



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #22-2024

No. 22 (26 May-01 Jun 2024)

Disease Outbreaks

Measles

AWD

ARI

COVID-19

CCHF

Dengue fever

Cumulative Cases 2024

28,631

51,664

722,919

*7,350

189

943

Cumulative deaths 2024 (CFR %)

126 (0.4)

26 (0.05)

1,627 (0.2)

36 (0.5)

6 (3.2)

0 (0.0)

**This number represents confirmed COVID-19 cases, while others are suspected cases. (Data from 607 (99.1%) out of 613 sentinel sites)*

Measles Outbreak

(01 Jan-01 Jun 2024)



28,631

Total Cases



126

Total Deaths



6,793

Sample tested



3,965

Lab confirmed cases



58.4%

Test positivity rate

Table 1: Summary of the measles outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend line
Suspected cases	1,323	1,316	1,569	1,530	1,604	1,681	1,723	1,780	
Suspected deaths	4	7	4	2	5	6	9	6	
CFR (%)	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	

- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases demonstrates an increasing trend since the beginning of 2024 (Figure 1). The trend in 2024 is higher than that reported in 2023 and the 2-year average before 2021-2022 outbreak (Figure 2).
- During week 22-2024, a total of 1,780 suspected cases and 6 associated deaths were reported. This represents a slight increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared to the preceding week.
- The 6 deaths were reported from 3 provinces: Kandahar (3), Helmand (2), and Zabul (1); five deaths were under five children, while 3 of them were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 28,631 suspected measles cases and 126 deaths (CFR=0.4%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 22,999 (80.3%) were under-five children, and 12,937 (45.2%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles cases per 10,000 population has been reported from Khost (22.6), followed by Balkh (19.7), Samangan (17.6), and Jawzjan (14.6) (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Weekly distribution of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 01 Jun 2024 (N= 28,631)

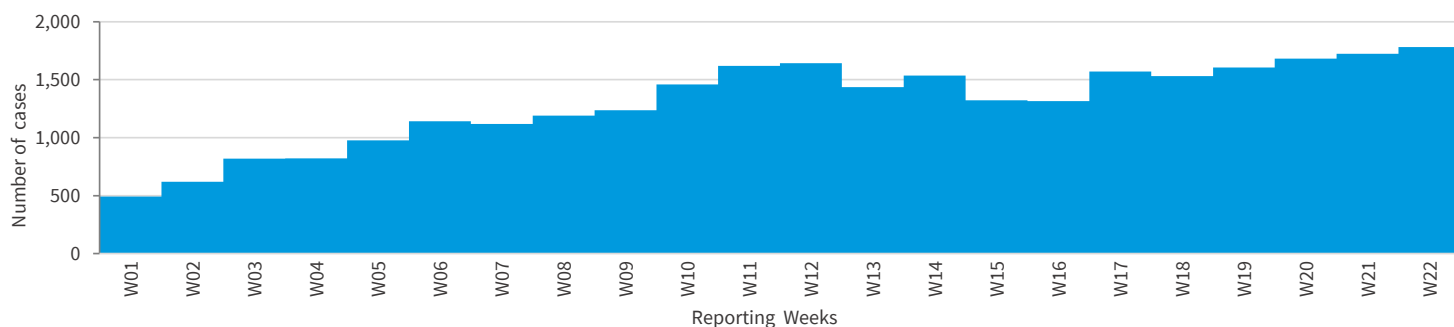




Figure 2. Comparison between the trends of suspected measles cases in 2024 vs 2023 and 2-years average (2019-2020)

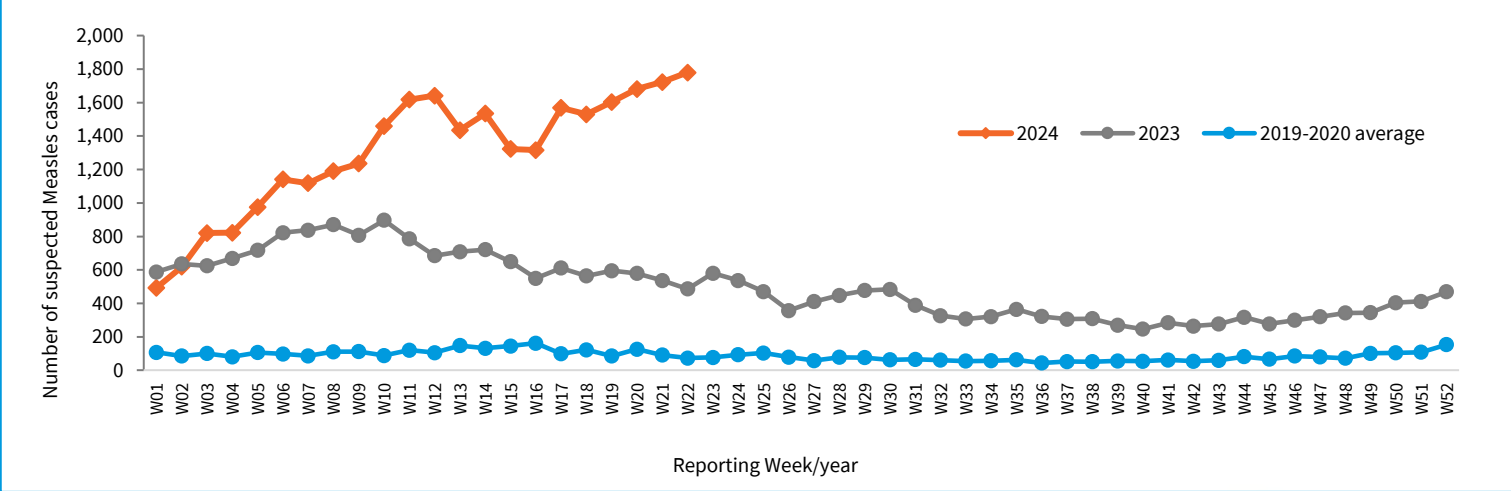
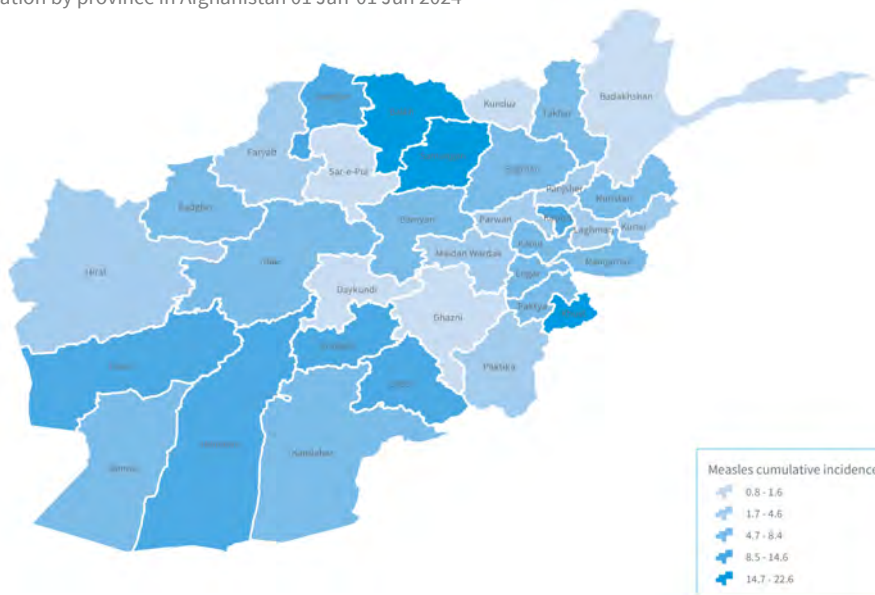


