



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #09-2024

No. 09 (25 Feb - 02 Mar 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	Measles	ARI	COVID-19	AWD	CCHF	Dengue fever
Cumulative Cases 2024	8,411	360,470	1,948	17,350	47	456
Death 2024 (CFR %)	37 (0.4)	842 (0.2)	17 (0.9)	12 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cumulative Cases 2023	25,876	1,384,646	*230,658	222,249	1,243	1,496
Death 2023 (CFR %)	64 (0.2)	2,798 (0.2)	*7,972 (3.5)	101 (0.05)	114 (9.2)	1 (0.07)

(Data from 611 (99.7%) out of 613 sentinel sites)

* These figures represent the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and associated deaths recorded from February 2020 to December 2023.

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan-02 Mar 2024)

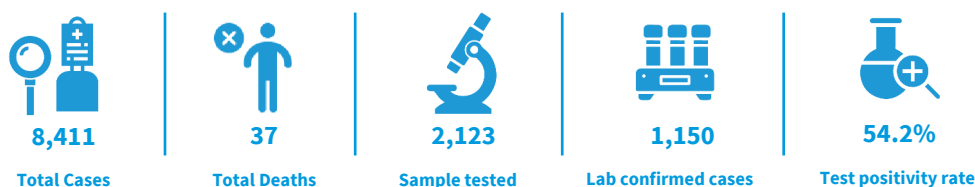


Table 1: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	W09-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	619	820	822	976	1,141	1,118	1,190	1,232	
Suspected deaths	2	2	3	7	4	6	5	8	
CFR (%)	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	

- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases demonstrates a rising trend since the third week of November 2023. This could be explained by increased community transmission exacerbated by the winter season and low immunization coverage (Figure 1).
- During week 09-2024, a total of 1,232 suspected cases and 8 associated deaths were reported compared to 1,190 cases and 5 deaths during the previous week. This is the highest number of suspected cases reported weekly since week 26-2022 (1,574 cases).
- The eight deaths were reported from 5 provinces: Herat (3), Balkh (2), Baghlan (1), Jawzjan (1), and Kandahar (1); out of the total deaths, 4 were females, while all of them were under-five children.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 8,411 suspected measles cases and 37 deaths (CFR=0.4%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 6,789 (80.7%) were under-five children, and 3,847 (45.7%) were females.
- Considering the number of suspected cases since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles per 10,000 population was in Samangan (8.15) followed by Balkh (6.42), Farah (5.34), and Khost (4.21) (Figure 2).



Figure 1. The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 to 02 Mar 2024 (N= 34,287)

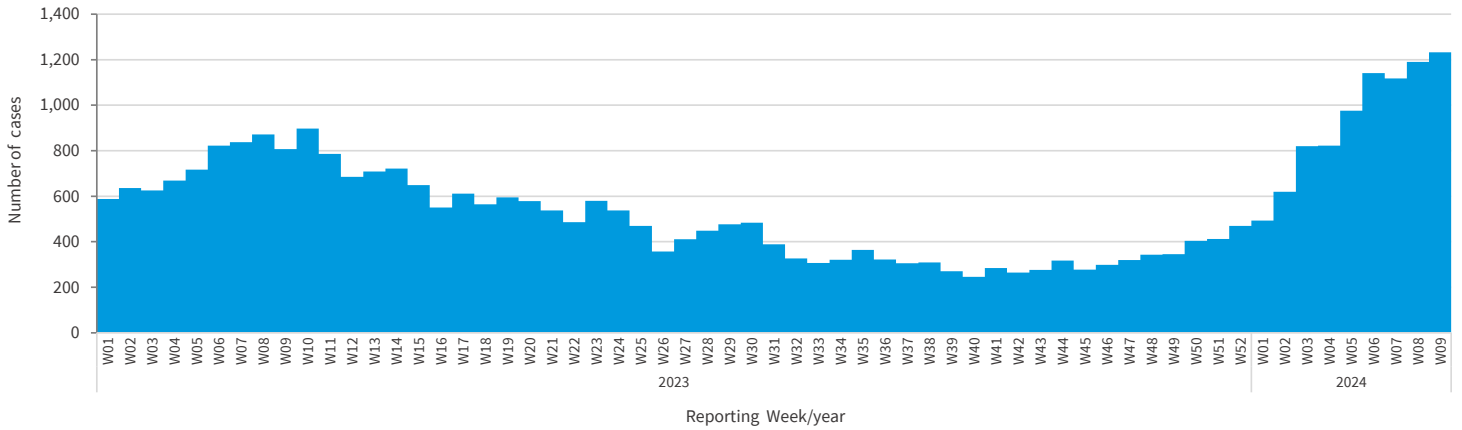


Figure 2. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-02 Mar 2024

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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan–02 Mar 2024

