



UNICEF Afghanistan

Northern Region Flash Floods Update #1

unicef 
for every child

20 May 2024

Situation Overview

- On 10 and 11 May, heavy rainfall and flash floods struck northeastern Afghanistan, affecting 21 districts across Badakhshan (5), Baghlan (10) and Takhar (6) provinces. To date, reports suggest that 180 people have been confirmed killed and 280 injured¹. Among the most affected districts are Burka and Baghlani Jadid in Baghlan Province where 80 per cent of deaths have been recorded. Rising water levels continue to be reported in a total of 6 districts of Baghlan province (Baghlani Jadid, Nahrin, Burka, Pul Khumri, Dahan e Ghorri Doshi and Guzargah Noor, district). The weekend's rains have caused the largest flooding event in Afghanistan so far this year. Prior to this flooding episode, 30,055 people (4,095 families) had been affected by floods across the country, mainly in the southern and western regions. Preliminary reports suggest that during the period 16-17 May, over 2,500 families were also affected by flooding in Ghor Province.
- UNICEF Emergency Response Teams are on the ground supporting ongoing immediate interventions in the affected areas through water trucking, provision of essential supplies including hygiene kits, family kits, blankets, tarpaulin, and multi-purpose cash. Plans are underway to scale up ongoing health, WASH, education, nutrition, child protection, social behaviour change and emergency cash transfer interventions in the affected areas. UNICEF is also developing a costed response plan primarily focusing on the most flood affected provinces in the northern and western regions.



UNICEF Response

Health and Nutrition

- To date, the UNICEF-supported health teams have treated a total of 11,429² people (48 per cent children). The flooding has had a significant impact on women and children. UNICEF continues to provide health care services in the affected areas through mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs). Five tents have also been provided to augment the existing health facilities and to be used by the mobile health teams. The tents will be used primarily for providing women, adolescents, and children access to reproductive and child health services.
- Four health and nutrition sites are providing health services in Shaikhjalal, Folol, Saye Hazara and Gharoo villages of Baghlani Jadid, Burka and Guzargah Noor districts (Baghlan province).
- UNICEF continues to provide supplies in the flood affected areas including acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) periphery kits, medicines, multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) tablets for pregnant women, deworming tablets for children under five years old, vitamin A tablets and measuring boards and scales were also delivered in the most flood affected areas.
- Prior to the onset of the emergency, UNICEF had prepositioned 37,615 bottles of MMS tables (100 tablets/bottle) and 12,649 packs of Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets (100 tablets/pack), in addition to 959 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) to the health facilities in the flood affected areas. The supplies are sufficient for 1,000 children affected by severe wasting.

¹ OCHA Flash Updates #2 Floods hit Northeastern Afghanistan, 16 May 2024.

² Total 3,657 women and 5,486 children out of 11,429 people treated from UNICEF supported health facilities (Shaikhjalal BHC, Folol BHC, Saye Hazara SHC and Gharoo CHC) Baghlan Jadid, Burka and Goozargahee Noor district of Baghlan province.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- To date, UNICEF has reached 22,050 people with safe drinking water through water trucking in 3 flood affected districts/villages in Baghlan and Takhar provinces. An average of 330,750 litres of safe drinking water is distributed every day, with each person receiving 15 litre per day as per Sphere standards.
- Since the beginning of the response 2,656 people have been reached with hygiene promotion messages and 1,500 households have received WASH critical supplies (hygiene kits, soap, bucket, and jerry cans) in Baghlan, and Badakhshan provinces.



Education and Child Protection

- UNICEF has despatched 20 high performance tents (HPTs) and 200 floormats for use in community-based education classes (CBEs) to its implementing partner Asia Community Development Organization (ACDO). UNICEF will provide an additional 78 HPTs, 161 floormats, 80 whiteboards and markers, 137 teacher kits and 227 students kits to 23 public schools affected by flooding in four districts of Baghlan province.
- UNICEF has provided support to three flood affected CBEs enabling children to resume their learning in the most flood affected districts. These classes are accommodating 85 children (45 girls and 40 boys) in Sheikh Jalal and Karkar villages in Baghlani Jadid and Puli Khumri districts in Baghlan province.
- To date, 900 people (70% children) have received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and information on wellbeing and explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) through UNICEF supported Implementing Partners. In addition, 180 children (50% girls) are attending three established child friendly spaces (CFS) integrated with CBE classes, managed by UNICEF partners. 312 children's clothing kits, 2,000 MHPSS leaflets, one tent, seven recreational kits, 1,500 baby blankets, 500 TLMs are currently being distributed in the CFSs.
- A Child Protection Area of Responsibility rapid assessment was conducted during the reporting period, preliminary results show that 554 children (290 girls and 264 boys) are in need of child protection services. Plans are underway to train 500 Community Health Workers to provide MHPSS support to the affected populations.

