

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #01-2025

No. 01 (29 Dec 2024 - 04 Jan 2025)

Disease Outbreaks	ARI-Pneumonia	Measles (Suspected)	COVID-19 (Confirmed)	AWD with dehydration	Dengue fever (Suspected)	CCHF (Suspected)	Malaria (Confirmed)
Cases Week 01-2025	38,012	1,136	55	1,663	9	7	238
Deaths Week 01-2025 (CFR %)	99 (0.3)	8 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)
Cumulative Cases 2024	1,357,350	59,753	13,812	175,262	4,722	1,221	81,304
Cumulative deaths 2024 (CFR %)	2,999 (0.2)	289 (0.5)	75 (0.5)	88 (0.05)	2 (0.04)	95 (7.8)	2 (0.002)

(Data from 603 (98.4%) out of 613 sentinel sites)

ARI-Pneumonia

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)



Total ARI Cases



Total ARI

Deaths



Samples tested for . influenza



Lab confirmed influenza cases



Influenza test positivity ratio

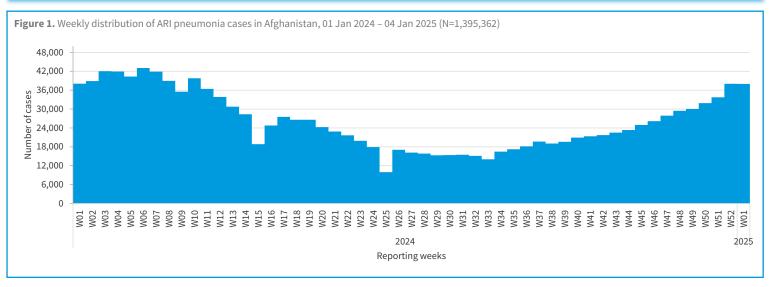
*Currently ARI related data (morbidity and mortality) are reported from 613 surveillance sentinel sites across 34 provinces in the country. **Currently, there are 10 functional influenza surveillance sentinel sites for both ILI and SARI in ten provinces of Afghanistan. At each site, there is

one trained influenza surveillance assistant, collecting specimen and epidemiological data from 4 ILI and 6 SARI cases per week in the ARI season and sending them to the National Influenza Center (NIC) for testing.

Table 1: Summary of the ARI-Pneumonia outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend lines
Suspected cases	26,145	27,890	29,451	30,030	31,901	33,735	38,037	38,012	
Suspected deaths	50	46	45	45	51	60	72	99	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	

- The epi curve indicates a gradual increase in ARI pneumonia cases since week 34-2024 (Figures 1 & 2). The increase could be explained by the ongoing winter season in the country.
- During week 01-2025, 38,012 cases of ARI pneumonia and 99 associated deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, which shows stabilization in the number of ARI pneumonia cases compared to the preceding week.
- Out of the 38,012 cases, 18,781 (49.4%) were females while 22,476 (59.1%) of them were under five children.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of ARI pneumonia per 10,000 population has been reported in Balkh (687.3), followed by Nuristan (682.4), Bamyan (652.4), and Jawzjan (618.5) provinces (Figure 3).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 1,357,350 ARI pneumonia cases (49.4% females and 62.8% under five) and 2,999 associated deaths (45.8% females, 83.6% under five) with CFR of 0.2% were reported from 34 provinces.



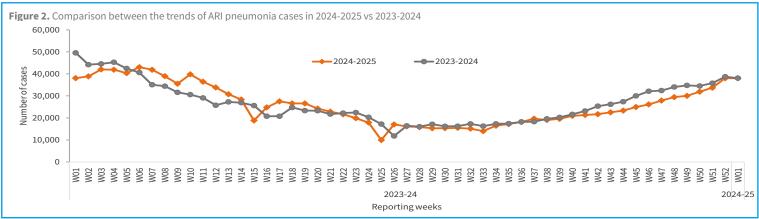
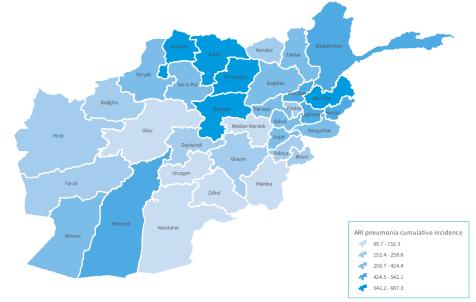


