COVID-19 bi-weekly situation report
Afghanistan  (1 - 15 July 2021)

Situation in numbers:  (Feb 2020 to 15 July 2021)

- COVID-19 cases reported: 139,051
- Tests performed: 674,862
- Deaths reported: 6,098
- Health workers infected: 4,622
- Recovered cases reported: 86,887
- Case fatality rate (CFR): 4%
- Vaccine doses administered: 886,855
- Deaths among health workers: 93

Key highlights

- During the reporting period, new COVID-19 cases appear to have stabilized after a sharp rise during the month of June.
- 57,244 new cases and 1050 deaths have been reported. This is a -29% decrease in cases and -19% decrease in deaths compared to the same duration in June.
- High positivity rate among health care workers reported.
- Almost 1,500 cases are currently hospitalized. (60% male and 40% female).
- 7,000+ health workers at the national and provincial levels trained on a variety of COVID-19 topics including critical and severe case management (ventilator use, anesthesia, intubation), infection prevention and control, and nursing.
- Circulation of Delta variant was confirmed in 11 out of 19 tests, and the National Public Health Laboratory confirmed capacity to conduct gene sequencing.
- 31 COVID-19 testing labs are currently functional across 24 provinces, with a total daily testing capacity of 8,700 and more than 300 trained technicians. 9 more labs will be added by the end of August 2021.
- 1,024,168 vaccine doses have been administered, with 253,939 persons fully vaccinated as of 15 July 2021.
- $18,470,460 worth of supplies and equipment have been provided to various health facilities since the start of the pandemic.
- WHO supports 6 mobile health clinics in remote areas providing primary health care services to IDPs and returnees, including COVID-19 testing.

Through CERF funding, WHO plans to install 500 wash basins in 127 health facilities in 25 provinces by end of July 2021. So far, 412 hand-washing basins have been installed in 105 HFs in 21 provinces.

In Feb 2020, Afghanistan had no labs with COVID-19 confirmatory capacities. With support from Asian Development Bank, WHO inaugurated the 31st testing lab in Budghis province.
Vaccines

- A total 3 million doses of vaccines received: 500,000 AZ India; 700,000 Chinese Sinopharm; 468,000 COVAX; 1.4 m J&J.
- Expected vaccines in July: 124,000 AZ from Sweden; 468,000 AZ from COVAX; remaining 1.5 m J&J doses.

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<tr>
<th>Vaccine doses administered</th>
<th>Percentage of population vaccinated</th>
<th>Persons fully vaccinated</th>
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<td>1,024,168</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>253,939</td>
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Risk Communications and Community Engagement

• All 34 provinces have allocated isolation wards for COVID-19 patients with a total of 2,000 beds and 200 ICU beds.
• Two training courses for 36 ICU nursing staff conducted.
• On-job training for 100 medical doctors on ICU/critical care management.

Operations Support & Logistics

• $3.4M worth of supplies and equipment are currently in the pipeline including 500 oxygen concentrators.
• Distribution of medical supplies and equipment to hospitals at the national and provincial levels is ongoing, albeit with some delays due to road blockage and fighting in some areas.

Partnerships & Coordination

• Health cluster actively engaging partners in the response and providing support at national and provincial level.
• Health cluster coordination meeting held on 11 July with COVID-19 as standing agenda.

Research Knowledge & Management

• Planning ongoing for the 2nd round of the COVID-19 prevalence survey covering 23,000 households to produce provincial level estimates.
• Sponsoring 2nd COVID-19 knowledge, attitude, practice and attributable death survey requested by MoPH. The 1st survey took place in June 2020.

Int’l Health Regulations & Social Measures

• MoPH and Ministry of Education to reopen schools and universities on 24 August 2021 considering updated public health and social measures, including:
  o Vaccinating all teachers and students above 18.
  o Enforcing mandatory mask wearing at schools.
• 124,937 people screened at points of entry, in coordination with health partners.
Challenges

- Poor availability of consumables and difficulty to maintain a steady level of supplies and equipment due to volatile political situation.
- Limited supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) impacting protection of health care workers.
- Rising number of IDPs limits possibility to apply public health measures and pushes rise in COVID-19 infections.
- Huge oxygen shortage. WHO supporting with urgent procurement of 500 oxygen concentrators.

Funding

Total funding received

$39 million

$31.7M funding utilized (81.3%)

Funding received by

For more information:

WHO Afghanistan website: http://www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/
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