Cash assistance

- UNICEF has activated the internal cash-based Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) which will ensure immediate lifesaving support to 3,000 households in three of the most affected districts (Baghlani Jadid, Burka, Guzargah Noor) with one-off multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) of US\$ 312 to cover basic needs for a period of two months. The amount is in line with the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) recommendation for the transfer value during sudden onset emergencies.
- As of 18 of May, a total of 499 Households in Baghlani Jadid district in Baghlan province received cash assistance in a joint distribution exercise with UN agencies and NGOs.



Social and behaviour change, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- Social mobilizers disseminated lifesaving messages on water treatment, personal hygiene to prevent water borne diseases among flood affected communities in Baghlani Jadid, Burka, Puli Khumri, and Dahni Ghori districts reaching a total of 3,205 individuals.
- As part of accountability to affected people, through established community engagement feedback centres (CEFCs) and a field visit, social mobilizers recorded 277 feedbacks from the affected communities in Baghlani jaded and Dahni Ghori districts of Baghlan province. Plans are underway to finalize the analysis of the feedback.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy

- Through Nutrition Cluster partners support, 55 children with severe wasting, 192 children with moderate wasting and 138 pregnant and lactating women were admitted into the treatment programme in the flood affected areas in Baghlan province. In addition, 850 children under five years benefited from the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in Baghlan province, 119 children in Badakhshan province, and 193 children in Takhar province. 3 WASH cluster partners including UNICEF have provided safe drinking water to over 1,900 households in Burka district. 2,259 hygiene kits were distributed by WASH cluster partners in Baghlani Jadid and Burka districts. In addition, 15,813 individuals received hygiene promotion in Baghlani Jadid, Dahni Ghor, and Puli Khumri Districts (Baghlan province). Results from preliminary assessments conducted by Education cluster Partners show that 23 public schools and 21 CBE classes were destroyed by flooding in Baghlan province. Preliminary results from the CPAoR rapid assessment show that 554 children (290 girls and 264 boys) are in need of child protection services. Plans are underway to train 500 Community Health Workers to provide MHPSS support to the affected populations.

UNICEF Planned Response

- Scale up of health and nutrition services with focus on screening and treatment of children with wasting.
- Scale up provision of sanitation services including family hygiene kits and the provision of latrine slabs.
- Expanding capacity of child friendly spaces and community-based education.
- Enhancing the capacity of SBC social mobilizer and community structures through orientation sessions and further dissemination of lifesaving messages through a variety of platforms.
- UNICEF is developing a response plan that will continue to emphasise immediate needs however will also consider early recovery efforts.

Gaps and Challenges

- Road damages in some of the most flood affected districts are posing challenges for humanitarian partners to reach the most vulnerable populations. It is key to note that essential supplies cannot be transported through the road network in in Guzargahe Noor district (Baghlan province).
- There is a need for unearmarked flexible funds to scale up the ongoing interventions as well the first steps to transition to recovery interventions to meet the humanitarian and basic needs of the vulnerable populations affected by the current flooding episodes as well as other multiple shocks. An immediate scale up of critical and lifesaving WASH interventions is needed to reduce the risk of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera in the flood affected communities.

Who to contact for further information:

Dr. Tajudeen Oyewale
Representative
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 79 995 7108
Email: toyewale@unicef.org

Mr. Abdulkadir Musse
Chief of Field Service
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 79 998 7131
Email: amusse@unicef.org

Mr. Daniel Timme
Chief of Communication
UNICEF Afghanistan
Tel: +93 79 998 7110
Email: dtimme@unicef.org