



COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan

Epidemiological Week 28 (10-16 July 2022)

Cumulative samples tested 637,451 In public laboratories only	Cumulative confirmed cases 183,572 Cumulative percent positivity (28.7%)	Cumulative confirmed deaths 7,731 CFR (4.2 %)
New samples tested in week28 2,160 ↓ 52 % In public laboratories only	New confirmed cases in week28 307 ↓ 42 % Weekly percent positivity (14%)	New confirmed deaths in week28 3 ↓ 25 % Weekly CFR (1.0%)

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change

Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (21 May – 16 Jul 2022)

Indicators	W21-22	W22-22	W23-22	W24-22	W25-22	W26-22	W27-22	W28-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	5,212	6,610	7,235	9,395	5,572	7,207	4,468	2,160	
Confirmed cases	457	512	463	519	498	566	531	307	
Percent positivity (%)	9	8	6	6	9	8	12	14	
Confirmed deaths	3	8	1	3	4	7	4	3	
CFR (%)	0.7	1.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.0	

Highlights of the week

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **637,451** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.
- In week 28-2022, **2,160** samples were tested in public labs, of which **307** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **14**) and **3** new deaths were reported. This represents **42%** and **25%** decrease in cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 27-2022, (Table 1). Reduction in different figures during week 28 coincided with long Eid El-Adha holidays. Although all COVID-19 labs were functional during the week 28 but most of the mild/moderate cases were not willing to go to the lab for testing, in addition to delayed reporting in the system due to Eid holidays.
- Cumulatively, **183,572** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **28.7**) of COVID-19 with **7,731** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 4.2%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.
- As of 16th July 2022, **90.2** %, of cases have recovered.
- In week 28-2022, 7 out of 8 regions reported decrease in the number of newly reported cases during week 28 compared to week 27 (Table 2). The top five provinces that reported positive cases included Kunduz (**53** cases), Baghlan (**23** cases), Kapisa (**23** cases), Parwan (**35** cases), and Noristan (**18** 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. Recently the WHO supported 14 GeneXpert PCR machines in 12 provinces with an average capacity of 1000 tests per day.

Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 28, 2022 (10-16 Jul 2022)

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 28 (%)	% of change compared to week 27	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		57 (19 %)	-49%	49,888 (27.2%)
Central West		57 (19%)	-53%	15,574(8.5%)
East		33 (11%)	-66%	21,816 (11.8%)
North		25 (8%)	-7%	15,149 (8.3%)
North East		98 (32%)	29%	19,438 (10.6%)
South		17 (6%)	-51%	21,917 (11.9%)
South East		18 (6%)	-44%	12,171 (6.6%)
West		2 (1%)	-94%	27,619 (15.1%)
National		307 (100%)	-42%	183,572 (100%)

- In week 28-2022, No new confirmed cases have been reported among health care workers.
- 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 – 16 Jul 2022)

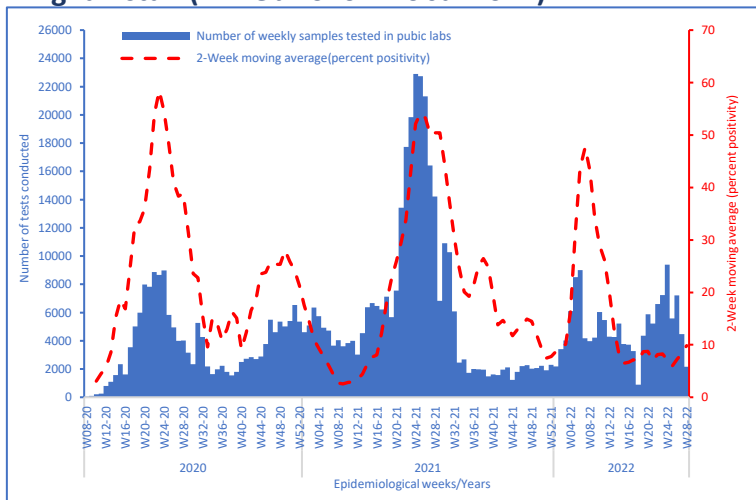


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)

