



### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #13-2023

No. 13/(26 Mar to 01 Apr)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (May 22 - Apr 23)	ARI (Oct 22 - Apr 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Apr 23)	Pertussis (Jun 22 - Apr 23)	Measles (Jan 22 - Apr 23)	Dengue fever (Jan 22 - Apr 23)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> (Data from 602(98.2%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)	<b>273,969</b>	<b>5,057,584</b>	<b>210,567</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>86,869</b>	<b>1,392</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>97 (0.04)</b>	<b>1,609 (0.03)</b>	<b>7,883 (3.80)</b>	<b>15 (1.28)</b>	<b>418 (0.48)</b>	<b>2 (0.15)</b>

### Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 May 2022 to 01 Apr 2023)

Table 1: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Feb – 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	2,339	2,263	2,836	1,815	1,878	2,486	2,942	2,954	
% Change cases	3.2	-3.2	25.3	-36.0	3.5	32.4	18.3	0.4	
Deaths	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	
CFR (%)	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.07	

- During week 13-2023, a total of 2,954 new AWD cases with dehydration and 2 new deaths were reported which indicates stabilization of the reported cases during the current week when compared with the previous one.
- During the last 4 weeks, there has been an increase in the number of cases which should be monitored closely. This increase in the number of cases could be linked with the start of new season (spring) in some of the provinces (Figure 1).
- Out of 273,969 cases, 151,800 (55.4%) were children below 5 years and 136,737 (49.9%) were females.
- A total of 2,660 samples were tested for AWD.
- During the week 13-2023, 1 new district has reported AWD alert.
- The first few cases of AWD with dehydration were reported to the National Disease Surveillance and Response System (NDSR), MoPH and WHO on 04 May 2022 from Kandahar city of Kandahar province and spread to 178 districts in all 34 provinces (Figure 2).

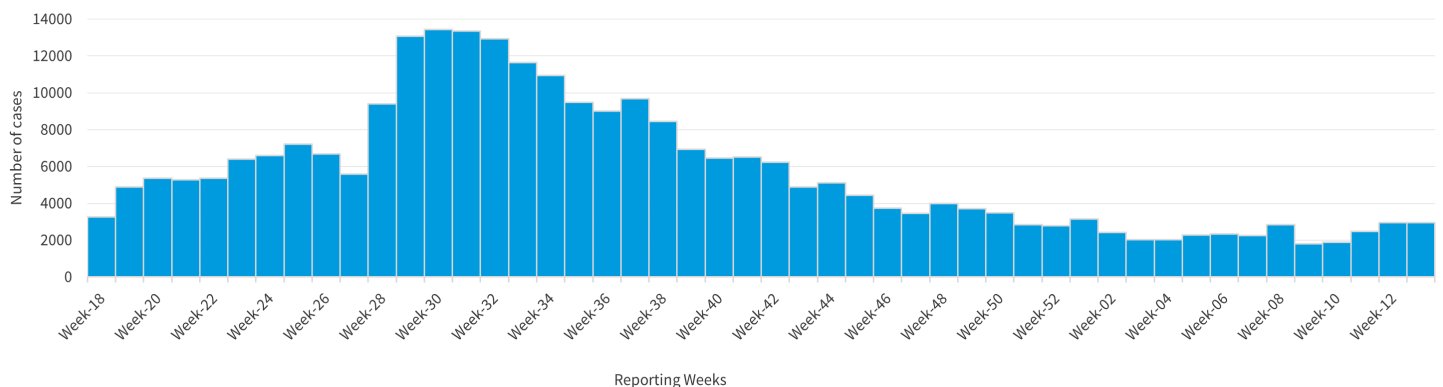


Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan May 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=273,969)

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## AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province

As of 01 Apr 2023

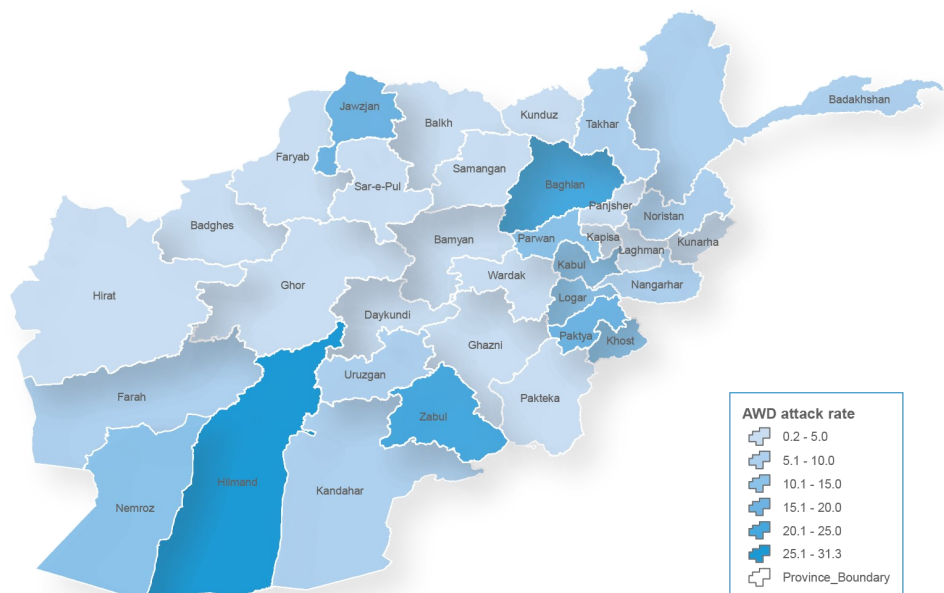


Figure 2. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, May 2022 - Apr 2023

## Response to the AWD Outbreak

### Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted among the partners to prepare for the next season of AWD outbreak response.
- Emergency and Preparedness Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.

