



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #14-2023

No. 14/(02 to 08 Apr)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (May 22 - Apr 23)	ARI (Oct 22 - Apr 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Apr 23)	Pertussis (Jan 22 - Apr 23)	Measles (Jan 22 - Apr 23)	Dengue fever (Jun 22 - Apr 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 534 (87.1%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	277,275	5,214,446	211,457	1,174	87,541	1,411
Death (CFR %)	100 (0.04)	1,659 (0.03)	7,884 (3.70)	15 (1.28)	421 (0.48)	3 (0.21)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 May 2022 to 08 Apr 2023)

Table 1: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (12 Feb – 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	2,263	2,836	1,815	1,878	2,486	2,942	2,954	3,306	
% Change cases	-3.2	25.3	-36.0	3.5	32.4	18.3	0.4	11.9	
Deaths	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.09	

- During week 14-2023, a total of 3,306 new AWD cases with dehydration and 3 new deaths were reported which represents an 11.9% increase in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- The new deaths were (2 Females and 1 male) from Balkh, Nimroz and Parwan provinces.
- During the last 5 weeks, there has been an increase in the number of cases confirming the increasing trend. This increase in the number of cases could be linked with the start of new season (spring) in some of the provinces (Figure 1).
- Out of 277,275 cases, 153,746 (55.4%) were children below 5 years and 138,371 (49.9%) were females.
- A total of 2,664 samples were tested for AWD.
- The first few cases of AWD with dehydration were reported to the National Disease Surveillance and Response System (NDSR), MoPH and WHO on 04 May 2022 from Kandahar city of Kandahar province and spread to 178 districts in all 34 provinces (Figure 2).

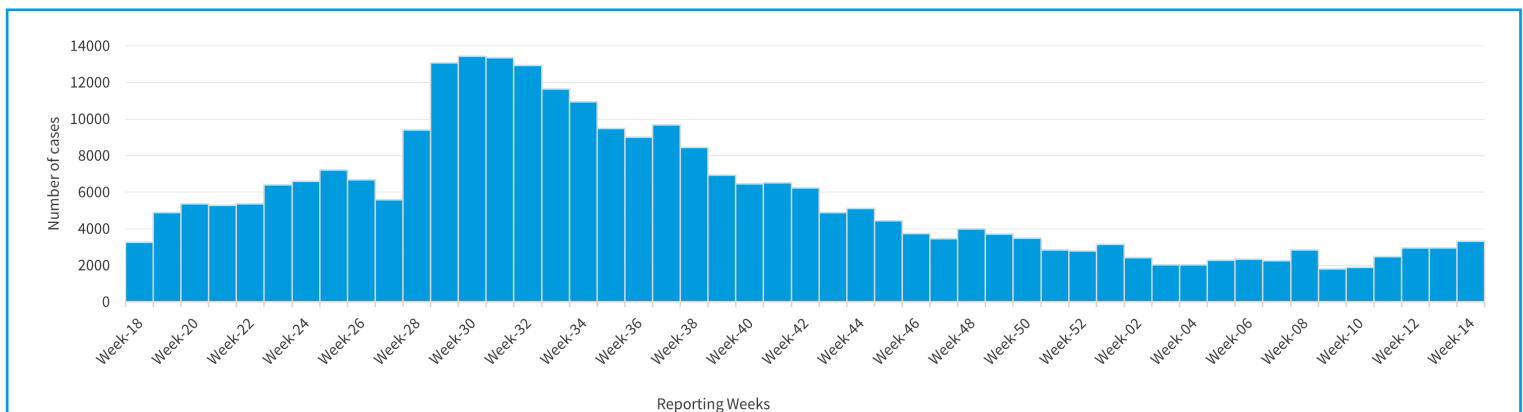


Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan May 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=277,275)

AFGHANISTAN

AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province

As of 08 Apr 2023



Figure 2. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, May 2022 - Apr 2023

Response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted among the partners to prepare for the next season of AWD outbreak response.
- Emergency and Preparedness Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.

Surveillance

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- During last week, 34 surveillance officers were trained on EBS and IBS procedures from 34 provinces, this brings the total number of NDSR officers trained on surveillance to 74 in 2023.
- Totally, 1,018 medical officers and community health supervisors (CHSs) have been trained on procedures of community event-base surveillance (EBS) in 6 provinces (Kabul, Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar).
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- During last week, 32 medical officers and 34 nurses were trained from 6 provinces (Parwan, Bamiyan, Daikundi, Wardak, Logar, Kapisa, Panjshir) in 2 regions (Central and Central Highland) were trained on AWD case management. Totally 194 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on AWD case management since the beginning of 2023.

Laboratory and Supplies

As part of the preparedness plan for 2023 season:

- A total of 3,750 Cary Blairs and 325 kits of RDTs were prepositioned at 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- Forty laboratory technologists, from regional reference labs (RRLs) (5), provincial PCR labs (28), infectious diseases hospital (IDH) (2), Afghan Japan Hospital Lab (1) and the central public health laboratory (CPHL) (4), were trained on sample collection, trans-

portation, and impact of sample quality on lab results.

