



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #27-2023

No. 27/(02-08 July)

Disease Outbreaks	 CCHF (Jan - Jul 23)	 AWD (Jan - Jul 23)	 COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Jul 23)	 Measles (Jan - Jul 23)	 Dengue fever (Jan—Jul 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 398 (64.9%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites); the under reporting was due to Eid holidays</small>	494	90,801	223,832	17,289	425
Death (CFR %)	47* (9.5)	43 (0.05)	7,931 (3.5)	48 (0.3)	1 (0.2)

* 3 CCHF deaths were added to the cumulative number of deaths which were reported sporadically from 2 provinces during Jan-Jul 2023.

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 08 Jul 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (14 May - 08 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	16	8	4	3	35	15	48	54	
% Change cases	300.0	-50.0	-50.0	-25.0	1066.7	-57.1	220.0	12.5	
Suspected deaths	0	0	1	1	0	12	3	9	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	80.0	6.3	16.7	

- During week 27-2023, a total of 54 new cases of CCHF (30 cases were confirmed positive by PCR) and 9 new deaths were reported (Table 1). This brings the total number of CCHF cases to 494 from 32 provinces since the beginning of 2023 (Figure 2).
- 3 additional CCHF associated deaths were added to cumulative deaths which were reported sporadically from 2 provinces. This brings the total number of CCHF associated deaths to 47 (CFR=9.5%) from the beginning of 2023.
- The CCHF associated deaths were reported from 16 provinces (Kabul (19), Balkh (6), Takhar (5), Parwan (3), Jawzjan (2), Kandahar (2), and 1 from each of the following provinces: Badakhshan, Baghlan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kapisa, Khost, Kunduz, Paktya, Sar-e-pul and Wardak provinces).

- Out of total cases (494), 493 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 141 (28.5%) were females.
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from South (Kandahar and Helmand), North (Balkh) and Central (Kabul) regions.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 156 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested in CPHL, of which 63 samples were positive (40.4% positivity). In addition, 270 samples were tested in Kabul infectious disease hospital (IDH) and 5 Regional Reference Labs (RRLs), of which 83 were positive (30.7% positivity rate). Cumulatively, a total of 426 samples were tested from suspected CCHF cases in different laboratories, out of which 146 were positive (positivity rate 34.3%).

Response to CCHF outbreak

Coordination and leadership

National zoonosis committee meeting has been held and chaired by CDC-MoPH where relevant departments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul Municipality, Ministry of Information and Technology, national and international partners attended the meeting; coordinating the preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases outbreak (including CCHF); public awareness and case management of infected cases were discussed and decided among the committee members.

Surveillance

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

Laboratory and supplies

A total of 13 CCHF PCR kits have been distributed to IDH,

Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, and Kandahar RRLs since the beginning of 2023.

On-the-job training has been conducted to Nangarhar, Herat and Balkh RRLs' staff; and the capacities have been built to utilize the PCR and ELISA technologies for laboratory confirmation of CCHF.

Lab training has been conducted for 6 days on PCR and ELISA for 6 Regional NDSR lab focal points at CPHL.

Case management

Case management guideline for CCHF has been revised and being reviewed by the MoPH for their endorsement; a one-day workshop was also held with participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 health care workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.
- A total of 1,600 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh province to support CCHF case management.
- A total of 15 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.

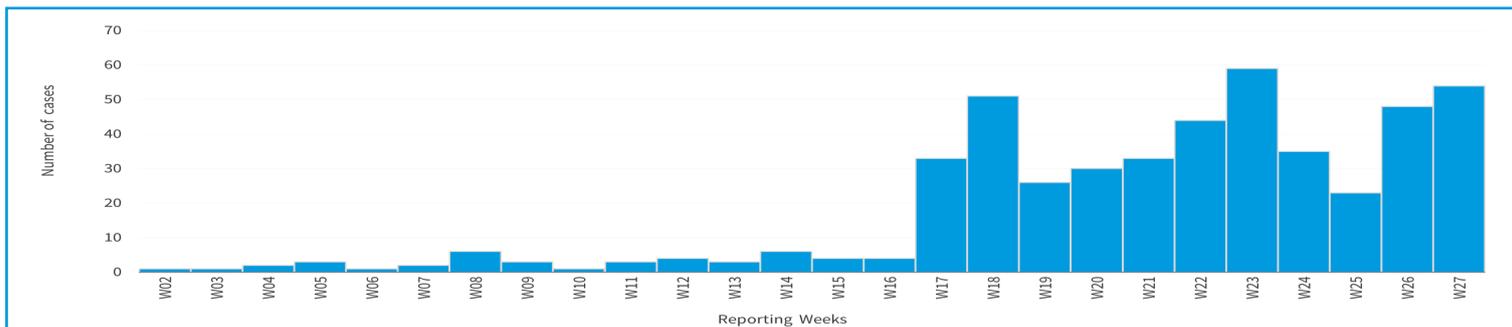


Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan–08 Jul 2023 (N=494)