Figure 3. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-01 Jun 2024

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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan—01 Jun 2024



Updates on the preparedness and response to the Measles outbreak

- During week 22, a total of 1,056 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in 7 provinces (Laghman, Urozgan, Wardak, Farah, Kapisa, Panjsher, and Nuristan) as part of outbreak response immunization campaigns. This brings the total number of vaccinated children to 17,307 since the beginning of 2024.
- During May 2024, an additional 267,289 children 9-59 months were vaccinated in the second round of Phase 1 of the Multi-Antigen Acceleration Campaign (MAAC) in 13 provinces (Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Nangarhar, Takhar, and Zabul). This brings the total number of 9-59 children vaccinated in the two rounds to 503,269.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 103 SSTs were trained on sample collection, storage, and shipment from 3 regions; the Central region (63 SSTs), the West region (3 SSTs), and the South region (37 SSTs).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 126 measles case management kits have been distributed to WHO sub-offices across the country.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan-01 Jun 2024)

51,664
Total AWD with dehydration cases

26
Total AWD with dehydration deaths

2,975
Samples tested for AWD with dehydration (RDTs)

347
RDT-positive cases for AWD with dehydration

11.7%
RDT positivity rate for AWD with dehydration



Table 2: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend line
Suspected cases	1,893	2,233	2,584	2,624	3,135	3,575	4,117	4,906	
Suspected deaths	0	1	2	2	4	1	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- The epi curve shows a considerable increase over the past 7 weeks following the stabilization. Potential explanation could be the occurrence of floods and start of summer season.
- During week 22-2024, 4,906 AWD with dehydration cases with one associated death were reported from 216 districts, which shows a 19.2% increase in the number of cases compared to the previous week (Figure 4).
- The new death was an under-five male, reported from Urozgan province.
- During week 22-2024, four new districts reported an AWD with dehydration alert.
- The highest cumulative incidence of AWD per 10,000 population was reported from Nimroz (44.1), followed by Paktya (38.7), Kabul (28.7), and Jawzjan (20.4) (Figure 5).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 51,664 AWD with dehydration cases and 26 associated deaths (CFR=0.05%) were reported from 299 districts, out of which 29,145 (56.4%) were under-five children and 25,547 (49.4%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 2,975 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) have been conducted on AWD with dehydration cases, of which 347 tests turned positive (positivity rate 11.7%).

Figure 4. Weekly distribution of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024 (N=51,664)

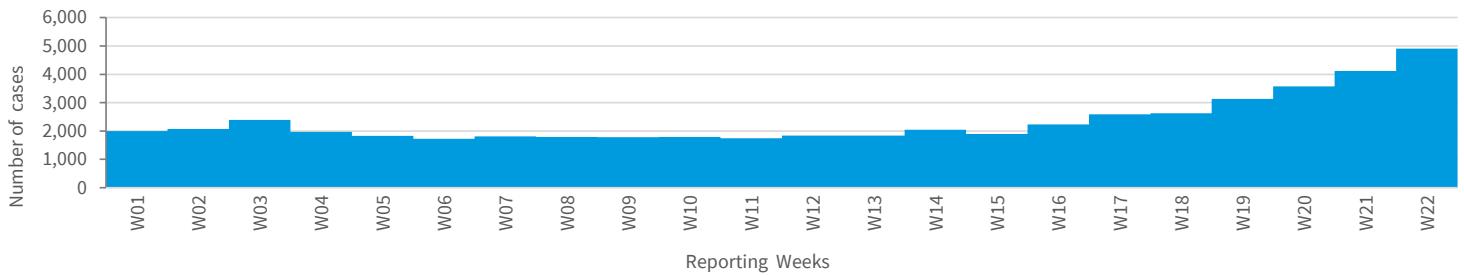
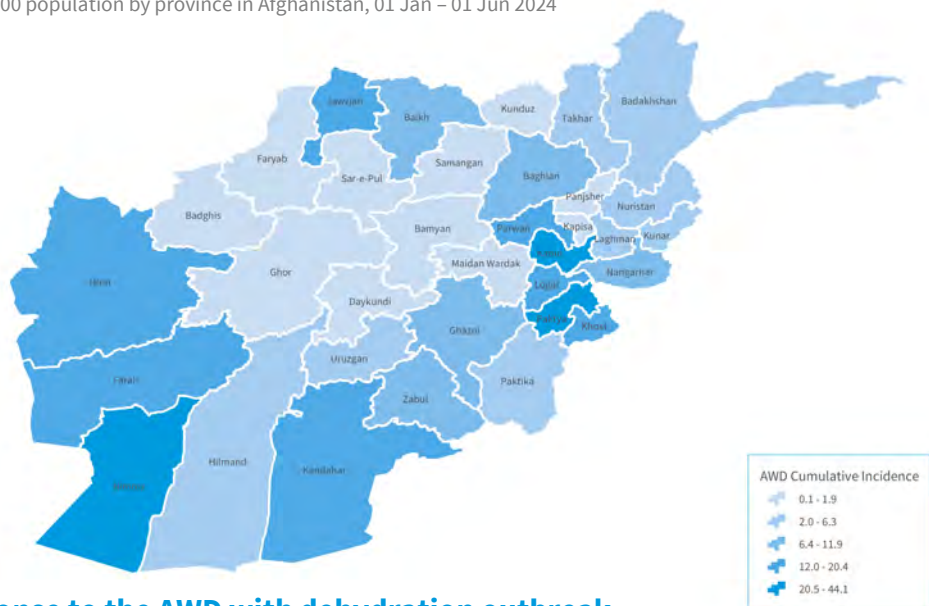


Figure 5. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024

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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 01 Jun 2024



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

- During week 22-2024, a total of 38 Data Management Officers, data assistants, and data entry clerks (including 3 Females) were trained from all provinces in Kabul on Data management and analysis.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the below supplies have been distributed to all regional sub-offices:
 - A total of 89 Cary Blair kits
 - A total of 74 AWD with dehydration RDT kits (10 tests per kit)
 - A total of 125 AWD case management kits
- Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:



- A total of 175 HCWs have been trained on AWD with dehydration case management in 4 regions: in Central region (70 including 15 females), East region (35 including 15 females), South region (35 all males) and Northeast region (35 including 17 females).
- A total of 319 sentinel sites' focal points, including 15 females, have been trained on surveillance procedures in Kabul province, East, South, and West regions.

