

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #46-2023



Disease Outbreaks	→ ⋚ ∜ AWD (Jan - Nov 23)	ARI (Jan - Nov 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Nov 23)	Measles (Jan - Nov 23)	CCHF (Jan - Nov 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Nov 23)
Cumulative Cases (Data from 607 (99.0%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites	207,143	1,173,976	228,727	23,571	1,219	1,172
Death (CFR %)	93 (0.04)	2,392 (0.2)	7,960 (3.5)	64 (0.3)	114 (9.4)	1 (0.1)

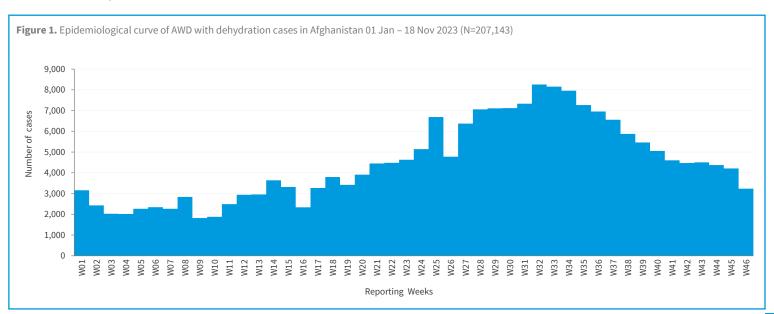
Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 18 Nov 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Sep – 18 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45*	W46	Trend line
Suspected cases	5,464	5,051	4,604	4,470	4,503	4,372	4,207	3,232	******
% Change cases	-7.0	-7.6	-8.8	-2.9	0.8	-2.9	-3.8	-23.2	
Suspected deaths	3	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	

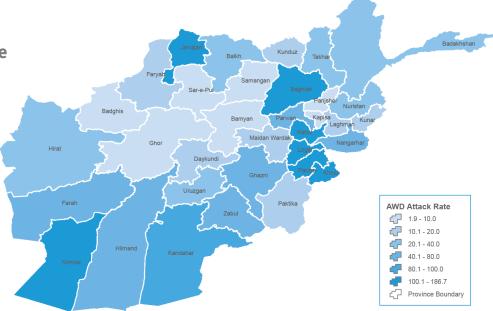
Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of suspected AWD with dehydration cases in week 45 and were modified from 4,197 to 4,207.

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023. This decline could be explained by seasonal changes, conclusion of the summer season in the country.
- During week 46-2023; 3,232 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 159 districts which shows a 23.2% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 207,143 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 118,149 (57.0%) were
- under-five children and 103,158 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 46-2023, no new district reported alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remained at 334.
- A total of 5,484 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.



AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 18 Nov 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 18 Nov 2023



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- An integrated AWD preparedness plan has been developed jointly between Health and WASH clusters and endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Surveillance

- A total of 867 MDs and CHSs including 67 females have been trained on EBS procedures in 5 provinces: Nangarhar (total=240, 1 female), Kandahar (total=144, 22 females), Badakhshan (total=152, 4 females), Herat (total=205, 17 females) and Bamyan (total=126, 23 females).
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to health facility level in 254 sentinel sites across all regions since the beginning of 2023.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 621 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to WHO sub-offices of Paktya, Bamyan, Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar and Nangarhar provinces for responding to this outbreak.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 887 HCWs have been trained on AWD case management from 7 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, North-east, East, and South-east).

Laboratory and Supplies

- Since Jan 2023, 5 AWD with dehydration RDT kits were supplied to Baghlan province. This brings the total number of RDTs supplied to all 34 provinces across the country to 6,475 and Cary Blairs to 6,400.
- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH

and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktya, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH

Between (01-15 Nov 2023), the below activities were conducted as a WAHS response:

- Provision of safe drinking water to 10,659 individuals by rehabilitation of water supply systems in 13 provinces (Bamyan, Ghazni, Ghor, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Paktika, Paktya, Takhar and Zabul).
- Provision of clean drinking water to 24,355 individuals by chlorination of wells in 10 provinces (Zabul, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Badghis, Balkh, Ghazni, Herat, Maidan Wardak, Paktya, and Takhar).
- Provision of clean drinking water by water trucking to 5,448 individuals in Herat province.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to 48,971 individuals in 5 provinces (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul).
- Distribution of aqua tabs to 9,392 individuals in 4 provinces (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul).
- Distribution of hand washing soap to 12,877 individuals in 5 provinces (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul).
- Conducting household water treatment promotion sessions to 1,025 individuals in Balkh, Kunduz and Nangahar provinces.
- Conducting hygiene promotion sessions to 73,014 individuals in 16 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika and Zabul).
- Provision of sanitary facilities to 24,142 individuals by construction and rehabilitation of latrines in 10 provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktika and Zabul).



