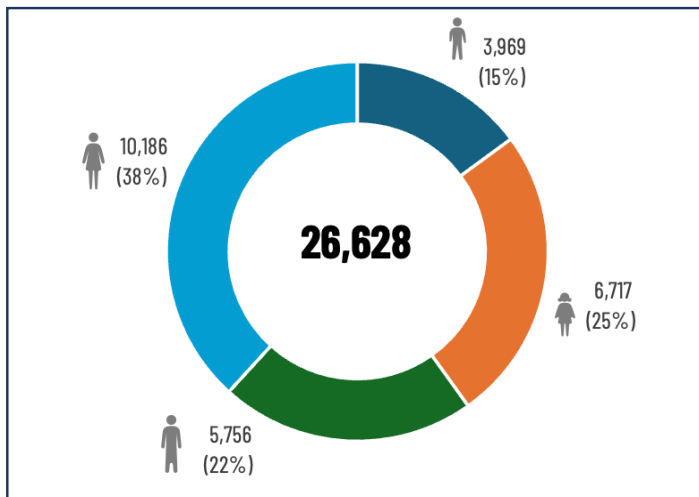


Figure 1: Beneficiaries of the Health Cluster healthcare service delivery in Northeastern region

### Northern region

- Health Cluster partners, including (AADA, ARCS, ORCD, SAF, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and World Vision,) supported health responses to flood-affected communities in Faryab province.
- The Health Cluster partners deployed eight MHNTs in Bilcheragh, Almar, and other districts of Faryab province to deliver primary healthcare services. One static health

facility supported by SAF is providing healthcare services in Almar district.

- Between May 17-22, 2024, Health Cluster partners provided health services to 1,104 flood-affected people in two provinces, including 478 females and 626 males.
- A total of 831 primary healthcare consultations were provided with 168 maternal, newborn, and child health services, 69 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, and 36 health promotion activities.

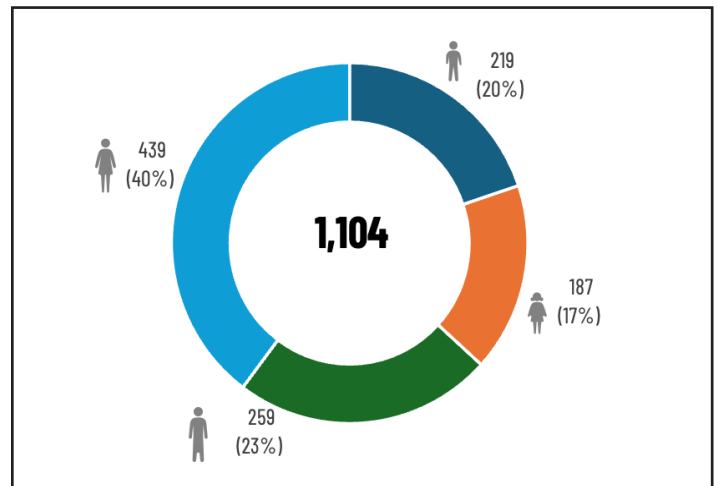


Figure 2: Beneficiaries of the Health Cluster healthcare service delivery in Northern region

### Western region

- Health Cluster partners, including (AADA, ARCS, ACF, BARAN, HNTPO, IRC, MOVE, ORCD, SAF, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and World Vision), supported the health response in Ghor and Badghis provinces by deploying 18 MHNTs, providing medical kits and supplies, and referral services.
- Between May 17-22, 2024, Health Cluster partners provided health services to 4,324 flood-affected people, of which 2,225 were females and 2,099 males.