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 08 Jul 2023

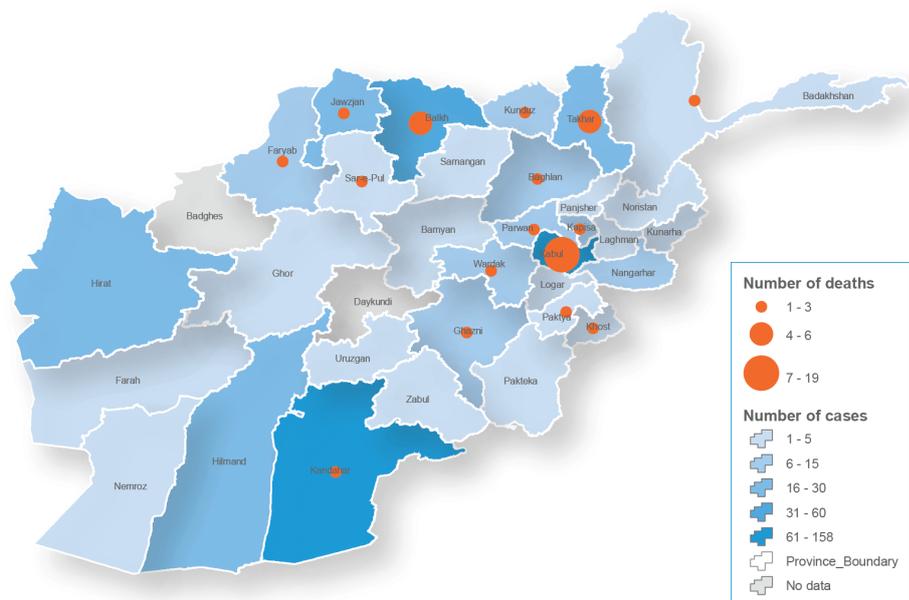


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–08 Jul 2023

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 08 Jul 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (14 May - 08 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	3,908	4,454	4,481	4,627	5,143	6,688	4,775*	5,561	
% Change cases	14.3	14.0	0.6	3.3	11.2	30.0	-28.6	16.5	
Suspected deaths	0	3	1	2	1	7	1	3	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.05	

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 26-2023, and the number of cases were modified from 4,763 to 4,775.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases is increasing after a drop in the last week, which was observed due to the Eid holidays, the general trend is on the rise since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the start of the summer season (Figure 3).
- During week 27-2023, a total of 5,561 new AWD cases with dehydration and 3 new deaths were reported from 231 districts all over the country, which shows 16.5% increase in the number of cases compared to last week (Table 2).
- During last week, one new district (Wama district of Nuristan province) reported alert of AWD with dehydration and

- the number of districts reached to 325.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 90,801 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 325 districts, out of which 51,528 (56.7%) were children below 5 years and 44,767 (49.3%) were females.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 3 provinces: Kabul (under-five female), Badakhshan (over-five male) and Parwan (over-five male).
- A total of 1,196 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

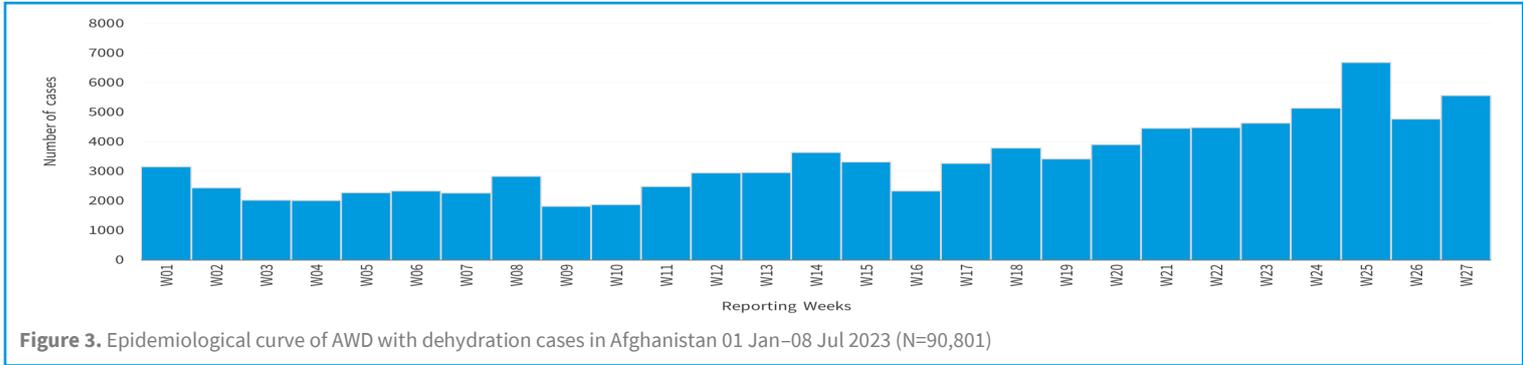


Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–08 Jul 2023 (N=90,801)