WASH

During the last two weeks of May 2024 (16-31 May 2024), the following activities were conducted as WASH response:

- Clean water was provided to 12,401 individuals by water supply systems rehabilitation or construction in 8 provinces (Ghazni, Kabul, Khost, Laghman, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya and Zabul).
- Clean water was provided to 5,350 individuals by chlorination of wells in 5 provinces (Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Paktya).
- Water treatment promotion session were conducted to 129 individuals in Paktya province.
- Hygiene kits were distributed to 18,710 individuals in 9 provinces (Baghlan, Ghazni, Kabul, Khost, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktya and Takhar).
- Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted to 31,480 individuals in 13 provinces (Baghlan, Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktya and Takhar).
- Handwashing facilities were constructed for 8,787 individuals in 3 provinces (Ghazni, Paktya and Zabul).
- Sanitary facilities were provided to 1,970 individuals by latrines constructions or rehabilitations in 6 provinces (Ghazni, Kabul, Khost, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Paktya).

RCCE

- During week 22-2024, a rapid assessment of RCCE was conducted by support of WHO in flood-affected districts of Baghlan province to identify the RCCE needs and to provide recommendations to relevant departments.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 2,700 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (1,200 Poster and 1,500 Brochure) on AWD have been delivered by WHO to Ghor province. These IEC materials are used in health facilities and affected communities.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)

(01 Jan-01 Jun 2024)



***722,919**

Total ARI Cases



***1,627**

Total Deaths



****1,680**

Samples tested for influenza



****66**

Lab confirmed influenza cases



3.9%

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 3: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend lines
Suspected cases	18,827	24,775	27,521	26,601	26,585	24,279	22,848	21,672	
Suspected deaths	49	60	44	40	47	64	41	62	
CFR (%)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	

- The epi curve indicates a steady decline in ARI cases since week 07-2024, following the typical seasonal increase observed during the winter (Figures 6 & 8). This decrease could be explained by the conclusion of the winter season in the country.
- During week 22-2024, 21,672 cases of ARI pneumonia and 62 associated deaths were reported. This represents a 5.1% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 722,919 ARI pneumonia cases and 1,627 associated deaths (CFR=0.2%) were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 455,484 (63.0%) were under-five children, and 357,227 (49.4%) were females.



- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of ARI per 10,000 population is in Balkh (343.4), followed by Bamyan (326.8), Jawzjan (302.0), and Panjsher (275.6) provinces (Figure 7).
- Out of 1,627 deaths, 1,423 (87.5%) were under-five children and 733 (45.1%) were females.

Figure 6. Weekly distribution of ARI Pneumonia cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024 (N=722,919)

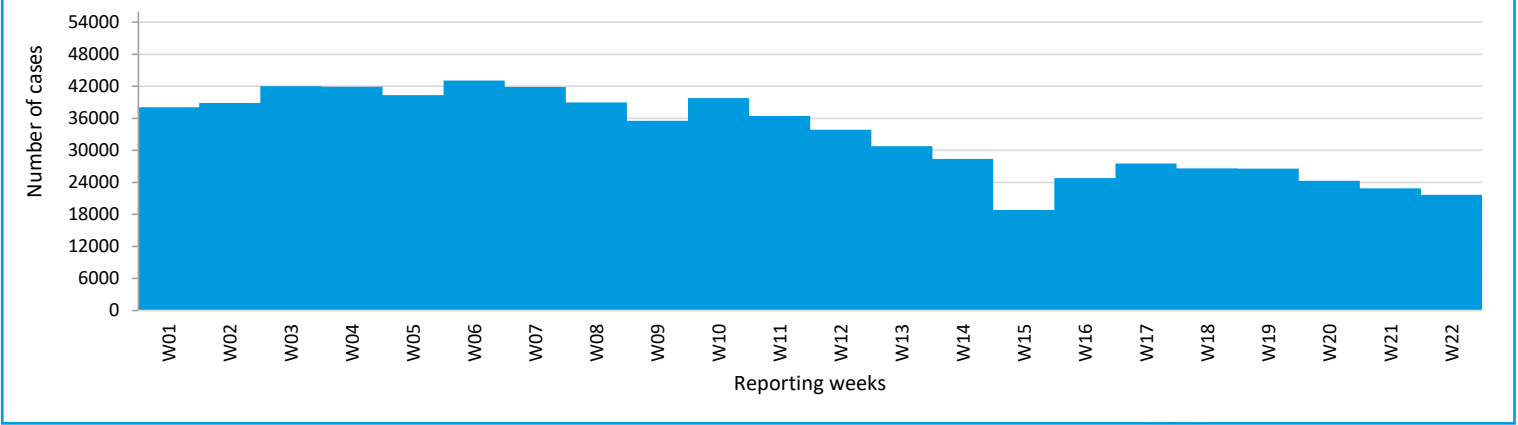


Figure 7. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan 01 Jan- 01 Jun 2024

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ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-01 Jun 2024

