

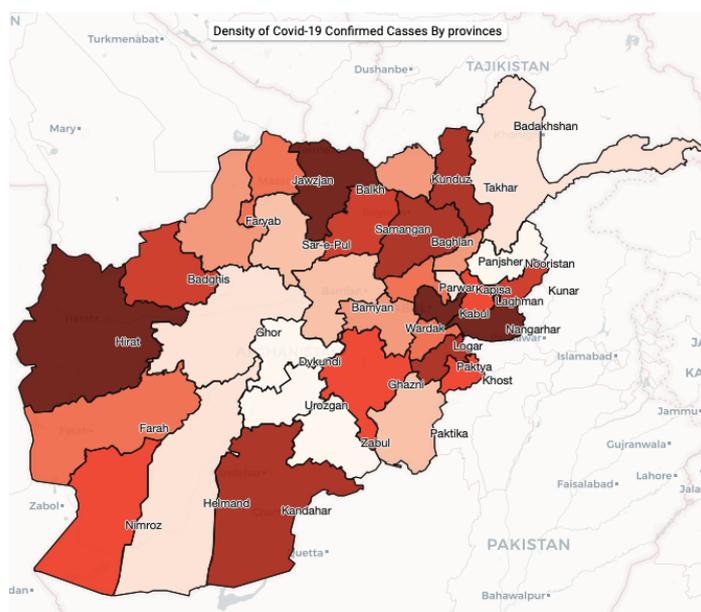
Key Messages: **UPDATED**

- **People confirmed to have COVID-19: 22,890** (as of 2pm, 11 June. Source: Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health - MoPH)
- **Deaths from COVID-19: 426**
- **Samples tested: 52,546**

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 22,890 people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan are now confirmed to have COVID-19. Some 3,326 people have recovered, and 426 people have died (16 of which are healthcare workers). 52,546 people out of the population of 37.6 million have been tested. Afghanistan has a test-positivity-rate – positive tests as a percentage of total tests – of more than 43 per cent. More than six per cent of the total confirmed COVID-19 cases are among healthcare staff. The majority of the deaths were people between ages of 40 and 69. Men in this age group represent more than half 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. Cases are expected to continue to increase over the weeks ahead as community transmission escalates, 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. Resourcing community engagement, surveillance, and contact tracing is critical to scale-up COVID-19 response.



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+		Total
	Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	
# people confirmed with COVID-19	489	617	1,383	3,282	895	3,665	744	2,467	585	1,545	343	917	142	291	37	137	22,890
# deaths from COVID-19	2	3	2	5	6	27	7	47	16	39	16	59	6	29	5	22	426

Response Coordination & Activities: **UPDATED**

Humanitarians have rapidly scale-up services to support the Government’s response to the pandemic, reaching millions of people with life-saving assistance for new and existing needs. On 8 June, the revised [Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2018-2021](#) was launched. The revised HRP requests US\$1.1 billion to reach 11.1 million of the most vulnerable people with life-saving assistance until the end of the year. A comprehensive programme of assistance is

planned to address not only new needs arising from COVID-19 but also pre-existing needs that are just as pressing, if not more so, in the context of the pandemic.

On 9 June, [UNICEF in collaboration with the MoPH](#), flew in emergency health supplies to Kabul. The shipment includes 150,000 PPEs to be used by 6,821 frontline health care providers over an initial six months period. This will enable health care providers to scale up the identification and management of up to 10,000 hospitalised COVID-19 patients.

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 surveillance system has tracked 493,521 people since the start of the crisis.
- More than 1.1 million people have been reached with WASH assistance since the start of the crisis - hygiene promotion, handwashing and distribution of hygiene kits.
- Since the start of the crisis, more than 222,057 people across 13 provinces have been reached by ES- NFI partners with awareness raising sessions on the prevention of COVID-19 since the start of the crisis.
- More than 1 million people have been sensitised on COVID-19 and preventive measures across the country by Protection partners.
- 12,218 children have been reached with home-based learning materials since the start of the crisis.
- As part of WFP's regular programming, approximately 3.5 million people have been reached with food assistance*.