Figure 3. ARI-Pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025

ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province

01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025



Updates on the response activities to the ARI outbreak

- During week 01-2025, WHO conducted an online awareness campaign to address winterization preparedness and raise awareness of winter-related diseases through its official social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter).
- Since the beginning of 2024:
 - ° A total of 250 HCWs were trained on ARI Pneumonia case management in 7 regions (North, Northeast, Central, South, Southeast, East, and West).
 - A total of 6,500 Viral Transport Media (VTM) have been distributed to the North-east and Central-east NDSR offices.
 - ° Eighty-nine case management kits have been distributed to all WHO sub-offices.
 - WHO has handed over a total of 89,000 IEC materials on ARI to the Health Promotion Department (64,000 Posters and 25,000 Brochures).



Measles

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)











58.6%
Test positivity rate

Total Cases

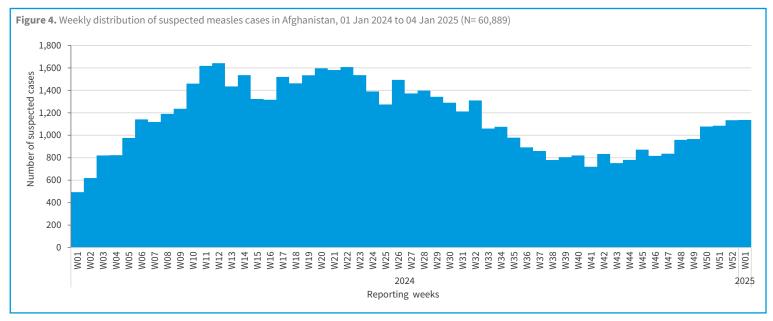
Total Deaths Sample tested

Lab confirmed cases

Table 2: Summary of the measles outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Suspected cases	816	835	959	966	1077	1085	1,134	1,136	-
Suspected deaths	4	2	5	6	7	2	10	8	
CFR (%)	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.7	~~~~~

- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases shows a gradual increase since week 43-2024 (Figure 4). The trend in 2024-2025 is higher than that reported in 2023-2024 (Figure 5).
- During week 01-2025, a total of 1,136 suspected cases and 8 associated deaths were reported showing stabilization in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week. Out of the 1,136 cases, 539 (47.4%) were females and 970 (85.4%) were under-five children.
- All the new 8 deaths were under-five children while 3 of them were females. The deaths were reported from 4 provinces: Kandahar (4), Herat (2), Badakhshan (1), and Nuristan (1).
- Since the beginning of 2024, Balkh has reported the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles cases per 10,000 population (40.6), followed by Khost (32.9), Urozgan (31.2), and Helmand (28.5) (Figure 6).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 59,753 suspected measles cases (45.5% female and 80.0% under five) and 289 deaths (44.6% female and 95.2% under five) with CFR=0.5% were reported.



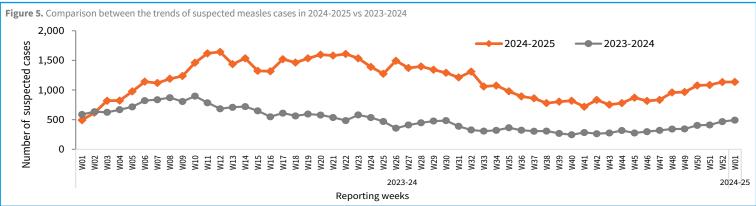




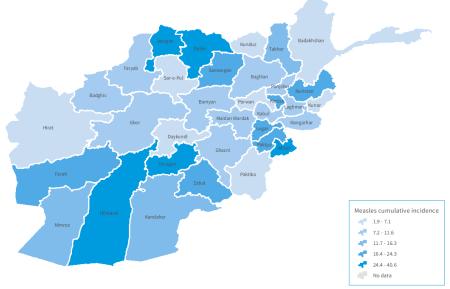
Figure 6. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025

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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025