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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 08 Jul 2023

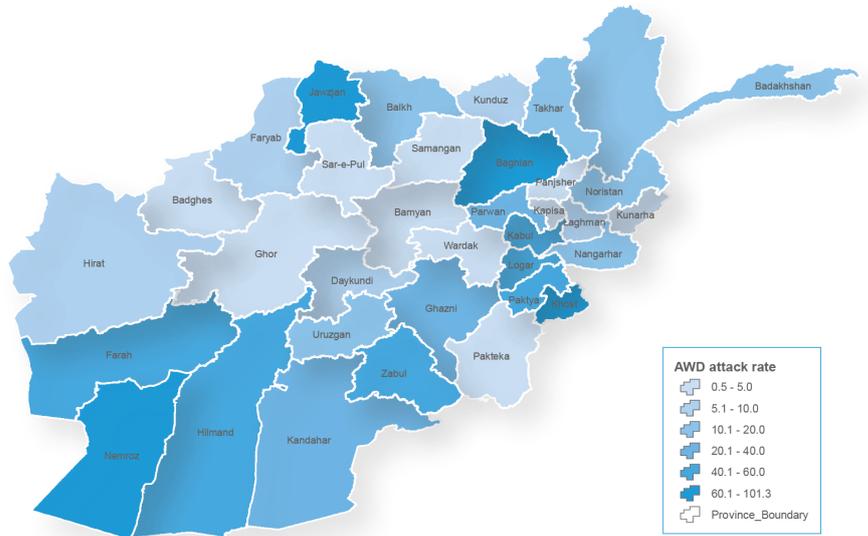


Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–08 Jul 2023

Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted for health 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

- A total of 139 SST from 21 provinces were trained on surveillance and lab procedures since the beginning of 2023.
- As a first step of surveillance expansion from provincial to district level, a total of 128 surveillance sentinel focal points have been trained on e-surveillance.
- A total of 148 NDSR officers have been trained on EBS and IBS procedures in Kabul province since Jan 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 27, 360 HCWs were trained on AWD case management from 3 regions: West (145), South (70) and East (145). This brings the total number of HCWs trained on AWD case management to 696 since the beginning of 2023.

- More than 390 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

Laboratory and Supplies

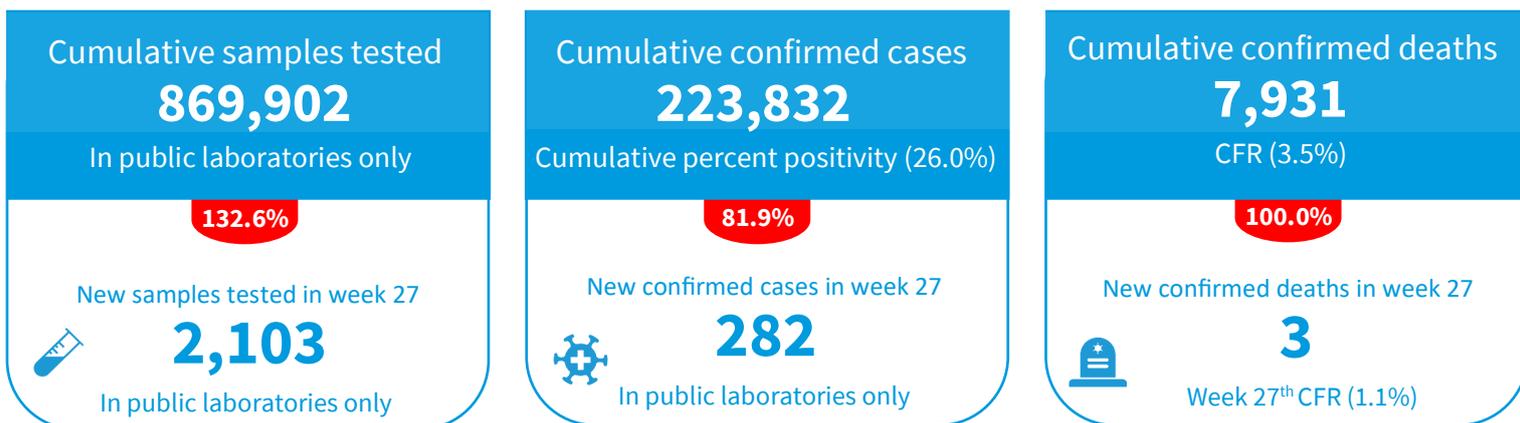
- As part of the preparedness and response plan for 2023:
- A total of 3,750 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 330 kits of RDTs were prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
 - Seven public health laboratories 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 and RCCE

