









COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan





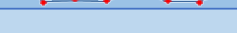
Epidemiological Week 37 (11 – 17 Sep 2022)

Note: As a part of the integration process, COVID-19 information will be integrated into the Afghanistan weekly infectious disease outbreaks situation report starting from the 1st of October 2022.

 <p>Cumulative samples tested 704,425 In public laboratories only</p>	 <p>Cumulative confirmed cases 197,342 Cumulative percent positivity (28.0%)</p>	 <p>Cumulative confirmed deaths 7,796 CFR (3.9 %)</p>
 <p>New samples tested in week 37 7,422 ↓ 10 % In public laboratories only</p>	 <p>New confirmed cases in week 37 1,321 ↓ 25 % Weekly percent positivity (18%)</p>	 <p>New confirmed deaths in week 37 9 ↑ 80 % Weekly CFR (0.7%)</p>

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change









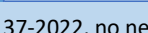
Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (24 Jul – 17 Sep 2022)

Indicators	W30-22	W31-22	W32-22	W33-22	W34-22	W35-22	W36-22	W37-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	5,507	8,605	7,651	7,313	8,495	7,457	8,250	7,422	
Confirmed cases	1,103	1,776	1,587	1,629	1,848	1,626	1,771	1,321	
Percent positivity (%)	20	21	21	22	22	22	21	18	
Confirmed deaths	10	5	6	5	13	5	5	9	
CFR (%)	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	

Highlights of the week

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **704,425** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.
- In week 37-2022, **7,422** samples were tested in public labs, of which **1,321** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **18**) and **9** new deaths were reported. This represents **25%** decrease in the number of newly reported cases and **80%** increase in the number of deaths, respectively, compared to week 36-2022 (Table 1).
- Cumulatively, **197,342** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **28.0**) of COVID-19 with **7,796** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 3.9%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.
- As of 10 Sep 2022, **89.1 %**, of cases have recovered.
- In week 37-2022, 5 out of 8 regions reported decrease in the number of newly reported cases compared to week 36 (Table 2). the highest number of new weekly cases were reported from Nangarhar (**122** cases), Parwan (**100** cases), Badakhshan (**80** cases), Laghman (**78** cases), and Wardak (**77** cases).
- The WHO has supported building the Genomic Sequencing capacity for COVID-19 at the Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL), Kabul-Afghanistan. A total of **23** samples are sequenced out of which **16 (69.5%)** are Omicron variant (VOC).

Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 37, 2022 (11 – 17 Sep 2022)

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 37 (%)	% of change compared to week 36	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		229 (18%)	-26%	52,419 (26.6%)
Central West		239 (18%)	-57%	18,890 (9.5%)
East		279 (21%)	-21%	23,805 (12.0%)
North		44 (3%)	-45%	16,096 (8.2%)
North East		145 (11%)	23%	22,062 (11.2%)
South		96 (7%)	-39%	23,003 (11.7%)
South East		126 (10%)	215%	12,722 (6.4%)
West		163 (12%)	4%	28,345 (14.4%)
National		1,321 (100%)	-25%	197,342 (100%)

- In week 37-2022, no new case has been reported among healthcare workers.
- Since week 5-2022, there has been no new death reported among HCWs.
- Overall, Afghanistan has reported **4,786** confirmed cases and **97** associated deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs) since 2020. To date, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunar reported the highest number of positive cases among HCWs.

Figure 1: Number of weekly PCR tests conducted and 2-week moving average of percent positivity in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 – 17 Sep 2022)