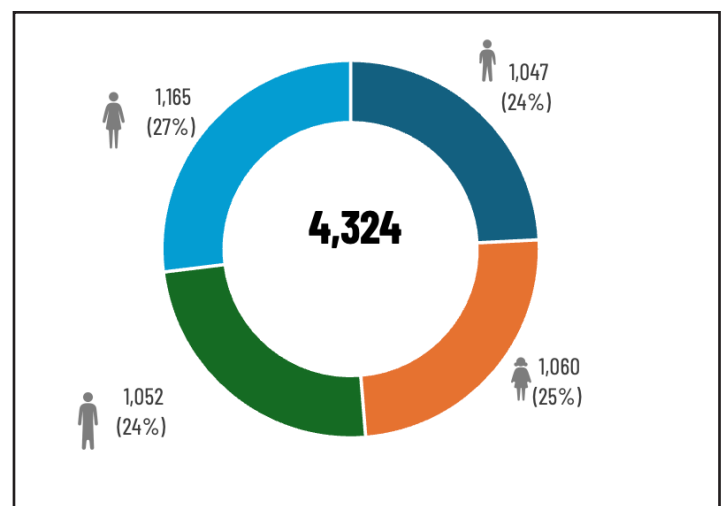


Figure 3: Beneficiaries of the Health Cluster healthcare service delivery in Western region



Implementing partner, ORCD, provides health services in Badakhshan Province, Tashkan district. ©UNFPA

## Serving and nonfunctional health facilities:

As of 23 May 2024, 30 health facilities have been reported as damaged by the floods in the north, west, and northeast regions of Afghanistan.

The table below indicates the non-operational health facilities as of May 23 in the provinces of Ghor and Badghis, broken down by district and type of facility:

Province	District	CHC	BHC	HSC	FHH	TOTAL
Ghor	Morghab	1		6		7
	FirozKoh	1	3	1		5
	Shahrak		2	1	1	4
	Lal o Sarjanganl		2	2		4
	Tay Wara			4		4
	Dolyna			1		1
	Tolk		1		1	2
	Dawlatyar				2	1
Badghis	Jawand	1				1
	Abkamary			1		1
	Bala Morghab				1	1
	Qadis				1	1

## Needs:

- Access to safe drinking water remains a critical need within the community, as emphasized by WHO Afghanistan's technical team and Health Cluster coordination partners during ICG/OCT meetings. Immediate action is required to address this issue.
- Additional support is required for MHNTs in terms of medical supplies and capacity to deliver quality services. WHO's field team is gathering information to determine the type and scale of the required support.
- There is a severe shortage of mental health services and medication in addition to a lack of trained doctors, midwives, and nursing staff.
- Provision of MHPSS services in affected areas and the need to include at least one female health worker or female psychosocial counselor in each response team is essential, as the affected population is predominantly women and children.
- Significant challenges in accessibility due to the destruction of the main roads and bridges necessitate alternative transportation methods to reach isolated flood-affected areas with essential supplies.
- The need for enhancing the referral system, including upgrading ambulance capabilities, is crucial to saving the lives of vulnerable individuals by ensuring timely access to healthcare services.
- There is a need for coordination of water quality monitoring in affected areas, including joint assessments with WASH, to check for waterborne and infectious diseases.



*IOM MHT Team providing MHPSS counseling. © IOM*



*Provision of primary health care services to the affected people in Baghlan province. © AKHS*

## Challenges:

- The shortage of safe drinking water in health facilities and across affected areas may result in exacerbating the spread of waterborne diseases, placing additional strain on the already overwhelmed healthcare infrastructure.
- As of 23 May, 6 districts of Takhar Provinces northeast region have been affected by the heavy rainfall. Many villages across these districts are still inaccessible.
- Inadequate financial resources are hindering the deployment of additional mobile teams and ambulances in flood-impacted regions.
- Gap in availability of disaggregated data by sex and age within households.
- Damage of medical and non-medical equipment and non-availability of space for health service delivery in affected HFs.
- Limited health education activities and lack of community awareness regarding communicable diseases are significant obstacles to effective response and recovery efforts.