During last two week of June 2023, the following activities were conducted as WASH response to AWD with dehydration:

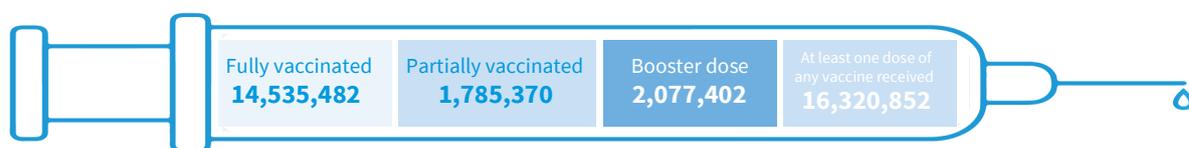
- Hygiene promotion sessions were provided to around 1,500 individuals in Zabul province.
- Clean water was provided to 82,500 individuals in Balkh province (Chemtal & Mazar-e-Sharif) by Chlorinating 360 wells.
- Safe water was provided to around 3,000 individuals by construction and rehabilitation of Water Supply systems in Helmand, Zabul and Kandahar provinces.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 08 Jul 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

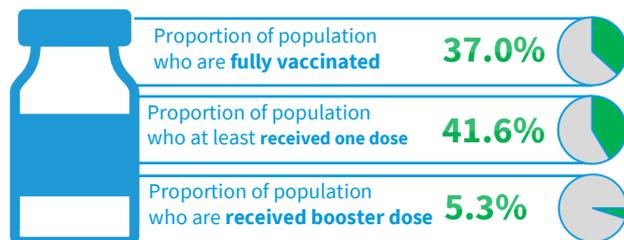


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (14 May - 08 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	6,047	5,065	4,214	3,764	3,022	1,943	904 *	2,103	
Confirmed cases	1337	1071	664	526	372	196	155 *	282	
% Change cases	-18.8	-19.9	-38.0	-20.8	-29.3	-47.3	-20.9	81.9	
Percent positivity (%)	22.1	21.1	15.8	14.0	12.3	10.1	17.1	13.4	
Deaths	5	2	4	2	2	6	0	3	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.0	1.1	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 26-2023, and the number of samples tested, and new cases were modified from 881 to 904 and from 154 to 155, respectively.

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases increased this week by 81.9% compared to last week after long time declining trend (preceding 8 weeks) which needs close monitoring (Figure 5).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 869,902 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 27-2023, a total of 2,103 samples were tested in public labs, of which 282 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 13.4%) and 3 new death was reported (CFR=1.1%).

During week 27-2023, 19.9% (56 /282 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 6), including 13 cases (23.2% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 7).