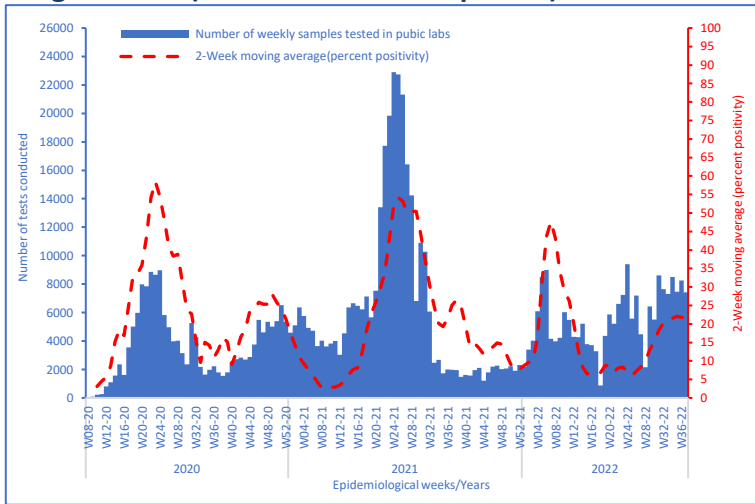


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)

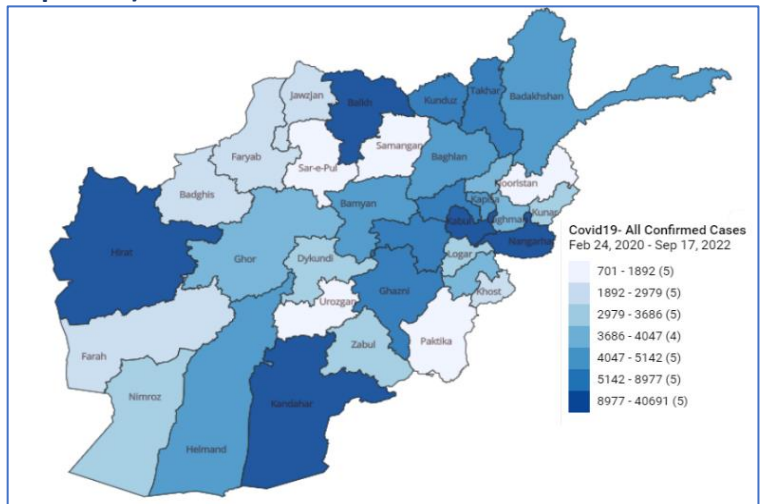


Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)

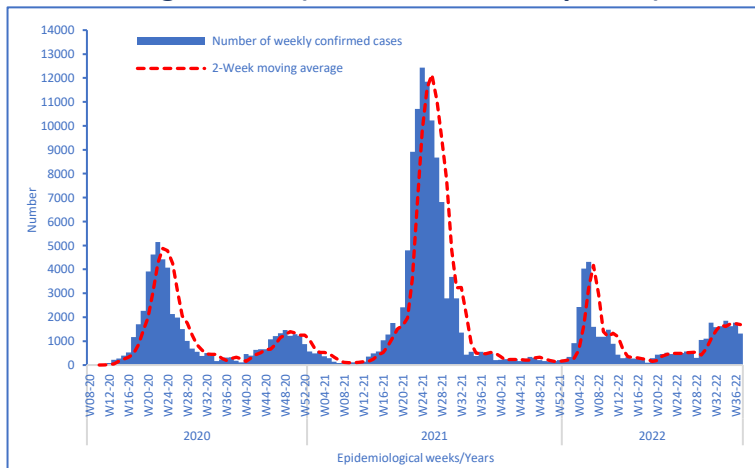


Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)

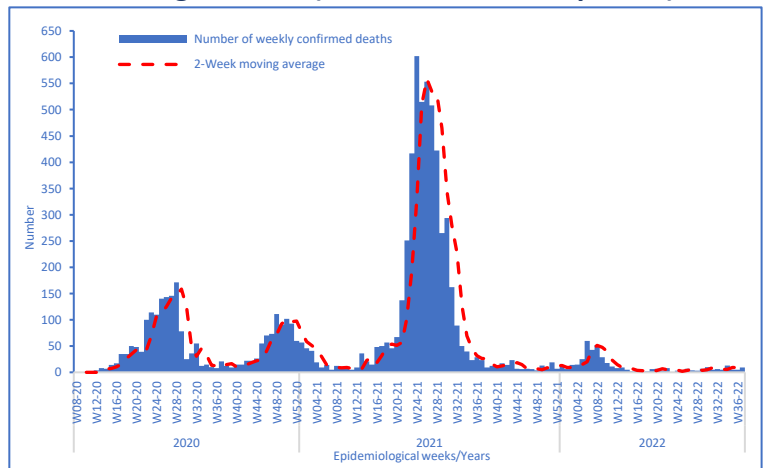


Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)