Fully vaccinated

Partially vaccinated



Updates on the preparedness and response to the measles outbreak

- During week 01-2025, a total of 609 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated against measles outbreaks in 8 provinces (Nuristan, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Wardak, Urozgan, Ghazni, and Kabul). This brings the number of children 9-59 months who have been vaccinated against measles as part of outbreak response immunization activities to 33,759 across the country since the beginning of 2024.
- During 2024, a total of 103 SSTs (each team included 2 members) were trained on sample collection, storage, and shipment from 3 regions: Central (63 SSTs), West (3 SSTs), and South (37 SSTs) regions.
- During 2024, a total of 126 measles case management kits have been distributed to WHO sub-offices across the country.
 COVID-19

(24 Feb 2020 — 04 Jan 2025) Cumulative confirmed deaths Cumulative samples tested Cumulative confirmed cases 8,048 1,070,819 244,163 CFR (3.3%) Cumulative positivity rate (22.8%) In public laboratories New samples tested in week 01 New confirmed cases in week 01 New confirmed deaths in week 01 1,384 In public laboratories Weekly positivity rate (4.0%) Week 01 CFR (0.0%) -100.0% -30.4% -39.7% Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change **COVID-19 Vaccination highlights**



Booster dose

^{*} The denominator is 43,100,596 based on OCHA estimation 2024

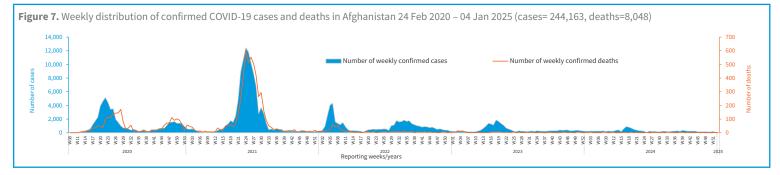


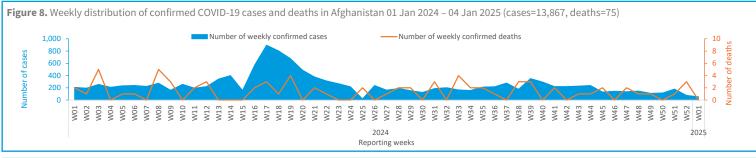
Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

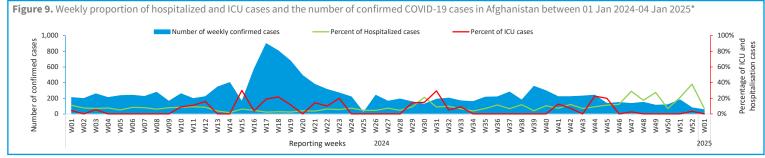
Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W40-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,089	1,763	2,222	1,824	2,183	2,109	2,295 *	1,384	\\\
Confirmed cases	147	138	150	113	118	182	79 *	55	
Percent positivity (%)	7.0	7.8	6.8	6.2	5.4	8.6	3.4	4.0	
Deaths	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	0	\wedge
CFR (%)	0.0	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.5	3.8	0.0	→

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 52-2024 and the number of tested samples and confirmed COVID-19 cases were modified from 2,243 to 2,295, and from 77 to 79, respectively.

- The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases indicates a fluctuation at the lower level in the recent weeks following the peak in the week 17-2024 (Figures 7 & 8).
- During week 01-2025, a total of 1,384 samples were tested in public labs, of which 55 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 4.0%) with no associated deaths (CFR 0.0%). The number of positive cases shows a 30.4% decrease compared to the preceding week (Table 3 and Figure 8).
- During week 01-2025, among 55 confirmed cases, 4 (7.3%) were hospitalized, while none of the hospitalized cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 9). Out of the 55 COVID-19 confirmed cases, 29 (52.7%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 125,853 samples of COVID-19 were tested by public health laboratories across the country, out of which 13,867 were positive (positivity rate 11.0%), while the overall number of COVID-19 samples tested by public health laboratories reached to 1,070,819 since the beginning of the pandemic in February 2020.
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 13,812 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 75 deaths (CFR=0.5%) have been reported. Out of the total cases, 7,411 (53.7%) were females while females represented almost 3 quarters of deaths (55 73.3%).







*The hospitalization rate was calculated among confirmed cases, while the ICU rate was calculated among hospitalized cases.

Update on the response activities to COVID-19

- Since the beginning of 2024, the below supplies have been distributed to all regional sub-offices:
 - ° A total of 930 VTM kits (50 units per kit).
 - ° A total of 1,571 COVID-19 RDT kits (25 tests per kit).



Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)







10,271
Samples tested for AWD with dehydration (RDTs)



1,461
RDT-positive cases for AWD with dehydration



with dehydration

14.3%
RDT positivity rate for AWD

Table 4: Summary of the AWD with dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Number of cases	2,534	2,301	1,965	2,066	1,940	1,862	1,800	1,663	
Number of deaths	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	

- The epi-curve shows a decreasing trend since week 31-2024, which could be linked to the end of the summer season (Figure 10).
- During week 01-2025, 1,663 AWD with dehydration cases with no associated deaths were reported from 106 districts, which shows a 7.6% decrease in the number of cases reported compared to the previous week.
- Out of the 1,663 AWD with dehydration cases, 803 (48.3%) were females and 992 (59.7%) were under-five children.
- During week 01-2025, a new district (His-e-Dowum-e-Kohestan from Kapisa) reported an alert of AWD with dehydration.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of AWD with dehydration per 10,000 population was reported from Paktya (145.2) followed by Nimroz (139.6), Logar (105.1), and Kabul (88.4) (Figure 11).
- Since the beginning of 2024, 10,271 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) have been conducted on AWD with dehydration cases, of which 1,461 tests turned positive (positivity rate 14.3%).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 175,262 AWD with dehydration cases (49.4% females and 55.5% under five) and 88 associated deaths (42.0% female and 90.0% under five) with CFR=0.05% were reported from 353 districts.

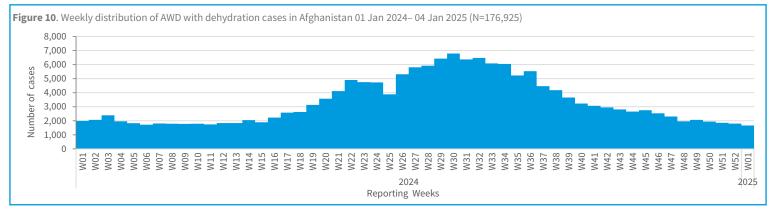
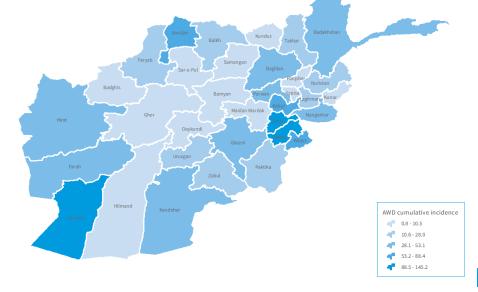


Figure 11. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2024 - 04 Jan 2025

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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025





Updates on the preparedness and response to the AWD with dehydration outbreak

Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:

- A total of 1,483 surveillance staff (969 CHSs and HFs' Heads, 485 surveillance focal points, and 29 SSTs) have been trained on surveillance procedures, event-based surveillance (EBS), and e-surveillance in the country.
- A total of 210 HCWs have been trained on AWD with dehydration case management in 5 regions: Central region (70 including 15 females), East region (35 including 15 females), South region (35 all males), North region (35 including 5 females), and Northeast region (35 including 17 females).
- A total of 38 Data Management Officers, Data Assistants, and Data Entry Clerks (including 3 females) have been trained on data management and analysis.
- A total of 114 Cary Blair kits (100/kit) and 424 RDT kits have been distributed to 7 WHO sub-offices.
- A total of 125 case management kits have been distributed to the affected communities.
- A total of 2,700 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (1,200 posters and 1,500 brochures) on AWD have been delivered by WHO to Ghor province. These IEC materials have been used in health facilities and flood-affected communities.

WASH update:

• There are no updates for the past 2 weeks.