*Delivering Health Services by MHTs in Feroz Koh. © Bu Ali Rehabilitation and Aid Network (BARAN)*

**For more information about WHO's work in flooding, contact:**

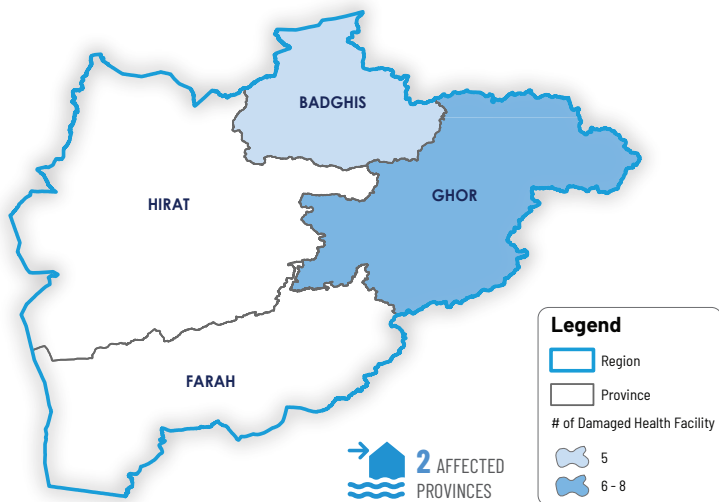
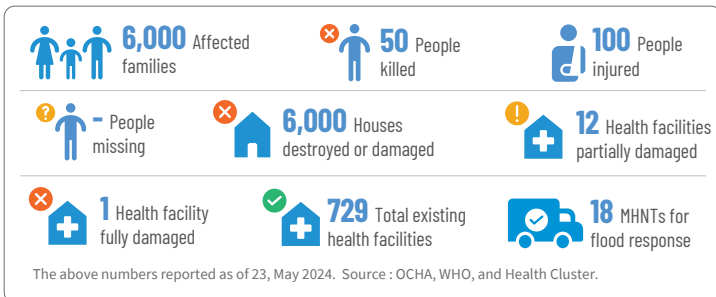
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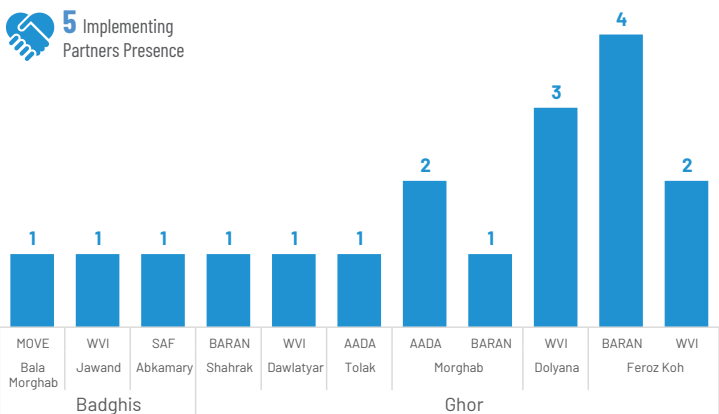
**Mr Mohamed Kakay**, External Relations & Partnerships Lead, WHO Afghanistan, Email: [kakaym@who.int](mailto:kakaym@who.int)

**Dr Shah Mansoor Staniczai**, OIC, Health Cluster, WHO Afghanistan, Email: [staniczais@who.int](mailto:staniczais@who.int)

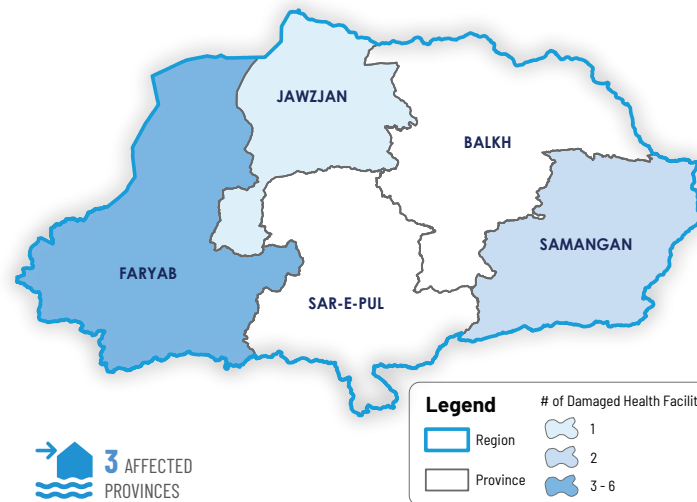
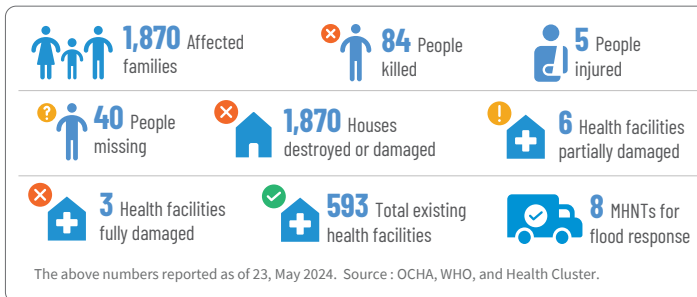
### WESTERN