WASH and RCCE

From 16 Mar-01 Apr 2023, the following activities were carried out WASH response:

- More than 19,000 Hygiene Kits were distributed in 16 provinces reaching in total 114,510 individuals. This brings the total number of hygiene kits distributed to 78,942 in 16 provinces (Badakhshan, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan-Wardak, Paktya, Takhar, Uruzgan, Zabul).
- Clean water was provided to more than 86,000 people by chlorination of the 2,331 well in 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Herat, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Maidan-Wardak, Samangan).
- Rehabilitation of the water supply system in 15 provinces covering around 79,000 individuals (Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Maidan-Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktika, Parwan, Samangan).
- Sanitation and hygiene facilities were provided to more than 63,000 individuals by emergency latrines installation and rehabilitations in 15 outbreak affected provinces (Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Hilmand, Hirat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Nangarhar, Parwan, Takhar, Zabul).
- Hygiene promotion sessions were provided to more than 327,000 people in 20 provinces (Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan-Wardak, Nimroz, Samangan, Takhar, Uruzgan, Zabul).
- Household water treatment promotion in 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Samangan, Zabul) reaching 50,000 individuals.
- Hygiene facilities were provided to 6,500 individuals by installation and rehabilitation of handwashing facilities in Kandahar province.
- In 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Samangan, Zabul), soaps were distributed to 75,000 individuals.
- Clean water was provided by water trucking to 11,000 individuals in Farah and Zabul provinces.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (01 Oct 2022 to 08 Apr 2023)

5.2M
Total Cases

1,659
Total Deaths

1,238
Influenza
samples tested

195
Influenza
lab confirmed cases

15.7%
Influenza test
positivity ratio

Table 2: summary of the acute respiratory infection outbreak in the last eight weeks (12 Feb – 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	192,490	200,318	190,123	187,716	176,562	161,213	174,873	156,926	
% Change cases	-11.0	4.1	-5.1	-1.3	-5.9	-8.7	8.5	-10.3	
Deaths	68	72	46	60	48	78	49	42	
CFR (%)	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.03	

- During week 14-2023, a total of 156,926 new ARI cases and 42 new deaths were reported which indicates 10.3% decrease in the number of cases and 14.3% decrease in the number of deaths, compared to the previous week.
- The curve shows decline in the number of ARI cases since week 4-2023 onwards, this decline is coinciding with the end of winter season and start of spring (figure 3).
- Since Oct 2022, out of the total 5,214,446 ARI cases, representing 15.9% of the total population of Afghanistan, 2,361,007 (45.3%) were children below 5 years of age and 2,711,994 (52.0%) were females.
- Case definition of ARI: Acute onset of cough, cold, coryza (runny nose), pharyngitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, or bronchiolitis with or without fever, Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), and pneumonia including severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and suspected COVID-19.

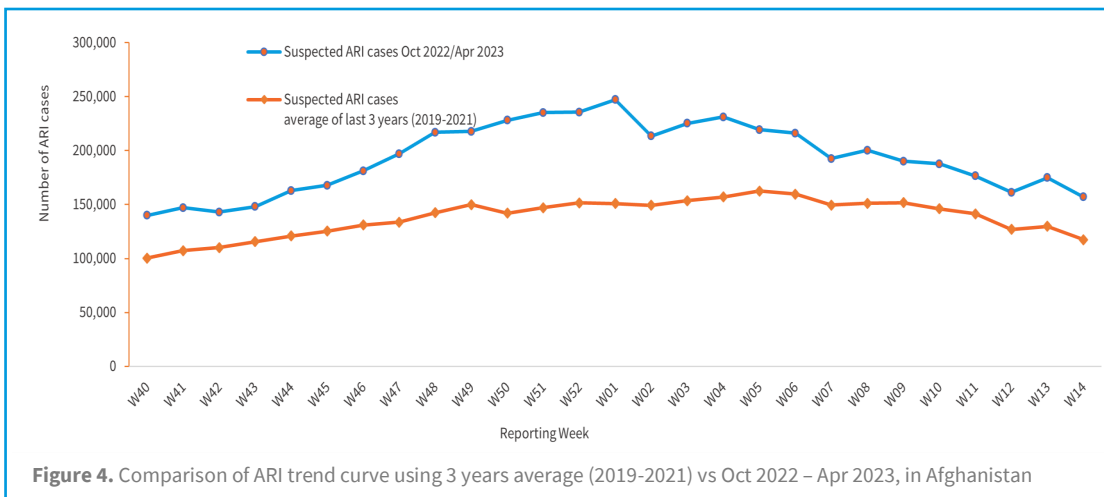
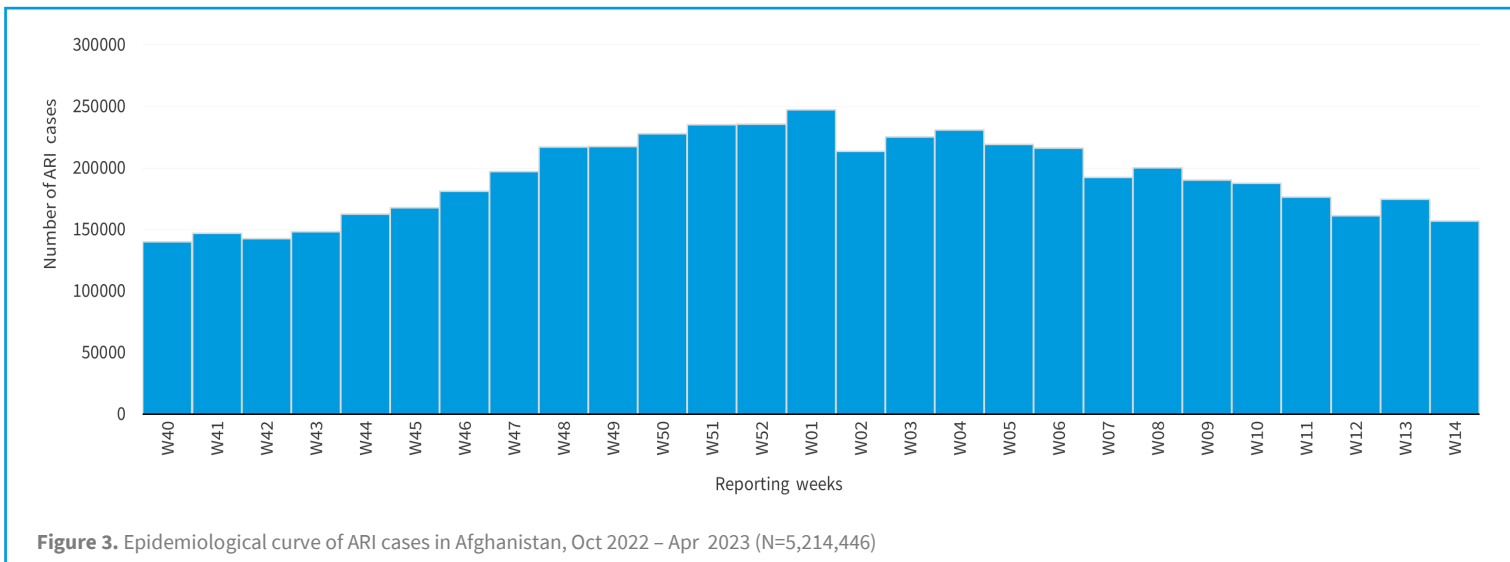


