

Key Messages: **UPDATED**

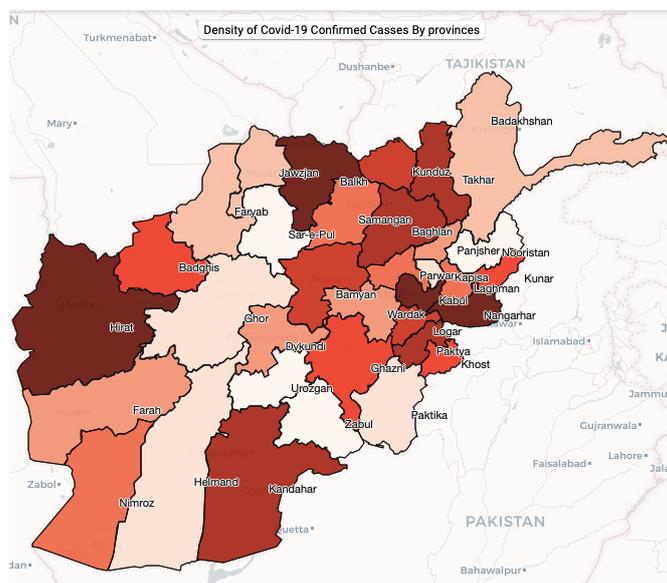
- **People confirmed to have COVID-19: 32,022** (as of 2pm, 2 July. Source: Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health - MoPH)
- **Deaths from COVID-19: 807**
- **Samples tested: 73,515**

Key concerns: Border crossing areas, in-country testing capacity, protective equipment for frontline workers, commodity prices, messaging and rumour management, international air services

Situation Overview: **UPDATED**

MoPH data shows that 32,022 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are now confirmed to have COVID-19. Some 16,041 people have recovered, and 807 people have died (18 of whom are healthcare workers). 73,515 people out of a population of 37.6 million have been tested. Almost five per cent of the total confirmed COVID-19 cases are among healthcare staff. The majority of the deaths were people between the ages of 40 and 69. Men in this age group represent about 54 per cent of all COVID-19-related deaths. With a fragile health system, a developing economy and underlying vulnerabilities, the people of Afghanistan are facing extreme consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to limited public health resources and testing capacity, as well as the absence of a national death register, confirmed cases of and deaths from COVID-19 are likely to be under reported overall in Afghanistan. Different COVID-19 models show that the peak for the COVID-19 outbreak in Afghanistan is expected between late July and early August, creating grave implications for Afghanistan's economy and people's well-being. Kabul remains the most affected part of the country in terms of confirmed cases, followed by Hirat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Kandahar.

According to the [INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index](#), Afghanistan has an INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index of 6.8, the fifth highest risk country out of 190 profiled, and shows high health and humanitarian impacts risks that could overwhelm current national response capacity.



Source: MoPH

	Age 0-19		Age 20-29		Age 30-39		Age 40-49		Age 50-59		Age 60-69		Age 70-79		Age 80+		Unspecified	Total
	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Women	Men												
# People confirmed with COVID-19	794	900	2,497	5,451	1,615	5,977	1,303	4,059	1,122	2,625	640	1,627	255	585	72	229	2,271	32,022
# Deaths from COVID-19	2	3	6	12	8	46	22	95	37	124	48	173	23	72	9	46	81	807

Hospitals report challenges maintaining or expanding their facilities' capacity to treat patients with COVID-19. These challenges are related to the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing kits and medical supplies; and the

limited number of trained staff – further exacerbated by the number of frontline staff falling ill. Humanitarian partners urge the Government of Afghanistan to ensure healthcare staff have adequate personal protection and to share distribution plans for existing stocks of medical equipment and PPE with humanitarian partners. Current laboratory capacity in Afghanistan remains limited. There is an urgent need to increase laboratory supplies as well as to strengthen human capacity and operational support.