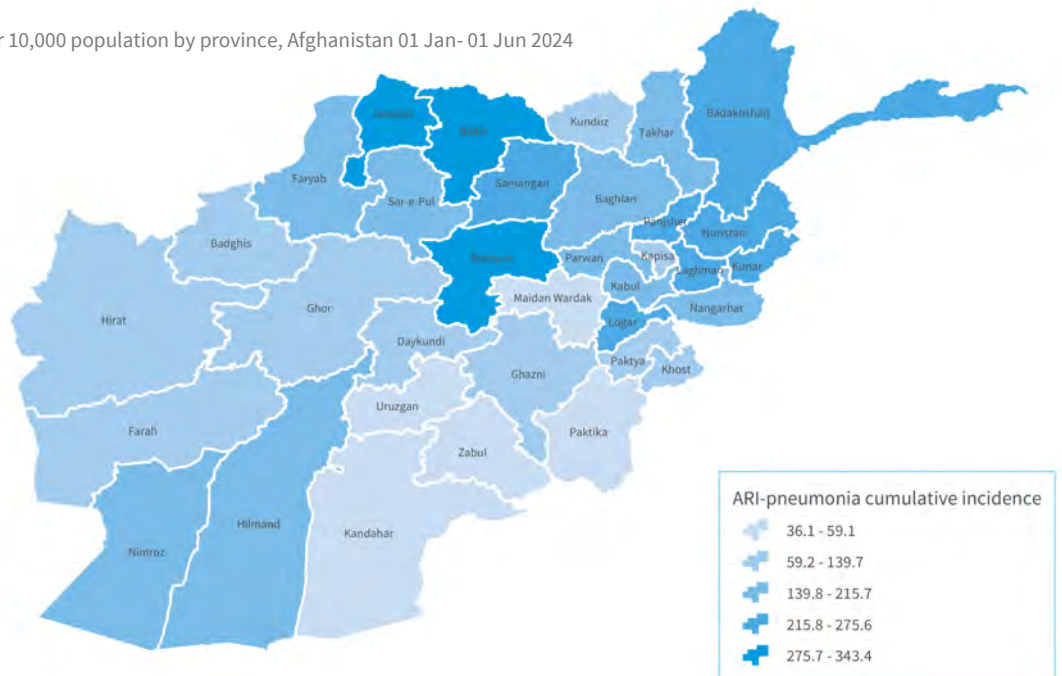
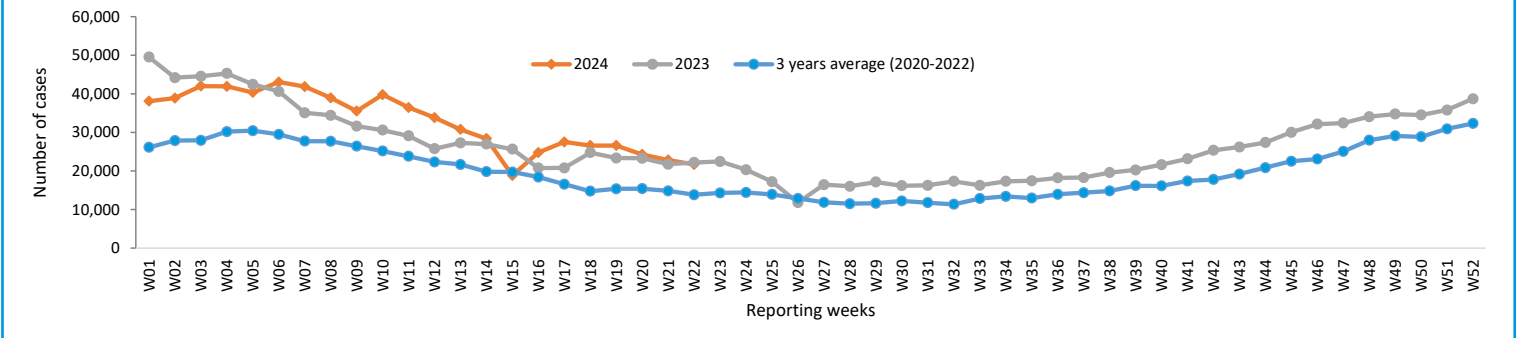


Figure 8. Comparison between the trend of ARI cases in 2024 vs 2023 and 3-years average, Afghanistan (2020-2022)



Updates on the response activities to the ARI outbreak

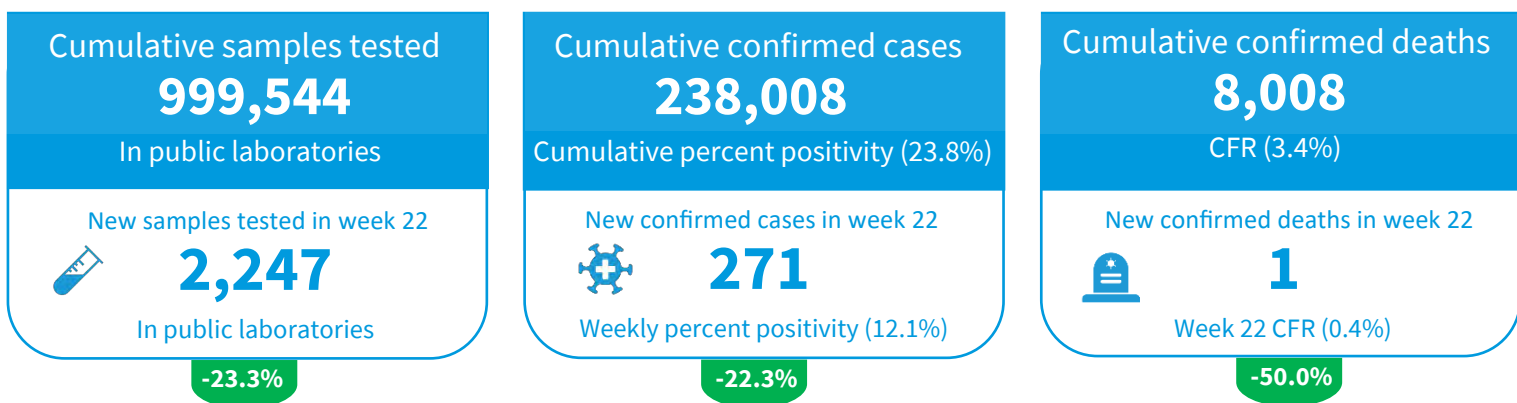
Since the beginning of 2024:

- A total of 6,500 Viral Transport Media (VTM) has been distributed to the North-east and Central-east NDSR offices.
- Eighty-nine Pediatric Severe Acute Malnutrition (PED-SAM) case management kits have been distributed to WHO sub-offices across the country to support ARI case management.
- WHO has handed over a total of 89,000 (64,000 Posters and 25,000 Brochures) Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on ARI to MoPH.



COVID-19

(24 Feb 2020 — 01 Jun 2024)

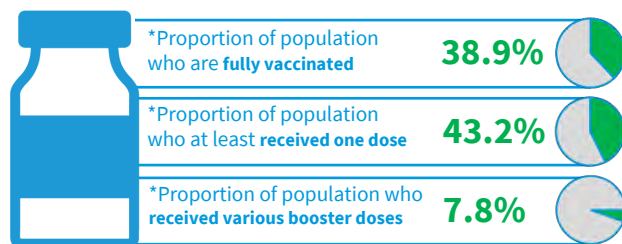


Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



*Note: During Apr 2024, around 132,821 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered which shows a 55.7% decrease compared to Mar-2024.