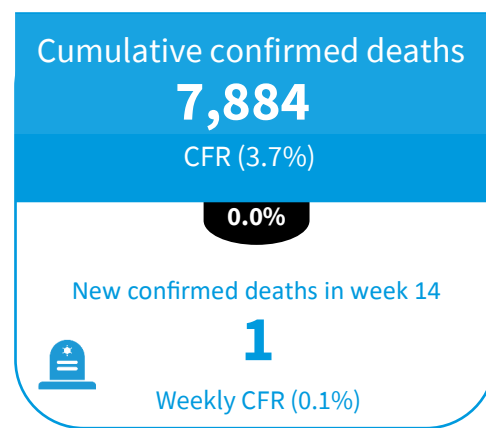
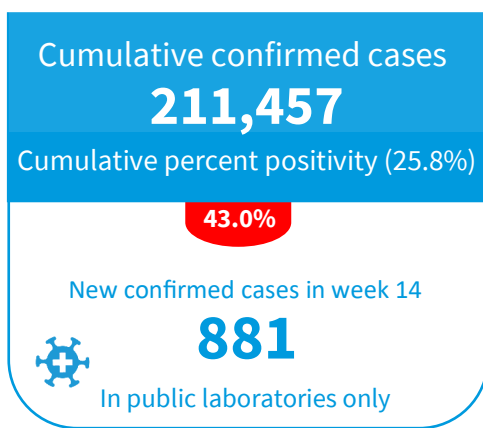
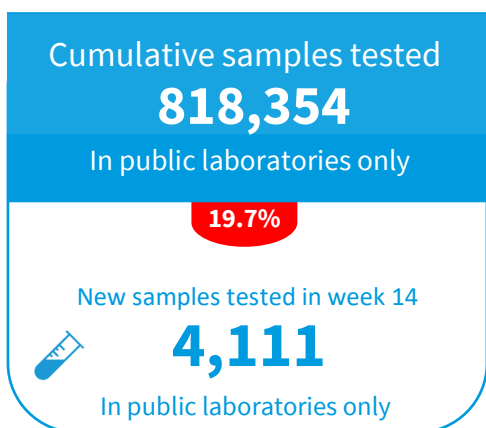
Figure 4 shows a decreasing trend in the number of ARI cases since week 4 of the current year, which could be explained by the ending of winter season.

Response to Acute Respiratory Infection outbreak

- The provincial NDSR team through provincial EPR committee is leading the outbreak response activities.
- Surveillance is conducted by the SSTs and case management is done by the BPHS/EPHS implementing partners.
- A total of 70 samples were collected and shipped to CPHL/NIC for testing, last week.

- Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 512 ARI case management kits and 960 packs of essential antibiotics were distributed in the 13 highly affected provinces.
- As part of preparedness and response activities to infectious disease outbreaks during the winter season, medical supplies have been delivered to all 34 provinces across the country.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 08 Apr 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG CMYP 2022)

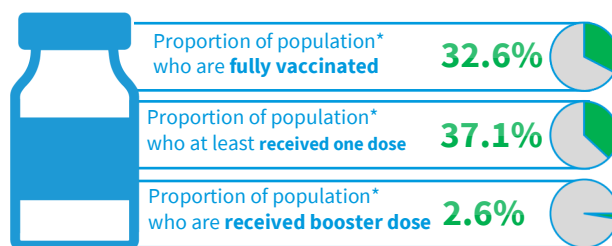


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (12 Feb - 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,180	2,556	2,454	2,817	4,050	2,288	3,435	4,111	
Confirmed cases	121	129	126	136	238	353	616	881	
% Change cases	-33.1	6.6	-2.3	7.9	75.0	48.3	74.5	43.0	
Percent positivity (%)	5.6	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.9	15.4	17.9	21.4	
Deaths	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	
CFR (%)	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	

•Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 818,354 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.

•In week 14-2023, 4,111 samples were tested in public labs, of which 881 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 21.4%) and 1 new death was reported. This represents 43.0% increase in the number of confirmed cases, compared to the previous week.