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- During week 46-2023, WHO and MoPH launched a 7-day RCCE campaign in Herat province to raise awareness of the earthquake affected communities regarding the prevention and control of infectious diseases including AWD with dehydration in seven districts. A total of 80 social
- mobilizers, including 40 women, were trained, and deployed in the respective districts to implement the campaign activities.
- In addition, as part of this campaign more than 10,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were distributed among the communities.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-18 Nov 2023)





Total Deaths



Samples tested for influenza







4.0 Influenza test positivity ratio

Note: 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 ARI season and sending them to national influenza center (NIC) for testing.

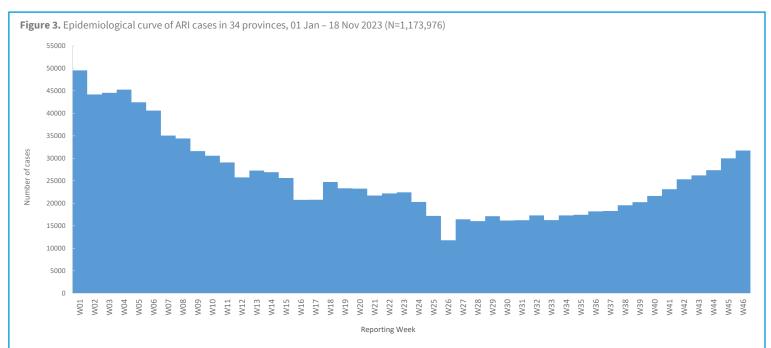
Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Sep – 18 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	Trend line
Suspected cases	20,256	21,637	23,140	25,349	26,204	27,383	30,007 *	31,741	
Suspected deaths	28	34	45	59	45	48	57	56	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

*Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of suspected cases of ARI during week 45 and the number of cases were modified from 29,966 to 30,007.

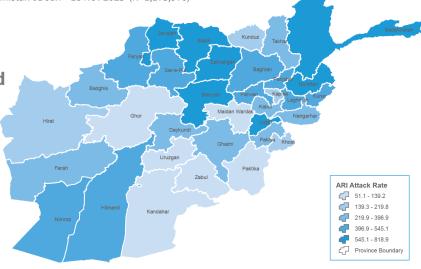
- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since the 3rd week of September 2023, which could be linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 46-2023, 31,741 cases of suspected ARIpneumonia and 56 associated deaths were reported which shows a 5.5% increase in the number of suspected ARI with pneumonia cases and stabilization in the number of deaths compared to week 45-2023.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,173,976 cases and 2,392 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the coun-

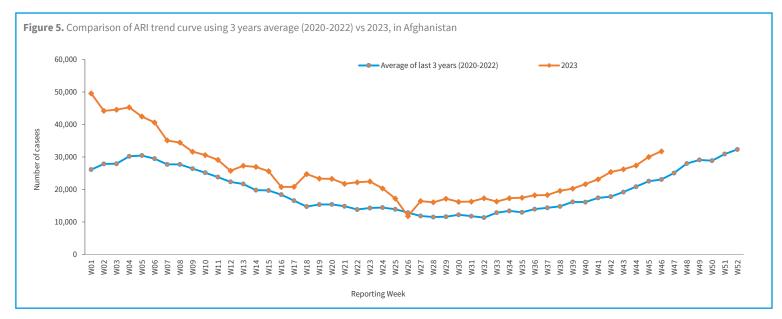
- try. Out of the total cases, 722,870 (61.6%) were underfive children and 580,962 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,968 (82.3%) were under-five children and 1,104 (46.2%) were females reported from 34 provinces.
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the preceding three years (2020-2022), the higher number in 2023 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to improved surveillance system (Figure 5).





Provincial distribution of suspected ARI pneumonia cases as of 18 Nov 2023





Response to acute respiratory infection outbreak

Surveillance

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to ARI outbreaks.

