

Earthquake in Eastern Afghanistan

WHO Situation report no. 6 | 6 Sept 2025



World Health Organization
Afghanistan

Reporting period: Based on available information as of 15:00 on 6 September 2025

KEY FIGURES



84 000

People affected



2205

Fatalities



3640

Injured



6782

Homes destroyed



16

Health facilities damaged

WHO RESPONSE



6 Mobile Health Teams

supported by WHO, deployed to the affected areas



3317 Consultations

provided at WHO-supported primary healthcare facilities



43 metric tonnes

medical supplies provided



US\$ 4M

funding gap for rapid life-saving response



The WHO health worker visits on the ground in Kunar province to provide emergency response to families affected by the recent earthquake.e. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Search and rescue operations continue following the devastating 6.0 magnitude earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on 31 August, severely affecting Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces.

Access to remote mountainous districts remains a major challenge, as landslides triggered by continuing strong aftershocks—including a magnitude 5.6 tremor on 4 September and a magnitude 5.2 tremor on 5 September—have blocked key roads. An estimated 84 000 people have been affected, with at least 2205 deaths, 3640 injured, and 6782 houses destroyed.

WHO has mobilized six Mobile Health Teams to the most affected and remote villages in Nurgal District, Kunar Province, providing emergency services including trauma care, maternal and child health, consultations, and referrals. However, major challenges remain in the safe transfer of patients. Ambulance and referral systems are weak and under-resourced, with severe shortages of functioning vehicles, fuel, and trained staff, including female health personnel, limiting timely access to higher-level care for critical cases.

Beyond immediate life-saving support, the complex nature of injuries requires post-trauma care and physical rehabilitation, underscoring the need for sustained health services. Afghanistan's fragile health system—already strained by prolonged humanitarian crises and widespread poverty—faces chronic shortages of medicines and staff, particularly female health workers. Restrictions on women's mobility further hinder access to care, while women and children, who require healthcare the most, are disproportionately affected. The influx of returnees adds pressure to an already overstretched system, especially in the Eastern Region.

WHO is ramping up its response to provide immediate assistance. Despite expanded international support, critical gaps remain. An additional US\$4 million is urgently required to scale up life-saving interventions and ensure that the most vulnerable communities are reached.

HEALTH SITUATION

WHO has initiated assessments of health facilities across the four affected provinces. Early findings indicate that at least 16 facilities have been damaged, including Chawkey District Hospital and Nurgal Comprehensive Health Centre, while Arit Basic Health Centre in Nurgal District, Kunar Province, has been completely destroyed.

A total of 2112 injured people have been received across 10 health facilities, namely Nangarhar Regional Hospital, Nangarhar University Teaching Hospital, Fatima Zahra Hospital, Kama District Hospital, Khiwa Comprehensive Healthcare Centre, Mach Gandol

Basic Health Centre, Police Hospital, Nang Hospital, Shifai Azim Hospital, and Gambiri Hospital. Of the injured, 58% are men, 42% are women and girls. 90% are aged five years or older, while 219 cases (10.3%) are children under five years of age.

Nangarhar Regional Hospital is the main hub for specialized care for the most critical patients and has received a cumulative 945 patients. Currently, 671 patients remain admitted in all four health facilities, and the same facilities have conducted 289 surgeries and 334 blood transfusions.

WHO RESPONSE

With its strong presence across the country and in the field, WHO is working hand in hand with health authorities and partners at national, regional, and local levels to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches those who need it most.

Primary Healthcare Services

WHO has deployed six mobile health teams (MHTs) in remote areas of Nurgal District, Kunar Province, including Masoud village, Wazir village, Mazar Dara Valley, and Suhail Tangi village. These teams are providing first aid, outpatient consultations, maternal and child health services, vaccinations, and essential medicines, along with triage and referral of the injured. So far, the MHTs have carried out more 3137 consultations—including trauma care—and referred over 200 patients for further treatment.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

WHO has deployed two outreach mobile teams to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in Nurgal District, Kunar Province, and at Nangarhar Regional Hospital. On 5 September, two MHPSS outreach team visited a camp recently established in Mazar Village, Nurgal District, providing consultations, individual and group counselling, and Psychological First Aid. To date, more than 400 consultations and referrals have been conducted, along with the distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials.

Disease Surveillance/Potential Diseases Outbreak Prevention and Response

WHO has deployed 17 Surveillance Support Teams (SSTs) across four provinces; Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman for active disease surveillance.