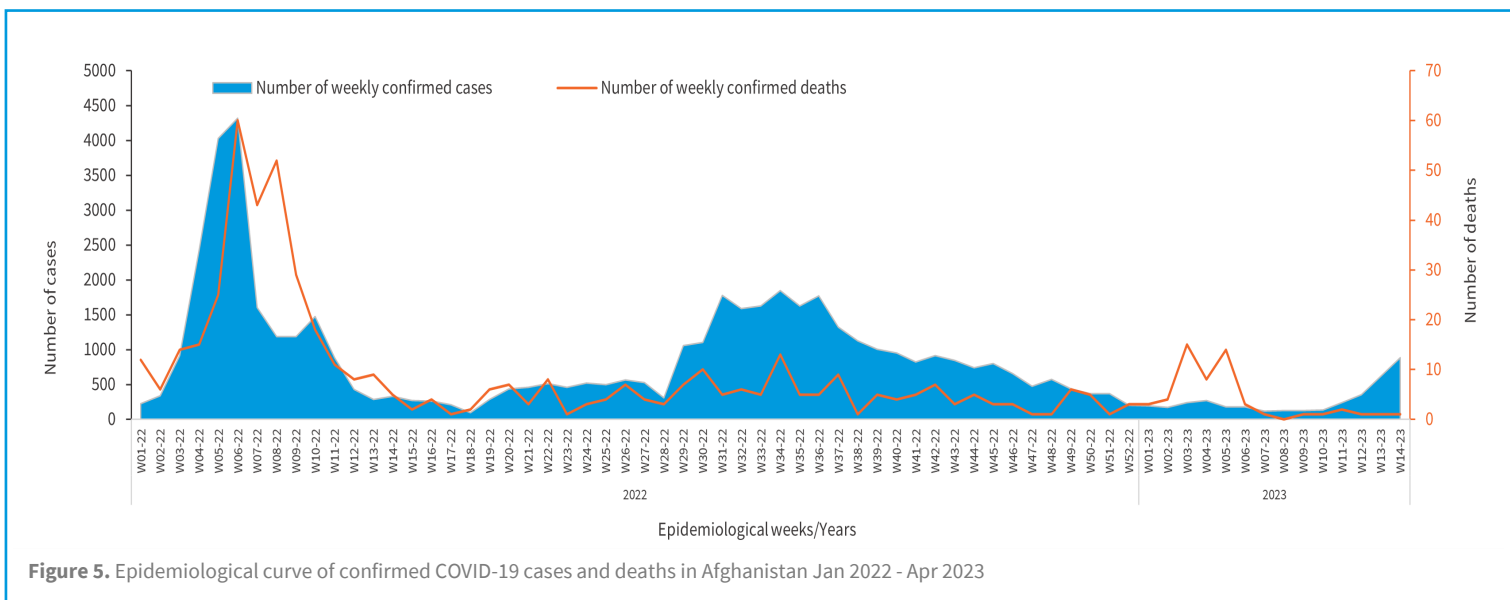
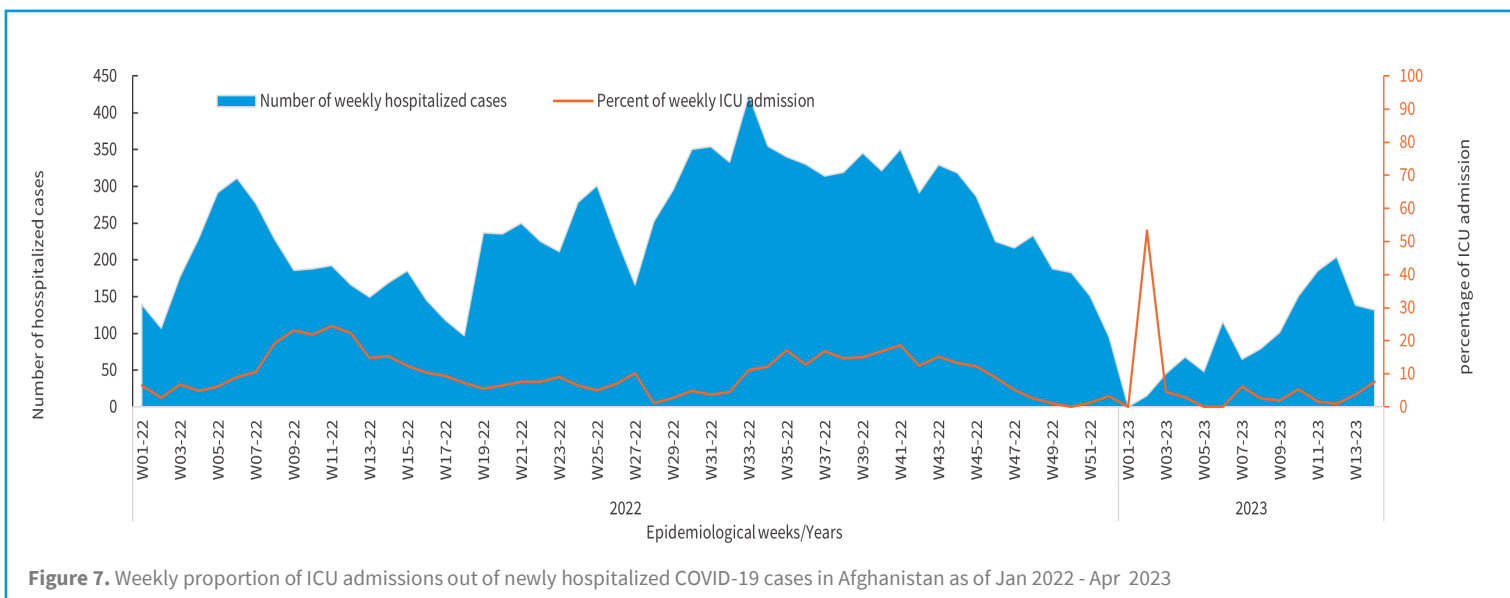
