

Winter Contingency Plan for Health- 2006/7

Mansehra District

Introduction

With the post earthquake recovery and reconstruction phase well underway, the upcoming winter poses a real challenge to humanitarian efforts due to greater population movements, more challenging access to health facilities and changing needs of the population. With the first snows expected by late November, it is prudent to be well prepared for expected and unexpected eventualities. Particular issues include the provision of suitable and adequate drug stocks including antibiotics for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections, prevention and management of Acute Respiratory Infections and pneumonia and continuation of basic health services at public health facilities.

This 'winter contingency plan' aims to develop a strategic plan to ensure continued health care delivery to the communities vulnerable to and most affected by the harsh northern winters. This paper highlights in particular:

1. Villages that are vulnerable to closure due to heavy snows
2. Health facilities that may be considered as "base camps" for winter contingency services i.e. serve as referral centers and/or medicine depots
3. Possible partners and interventions
4. Capacity building issues related to health staff
5. Community awareness regarding prevention of pneumonia and appropriate health seeking behavior
6. Logistical support

This paper was developed with input from several partners namely, EDO Health, Mansehra, Deputy EDO Health, EPI Coordinator, MS DHQ Hospital, Church World Service (CWS), Medics Du Monde (MDM), International Medical Corps (IMC), Mercy Corps (MC), UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO Mansehra.

The EDO Health Department is prepared with sufficient amount of medicine for the next two months and procurement could be made if and when needed as new budget has been allocated.

At present the migrating population had been accommodated at the Jaba camp which has reached over its capacity. For safe water consumption WHO distributed Nerox filters through the EDO Health together with UNICEF.

Malaria fogging had been done in the camp in addition to the routine district fogging. The Camp BHU is operating through the EDO Health and a 24 hour basic EmONC is available through the WMO, LHV and Dai from UNFPA in a static MSU.

If in case of downward shifting of the population to avoid harsh winter, the EDO health teams together with the health partners in the respective areas will accordingly shift to provide their health needs.

Vulnerable areas

Based on information provided by various sources, including an assessment of public health facilities conducted earlier, four main areas have been designated as vulnerable due to winter snows. These areas and the particular facilities are presented in the table below:

1. Upper Kaghan Valley
 - ✓ BHU Khanian
 - ✓ BHU Hangarai
 - ✓ BHU Jared
 - ✓ CH Kaghan
 - ✓ RHC Kawai
 - ✓ BHU Kot gali
 - ✓ BHU Mohandri
 - ✓ BHU Naran
 - ✓ BHU Paras
 - ✓ BHU Rajwal
 - ✓ CD Ghanool

2. Kaladhaka
 - ✓ BHU Kandar
 - ✓ BHU Madda Khel
 - ✓ BHU Dera Mera
 - ✓ BHU Judbah
 - ✓ BHU Kabbal
 - ✓ BHU Kamiser
 - ✓ BHU Kandar Shagai
 - ✓ BHU Palosa
 - ✓ BHU Darbani

3. Siran Valley
 - ✓ BHU Sachan Kala
 - ✓ BHU Panjool
 - ✓ CH Nawazabad

4. Bhoonja and Monoor
 - ✓ BHU Bhoonja
 - ✓ CD Manoor

Potential 'base camps' for winter contingency activities

5. Upper Kaghan Valley
 - ✓ CH Kaghan
 - ✓ RHC Kawai
 - ✓ THQ Balakot

6. Kaladhaka
 - ✓ BHU Judbah
 - ✓ BHU Dudmera
7. Siran Valley
 - ✓ CH Nawazabad
8. Bhoonja and Monoor
 - ✓ BHU Jared
 - ✓ RHC Kawai

Possible partners and interventions

The major partners and their current and possible future activities are given below:

- ✓ CWS (Church World Service) is the health partner in Upper Kaghan Valley working with complete health staff in CH Kaghan, RHC Kawai, BHUs Rajwal and Naran and Paras
- ✓ IMC (International Medical Corps) is another health partner in Upper Kaghan Valley working in BHUs Jared, Jabri Galish, Ghanool, Hungarai, Fareedabad, Khanian, Pairan Khairabad, Kot Gali, Jabba supported by UNICEF
- ✓ MC (Mercy Corps) is working in CH Nawazabad, BHU Panjool, BHU Jabori with complete health staff
- ✓ UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) has its MCH teams in THQ Balakot, CH Nawazabad, RHC Kawai, BHU Showhal, BHU Battal and in Chatter Plain.
UNFPA also have mobile teams in BHU Lassan Thakral, BHU Trappi, BHU Belian, BHU Shergarh, and BHU Shungli Bandi providing antenatal, delivery and postnatal services) with WMOs.
- ✓ MDM (Medicins Du Monde) is providing clinic services to Bhoonja and Manoo villages, BHU Mohandari and BHU Khanian till end of November. With the departure planned by the end of November MDM is giving health education in the communities.
It is also providing once a week visit to BHU Jared with a WMO which IMC is lacking
- ✓ UNICEF will support with the capacity building and training if and when needed
- ✓ All health staff are asked and expected to remain 24 hours on call by the EDO Health during the winters in their assigned areas.
- ✓ Focal person in case of emergency has been designated from EDO Health Office as Dr. Muhammad Bashir (Coordinator Public Health)