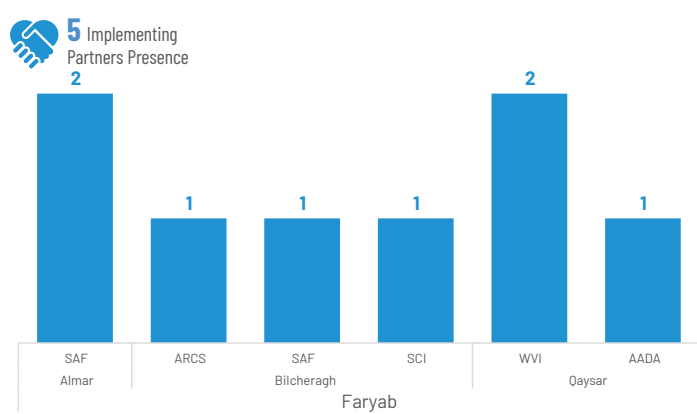
NUMBER OF MHNs BY PROVINCE, DISTRICT, and ORGANIZATION



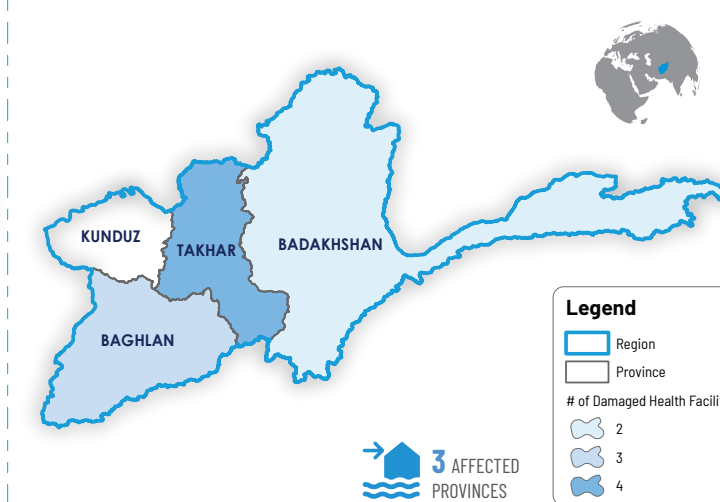
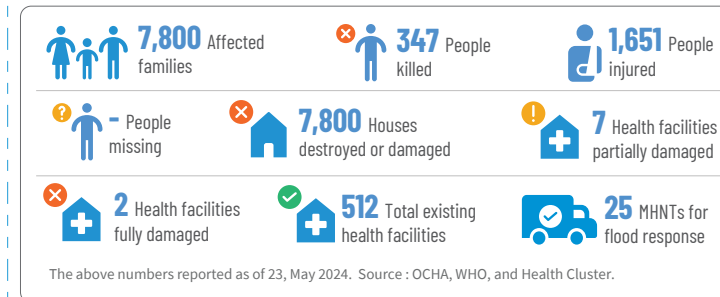
### NORTHERN



