

KEY UPDATES:

- ◆ Outbreaks of measles, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), rabies and increased number of diarrhoeal diseases have been reported during June 2015
- ◆ All disease outbreaks have been effectively responded to by the preventive and curative departments of the Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with WHO and other health partners
- ◆ Three major mass casualty incidents were reported in Kabul (2) and Helmand (1) provinces in June
- ◆ Due to the increasing number of mass casualty incidents, mass casualty management (MCM) capacity building activities have been prioritised during June
- ◆ Continuing conflict in the country has increased the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) around Kabul, Helmand, Kandahar and Kunduz provinces

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ◆ WHO technical team visited Herat to assess and support CCHF outbreak response capacity in the Western region; WHO conducted a training for 30 staff members at the Herat regional hospital on infection prevention for viral haemorrhagic fevers
- ◆ WHO extended support to SHRDO NGO to operate three mobile health teams providing primary healthcare services for 24,920 IDPs living in informal settlements in Kabul (PD5, PD8, PD10, PD15 and Paghman district)
- ◆ To strengthen mass casualty management capacity in hospitals in high-risk provinces, MCM simulation exercises were conducted in Qarabagh and Charasyab districts of Kabul province. Around 40 hospital and 30 pre-hospital staff participated in each exercise
- ◆ WHO conducted regional training on prevention and control of pertussis, brucellosis, and environmental health monitoring for 36 provincial health officers from Ghazni, Khost, Paktika and Paktia provinces to improve their capacity to prevent and control pertussis and brucellosis outbreaks
- ◆ Under the flood contingency plan, WHO supplied 41 IEHK basic unit kits, six IEHK Supplementary kits, five DDK kits to all 34 provinces and seven WHO sub offices which will cover 151,350 beneficiaries. Moreover, five trauma kits A&B, 41 Pneumonia Kit A+B and loose medicines for 50,000 beneficiaries were supplied to high-risk provinces during June
- ◆ World Blood Donor Day was celebrated around the country with intensified blood donation campaigns and activities; WHO also provided blood bank equipment and supplies to high-risk provinces, including Khost, Paktika, Nangarhar, Kunar, Paktia and Logar



A woman suffering from CCHF receiving treatment in the Herat regional hospital



Infection prevention training for Herat regional hospital staff



A triaged and stabilized survivor of a mass casualty incident during a simulation exercise in Qarabagh District Hospital

MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS:

- ◆ CCHF outbreaks in Herat, Badghis and Nangarhar provinces have emerged as major public health threats during June
- ◆ Measles outbreaks have been reported from Paktika, Zabul, Bamyan, Wardak and Nuristan provinces during June despite the first phase of measles campaign being completed in Kandahar, Helmand, Khost and Paktia
- ◆ There was an increase of 17 percent in reported acute watery diarrhoeal disease cases in June 2015 compared to the previous month
- ◆ Three human rabies outbreaks have been reported from Wardak and Logar provinces during the month
- ◆ Mass casualty incidents are increasing, with three major incidents reported this month



A child is being checked by SHRDO doctor in a mobile health clinic operating in a Kabul Informal Settlement



World Blood Donor Day was celebrated in June to highlight the need for more voluntary blood donations in Afghanistan

KEY MESSAGES:

- ◆ Improving isolation facilities and practicing standard infection prevention procedures in referral hospitals are crucial for the prevention of nosocomial infections and spread of CCHF
- ◆ Hygiene promotion and improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities should be given high priority during the coming months
- ◆ Continuous trainings and simulation exercises would improve mass casualty management capacity in high-risk provinces

Zoonotic diseases have emerged as a major health threat during the summer in Afghanistan

Programme Update
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