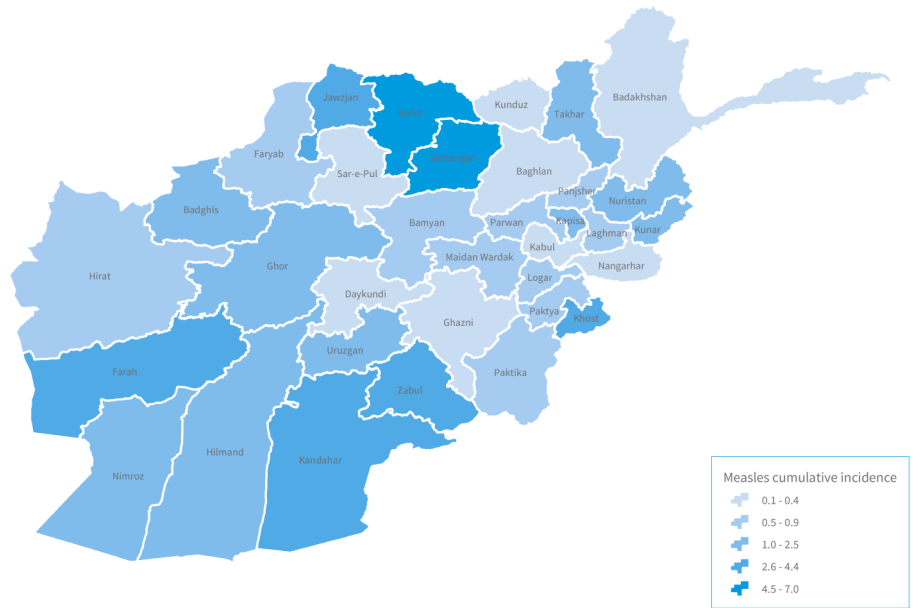
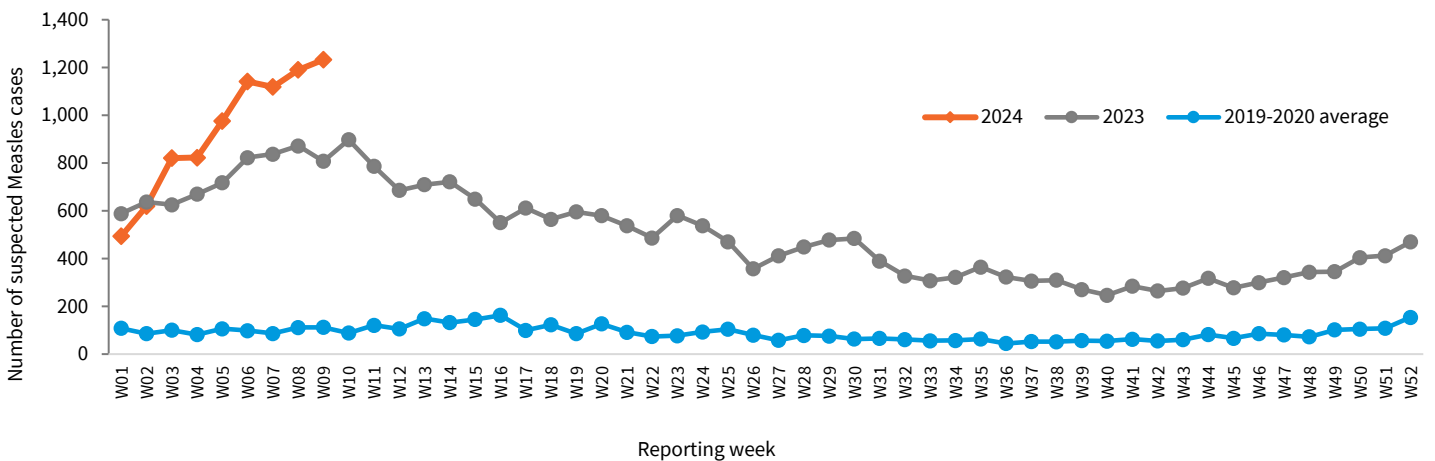


Figure 3. Comparison between suspected measles cases trend in 2024 vs 2023 and 2-years average (2019-2020), Afghanistan



Comparing the trend of 2024 with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020 and the trend of 2023 reveals that despite prevention efforts, the number of suspected measles cases has not decreased to the endemic levels observed in 2019-2020 and has even surpassed 2023 trend (Figure 3).

Updates on the preparedness and response to the Measles outbreak

- During week 09-2024, a total of 186 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in Nangarhar and Urozgan provinces by the implementing partners in response to the measles outbreak. This brings the total number of vaccinated children to 5,910 since Jan 2024.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)

(01 Jan-02 Mar 2024)



***360,470**

Total ARI Cases



***842**

Total Deaths



****799**

Samples tested for influenza



****30**

Lab confirmed



3.8%

Influenza test positivity ratio

*Currently ARI related data (morbidity and mortality) are reported from 613 surveillance sentinel sites across 34 provinces in the country.

**Currently, there are 10 functional influenza surveillance sentinel sites for both ILI and SARI in ten provinces of Afghanistan. At each site, there is one trained influenza surveillance assistant, collecting specimen and epidemiological data from 4 ILI and 6 SARI cases per week in the ARI season and sending them to the National Influenza Center (NIC) for testing.

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W2-24	W3-24	W4-24	W5-24	W6-24	W7-24	W8-24	W9-24	Trend lines
Suspected cases	38,881	42,010	41,919	40,339	43,053	41,874	38,948	35,375	
Suspected deaths	106	95	91	98	95	92	81	93	
CFR (%)	0.27	0.23	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.26	

- The epi curve shows an increase in ARI cases since the 3rd week of September 2023, which could be linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country; however, a steady decrease is observed during the past 3 weeks (Figure 4).
- During week 09-2024, a total of 35,375 cases of ARI pneumonia and 93 associated deaths were reported, compared to 38,948 cases and 81 deaths in the previous week.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 360,470 ARI pneumonia cases and 842 associated deaths were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 227,923 (63.2%) were

under-five children and 177,781 (49.3%) were females. The cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province is shown in (Figure 5).