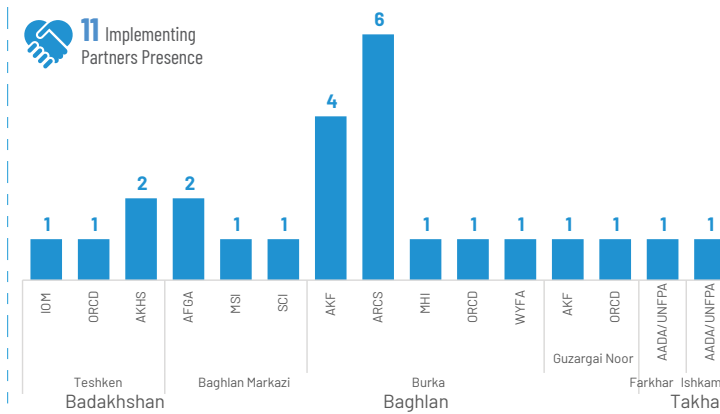
NUMBER OF MHNs BY PROVINCE, DISTRICT, and ORGANIZATION



### NORTH EASTERN



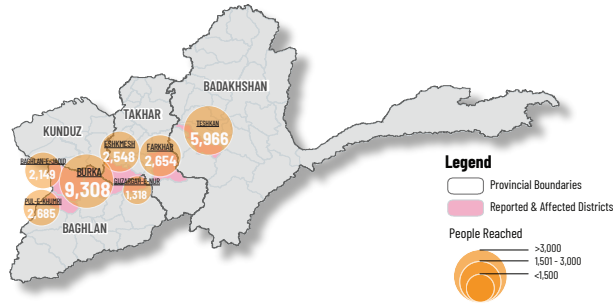
NUMBER OF MHNs BY PROVINCE, DISTRICT, and ORGANIZATION



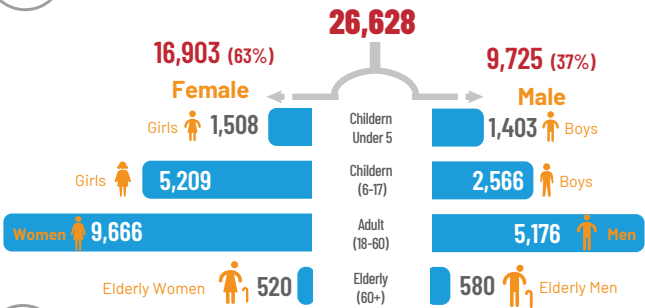


## NORTH - EASTERN REGION

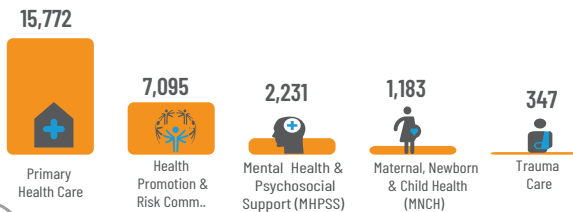
On **10 and 11 May**, heavy rainfall led to fast-flowing water and flash floods in north-eastern Afghanistan **affecting 21 districts** across **Baghlan** (Baghlani Jadid, Burka, Dahnai Ghor, Doshi, Guzargah Noor, Jelga, Khost, Nahrin, Pul-i Khumri and Tala wa Barfak), **Badakhshan** (Darwaz, Kishem Tagab, Teshkan and Yawan) and **Takhar** (Chall, Farkhar, Ishkamish, Kalafgan, Namak Ab and Taluqan).



### PEOPLE REACHED BY AGE AND GENDER



### PEOPLE REACHED BY ACTIVITY



### REPORTING PARTNERS AND COVERAGE

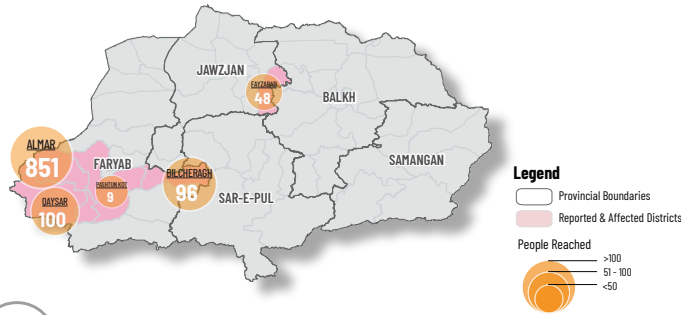


**Note:** The figures reflect data from partners who have reported their presence and activities to the Health Cluster 4Ws flood response.