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

Table 4: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	1,139	2,240	3,064	3,087	2,653	2,681	2,931 *	2,247	
Confirmed cases	160	533	847	798	537	481	349 *	271	
Percent positivity (%)	14.0	23.8	27.6	25.9	20.2	17.9	11.9	12.1	
Deaths	0	2	3	1	4	0	2 *	1	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.38	0.35	0.13	0.74	0.00	0.57	0.37	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 21-2024, the number of samples tested, the number of confirmed cases, and the number of deaths were modified from 2,562 to 2,931, from 317 to 349, and from 1 to 2, respectively.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a decreasing trend in the last 5 weeks following an increase during weeks 16 to 18-2024 in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases (Figure 9).
- During week 22-2024, a total of 2,247 samples were tested in public labs, of which 271 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 12.1%) with 1 associated death. This number of positive cases shows a 22.3% decrease compared to the preceding week (Table 4 and Figure 10).
- The new death was an over-five female, from Herat province.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 7,350 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 36 deaths (CFR=0.5) have been reported. Out of the total cases, 3,907 (53.2%) were females, while out of total deaths, 27 (75.0%) were females.
- During week 22-2024, among 271 confirmed cases, 7.4% (20 cases) were hospitalized while 2 cases were admitted to the ICU (Figure 11).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 59,368 samples of COVID-19 have been tested by public health laboratories across the country, out of which 7,350 were positive (positivity rate 12.4%), while the overall number of COVID-19 samples tested by public health laboratories reached to 999,544 since the beginning of the pandemic in February 2020.



Figure 9. Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 –01 Jun 2024 (cases= 238,008, deaths=8,008)

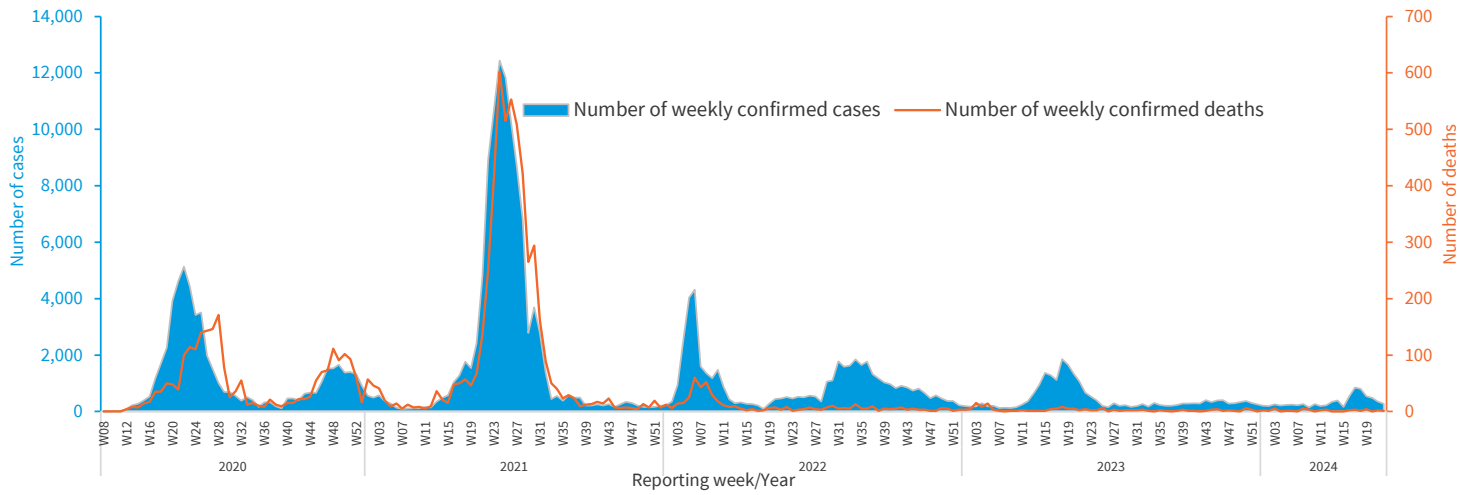


Figure 10. Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024 (cases=7,350, deaths=36)

