



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #41-2023

No. 41 (08-14 Oct 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (Jan - Oct 23)	ARI (Jan - Oct 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Oct 23)	Measles (Jan - Oct 23)	CCHF (Jan - Oct 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Oct 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 591 (96.4%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	185,446	1,031,779	226,987	22,145	1,158	910
Death	86 (0.05)	2,082 (0.2)	7,951 (3.5)	62 (0.3)	107 (9.2)	1 (0.1)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 14 Oct 2023)

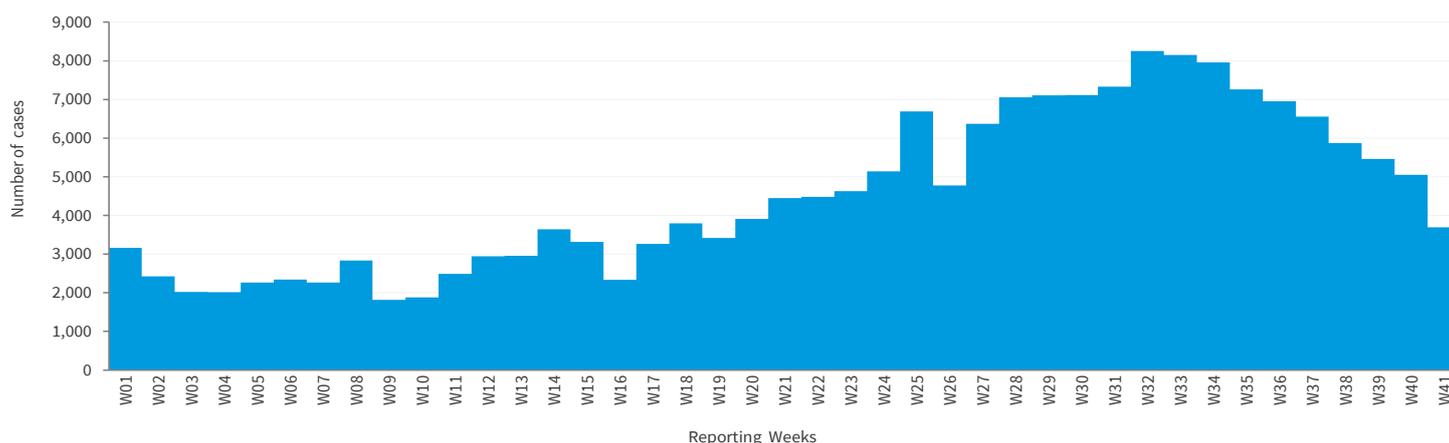
Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (20 Aug – 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Trend lines
Suspected cases	7,959	7,263	6,953	6,557	5,874	5,464	5,051 *	3,691	
% Change cases	-2.4	-8.7	-4.3	-5.7	-10.4	-7.0	-7.6	-26.9	
Suspected deaths	7	2	4	0	3	3	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	

*Delayed report was experienced during week 40 and the number of AWD with dehydration was modified from 5,008 to 5,051.

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- During week 41-2023; 3,691 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 187 districts which shows 26.9% decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- No AWD with dehydration associated death was reported during week 41.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 185,446 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 105,519 (56.9%) were under-five children and 92,261 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 41-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 4,790 RDTs were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

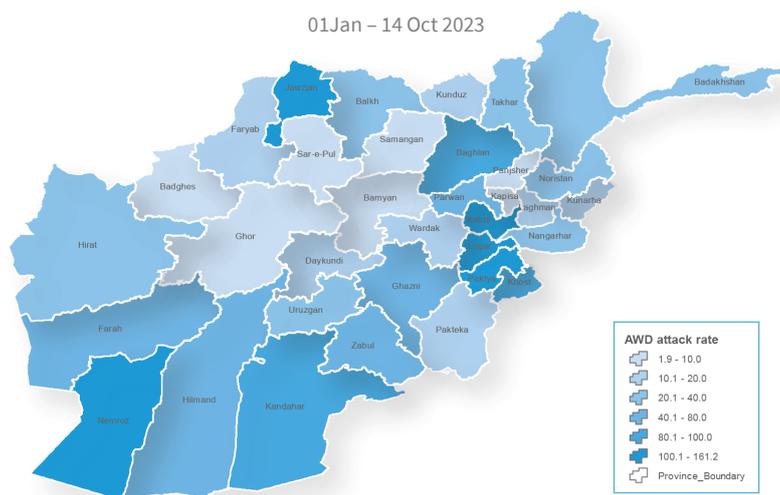
Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023 (N=185,446)



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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 14 Oct 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01Jan – 14 Oct 2023



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted between Health and WASH partners to coordinate the 2023 season AWD outbreak response.
- 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

- During week 41, one-day training was conducted among 32 lab focal points of surveillance support teams (SST) from the Central east (Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Panjshir) and Central West (Bamyan, Daikundi, Parwan, Wardak) provinces on AWD with dehydration specimen collection, storage, transportation, packaging and use of AWD RDT. This brings the total number of lab focal points of SST team trained on specimen collection, storage, packaging, transportation, and use of AWD RDT from 7 regions to 227 since the beginning of 2023.
- 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 district level in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 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 32 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to Paktya, Bamyan, Daikundi and Nangarhar provinces.
- 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 41, a total of 50 kits (20 test/kits) of AWD RDT and Carry Blairs were distributed to Herat and Kandahar province for specimen collection and rapid laboratory diagnosis among AWD with dehydration cases. This brings the total number of AWD RDTs and Carry Blairs to 6,130 distributed to all provinces across the country since Jan 2023.
- 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 they have been supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH

During first 2 weeks of Oct (01-14 Oct 2023) below activities were implemented by WASH partners:

- Provision of clean water to 5,400 individuals by chlorination of the wells in Kunar, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Logar, Paktya and Zabul provinces.
- Distribution of aqua tabs to more than 50,000 individuals in Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul provinces.
- Distribution of hand washing soaps to around 22,000 individuals in Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Kunar, Nangarhar and Zabul provinces.
- Installation of 2 communal handwashing facilities in Zabul province which support almost 500 individuals.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to around 7,500 individuals in Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Nimroz, Panjshir and Zabul provinces.
- Provision of hygiene promotion sessions to more than 44,000 individuals in Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktya and Zabul provinces.
- Provision of sanitation facilities by latrines installation/rehabilitation to 850 individuals in Kandahar, Khost, Paktya and Zabul provinces.
- Provision of safe water by water system construction/rehabilitation in Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktya and Zabul provinces supporting around 13,000 individuals
- Provision of clear drinking water through water trucking to around 10,000 individuals in Nimroz province.

RCCE

- During week 41, a 3-day training was conducted on for 27 RCCE and health promotion officers and HCWs including one female from Northeast region in Balkh province. This brings the total number of MoPH staff trained on RCCE to 108 including 17 females.
- Since 1st Oct 2023, a total of 477,700 information education and communication (IEC) materials (including 241,800 posters and 235,900 brochures) were distributed to health cluster partners for implementing RCCE activities as part of outbreak response.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)
(1 Jan-14 Oct 2023)



1,031,779
Total ARI Cases



2,118
Total Deaths



2,199
Influenza sample tested



73
Influenza lab confirmed cases



3.3
Influenza test positivity ratio

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (20 Aug – 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	17,310	17,454	18,210	18,300	19,579	20,256	21,536	21,728	
% Change cases	6.0	0.8	4.2	0.5	6.5	3.3	5.9	0.9	
Suspected deaths	37	43	37	29	31	28	34	36	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	

- The epi curve shows a gradual increase of ARI suspected cases since epi week 34 which might be due to winter season as the weather changed in some provinces across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 41, 21,728 suspected cases of ARI and 36 deaths were reported, which does not show significant changes in the number of cases compared with the week 40.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,031,779 suspected cases and 2,118 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the country. Out of the total suspected cases, 636,155 (61.7%) were children under 5 and 510,404 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,748 (82.5%) were under 5 years children and 985 (46.5%) were females reported from 34 provinces.
- Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2020-2022; reveals that the number of suspected ARI cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the average of last three years (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of ARI cases in 34 provinces, 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023 (N=1,031,779)

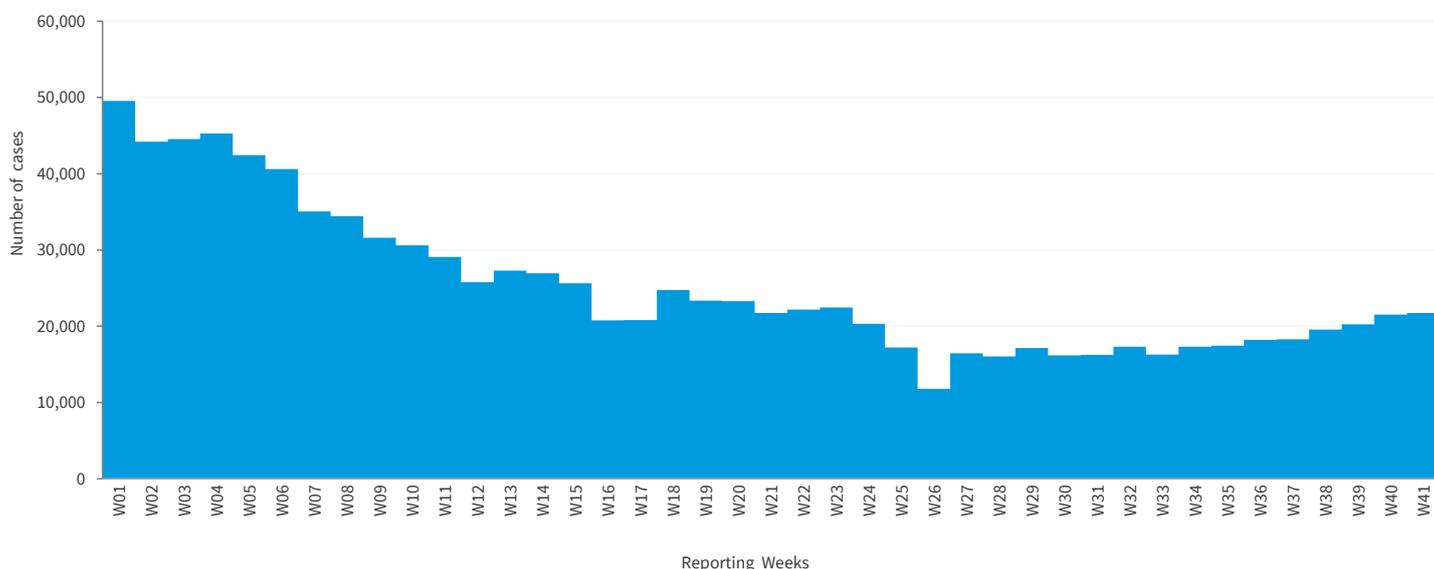


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of ARI cases by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023 (N=1,031,779)

