

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS
SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #47-2023



Disease Outbreaks	﴾ خ ∻ 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 609 (99.3%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites	209,805	1,204,712	229,080	23,850	1,226	1,231
Death (CFR %)	93 (0.04)	2,436 (0.2)	7,962 (3.5)	64 (0.3)	114 (9.3)	1 (0.1)

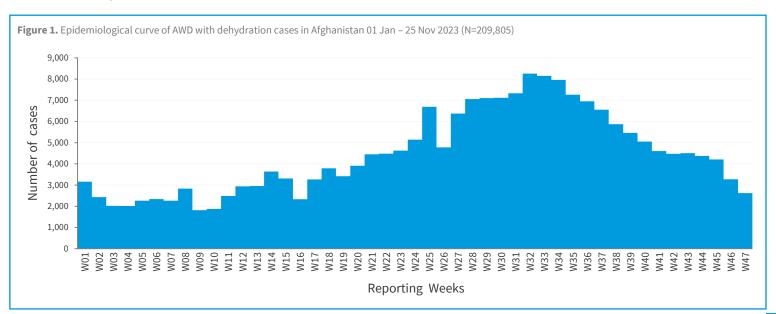
Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 25 Nov 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (01 Oct – 25 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	5,051	4,604	4,470	4,503	4,372	4,207	3,272 *	2,622	
Suspected deaths	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	-

^{*}Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of suspected AWD with dehydration cases in week 46 and were modified from 3,232 to 3,272.

- 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 47-2023; 2,622 AWD with dehydration suspected cases were reported from 134 districts which shows a 19.9% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 209,805 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 119,750 (57.1%) were
- under-five children and 104,482 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 47-2023, no new district reported alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remained at 334.
- A total of 5,577 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 25 Nov 2023

Parkinka

Balkh

Kunduz

Takhar

Balkh

Kunduz

Takhar

Baghian

Parkinka

Bamyan

Parkinka

Chazist

Utuzgan

Farah

Farah

Farah

Kandahar

Kunduz

Takhar

Kandahar

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by

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

- During week 47-2023, one-day training was conducted on AWD sample collection, transportation, and proper use of RDT for the screening of AWD with dehydration cases to 34 SST lab focal points in Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces.
- 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

 During week 47-2023, a total of 585 RDT kits of AWD with dehydration were supplied to 34 provinces. This brings the total number of AWD with dehydration RDT tests to 12,325 and Cary Blairs media to 6,400 supplied to 34 provinces across the country.

Province_Boundary

• 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), below activities were conducted as a WASH 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, 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, 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, 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, Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktika and Zabul).



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Since Jan 2023, a 7-day RCCE campaign has been conducted by WHO and MoPH in Herat province for raising 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, have been trained, and deployed to the respective districts for implementation of campaign activities.
- In addition, as part of this campaign more than 10,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials have been distributed among the communities.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-25 Nov 2023)





Total Deaths



influenza



influenza cases



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.

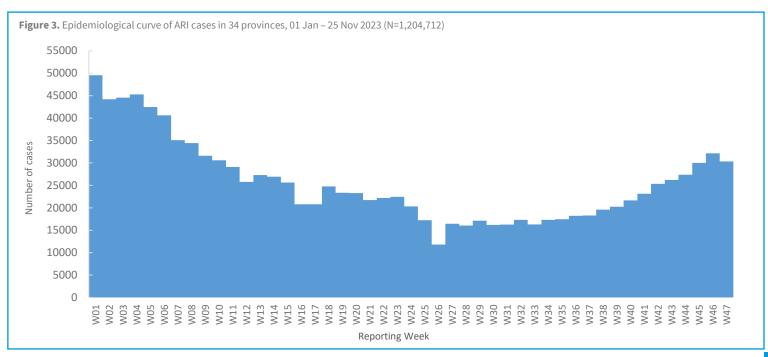
Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (01 Oct – 25 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend lines
Suspected cases	21,637	23,140	25,349	26,204	27,383	30,007	32,133 *	30,344	
Suspected deaths	34	45	59	45	48	57	56	44	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of ARI cases during week 46 and modified from 31,741 to 32,133.

- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since 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 47-2023, 30,344 cases of suspected ARIpneumonia and 44 associated deaths were reported which shows 5.6 % and 21.4% decrease in the number of suspected ARI cases and deaths, respectively, compared
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,204,712 cases and 2,436 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the coun-

- try. Out of the total cases, 741,584 (61.6%) were underfive children and 595,949 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 2,002 (82.2%) were under-five children and 1,124 (46.1%) were females reported from 34
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the three preceding years (2020-2022), the higher number in 2023 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to improved surveillance system (Figure 5).



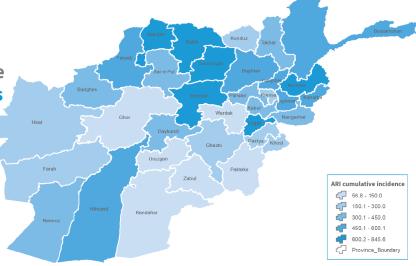


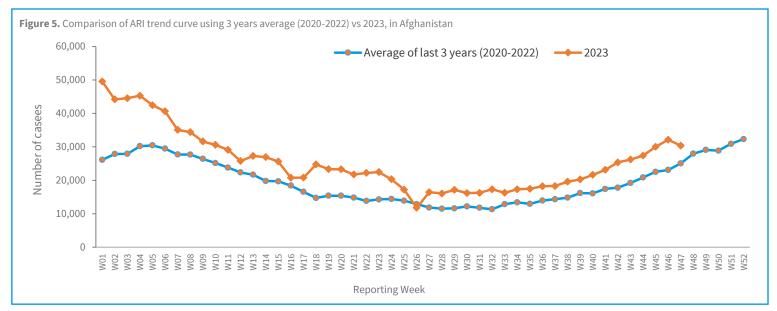


01 Jan - 25 Nov 2023 (N=1,204,712)

ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 25 Nov 2023

Figure 4. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan





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 lab transportation 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)

- Since Jan 2023, a 9-day RCCE campaign has been conducted by WHO as winterization plan in Badakhshan province, covering awareness on winter related diseases including ARI. Thirty-five social mobilizers, including 17 women, have been trained and deployed in their respective districts to implement campaign activities.
- Additionally, as part of this RCCE campaign, more than 10,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials have been distributed among targeted communities



COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 — 25 Nov 2023)

Cumulative samples tested
925,827
In public laboratories

22.8%

New samples tested in week 47

2,728
In public laboratories

Cumulative confirmed cases
229,080

Cumulative percent positivity (24.7%)

37.1%

New confirmed cases in week 47

254

In public laboratories (9.3%)

Cumulative confirmed deaths
7,962
CFR (3.5%)

100.0%
New confirmed deaths in week 47

2
Week 47 CFR (0.8%)

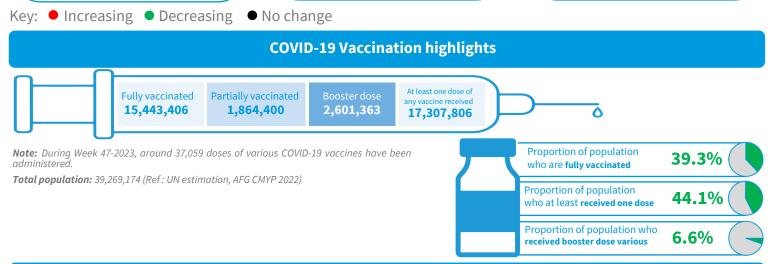


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (01 Oct - 25 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,841	2,618	2,655	3,256	3,217	3,250	3,532 *	2,728	
Confirmed cases	274	284	265	406	330	397	404 *	254	\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\-\
Percent positivity (%)	9.6	10.8	10.0	12.5	10.3	12.2	11.4	9.3	\sim
Deaths	1	1	0	1	3	4	1	2	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.0	0.2	0.8	

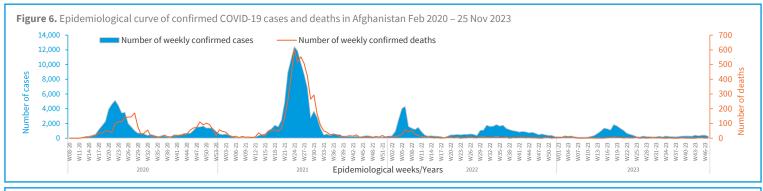
*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 46-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,794 to 3,532 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 305 to 404.