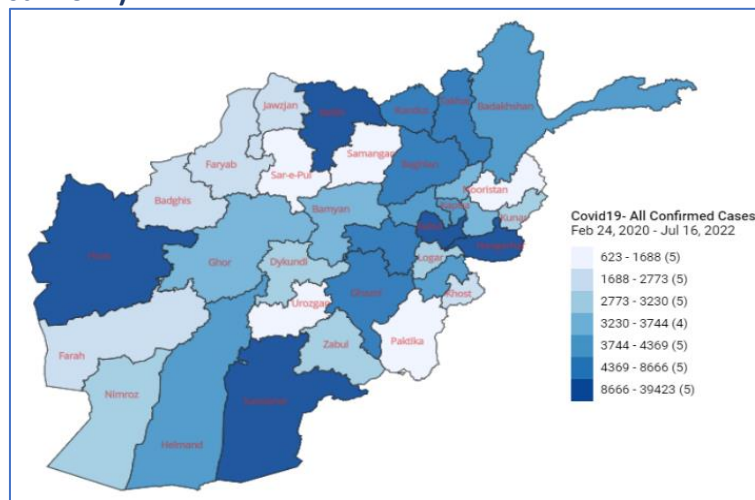


Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)

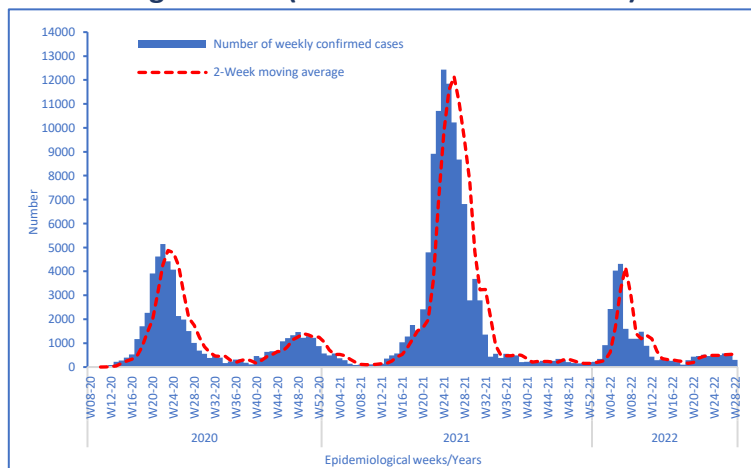


Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)

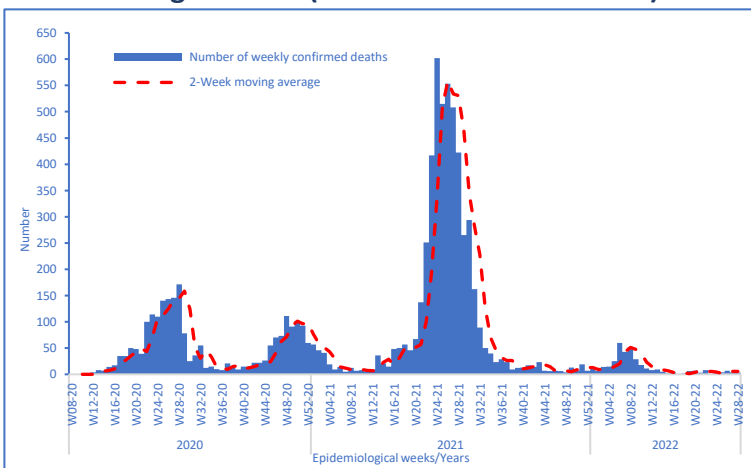


Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)

