



26 May 2024

UNICEF Afghanistan

Northern and Western Region Flash Floods Update # 2



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 347 people are confirmed killed and 1,651 injured¹. Approximately 7,800 homes were either destroyed or damaged, leaving over 5,000 families displaced according to the de facto Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation. In addition to damaged or destroyed roads, bridges, health facilities and public schools, agricultural land and livestock were also lost.
- Between 16 and 17 May 2024, Ghor province experienced heavy rains and flash floods that affected 10 districts², with Murghab being the most affected. Reports suggest that 40 people were killed, including 10 children; 20 people are missing and 49 are injured. Preliminary reports indicate that over 410 families' homes were destroyed or partially damaged, 27 health and nutrition facilities were destroyed or partially damaged, and 62 schools are severely damaged³.
- On 17 May, Faryab province was also affected by flash flooding impacting 9 districts⁴. Preliminary reports suggest that 62 people were killed and 18 people were injured. In addition, 1,890 houses were damaged or destroyed, and three health facilities and 23 schools were impacted.⁵
- UNICEF Emergency Response Teams are on the ground supporting ongoing interventions in the affected areas. These interventions include water trucking and providing essential supplies including hygiene kits, family kits, blankets, tarpaulins, floor mats, teaching and learning materials, and High-Performance Tents to allow educational services to resume.



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UNICEF Response

Health and Nutrition

- The floods had a significant impact on women and children. In the Northern Region, UNICEF-supported health teams have treated a total of 17,915 people, 48 per cent of whom are children. UNICEF continues to provide healthcare services in affected areas through mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs). Five tents were provided to augment existing health facilities and to be used by MHNTs. The tents will primarily be used to provide reproductive and child healthcare for women, adolescents, and children. Four health facilities which had suspended services due to flooding in Baghlan are now fully operational.
- UNICEF continues providing acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) periphery kits, medicines, multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) for pregnant women, deworming tablets for children under five years, vitamin A tablets, and measuring boards and scales to screen children for malnutrition in the flood affected areas.

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

² Charsada, Dawlatyar, Dolaina, Ferozkoh, Lal Wa Sarjantal, Murghab, Passband, Saghar, Shahrak, and Tolak districts

³ Sources of data include, Provincial Disaster Management Committee reports and inter-agency rapid assessment reports.

⁴ Pashtunkot, Khaiber, Dawlat Abad, Bilcheragh, Almar, Qaisar, Chehlgazi, Khuwaja Musa and Maymana district.

⁵ OCHA response tracking sheet. Faryab province.

- A total of 73 children in flood-affected areas have been identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and admitted for treatment.
- In the Western Region, six MHNTs were deployed to 4 districts⁶ to provide emergency health services in the most affected areas, including Murghab district where an increase in AWD cases was reported. Through its partner, UNICEF provided 11 ambulances operating throughout Ghor province to transfer injured people to nearby hospitals.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF has provided a total of 22,050 people with safe drinking water through water trucking in three flood-affected districts 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 received critical WASH supplies (hygiene kits, soap, buckets and jerry cans) in Baghlan and Badakhshan provinces.
- UNICEF also distributed hygiene kits, which include WASH consumables to 69 households (around 483 individuals) in Chaghcharan/Feroz Koh district, and supported hygiene promotion for the affected communities. UNICEF has distributed a one-month supply of water purification tablets to the same households.



Hygiene promotion sessions conducted for men and women include information on personal hygiene like handwashing with soap at appropriate times, safe water storage, and maintaining a hygienic

Education and Child Protection

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF helped resume educational services for 150 students (80 girls and 70 boys) enrolled in community-based education (CBE) classes by installing five High-Performance Tents and floor mats in four districts⁷ where CBE classes had been destroyed by flooding.
- A recent rapid assessment for child protection needs indicates that 554 children (290 girls and 264 boys) affected by the floods still need child protection services in the Northern Region.
- A total of 2,100 people (60 per cent children) received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and information on wellbeing and explosive ordinance risk education (EORE). In addition, 180 children (50 per cent girls) are attending three child-friendly spaces (CFS) integrated with CBE classes. UNICEF distributed 312 children's clothing kits, 2,000 MHPSS informational leaflets, one tent, seven recreational kits and 1,500 baby blankets. UNICEF is distributed 500 teaching and learning materials through CFS.
- In the Western Region, UNICEF established two child-friendly spaces in Madrasa and Badgah villages in Chaghcharan/Feroz Koh district, Ghor province.