WHO notes that when health systems are overwhelmed, both direct mortality from the outbreak and indirect mortality from vaccine-preventable and treatable conditions increase dramatically, as is being seen in Afghanistan. WHO stresses the need to balance the demands of responding directly to COVID-19, with simultaneously engaging in strategic planning and coordinated action to maintain essential health service delivery, mitigating the risk of system collapse.

Global Wake-Up Call by António Guterres – UN Secretary-General (1 July 2020)

From COVID-19 to climate disruption, from racial injustice to rising inequalities, we are a world in turmoil.

At the same time, we are an international community with an enduring vision – embodied in the United Nations Charter, which marks its 75th anniversary this year. That vision of a better future — based on the values of equality, mutual respect and international cooperation — has helped us to avoid a Third World War that would have had catastrophic consequences for life on our planet. Our shared challenge is to channel that collective spirit and rise to this moment of trial and test.

The pandemic has laid bare severe and systemic inequalities both within and between countries and communities. More broadly, it has underscored the world's fragilities – not just in the face of another health emergency, but in our faltering response to the climate crisis, lawlessness in cyberspace, and the risks of nuclear proliferation. People everywhere are losing trust in political establishments and institutions.

The emergency is compounded by many other profound humanitarian crises: conflicts that are continuing or even intensifying; record numbers of people forced to flee their homes; swarms of locusts; looming droughts; all amid a context of rising geopolitical tensions. In the face of these fragilities, world leaders need to be humble and recognize the vital importance of unity and solidarity.

The pandemic, as horrible as it is, must be a wake-up call that prompts all political leaders to understand that our assumptions and approaches have to change, and that division is a danger to everyone. This understanding could lead people to recognize that the only way to address global fragilities is through much more robust mechanisms of global governance with international cooperation. After all, we cannot simply return to the systems that gave rise to the current crisis. We need to build back better with more sustainable, inclusive, gender-equal societies and economies. In doing so, we must reimagine the way nations cooperate.

We need a networked multilateralism, in which the United Nations and its agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, regional organizations such as the African Union and European Union, trade organizations and others work together more closely and effectively. We also need a more inclusive multilateralism. Governments today are far from the only players in terms of politics and power. Civil society, the business community, local authorities, cities and regional governments are assuming more and more leadership roles in today's world. This, in turn, will help lead to an effective multilateralism with the mechanisms it needs to make global governance work where it is needed.

A new, networked, inclusive, effective multilateralism, based on the enduring values of the United Nations Charter, could snap us out of our sleepwalking state and stop the slide towards ever greater danger. Political leaders around the world need to heed this wake-up call and come together to address the world's fragilities, strengthen our capacity for global governance, give teeth to multilateral institutions, and draw from the power of unity and solidarity to overcome the biggest test of our times.

- António Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Funding: **UPDATED**

The first [progress report](#) for the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19 was published on 26 June. According to the report, at the beginning of 2020, global humanitarian requirements were already close to US\$30 billion, with 168 million people expected to be in need of critical humanitarian assistance. The inclusion of plans to respond to COVID-19 has pushed global requirements to \$37 billion. With rapidly rising caseloads, the pandemic is expected to peak in the next two to six months in the world's most fragile places. According to the progress report, the pandemic and associated global recession will cause vulnerability and humanitarian needs to soar in countries already in a state of humanitarian crisis, including in Afghanistan where in the long term the pandemic could lead to famine. In Afghanistan, the [revised Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020](#) requires \$1.1b to reach 11.1m of the most acutely vulnerable people. According to [OCHA's Financial Tracking Service](#), the Afghanistan HRP is currently 21 per cent funded with \$234.5m received since the start of the year.

Response Activities: **UPDATED**

Humanitarians have rapidly scaled-up services to support the Government's response to the pandemic, reaching millions of people with life-saving assistance for new and existing needs. For a detailed update of all Cluster response activities in Afghanistan please see the latest [Operational Situation Report](#).