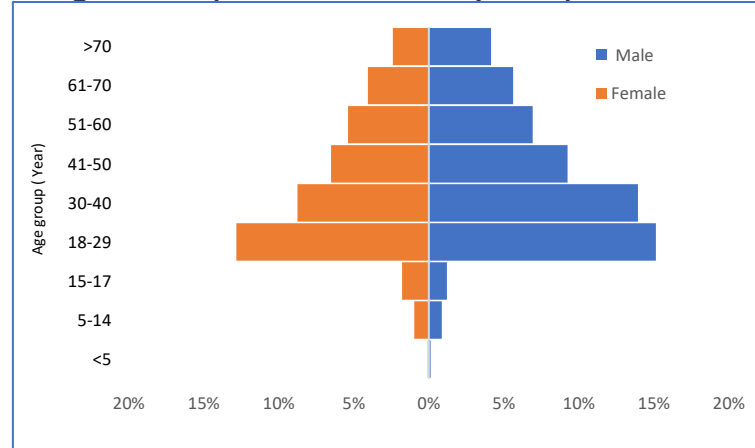
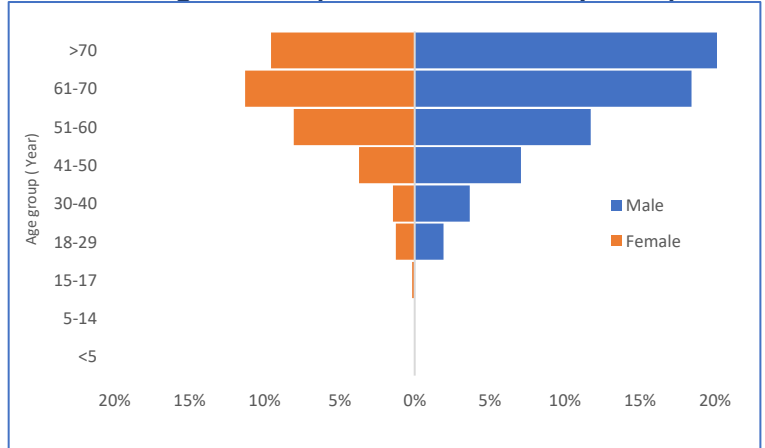


Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)



- Of the confirmed COVID-19 cases, **57%** have been reported among males and **43%** among females. Majority of cases have been reported among those aged between 18-40 years.

- Of the COVID-19 associated deaths, **65%** were reported among males and **35%** among females. The graph indicates that most reported deaths were among those aged over 70 years.

Figure 7: Proportion of underlying medical conditions among COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan, 24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022 (n=1,956)

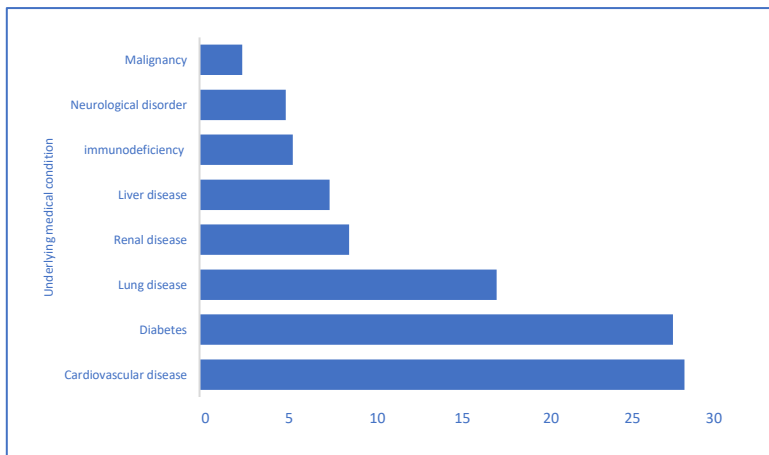


Figure 8: Weekly cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and recoveries in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 17 Sep 2022)