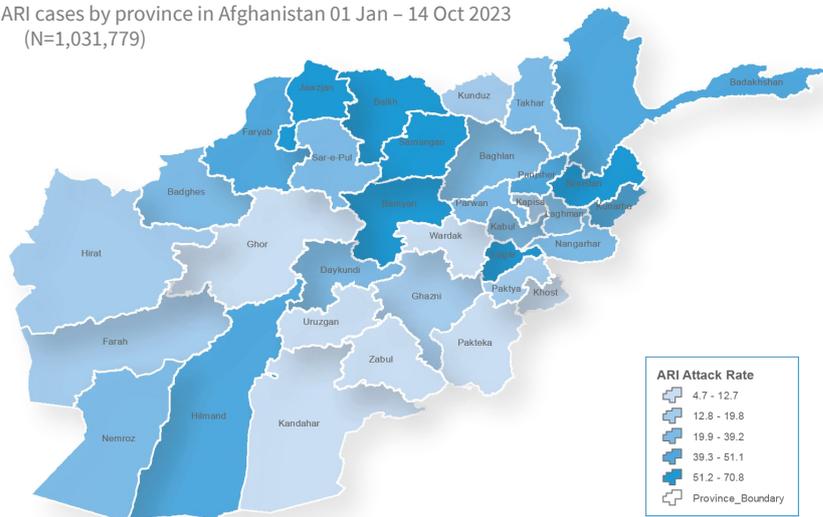
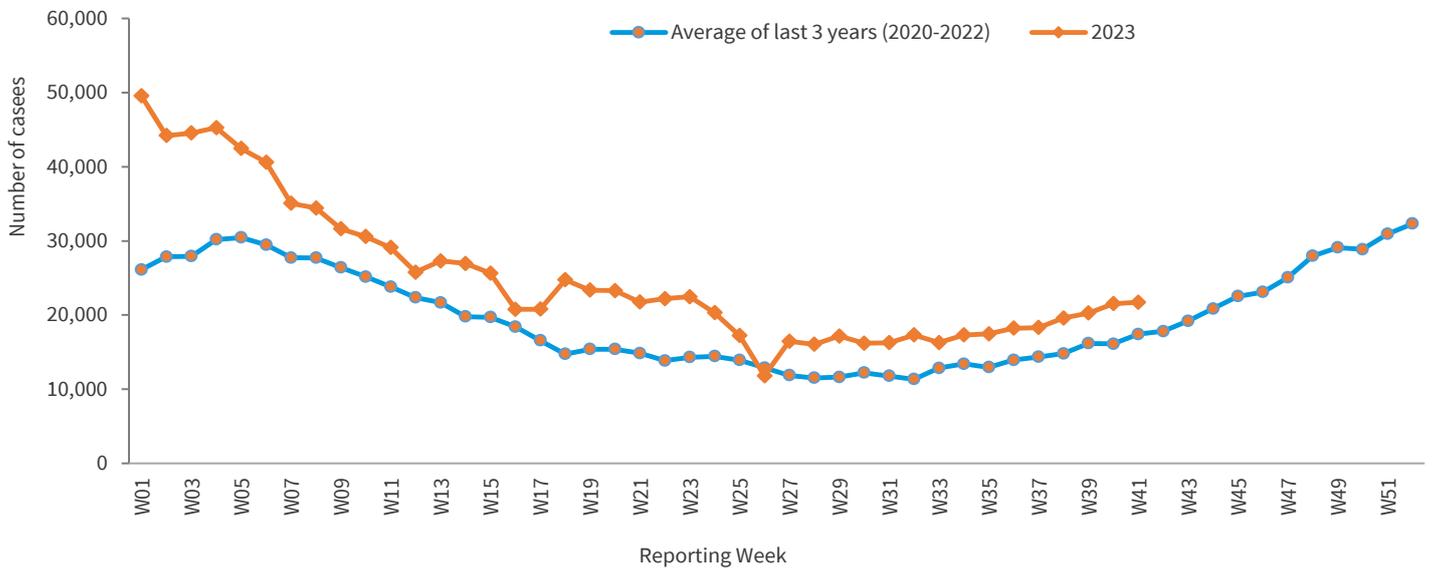


Figure 5. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023, in Afghanistan



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:

- During week 41, a total of 1,200 dose of diphtheria anti-toxins were distributed to Kabul, Paktya, Bamiyan, Balkh, Kandahar, Herat and Kunduz provinces.
- A total of 500 VTM for collection of influenzas' samples have been supplied to each of 9 functional influenza sentinel sites since Jan 2023.
- A total of 1500 influenza A/B PCR kits and consumables have been supplied to NIC/CPHL since Jan 2023.
- A total of 9 influenza assistants have been trained (1/ sentinel site) on specimen collection, storage, and transportation to lab for testing and confirmation since Jan 2023.