- Out of total deaths, 734 (87.2%) were under-five children and 387 (46.0%) were females.
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the three preceding years (2020-2022); the higher number in 2023-24 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to the enhancement of the surveillance system and expansion of surveillance sentinel sites (Figure 6).

Figure 4. The epidemiological curve of ARI Pneumonia cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 – 02 Mar 2024 (N=1,745,116)

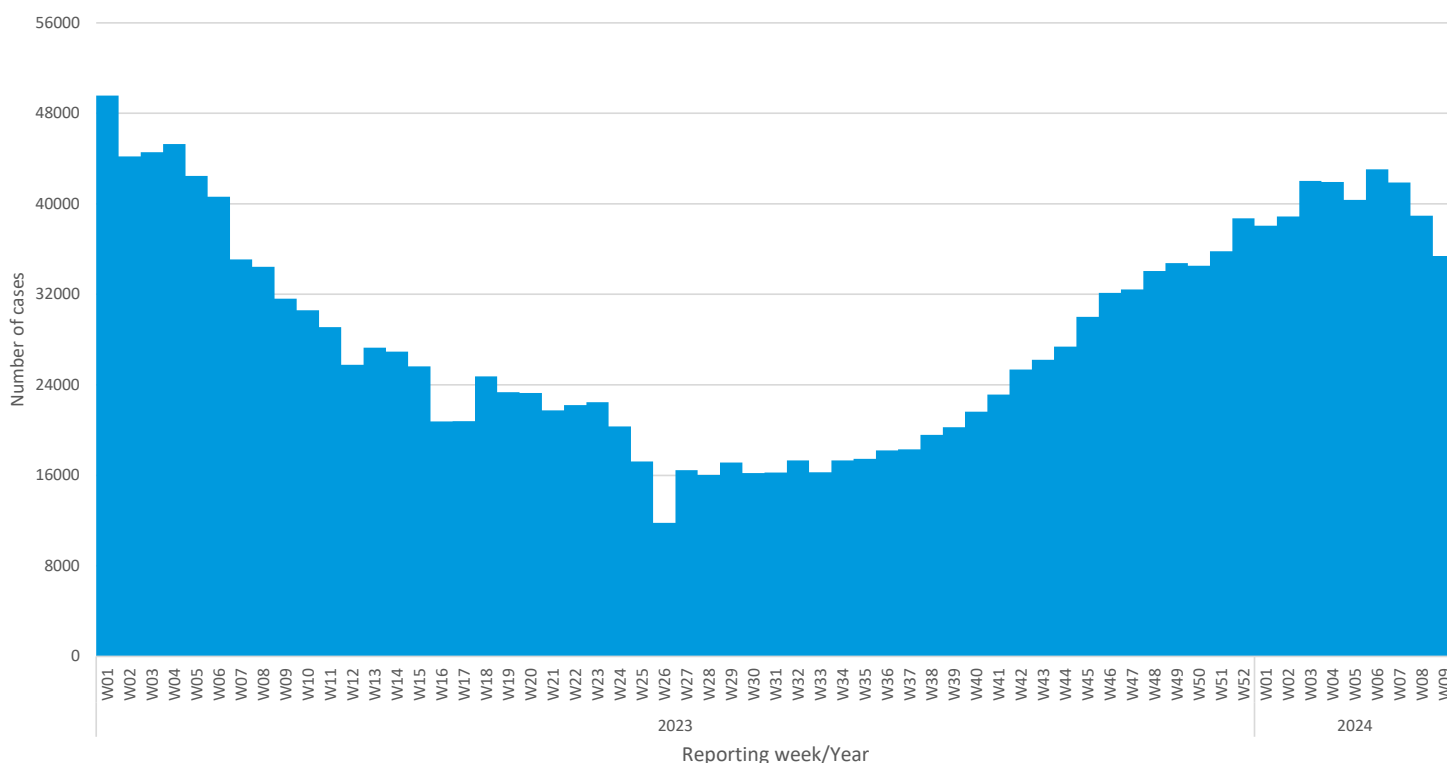


Figure 5. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan 01 Jan- 02 Mar 2024

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ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province
01 Jan-02 Mar 2024