Lab and supplies

Since Jan 2023:

- A total of 500 viral transport media (VTM) for collection of influenzas' samples have been delivered to the 10 influenza sentinel sites.
- A total of 10 influenza assistants have been trained (1 per each sentinel site) on specimen collection, storage, and transportation to lab for testing and confirmation.
- A total of 1,500 influenza A/B PCR kits and consumables have been supplied to the national influenza center (NIC).
- As a part of preparedness and response to ARI outbreak, a total of 4,720 kits of COVID-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul WHO warehouse and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

Case management

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,376 HCWs have been trained on ARI case management from all 8 regions across the country.
- As a part of winter preparedness plan to ARI, a total of 397 different types of case management kits have been prepositioned in Kabul, WHO warehouse since Jan 2023, which will be pre-positioned to all regional sub-offices.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- During week 46-2023, WHO launched a 9-day RCCE campaign in Badakhshan province in response to winterization and covering awareness on winter related diseases including ARI. A total of 35 social mobilizers including 17 women were trained and deployed in the respective districts to implement the campaign activities.
- Additionally, as part of this RCCE campaign, more than 10,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were planned to be distributed among targeted communities.
- As part of winterization plan WHO has prepared 397,900 (209,150 posters and 188,750 brochures) information education and communication (ICE) materials on ARI. These IEC materials will be used in health facilities and affected communities across the country.



COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 — 18 Nov 2023)

Cumulative samples tested
922,361
In public laboratories
14.0%
New samples tested in week 46

2,794

Cumulative confirmed cases

228,727

Cumulative percent positivity (24.8%)

23.2%

New confirmed cases in week 46

305

In public laboratories (10.9%)

Cumulative confirmed deaths
7,960
CFR (3.5%)

75.0%
New confirmed deaths in week 46

1
Week 46 CFR (0.3%)

In public laboratories In public laboratories In public laboratories ■ No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

Fully vaccinated 15,386,606

Partially vaccinated 2,551,699

At least one dose of any vaccine received 17,251,006

Note: During Week 46-2023, around 56,967 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered.

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

Proportion of population who are fully vaccinated

Proportion of population who at least received one dose

Proportion of population who received booster dose various

6.5%

Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (24 Sep – 18 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,539	2,841	2,618	2,655	3,256	3,217	3,250 *	2,794	
Confirmed cases	271	274	284	265	406	330	397 *	305	
Percent positivity (%)	10.7	9.6	10.8	10.0	12.5	10.3	12.2	10.9	~~^
Deaths	3	1	1	0	1	3	4	1	\
CFR (%)	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.0	0.3	\\

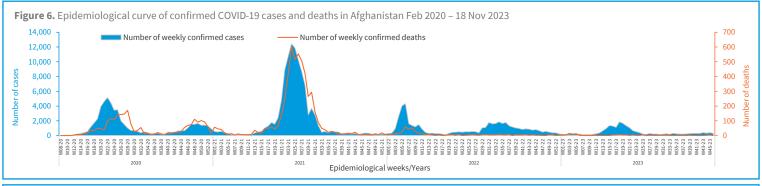
*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 45-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 3,169 to 3,250 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 393 to 397.

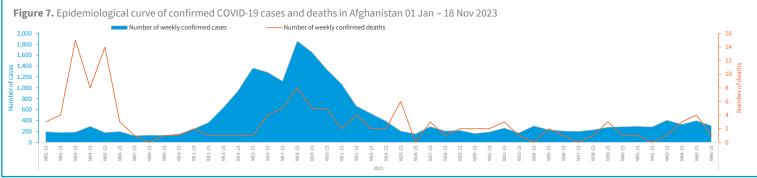
- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases since the 3rd week of June 2023, which could be attributed to a decrease in reporting of infected individuals to healthcare facilities and an improvement in vaccination coverage among eligible population across the country (43.9%).
- In week 46-2023, a total of 2,794 samples were tested in public labs, of which 305 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 10.9%) and 1 associated death was reported. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths decreased by 23.2% and 75.0%, respectively, compared to the last week (Figures 6-7).
- The new death was male, 70 years old from Kunduz province.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 922,361 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 46-2023, 8.5% (26/305 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 30.8% (8/26) of hospitalized cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

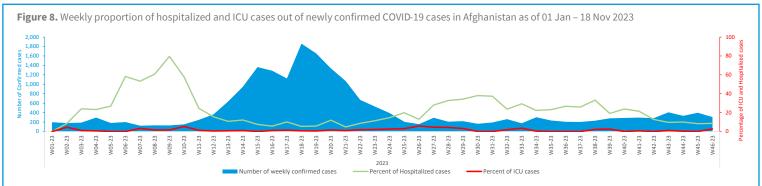
Response:

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 30,500 COVID 19 RDTs have been delivered to all 34 provinces across the country.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 3 ID NOW instruments have been installed and 2,000 tests of COVID-19 ID NOW have been delivered to the CPHL-Kabul for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. Also, on the job training related to ID NOW instrument utilization and maintenance has been provided to the staff of 8 labs across the country.









Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 18 Nov 2023)



64
Total Deaths

5,077 Sample tested 2,468
Lab confirmed cases

48.6%

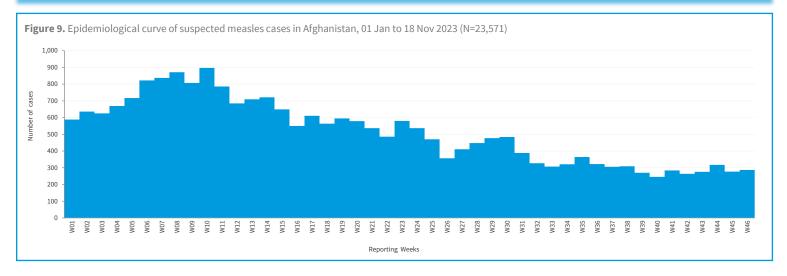
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Sep – 18 Nov 2023)

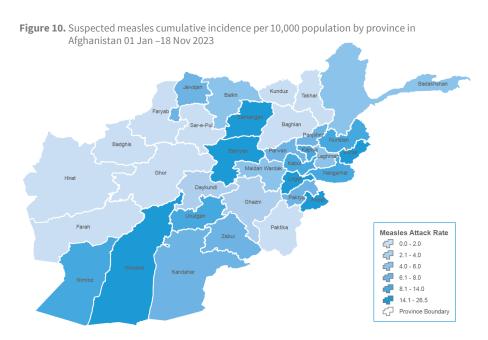
Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	Trend line
Suspected cases	270	246	284	264	276	317	277	287	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

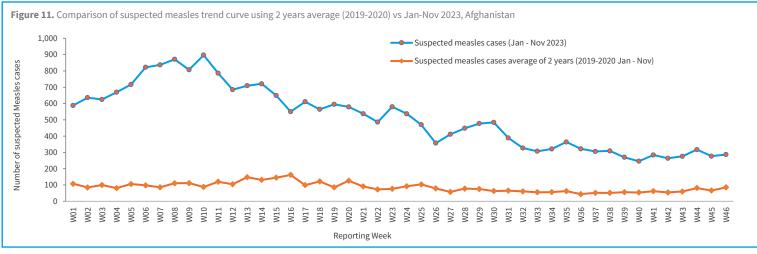
- The epi curve of measle suspected cases shows a consistent stabilization for the last 8 weeks, maintaining an average of 278 cases during this period (Figure 9).
- During week 46-2023, a total of 287 suspected cases with one measle associated death were reported which shows slight increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared to previous week.
- The new measle associated death was an under 5, male from Lashkargah district of Helmand province.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 23,571 suspected cases of measles and 64 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 16,675 (70.7%) were under-five children and 11,115 (47.2%) were females (Figure 10).





Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 18 Nov 2023





Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, still, measles cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 11).

Preparedness and response to the Measles Outbreak

- During week 46-2023, a total of 120 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated as part of outbreak response by the implementing NGOs in Nawi district of Helmand province, this brings the total number of children vaccinated to 7,377 since January 2023.
- A total of 132,000 IEC materials on measles have been delivered to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high-risk areas and affected communities.



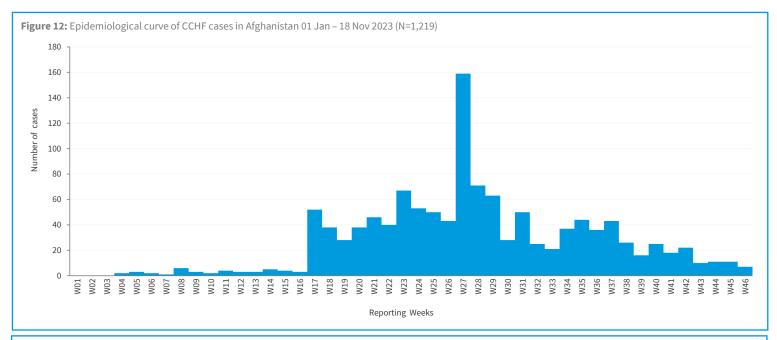
Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 18 Nov 2023)