- As a part of preparedness and response to ARI outbreak, a total of 1,600 Covid-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul, WHO warehouse, since Jan 2023 and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

Case management:

- During week 41, a total of 35 HCWs (MDs and nurses) including 13 females were trained on ARI case management from Southeast region in Kabul province. This brings the total number of HCWs trained on ARI case management to 1,305 since Jan 2023 from all 8 regions.
- 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 distributed to regional offices for timely responding to ARI outbreaks across the country.

RCCE:

- As part of RCCE winterization plan, a total of 138,750 brochures and 99,150 posters of ARI have been distributed to high-risk provinces.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 14 Oct 2023)

Cumulative samples tested

906,954

In public laboratories

16.1%

New samples tested in week 41

2,385

In public laboratories

Cumulative confirmed cases

226,987

Cumulative percent positivity (25.0%)

3.3%

New confirmed cases in week 41

265

In public laboratories (11.1%)

Cumulative confirmed deaths

7,951

CFR (3.5%)

0%

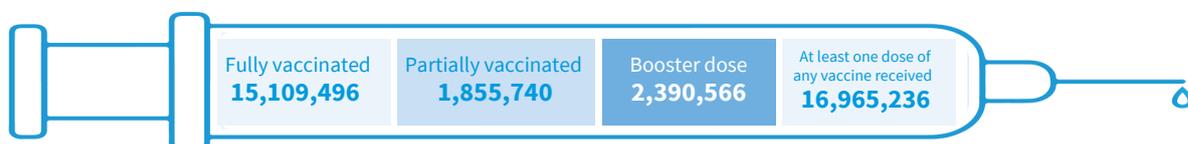
New confirmed deaths in week 41

1

Week 41 CFR (0.4%)

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

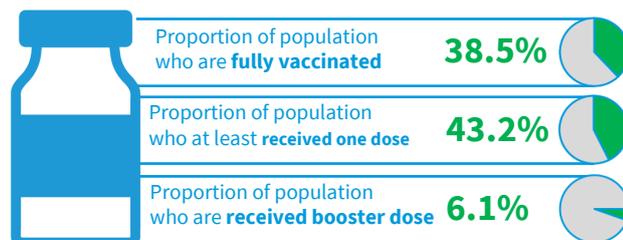


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (20 Aug – 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Trend lines
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,926	3,179	2,974	2,814	2,579	2,539	2,841 *	2,383	
Confirmed cases	298	229	202	193	217	271	274 *	265	
% Change cases	71.3	-23.2	-11.8	-5.4	12.4	24.9	1.1	-3.3	
Percent positivity (%)	10.2	7.2	6.8	6.9	8.4	10.7	9.6	11.1	
Deaths	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 40-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,636 to 2,841 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 246 to 274.

- During week 41-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases slightly decreased (3.3%) compared to previous week and generally the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figure 6-7).
- In week 41-2023, a total of 2,383 samples were tested in public labs, of which 265 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 11.1%) and one new death was reported (CFR=0.4%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 906,954 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 41-2023, 20.4% (54/265 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 3.7% (2/54 hospitalized) cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

Response

- Since Jan 2023, 12 COVID-19 VTM kits (50 VTMs per kit) were supplied to Samangan province.
- 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.

Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 14 Oct 2023

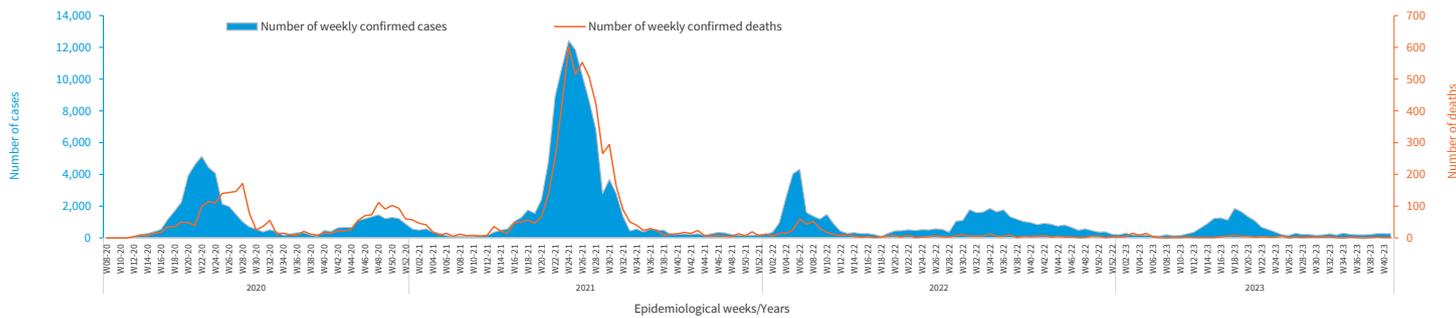


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023

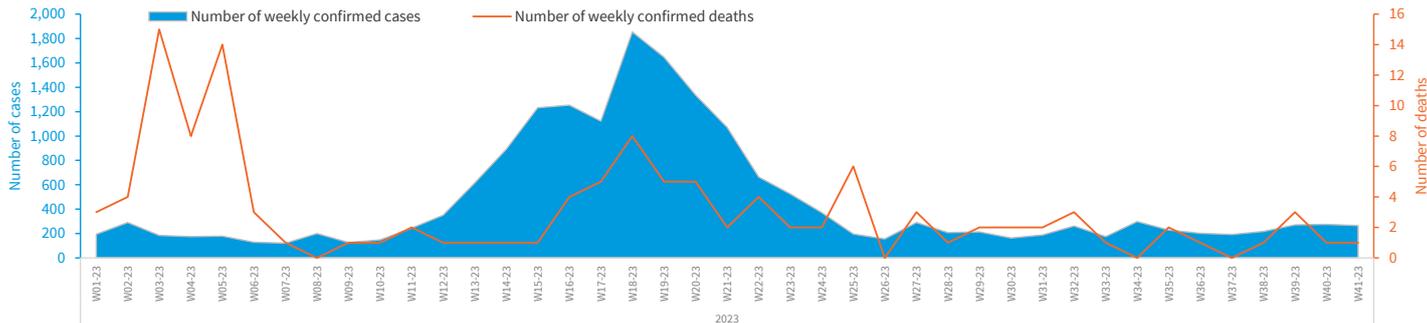
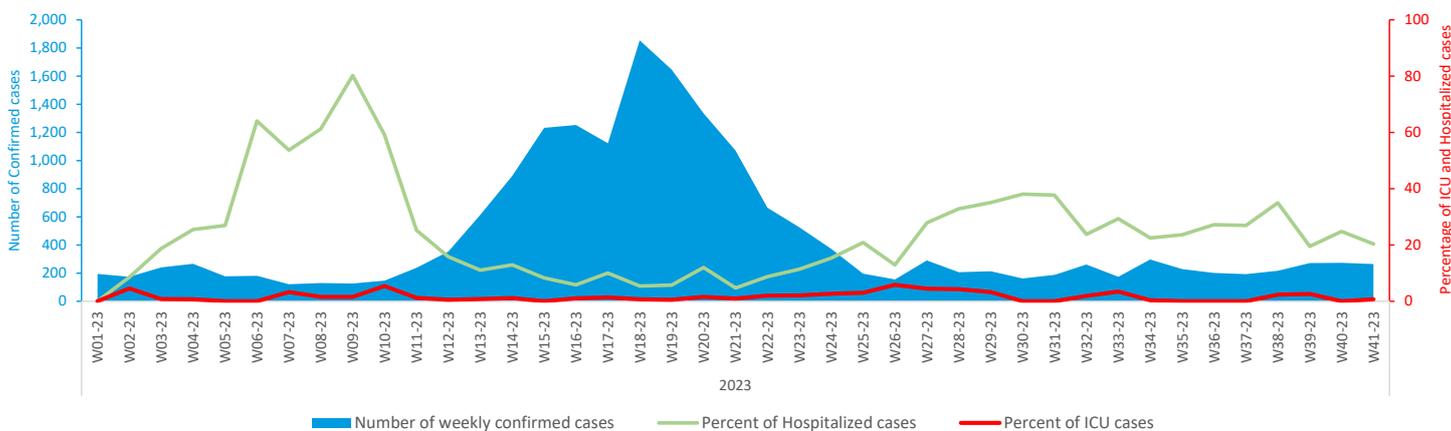


Figure 8. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 14 Oct 2023)

22,145
Total Cases

62
Total Deaths

5,049
Sample tested

2,454
Lab confirmed cases

48.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (20 Aug – 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Tren lines
Suspected cases	321	364	322	306	309	270	246	279	
% Change cases	4.6	13.4	-11.5	-5.0	1.0	-12.6	-8.9	13.4	
Suspected deaths	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

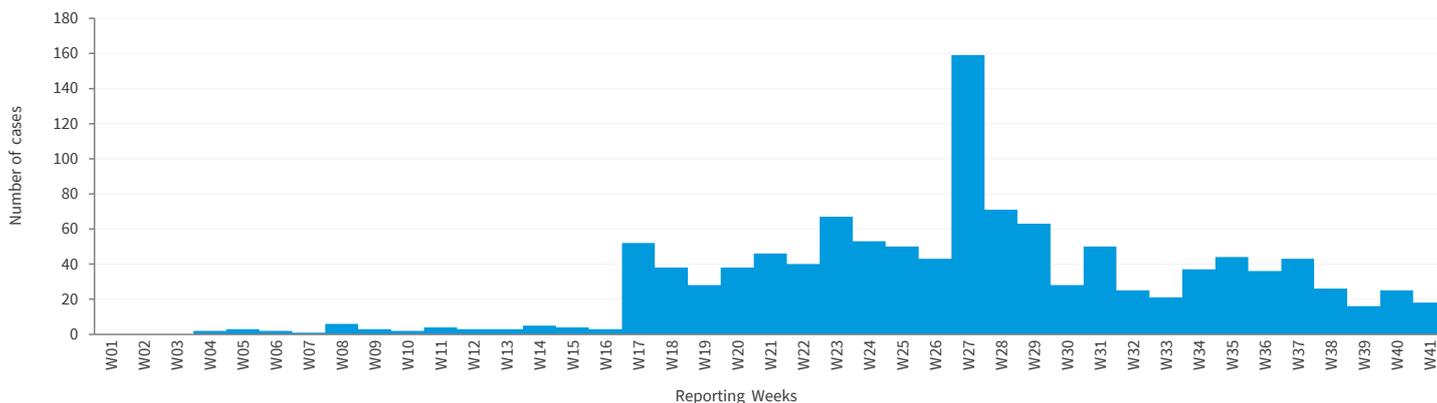
Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 14 Oct 2023)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (20 Aug - 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	37	44	36	43	26	16	25	18	
% Change cases	76.2	18.9	-18.2	19.4	-39.5	-38.5	56.3	-28.0	
Suspected deaths	4	4	1	3	1	0	1	1	
CFR (%)	10.8	9.1	2.8	7.0	3.8	0.0	4.0	5.6	