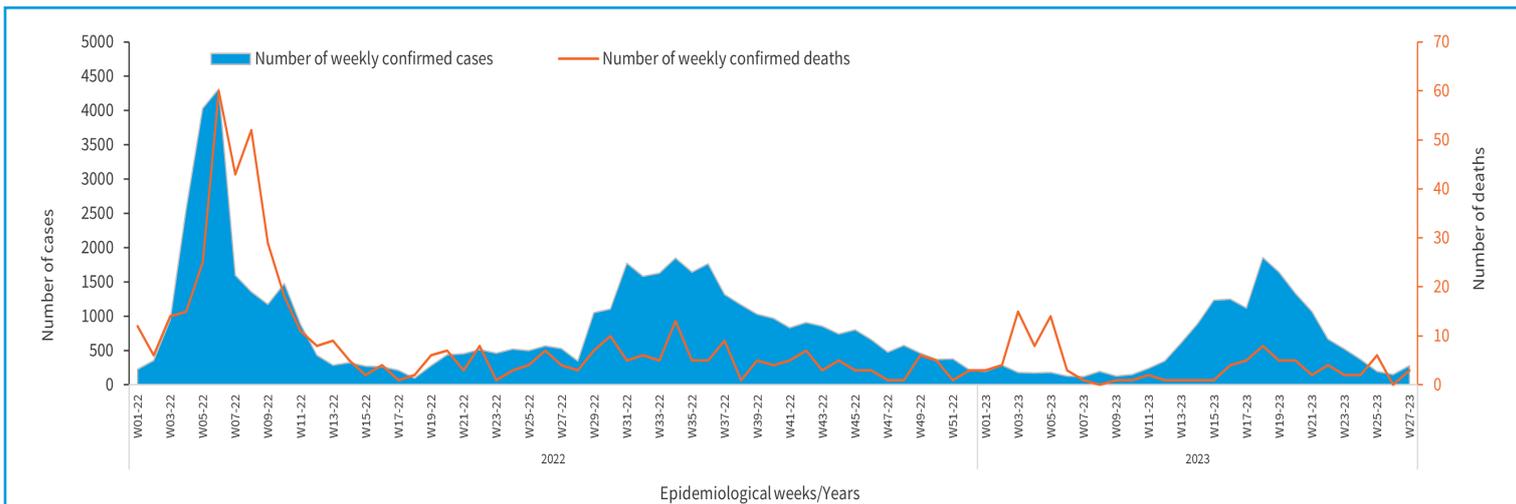


Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–08 Jul 2023

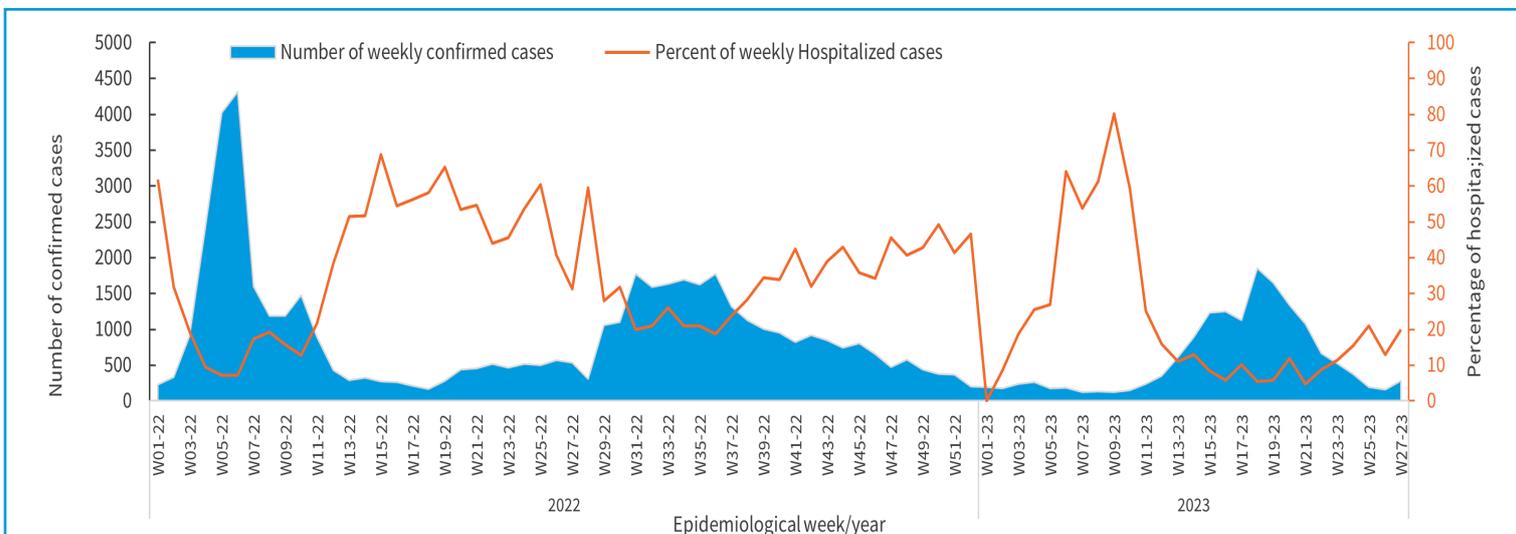


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–08 Jul 2023

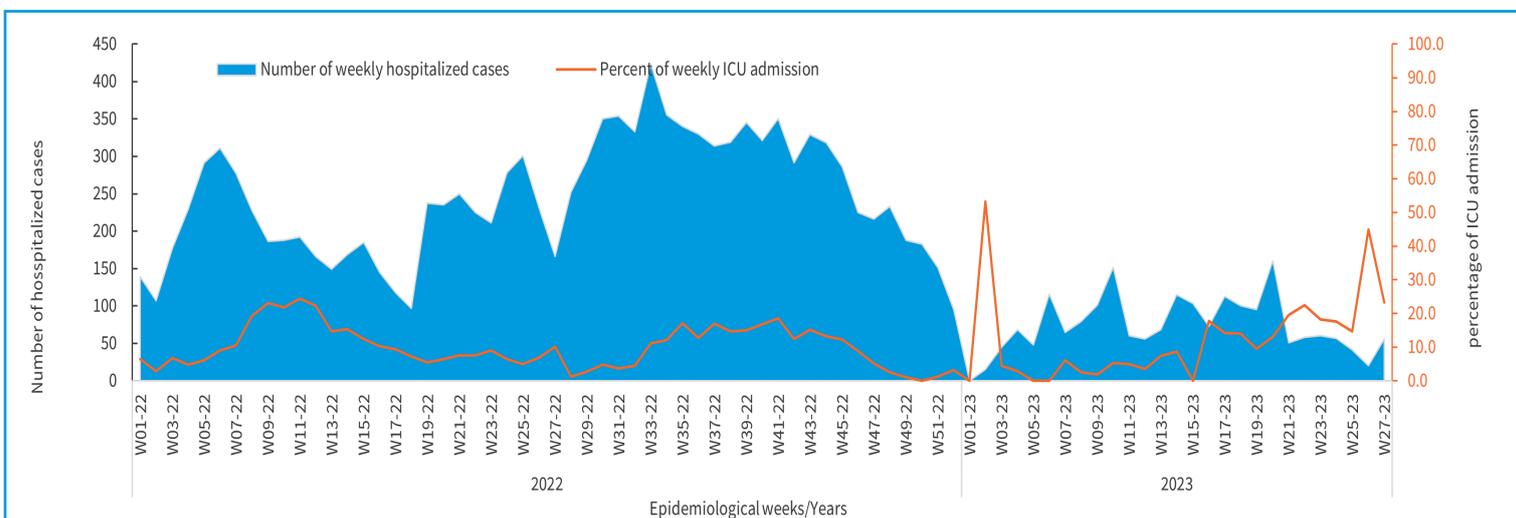


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–08 Jul 2023

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 08 Jul 2023)

17,289
Total Cases

48
Total Deaths

4,027
Sample tested

2,032
Lab confirmed cases

