








### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS





#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #36-2023

No. 36/(03-09 Sep 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	 <b>CCHF</b> (Jan - Sep 23)	 <b>AWD</b> (Jan - Sep 23)	 <b>COVID-19</b> (Feb 20 - Sep 23)	 <b>Measles</b> (Jan - Sep 23)	 <b>Dengue fever</b> (Jan - Sep 23)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> <small>(Data from 605 (98.7%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>158,778</b>	<b>225,755</b>	<b>20,735</b>	<b>758</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>101 (9.8)</b>	<b>82 (0.05)</b>	<b>7,945 (3.5)</b>	<b>62 (0.3)</b>	<b>1 (0.1)</b>

### Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 09 Sep 2023)

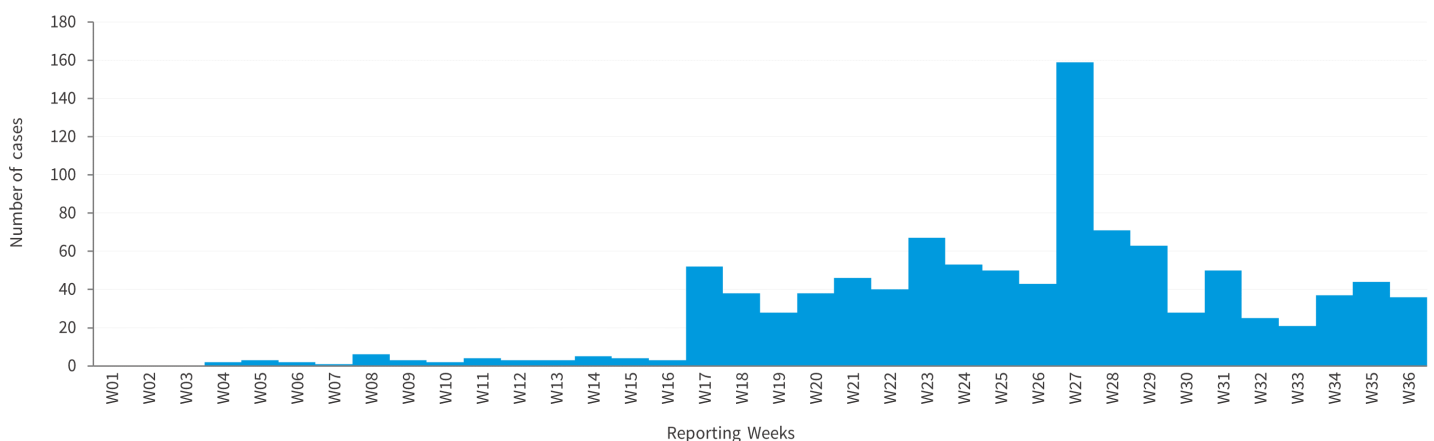
Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Jul - 09 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	63	28	50	25	21	37	44 *	36	
% Change cases	-11.3	-55.6	78.6	-50.0	-16.0	76.2	18.9	-18.2	
Suspected deaths	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	1	
CFR (%)	4.8	10.7	6.0	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.1	2.8	

\*Delayed report was experienced during week 35 and the number of cases were modified from 42 to 44.

- During week 36-2023, a total of 36 new cases of CCHF with 1 new death were reported, which shows 18.2% and 75.0% decrease in the number of suspected CCHF cases and deaths respectively compared with last week (Table 1, Figure 1).
- The reported death was from Kabul province, an under-five female.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths were 1030 and 101, respectively (CFR 9.8%) (Figure2).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 14 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces; Kabul (47, 46.5%) and Balkh (15, 14.9%).
- Out of the total cases, 1029 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 325 (31.6%) were females.
- Totally, 933 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 333 samples were positive (positivity = 35.7%).

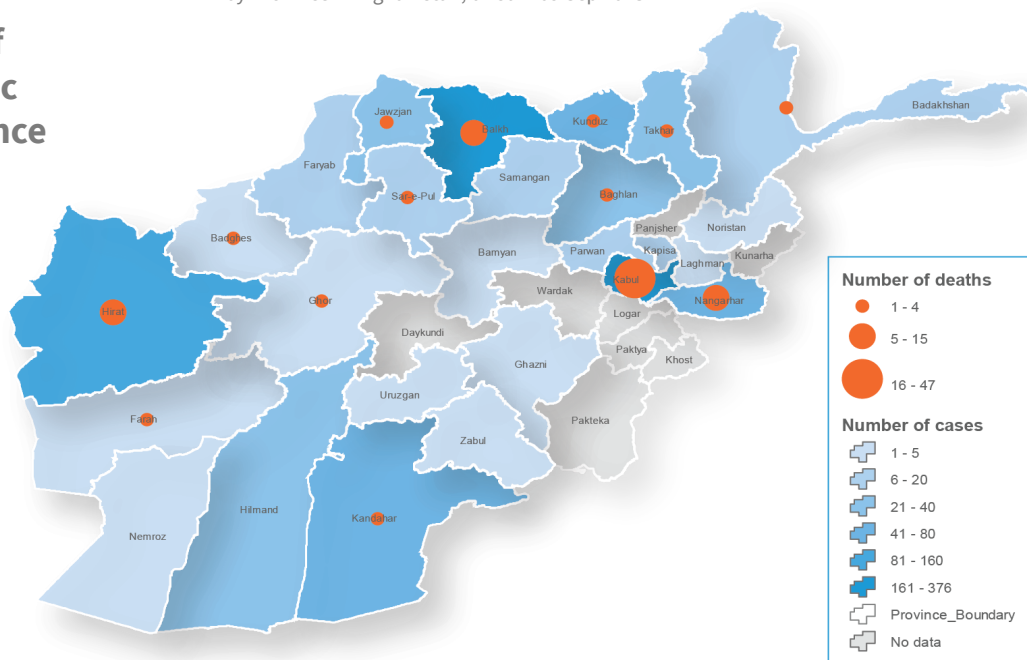
Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan-09 Sep 2023 (N=1,030)