Key cumulative COVID-19 response figures include:

- Health Cluster partners have screened 468,353 people at points-of-entry since the start of the crisis.
- More than 2 million people have been reached with WASH assistance since the start of the crisis.
- 448,467 people have been reached by ES-NFI partners with key messages on the prevention of COVID-19.

- Protection partners have reached 183,882 men, women, boys and girls with psychosocial support services.
- 48,808 children have been reached with home-based learning materials since the start of the crisis.
- 47,685 community members have been reached with COVID-19 awareness raising sessions by Nutrition partners.
- As part of WFP's regular programming, approximately 4.7 million people were reached with food assistance between 5 March and 24 June.*

Cross Border: UPDATED

The Milak crossing (Nimroz) is officially open to commercial traffic and documented Afghanistan nationals. The Islam Qala-Dogharoon land border crossings (Hirat) remain open on both sides for documented travellers and commercial traffic. According to the Border Monitoring Team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), a total of 12,002 Afghanistan nationals returned from Iran through the Milak and Islam Qala border crossing sites between 21 and 27 June 2020, a 3 per cent increase from the previous week (11,708). 5,522 people returned voluntarily and 6,480 were deported. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to 866 (7 per cent) of all undocumented Afghanistan nationals returning from Iran at its transit centres in Hirat and Nimroz during the past week. IOM is highlighting the significant increase in deportations of Afghanistan nationals from Iran in recent weeks following increased cross border movement to Iran with the reopening of the Iran's economy.

Despite the official announcement by the Government of Pakistan on 16 May that Spin Boldak and Torkham border crossings would be open to facilitate return of stranded nationals of Afghanistan and Pakistan to their respective countries, Spin Boldak crossing point has been closed to pedestrian movement since 6 June. On 20 June, the Government of Pakistan announced that it will also open Ghulam Khan border crossing on Saturdays to facilitate pedestrian movement, effective 22 June. However, despite the announcement, the Ghulam Khan border crossing remains closed to pedestrian movement. Pakistan continues to facilitate the movement of cargo trucks and containers into Afghanistan. As of 22 June, three border crossing points (Ghulam Khan, Torkham, and Spin Boldak) are open six days a week (except for Saturday) to facilitate trade between the two countries.

Borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan remain open only for commercial traffic and crossings of passport holders back into Afghanistan.

Humanitarians emphasise the critical importance of maintaining a reliable flow of traffic for humanitarian cargo from all neighbouring countries and are advocating for special consideration to expedite humanitarian food and relief items through border crossings.

Operational Issues: UPDATED

The Government of Afghanistan announced on 6 June that it was extending the **nationwide lockdown** for three more months, issuing new health guidelines for citizens to follow. The Government has also extended the closure of schools until the end of August. Additionally, all hotels, parks, sports complexes and other public places will remain closed; certain public transport facilities, such as buses carrying more than four passengers, will not be allowed to travel. All government offices have reopened with public servants attending in two shifts and on alternate days. According to [reports](#), while lockdown measures are in place, enforcement has been lenient.

Measures to contain the spread of the virus continue to differ across provinces where local authorities are responsible for implementation. While provincial lockdown arrangements continue to impede humanitarian movement, over the last few weeks the situation has significantly improved, with fewer obstructions reported. Humanitarian partners remain active in responding to crises throughout the country, including flooding and conflict-related displacement, and continue to urge the Government to employ a national approach to these movement issues so that individual negotiations are not required on a case-by-case basis and assistance is not delayed. For additional information on access constraints, please see the [C-19 Access Impediment Report](#).

On 24 June, the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority announced that commercial domestic flights are expected to resume in the coming weeks. Although Kam Air announced that it planned to resume domestic flight operations starting on 1 July, regular flights have not yet resumed. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has reduced the frequency of regular domestic flight days from five to four days a week, due to low passenger demand in recent weeks. UNHAS no longer conducts regular domestic flights on Mondays; however, all locations are still served during the week. UNHAS will adjust the schedule based on user demand. UNHAS will continue to support any required evacuation and relocation flights during all days of the week.