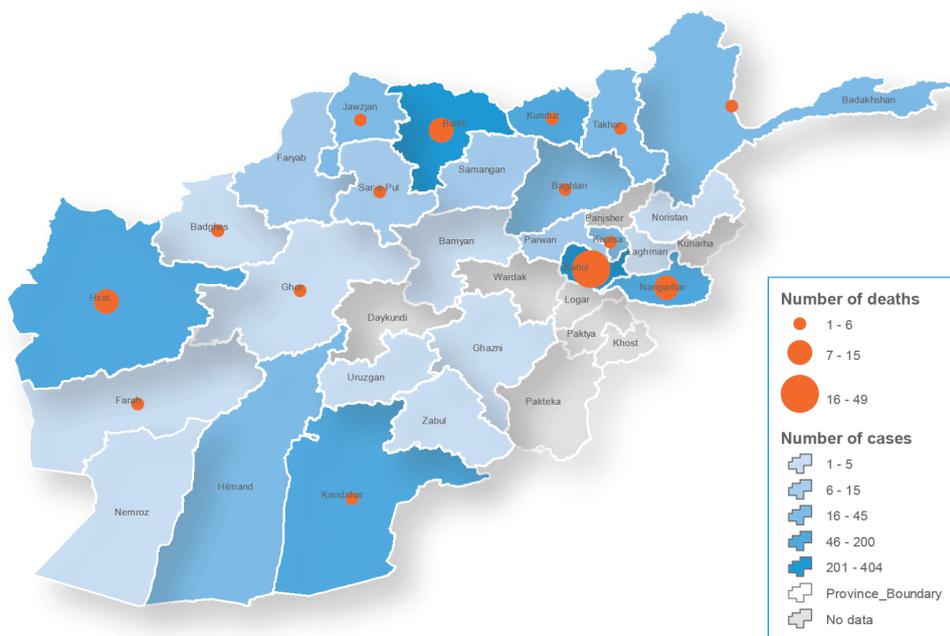
- During week 41-2023, a total of 18 new cases of CCHF and 1 death were reported, which shows 28.0% decrease in number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 5, Figure 12).
- The new death was over 5 years child, male reported from Kunduz province.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,158 and 107, respectively (CFR 9.2%) (Figure 13).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (49, 45.8%) and Balkh (15, 14.0%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,155 (99.7%) were above 5 years of age and 364 (31.4%) were females.
- Totally, 1,022 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 358 samples were positive (positivity = 35.0%).

Figure 12: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023 (N=1,158)



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Figure 13. Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 14 Oct 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- A national consultative workshop to discuss the implementation of One Health in Afghanistan has been carried out for 2 days with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
 - Technical experts from different agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Dairy Form Union and veterinary department of Kabul University participated in the workshop.
 - During the workshop, six technical important areas were extensively discussed, where the current structure, gaps and challenges were highlighted (leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance).
 - Main recommendations of the workshop included: gaining political support from the government; development of a strategic/national plan for and establishment of a national level Technical Working Group (TWG) were recommended by the participants.

Surveillance

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

Laboratory and supplies

- Balkh regional reference lab is equipped with one Automated Nucleic Acid extraction machine and lab staff received on the job training. The instrument will help strengthen lab testing capacity by decreasing the turnaround time and safety of staff while dealing with high threat pathogens like CCHF virus.
- 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

- 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.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 healthcare workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.

RCCE

- A 3-days training of trainers (ToT) was conducted on risk communication and community engagement for 25 officers of Ministry of Public Health including 8 females, in Kabul province.
- A total of 199,300 information education and communication materials (IEC) 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 14 Oct 2023)



Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (20 Aug – 14 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	Trend lines
Suspected cases	47	24	27	19	28	17	52	36	
% Change cases	0.0	-48.9	12.5	-29.6	47.4	-39.3	205.9	-30.8	
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	

- During week 41-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases dengue fever shows a 30.8% decrease compared to previous week (Figure 14).
- A total of 36 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 41-2023; all were reported from 4 provinces, Nangarhar (30) and Laghman (3), Kunar (2) and Kabul (1). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 910 and one death since the beginning of 2023 (Figure 15).
- One case reported last week from Kabul province had recently travel history to neighboring country (Pakistan) and upon return to Kabul developed the signs and symptoms of suspected dengue fever.
- Out of 910 reported cases, 459 (50.4%) were females and 890 (97.8%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 337 samples have been collected, out of which 97 were confirmed (positivity= 28.8%).

Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 14 Oct 2023 (N=910)

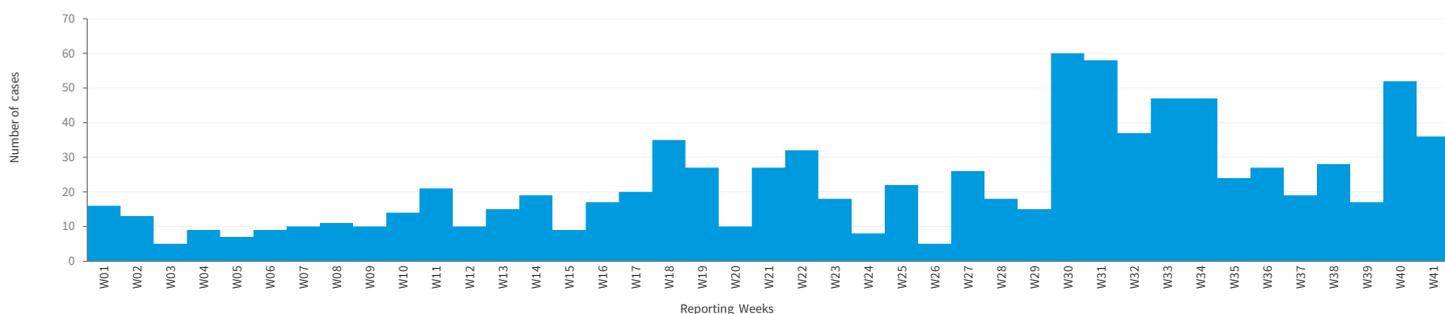
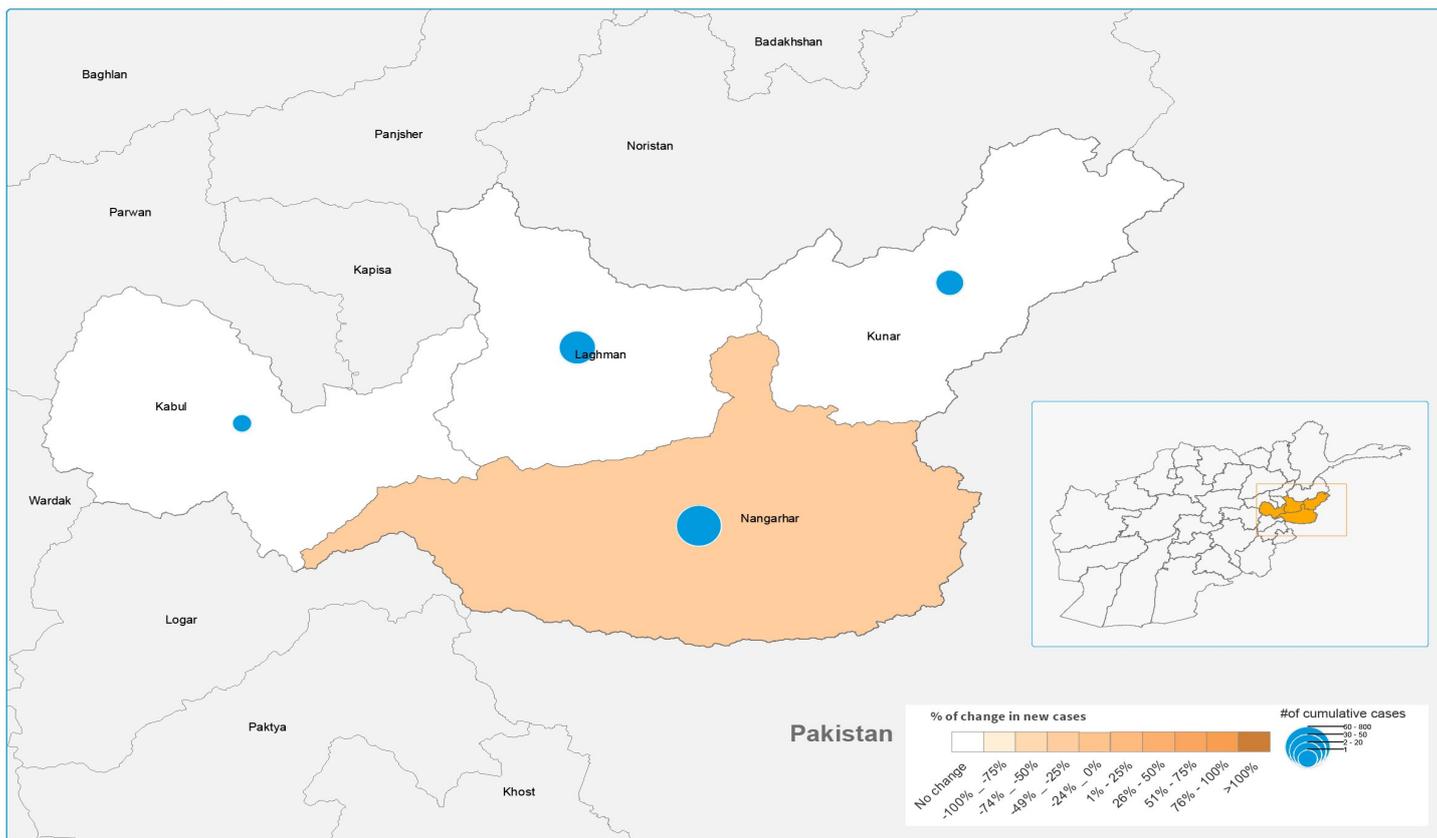


Figure 15. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Oct 2023



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes
(between weeks 40 and 41, 2023)



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: 14 Oct 2023.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