### Surveillance

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- During last week 40 surveillance officers were trained on EBS and IBS procedures from 34 provinces.
- Totally, 1,018 medical officers and community health supervisors (CHSs) have been trained on procedures of community event-base surveillance (EBS) in 6 provinces (Kabul, Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar).
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

### Case Management

- During last week, 32 medical officers and 32 nurses were trained on AWD case management in Kabul province.

### Laboratory and Supplies

As part of the preparedness plan for 2023 season:

- A total of 3,750 Cary Blairs and 325 kits of RDTs were prepositioned at 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- Forty laboratory technologists, from regional reference labs (RRLs) (5), provincial PCR labs (28), infectious diseases hospital (IDH) (2), Afghan Japan Hospital Lab (1) and the central public health laboratory (CPHL) (4), were trained on sample collection, transportation, and impact of sample quality on lab results.

### WASH and RCCE

During period between 1 and 15 March 2023, the following activities were carried out under WASH:

- More than 19,000 Hygiene Kits were distributed in 16 provinces reaching in total 114,510 individuals. This brings the total number of hygiene kits distributed to 78,942 in 16 provinces (Badakhshan, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan-Wardak, Paktya, Takhar, Uruzgan, Zabul).
- Clean water was provided to more than 86,000 people by chlorination of the 2,331 well in 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Herat, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Maidan-Wardak, Samangan).
- Rehabilitation of the water supply system in 15 provinces covering around 79,000 individuals (Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Maidan-Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktika, Parwan, Samangan).
- Sanitation and hygiene facilities were provided to more than 63,000 individuals by emergency latrines installation and rehabilitations in 15 outbreak affected provinces (Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Nangarhar, Parwan, Takhar, Zabul).
- Hygiene promotion sessions were provided to more than 327,000 people in 20 provinces (Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan-Wardak, Nimroz, Samangan, Takhar, Uruzgan, Zabul).
- Household water treatment promotion in 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Samangan, Zabul) reaching 50,000 individuals.
- Hygiene facilities were provided to 6,500 individuals by installation and rehabilitation of handwashing facilities in Kandahar province.
- In 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Samangan, Zabul), soaps were distributed to 75,000 individuals.
- Clean water was provided by water trucking to 11,000 individuals in Farah and Zabul provinces.

## Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (01 Oct 2022 to 01 Apr 2023)

**5.0M**  
Total Cases

**1,609**  
Total Deaths

**1,168**  
Influenza  
samples tested

**193**  
Influenza  
lab confirmed cases

**16.5%**  
Influenza test  
positivity ratio

Table 2: summary of the acute respiratory infection outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Feb – 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	216,354	192,490	200,318	190,123	187,716	176,562	161,213	174,873	
% Change cases	-1.4	-11.0	4.1	-5.1	-1.3	-5.9	-8.7	8.5	
Deaths	65	68	72	46	60	48	78	41	
CFR (%)	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.02	

- During week 13-2023, a total of 174,873 new ARI cases and 41 new deaths were reported which indicates 8.5% increase in the number of cases and 47.4% decrease in the number of deaths, compared to the previous week.
- An increase is observed during last week compared to the previous week, which comes after the decline observed since week 01-2023. The situation needs to be closely monitored to confirm the trend (Figure 3).
- Since Oct 2022, out of the total 5,057,584 ARI cases, representing 15.5% of the total population of Afghanistan, 2,287,883 (45.2%) were children below 5 years of age and 2,630,301 (52.0%) were females.
- Case definition of ARI: Acute onset of cough, cold, coryza (runny nose), pharyngitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, or bronchiolitis with or without fever, Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), and pneumonia including severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and suspected COVID-19.