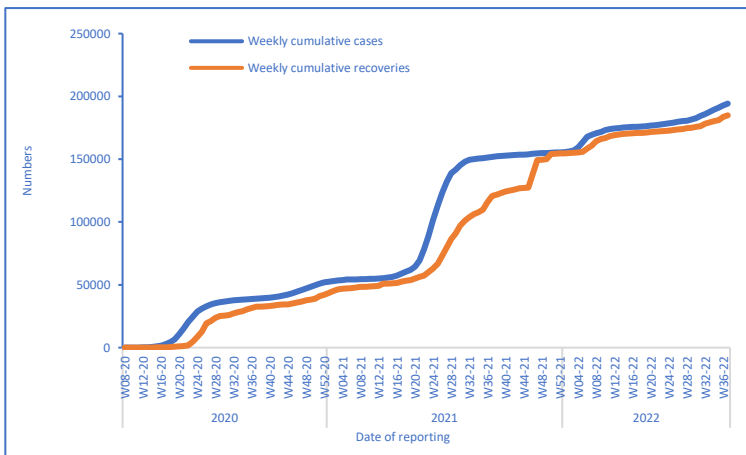
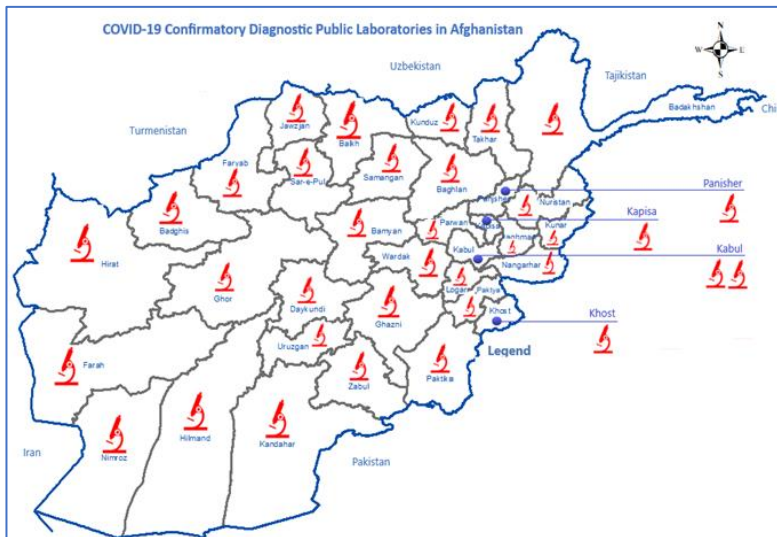


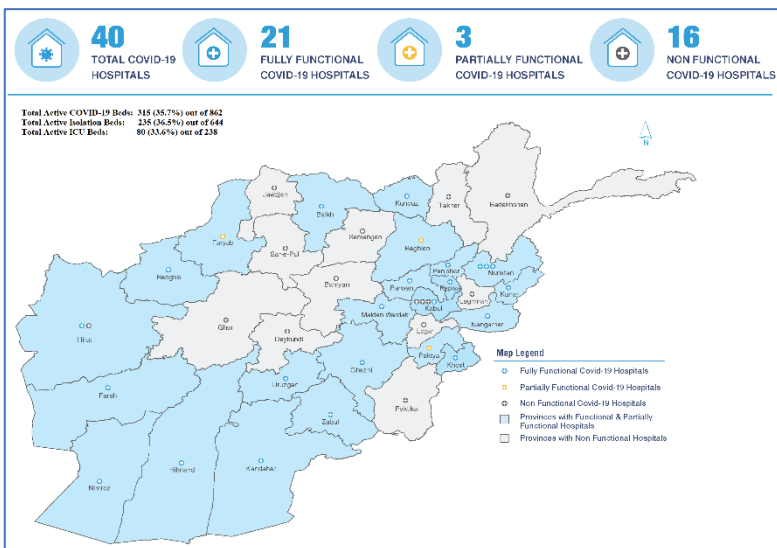
Figure 9: COVID-19 confirmatory diagnostic public laboratories in Afghanistan, as of 17 Sep 2022