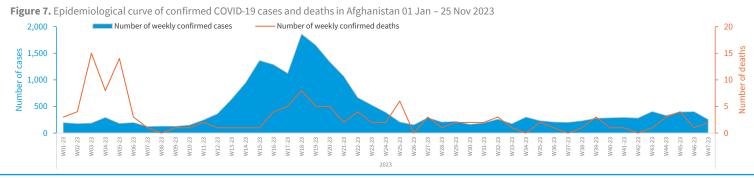
- The epidemiological curve indicates a slight gradual increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 since week 43-2023. This phenomena could be attributed to winter season, which resulted in close contact of people at high risks.
- In week 47-2023, a total of 2,728 samples were tested in public labs, of which 254 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 9.3%) and 2 associated death was reported. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases decrease by 37.1% while the number of deaths doubled compared to the week 46-2023 (Figures 6-7).
- The new deaths were both female, 80 and 68 years old from Khost and Kabul provinces, respectively.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 925,827 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 47-2023, 8.7% (22/254 confirmed cases) were hospitalized, whereas no hospitalized cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

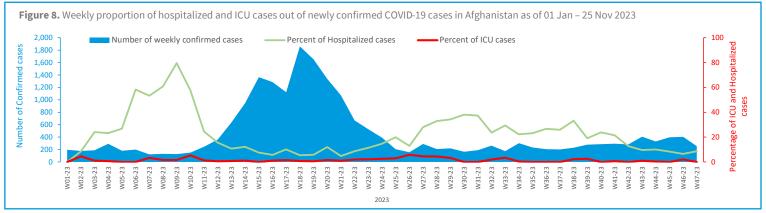
Response:

- 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 25 Nov 2023)









Lab confirmed cases



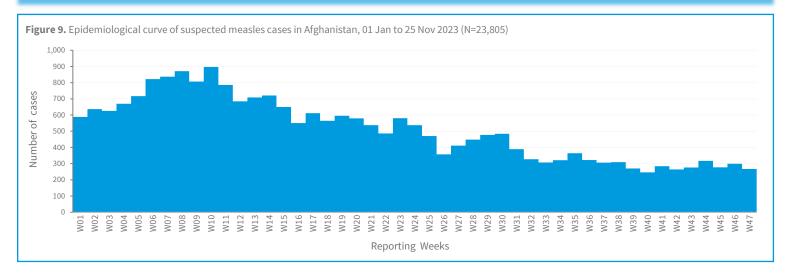
Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (01 Oct – 25 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	246	284	264	276	317	277	299 *	267	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	

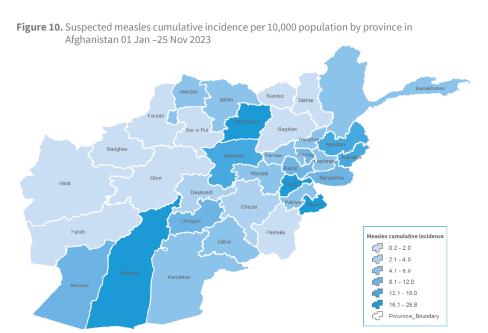
^{*}Delayed data reporting was experienced during week 46 in the number of suspected measles and was modified from 287 to 299.