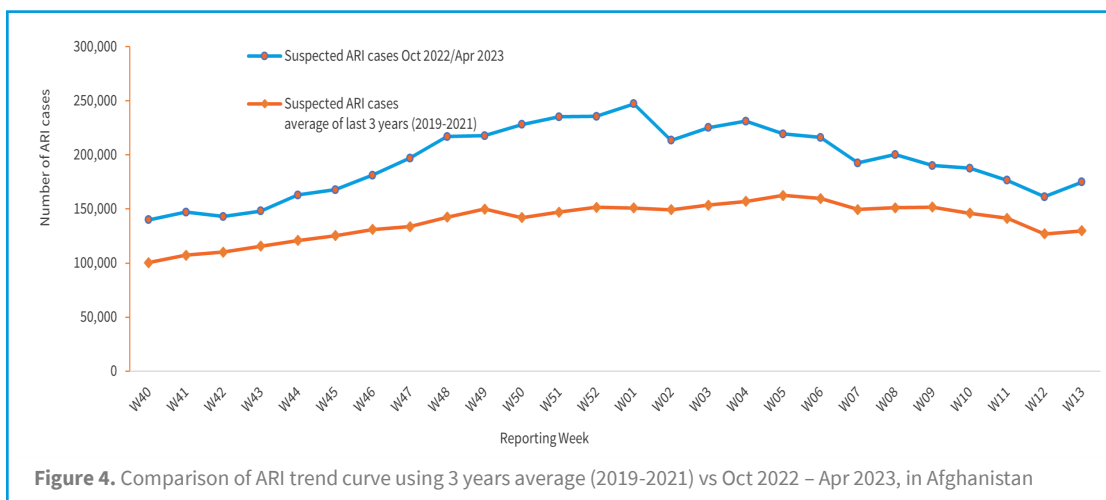
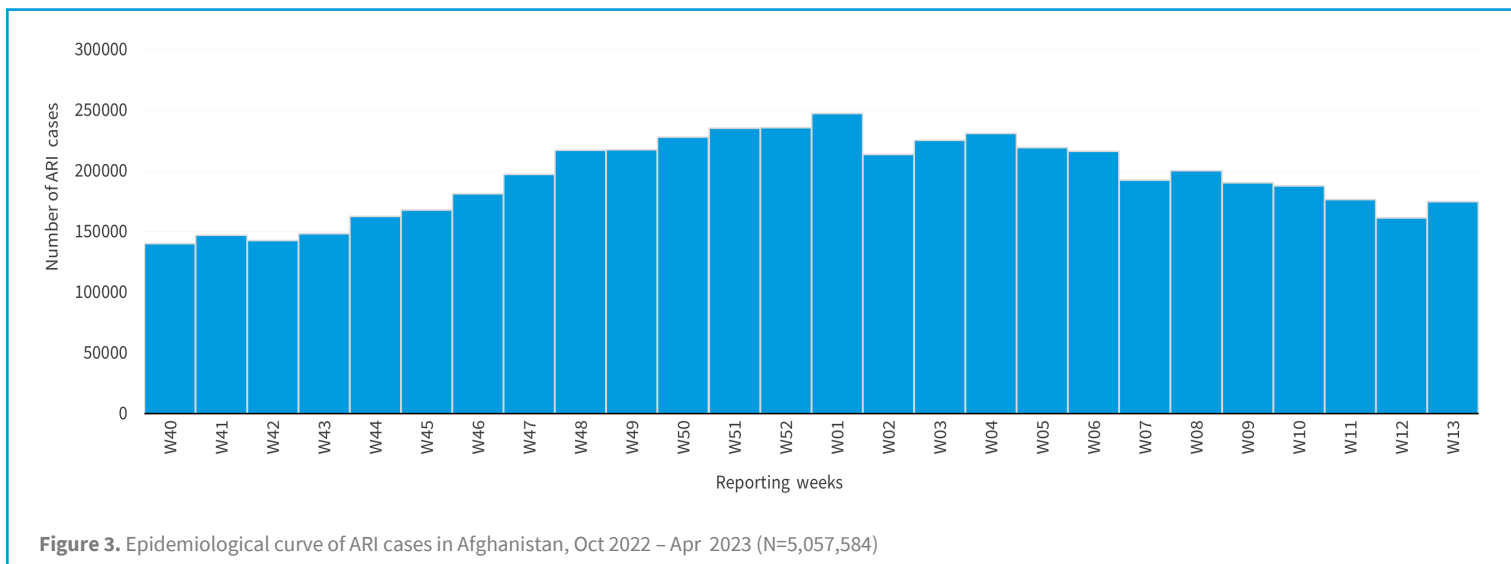


Figure 4 shows a decreasing trend in the number of ARI cases since week 4 of the current year, with an increase observed during the last week that needs to be closely monitored.

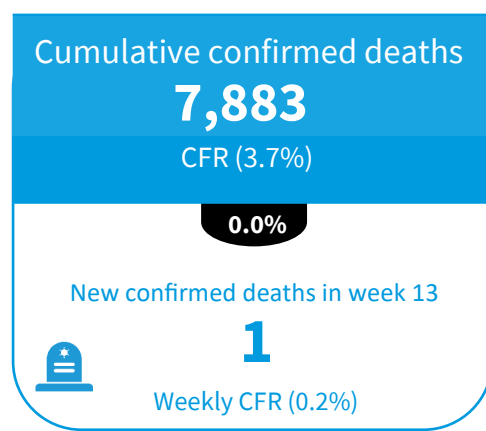
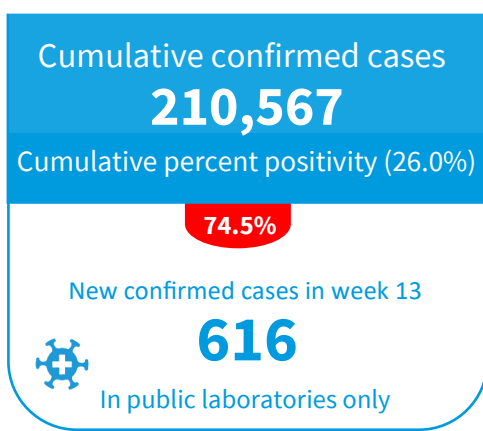
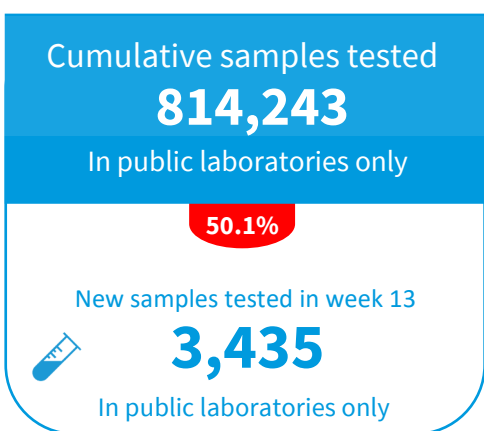
### Response to Acute Respiratory Infection outbreak

- The provincial NDSR team through provincial EPR committee is leading the outbreak response activities.
- Surveillance is conducted by the SSTs and case management is done by the BPHS/EPHS implementing partners.
- A total of 80 samples were collected and shipped to CPHL/NIC for testing.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 512 ARI case management kits and 960 packs of essential antibiotics were distributed in the 13 highly-affected provinces.

•As part of preparedness and response activities to infectious disease outbreaks during the winter season, medical supplies have been delivered to all 34 provinces across the country.

