OVERVIEW

- The number of health facilities reporting to the disease early warning system has increased from three on 3 November to 12 on 7 November.
- No outbreak of communicable disease has been reported to disease early warning system.
- Cases of acute respiratory infections are increasingly reported due mainly to the harsh cold weather and poor shelter conditions.
- With the coming winter, a temporary solution is urgently needed for Khanoza Hospital in Pishin.
- In Ziarat, 15 sources of drinking water were found to be contaminated with faecal coliform.

SITUATION UPDATE

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reports 166 deaths, 357 injuries and more than 2000 houses destroyed following the 29 October earthquake.
- The Department of Health (DoH) and partners are providing health services in affected areas. Care is provided in tented hospitals where health facilities were damaged.
- In Ziarat district, 20 of the district’s 38 health facilities were damaged: two rural health centres (RHCs), eight basic health units (BHUs) and four civil dispensaries are beyond repair while five BHUs and one dispensary are partially damaged. The population serviced by these facilities is more than 60,000 people.
- In Pishin district, nine out of 57 health facilities are damaged, including the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Khanozai, a 20-bed facility, and four BHUs. A further three BHUs and three dispensaries are partially damaged. The Khanozai hospital staff is providing health services outside the facility and there is no in-patient facility. Patients with minor ailment are admitted for day-care in an open area with limited facilities while those requiring long-term in-patient treatment are referred to tertiary level care hospitals in Quetta.
- In Harnai district, two BHUs have been destroyed.

DISEASE SITUATION

- The disease early warning system (DEWS) was activated in Ziarat and Pishin districts to monitor disease trends. WHO surveillance officers give on-the-job training to healthcare providers through frequent visits to the facilities. Data is collected daily since 3 November and the number of reporting facilities has increased from three to 12 between 2 and 7 November. Initially, only the most affected areas are covered.
- No outbreak of communicable disease has been reported to disease early warning system.
- Cases of acute respiratory infections are increasingly reported due mainly to the harsh cold weather and poor shelter conditions.
- In Ziarat district, acute respiratory infections accounted for 19% of all consultations on 4 November and for 30% on 8 November. Acute lower respiratory infection dropped from 13% on 4 November to 6% on 8 November (Figure 1).
- Between 4 and 11 November, 6023 consultations were reported by the DEWS. Acute respiratory infections, both upper (34% of all consultations or 1998 cases) and lower (17% or 1050 cases), are the leading cause of consultation and account for 51% (3048 cases) of all consultations. Acute diarrhoea accounts for 4% (253) of consultations and bloody diarrhoea, scabies, malaria and fever for 1% each (Figure 2).
HEALTH PARTNERS RESPONSE

WHO

- On 1 November, WHO supported the visit of a team led by the Psychiatry Department of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad and Bolan Medical College in Quetta to assess post-earthquake mental health needs and service delivery. Given the high number of patients reporting symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome, WHO launched a mental health initiative with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and partners. Since 3 November, four teams of psychiatrists and physicians have been working in Komas and Ahmadoon RHCs and Khan BHU in Ziarat district and in Khanozai Hospital in Pishin district. On 5 November, WHO sent essential mental health medicines to Quetta for about 5000 people for one month.

- On 3 November, WHO provided 1000 doses of DT Vaccine against diphtheria and tetanus to the provincial DoH for affected areas.

- WHO trained five DoH staff members on the Logistics Support System (LSS). The training will also be given to the Executive District Officer (EDO) staff in the affected districts.

- In collaboration with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and UNICEF, WHO is working on water quality control and on ways to address water and sanitation issues in affected districts. In Ziarat district, 15 sources of drinking water were found contaminated with faecal coliform and are unsuitable for drinking. The information was shared with the WASH Cluster and district health authorities.

UNICEF

- WHO and UNICEF are supporting the DoH to conduct measles and routine immunization campaigns in Ziarat, Pishin and Harnai districts. In Ziarat, campaigns have been completed in four out of 10 affected Union Councils. Overall, 9346 children received routine immunization and 8097 children aged 6 months to 13 years were vaccinated against measles.

- UNICEF is supporting the PHED provide water to 12 000 people daily and distributed water purification tablets.