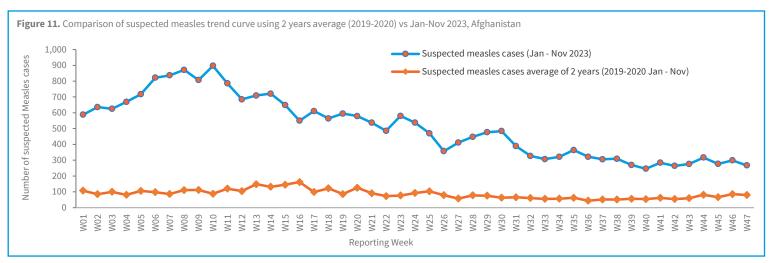
- The epi curve of measle suspected cases shows a consistent stabilization for the last 8 weeks, maintaining an average of 279 cases during this period (Figure 9).
- During week 47-2023, a total of 267 suspected cases with no measles associated deaths were reported which shows a 10.7% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared to previous week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 23,850 suspected cases of measles and 64 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 16,889 (70.8%) were under-five children and 11,242 (47.1%) were females (Figure 10).





Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 25 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

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 7,377 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated as part of outbreak response by the implementing NGOs across the country.
- 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 25 Nov 2023)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (01 Oct -25 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	25	18	22	10	11	11	7	7	***************************************
Suspected deaths	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	4.0	5.6	4.5	20.0	27.3	0.0	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 47-2023, a total of 7 new suspected CCHF with no death were reported, which shows a stabilization in number of suspected CCHF cases compared to week 46-2023 (Table 5).
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total number of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are

- 1,226 and 114, respectively (CFR 9.3%) (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, 1,223 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 382 (31.2%) were females.
- Totally, 1,096 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 383 samples were positive (positivity = 34.9%).

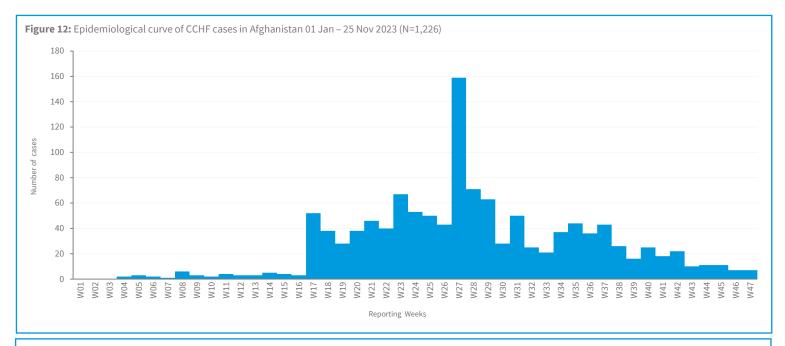
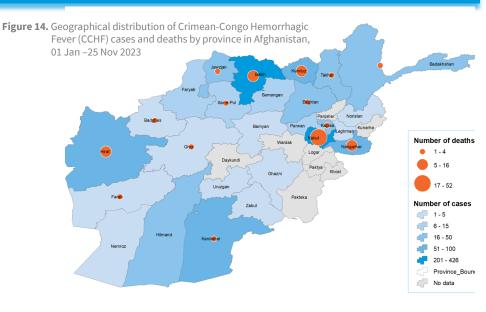


Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs Jan-Nov 2023, Afghanistan 180 -Average (2020 - 2022) 160 140 of suspected cases 120 100 80 60 9. 40 20 W16 W17 W07 W08 W10 W11 W12 W13 W13 W15 W24 W25 W26 W27 W28 W29 Reporting week

Geographic Distribution of Crimean-Congo **Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)** cases by province as of 25 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

- Since Jan 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

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 276 HCWs including 5 females were trained on CCHF case management from 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 25 Nov 2023)



Total Cases



Total Deaths



Sample tested



737 Lab confirmed cases



30.6% **Test positivity ratio**

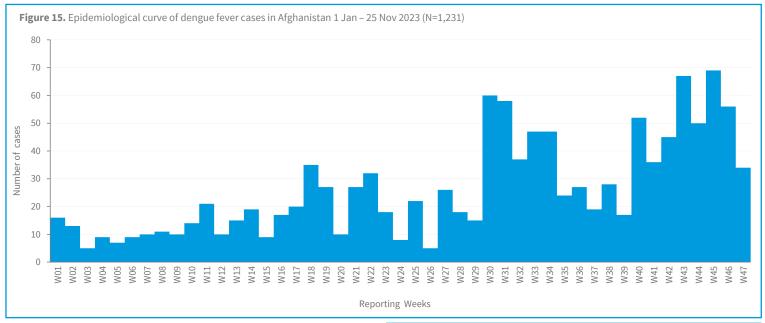
Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (01 Oct – 25 Nov 2023)