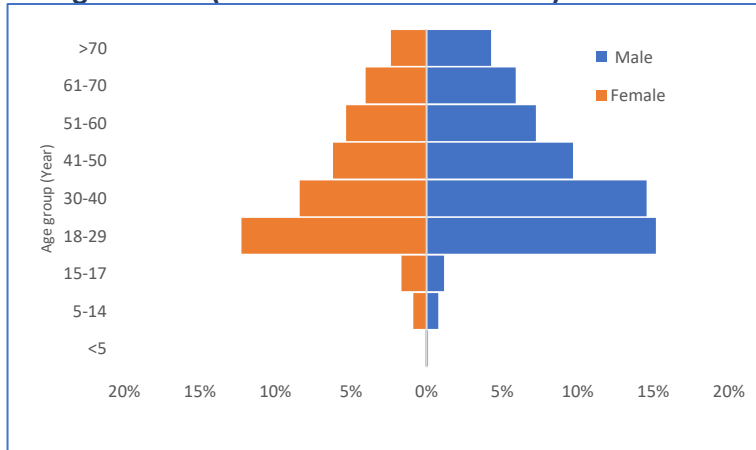
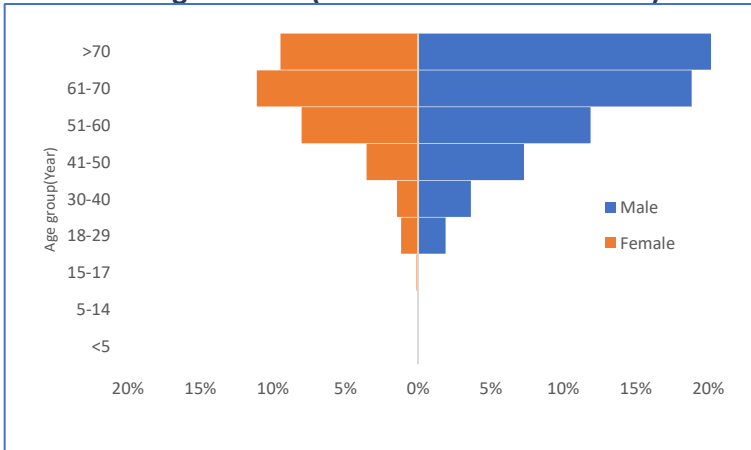


Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)



- 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 - 16 Jul 2022 (n=1,832)

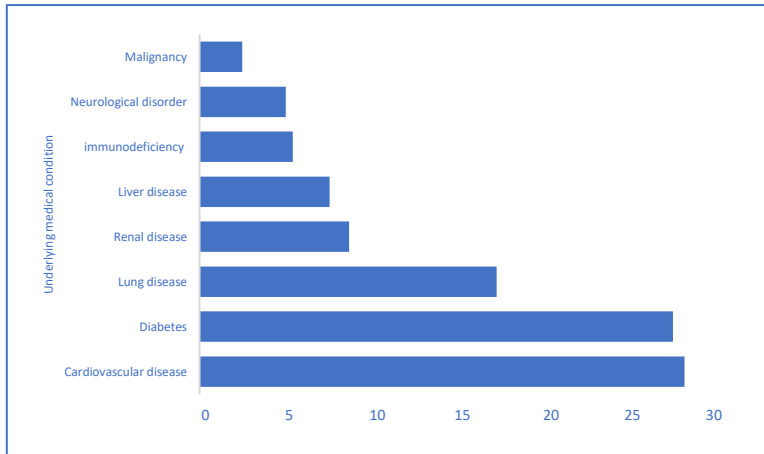


Figure 8: Weekly cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and recoveries in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 16 Jul 2022)

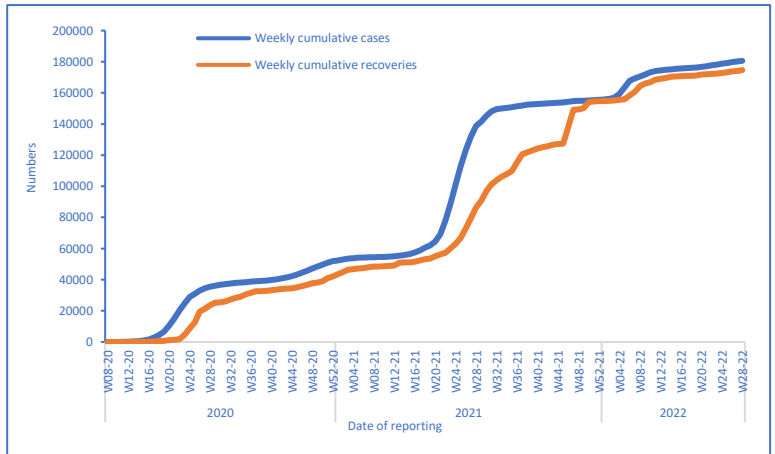
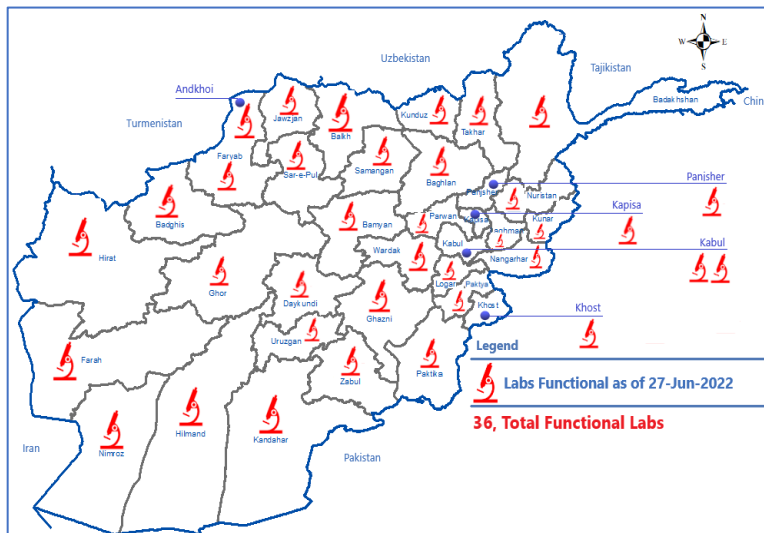