- UNICEF sent 950 cartons of BP-5 biscuits to Quetta To support nutrition services in affected districts.

- UNICEF hired the services of several male and female religious leaders to conduct community sessions on psychosocial trauma.

UNFPA

- UNFPA is using two mobile service units to provide mother neonatal and child health services in Ziarat and Pishin. The units include trained medical staff, including female doctors, and all emergency medicines to provide 24/7 basic emergency obstetric care.

- UNFPA is also supporting the labour room (currently in a tent) of the Khanozai Hospital by providing medicines, reproductive health kits and equipment/instruments.

- As of 11 November, UNFPA has treated 9411 patients including 819 injuries, 837 gastroenteritis, 240 antenatal, 131 postnatal and 248 cases of sexually transmitted infections. Fifteen deliveries were conducted.

- UNFPA distributed hygiene kits.

- UNFPA conducted a training on psychosocial support between 11 and 13 November for Lady Health Workers (LHWs). Modules developed by UNFPA were used as training material.

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Mercy Corps
- Mercy Corps is providing health services in Kawas and Ahmadoon RHCs, Ziarat district. They have also established a diagnostic laboratory in Ahmadoon RHC and are planning to establish another in Kawas. They are planning to continue their services for the next 3 months in Ahmadoon.
- Mercy Corps has deployed mobile teams in Thangi, Killi Haji Rahim and Killi Ghulam Nabi, in Wam area, and is planning training the community on psychosocial trauma.

MSF-Holland
- MSF-H is has two mobile units in the affected areas, providing general health and mental services.
- MSF-H provided temporary structures and necessary equipment for the Kan Bangla BHU, Ziarat district.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- IOM is providing logistics support to the psychiatry department teams.

Relief International / Taraqee Foundation
- With the financial support of Relief International, the Taraqee Foundation has two mobile units providing primary health care, health education and mental health services in district Ziarat. They plan to continue their services for the next two months. They are working in close coordination with the Ziarat Health EDO. In collaboration with CARE international, they distributed hygiene kits and Non food items for 200 households in Ziarat.

ICRC
- ICRC hs two Mobile units in Ziarat district.

Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
- With its two mobile units, BRSP has treated 981 patients on 5 and 6 November.
- They also provided food, tents, hygiene kits and water storage tanks in Ziarat district.
- BRSP established a coordination cell in Ziarat and coordinate closely with the district Government, the Health EDO, the Pakistan Army and the community.

International Medical Corps
- Medics and Paramedics from IMC are providing around 180 consultations daily.
- They are planning to support the DoH for mental, physical and social health.

Johanniter International
- Johanniter International mobile units treated 2175 patients between 1 to 10 November in Ziarat and Pishin districts.

ARC and Pen Foundation
- ARC and Pen Foundation medical teams/mobile units are on standby in Quetta and can by deployed in Ziarat and Pishin upon the request from the DoH.

Merlin
- since 3 November, a mobile unit, which include one female doctor, one male doctor, one midwife, one dispenser and two health promoters, is providing comprehensive primary health care (including maternal and child health and delivery services in Ziarat's Kach, Kawas and Zawar Union Councils. The mobile unit has conducted 1368 curative consultations (new cases), 72 ANC, 37 PNC, eight family planning consultations and three deliveries. Merlin will be distributing clean delivery and hygiene kits to pregnant women with the support of UNFPA.
• Ziarat district health authorities requested Merlin’s support to run Kan Bangla and Kach BHUs and Sarri and Wam dispensaries.

Pakistan Army
• Three medical teams of Pakistan Army Medical Corps are working continuously in Ziarat and Pishin.

COORDINATION
• Health Cluster meetings continue at federal, provincial and district levels in order to coordinate response activities.
• The last Health Cluster coordination meeting was held on 10 November in Quetta chaired by DG Health, Balochistan. The Health EDO of affected districts and partners attended the meeting.

URGENT NEEDS
• There is an urgent need for winterized tents or any temporary building for Khanozai Hospital to ensure the continuation of health services in the coming winter. The hospital acts as the referral point for the tehsil (133,506 inhabitants for five Union Councils).

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