Between 2 and 6 September 2025, 155 cases of infectious diseases were detected and reported from Kunar Province, including 77 cases of acute respiratory infection, 61 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and 17 cases of malaria. There are two rapid diagnostic tests conducted among the AWD cases, with one positive sample sent to Nangarhar Regional Laboratory for confirmation. Results are pending.

All patients received treatment at Nurgal Comprehensive Healthcare Centre, Chawkey District Hospital, and Asadabad Provincial Hospital.

Operations Support and Logistics

WHO has delivered 20 metric tonnes of medical supplies to eight health facilities in the affected areas, including Kunar Provincial Hospital, Chawkey District Hospital, and Nurgal Comprehensive Health Centre. The shipment includes 44 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), 40 cholera kits, and seven Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK), enough to meet the needs of an estimated 84 500 patients.

Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

A total of four teams comprising 26 female frontline health workers from partner organizations have been deployed to conduct risk and needs assessments. To date, 238 health workers (55 women and 183 men) and 2387 affected individuals (1260 women and 1095 men) have been reached with safeguarding awareness.

NEEDS AND GAPS

Operations are hampered by mountainous terrain, damaged infrastructure, and scattered populations that are difficult to reach.

Women and children, who made up a disproportionate share of casualties as many were at home when the quake struck. They face significant barriers to accessing care due to a shortage of female health workers. Immediate deployment of female staff and provision of gender-sensitive environments are urgently required.

With needs surging, at least 16 damaged health facilities require rehabilitation and strengthening, including proper infection prevention and control (IPC) and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, to restore and expand service capacity.

Many survivors with complex injuries require specialized post-trauma care and rehabilitation, highlighting the need to scale up services such as physical therapy, assistive devices, and rehabilitation.

Survivors are also experiencing immense trauma. Psychosocial counselling remains limited, and scaling up MHPSS services is critical.

Primary health care services are under severe strain, while overcrowded shelters, unsafe water, and poor living conditions are increasing the risk of communicable diseases in a region already facing outbreaks. Urgent action is required to expand PHC, strengthen disease surveillance, and improve case management.

Referral hospitals remain overwhelmed and require continuous support with medicines and medical supplies to meet the needs of injured.

WHO has developed a six-month strategic operational plan focusing on the expansion of PHC, reproductive health, MHPSS, ambulance and referral systems, and the provision of medicines and medical supplies. There is a funding gap of over US\$4 million remains, requiring urgent donor support to scale up life-saving interventions.



The WHO female health worker on the ground in Kunar province to provide emergency response to families affected by the recent earthquake. (Photo: WHO Afghanistan)

For further information about WHO's work in emergencies, contact:

Dr Jamshed Tanoli, Health Emergencies programme, Team Lead, tanolij@who.int

Dr Abdul Mateen Sahak, National Health Coordinator for Eastern Region, asahak@who.int

Ms Ajyal Sultany, Head, Communications, sultany@who.int

Ms Akiko Takeuchi, Planning and Performance Management Lead, takeuchia@who.int

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For donations to WHO's earthquake response in Afghanistan, please visit : <https://donate.who.foundation/afghanistan-earthquake-appeal/>

WHO's initial response to the earthquake has been possible with the generous support of the following donors:

AFGHANISTAN | Eastern Region

SNAPSHOT OF EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED AREAS AND WHO HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE As of September 6, 2025