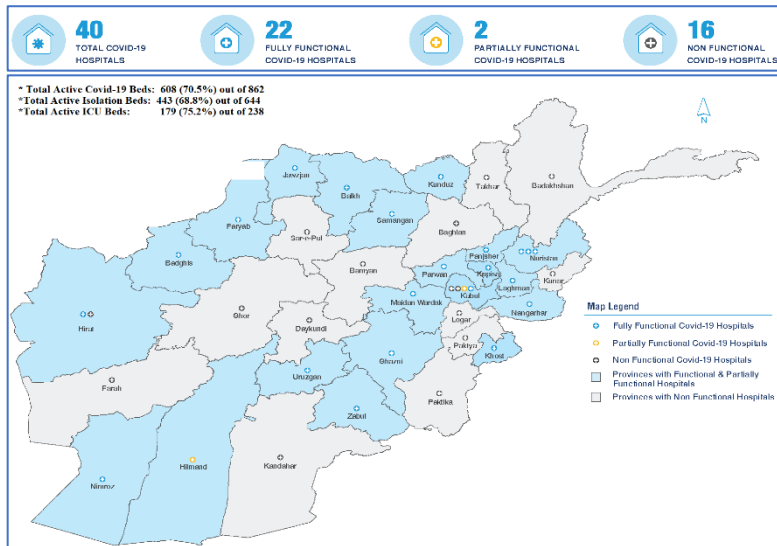
Figure 9: COVID-19 confirmatory diagnostic public laboratories in Afghanistan, as of 16 Jul 2022



Laboratory functionality updates:

- 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 16 July 2022, there are 36 out of 37 COVID-19 laboratories functional across 34 provinces.
- The testing capacity is 9,200 tests/24 hours.
- Recently the WHO supported 14 GeneXpert PCR machines in 12 provinces with an average capacity of 1000 tests per day.

Figure 10: COVID-19 hospitals status run by MoPH and other partners in Afghanistan, as of 16 Jul 2022



Integration of COVID-19 services into the current system

- Since the start of the pandemic, 40 COVID-19 hospitals were established in almost all provinces with number of beds ranging between 20 to 100.
- Since the beginning of 2022, there was a decrease in the COVID-19 incidence with low hospitalization rate in designated hospitals.
- The current bed occupancy rate (BOR) is around 38.2
- After discussion with the de facto MOPH, there was an agreement on the integration of the COVID-19 into the currently existing public hospitals. The integration process has started with a joint comprehensive assessment.
- The assessment will enable health sector to identify the current status of COVID-19 hospitals in the country and recommend integration options. The assessment started on 15 May 2022 and expected to last for 8 weeks using a standardized tool.