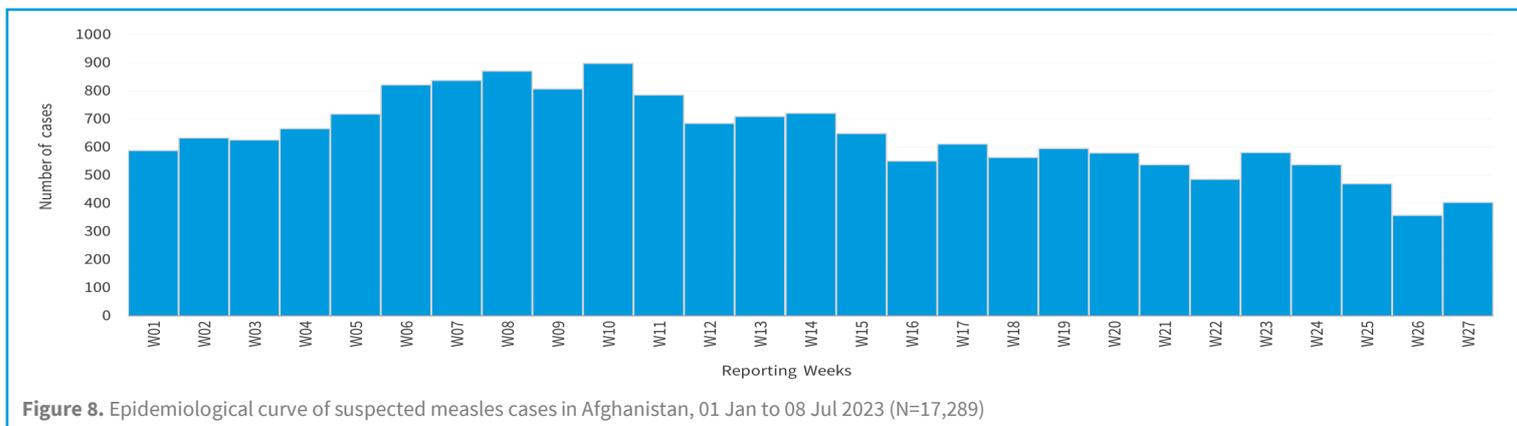
50.5%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (14 May - 08 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	579	537	486	580	537	470	357*	404	
% Change cases	-2.7	-7.3	-9.5	19.3	-7.4	-12.5	-24.0	13.2	
Suspected deaths	6	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	
CFR (%)	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 26, and the number of suspected cases of measles was corrected from 355 to 357.