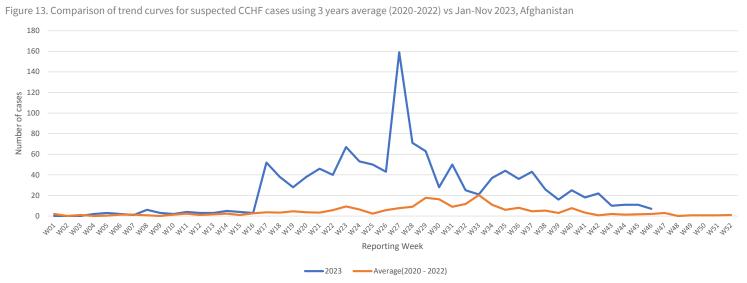
Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Sep -18 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	Trend line
Suspected cases	16	25	18	22	10	11	11	7	
Suspected deaths	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	4.0	5.6	9.1	20.0	27.3	0.0	0.0	

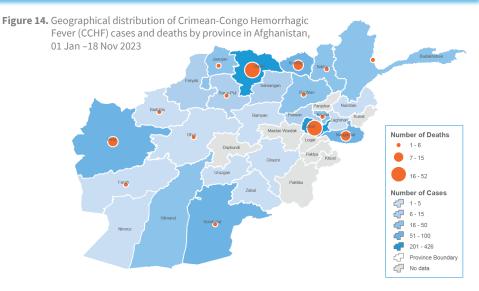
- The epi-curve for Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) indicates a decreasing trend in the number of suspected CCHF cases since 3rd week of September 2023. This decline could be attributed to seasonal changes towards winter (Figure 12, 13).
- During week 46-2023, a total of 7 new suspected CCHF with no death were reported, which shows 36.4% decrease in the number of suspected CCHF cases compared to the week 45 (Table 5).
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total number of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are

- 1,219 and 114, respectively (CFR 9.4%) (Figure 14).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (52, 45.6%) and Balkh (16, 14.0%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,216 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 378 (31.0%) were females.
- Totally, 1,092 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 382 samples were positive (positivity = 35.0%).





Geographic Distribution of Crimean-Congo **Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)** cases by province as of 18 Nov 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

• A national 2-day workshop was conducted in Kabul-Afghanistan focused on implementing the One Health approach and involved various stakeholders, including experts from organizations like WHO, FAO, MoPH, NEPA, MAIL, Dairy Form Union, and Kabul University's veterinary department. The workshop covered six key areas: leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, highlighting existing structures, gaps, and challenges. The main recommendations from the workshop included securing government support and creating a strategic national plan, along with establishing a national-level Technical Working Group (TWG).

Surveillance

• Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.

Laboratory and supplies

- During week 46-2023, a total of 455 printed copies of CCHF treatment algorithm were supplied to 8 provinces (Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Paktya and Kunduz).
- A total of 14 CCHF PCR kits have been distributed to CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs across the country since the beginning of 2023.

• On-the-job training has been conducted for 6 regional reference laboratory staff; the capacities have been built to utilize the PCR and ELISA technologies for laboratory confirmation of CCHF.

Case management

- During week 46-2023, a total of 31 HCWs including 5 females were trained on CCHF case management from Southeast (Ghazni, Paktya, Paktika and Khost provinces) and East regions (Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan provinces). This brings the total number of HCWs trained in CCHF case management to 276 from Central, Central highland, Southeast and East regions across the country.
- A total of 150 oral ribavirin (antiviral medicine) courses (each course containing 84 tablets), and 200 personal protective equipment for infection prevention and control have been supplied to the North region since the beginning of 2023.
- A total of 5,000 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul IDH and Nangarhar provinces to support CCHF case management.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

• A total of 199,300 IEC materials on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH; and a total of 34,501 people have been reached through RCCE campaigns in Kandahar, Helmand and Herat provinces.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 18 Nov 2023)



Total Cases



Total Deaths



Sample tested



211 Lab confirmed cases



28.8%

Test positivity ratio

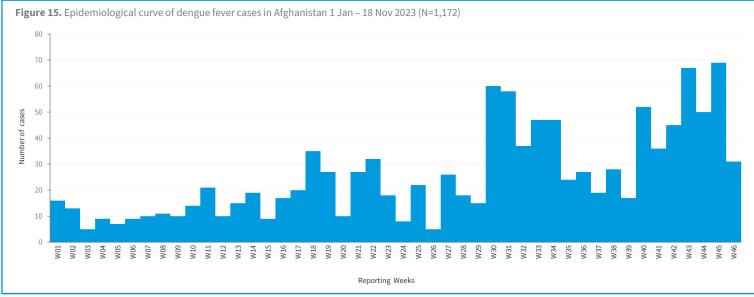
Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Sep – 18 Nov 2023)