Foreword by the Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan - Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2018-2021 (8 June 2020):

The arrival of COVID-19 in Afghanistan has brought heartache to millions of people who are now battling a deadly pandemic while simultaneously fighting for their survival amid poverty, disaster and war. Over my three years as Humanitarian Coordinator, I have marvelled at the resilience of the people of this country to cope with the hardships of life in the world's deadliest conflict – but even this remarkable strength is now being tested by the health, social and economic consequences of COVID-19. The virus is spreading across the country with frightening speed. Every province is now impacted, and people are understandably frightened.

A massive health response has swung into action under the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan. This work has been guided by health-focused prevention and response plans developed by MoPH with support from WHO, a wider government 'Master Plan' for responding to the impacts of COVID-19 and an initial three-month Multi-Sector Humanitarian Country Plan. 11 testing laboratories are now up and running, thousands of additional isolation and intensive care beds have been made available, training of health staff in infection control is being scaled-up, more than a million people have been reached with water and hygiene assistance to stymie the spread of the virus and safety messages are reaching millions of people in every corner of the country. This decisive early action lays a strong foundation for the response, but the sheer scale and likely duration of the crisis gripping the country requires us all to step up and give more.

In a country where more than 90 per cent of the population is living in extreme poverty and 80 per cent rely on informal labour to survive, the economic consequences of COVID-19 could outstrip the direct health impact from the virus itself, sending people spiralling into financial insecurity and, in some cases, acute humanitarian need. For this reason, we have revised the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2020 and now estimate a staggering 35 million people are in need of a social safety net, 14 million of whom are now in acute humanitarian need. This is up from 9.4 million at the start of the year.

A key driver of this increase is hunger. COVID-19 has put the world on the brink of a hunger pandemic and Afghanistan is on the front line. A third of the country is facing acute food insecurity including almost 4 million people at the emergency level – one of the highest figures in the world. COVID-19, movement restrictions, the inability to work and rising food prices are also pushing this food crisis into urban areas on a scale not previously seen. Further adding to this increased estimate of need is a frightening protection outlook, particularly for women and children, in light of COVID-19. Gender-based violence (GBV) is increasing and could soar. Worsening poverty is expected to place increasing numbers of children at risk from negative coping strategies such as early marriage and child labour.

People's survival will depend on the 161 dedicated humanitarian organisations operating in Afghanistan staying and continuing their hard work in support of the Government, under the most difficult conditions. For that we will require generous support from donors, in a demonstration of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. The revised HRP requests \$1.1 billion to reach 11.1 million of the most vulnerable people with life-saving assistance until the end of the year. A comprehensive programme of assistance is planned to address not only new needs arising from COVID-19 but also pre-existing needs that are just as pressing, if not more so, in the context of the pandemic.

The stakes for the response could not be higher at such a sensitive and fragile moment in the country's conflict-ravaged recent history. While the potential for peace has not yet been fully realised, and fighting continues, moves towards reducing hostilities are an encouraging signal of hope. Peace remains the most important step in breaking the cycle of aid dependency, alleviating suffering and getting Afghanistan back on its feet. Until that happens, the humanitarian community remains steadfast in its support of the people of Afghanistan as they navigate the turbulent times.

I am confident that with the ongoing support of donors and continued commitment and investment of partners – humanitarian and development – and the Government's lead - we can ensure that timely assistance reaches the growing number of people in need as a result of conflict, disaster and COVID-19. The people of Afghanistan are counting on us all.

- **Toby Lanzer, Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan, United Nations**

* 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.

Cross Border: UPDATED

The Milak crossing (Nimroz) is officially open to commercial traffic and documented citizens of Afghanistan. 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 12,271 citizens of Afghanistan returned from Iran through the Milak and Islam Qala border crossing sites between 31 May – 6 June 2020, a 162 per cent increase from the previous week (4,684). 4,395 persons returned voluntarily and 7,876 were deported. IOM provided post-arrival humanitarian assistance to 4,649 (38 per cent) of all undocumented citizens of Afghanistan from Iran at its transit centres in Hirat and Nimroz during the past week. In addition, IOM is reporting major cross border movements from Afghanistan into Iran particularly through Nimroz province.