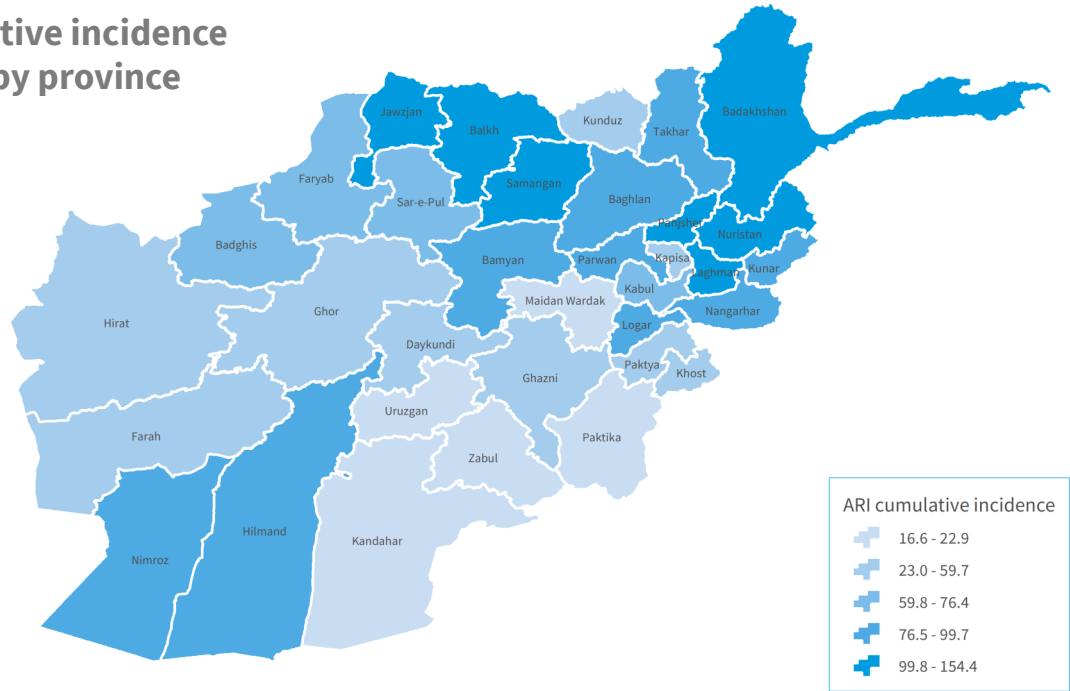
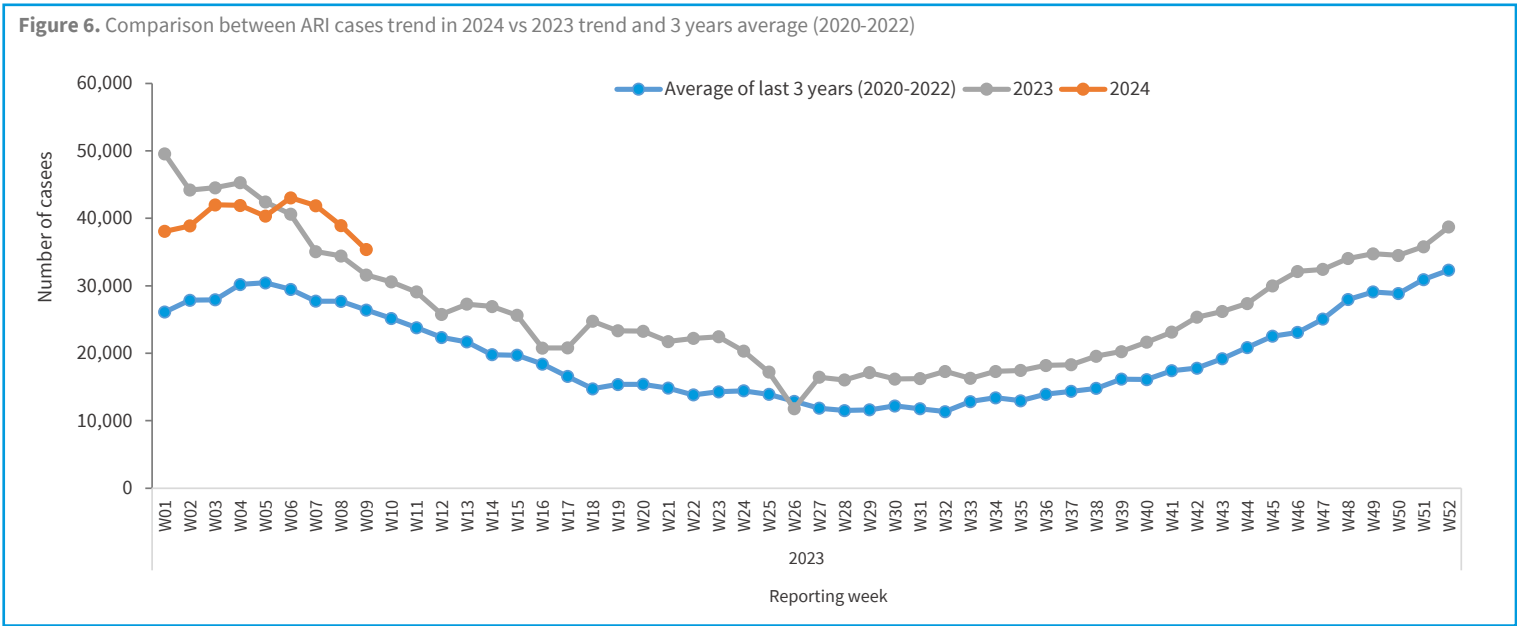


Figure 6. Comparison between ARI cases trend in 2024 vs 2023 trend and 3 years average (2020-2022)



Updates on the response activities to the ARI outbreak

Lab and supplies

- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 6,500 Viral Transport Medium (VTM) has been distributed to North-east and Central-east NDSR offices.