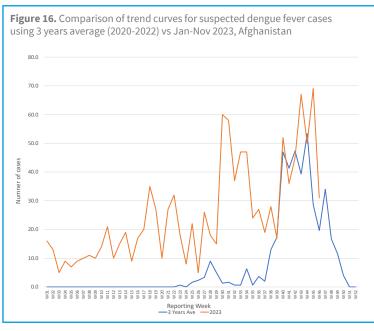
Indicators	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	Trend line
Suspected cases	17	52	36	45	67	50	69	31	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

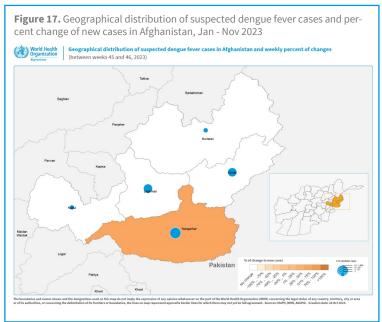
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- The epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week of Aug 2023, this is the peak season for vector activities as reported during 2021 and 2022 outbreaks, as well (Figure 15 & 16).
- During week 46-2023, 31 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported from 2 provinces; Nangarhar (30) and Nuristan (1), which shows 55.1% decrease in the number of suspected cases of dengue fever compared to the last week.
- In week 46-2023, the first-ever case of dengue fever was reported from Nuristan province. The suspected case was a 25-year-old male from Kotagy village in the Noorgram district, with a history of frequent travel to Jalalabad city for medical consultations related to another chronic disease. The individual presented symptoms such as fever, headache, vomiting, and nausea, and was hospitalized at the public health hospital in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province. An RDT was conducted by SST and the result was positive.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,172 suspected cases of dengue fever and one death was reported (Figure 17), out of which, 577 (49.2%) were females and 1,149 (98.0%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 732 samples have been collected, out of which 211 were confirmed (positivity= 28.8%).







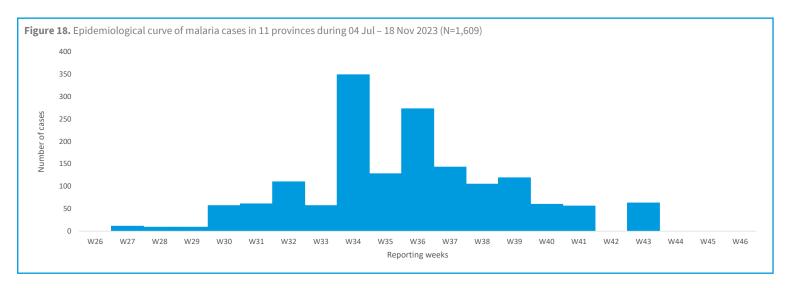
Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- During week 46-2023, a total of 100 RDT kits (10 test/1 Kit) and 300 boxes of surgical mask (100 mask/box) were delivered to Nangarhar RRL.
- During week 46-2023, a total of 450 printed copies of the treatment algorithm were delivered to Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Paktya and Kunduz provinces.
- Since Jan 2023, cumulatively 83 dengue RDT kits have been distributed to 5 provinces (73 to Nangarhar, 3 to Laghman, 3 to Kunar, 2 to Nuristan and 2 to Kabul).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- A total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.



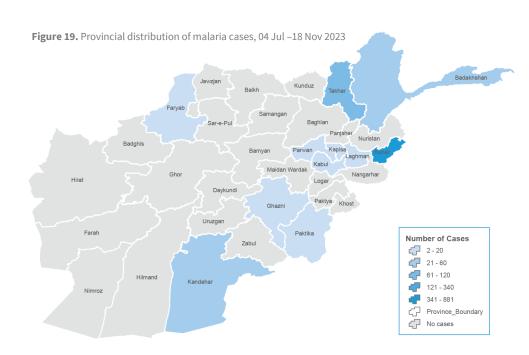
Malaria outbreak

- Since week 44-2023, no new Malaria outbreak has been reported.
- Between 04 Jul- 28 Oct-2023, a total of 1,609 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 306 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 22 districts in 11 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Parwan, Faryab, Paktika, Takhar, Laghman and Ghazni) (Figure 18).
- Out of the total cases, 708 (44.0%) were females and 197 (12.2%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.



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Provincial distribution of Malaria cases as of 18 Nov 2023



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

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