Laboratory functionality updates:

- WHO has supported the establishment of COVID-19 laboratories since the start of the pandemic. The support included the provision of diagnostic equipment, infrastructure, capacity building and human resources.
- As of 17 Sep 2022, there are 35 out of 37 COVID-19 laboratories functional across 34 provinces.
- The testing capacity is 9,200 tests/24 hours.
- Recently the WHO supported 14 GeneXpert PCR machines in 12 provinces with an average capacity of 1000 tests per day.

Figure 10: COVID-19 hospitals status run by MoPH and other partners in Afghanistan, as of 17 Sep 2022



Integration of COVID-19 services into the current System

- Since the start of the pandemic, 40 COVID-19 hospitals were established in all 34 provinces with number of beds ranging between 20 to 100.
- As of week 37-2022, 21 out of 40 hospitals are fully functional, 3 are partially functional and 16 are nonfunctional (figure 10).
- Total number of COVID-19 available beds are 439 for both isolation and ICU in 21 hospitals.
- The weekly hospitalization rate is 17.5% for this week.
- The current bed occupancy rate (BOR) is around 52.5%.
- After discussion with the de facto MOPH, there was an agreement on the integration of the COVID-19 into the currently existing public hospitals. The integration process has started with a joint comprehensive assessment.

Figure 11: Weekly Percentage of hospitalized cases out of new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan as of 17 Sep 2022

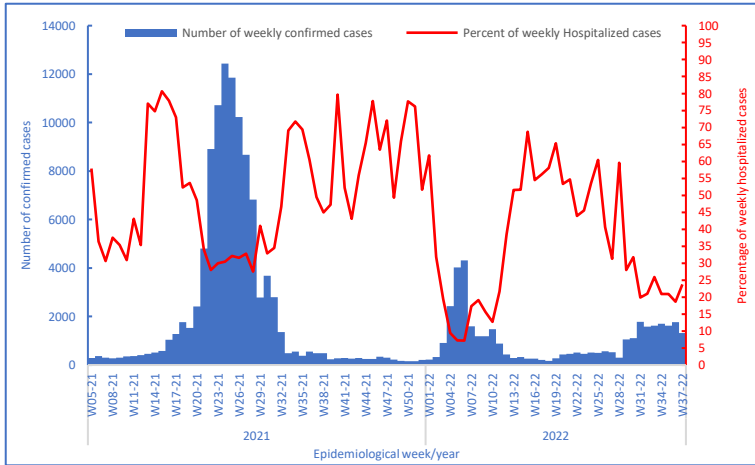
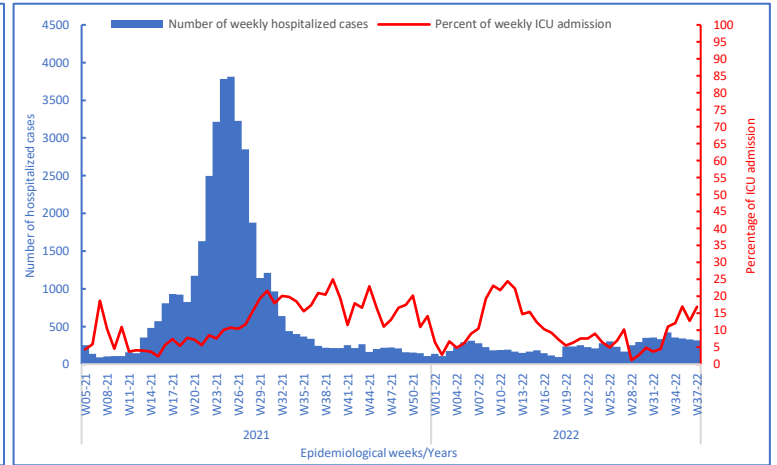