- Overall, measles cases are showing a slow declining trend since week 10, although still the number of reported cases is considered high as compared to the endemic level of the country prior to the outbreak (Figure 8 & 10).
- During epidemiological week 27-2023, a total of 404 suspected cases and no associated deaths were reported which indicates 13.2% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 17,289 measles cases were reported, out of which 12,270 (71.0%) were children under 5 years of age and 8,145 (47.1%) were females.



AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 08 Jul 2023

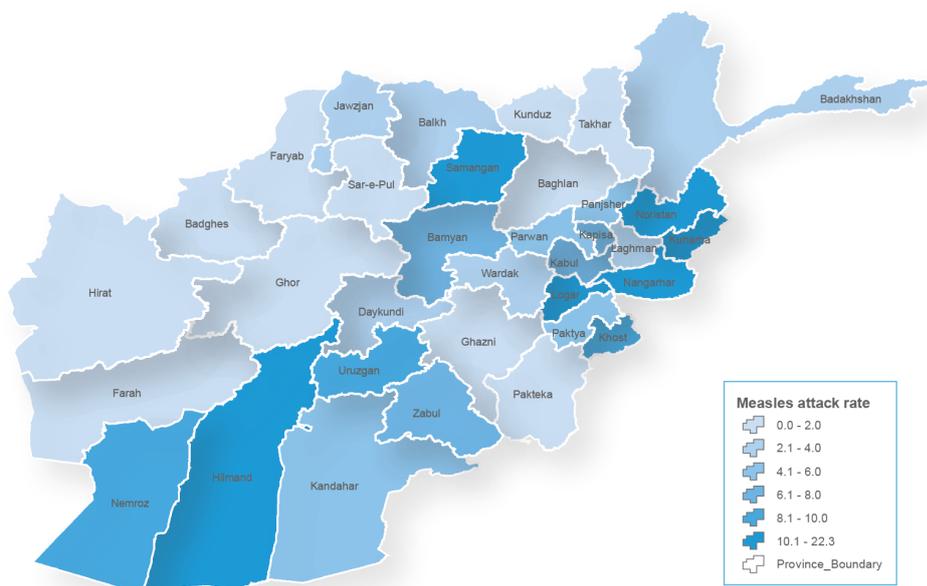
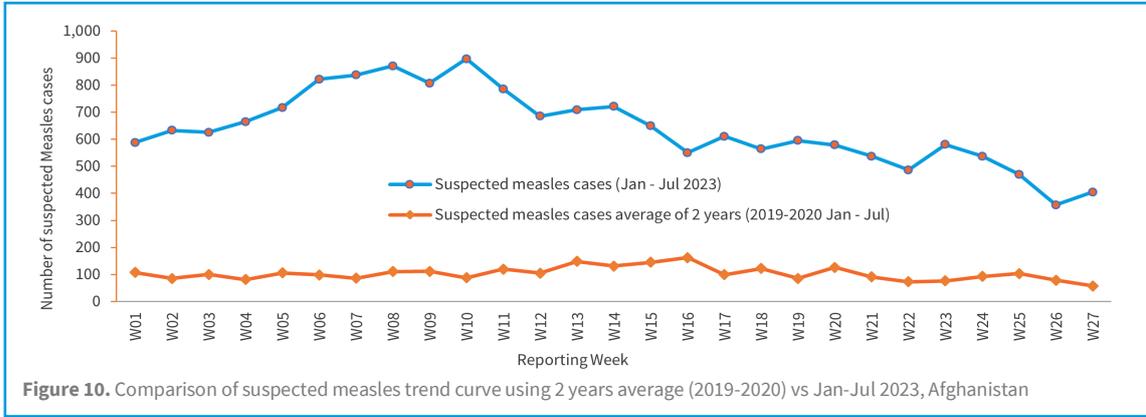


Figure 9. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–08 Jul 2023 (N=17,289)



Comparing the current curve with the curve for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; it 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 10).

Response to Measles outbreak

- A total of 7,133 children have been vaccinated as part of outbreak response localized immunization campaigns by the implementing NGOs in outbreak affected areas across the country since Jan 2023.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; vaccinating 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% admin coverage).
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak response and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- A total of 593 measles case management kits were provided to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 08 Jul 2023)



425
Total Cases



1
Total Deaths



179
Sample tested



40
Lab confirmed cases



22.3%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (14 May - 08 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	10	27	32	18	8	22	5	26	
% Change cases	-63.0	170.0	18.5	-43.8	-55.6	175.0	-77.3	420.0	
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	

- A total of 26 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 27-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 425 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows almost four times increase during week 27 compared to the preceding week (Figure 11).
- Out of 425 reported cases, 236 (55.5%) were females and 414 (97.4%) were over 5 years of age.