Case management

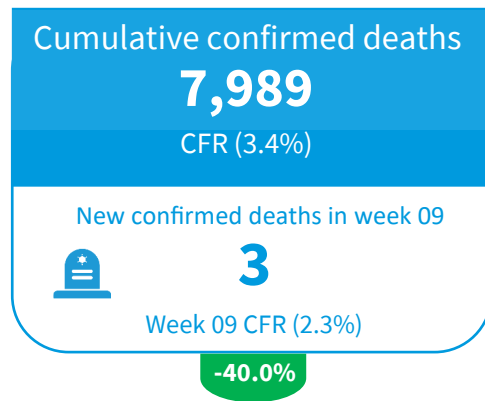
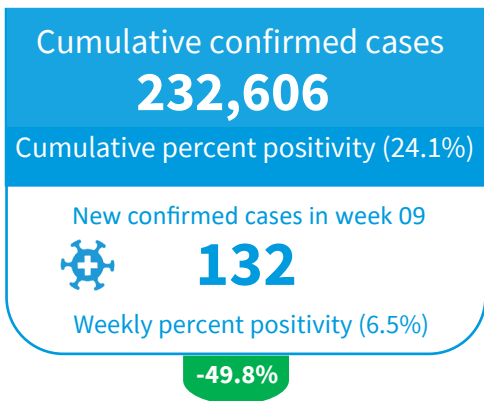
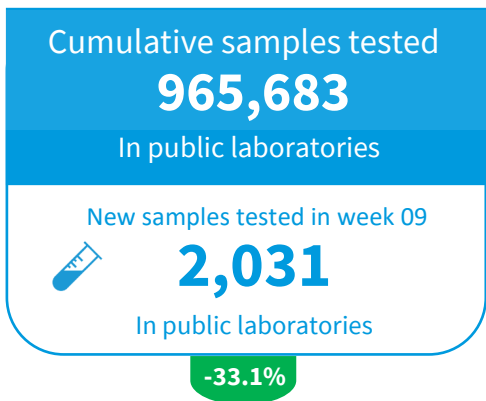
- As a part of the winter preparedness and response plan to ARI in 2023-24, a total of 397 case management kits have been prepositioned in the WHO main office and regional sub-offices. These kits are being used in health facilities nationwide to respond to the ARI outbreak.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Since the beginning of 2024, more than 85,000 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (60,000 Posters and 25,000 Brochures) on ARI have been handed over by WHO to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as part of the countrywide winterization response to ARI. These IEC materials are being used in health facilities and affected communities across the country.

COVID-19

(24 Feb 2020 – 02 Mar 2024)

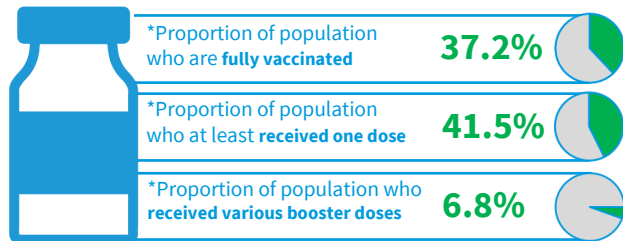


Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



*The MoPH/EPI has changed the frequency of COVID-19 vaccination reporting from weekly to monthly, thus the vaccination updates will be added on monthly basis starting from Feb 2024.



* The denominator is 43,100,596 based on OCHA estimation 2024

Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W02	W03	W04	W05	W06	W07	W08	W09	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,182	3,176	2,363	2,781	3,104	2,776	3,034 *	2,031	
Confirmed cases	191	253	210	235	240	221	263 *	132	
Percent positivity (%)	8.8	8.0	8.9	8.5	7.7	8.0	8.7	6.5	
Deaths	0	5	0	1	1	0	5	3	
CFR (%)	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.9	2.3	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 08-2024, the number of samples tested, and the number of confirmed cases were modified from 2,806 to 3,034 and from 254 to 263 respectively.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization in number of confirmed COVID-19 cases at low level since the 3rd week of June 2023, which could be attributed to a decrease in attendance of infected individuals at healthcare facilities and an improvement in vaccination coverage among eligible populations across the country (37.2%).
- During week 09-2024, a total of 2,031 samples were tested in public labs, of which 132 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 6.5%). Additionally, three COVID-19-associated deaths were reported this week.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths shows a significant decrease compared to the previous week (49.8% and 40.0% respectively) (Figures 7 and 8).
- During week 09-2024, among 132 confirmed cases, 9.1% (12 cases) were hospitalized, while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 9).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020; 965,683 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.

Figure 7. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 02 Mar 2024 (cases=232,606)

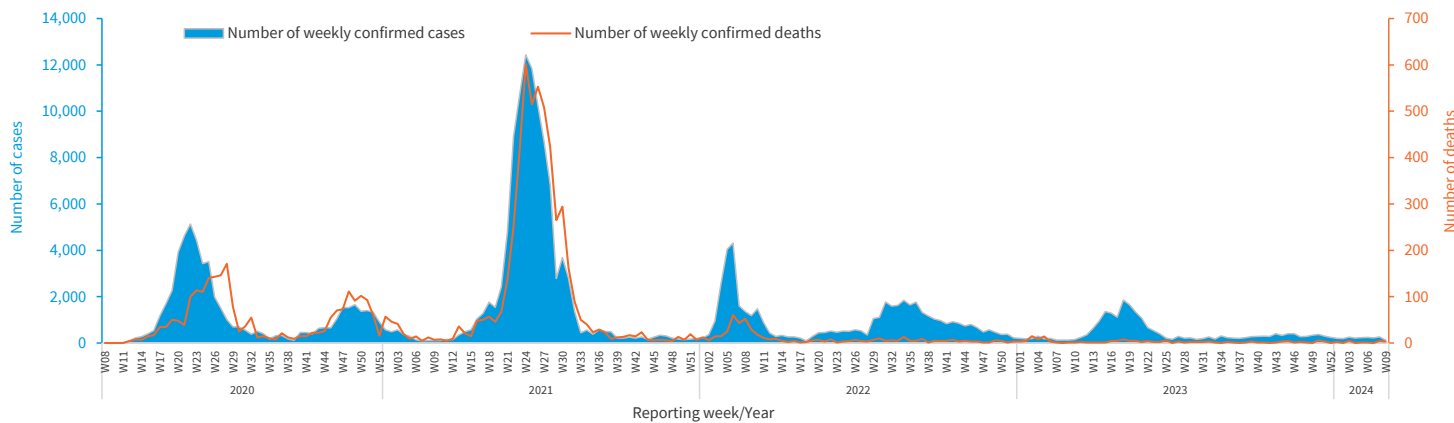


Figure 8. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 02 Mar 2024 (cases=24,712, deaths=160)