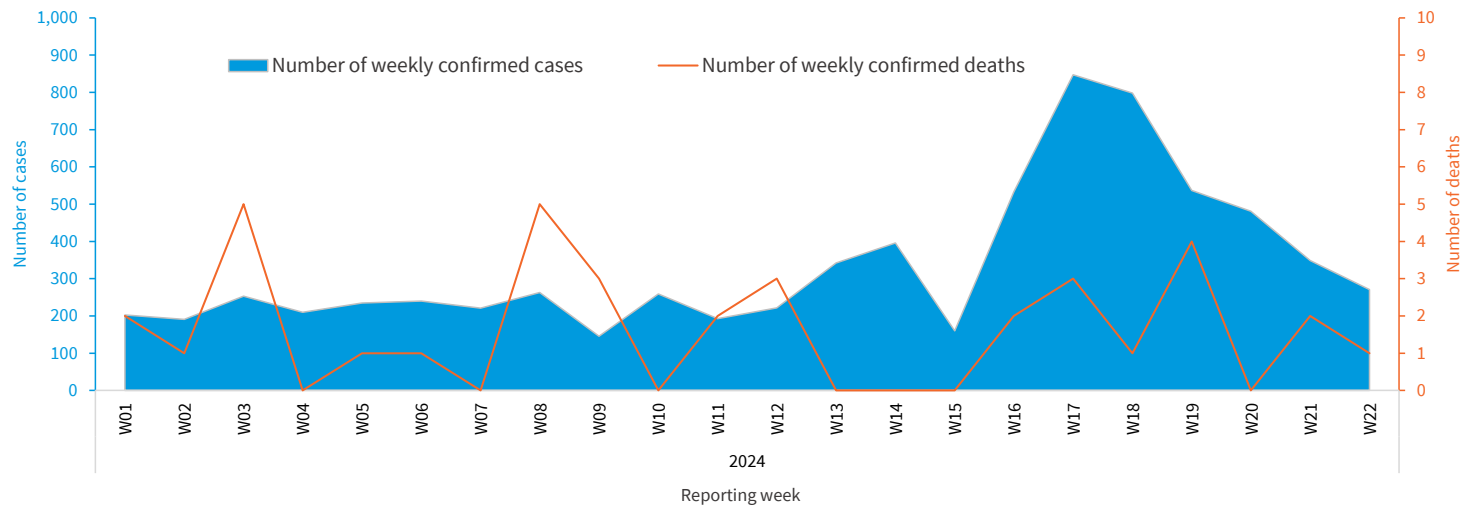
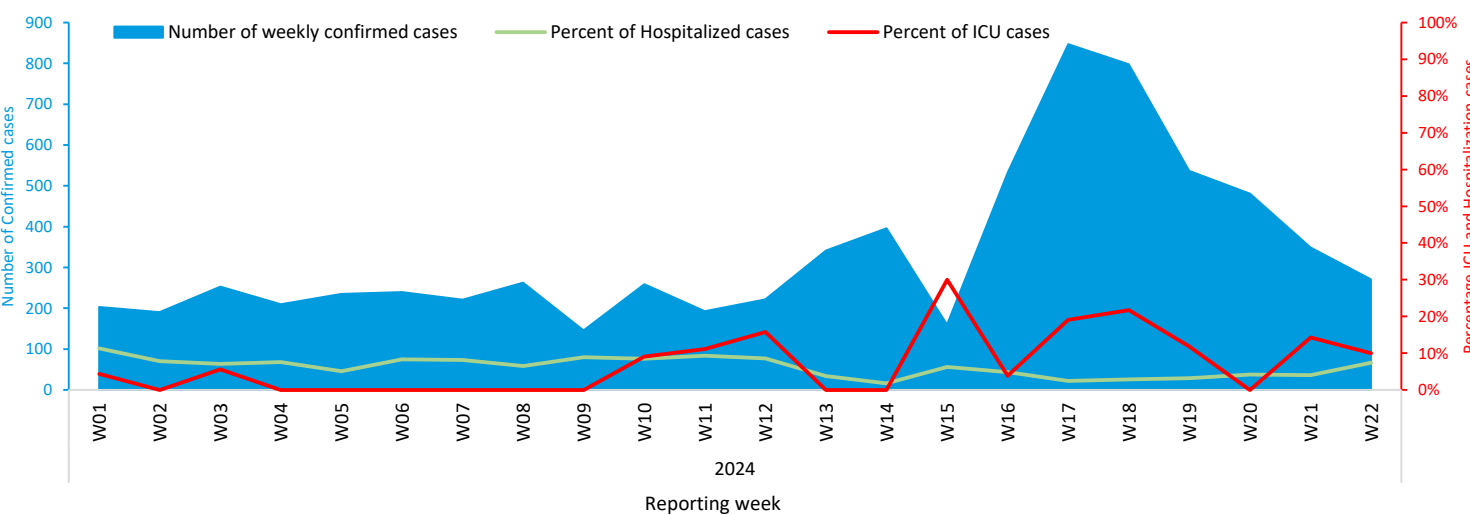


Figure 11. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases and the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan between 01 Jan-01 Jun 2024*



*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 were 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).



Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

(01 Jan - 01 June 2024)



189

Total CCHF cases



6

Total CCHF deaths



152

Samples tested for CCHF



21

Lab-confirmed CCHF cases



13.8%

CCHF test positivity rate

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend line
Suspected cases	3	7	13	14	16	18	22	24	
Suspected deaths	0	1	0	0	1	1	1*	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	6.3	5.6	0.0	4.2	

*A delayed report was experienced during week 21 and the number of deaths was modified from 0 to 1.

- The epi-curve of suspected CCHF cases shows a gradually increasing trend over the last 7 weeks, following a period of low stabilization since the beginning of 2024. This recent rise should be closely monitored to identify potential outbreaks given that the Eid season is approaching to properly guide public health interventions (Figures 12 & 13).
- During week 22-2024, 24 new suspected CCHF cases with one associated death were reported (Table 5).
- The new death was an over-five male, from Balkh province.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 189 suspected cases of CCHF with 6 associated deaths (CFR=3.2%) were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 63 (33.3%) of them were females.
- The 6 deaths were over five years, while 4 were females, from Balkh (4) and Kabul (2) provinces.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 152 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, out of which 21 were positive (positivity 13.8%) reported from 5 provinces; Kabul (17), Balkh (1), Kapisa (1), Helmand (1), and Paktika (1).
- The highest cumulative incidence of CCHF per 100,000 population in 2024 is reported from Kapisa followed by Balkh, Kabul, and Jawzjan provinces (Figure 14).

Figure 12: Weekly distribution of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan –01 Jun 2024, (N=189)

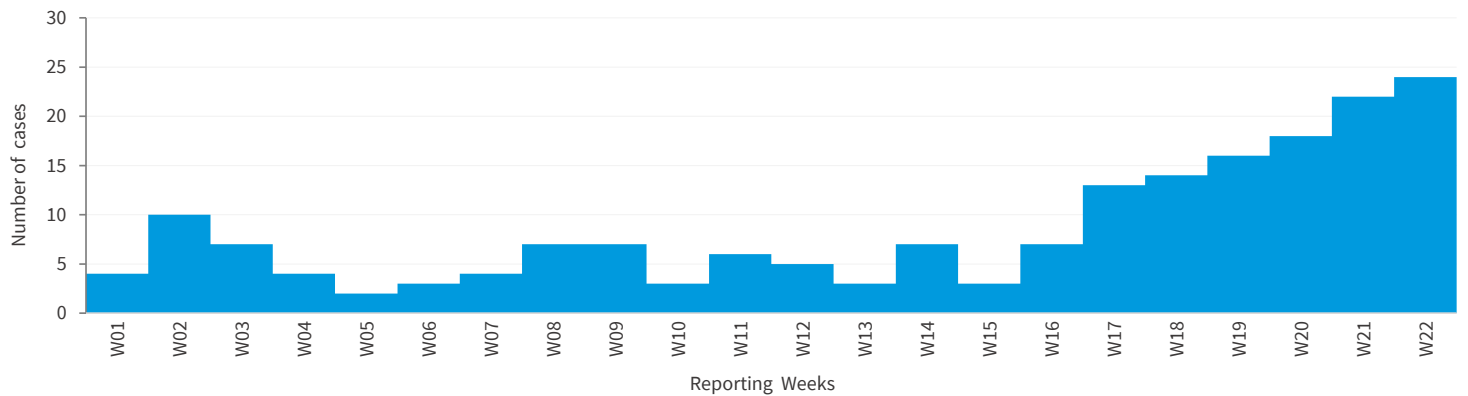


Figure 13. Comparison between the trends of suspected CCHF cases in 2024 vs 2023 and 3 years average (2020-2022)