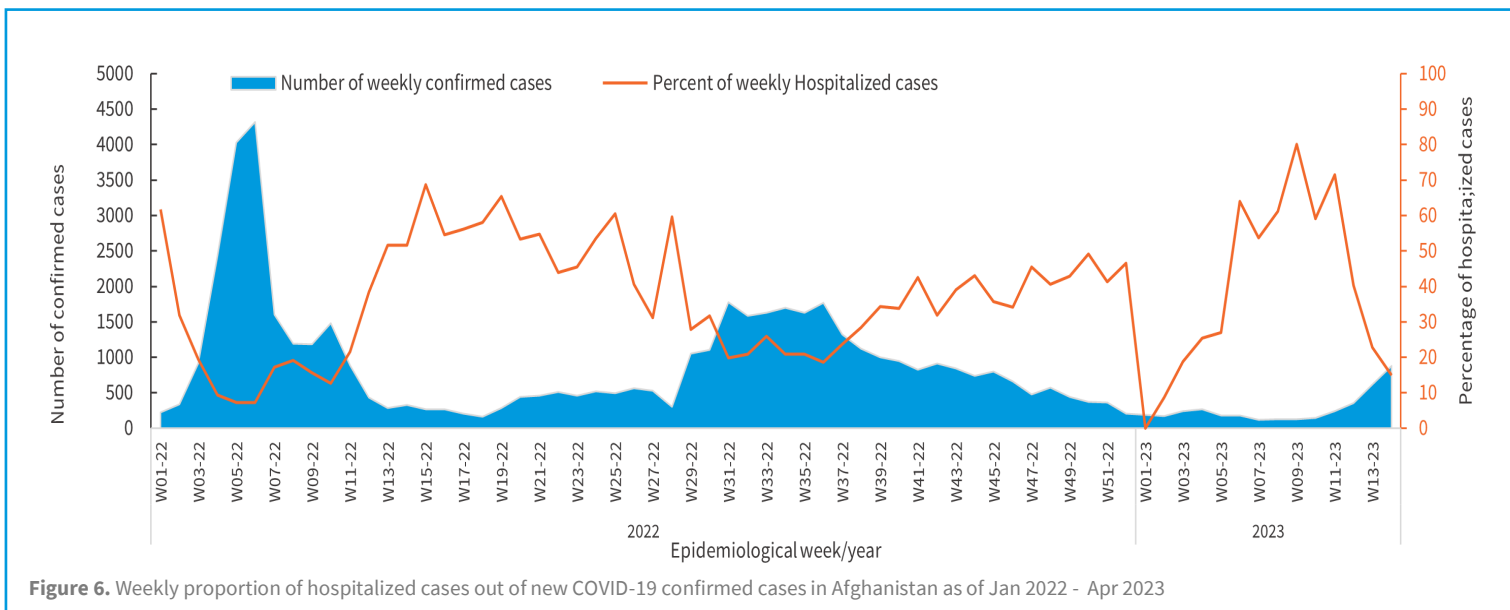