•During the last week, 54 medical officers and 8 nurses in Southern region, 41 medical officers and 27 nurses in Northeast region and 26 health care workers (HCWs) in Southeast region provinces were trained on ARI case management this brings the total number of ARI trained health care workers (HCWs) to 783 in 12 provinces.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 01 Apr 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

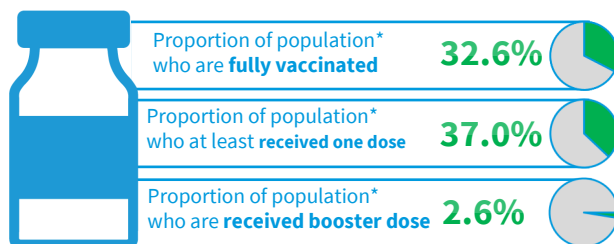


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (05 Feb - 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	1,960	2,180	2,556	2,454	2,817	4,050	2,288	3,435	
Confirmed cases	181	121	129	126	136	238	353	616	
% Change cases	1.7	-33.1	6.6	-2.3	7.9	75.0	48.3	74.5	
Percent positivity (%)	9.2	5.6	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.9	15.4	17.9	
Deaths	3	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	
CFR (%)	1.7	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 814,243 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 13-2023, 3,435 samples were tested in public labs, of which 616 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 17.9%) and 1 new death was reported. This represents 74.5% increase in the number of confirmed cases, compared to the previous week.
- During last week, 408 ABBOT ID Now COVID-19 kits have been supplied to the central public health laboratory (CPHL).

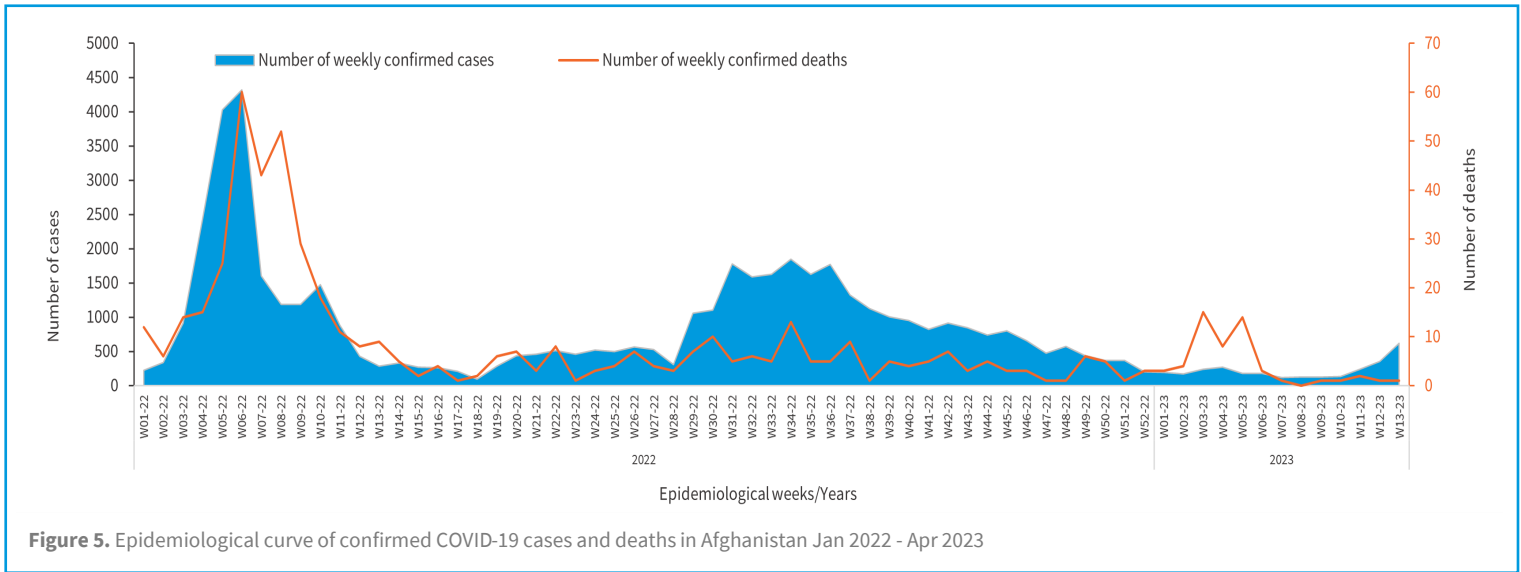


Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

Figure 5 shows an increase in the number of confirmed cases in the past 4 weeks, which confirms the increased trend. The low vaccination coverage (around 32% of the population fully vaccinated, and minimal booster doses) could be one reasons for the observed increase.

