



UNICEF Afghanistan

Northern and Western Region Flash Floods Update # 3



6 June 2024

Situation Overview

- According to the latest UN assessments¹, over 4,200 households in 155 villages are in need of humanitarian assistance in Ghor province due to Flash flooding. According to preliminary reports 27 health and nutrition facilities were destroyed or partially damaged², 62 schools were severely damaged and 73 water supply networks were damaged in the same province.
- In the Northern Region, approximately 7,800 homes were destroyed or damaged, leading to the displacement of over 5,000 families. In addition, 8 health facilities, and 21 public schools were damaged. A second wave of flash floods was reported in Baghlan province on 26 May impacting 3 districts³, resulting in 5 fatalities, 6 injuries, and the destruction of 587 houses. Ten flood-impacted health facilities (8 in Baghlan and 2 in Faryab) provinces resumed services during the reporting period.

UNICEF Response

Health & Nutrition

Northern Region

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF-supported health teams have treated a total of 23,941 people, 45 per cent of whom are children. UNICEF continues to provide healthcare services in affected areas through six 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. A 3-day training workshop on community-based healthcare (CBHC) targeting community health supervisors was conducted during the reporting period in Baghlan province. The training will enable 42 community health supervisors to provide health education and awareness on disease prevention and promote immunization at community levels in flood affected areas.
- To date, 2026 primary care givers of children 0-24 month received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling, 190 children diagnosed with severe wasting, 845 children diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 325 pregnant and lactating women diagnosed with MAM were admitted to the relevant treatment programme. Three children diagnosed with SAM with medical complications were referred to the in-patient care service in Nahrin District Hospital, Baghlan Province in the Northern Region.

Western Region

- In the Western Region, 6,510 individuals, including women, children, and adolescents, received primary healthcare services through UNICEF-supported health facilities and mobile health and nutrition teams (MHNTs). Among those provided with healthcare services, 52 children under one year old were vaccinated against measles, and 464 people were given Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) sachets in eight flood-affected districts⁴.

¹ OCHA, Multi-Sectoral Rapid Need Assessment, 3 June 2024.

² Ferozkoh (27), Dawlat Yar (13), Charsada (10), Dolina (6), Sharak (9), and Tulak (8)

³ Doshi, Deh Salah & Pul_e_Khumri

⁴ Feroz Koh, Murghab, Shahrak, Tolak, Pasaband, Lal Wa Sarjangal, Charsada, and Dawlatyar.

- To date, 1,065 children aged 6-59 months have been screened for wasting in the western region among them, 47 children suffering from severe wasting were admitted for treatment. Additionally, 1,075 caregivers received maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) counselling services, 115 children received vitamin A supplements and 197 children were enrolled in the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme, and 151 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) were enrolled also in the MAM programme in the most flood-affected districts.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Northern Region:

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF has been reaching 10,710 people with safe drinking water through water trucking in four flood-affected districts in Baghlan and Takhar provinces since 16 May 2024. An average of 158,000 litres of safe drinking water is distributed every day, at a rate of 15 litres per person per day in accordance with Sphere standards. Since the beginning of the response 2,656 people have been reached with hygiene promotion messages and 1,759 households in Baghlan have received critical WASH supplies (hygiene kits, soap, buckets and jerry cans). 176 families in Badakhshan, Jawzjan, Samangan and Kunduz provinces have also received critical WASH supplies.
- 237 squatting plates, and 237 plastic tarpaulins were distributed to flood affected households for the construction of pit latrines in Baghlan-e-Jadid district. Four water bladders were also installed in Burka district, in Arbab Noor Mohammad Flol village and in the Flol clinic. Two additional bladders were installed in Baghlan-e-Jadid district, Sheikh Jalal and Qaramqul villages, benefitting 4,200 people.