Figure 5 shows an increase in the number of confirmed cases in the past 5 weeks, which confirms the increasing trend. The low vaccination coverage (around 32% of the population fully vaccinated, and minimal booster doses) could be explain the observed increase.







Suspected Pertussis Outbreaks (Jan 2022 – Apr 2023)


1,174
Total Cases


15
Total Deaths

Table 4: summary of the suspected pertussis outbreak in the last eight weeks (12 Feb – 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	4	12	3	6	10	12	26	11	
% Change cases	-33.3	200.0	-75.0	100.0	66.7	20.0	116.7	-57.7	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- During week 14-2023, a total of 11 new suspected pertussis cases were reported from 7 provinces Kabul (3), Zabol (3), Badakhshan (1), Helmand (1), Kapisa (1), Khost (1) and Urozgan (1); this brings the total number of suspected cases to 1,174 from 20 provinces.
- Out of the total 1,174 cases, 831 (70.8%) were children below 5 years and 555 (47.3%) were females.

AFGHANISTAN

Geographical Distribution of Suspected Pertussis Cases by Province

As of 08 Apr 2023

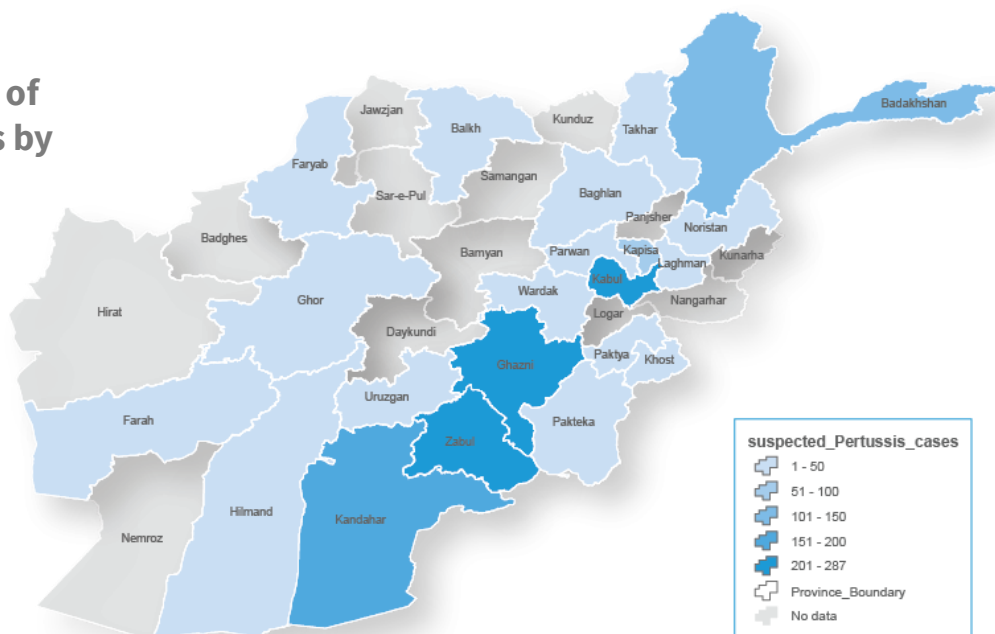


Figure 8. Geographical distribution of suspected pertussis cases in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=1,174)

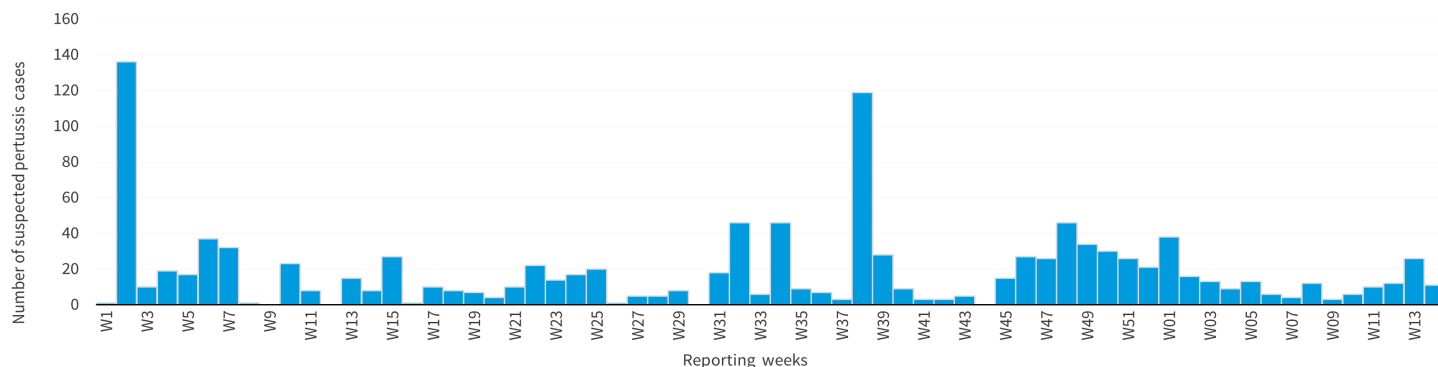


Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected Pertussis cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=1,174)

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan 2022 to 08 Apr 2023)

87,541
Total Cases

421
Total Deaths

12,162
Sample tested

7,031
Lab confirmed cases

57.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (12 Feb – 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	837	871	807	897	786	685	709	672	
% Change cases	1.8	4.1	-7.3	11.2	-12.4	-12.8	3.5	-5.2	
Deaths	3	2	0	4	5	1	2	3	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	

- During epidemiological week 14-2023, a total of 672 new suspected cases and 3 new deaths were reported which indicates 5.2% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- The 3 newly reported deaths were (2 male and 1 female) all of them were under 5 years of age from Nangarhar and Samangan provinces.
- Out of the total 87,541 cases, 67,182 (76.7%) were children under 5 years of age and 42,553 (48.6%) were females.

AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province As of 08 Apr 2023

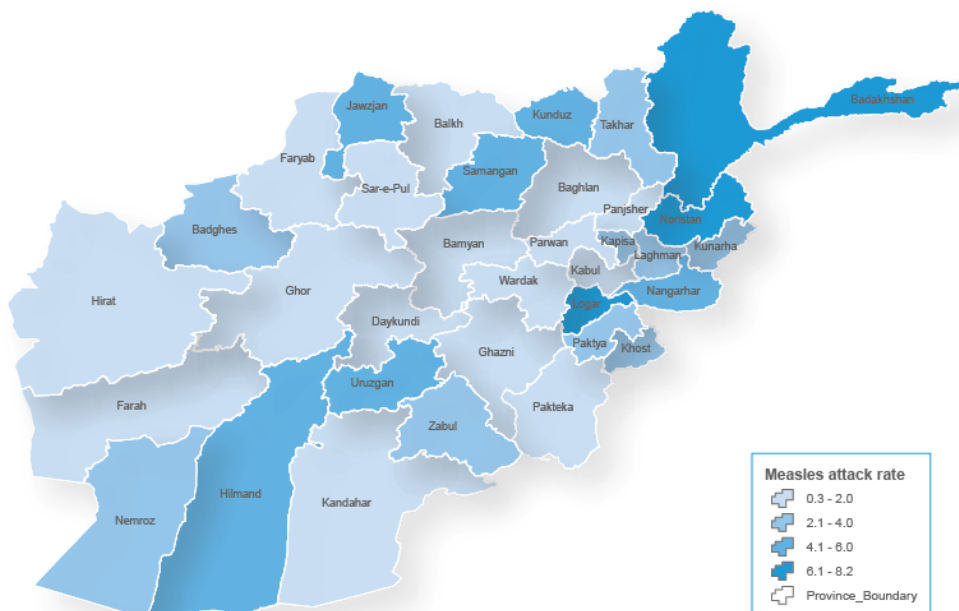


Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population of by province in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=87,541)