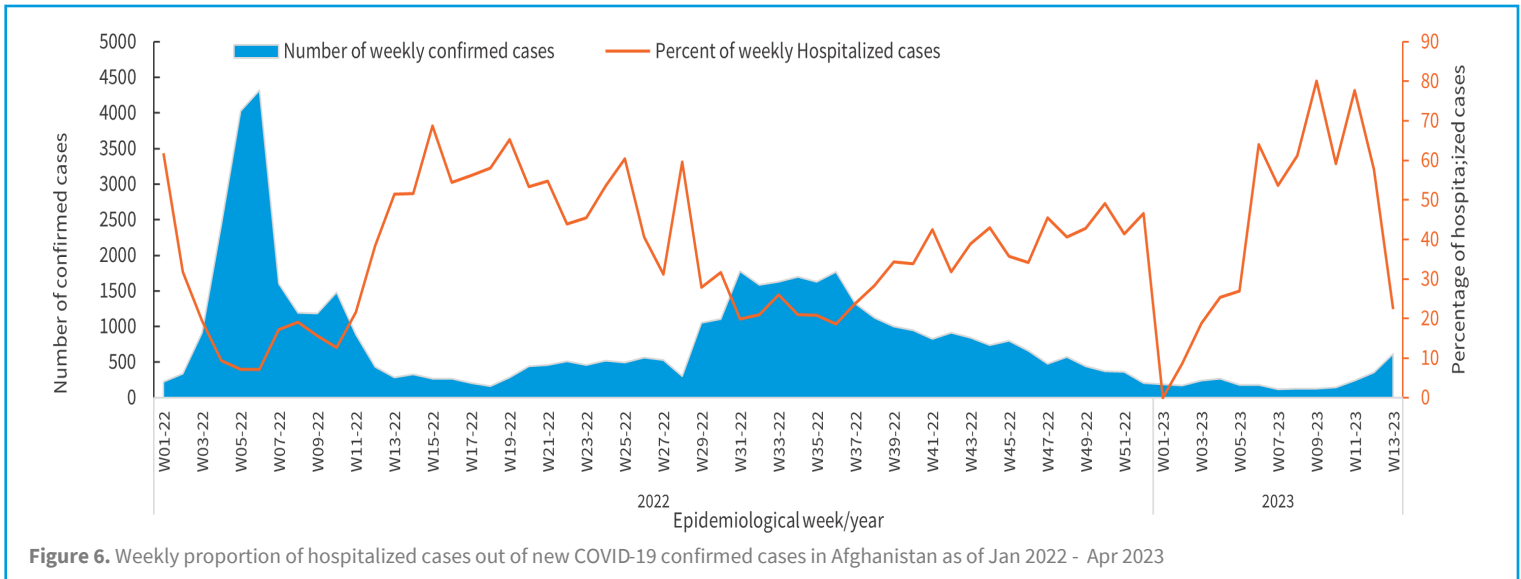


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan as of Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

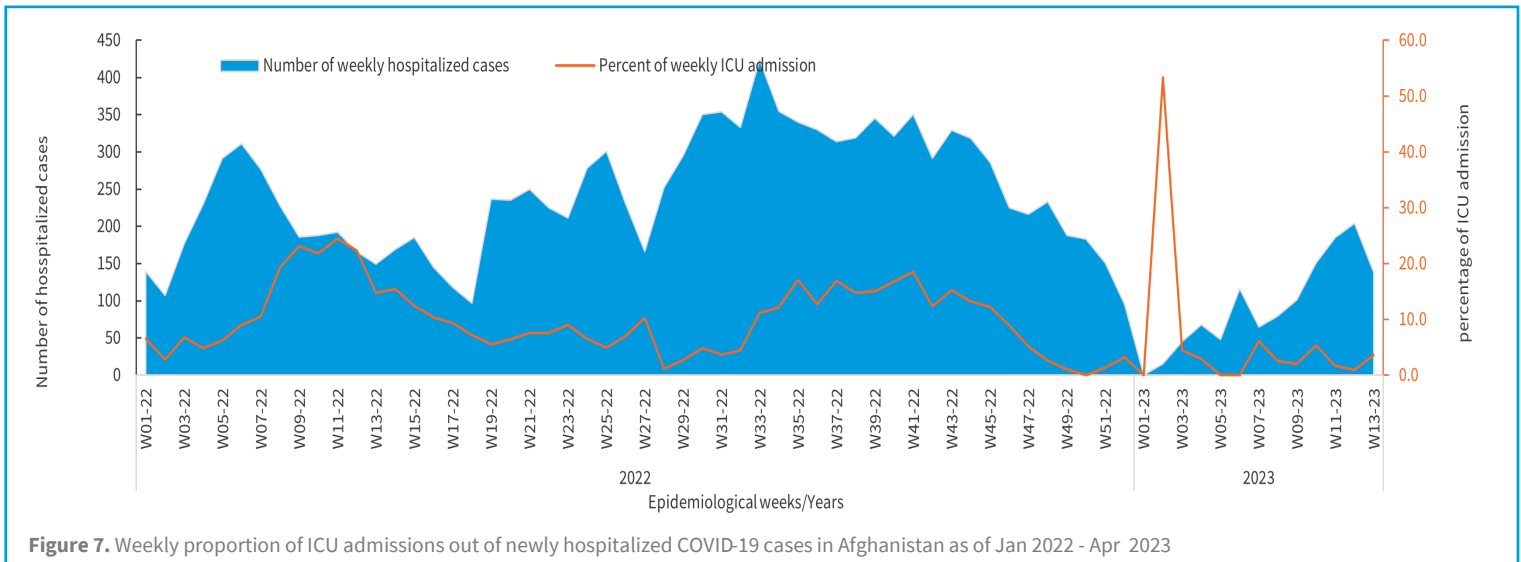






Figure 7. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

## Suspected Pertussis Outbreaks (Jan 2022 – Apr 2023)

  
**1,163**  
Total Cases

  
**15**  
Total Deaths

Table 4: summary of the suspected pertussis outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Feb – 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	6	4	12	3	6	10	12	26	
% Change cases	-53.8	-33.3	200.0	-75.0	100.0	66.7	20.0	116.7	
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 13-2023, a total of 26 new suspected pertussis cases were reported from 5 provinces Zabul (11), Kabul (10), Badakhshan (2), Urozgan (2) and Paktika (1); this brings the total number of suspected cases to 1,163 from 20 provinces.
- Out of the total 1,163 cases, 823 (70.8%) were children below 5 years and 549 (47.2%) were females.

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### Geographical Distribution of Suspected Pertussis Cases by Province