According to UNHCR's latest [border monitoring report](#), 37 per cent of returnees interviewed at the Islam Qala and Milak border crossing points said that they faced problems during the COVID-19 outbreak, such as lost work/wages, discrimination/stigmatisation by local communities, lack of access to markets, pressure by Iranian authorities to return to Afghanistan, movement restrictions related to the lockdown, and lack of access to medical services. Moreover, 85 per cent of the respondents stated that they had received information about COVID-19 in Iran, mainly through TV, radio and local communities. 24 per cent of returnees interviewed at the Milak border crossing point and 29 per cent at Islam Qala stated that they had not received information about COVID-19 upon arrival in Afghanistan. The information gap at Milak border crossing has improved (from 42 per cent to 24 per cent) since UNHCR's follow-up with partners in early May. However, the monitoring findings shows that the information gap at Islam Qala slightly increased compared to early May.

On 16 May, the Government of Pakistan announced that passenger movements of stranded nationals of Afghanistan and Pakistan are officially allowed once a week (Saturday) with a maximum of 500 people allowed to pass through the Torkham and 300 through the Spin Boldak crossing to facilitate return to their respective countries. Pakistan continues to facilitate the movement of cargo trucks and containers into Afghanistan. On 16 May, the Government of Pakistan announced that the Torkham and Spin Boldak crossing points would open six days a week (except for Saturday) for commercial purposes. An unlimited number of trucks are being allowed to pass per day. Humanitarians emphasise the critical importance of maintaining a reliable flow of traffic for humanitarian cargo and are advocating for special consideration to expedite humanitarian food and relief items through border crossings.

According to [UNHCR](#), 47 per cent of returnees interviewed at the Spin Boldak and Torkham border crossing points said they faced problems in Pakistan during the COVID-19 outbreak, mainly lost work/wages, movement restrictions due to the lockdown, lack of access to markets, and lack of access to medical services. 95 per cent of those interviewed stated that they had received information about COVID-19 in Pakistan, mainly through TV, radio, mosque/ religious leaders and local communities. Almost 93 per cent of returnees interviewed at Torkham border crossing and 33 per cent at Spin Boldak stated that they had not received information about COVID-19 upon arrival in Afghanistan. The monitoring findings shows that the information gap at Spin Boldak slightly increased compared to early May, while the information gap at Torkham remains very high.

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

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 in a bid to contain the spread of the virus. According to the latest measures, citizens must wear a face mask in public places at all times, maintain a 2-meter social distance, avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, disinfect all workplaces, and ensure older people stay at home. Additionally, all schools and educational centres, hotels, parks, sports complexes and other public places will remain closed for three months, while public transport facilities, such as buses, carrying more than four passengers will not be allowed to travel. Restaurants and coffee shops will only be allowed to carry out service delivery and take-aways.

Measures to contain the spread of the virus continue to differ across provinces, with provincial authorities maintaining the authority to decide on and implement their lockdown measures. A number of provinces have already eased their lockdowns, including Kandahar, Hilmand and Ghazni, Badakhshan, Khost, Paktya, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. A number of provinces in the East of the country continue to enforce stricter lockdowns (Laghman, Kunar) and there are reports that greater physical distancing behaviours are now being observed in Nangarhar due to increases in numbers of people showing possible COVID-19 symptoms. Similarly, the Balkh provincial government decided to elevate Mazār-e Sharif's previous 'measured' lockdown to a full lockdown for a period of 10 days, effective from 31 May. Essential businesses (e.g. pharmacies, bakeries, vegetable shops, and general grocery stores) will be allowed to remain open. The rest of businesses/offices that were allowed to reopen on 10 May (e.g. electronics shops, toys shops, clothing shops, tailor shops, money exchange kiosks, barbershops etc.), will again be closed. A similar return to a complete lock-down has been implemented in Aybak City, Samangan Province, as of 30 May.