Cash assistance

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF activated its internal cash-based Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), providing immediate and life-saving cash assistance to 1,136 households in Baghlan-e-Jadid district, the most affected district in the region. Each household received one-off multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) equal to US\$ 312 to cover basic needs for a period of two months. This amount is in line with the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) recommendation for the transfer value during sudden onset emergencies.
- An RRM was activated in the Western Region. The response was delayed due to access challenges, however on 25 May, UNICEF provided life-saving cash assistance to 110 households in two villages of Ferozkoh district.

⁶ Ferozkoh, Tulak, Shahrak and Murghab.

⁷ Pul-i-Khumri, Baghlan-e-Jadid, Dahn Ghor, and Burka districts of Baghlan province.

Social and behaviour change, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

- In the Northern Region, social mobilizers shared life-saving messages on water treatment and personal hygiene to prevent waterborne diseases in seven districts⁸ in Baghlan and Takhar provinces, reaching 12,262 people (8,128 in Baghlan and 4,528 in Takhar).
- As part of UNICEF's Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), through established Community Engagement and Feedback Centres, social mobilizers recorded 623 instances of feedback (364 in Baghlan and 259 in Takhar). This feedback will be referred to relevant UNICEF programme staff and addressed as needed.
- UNICEF-supported social mobilizers provided MHPSS services and disseminated messages on protection, psychosocial well-being, and prevention and treatment of mental health conditions for 1,106 people in Baghlan province.
- Around 40,000 information, education and communication materials in Pashto and Dari were dispatched to Baghlan and Takhar provinces.
- In the Western Region, social mobilizers support delivery of key positive behaviour change messages on water treatment, personal hygiene, and prevention of waterborne diseases, reaching a total of 1,580 individuals in Ghor province. As part of accountability to affected people, social mobilizers recorded 150 feedbacks from flood affected communities in Ghor province. Plans are underway to finalize the analysis of the feedback.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy (Clusters)

- In the Northern Region, Nutrition Cluster partners supported 73 children for treatment of severe wasting and 305 children with moderate wasting. A total of 191 pregnant and lactating women were admitted for treatment of malnutrition in flood-affected areas in Baghlan province. In addition, 850 children under five benefited from the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) in Baghlan province, 119 children in Badakhshan province, and 193 children in Takhar province.



- Three WASH cluster partners, including UNICEF, provided safe drinking water to over 1,900 households in Burka district, Baghlan province. A total of 2,259 hygiene kits were distributed in Baghlan-e-Jadid and Burka districts. In addition, 15,813 individuals participated in hygiene promotion sessions across three districts in Baghlan province.
- In the Western Region, sub-national education cluster partners reported that 110 CBE classes were damaged or destroyed (22 destroyed, 89 partially damaged). Of the affected CBEs, education cluster partners reported that 31 classes have resumed since the beginning of the floods. The Provincial Education Department (PED) reported that 76 public schools throughout Ghor were damaged and require rehabilitation.
- The sub-national nutrition cluster in the Western Region deployed 12 MHNTs to Chaghcharan/Feroz Koh, Murghab, Tulak, Dolaina and Shahrak districts in Ghor province to screen, identify, treat or refer children affected by wasting.

UNICEF Planned Response

In the Northern Region:

- Preposition AWD kits in Baghlan and Faryab provinces.
- Provide teaching and learning materials and support rehabilitation of 23 public schools.
- Conduct an orientation session for social mobilizers and community structures for further dissemination of lifesaving messages.

In the Western Region:

- Establish child-friendly spaces and resume CBE classes.
- Conduct assessment of damaged WASH infrastructure, including water supply systems and sanitation facilities, to determine necessary support for rehabilitation.

⁸Baghlan Province-Baghlani Jadid, Burka, Puli Khumri, Dahni Ghori districts. Takhar province-Chal, Eshkamish and Namakab districts.

- Expand the coverage of water trucking interventions to ensure that each person receives a minimum of 15 litres/person per day for drinking and hygiene purposes, in-line with the sphere standards.

Gaps and Challenges

- In both the Northern and Western Region, an immediate scale up of critical and lifesaving WASH interventions is needed to reduce the risk of AWD and cholera in flood-affected communities as prior to the flooding, the affected provinces were endemic to AWD/Cholera.
- In the Western Region, there is limited accessibility to the most flood-affected districts, which impacts joint assessments and provision of essential supplies.
- Humanitarian partners have reported challenges in securing exemptions for female aid workers to participate in and conduct joint assessments in Ghor. There is a need for concerted advocacy efforts to ensure that female health aid workers across all the sectors support ongoing response interventions and reach the most vulnerable women and children.

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