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## Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 09 Sep 2023

Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–09 Sep 2023



### Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

#### Coordination and leadership

- During week 36, a consultative workshop has been carried out for 2 days aiming to bring all relevant stakeholders on the table for developing a comprehensive action plan discussing the implementation of one health approach in Afghanistan.
- Technical experts from different agencies, World Health Organization, Food, and Agriculture Organization, Ministry of Public Health, National Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock, Dairy form union and veterinary department of Kabul university were participated in the workshop.
- During the workshop, six technical important areas (leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance) were covered.
- Obtaining political support from the government, development of a strategic/national plan 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

- During week 36, one Automated Nuclis Acic extraction machine was installed in Balkh province RRL, and lab staff received on the job training. The instrument will help strengthening lab testing capacity by decreasing the turn around time and safety of staff while dealing with a high threat pathogen 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 total of 199,300 information, education and communication (IEC) materials on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high risk areas and affected communities.
- A total of 70 social mobilizers (40 males and 30 females) have been trained in 7-days CCHF awareness campaign and deployed in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.
- A total of 45 social mobilizers (15 women) have been trained and deployed to 23 locations in 3 districts in Herat province to raise awareness through community engagement sessions and interpersonal communications.
- A total of 34,501 people have been reached through RCCE campaigns in Kandahar, Helmand and Herat provinces.

## Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 09 Sep 2023)

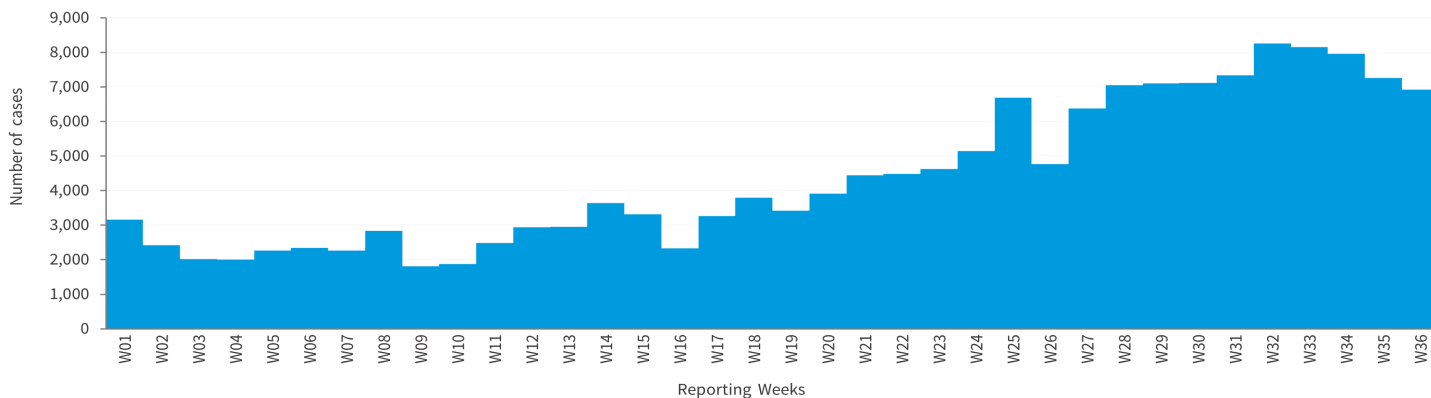
Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Jul - 09 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	7,105	7,116	7,333	8,255	8,153	7,959	7,263	6,922	
% Change cases	0.7	3.1	2.8	9.7	-1.2	-2.4	-8.7	-4.7	
Suspected deaths	4	4	5	4	3	7	2	6	
CFR (%)	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.09	

\*Data entry error was experienced during weeks 30 and 31 and was modified from 7,323 to 7,116 and 7,525 to 7,333 respectively.  
 \*Delayed reporting were experienced during week 35-2023, the number of suspected AWD with dehydration cases were modified from 7,206 to 7,263.