As of 01 Apr 2023

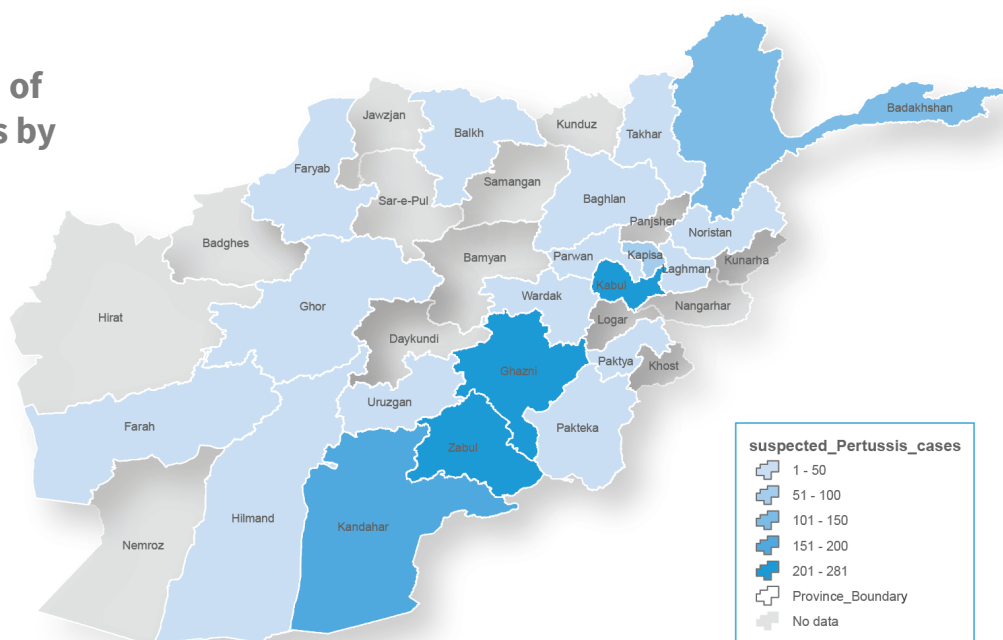


Figure 8. Geographical distribution of suspected pertussis cases in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=1,137)

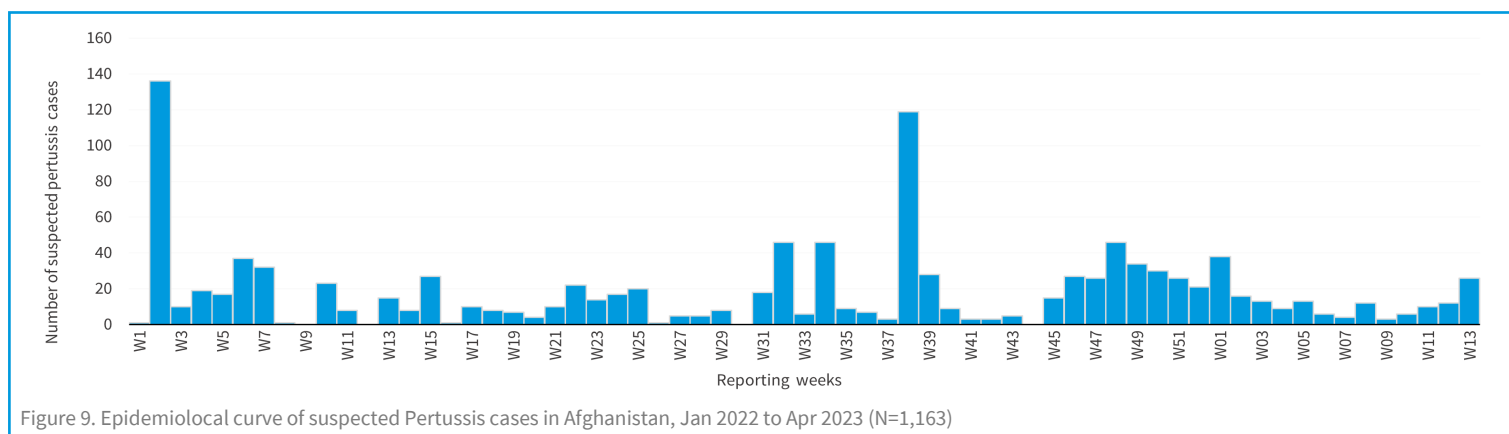


Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected Pertussis cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=1,163)

## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan 2022 to 01 Apr 2023)



**86,869**  
Total Cases



**418**  
Total Deaths



**11,425**  
Sample tested



**6,639**  
Lab confirmed cases



**58.1%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Feb – 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	822	837	871	807	897	786	685	709	
% Change cases	14.6	1.8	4.1	-7.3	11.2	-12.4	-12.8	3.5	
Deaths	1	3	2	0	4	5	1	2	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	

- During epidemiological week 13-2023, a total of 709 new suspected cases and 2 new deaths were reported which indicates 3.5% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- The 2 newly reported deaths were (1 male and 1 female) and both were under 5 years of age from Kunar and Prawn provinces.
- Out of the total 86,869 cases, 66,664 (76.7%) were children under 5 years of age and 42,231 (48.6%) were females.

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### Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province

As of 01 Apr 2023

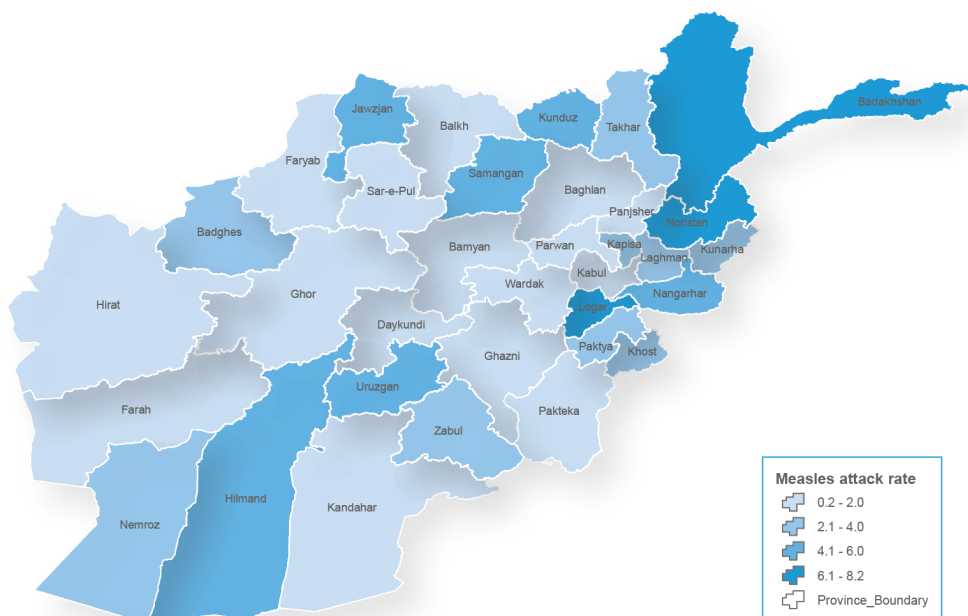


Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population of by province in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=86,869)

