



# COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan

Epidemiological Week 22 (29 May – 4 June 2022)

<b>Cumulative samples tested</b> <b>601,414</b> In public laboratories only	<b>Cumulative confirmed cases</b> <b>180,688</b> Cumulative percent positivity (30.1%)	<b>Cumulative confirmed deaths</b> <b>7,709</b> CFR (4.2 %)
<b>New samples tested in week22</b> <b>6,610</b> ↑ 27 % In public laboratories only	<b>New confirmed cases in week22</b> <b>512</b> ↑ 12 % Weekly percent positivity (8%)	<b>New confirmed deaths in week22</b> <b>8</b> ↑ 167 % Weekly CFR (1.6%)

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change

**Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (9 Apr – 4 June 2022)**

Indicators	W15-22	W16-22	W17-22	W18-22	W19-22	W20-22	W21-22	W22-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	3,771	3,713	3,271	884	4,356	5,870	5,212	6,610	
Confirmed cases	269	266	210	97	283	440	457	512	
Percent positivity (%)	7	7	6	11	6	7	9	8	
Confirmed deaths	2	4	1	2	6	7	3	8	
CFR (%)	0.7	1.5	0.5	2.1	2.1	1.6	0.7	1.6	

## Highlights of the week

Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **601,414** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.

In week 22-2022, **6,610** samples were tested in public labs, of which **512** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **8**) and **8** new deaths were reported. This represents **12%** and **167%** increase in cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 21-2022, (**Table 1**).

Cumulatively, **180,688** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **30.1**) of COVID-19 with **7,709** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 4.2%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.

As of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, **90.3** % of cases have recovered.

In week 22-2022, the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases were reported in the East and Central East regions (201 and 121 cases, respectively) (Table 2). The top five provinces that reported positive cases included Nangarhar (173 cases), Kapisa (50 cases), Kabul (48 cases), Helmand (33 cases), and Paktya (27 cases).

The WHO supported building the in-country capacity for genome sequencing, after training of two national staff on sequencing techniques in Dubai (December 2021). The WHO supported the procurement of the Oxford Nanopore Sequencer with the reagents and consumables. Initially, the plan is to conduct genome sequencing for COVID-19, with a plan to expand it to include other high-threat

pathogens. The team is currently working on processing the COVID-19 samples for sequencing, the results will be shared when available.

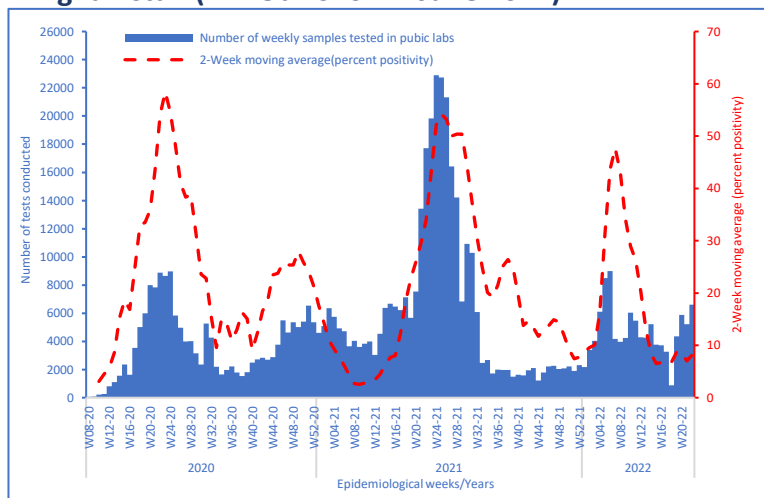
**Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 22, 2022 (29 May – 4 June 2022)**

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 22 (%)	% of change compared to week 21	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		121 (24 %)	5%	49,360 (27.3%)
Central West		16 (3%)	-52%	14,996 (8.3%)
East		201 (39%)	16%	21,220 (11.8%)
North		15 (3%)	-57%	14,984 (8.3%)
North East		35 (7%)	0%	19,028 (10.5%)
South		45 (9%)	96%	21,721 (12.0%)
South East		53 (10%)	26%	11,898 (6.6%)
West		26 (5%)	NA	27,481 (15.2%)
National		512 (100%)	12%	180,688 (100%)

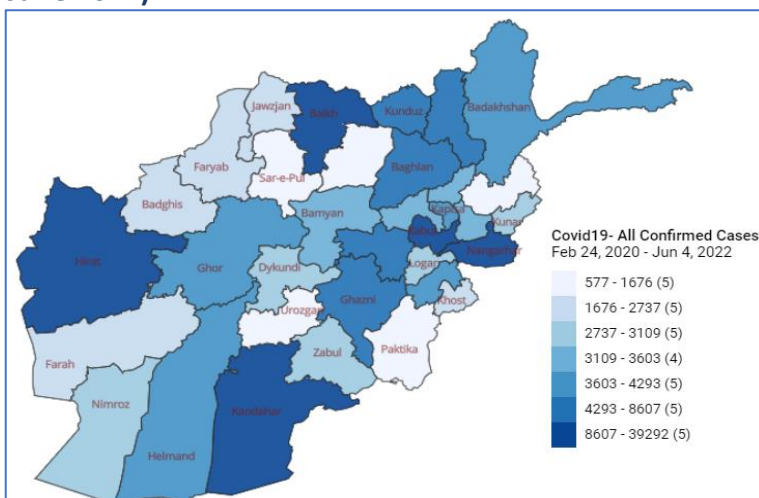
In week 22-2022, 4 new cases have been reported among health care workers in 4 provinces (Paktya, Panjshir, Urozgan and Zabul).

Overall, Afghanistan has reported **4,763** confirmed cases and **97** associated deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs) since 2020. To date, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunar reported the highest number of positive cases among HCWs.

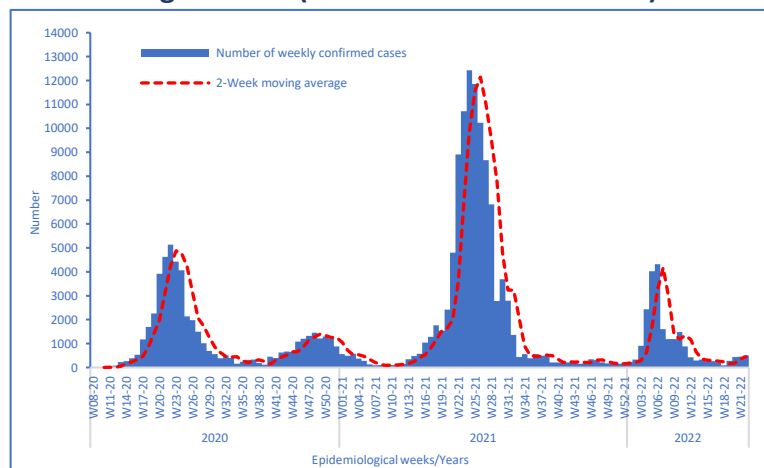
**Figure 1: Number of weekly PCR tests conducted and 2-week moving average of percent positivity in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 – 4 June 2022)**



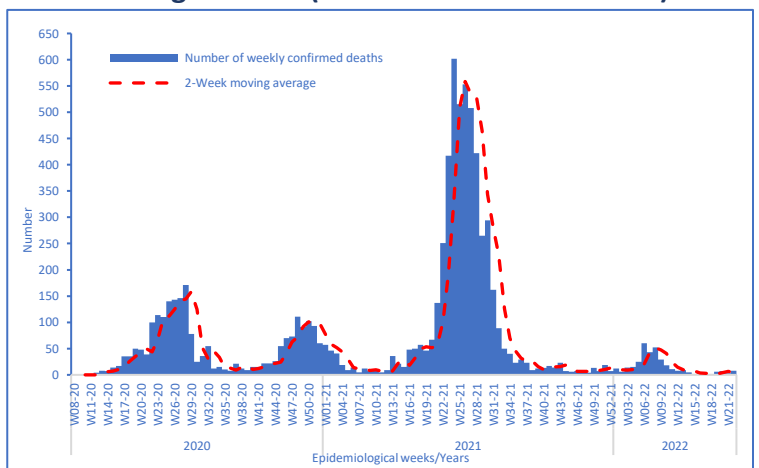
**Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



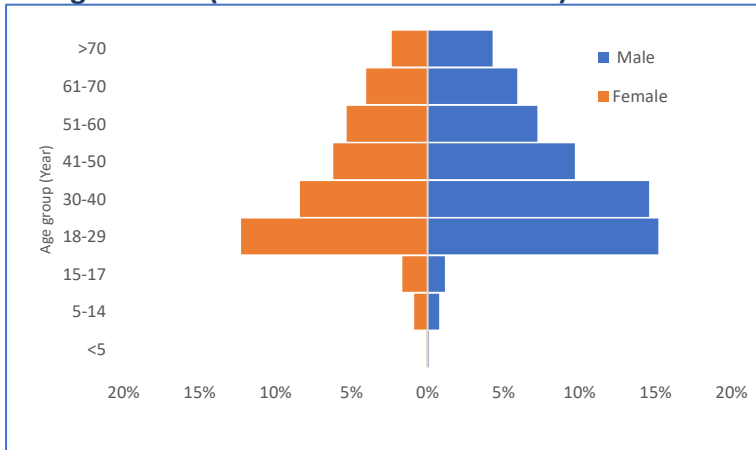
**Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



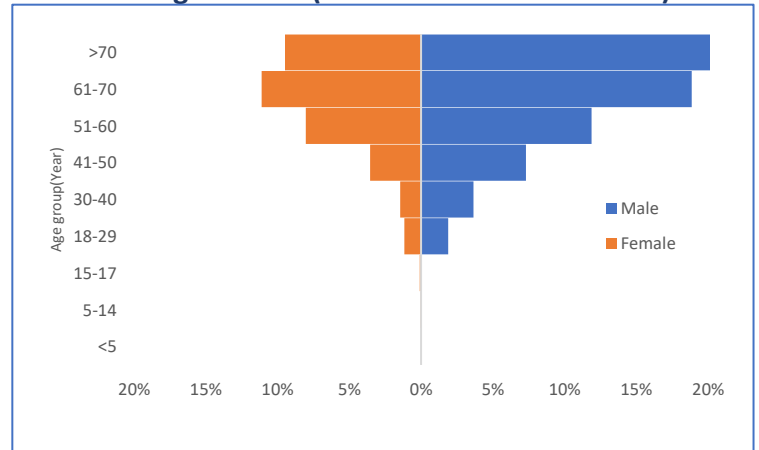
**Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



**Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



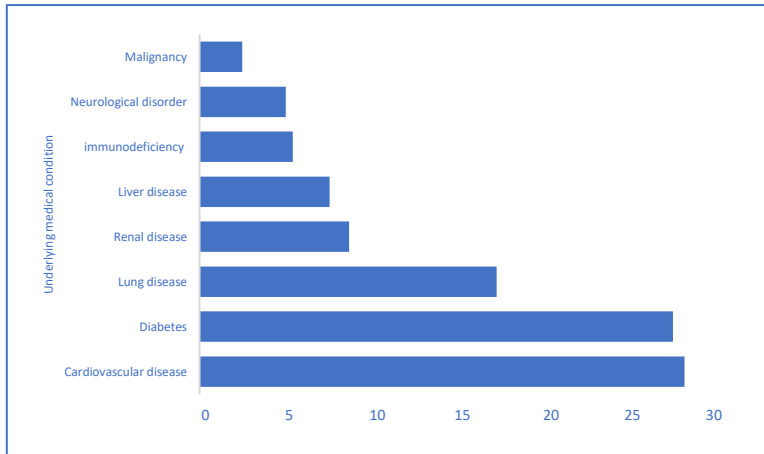
**Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



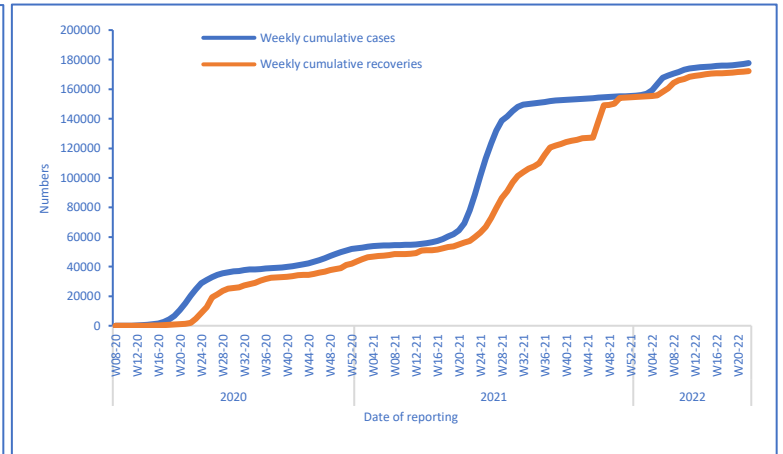
Of the confirmed COVID-19 cases, **58%** have been reported among males and **42%** among females. Majority of cases have been reported among those aged 18-40 years.

Of the COVID-19 associated deaths, **65%** were reported among males and **35%** among females. The graph indicates that most reported deaths were among those aged over 70 years.

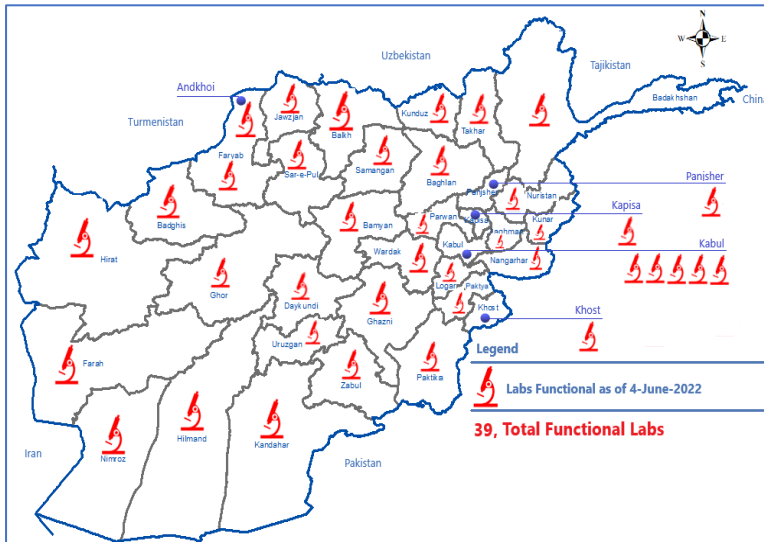
**Figure 7: Proportion of underlying medical conditions among COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan, 24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022 (n=1,764)**



**Figure 8: Weekly cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and recoveries in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 4 June 2022)**



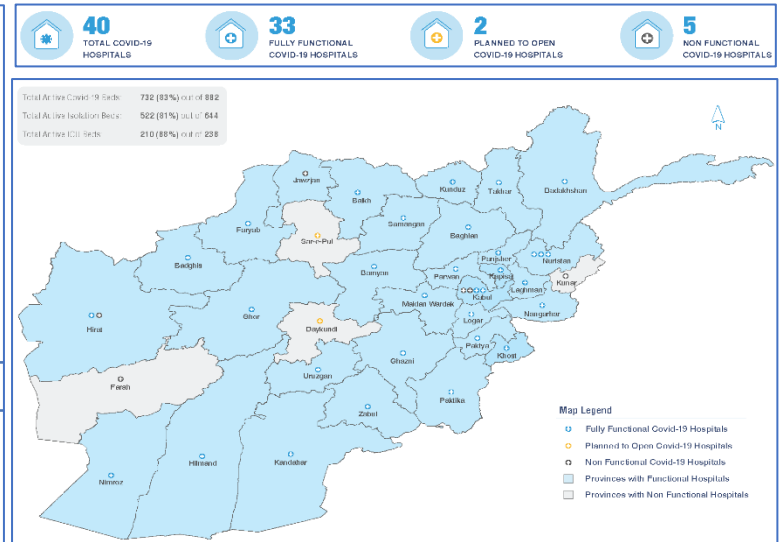
**Figure 9: COVID-19 confirmatory diagnostic public laboratories in Afghanistan, as of 4 June 2022**



The WHO has supported the establishment of COVID-19 laboratories since the start of the pandemic. The support included the provision of diagnostic equipment, infrastructure, capacity building and human resources.

As of 4 June 2022, there are 39 functional COVID-19 laboratories distributed across 34 provinces. The testing capacity is 9,800 tests/24 hours.

**Figure 10: COVID-19 hospitals status run by MoPH and other partners in Afghanistan, as of 4 June 2022**

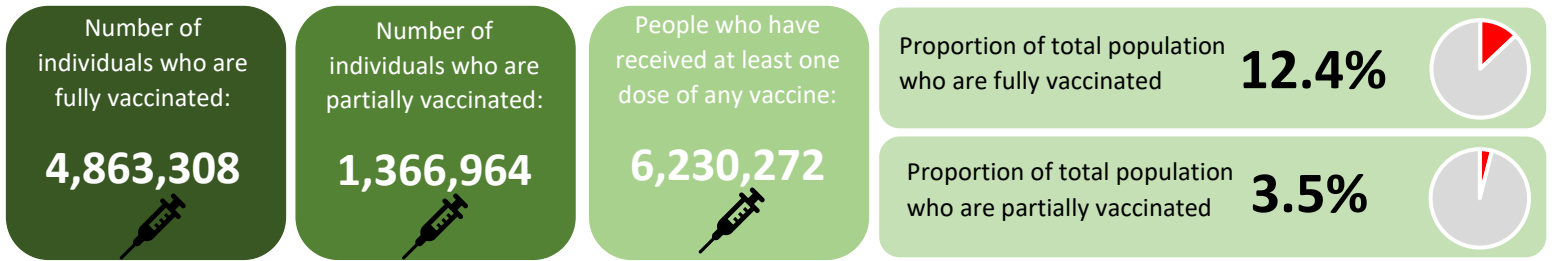


Since the pandemic started in Afghanistan in 2020, the WHO supported 40 COVID-19 hospitals.

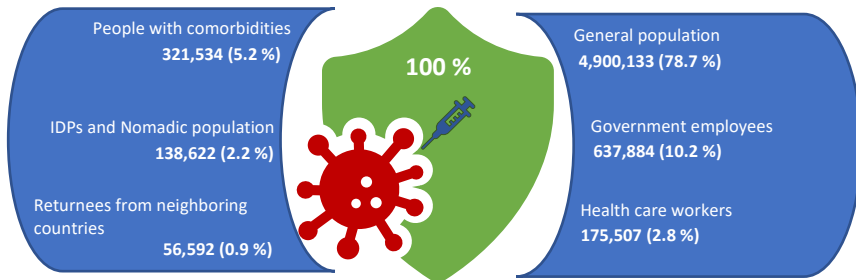
However, as of 4 June, 33 out of the 40 hospitals are fully functional, with 2 are planned to re-open in the next few weeks.

The currently functional 33 hospitals include 732 beds (522 isolation beds and 210 ICU beds).

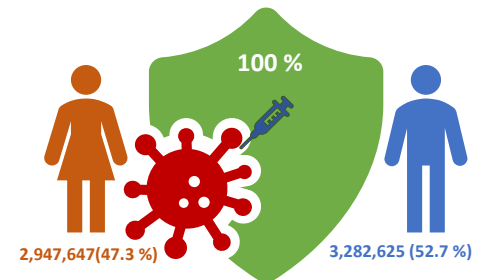
## COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



**Figure 11: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 4 June 2022**



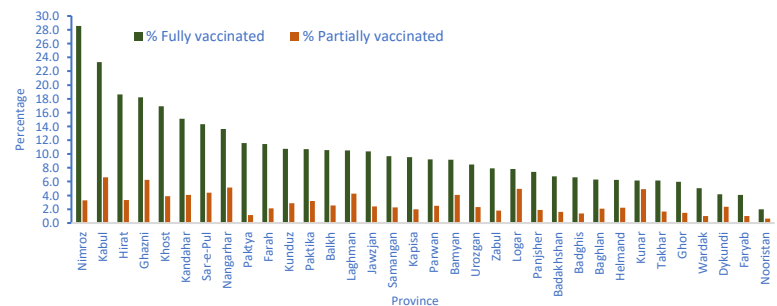
**Figure 12: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 4 June 2022**



### COVID-19 vaccination campaign

COVID-19 vaccination campaign is planned to take place in June 2022. The campaign will be conducted through 473 mobile vaccination teams in addition to 559 fixed sites (including Regional, provincial and district hospitals and some comprehensive health centers). The campaign will be conducted in the 34 provinces, targeting more than 5 million adult population aged 18 years and above using J&J and Sinopharm vaccines. Enough vaccine stock is available in country with more than 7 million doses to enable the campaign.

**Figure 13: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 4 June 2022**



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Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG\_CMYP\_2022)

Data source: DHIS2-MoPH-Afghanistan, Public dashboard: <http://covid.moph-dw.org/#/>