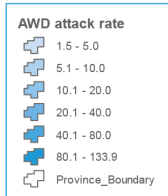
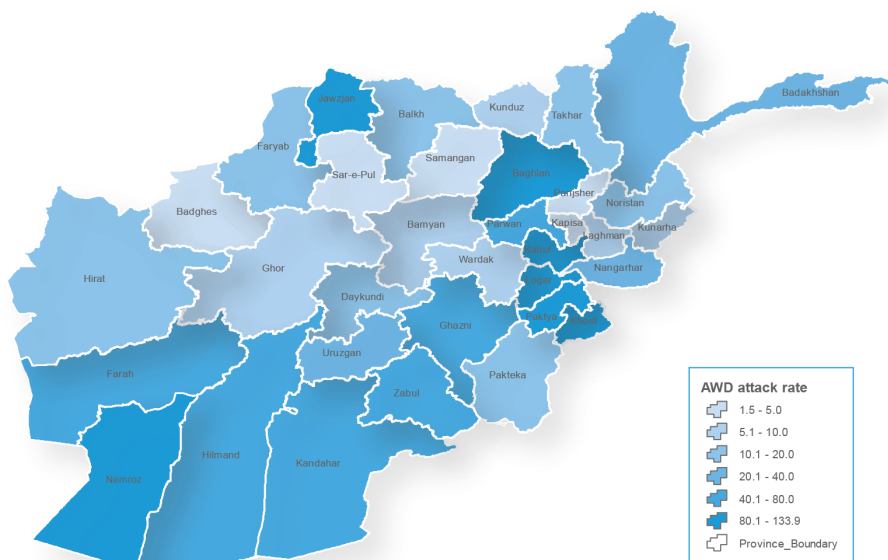
- During week 36, 6,922 suspected cases of AWD with dehydration and 6 deaths were reported from 223 districts which shows slight decrease (4.7%) in the number of cases and 66.7% increase in the number of deaths compared to the last week (Figure 3).
- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 6 provinces: Balkh (1), Bamyan (1), Faryab (1), Helmand (1), Kabul (1) and Paktika (1). Out of all deaths, 4 (66.7%) were under 5 and 1 (16.7%) was female.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 158,778 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 333 districts, out of which 90,846 (57.2%) were under-five children and 79,111 (49.8%) were females.
- During week 36-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 2,808 RDTs 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–02 Sep 2023 (N=158,778)



## AFGHANISTAN AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 09 Sep 2023

Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–09 Sep 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 36, 70 medical doctors (MDs) and community health supervisors (CHSs) were trained on event-based surveillance (EBS) procedures from Bamyan province.
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to district level in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 regions since the beginning of the 2023.
- In total, 195 SST members have been trained on outbreak investigation and reporting, lab sample collection and transportation in 7 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 36, following AWD case management supplies were delivered to Kandahar and Helmand provinces:
  - ◇ Two AWD central kits were distributed to Kandahar (1) and Helmand (1).
  - ◇ Three AWD central renewable kits were distributed to Kandahar (2 kits) and Helmand (1 kits).
  - ◇ 15 AWD community kits were distributed to Kandahar (10) and Helmand (5).
  - ◇ Two cholera central equipment kit were supplied to Kandahar (1kit) and Helmand (1 kit).
  - ◇ 20 packages of ceftriaxon 250 mg powder for injection were distributed to Kandahar (10 packs) and Helmand (10 packs).
- During week 36, the following IPC materials were supplied to NDSR officers in 34 provinces:
  - ◇ Different size of overshoes
  - ◇ Biohazard plastic bags
  - ◇ Hand washing soap

- During week-36, a total of 31 HCWs were trained on AWD case management from Southeast region. This brings the total trained HCWs to 851 since January 2023 from 7 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, Northeast, East and Southeast).

- Around 239 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

### Laboratory and Supplies

- A total of 1,000 RDTs and 1,000 Carry Blairs have been distributed to Kandahar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunduz provinces since the beginning of 2023.
- A total of 4,350 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 330 kits of RDTs have been 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.

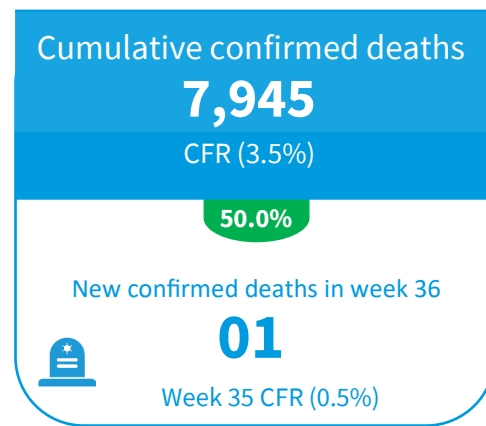
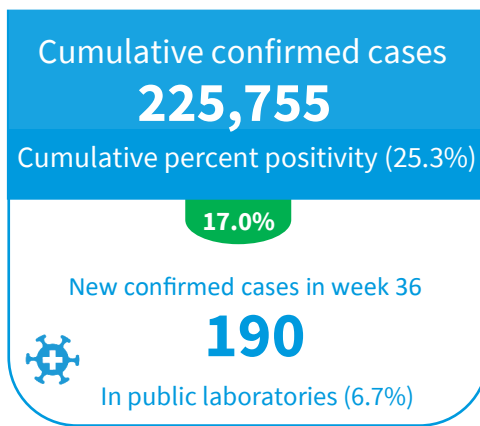
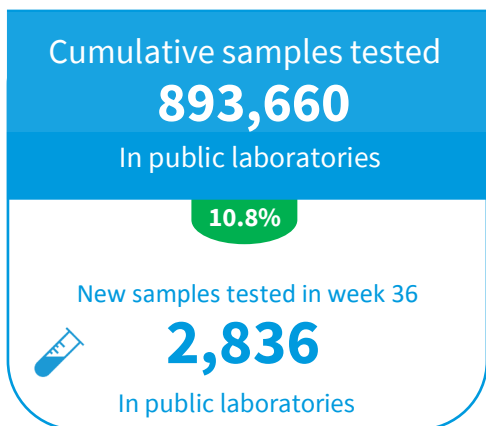
### WASH

- Clean water was provided to 323 individuals by chlorination of 25 wells in Zabul province.
- Distribution of aquatabs in the South region provinces covering more than 62,000 individuals, and soap covering almost 55,000 individuals.
- Distribution of hygiene kits in 7 provinces (Balkh, Helmand, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nimroz, Zabul and Uruzgan) to more than 13,000 individuals.
- Household water treatment promotion sessions were conducted in Kabul reached 17,000 individuals.
- Hygiene promotion activities in 8 provinces (Kabul, Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Logar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul) reached almost 73,000 individuals.
- Rehabilitation or new set-ups of around 100 water system are in 5 provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Zabul) supported more than 3,000 individuals.