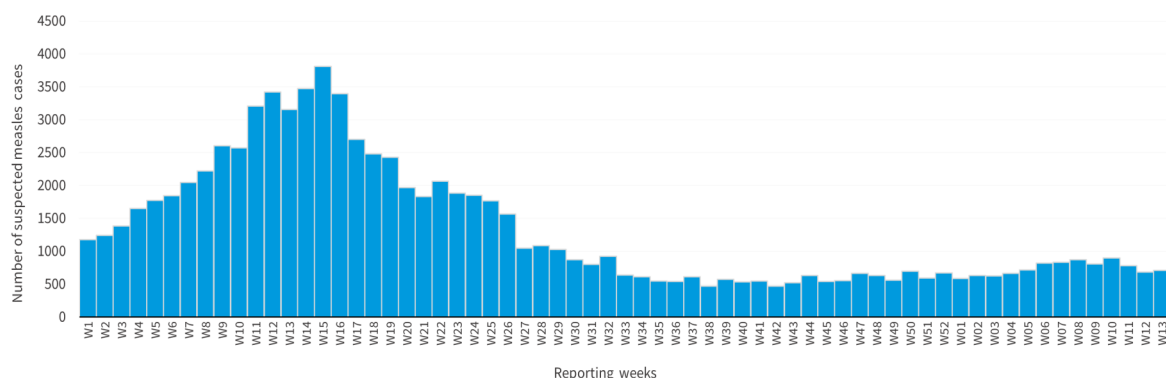
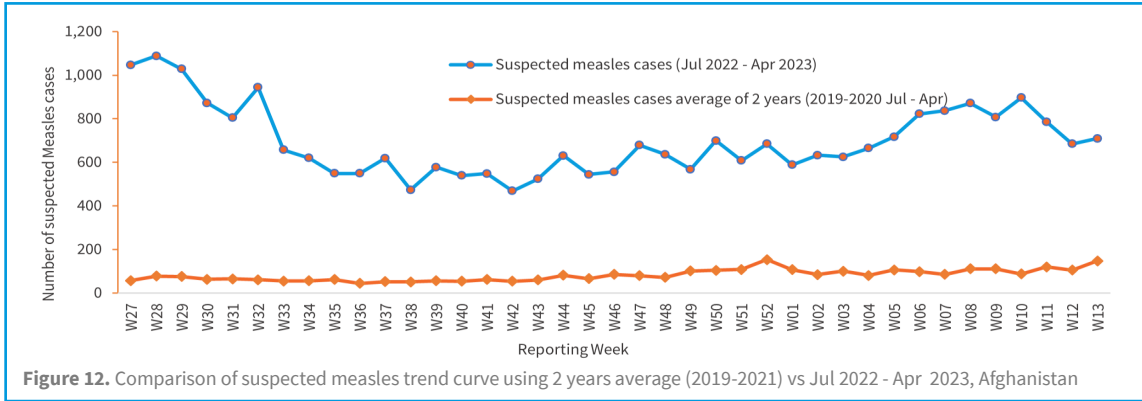


Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=86,869)

Figure 11 shows that since epi-week 1-2023, the number of suspected measles cases has been increasing which could be explained by lower immunity of children due to the harsh winter season. However, a decrease is seen from week 10-2023 which need close monitoring of the trend.



The weekly number of suspected measles cases indicates an increase since week 1-2023, laying above the average of last 2-years (2019-2020). However, a decline was observed during weeks 11 and 12-2023, followed by slight increase during week 13.

Figure 12. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2021) vs Jul 2022 - Apr 2023, Afghanistan

### Response to Measles outbreak

- During the last week, 456 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated for measles as a response to outbreak by the implementing partners (NGOs) in different province. This brings the total number of vaccinated children by NGOs to 5,456 in outbreak affected areas across the county.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; immunizing 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 have been supplied to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

### Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jun 2022 to 01 Apr 2023)



**1,392**  
Total Cases



**2**  
Total Deaths



**474**  
Sample tested



**383**  
Lab confirmed cases



**80.8%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Feb – 01 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W06	W07	W08	W09	W10	W11	W12	W13	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	7	9	10	8	12	18	10	14	
% Change cases	16.7	28.6	11.1	-20.0	50.0	50.0	-44.4	40.0	
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 14 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths have been reported during week 13-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases and deaths to 1,392 and 2, respectively.
- Out of 1,392 reported cases, 362 (26.0%) were females and 1,377 (98.9%) were over 5 years of age.

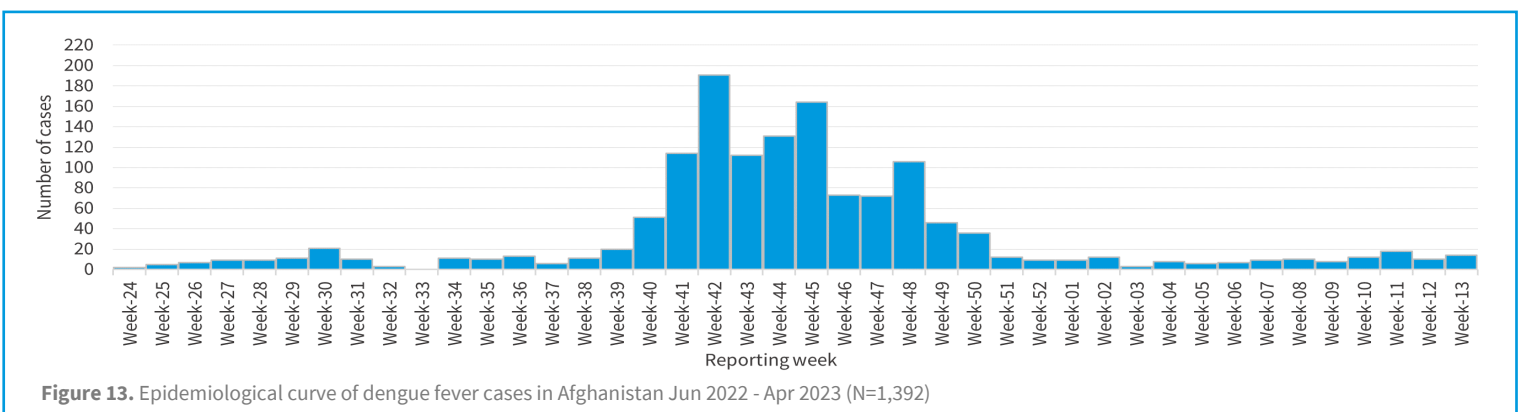


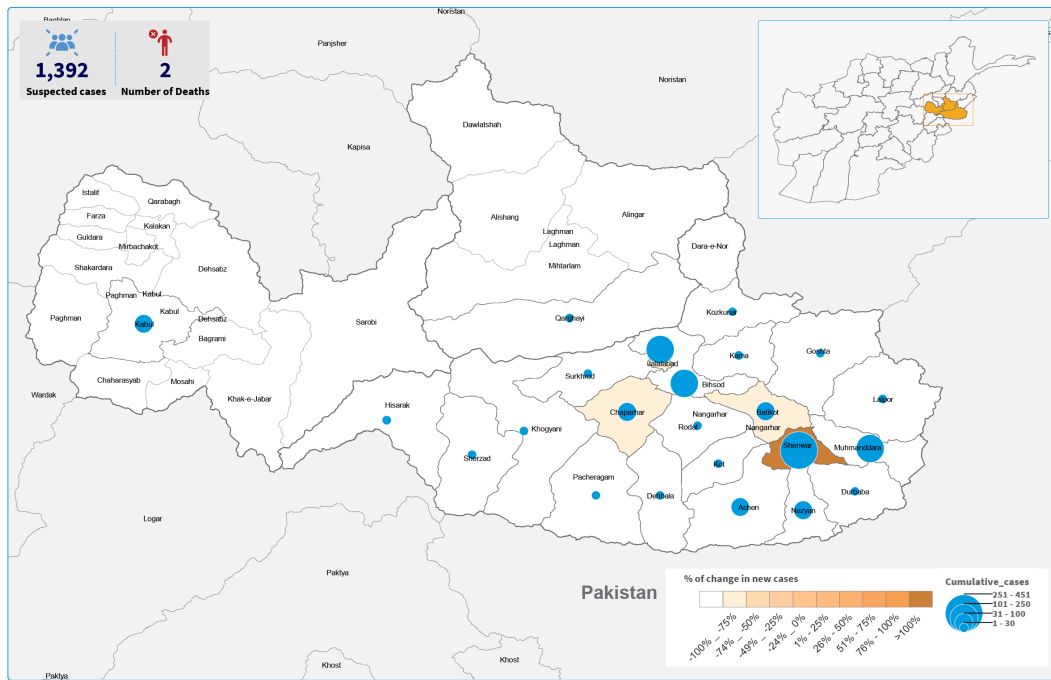
Figure 13. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan Jun 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=1,392)

Figure 13 shows stabilization at low level in the number of suspected dengue cases during the last 11 weeks, which could be explained by the lower activity of the vector during the winter season. The situation requires close monitoring given that the vector breeding season will start soon.





Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 12 and 13, 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, AGCHQ. Creation date: 01 April 2023.

Figure 14. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jun 2022 - Apr 2023

### Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- During last week, 1 kit of dengue ELISA was supplied to central public health laboratory (CPHL), 1 kit was supplied to infectious disease hospital (IDH) and 2 kits were supplied to Nangarhar reference laboratory (RRL), to support the lab confirmation of suspected cases.
- Since July 2022 a total of 9 PCR kits has been delivered to the Nangarhar reference lab (RL) to support the case confirmation of diagnosis among suspected dengue cases.
- Overall, 1,000 Kgs of larvicides have been released and

distributed to Nangarhar sub-office to support dengue fever vector control activities.

- Surveillance support and entomology teams in addition to surveillance activities (case detection, reporting and sample collection) monitor the outbreak situation.
- Health education sessions were conducted in two villages of hotspot areas (Jalalabad city and Shinwar district) for increasing public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.

### CCHF highlights

- Between Jan 2022-Apr 2023, a total of 397 suspected CCHF cases were reported from 26 provinces, out of which 304 cases (76.9%) were males and all were over five years of age. From the reported cases, 105 (26.5%) were lab confirmed using PCR.
- Between Jan-2022-Feb 2023, a total 22 CCHF associated deaths were reported from 10 provinces including the 9 deaths from 5 northern provinces, Balkh (4), Samangan (1), Jawzjan (1), Faryab (1) and Takhar (2).
- No new CCHF associated deaths have been reported in the last 13 weeks.
- The CCHF cases are managed in the health facilities according to the national guidelines.
- 2,000 double bags and 500 doses ribavirin needed for the treatment of CCHF were procured and distributed to all regions.
- A total of 91 healthcare workers (in 33 provinces) were trained on CCHF case management protocol in the country.
- During the week 13, 1 kit of CCHF ELISA have been supplied to infectious disease hospital (IDH) and 4 kits were supplied to (Herat, Balkh, Paktya and Kandahar) reference laboratories for confirmation of CCHF cases.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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