Capacity building issues related to health staff

- ✓ Information was given by the EDO Health representative Dr. Naeem and Dr. Niaz, MS DHQ Hospital that the Public sector health staff were trained on the ARIs and Pneumonias in accordance with the IMNCI guidelines.
- ✓ Refresher training could be given at their respective areas without disrupting their work.

Logistical support

Logistical support that will be needed include:

1. Provision of winterized tents for staff accommodation at selected facilities (BHU Talhatta, BHU Doga, BHU Bhoonja, CD Manoor, CD Faridabad, BHU Pairan Khairabad)
2. Provision of 100 beds, pillows and blankets for inpatients at selected facilities
3. Provision of gas heaters at selected facilities
4. Seventeen ambulances are available at all times
5. Emergency Basic Health Kit will be provided by WHO to the four base camps selected to be used in case of emergency

Area	Facility	Currently supported by	Comments	Possible intervention
Balakot/ Kaghan valley	BHU Khanian	MDM	MDM currently conducting mobile OPD 5 days a week till end November 2006 Building "dangerous" MT is a local/ very motivated	
	BHU Hangarai	IMC	Road access okay but can be cut out easily in harsh weather IMC goes for two to three hours through mobile with MO and LHV at times	Static staff
	BHU Jared	IMC	IMC is there with MO but no female staff MDM currently providing LHV OPD 1 day a week till end November 2006	
	CH Kaghan	CWS	Well equipped and staffed (MO/LHV/FMO/MT/Dispenser). CWS staff will be there in winters also.	-Need winterized tents for staff accommodation -Establish referral center and stock for upper Kaghan
	RHC Kawai	CWS/UNFPA	UNFPA providing Reproductive Health services. MT and dispenser from MoH CWS staff to take over with WMO, LHV, MO and dental technician in a few weeks	-Need winterized tents for staff accommodation -Establish referral center and stock for lower Kaghan and Bhoonja
	BHU Kotgali		Very poor road access	
	BHU Mohandri		MDM currently conducting mobile OPD 1 day a week till end November 2006 - MT not functioning properly and charging high amounts from people	
	BHU Naran		Closes in winter due staff leaving Local people requesting for a LHV because there is only one Dai	-Need winterized tents for staff accommodation
	BHU Paras	CWS	MO/LHV available and WMO at times Access to facility difficult and needs to be changed to other location	-Need winterized tents for staff accommodation
	BHU Rajwal		CWS will be taking charge	

	CD Ghanool		IMC is operating and there is MT from the MoH	
	CH Balakot	UNFPA	There is MS, MO, WMO, MT, Dispenser and Dai from MoH There are 2 WMOs and 1 LHV from UNFPA 24/7	
	BHU Bhoonja		-17 small villages with 13,000 people but NO services -MDM currently conducting mobile OPD 5 days a week till end November 2006	-Winterized tents for staff -Mobile clinics -community awareness by MDM
	CD Manoor		- 20 small villages with no services -MDM currently conducting mobile OPD 5 days a week till end November 2006	-Mobile clinics -Winterized tents for staff
Kaladhaka	BHU Kandar Shagai		Only one MO in BHU Judbah The MT at Dure Mera is local and motivated Restricted to UN agencies due to tribal area	-Winterized tents for each facility (X9) for staff accommodation -Stock drugs at - BHU Judbah
	BHU Madda Khel			
	BHU Dera Mera			
	BHU Judbah			
	BHU Kabbal			
	BHU Kamiser			
	BHU Bartooni			
	BHU Palosa			
	BHU Darbani			
Siran Valley	BHU Sachan Kala			
	BHU Panjool	Mercy Corps	Mercy Corps is working in this area with MO, LHV and other staff	
	CH Nawazabad		Mercy Corps is working in this area with MO, LHV and other staff UNFPA is providing MCH services	-Stock drugs for facilities in Siran Valley
Mansehra	BHU Pairan Khairabad			
	Jabba Camp		- IMC leaving in Nov. UNFPA doctor still available but only doing MCH -UNFPA has mobile delivery services	-BHU Attarsheesha may be used to store medicine
	RHC Shinkiari			
	BHU Lassan Nawab			
	BHU Jabori		Mercy Corps is working in this area with MO, LHV and other staff	

--	--	--	--	--