### RCCE

- A total of 139,000 information education materials (IEC) on AWD have been handed over to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 09 Sep 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

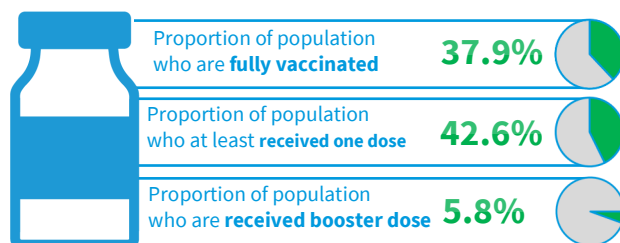


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (16 Jul - 09 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,482	1,966	2,614	2,976	2,146	2,926	3,179 *	2,836	
Confirmed cases	214	163	188	261	174	298	229 *	190	
% Change cases	3.4	-23.8	15.3	38.8	-33.3	71.3	-23.2	-17.0	
Percent positivity (%)	8.6	8.3	7.2	8.8	8.1	10.2	7.2	6.7	
Deaths	2	2	2	3	1	0	2	1	
CFR (%)	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.5	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 35-2023, the number of samples tested were modified from 3,062 to 3,179 and number of cases modified from 227 to 229.

- During week 36-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased by 17.0% compared to previous week and the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figure 6).
- In week 36-2023, a total of 2,836 samples were tested in public labs, of which 190 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 6.7%) while 1 new death was reported (CFR=0.53%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 893,660 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 36-2023, 16.8% (32/190 confirmed cases) were hospitalized, while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 7).



Response

- Since the beginning of 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 staffs of 8 labs across the country.

Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 20 Feb 2020–09 Sep 2023

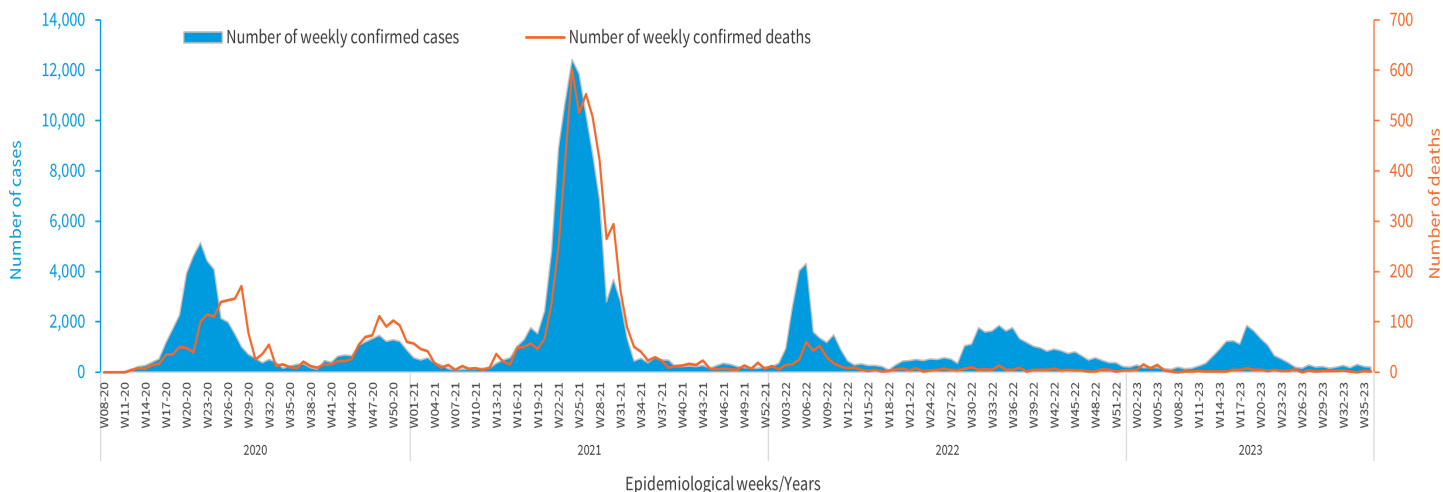


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 1 Jan–09 Sep 2023

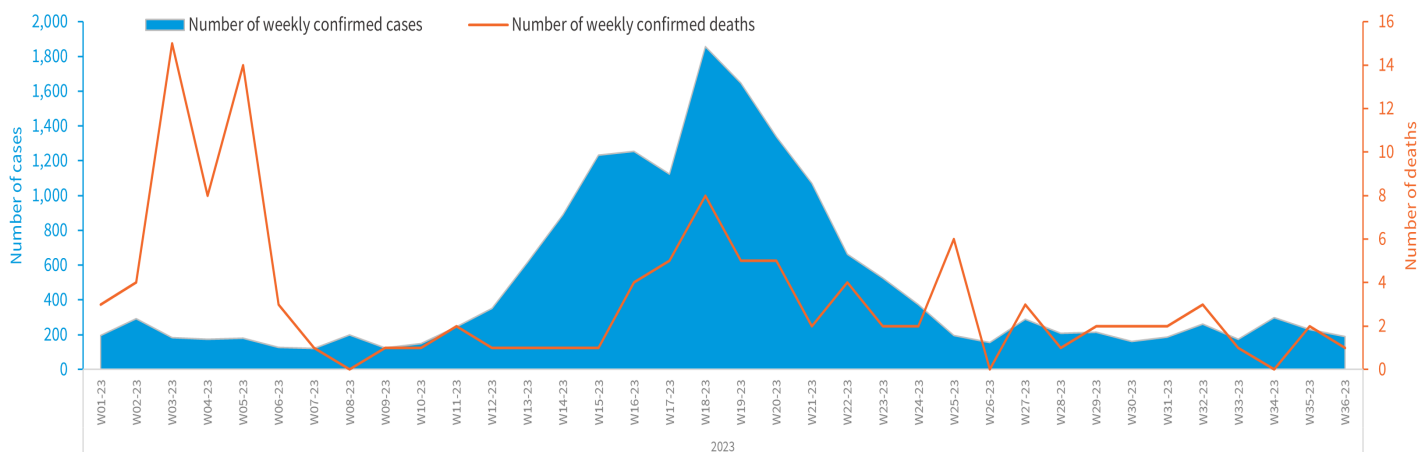
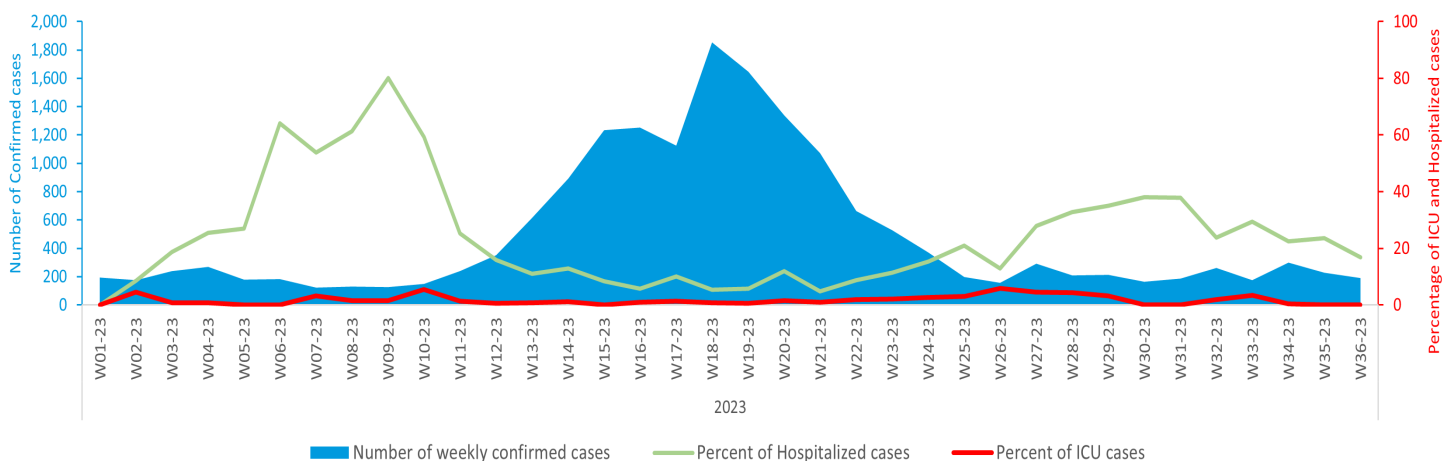


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 1 Jan–09 Sep 2023



## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 09 Sep 2023)

**20,735**  
Total Cases

**62**  
Total Deaths

**4,680**  
Sample tested

**2,381**  
Lab confirmed cases

**50.9%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Jul - 09 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	477	484	389	327	307	321	364 *	322	
% Change cases	6.5	1.5	-19.6	-15.9	-6.1	4.6	13.4	-11.5	
Suspected deaths	1	1	0	4	1	6	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	

\*Delayed report was experienced during week 35 and the number of suspected cases were modified from 354 to 364.

- The epi-curve shows decrease in the number of suspected measles cases during week 36 compared to the previous week. The overall trend of measles also shows a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 8).
- During epidemiological week 36-2023, a total of 322 suspected cases were reported which shows 11.5% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 20,735 suspected measles cases were reported, out of which 14,606 (70.4%) were under-five children and 9,793 (47.2%) were females.

Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan-09 Sep 2023 (N=20,735)