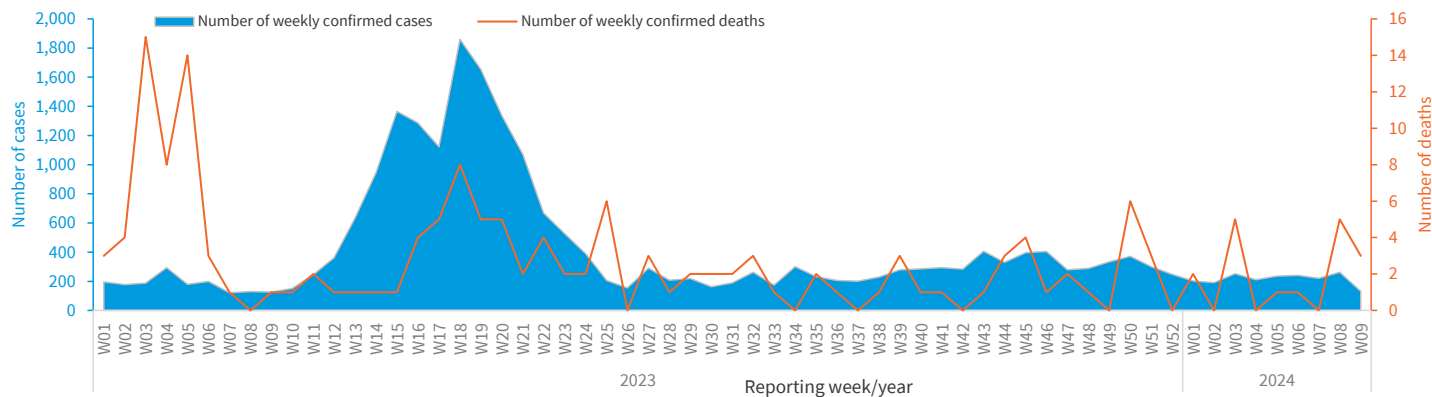
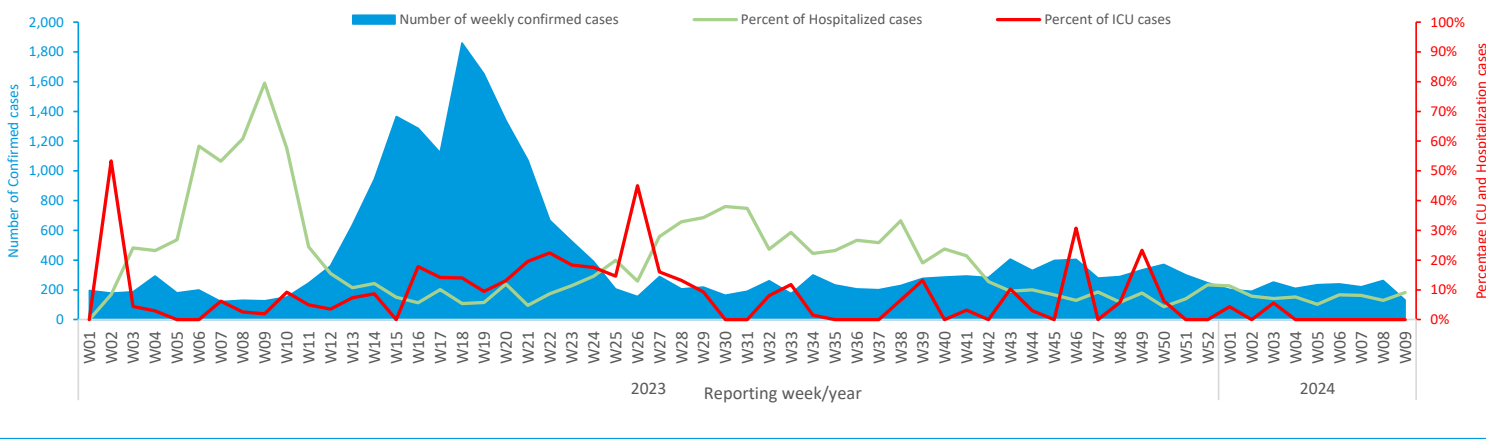


Figure 9. The weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases and number of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan between 01 Jan 2023 and 02 Mar 2024



Update on the response activities to COVID-19

Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 50 kits (25 tests per kit) of COVID-19 RDTs have been distributed to each of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, and Kunduz NDSR offices.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan-02 Mar 2024)

Table 4: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	W09-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	2,068	2,391	1,966	1,829	1,722	1,808	1,787	1,784	
Suspected deaths	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	
CFR (%)	0.19	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.11	



- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023 with almost stabilization during the past 5 weeks. The decline could be explained by seasonal changes towards winter in the country.
- During week 09-2024, 1,784 AWD with dehydration cases and 2 associated deaths were reported from 117 districts, which shows stabilization in the number of cases compared to the previous week (Figure 10). The cumulative incidence of AWD with dehydration cases per 10,000 population by province is illustrated in Figure 11.
- The deaths were both under-five females, reported from Kabul and Urozgan provinces.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 17,350 AWD with dehydration cases and 12 associated deaths (CFR 0.1%)

- were reported, out of which 9,406 (54.2%) were under-five children and 8,638 (49.8%) were females.
- The number of districts reported AWD with dehydration has reached 229 since the beginning of 2024 while no new district reported AWD with dehydration cases during this week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 508 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted on AWD with dehydration cases, of which 75 tests turned positive (positivity rate 14.8%).