Dengue Fever

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)





*2,407
Sample tested
1,428 979
By PCR By NSI

639
Lab confirmed cases
501 138
By PCR By NS1

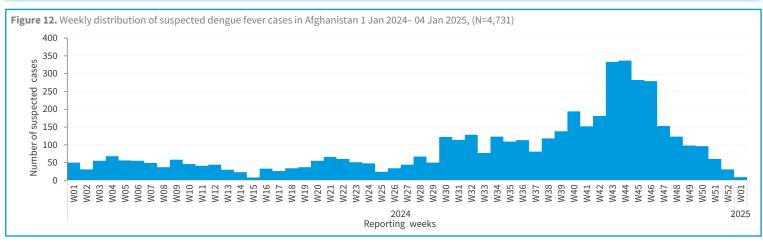


Note: Dengue fever laboratory data was reviewed, utilizing the confirmed case definition from WHO. This definition is characterized by confirmation through PCR, positive virus culture, DENV NS1 antigen detection, seroconversion of IgG in paired sera, or a significant increase (fourfold) in IgG titer in paired sera. The focus was placed on cases confirmed by PCR and DENV NS1 antigen, excluding cases that were only positive for IgM or IgG based on a single sample https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/outbreak-toolkit/dengue--outbreak-toolbox_20220921.pdf?sfvrsn=29de0271_2

Table 5: Summary of the dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Suspected cases	279	153	123	98	96	60	31	9	1
suspected 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	•••••

- The epi curve of suspected dengue fever cases shows a gradual decrease since week 45-2024 following an increasing trend since week 26-2024 reaching its highest peak in week 44-2024 (Figure 12).
- During week 01-2025, 9 suspected cases of dengue fever with no associated deaths were reported from Nangarhar province. This shows a 71.0% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases during 2024-25 is higher than the cases reported in 2023-24; however, in the recent 2 weeks the cases are reported lower than 2023-24 (Figure 13).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 2,407 samples have been tested (1,428 by PCR and 979 by NS1), out of which 639 (501 by PCR and 138 by NS1) were positive (total positivity rate 26.5%).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 4,722 suspected cases of dengue fever (44.4% female and 1.8% under five) with 2 associated deaths (both over five males) with CFR of 0.04% were reported. The geographical distribution and weekly change rate are shown in Figure 14.



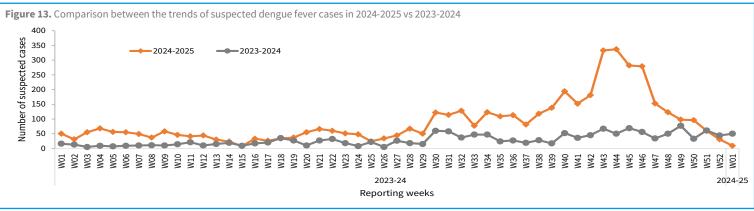
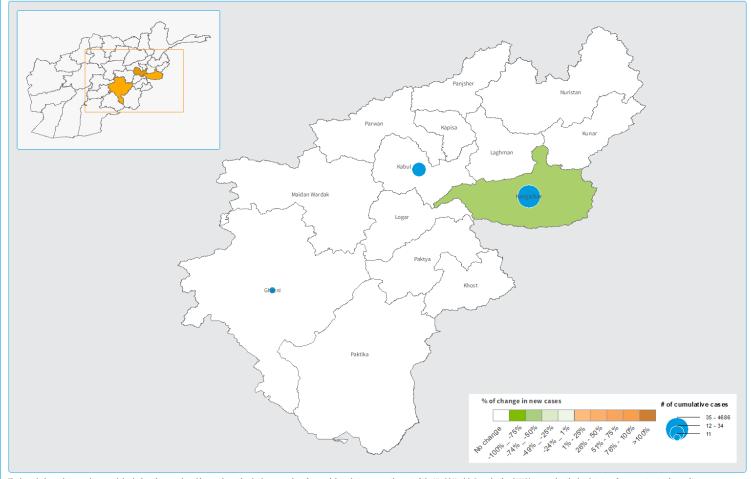


Figure 14. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025



World Health Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar, Ghazni and Kabul provinces and weekly Organization percent of changes (between weeks 52, 2024 and 01, 2025)



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 reperesent approxite border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Sources: MoPH, WHO, AGCHO. Creation date: 04 Jan 2025.



Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities were conducted:

- As part of the outbreak response to dengue fever, Gravitraps and larvicides are supplied to MoPH.
- A total of 835 dengue fever RDT kits (10 tests/kit) have been distributed to South and East WHO sub-regional offices.
- A total of 386 HCWs (MDs and Nurses) have been trained on dengue fever case management from Kandahar (46 males and 42 females), Southeast region (64 males and 43 females), and East region (104 males and 87 females).
- A total of 150 lab technicians of HFs of Kandahar (28), Southeast region (54), and East region (68) have been trained on dengue fever diagnosis.

Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)



Total CCHF

deaths





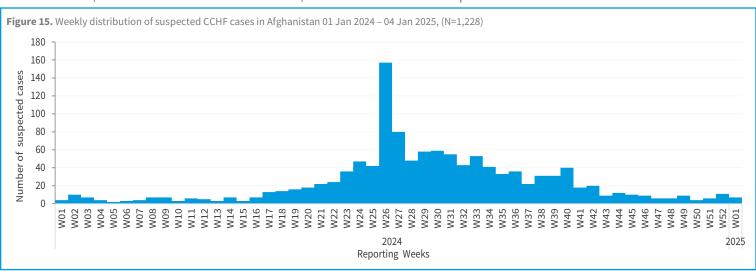


CCHF test positivity **CCHF** cases rate

Table 6: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Suspected cases	9	6	6	9	4	6	11	7	\
Suspected deaths	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
CFR (%)	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	14.3	

- The epi-curve of suspected CCHF cases shows a declining trend since week 27-2024 (Figures 15 & 16).
- During week 01-2025, 7 new suspected CCHF cases with one associated death were reported, compared to 11 suspected CCHF cases reported in the preceding week (Table 6).
- The new death was an over-five female from Jawzjan province.
- Since the beginning of 2024:
 - The reported deaths were from 10 provinces Kabul (56), Balkh (19), Herat (5), Kunduz (4), Kapisa (4), Nangarhar (3), Baghlan (2), Badakhshan (1), Jawzjan (1), and Kunar (1).
 - A total of 846 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, out of which 271 were positive (positivity rate 32.1%) from 14 provinces.
 - The positive cases have been reported from 14 provinces Kabul (170), Herat (24), Balkh (23), Kunduz (20), Kapisa (11), Nangarhar (8), Takhar (3), Baghlan (3), Badakhshan (2), Jawzjan (2), Kandahar (2), Helmand (1), Paktika (1), and Logar (1).
 - The highest cumulative incidence of suspected CCHF per 100,000 population in 2024 is reported from Balkh (9.8) followed by Kabul (8.3), Kapisa (7.0), and Jawzjan (7.0) provinces (Figure 17).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 1,221 suspected cases of CCHF (31.6% female and 99.5% over five) with 95 associated deaths (27.4% female and 98.9% over five) with CFR of 7.8% were reported.





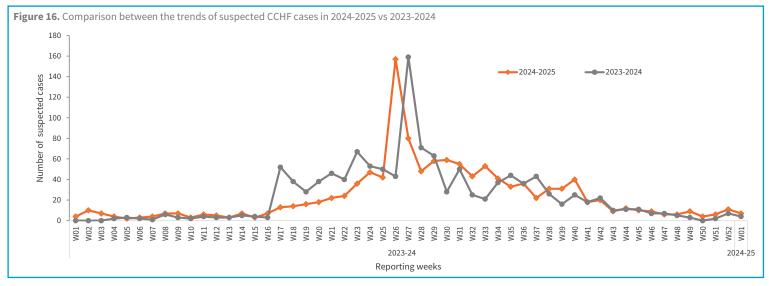
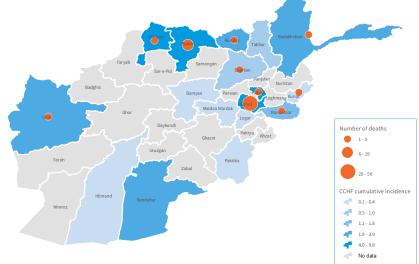


Figure 17. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths 01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025



Updates on the response to the CCHF outbreak

- Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:
- A total of 569 doses of ribavirin tablets and 1,540 doses of ribavirin injections have been distributed to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Kabul and all WHO sub-offices.
- Insecticides have been supplied to all 34 provinces for cattle spraying against ticks in animal markets by The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The national CCHF preparedness and response plan has been drafted and shared with MoPH for endorsement. The plan aims to prepare and respond to the CCHF outbreak with focused interventions on surveillance/outbreak investigation, laboratory confirmation, case management and supplies, RCCE for high-risk individuals, and the capacity of healthcare workers.