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

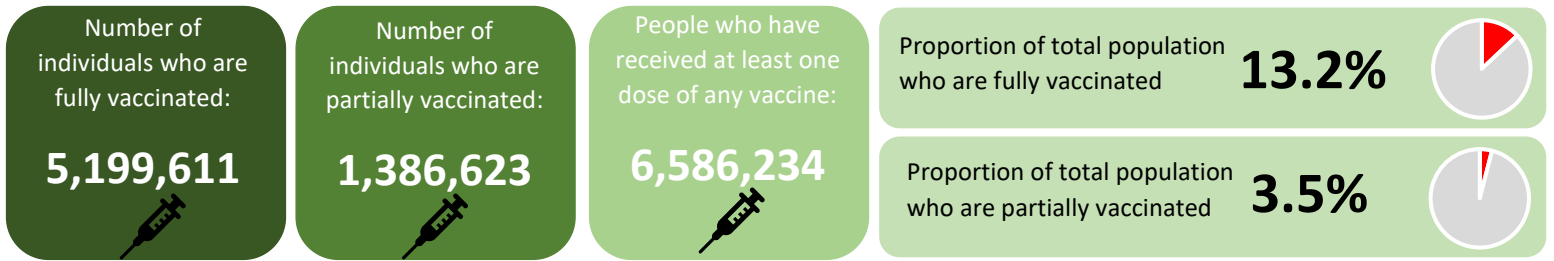


Figure 11: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 16 Jul 2022

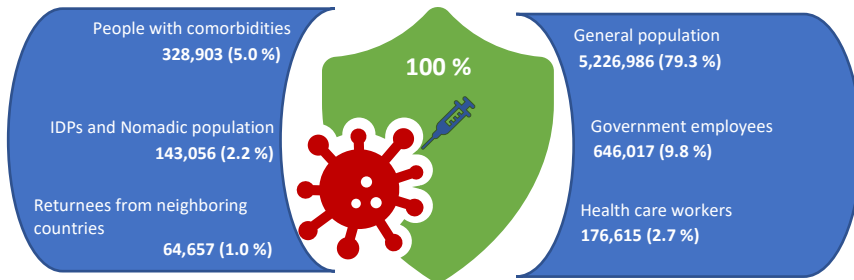


Figure 12: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 16 Jul 2022

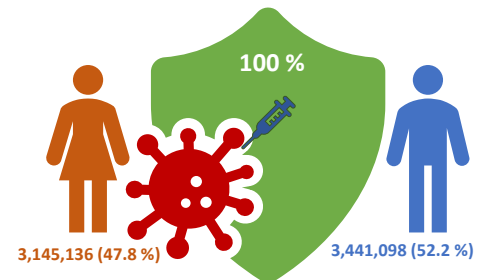
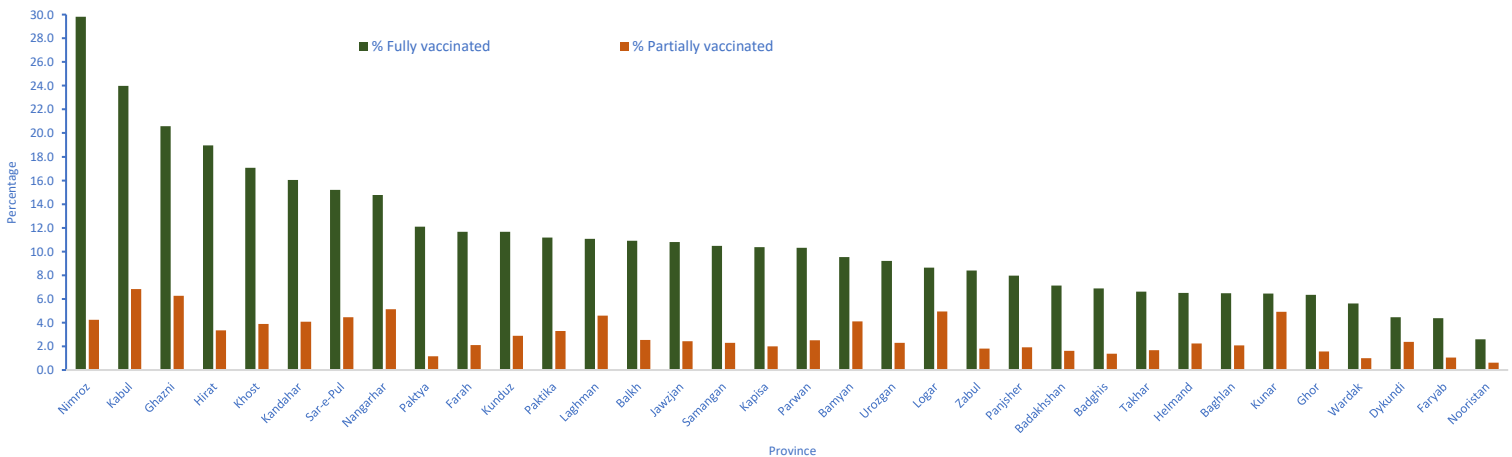


Figure 13: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 16 Jul 2022



COVID-19 vaccination campaign

- Currently, there are 252 fixed sites supported by WHO, UNICEF, CORDAID and Swedish Committee. There are ongoing discussions with the National EPI to establish additional 313 fixed sites for covid-19 vaccination. Whereas 1390 mobile teams will be established for COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The campaign is planned to launch in July 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/#/>