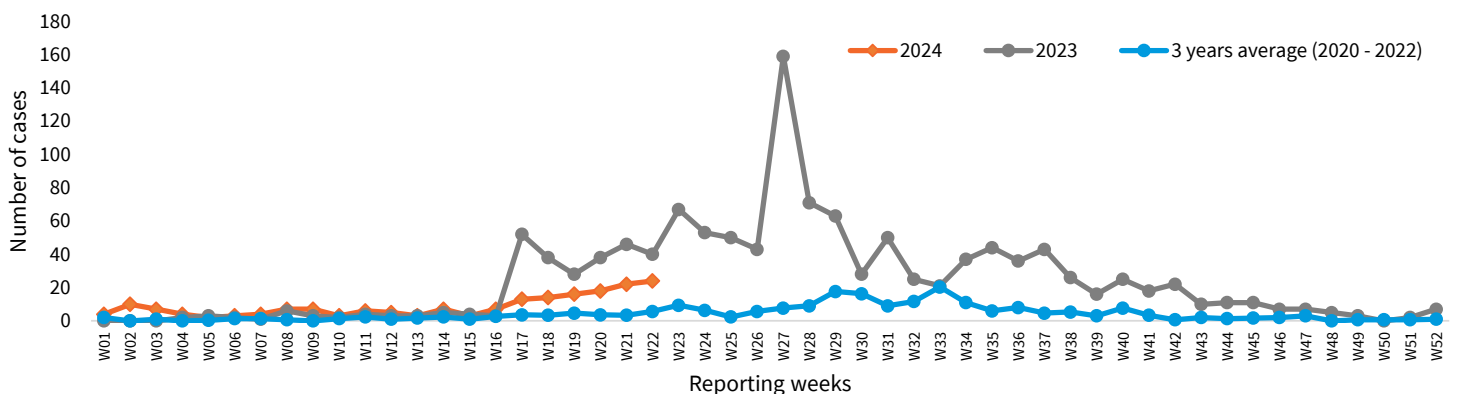
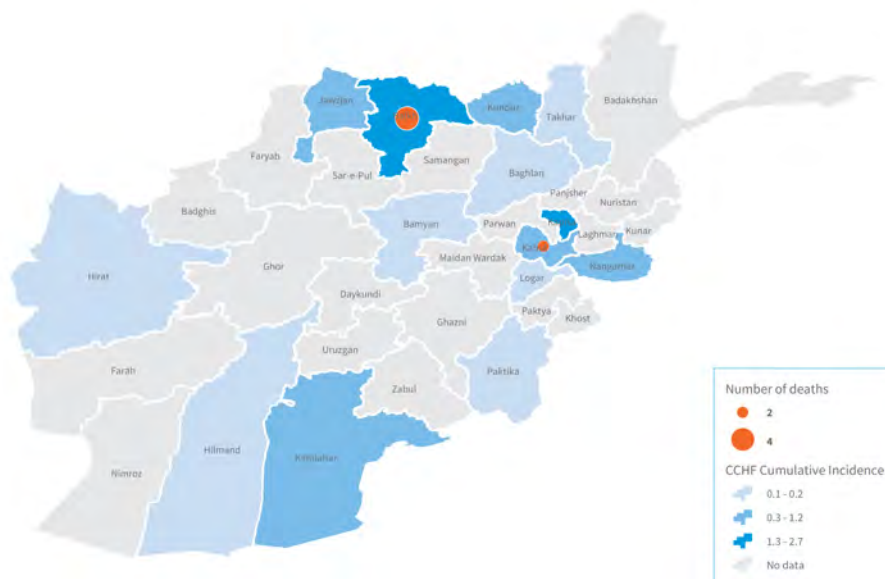




Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024

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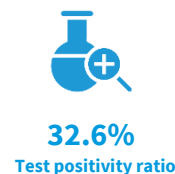
Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024



Updates on the response to the CCHF outbreak

- The national Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (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, RCCE for high-risk individuals, case management and supplies, and the capacity of healthcare workers.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 469 doses of ribavirin 200mg tablets and 1,530 ribavirin injections have been supplied to 7 WHO sub-offices across the country.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan-01 Jun 2024)



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, 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 6: Summary of the dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (07 Apr – 01 Jun 2024)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Trend line
Suspected cases	8	33	25	33	37	51	63	57	
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 illustrates an increasing trend over the past 7 weeks following a short period of modest decrease, which requires close monitoring (Figure 15).
- During week 22-2024, 57 suspected cases of dengue fever with no associated deaths were reported from Nangarhar province, which shows a 9.5% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the number of suspected dengue fever cases is higher than the 2-year average (2021-2022), even higher than the 2023 trend (Figure 16).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 943 suspected cases of dengue fever with no associated deaths were reported, out of which 574 (60.9%) were females, and 9 (1.0%) were under 5 years of age. The geographical distribution and weekly change rate are shown in (Figure 17).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 423 samples have been tested, out of which 138 were positive by PCR (positivity 32.6%).



Figure 15. Weekly distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 01 Jun 2024, (N=943)

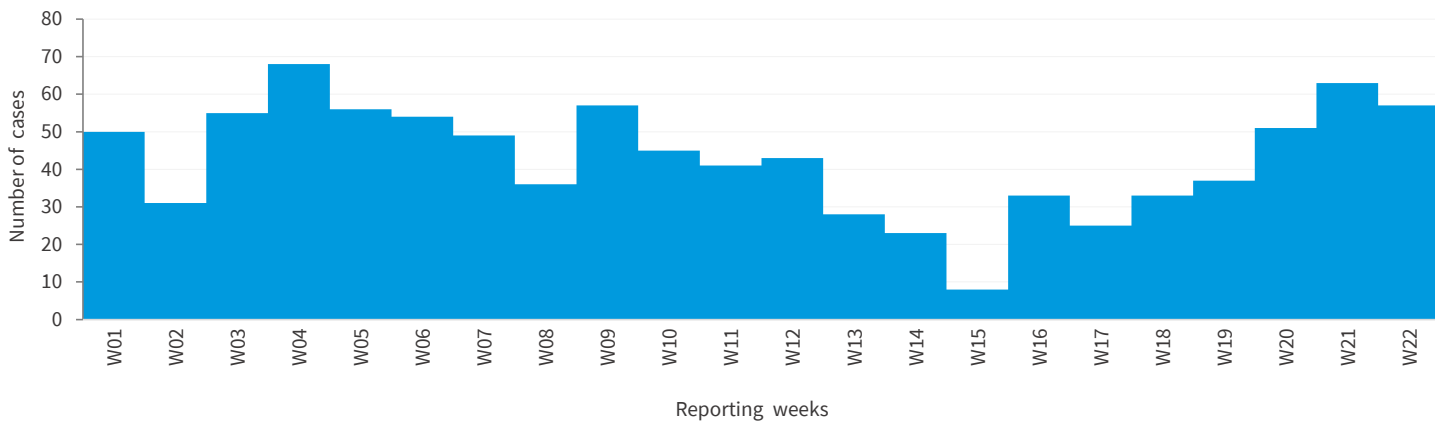


Figure 16: Comparison between the trends of suspected dengue fever cases in 2024 vs 2023 and 2-years average (2021-2022).