2,205 Fatalities

3,640 People injured

6,782 Houses destroyed or damaged

852 people received trauma care services

3,137 primary health consultations

133 children received vaccination services

1,371 people received health awareness /education

6 Mobile Health Teams Deployed for Earthquake Response

197 trauma cases referred to next level of healthcare

248 people received MHPSS consultations

32 women received MNCH services

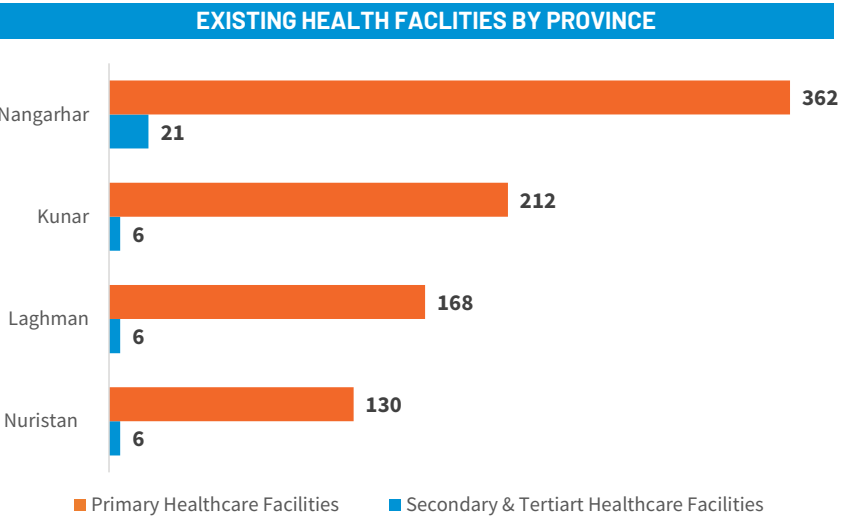
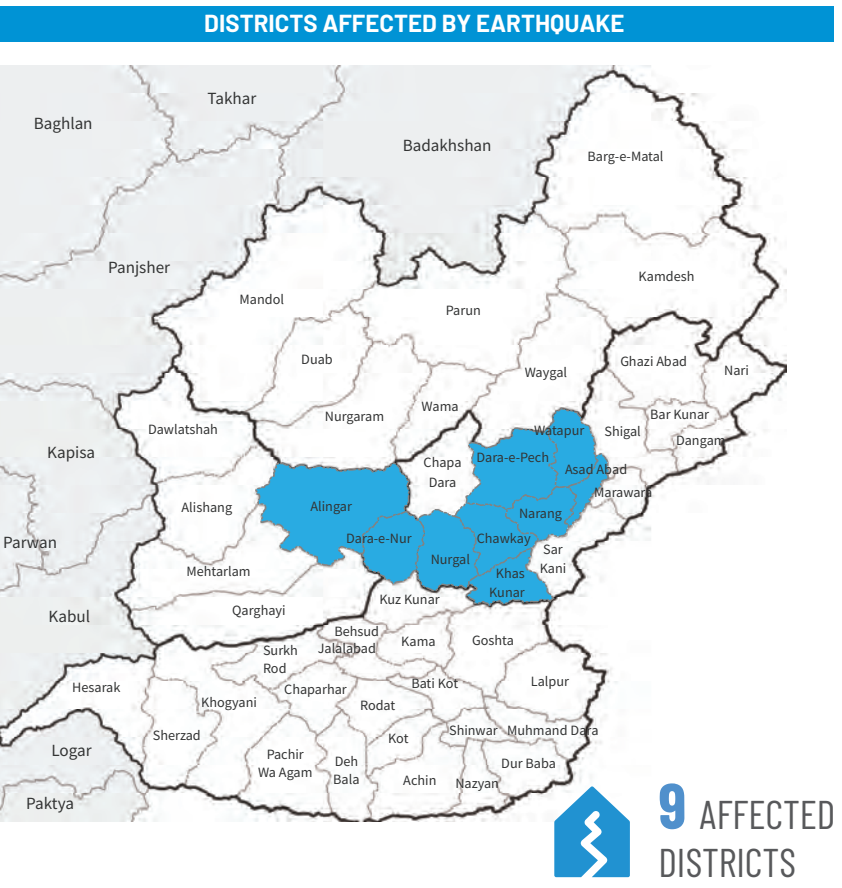
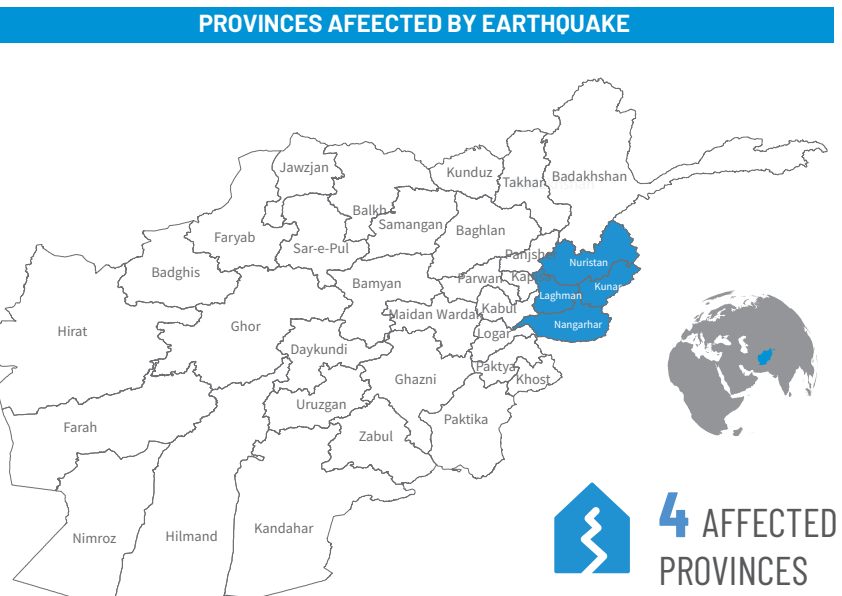
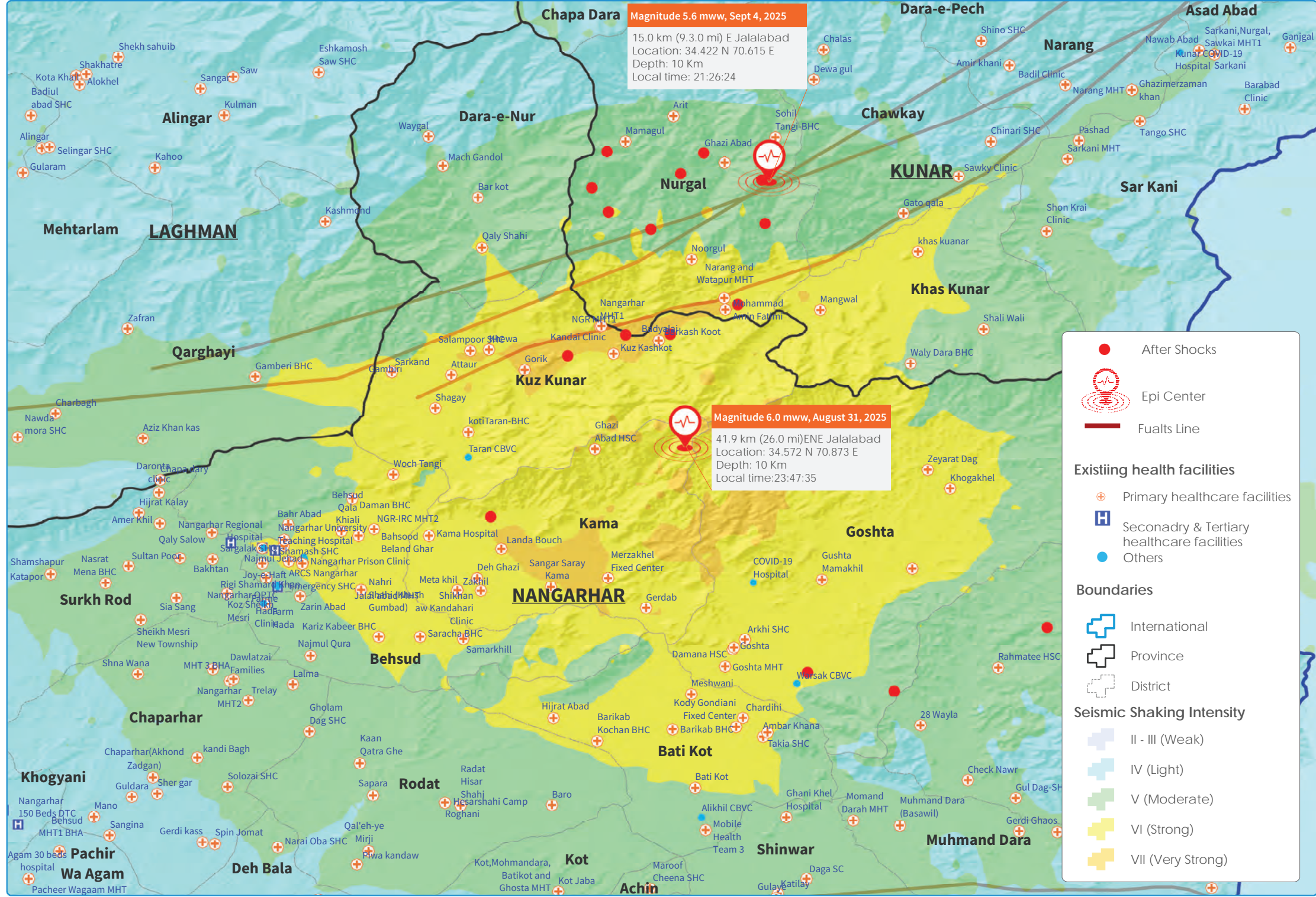
728 people received essential medicine

Detected Infectious Diseases Cases

77 Suspected AWD Cases

61 Suspected ARI Cases

17 Suspected alaria Cases



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