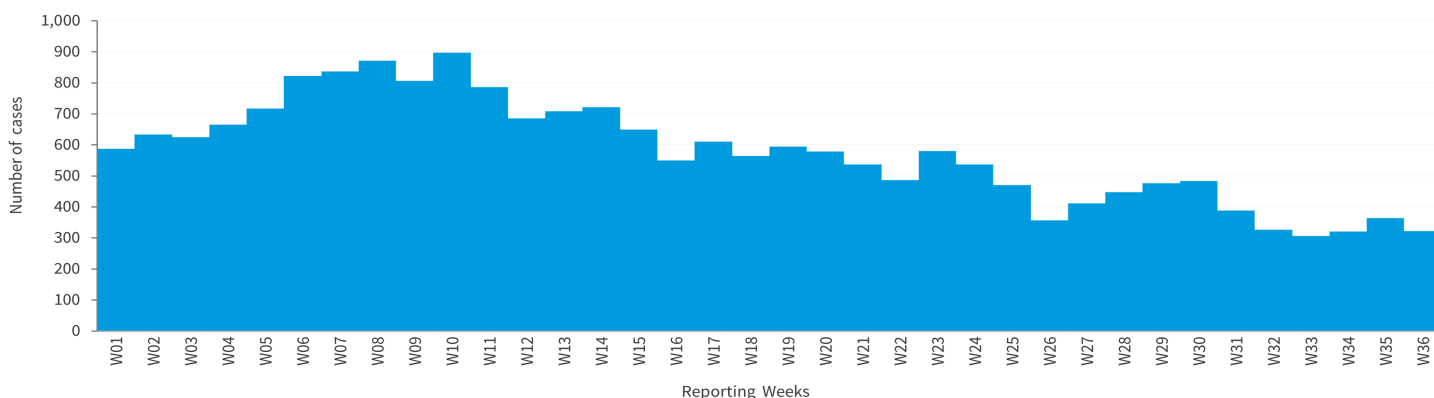
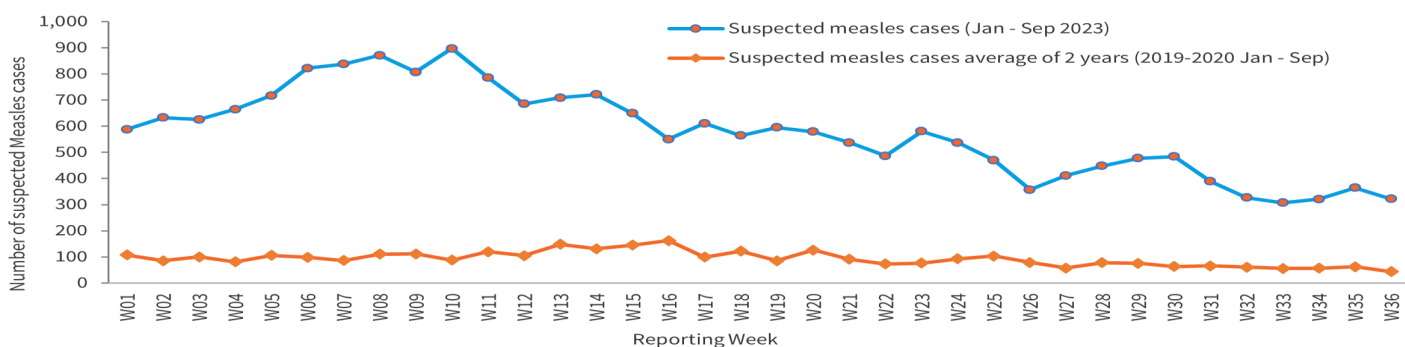


Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Sep 2023, Afghanistan

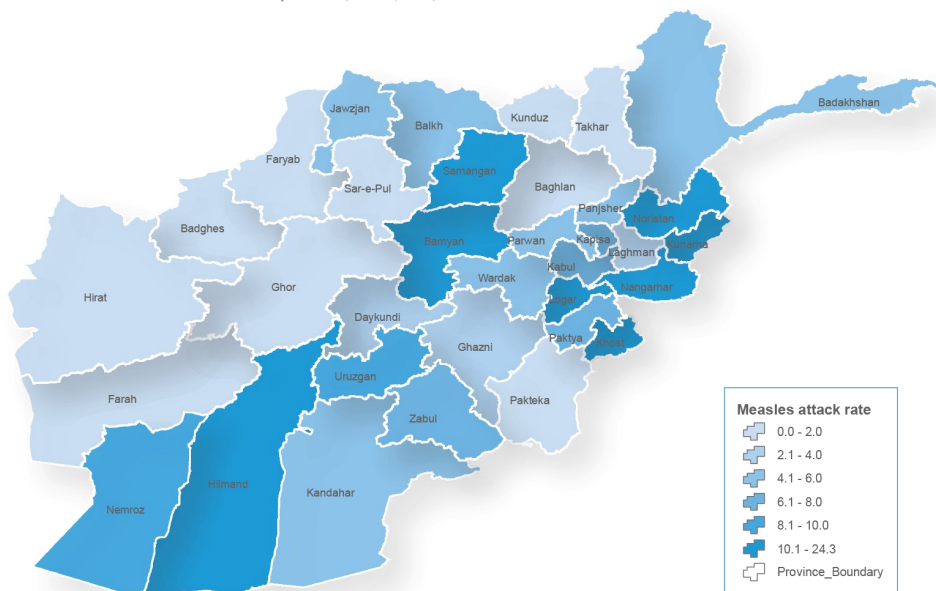


Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, still, measles cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 9).

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## Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 09 Sep 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–09 Sep 2023 (N=20,735)



### Preparedness and response to the 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.
- A total of 132,000 information education materials (IEC) on Measles have been distributed to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high risk areas and affected communities.

### Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 09 Sep 2023)

**758**  
Total Cases

**1**  
Total Deaths

**241**  
Sample tested

**46**  
Lab confirmed cases

**19.1%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Jul - 09 Sep 2023)

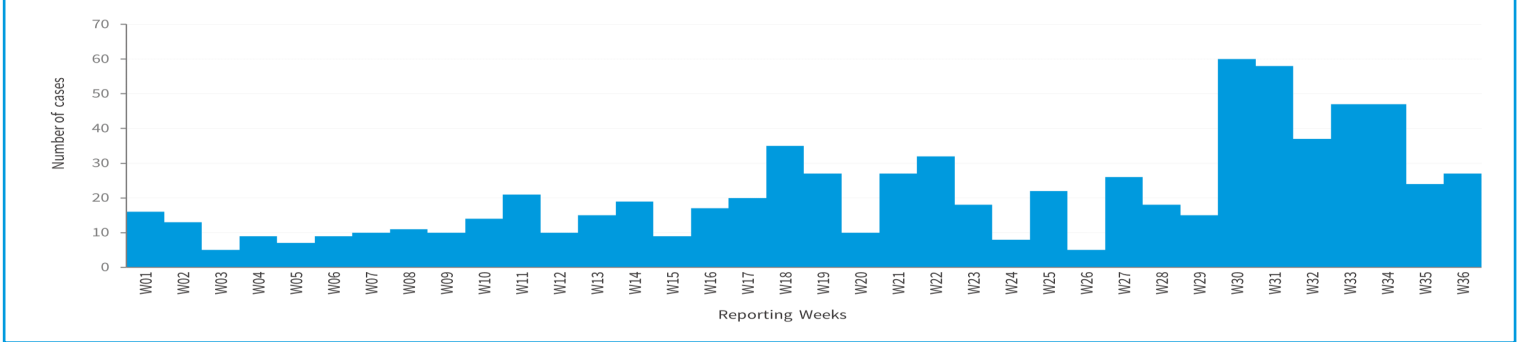
Indicators	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	15	60	58	37	47	47	24	27	
% Change cases	-16.7	300.0	-3.3	-36.2	27.0	0.0	-48.9	12.5	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- A total of 27 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 36-2023; all cases were reported from Nangarhar. This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 758 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 36-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases shows 12.5% increase compared to previous week (Figure 11).
- Out of 758 reported cases, 399 (52.6%) were females and 740 (97.6%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 241 samples have been collected, out of which 46 were confirmed (19.1% positivity).





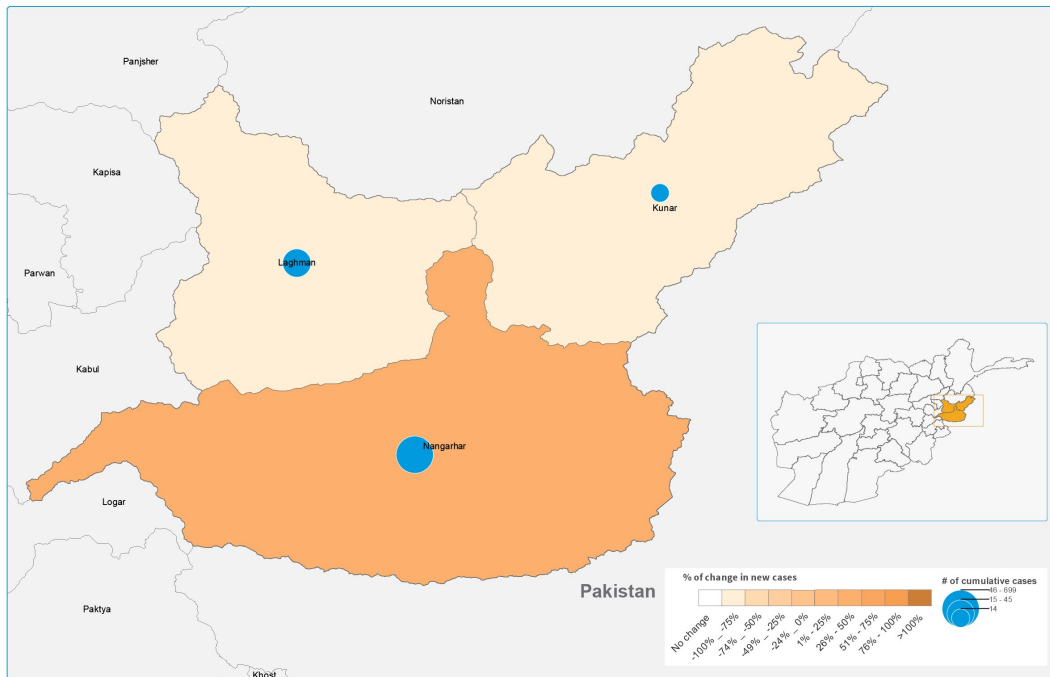
**Figure 11.** Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-09 Sep 2023 (N=758)



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



**Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 35 and 36, 2023)**



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of an 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, AGCHD. Creation date: 09 Sep 2023.

## Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- 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 also 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 highlights:

- During week 36, a new outbreak of malaria was reported from Surobi district of Kabul province with a total of 110 cases which all were lab confirmed.
- Among the reported cases 48 (43.6%) were female and 9 (8.2%) were children under five.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak on 04-Jul-2023, a total of 740 confirmed cases of malaria (621 were lab confirmed and 119 RDTs positive) were reported from 13 districts in 6 provinces (Kapisa, Kunar, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Parwan and Kabul).
- Out of the total cases, 332 (44.9%) were females and 73 (9.9%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education have been provided (Figure 14).