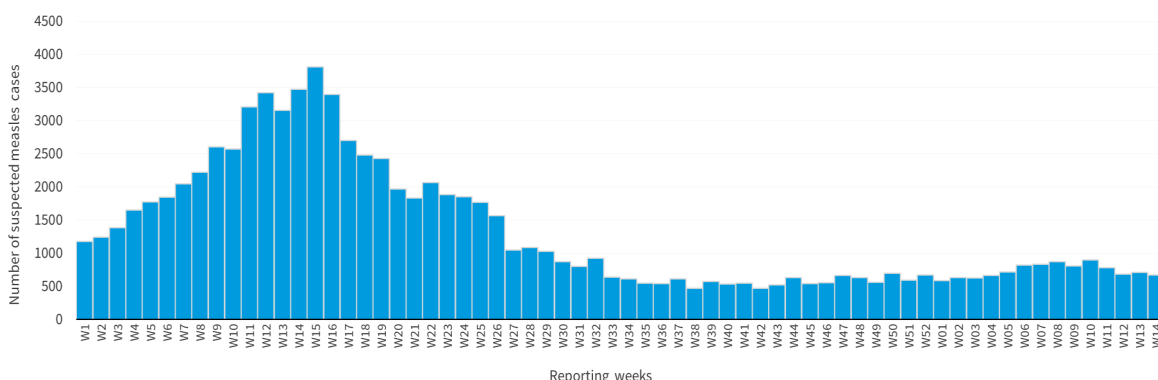
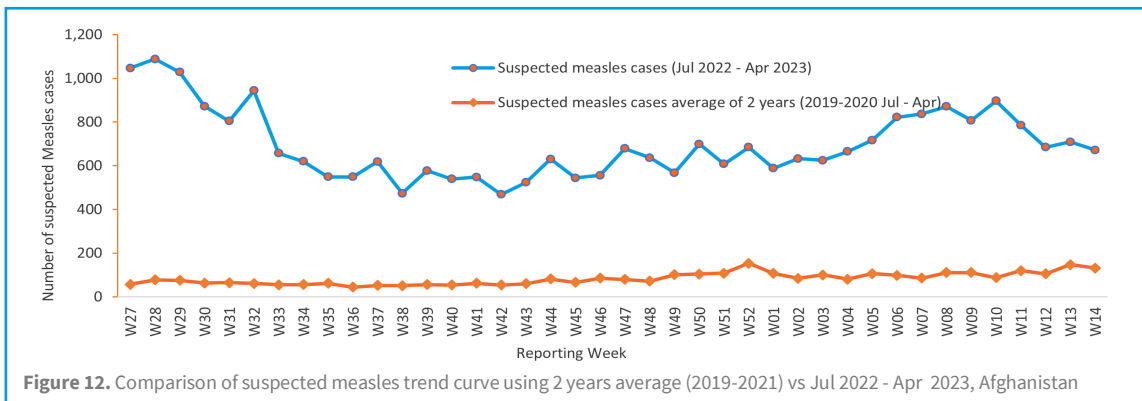


Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=87,541)

Figure 11 shows that since epi-week 1-2023, the number of suspected measles cases has been increasing which could be explained by lower immunity of children due to the harsh winter season. However, a slight decrease is seen from week 10-2023 followed by stabilization for the past few weeks.



The weekly number of suspected measles cases indicates an increase since week 1-2023, laying above the average of last 2-years (2019-2020). However, a decline is observed since week 10, followed by stabilization for the past 3 weeks.

Response to Measles outbreak

- During the last week, around 800 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated for measles as a response to outbreak by the implementing partners (NGOs) in different province. This brings the total number of vaccinated children by NGOs to 6,256 in outbreak affected areas across the county.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; immunizing 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% admin coverage).
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak response and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- A total of 593 measles case management kits have been supplied to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jun 2022 to 08 Apr 2023)

1,411
Total Cases

3
Total Deaths

474
Sample tested

383
Lab confirmed cases

80.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (12 Feb– 08 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	9	10	8	12	18	10	14	19	
% Change cases	28.6	11.1	-20.0	50.0	50.0	-44.4	40.0	35.7	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	

- A total of 19 suspected dengue fever cases with one new death have been reported during week 14-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases and deaths to 1,411 and 3, respectively.
- The new death was reported from Nangarhar province, a female age 19 years.
- Out of 1,411 reported cases, 368 (26.2%) were females and 1,393 (98.7%) were over 5 years of age.