Figure 12: Weekly Percentage of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 17 Sep 2022



COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

Number of individuals who are fully vaccinated:

10,174,909

Number of individuals who are partially vaccinated:

1,632,395

People who have received at least one dose of any vaccine:

11,807,304

Proportion of total population who are fully vaccinated

25.9%

Proportion of total population who are partially vaccinated

4.2%

Figure 13: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 17 Sep 2022

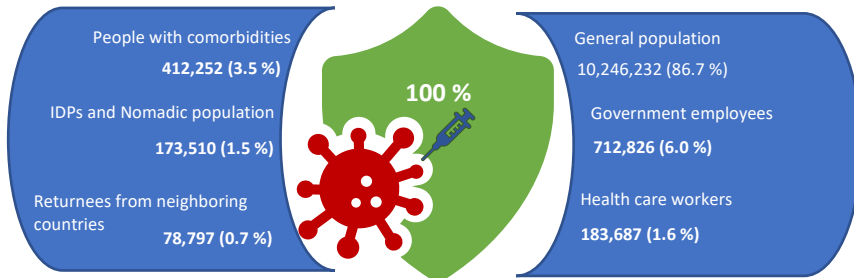


Figure 14: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 17 Sep 2022

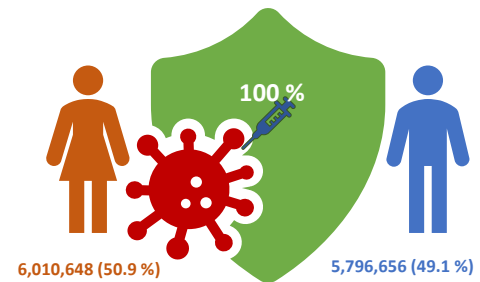
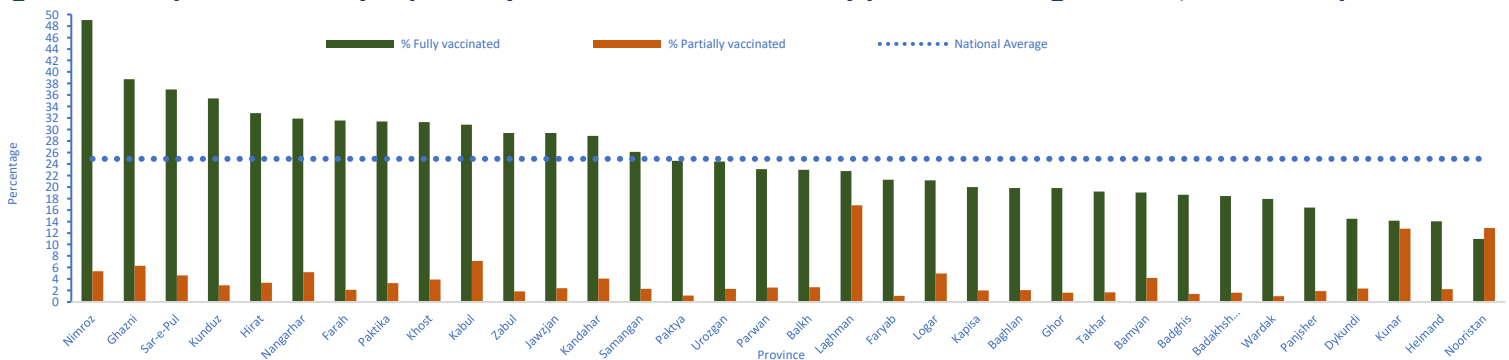


Figure 15: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 17 Sep 2022



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Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG_CMYP_2022)

Data source: DHIS2-MoPH-Afghanistan, Public dashboard: <http://covid.moph-dw.org/#/>