Figure 13. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul–09 Sep 2023

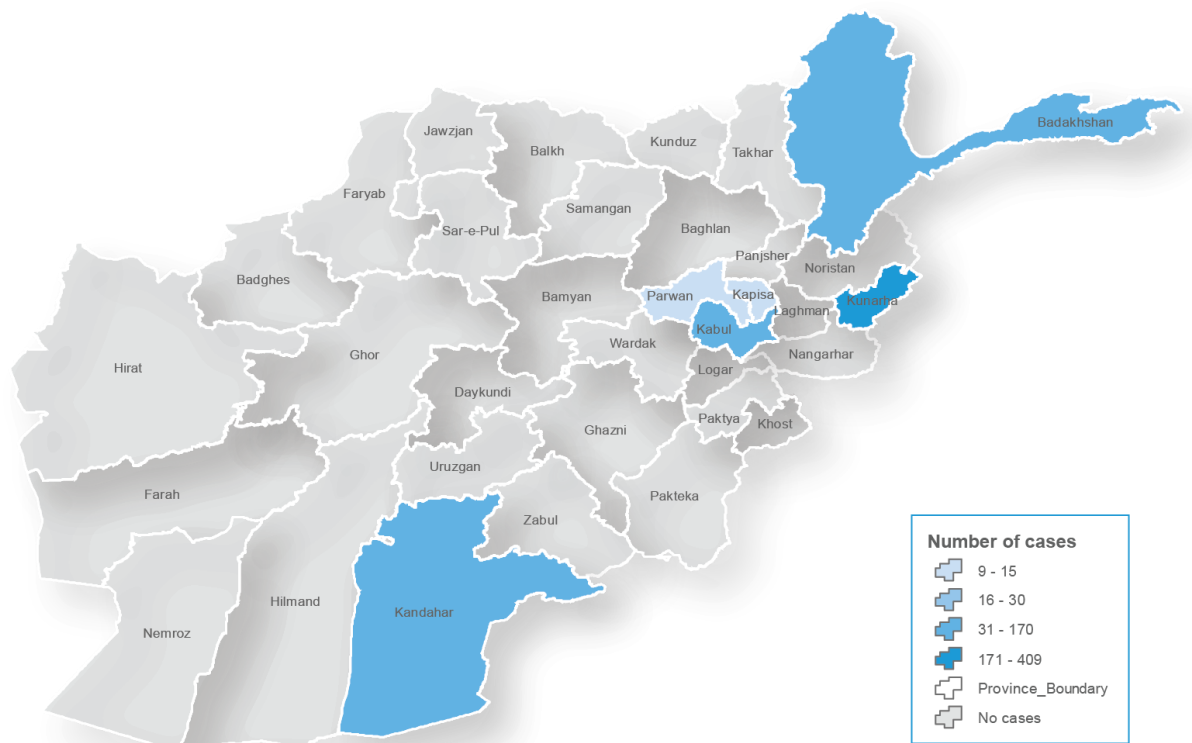
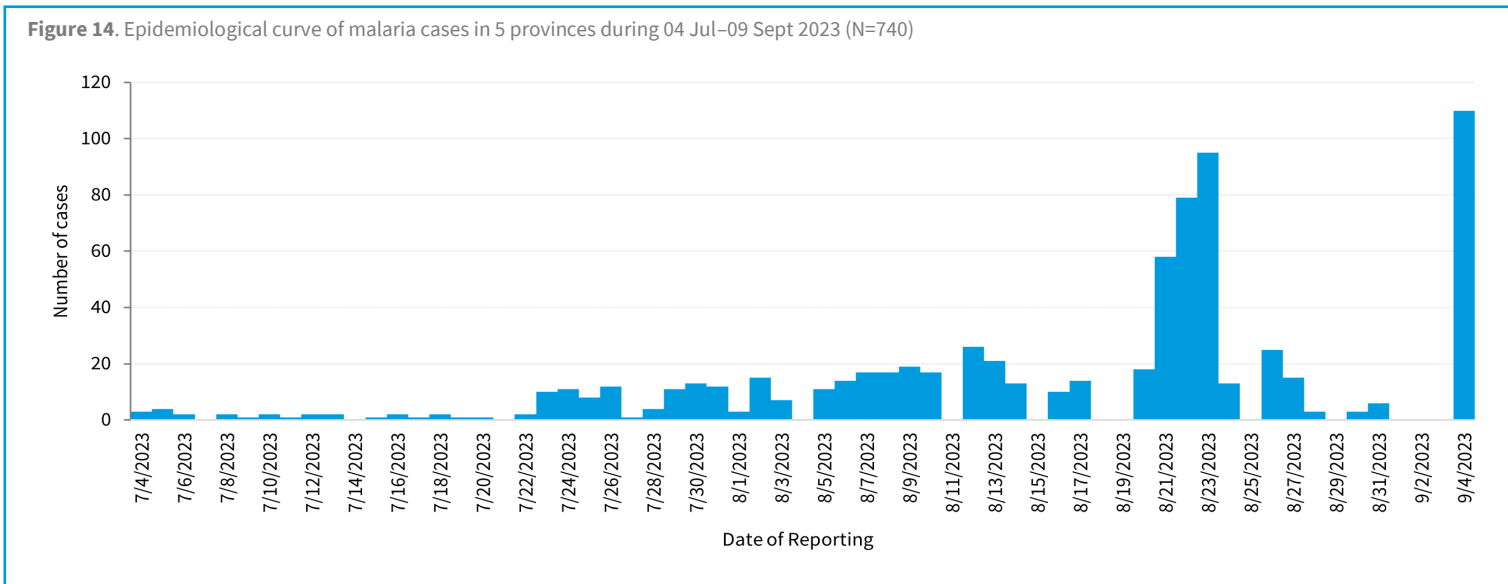


Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 5 provinces during 04 Jul–09 Sept 2023 (N=740)



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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