Figure 10. The epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023– 02 Mar 2024 (N=239,599)

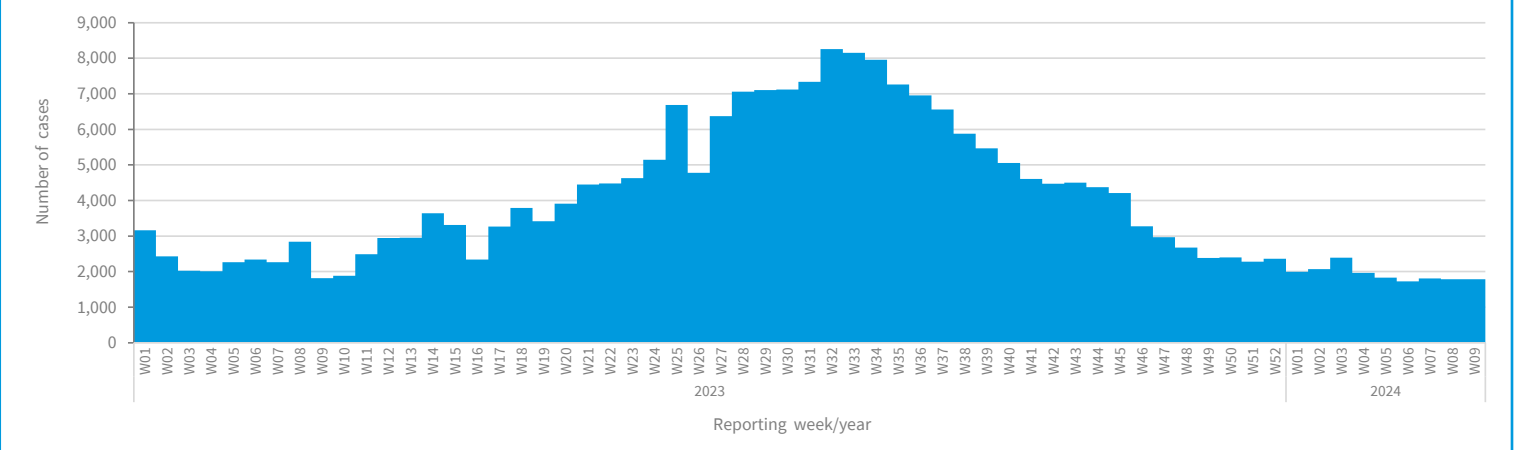
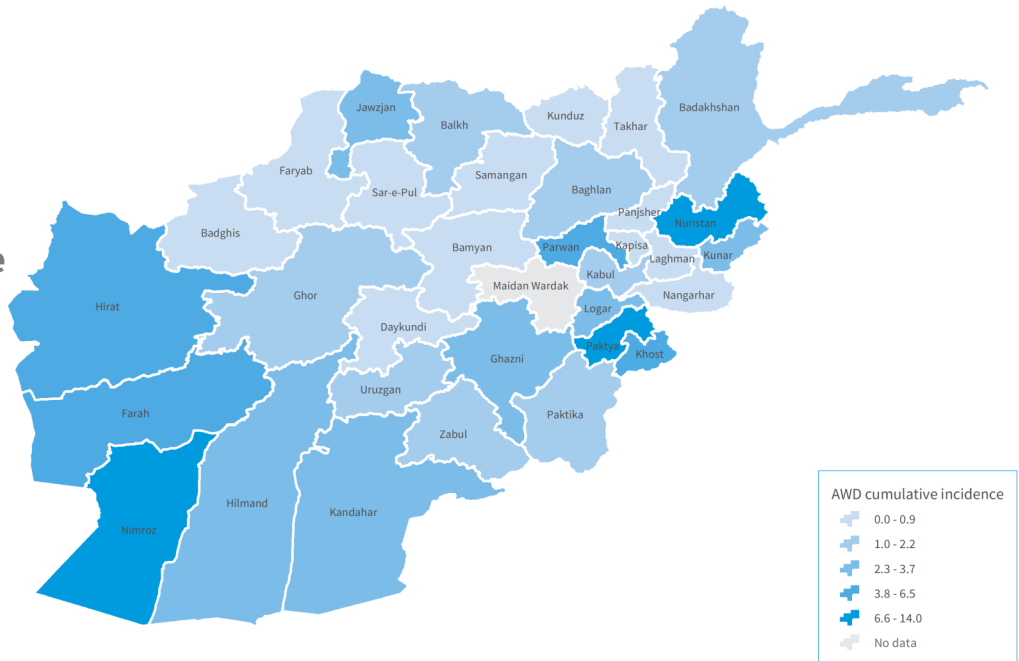


Figure 11. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 02 Mar 2024

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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 02 Mar 2024



Updates on the preparedness and response to the AWD with dehydration outbreak

Surveillance

- During week 09-2024, 75 surveillance sentinel sites focal points (all males) of the East region (Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan) were trained on surveillance procedures. This brings the total number of sentinel sites focal points trained to 168 in Kabul and the East region.
- The case management kits, lab reagents and RCCE materials supplied during 2023 are being used for the response to AWD with dehydration outbreaks reported during 2024.