* The tonnage of weekly food dispatched fluctuates regularly based on programme needs, use of commercial transporters versus WFP's own fleet, capacities to distribute in the field and other factors. Weekly figures are regularly consolidated and analysed as part of WFP's overall rolling implementation plan that ranges from two to four months.

International commercial air travel resumed on 24 June with a Turkish Airlines flight taking off from Kabul to Istanbul, according to the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Turkish Airlines will limit its schedule to four round-trip flights a week. Similarly, Emirates Airlines resumed round-trip international flight services from Kabul on 25 June. Passengers are encouraged to check with airlines on flight restrictions on international flights, as well as travel and immigration entry requirements of their destination country. Ariana Airlines and Kam Air have also resumed their international flights, according to the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority.

The UNHAS airbridge connecting Kabul and Doha continues to operate on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Flights into Doha accommodate transiting passengers only. This service is planned to continue until the end of September 2020, or until regular commercial international flights consistently resume. The next flight is planned for Sunday, 5 July.

More Information – Links: **UPDATED**

WHO

- [WHO's latest information on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Global Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Partners Platform](#)
- [Timeline of WHO's response to COVID-19](#)
- [Clinical management of COVID-19](#)

Government of Afghanistan:

- [Ministry of Public Health: COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

- [IASC-endorsed COVID-19 guidance – new materials available](#)
- [Addressing Mental Health and Psychosocial Aspects of COVID-19 Outbreak \(available in English, Dari, Pashto\)](#)
- [Proposal for a harmonized approach to funding flexibility in the context of COVID-19](#)

UN and others

- [UN: Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 \(April – December 2020\) – GHRP May Update](#)
- [UN: Comprehensive Response to COVID-19](#)
- [Relief Web: COVID-19 Response Page](#)
- [OCHA: Asia Pacific COVID-19 - Humanitarian Data Portal](#)
- [OCHA: Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2018-2021 \(June 2020 Revision\)](#)
- [OCHA: Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2018-2021 \(June 2020 update\) - Infographic](#)
- [UN: Global Wake-Up Call by António Guterres](#)
- [UN: Pause before sharing, to help stop viral spread of COVID-19 misinformation](#)

- [WV: COVID-19 & the Risks to Children in Urban Contexts](#)
- [FEWS NET: Global Price Watch \(June 30, 2020\)](#)
- [UN Water: After the pandemic we must build hope through water and sanitation](#)
- [UNFPA: Five things you didn't know about practices that harm girls](#)
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the world of work \(Monitor\)](#)
- [UN Women: Addressing the economic fallout of COVID-19](#)
- [UN Women: COVID-19 and violence against women and girls](#)
- [FAO: Rural youth and the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [FAO: Ensuring the right to adequate food during COVID-19](#)
- [MMC: COVID-19 global update #5](#)
- [IOM: Message of Solidarity with Victims of COVID-19 Related Xenophobia, Discrimination](#)
- [UNDRR: Communicating and reporting in times of risk](#)
- [ChildFund Alliance +5 more: Ending Violence against Children and COVID-19](#)
- [SC: Coronavirus invisible victims](#)
- [WV: COVID-19 emergency response - Middle East and Eastern Europe Regional Situation Report](#)
- [UNOPS: Infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women](#)
- [UNAMA: Security Council Press Statement on UNAMA](#)
- [UNAMA: UN urges greater protection for civilians and reduced violence in run up to Intra-Afghan talks](#)
- [AAH: Millions at risk as Afghanistan and Pakistan lift containment measures before COVID-19 peaks](#)
- [FEWS NET: Afghanistan Food Security Outlook](#)
- [SC: This war on children needs to stop now \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [WFP: Weekly Market Price Bulletin \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [OCHA: COVID-19 Operational Situation Report - Afghanistan](#)

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