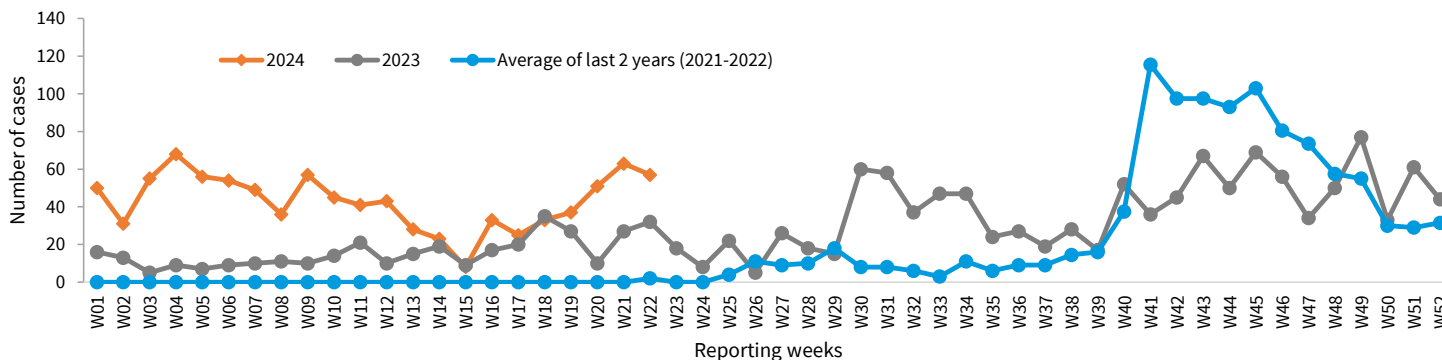
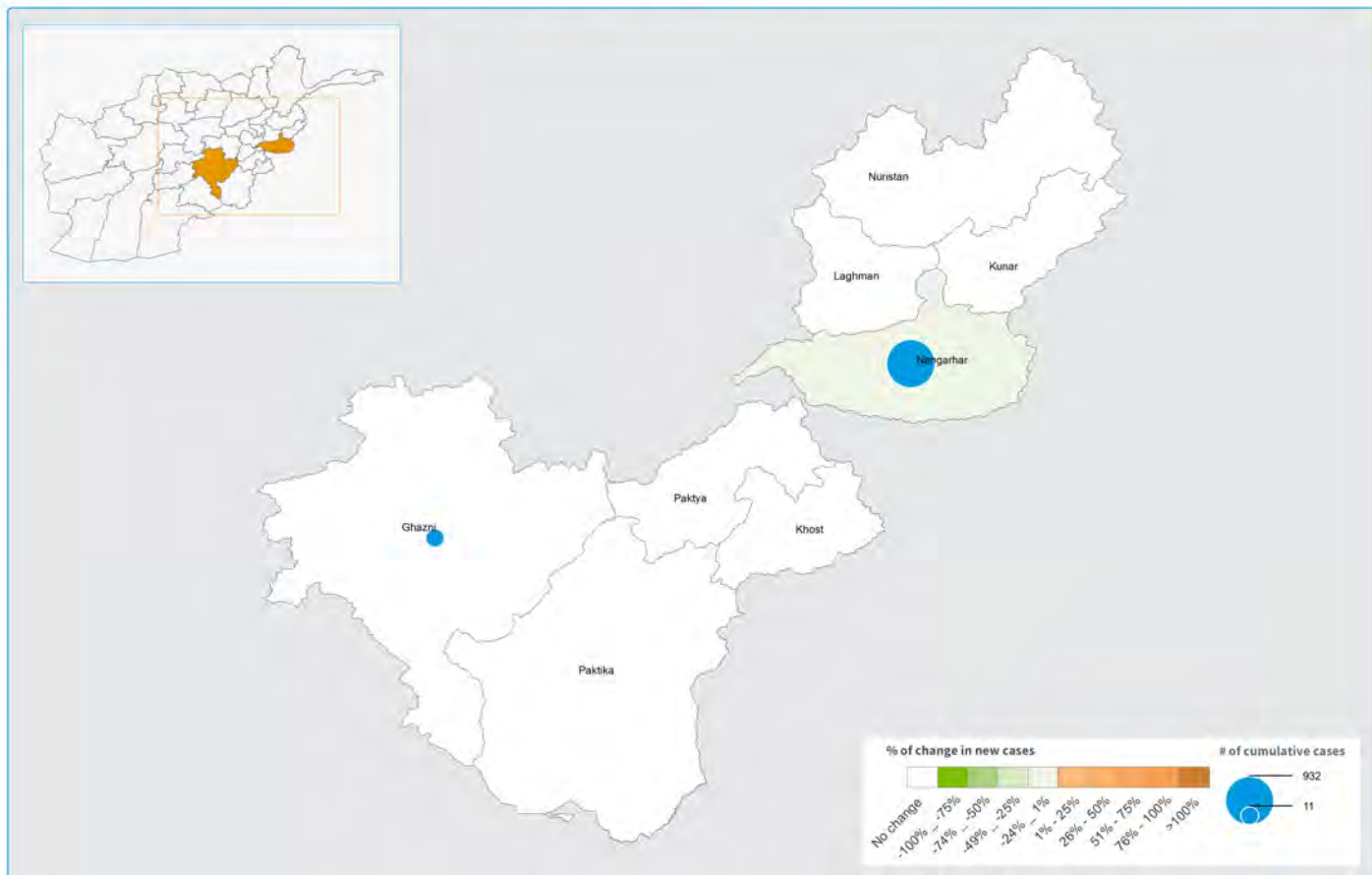


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 01 Jun 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 21 and 22, 2024)



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, AGCHO. Creation date: 01 June 2024.



Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

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

- A total of 818 dengue fever RDT kits (10 test/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 M and 42 F), Southeast region (64 M and 43 F) and East region (104 M and 87 F).
- 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.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

[Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds](#)

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