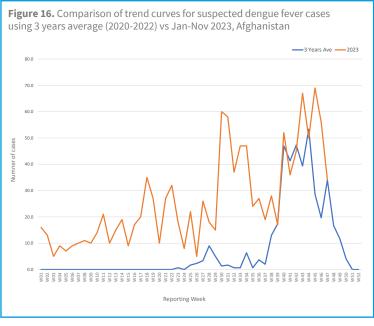
Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	52	36	45	67	50	69	56 *	34	✓
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

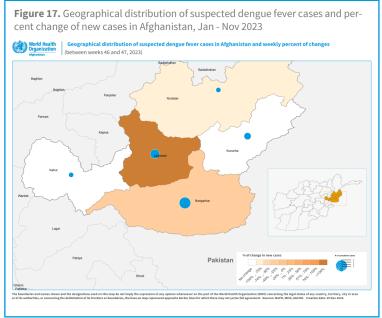
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- Overall, the epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week of Aug 2023, this is the peak season for vector activities as reported during 2021 and 2022 outbreaks, as well (Figure 15 & 16).
- During week 47-2023, 34 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported from 2 provinces; Nangarhar (32) and Laghman (2), which shows 39.3% decrease in the number of suspected cases of dengue fever compared to the week 46-2023.
- During week 47-2023, no cases of dengue fever were reported from Nuristan province. The first-ever case of dengue fever was reported from Nuristan province during week 46-2023. 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 1,231 suspected cases of dengue fever and one death was reported (Figure 17), out of which, 612 (49.7%) were females and 1,205 (97.9%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 757 samples have been collected, out of which 232 were confirmed (positivity= 30.6%).







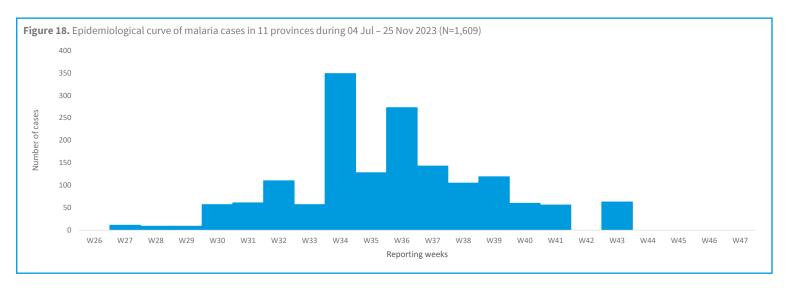
Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- During week 47, a total of 100 Kits (10 test/kit) of dengue fever were delivered to Nangarhar province. This brings the total number of RDT kits to 283 (Nangarhar 273 kits, Laghman 3 kits, Kunar 3 kits, Nuristan 2 kits and Kabul 2 kits).
- Since week 47-2023, a total of 450 printed copies of the dengue fever treatment algorithm have been delivered to Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Paktya and Kunduz provinces.
- 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.



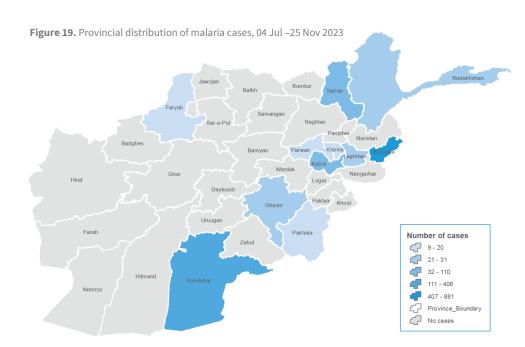
Malaria outbreak

- 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.



AFGHANISTAN

Provincial distribution of Malaria cases as of 25 Nov 2023



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

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