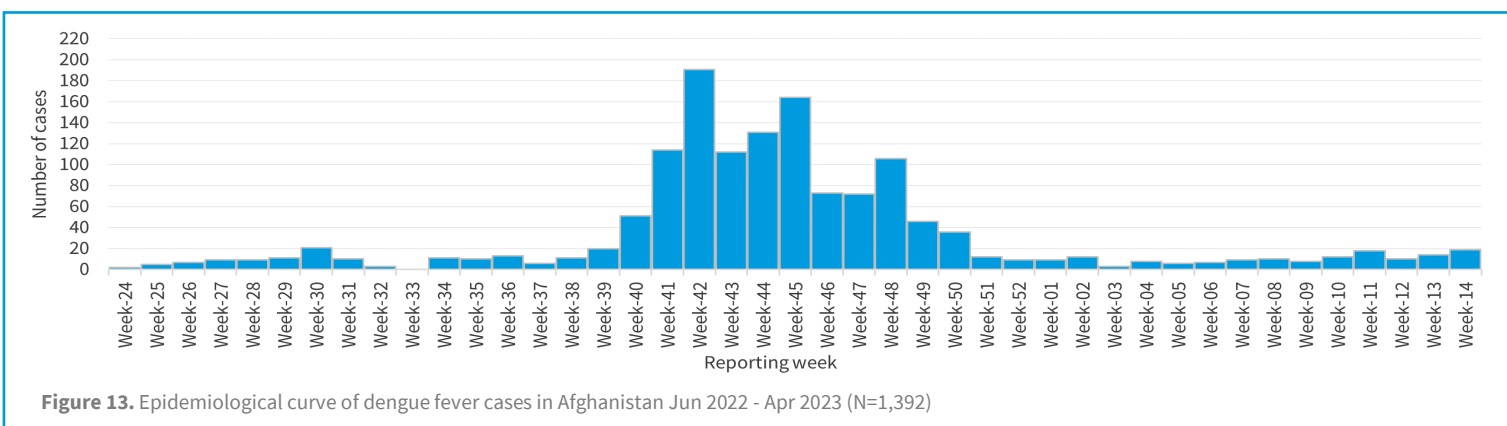
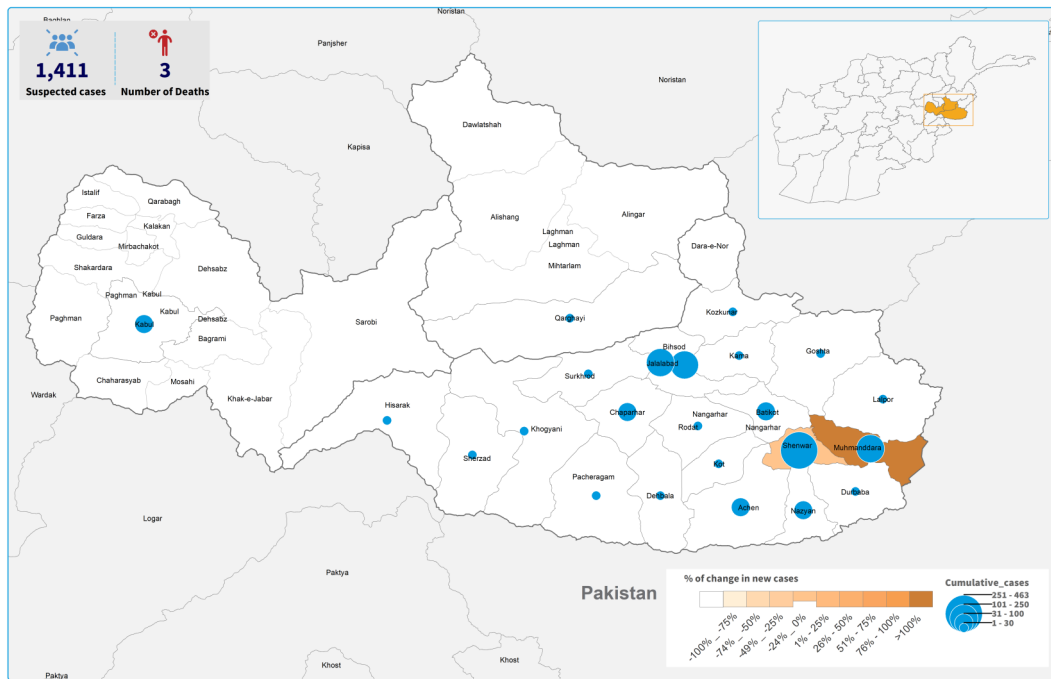


Figure 13 shows a slight increase for the last three weeks which may indicate the start of the new season in Nangarhar province.



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 13 and 14, 2023)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization (WHO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, the lines on map represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Sources: MoPH, WHO, AGCHQ. Creation date: 08 April 2023.

Figure 14. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jun 2022 - Apr 2023

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- Since July 2022 a total of 9 PCR kits has been delivered to the Nangarhar regional reference lab (RRL) and 4 dengue ELISA kits to central public health laboratory (CPHL), infectious disease hospital (IDH) and Nangarhar regional reference lab (RRL) to support the confirmation of diagnosis among suspected dengue cases.
- Overall, 1,000 Kgs of larvicides have been released and distributed to Nangarhar sub-office to support dengue fever vector control activities.
- Surveillance support and entomology teams in addition to surveillance activities (case detection, reporting and sample collection) monitor the outbreak situation.
- Health education sessions were conducted in two villages of hotspot areas (Jalalabad city and Shinwar district) for increasing public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.

CCHF highlights

- Between Jan 2022-Apr 2023, a total of 397 suspected CCHF cases were reported from 26 provinces, out of which 304 cases (76.9%) were males and all were over five years of age. out of the total reported cases, 105 (26.5%) were lab confirmed using PCR.
- Between Jan-2022-April 2023, a total of 22 CCHF associated deaths were reported from 10 provinces including the 9 deaths from 5 North Region provinces, Balkh (4), Samangan (1), Jawzjan (1), Faryab (1) and Takhar (2).
- No new CCHF associated deaths have been reported in the last 14 weeks.
- The CCHF cases are managed in the health facilities according to the national guidelines.
- 2,000 double bags and 500 doses ribavirin needed for the treatment of CCHF were procured and distributed to all regions.
- A total of 91 healthcare workers (in 33 provinces) were trained on CCHF case management protocol in the country.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Alaa AbouZeid, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD: Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO-CO, (abouzeida@who.int)
- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preparedness, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)