India is experiencing a major surge in COVID-19 cases. The number of cases has risen rapidly in recent weeks, with daily cases reaching a seven-day average of 311,151 cases/day and 2,165 deaths/day last week, up from an average of 16,000 cases/day and 100 deaths/day in early March. The healthcare system in major cities, notably New Delhi, has been severely impacted, with hospitals reporting shortages of oxygen and other critical supplies. The Government has mobilized a major effort to supply oxygen and other critical medical supplies, while States and cities are imposing targeted restrictions. A number of countries including the US, UK, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the EU have offered bilateral support for medical supplies.

A third of the population of Afghanistan (14 million people) is facing acute food insecurity due to conflict, COVID-19, high food prices, and unemployment. About 10 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 4.2 million people are in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). Nearly half of all children under-five are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2021. La Niña weather patterns that may develop into drought are compounding food insecurity in the country. The full impact of low rainfall at the beginning of the year is still to be determined. In 2021, UN and humanitarian partners need $1.3 billion to help 15.7 million people in need, mainly because of food insecurity. Only $113 million (9 percent) of the funding has been received so far, forcing some aid organizations to consider discontinuing critical activities.

Precipitation Forecast
The precipitation forecast for the Apr-May-Jun season indicates the precipitation is likely to be below normal across eastern/northern China, southern Japan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, northern central India, and Mongolia. Above normal precipitation is likely across the Philippines, Thailand, Palau, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands.

Feedback: ocha-roap@un.org unocha.org/roap Sources: 1. WHO, Media 2. Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), OCHA 3. local sources and media

For the latest information related to COVID-19 please see: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen