AFGHANISTAN
INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS
SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week **#21-2023**

No. 21/(21 to 27 May)

Disease Outbreaks	CCHF (Jan - May 23)	AWD (Jan - May 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - May 23)	Measles (Jan - May 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - May 23)
Cumulative Cases (Data from 603 (98.4%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)	105	59,526	221,559	14,455	314
Death (CFR %)	4 (3.8)	30 (0.05)	7,914 (3.6)	43 (0.3)	1 (0.3)

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
(01 Jan to 27 May 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (02 Apr - 27 May 2023)

Indicators	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	0	0	0	52	17	4	16	8	
% Change cases	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-67.3	-76.5	300.0	-50.0	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	

- On 20th May 2023, a nosocomial CCHF outbreak was reported from Jawzjan province (North Region), where a total of 5 cases including 2 deaths (CFR = 40%) have been affected. All the cases were males with the mean age of 37. The index case was a 30-year-old male, butcher, who started to show symptoms and was admitted to Jawzjan provincial hospital. His condition deteriorated and he passed away while being referred to Balkh regional hospital. Four health care workers who were in contact with him, started to show symptoms the following day and another death was reported among them. The 3 remaining cases are hospitalized (2 in Jawzjan provincial hospital and 1 in Balkh regional hospital) and their conditions are stabilized.

Response to the nosocomial CCHF outbreak

- Following the report of the outbreak from Jawzjan affected provinces, a joint team from the WHO and MOPH have been deployed to support the different response pillars (surveillance and active case finding, sample collection, infection prevention and control and case management).
- A total of 2,000 double bags for CCHF case management have been supplied to Kandahar, Herat, Mazar and Nangarhar sub-offices.
- SOP on laboratory procedures for sample collection and type of test to be performed was shared with staff at Kandahar RRL.

- During week 21-2023, a total of 8 new cases of CCHF (two lab confirmed) were reported from 4 districts in 3 provinces which represents 50.0% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week. No new associated deaths were reported during the last week (Table 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 105 cases were reported from 13 provinces (Figure 1), out of which 104 (99.0%) were 5 years old and over and 65 (62.9%) were females.
- Cumulatively, 4 deaths (CFR = 3.8%) were reported (2 from Kandahar and 2 from Jawzjan) since January 2023.
- Totally, 48 CCHF samples were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 16 were positive by PCR (8) and ELISA (8) (positivity rate 33.3 %).

- Technical support was provided to laboratory staff on CCHF sample processing.
- During week 21, a total of 54 HCW (all males) were trained on CCHF case management protocol from all regions. This brings the total number of HCWs trained on CCHF case management to 123 since Apr-2023.
- During week 21, 15 courses (each course containing 84 tablets) of ribavirin (antiviral), 800 double bags and 200 PPE kits were supplied to North region.

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province
As of 27 May 2023

105 Suspected cases   **4** Number of Deaths

Number of deaths
- 2

Number of cases
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 20
- 21 - 57
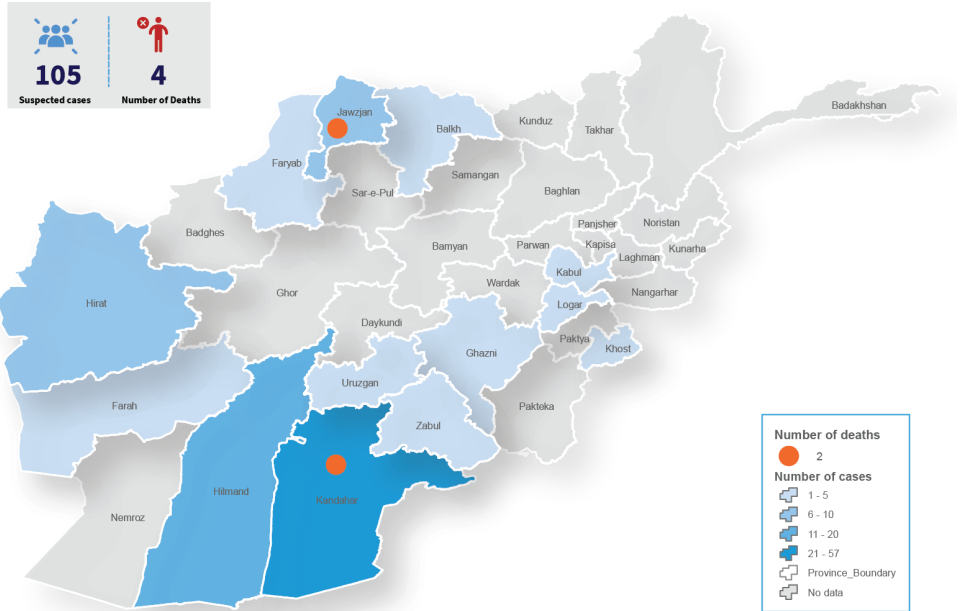- Province_Boundary
- No data

Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 1 Jan– 27 May 2023

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak
(01 Jan to 27 May 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (02 Apr - 27 May 2023)

Indicators	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	3,639	3,314	2,335	3,267	3,793	3,419	3,908	4,451	
% Change cases	23.2	-8.9	-29.5	39.9	16.1	-9.9	14.3	13.9	
Suspected deaths	3	5	3	3	2	1	0	3	
CFR (%)	0.08	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.07	

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases continues to show increase since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the start of the new season (Figure 2).

- During week 21-2023, a total of 4,451 new AWD cases with dehydration and 3 associated deaths were reported which represents 13.9% increase in the number of cases compared to the previous week.

- The new deaths were all from Kabul province (2 males, and 1 female) and all were under 5 years of age.

- Out of 59,526 cases, 33,692 (56.6%) were children below 5 years and 29,522 (49.6%) were females.

- During last week, 3 new districts reported AWD with dehydration alert; this brings the total number of districts reporting AWD alerts to 310 in 34 provinces since Jan 2023 (Figure 3).

- A total of 538 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.
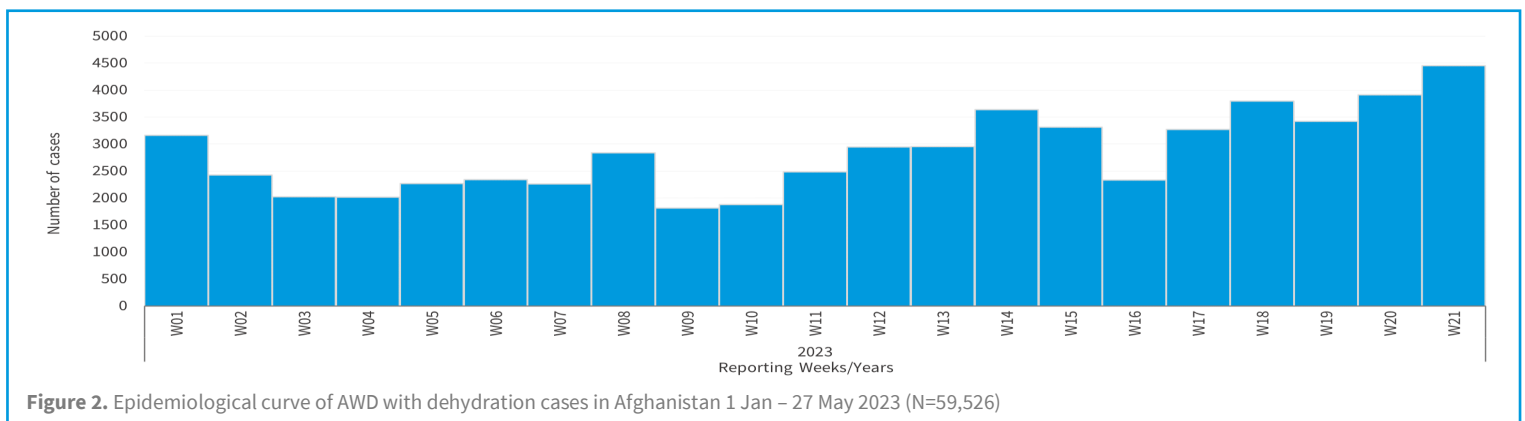
Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 27 May 2023 (N=59,526)