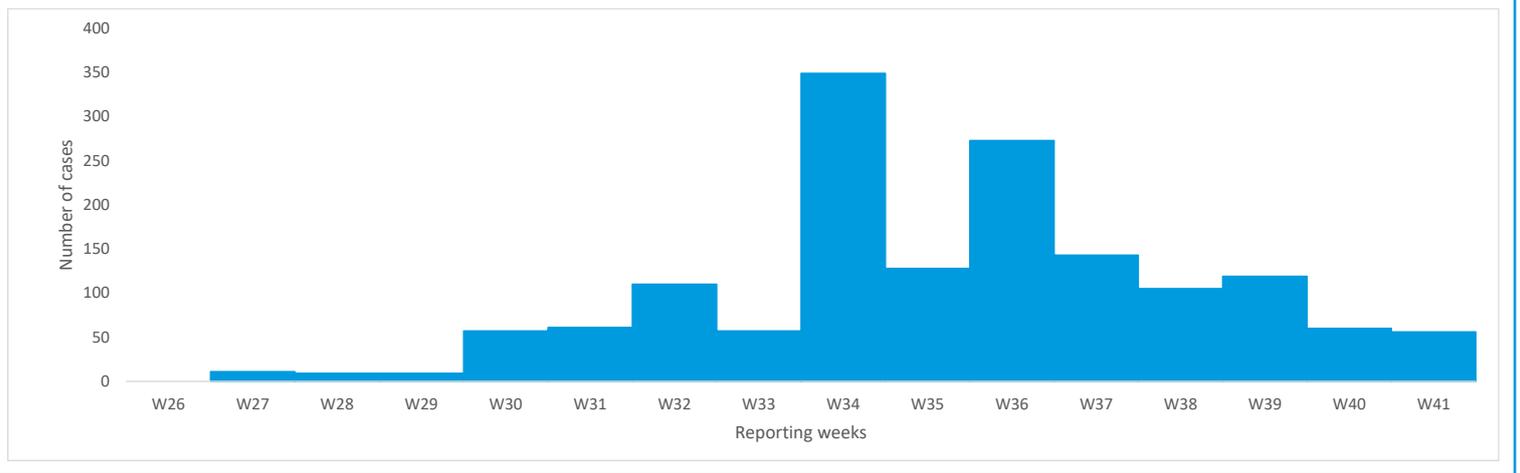
- Since 1 Jan 2023, 5,000 dengue fever RDTs kits were received and stocked at WHO warehouse in Kabul.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 60 dengue RDT kits have been supplied to 4 provinces: Nangarhar (50), Kunar (3), Laghman (3), Nuristan (2) and Kabul (2).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and a one-day workshop was held with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.



Malaria outbreak

- During week 41-2023, one new outbreak of malaria was reported from Maiwand district of Kandahar province with a total of 56 confirmed cases. Among the reported cases 25 (44.6%) were female and 8 (14.3%) were under five years of age (Figure 16).
- Since the beginning of the outbreak on 04 Jul-2023, a total of 1,546 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 243 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 17).
- Out of the total cases, 679 (43.9%) were females and 181 (11.7%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.

Figure 16. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 7 provinces during 04 Jul – 14 Oct 2023 (N=1,546)

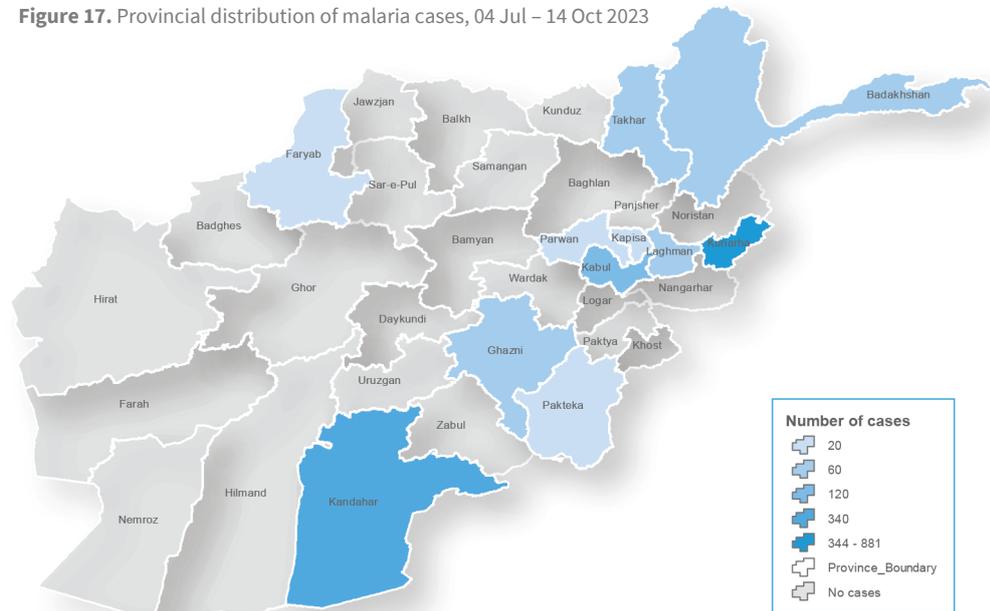


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Provincial distribution of Malaria cases

As of 14 Oct 2023

Figure 17. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul – 14 Oct 2023



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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