While provincial lockdown measures continue to impede humanitarian movement, in the last few weeks, the situation significantly improved, with less obstructions reported. This is mainly due to the above-mentioned leniency in the enforcement of lockdown measures as well as due to previously established provincial solutions to facilitate movement. Humanitarian partners remain active in responding to crises throughout the country 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. For additional information on access constraints, please see the [C-19 Access Impediment Report](#).

On 2 May, the Government of Afghanistan announced the suspension of all commercial domestic flights until the end of June. However, on 5 June, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) announced that it had received clearance to resume UNHAS flights from Jalalabad Airfield (JAF). More information regarding the start dates for operations to Jalalabad will be announced in the coming days.

On 9 June, Emirates (airlines) announced that it had received approvals to carry passengers on flights to Kabul in Afghanistan, starting from 25 June. Passengers can book to fly between destinations, with a connection in Dubai, as long as they meet travel and immigration entry requirements of their destination country.

UNHAS airbridge connecting Kabul and Doha is operating regularly on Sunday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Flights into Doha accommodate transiting passengers only. On 31 May, Qatar Airways authorities announced that they will approve up to 36 hours transit at Hamad International Airport (Doha) for inbound and outbound passengers with immediate effect. This service is planned to continue until regular commercial international flights resume. The next flight is planned for Sunday, 14 June.

[More Information – Links:](#) **UPDATED**

WHO

- [WHO's latest information on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Global Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Partners Platform](#)
- [Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context 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 \[English\]\(#\), \[Dari\]\(#\), \[Pashto\]\(#\)\)](#)

UN and others

- [UN: Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 \(April – December 2020\) – GHRP May Update](#)
- [Relief Web: COVID-19 Response Page](#)
- [OCHA: Asia Pacific COVID-19 - Humanitarian Data Portal](#)
- [OCHA: Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2018-2021 \(June 2020 Revision\)](#)
- [UNDP: Tailoring the Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19 in Peacebuilding Contexts](#)
- [ECDC: Options for the decontamination and reuse of respirators in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [HRW: Mental Health Support During Covid-19 Pandemic](#)
- [WFP: UNHAS COVID-19 risk mitigation measures](#)
- [EU: "Team Europe" global response to COVID-19](#)
- [MSF: Unregulated market for personal protective equipment puts lives at risk](#)

- [ILO: End stigma and discrimination against migrant workers and their children during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [IOM: Importance of Addressing Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19 on Displaced and Migrant Populations](#)
- [UNHCR: Global COVID-19 Emergency Response](#)
- [FAO: Emerging data suggest COVID-19 is driving up hunger in vulnerable countries](#)
- [UNSG: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition](#)
- [Tdh Child Relief: How are children in detention affected by Covid-19?](#)
- [UNDP: Governments must lead fight against coronavirus misinformation and disinformation](#)
- [IOM: Integrating Migration into the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [UNICEF: Digital Connectivity during COVID-19](#)
- [UN HRC: COVID-19 measures must be grounded first and foremost on the right to health](#)
- [UN: UN supports countries as they reopen, warns against COVID-19 complacency](#)
- [UN: We need to act now to avoid the worst impacts of our efforts to control the pandemic](#)
- [ICRC: Base policies on IHL and leave political controversies outside humanitarian concerns](#)
- [WRC: COVID-19 Update on Food Insecurity](#)
- [OCHA: Afghanistan C-19 Access Impediment Report](#)
- [UNHCR: Border Monitoring update \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [REACH: Afghanistan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative](#)
- [Qatar Red Crescent: QRCS provides health care for 45,000 beneficiaries in Afghanistan](#)
- [WFP: Weekly Market Price Bulletin \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [UNAMA: Building social cohesion crucial during COVID-19 crisis in Afghanistan](#)

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