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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province
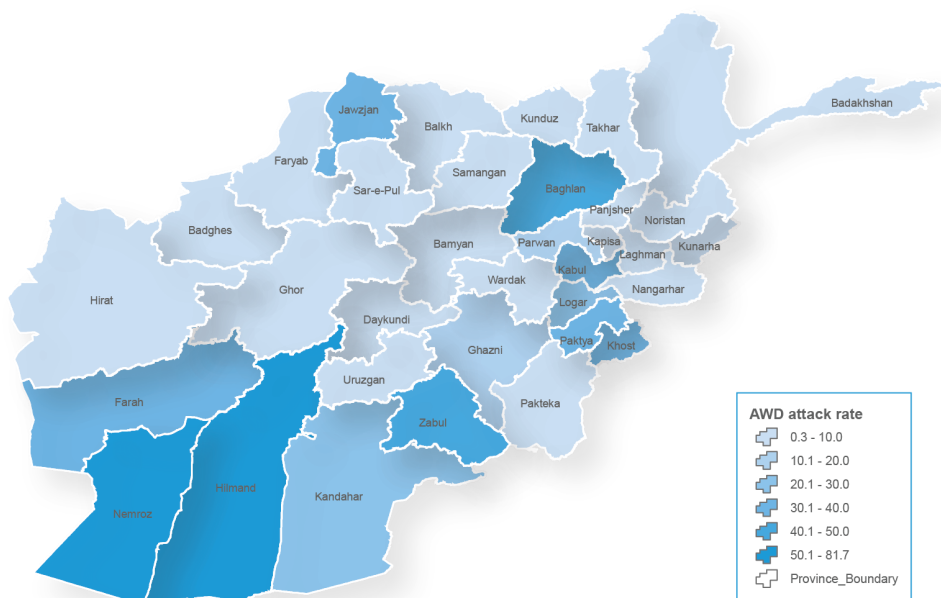
As of 27 May 2023

Figure 3. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 1 Jan – 27 May 2023

Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted among the partners to prepare for the 2023 season of AWD outbreak response.

- Emergency and Preparedness Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.

- An integrated AWD preparedness plan has been developed jointly between Health and WASH clusters and has been endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Surveillance

- A total of 148 NDSR officers were 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.

- 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, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar).

- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 292 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on AWD case management.

- More than 800 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the next few weeks.

Laboratory and Supplies
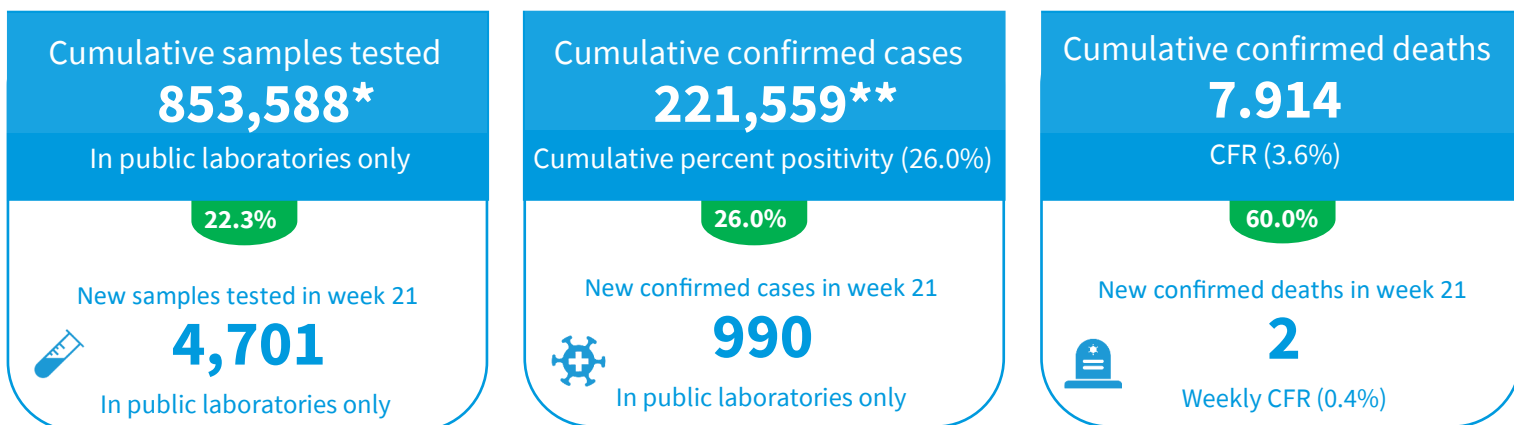
As part of the preparedness plan for 2023:

- 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

Between 1-13 May 2023, the following activities were carried out as WASH response:

- Clean water was provided to around 14,000 people by chlorination of the 1,701 wells in 3 provinces (Kabul, Logar and Maidan -Wardak).

- Hygiene promotion sessions were provided to 59,000 people in 2 provinces (Helmand and Kandahar).

- Sanitation and hygiene facilities were provided to around 1,950 individuals by emergency latrines installation and rehabilitations in Kabul province.

COVID-19
(24 Feb 2020 — 20 May 2023)

Cumulative samples tested	Cumulative confirmed cases	Cumulative confirmed deaths
853,588*	**221,559****	**7.914**
In public laboratories only	Cumulative percent positivity (26.0%)	CFR (3.6%)
22.3%	**26.0%**	**60.0%**
New samples tested in week 21	New confirmed cases in week 21	New confirmed deaths in week 21
4,701	**990**	**2**
In public laboratories only	In public laboratories only	Weekly CFR (0.4%)

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 20-2023, and the number of samples was modified from 5,959 to 6,047.

**A delayed reporting was experienced during week 20-2023, and the number of new cases was modified from 1,313 to 1,337.

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

Fully vaccinated	Partially vaccinated	Booster dose	At least one dose of any vaccine received
13,560,880	**1,754,115**	**1,443,704**	**15,314,995**

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

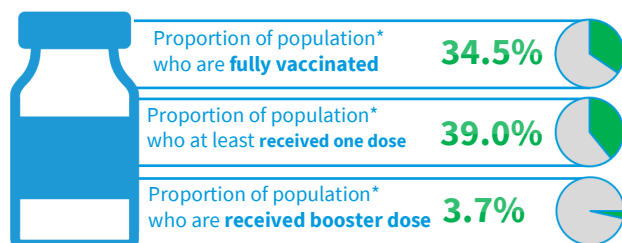| Proportion of population* who are **fully vaccinated**	**34.5%**
Proportion of population* who at least **received one dose**	**39.0%**
Proportion of population* who are **received booster dose**	**3.7%**

Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (02 Apr - 27 May 2023)

Indicators	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	4,163	4,730	4,001	3,569	5,906	6,280	6,047	4,701	
Confirmed cases	891	1,233	1,253	1,123	1,855	1,646	1,337	990	
% Change cases	44.6	38.4	1.6	-10.4	65.2	-11.3	-18.8	-26.0	
Percent positivity (%)	21.4	26.1	31.3	31.5	31.4	26.2	22.1	21.1	
Deaths	1	1	4	5	8	5	5	2	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	

- The number of COVID-19 cases are decreasing, the epi curve (Figure 4) shows a decrease in the number of confirmed cases over the last 3 weeks.

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 853,588 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.

- In week 21-2023, 4,701 samples were tested in public labs, of which 990 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 21.1%) and 2 new deaths were reported.

- During week 21-2023, 4.8% (48 /990 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 4), including 8 cases admitted to ICU (Figure 5).
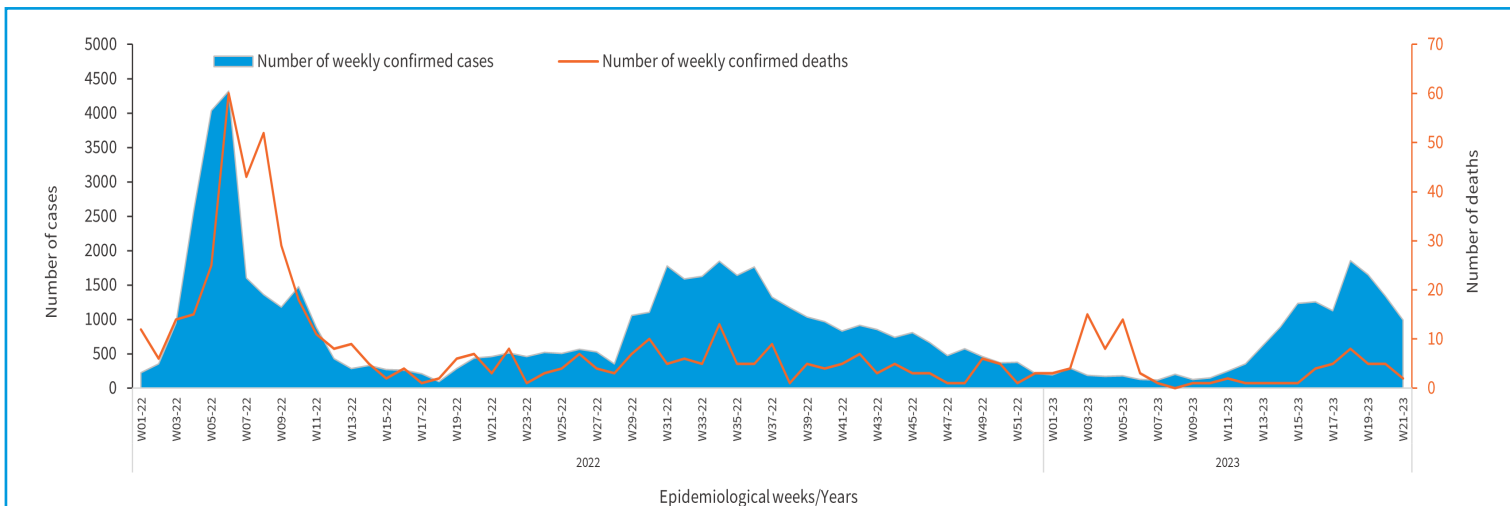
Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 1 Jan 2022 – 27 May 2023
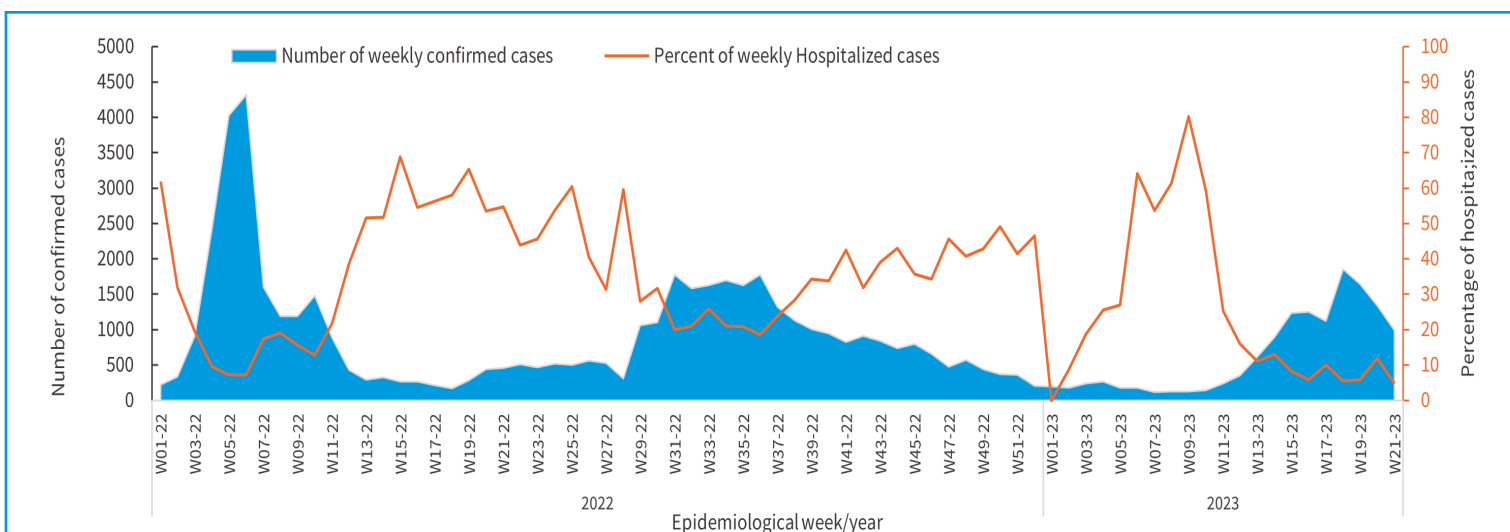

Figure 5. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 1 Jan 2022– 27 May 2023
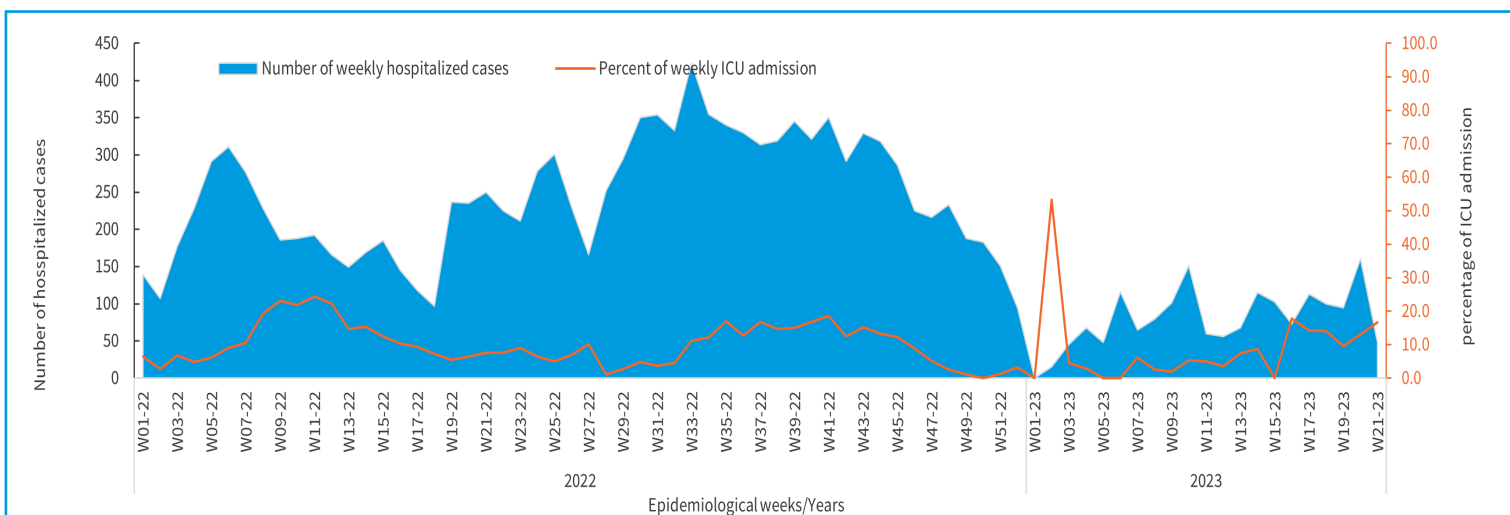

Figure 6. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 1 Jan 2022– 27 May 2023

Measles Outbreak
(01 Jan to 27 May 2023)

14,455	**43**	**2,909**	**1,507**	**51.8%**
Total Cases	Total Deaths	Sample tested	Lab confirmed cases	Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (02 Apr - 27 May 2023)

Indicators	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	721	649	550	611	564	595	579	537	
% Change cases	1.7	-10.0	-15.3	11.1	-7.7	5.5	-2.7	-7.3	
Suspected deaths	3	0	1	0	1	1	6	2	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.4	

- The number of suspected measles cases are showing a decreasing trend since week 10, however it stabilized at high level for the past 6 weeks (Figure 7).
- During epidemiological week 21-2023, a total of 537 suspected cases and 2 new deaths were reported which indicates 7.3% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Two new associated deaths were reported; 1 male aged above 5 years and 1 under five female from Parwan and Helmand provinces, respectively.
- Out of the total 14,455 cases, 10,369 (71.7%) were children under 5 years of age and 6,781 (46.9%) were females.
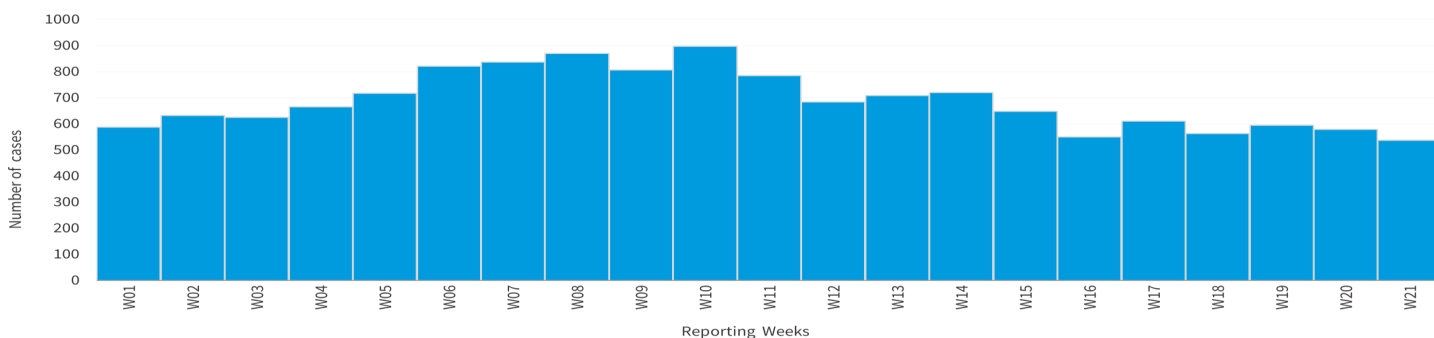

Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 1 Jan to 27 May 2023 (N=14,455)

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Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province
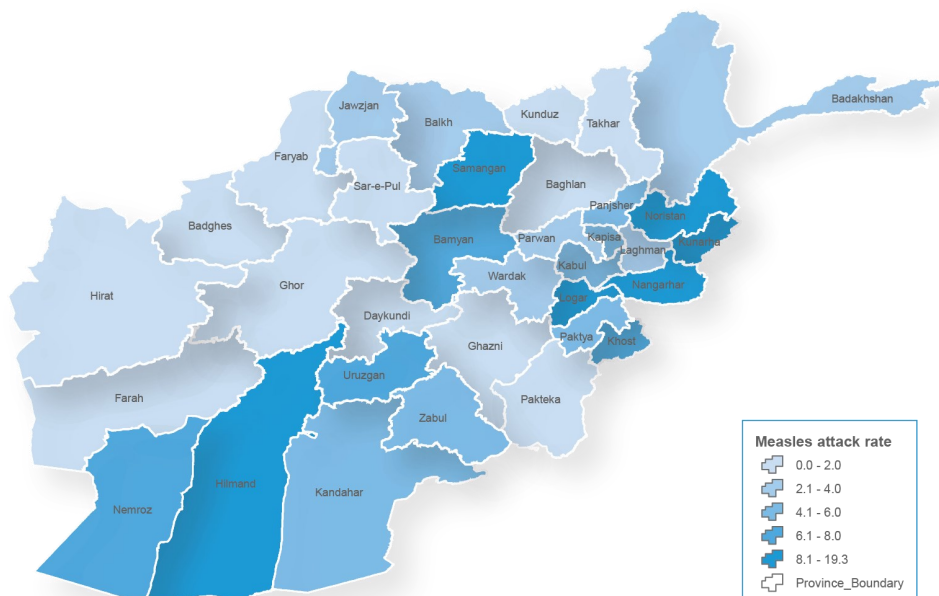### As of 27 May 2023

Figure 8. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 27 May 2023 (N=14,455)
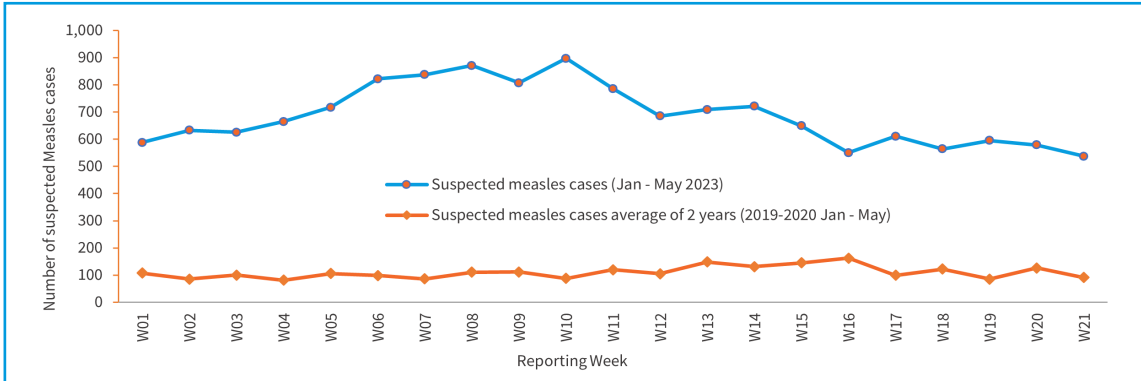
Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-May 2023, Afghanistan

The number of suspected measles cases is showing slight decrease since week 10 and stabilization at high level for the past 6 weeks. However, comparing the current levels with the average number of suspected cases reported during (2019-2020) reveals that the trend of measles cases has not gone down to the usual levels of endemicity observed during 2019-2020.

Response to Measles outbreak

- During the last week, a total of 177 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated against measles as part of outbreak response immunization (ORI) by the implementing partners (NGOs) in Bamyan province. This brings the total number of vaccinated children by NGOs to 7,133 in outbreak affected areas across the country since the beginning of 2023.
- 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 Jan to 27 May 2023)

314 Total Cases

1 Total Deaths

108 Sample tested

37 Lab confirmed cases

34.3% Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (02 Apr - 27 May 2023)

Indicators	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	19	9	17	20	35	27	10	27	
% Change cases	26.7	-52.6	88.9	17.6	75.0	-22.9	-63.0	170.0	
Deaths	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows an increase during last week compared to the preceding week. During the past 4 weeks, the average number of suspected dengue fever cases was 25 cases (range between 10 – 35) which needs close monitoring given the start of the season of vector breeding in Nangarhar province (Figure 10).
- A total of 27 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 21-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 314 and one death since the beginning of the 2023.
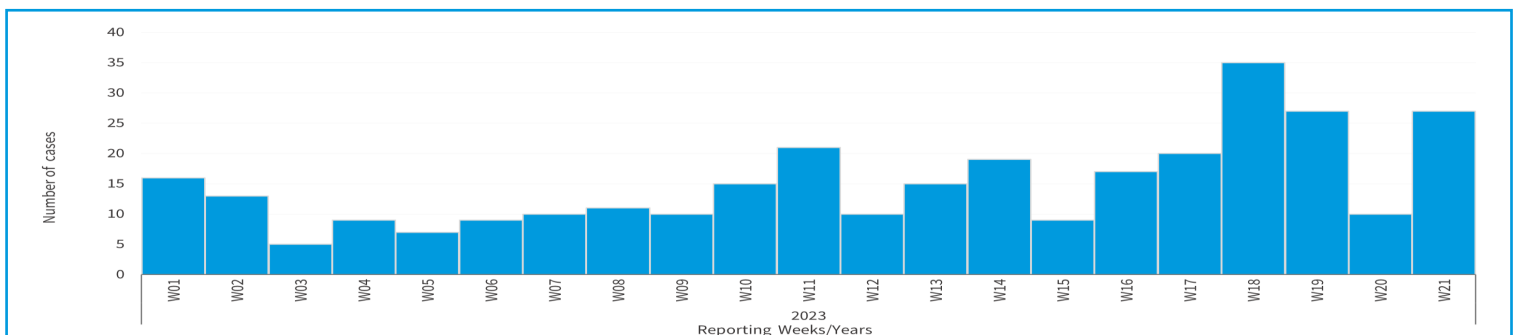- Out of 314 reported cases, 178 (56.7%) were females and 305 (97.1%) were over 5 years of age.

Figure 10. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 27 May 2023 (N=314)

World Health Organization Afghanistan | **Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes** (between weeks 20 and 21, 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 reperesent approxite border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Sources: MoPH, WHO, AGCHO. Creation date: 27 May 2023.
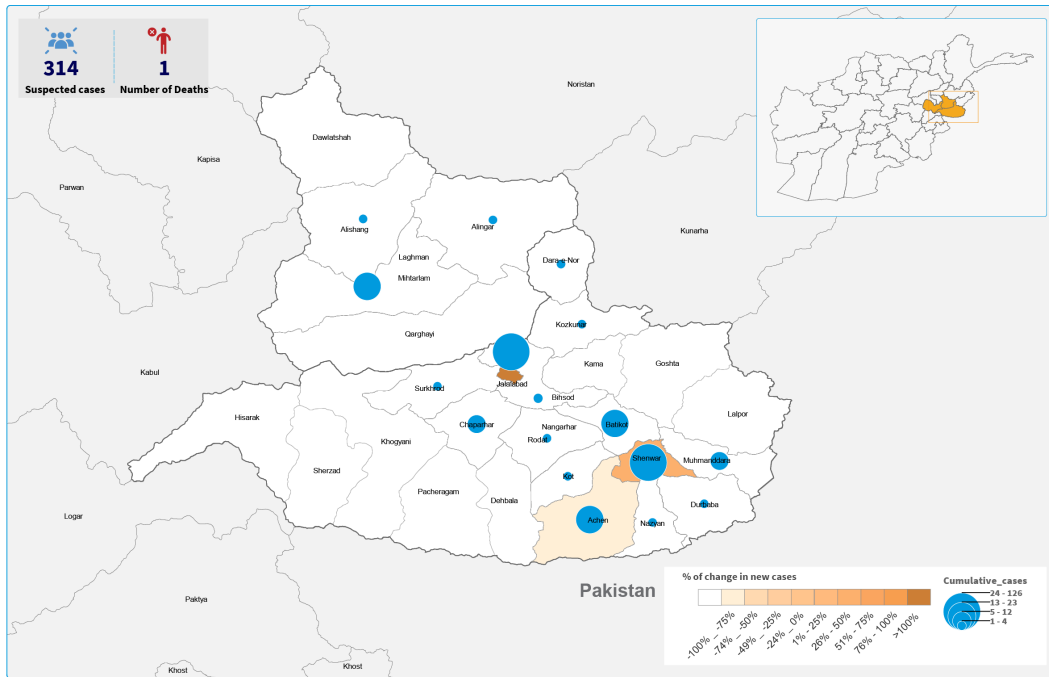
Figure 11. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - May 2023

Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

• Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 health care workers (HCWs) have trained on dengue case management in East region.

• 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.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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