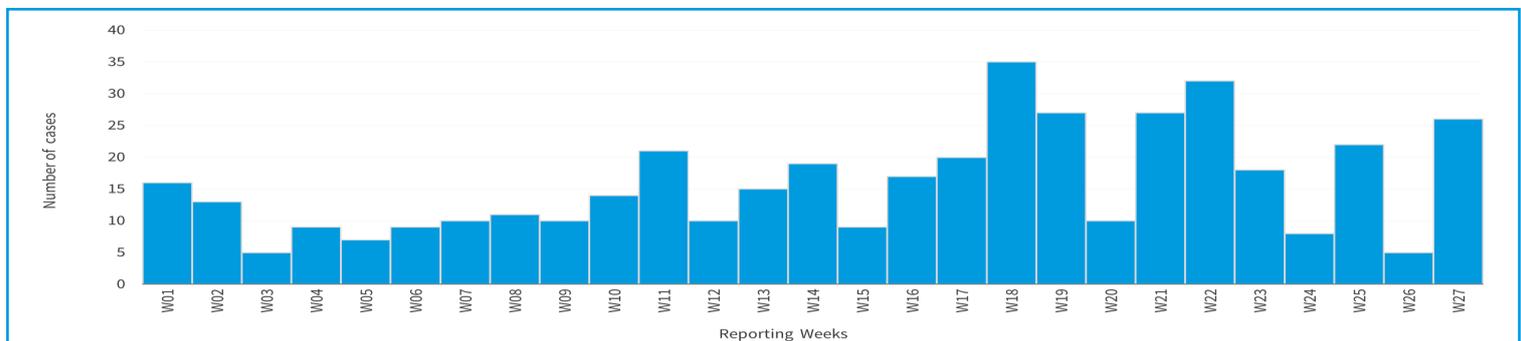
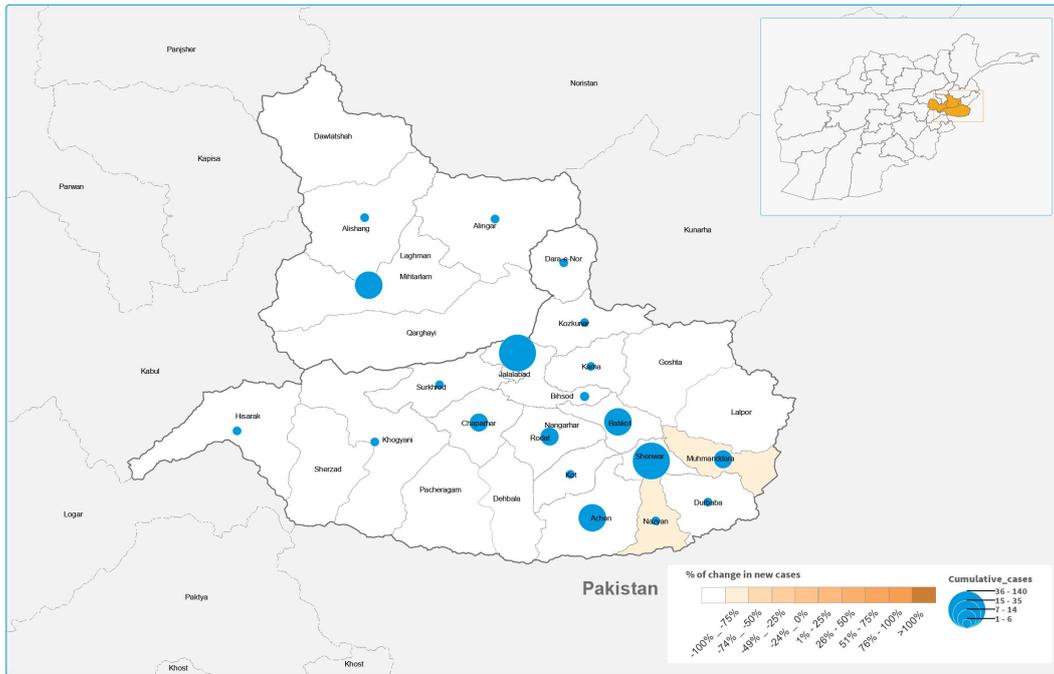


Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–08 Jul 2023 (N=425)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 26 and 27, 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: 08 July 2023.

Figure 12. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Jul 2023

Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and being reviewed by the MoPH for their endorsement; a one-day workshop was also held with participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- 5 Dengue PCR kits have been supplied to IDH (1), CPHL (1) and NRRL (3).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in East region.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Alaa AbouZeid, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD: Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO-CO, (abouzeida@who.int)
- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preparedness, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)