

U. S. Breaking News Report

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Copy right Issue 068 Monday, Aug 30, 2021

How Can WHO Get Medical Supplies Into Afghanistan?

With medical supplies running low in Afghanistan and instability at Kabul's airport following Thursday's terrorist attack, the World Health Organization (WHO) is looking into new ways to provide much-needed supplies to the nation; a top official told media in Geneva.

"We only have a few days of supplies remaining, and we're looking at all ways to bring additional medicines into the country," said Dr. Richard Brennan, Regional Emergency Director with the WHO Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), while addressing on Friday during the bi-weekly UN agency briefing.



Pakistan is assisting efforts to fly in humanitarian supplies, most likely via the airport in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, he added, with the first aircraft expected to depart in the coming days. The World Food Programme (WFP) is also constructing a "humanitarian air bridge" from Islamabad, with flights beginning soon.

The terrorist act has heightened tensions and volatility in a nation where almost half of the population, or 18 million people, already need humanitarian assistance. An ongoing UN request for \$1.3 billion is only around 40% financed.

When asked about the attack's impact on hospitals, Dr. Brennan stated that a WHO partner, the Italian NGO Emergency, which operates a trauma center in Kabul, has been "overwhelmed" in treating casualties, who are said to be more than 200.

"Of course, gaining access to supplies is critical, and we recognize that they are under a lot of strain right now. So our anticipated air shipment in the coming days will bring in more trauma kits," he said.

The UN reiterates its commitment to remain in Afghanistan. More than 100 overseas employees and around 3,000 native workers remain in the country. WHO, which has 700 staff spread throughout all 34 provinces, is particularly concerned with the health issues of women and children.

How Delta Variant Is Wrecking Havoc In The United States?



Covid-19 hospitalizations are increasing again in the United States as more individuals become infected with the virus's extremely infectious delta variant

According to data released Friday morning by the US Department of Health and Human Services, more than 100,000 people have been hospitalized with Covid-19. This means that a Covid patient occupies one in every six hospital beds in the United States.

According to the CDC, new admissions of patients with confirmed Covid-19 diagnoses are at their highest since the start of the epidemic for all age groups under 50.

According to hospitals and researchers, a significant proportion of this year's hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. On Wednesday, Dr. Paul Offit, a member of the US Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory group, said that the current hospitalization increase is unfortunate because of the availability of vaccinations.

"The numbers now... are really worse in many aspects than they were last August," Offit added. "We had a totally vulnerable population in August, (and) we didn't have a vaccine." Despite the fact that half of the country has been immunized, the numbers continue to rise.

"The Delta variant is a game-changer," he claims.

According to data from Johns Hopkins University, the US has averaged more than 152,400 new Covid-19 cases each day over the last week, which is more than 13 times the amount from roughly nine weeks ago.

Will ISIS Pay The Price For Attacks On Kabul Airport?

In an apparent retaliation attack against terrorists who claimed responsibility for the bombing outside Kabul's airport, US military troops launched a drone strike against Afghanistan's Islamic State terrorist group on Friday.

"Today, US military forces launched an over-the-horizon counterterrorism operation against an ISIS-K planner," said Capt. Bill Urban, spokesperson for US Central Command. *"The unmanned airstrike happened in Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province. According to early indicators, we killed the target. There have been no civilian injuries that we are aware of."*



ISIS-K, commonly known as Islamic State Khorasan, claimed responsibility for the "martyrdom attack" on Thursday, which involved a suicide bomber detonating an explosive belt at the airport's entrance, killing 13 US military personnel and over 110 Afghans. The blasts injured over 100 people.

In a speech on Thursday, President Joe Biden promised that the US would respond to the attacks "with force."

According to two US defense sources familiar with the strike, the target of the drone strike was an ISIS-K fighter suspected to be involved in future attack planning. The strike took place in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, where ISIS-K had a significant presence before being completely defeated by the Afghan forces and the Taliban many years ago.

At the time of the strike, the unidentified ISIS-K planner was traveling in a car with one associate in a remote region. According to defense sources, the operation was carried out by a MQ-9 Reaper drone carrying bombs selected for precision and to limit civilian casualties.

In addition, the Taliban arrested several people in connection with the Kabul airport attack.

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