Since the beginning of 2024, the following RCCE activities have been conducted as a response to outbreaks:

- WHO has conducted a mass online awareness campaign through the WHO's official social media accounts (<u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>) on CCHF and dengue fever preventive measures as a response to infectious diseases, reaching around 25,000 social media users.
- WHO has conducted a seven-day training and mass awareness campaign in Herat, Balkh, and Kandahar provinces, focused on Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and other infectious diseases. The campaign included one day of training followed by six days of community outreach. During the campaign, WHO deployed around 110 (43 female and 67 male) social mobilizers to Herat (40 including 18 females), Balkh (35 including 16 females), and Kandahar (35 including 9 females) provinces and reached around 111,696 people through mass awareness campaigns on CCHF and other infectious diseases.



Malaria

(01 Jan 2024-04 Jan 2025)



81,542
Total confirmed
Malaria Cases

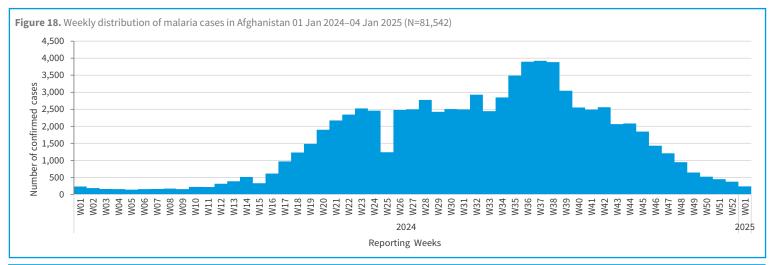


*2 (0.002)
Total malaria
deaths (CFR %)

Table 7: Summary of the malaria outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (10 Nov 2024 – 04 Jan 2025)

Indicators	W46-24	W47-24	W48-24	W49-24	W50-24	W51-24	W52-24	W01-25	Trend line
Confirmed cases	1,431	1,210	948	645	521	449	375	238	
Confirmed deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
CFR (%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	• • • • • • • •

- The epi curve of malaria cases shows a declining trend since week 38-2024, after reaching its peak during week 37-2024. The trend of malaria cases in 2024-25 closely follows the trend observed in 2023-24 (Figures 18 & 19).
- During week 01-2025, 238 cases with no associated deaths were reported from 12 provinces, which shows a 36.5% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week. Out of the total 238 cases, 116 (48.7%) were females and 39 (16.4%) were under-five children.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of malaria per 10,000 population was reported from Nuristan (416.1) followed by Kunar (298.7), Laghman (191.7), and Nangarhar (104.8) (Figure 20).
- Between Jan and Dec 2024, a total of 81,304 malaria cases (47.0% female and 20.8% under-five) with 2 associated deaths (both under-five males) with CFR=0.002% were reported from 33 provinces.



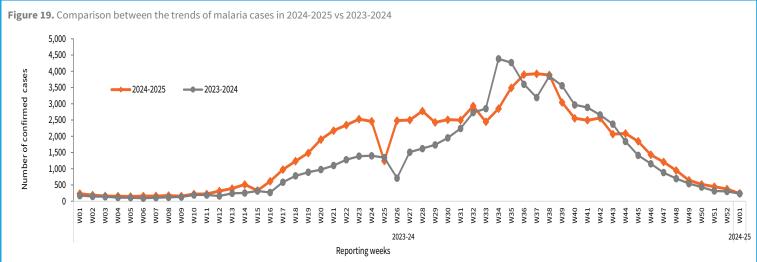
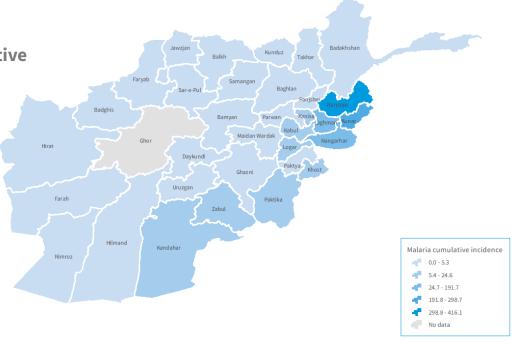


Figure 20. Malaria cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2024 - 04 Jan 2025

Confirmed malaria cumulative Incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan 2024 – 04 Jan 2025



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds

Contact us for further information:

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