Western Region:

- In the Western Region, UNICEF, through its implementing and cluster partners, distributed critical WASH supplies (hygiene kits, water kits⁵, and water purification tablets) to 1,356 families (around 9,492 individuals) in Frezokoh, Dolaina, Charsada, and Dawlatyar districts. Additionally, UNICEF is providing safe drinking water to approximately 17,600 individuals each day, with each beneficiary receiving 10 litres per day in Frezokoh district. In addition, three water bladders, one 5,000-litre and two 1,500-litre, have been installed in two flood-affected villages in Chaghcharan to ensure proper distribution of drinking water to the communities.

Education and Child Protection

Northern Region:

- In the Northern Region, UNICEF supported the resumption of educational services for 377 students (187 girls and 190 boys) enrolled in community-based education (CBE) classes by installing 7 high performance tents (HPTs) and 14 floor mats in four districts⁶ where CBE classes had been destroyed or damaged by flash floods in Baghlan province.
- Through Child Protection interventions, a total of 2,164 people (60 per cent children) received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and information on wellbeing and explosive ordinance risk education (EORE). In addition, 540 children (50 per cent girls) are attending nine child-friendly spaces (CFS) integrated with CBE classes.
- UNICEF distributed 312 children's clothing kits, 2,000 MHPSS informational leaflets, 14 tents, seven recreational kits and 1,500 baby blankets and 120 hygiene kits to the children and their families organized in the CFSs. UNICEF also distributed 500 teaching and learning materials through CFSs.



Children playing volleyball in the newly established child friendly space (CFS) in the flood-affected village in Ferozkoh. © UNICEF/Naftalin

⁵ Soap bars, shampoo, toothpaste, towel, sanitary pads, hair shampoo, aftaba, etc.

⁶ Burka, Baghlan_e_Jadid, Pul_e_Khumri and Dahan_e_Ghori

- 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 Baghlan province.

Western Region:

- In the Western Region, to date, 32,700 students received Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) in the ten flood-affected districts⁷ of Ghor province. The TLMs included 1,635 student kits, 643 teacher kits, and 635 public school kits. Two child-friendly spaces were established in Badgah and Madrasa villages in Ferozkoh district of Ghor province and are providing psychosocial support and recreational activities.
- 609 people received individual counselling and group psychosocial support in different flood-affected districts of Ghor province. Additionally, 18 children separated from their parents were identified and followed up to ensure they are cared for by their extended family members. One specialized MHPSS psychiatrist and four psychosocial counsellors were deployed to provide psychosocial support at Ghor Provincial Hospital.

Cash-Based Rapid Response Mechanism

Northern Region:

- 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.

Western Region:

- To address the acute humanitarian needs of the flood-affected people in Ghor, UNICEF activated the RRM and commenced the provision of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to flood affected households. To date, 609 households (approximately 4,260 individuals), including 73 female-headed households, have received cash assistance in 44 villages in Ferozkoh District.

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

Northern Region

- In the Northern Region, social mobilizers shared life-saving messages on water treatment and personal hygiene to prevent waterborne diseases in eleven districts⁸ in Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, reaching 19,007 people (8,536 in Baghlan 5,728 in Takhar and 4,743 in Badakhshan Provinces) including 9,238 Men, 4,375 Women, 2,362 Boys, 3,032 Girls in all three provinces.
- As part of UNICEF's Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), through established Community Engagement and Feedback Centres, social mobilizers recorded 730 instances of feedback (410 in Baghlan and 320 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 to 1,266 people in Baghlan province. Around 40,000 information, education and communication materials in Pashto and Dari were dispatched to Baghlan and Takhar provinces.

Western Region

- In the Western Region, social mobilizers supported the delivery of key positive behaviour changes messages on water treatment, personal hygiene, and prevention of waterborne diseases, reaching a total of 1,580 individuals in Ghor province.