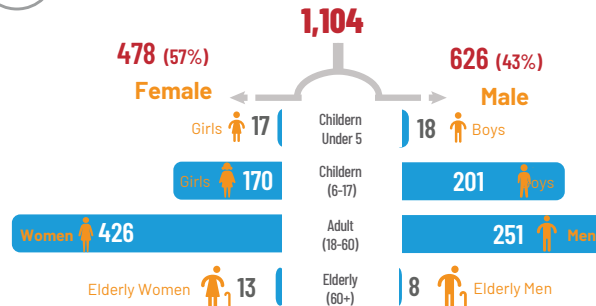
**12 Health Cluster partners** in the flood response through 4Ws: AADA, AFGA ARCS, AKHSA, IOM, JACK, ORCD, SCI, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WYFA.

## NORTHERN REGION

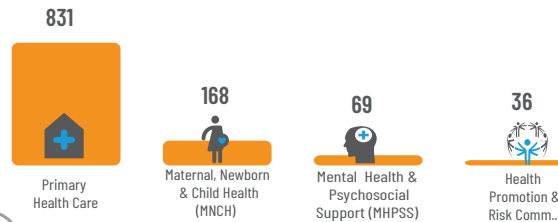
On **17 and 18 May**, heavy rainfall led to flash floods in the Northern region of Afghanistan, **impacting 8 districts** in **Faryab** province (Almar, Bilcheragh, Chehlgazi, Dawlatabad, Khaibar, Maimana, Pashtun Kot and Qaysar districts).



### PEOPLE REACHED BY AGE AND GENDER



### PEOPLE REACHED BY ACTIVITY



### REPORTING PARTNERS AND COVERAGE

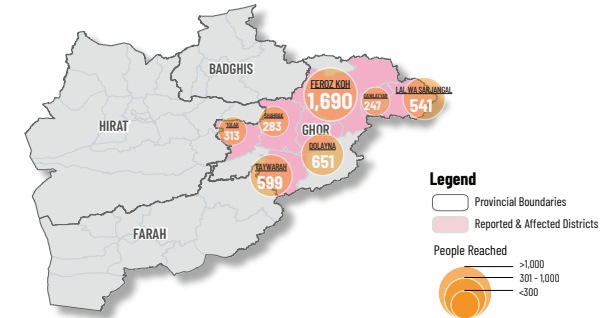


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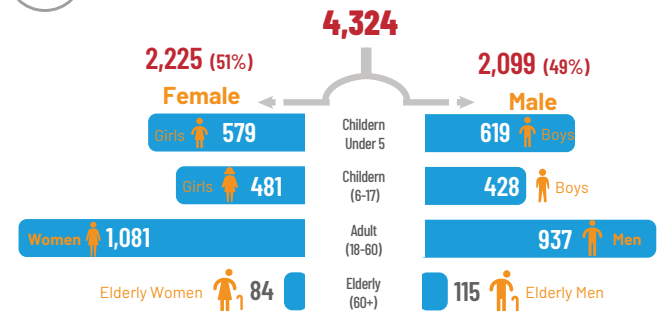
**6 Health Cluster partners** in the flood response through 4Ws: AADA, ORCD SAF, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO

## WESTERN REGION

On **17 and 18 May**, heavy rainfall led to flash floods in the Western region of Afghanistan, **impacting 10 districts** in **Ghor** province (Charsada, Dawlatyar, Dolayna, Ferozkoh, Lal Wa Sarjantal, Murghab, Pasaband, Saghar, Shahrak, and Tolak districts).



### PEOPLE REACHED BY AGE AND GENDER



### PEOPLE REACHED BY ACTIVITY



### REPORTING PARTNERS AND COVERAGE



**Note:** The figures reflect data from partners who have reported their presence and activities to the Health Cluster 4Ws flood response.

**2 Health Cluster partner** in the flood response through 4Ws: BARAN, WHO