⁷ Charsada, Dawlatyar, Dolaina, Ferozkoh, Law Wa Sarjangan, Pasaband, Saghar, Shahrak, Taywara and Tolak

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

- 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 and provincial extenders supported the delivery of key positive behaviour change messages on water treatment, personal hygiene, and the prevention of waterborne diseases, reaching a total of 2,918 individuals, including 924 men, 1,018 women, 494 boys, and 482 girls.
- Additionally, 15,000 leaflets and 2,500 booklets containing key positive behaviour messages in Pashto and Dari were distributed to the flood-affected communities. Around 11,000 water purification tablets, along with the necessary instructions for use, were provided to these communities to ensure safe drinking water. As part of accountability to affected people, social mobilizers recorded 375 feedback responses from 25 communities in Ghor, with most of the feedback highlighting the community's needs for shelter, drinking water, food, and latrines.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy (Clusters)

Northern Region

- To date, Nutrition Cluster partners in the Northern Region have provided Growth Monitoring services to 2,026 children under two years and provided IYCF (Infant and Young Child Feeding) counselling to 2,026 caregivers. In addition, 1,966 children under five were screened for malnutrition; 190 children under the age of five were admitted for severe wasting treatment and 845 children were treated for moderate wasting.
- A total of 325 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were admitted for the treatment of malnutrition, 3 PLW received MMS (Multiple Micronutrient Supplements) and 16 PLW received IFA (Iron Folic Acid) supplements in flood-affected areas in Baghlan province. In addition, 1,162 children under five benefited from the blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP), 850 in Baghlan province, 119 in Badakhshan province, and 193 in Takhar province.
- Three WASH cluster partners in the Northern Region, 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.
- Education Cluster partners in the Northern Region reported that 27 CBE classes which were affected flooding in Baghlan and Faryab province resumed lessons in alternative safe locations.



A girl receives drinking water provided by UNICEF following extensive flooding in Burka District, Baghlan Province, northern Afghanistan. © UNICEF/Musadiq

Western Region

- In the Western Region, (Ghor province), the sub-national WASH Cluster members, including UNICEF, reached 1,356 families (around 9,492 individuals) in Frezokoh, Dolaina, Charsada, and Dawlatyar districts with WASH supplies. Nutrition Cluster partners have deployed 14 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs) in eight districts⁹ to provide nutrition services, such as screening, identification of MAM and SAM children, counselling, and referral, in the flood-affected areas. To date, 1,407 children have been screened, 1,167 children have had their growth monitored and received IYCF counselling, 69 children have been admitted for severe wasting, 239 children have been admitted for moderate wasting. In addition, 171 PLWs have been admitted for acute malnutrition treatment, and 159 children have received vitamin A from the Nutrition Cluster partners.

⁹ Chaghcharan/Feroz Koh, Murghab, Tolak, Dolaina, Charsada, Dawlatyar, Lal Wa Sarjangal, and Shahrak.

UNICEF Planned Response

Northern Region

- In the Northern Region, plans are underway for UNICEF to preposition 20 acute water diarrhoea (AWD) kits in Baghlan and Faryab provinces. In addition, UNICEF will continue supporting the technical assessments of health facilities damaged by flooding. Plans are underway to provide teaching and learning materials (TLMs) and support the rehabilitation of 23 public schools in Baghlan & Faryab provinces.
- In Baghlan Province 11 drinking water supply schemes that were damaged have been assessed and their rehabilitation will be undertaken to provide safe drinking water to approximately 38,000 people.

Western Region

- UNICEF will continue to provide medical supplies and medicine to health partners in Ghor based on needs and will also conduct a technical assessment of the health facilities damaged by the floods. If necessary, UNICEF will provide Connex containers to the health facilities to resume the provision of health and nutrition services in the affected districts.
- UNICEF is replenishing the WASH stocks in Ghor which will be used in responding to any future emergencies.

Gaps and Challenges

- In both the Northern and Western Regions, an immediate scale up of critical and lifesaving WASH interventions is needed to reduce the risk of AWD/cholera in flood-affected communities as prior to the flooding, the affected provinces were endemic to AWD/cholera.
- There is a need to scale up Humanitarian Cash transfer interventions to enable the most vulnerable households to meet their basic needs.

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