WASH

During the last two weeks of Feb 2024 (16 - 29 Feb 2024), the following activities were conducted as WASH response:

- Provision of clean drinking water to more than 8,000 individuals by rehabilitation and installation of water supply sys-



tems in 5 provinces (Kabul, Khost, Logar, Nangarhar and Paktika).

- Provision of clean water to 2,000 individuals by chlorination of wells in 3 provinces (Badghis, Logar and Paktya).
- Distribution of hygiene kits to more than 11,000 individuals in 7 provinces (Badghis, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktika and Paktya).
- Conduct water treatment promotion sessions for more than 1,000 individuals in 2 provinces (Khost and Paktika).
- Conduct hygiene promotions sessions to around 18,000 individuals in 10 provinces (Badghis, Ghazni, Kabul, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktika and Paktya).
- Provision of sanitary facilities to around 1,850 individuals by installations and rehabilitations of latrines in 4 provinces (Badghis, Khost, Kunar, and Paktya).

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan-02 Mar 2024)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	W09-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	10	7	4	2	3	4	7	7	
Suspected 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	

- The epi-curve indicates that the peak for suspected CCHF cases was during the week 27-2023 with a declining trend in the weeks later, while a stabilization is observed in recent weeks in 2024. The decline could be attributed to seasonal changes toward winter and response activities (Figures 12 & 13).
- During week 09-2024, 7 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, showing stabilization compared to the cases reported in the previous week (Table 5).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 47 suspected cases of CCHF with no associated deaths were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 13 (27.7%) of them were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 30 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, of which one was reported positive in Balkh province (positivity rate 3.3%).

Figure 12: The epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023–02 Mar 2024, (N=1,290)

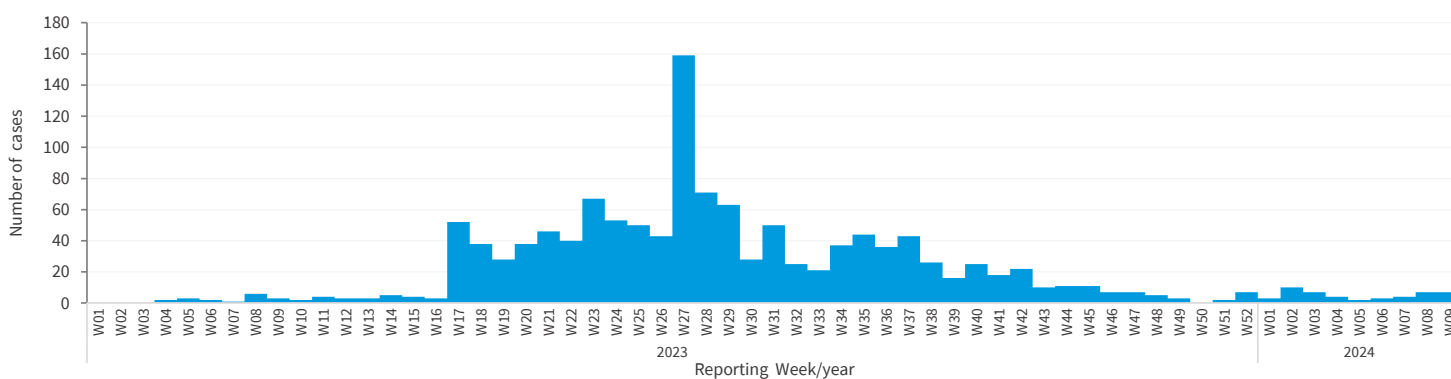


Figure 13: Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023 and 2024, Afghanistan

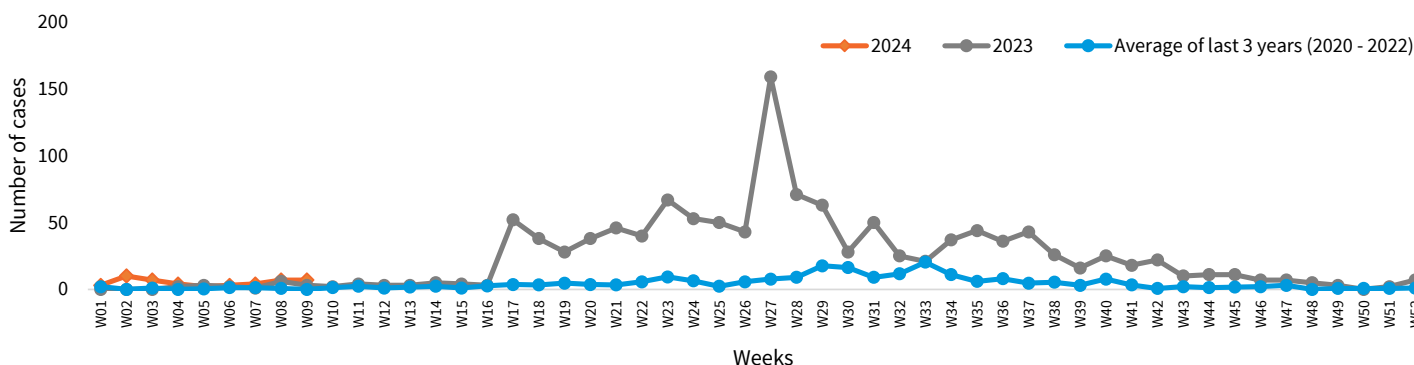
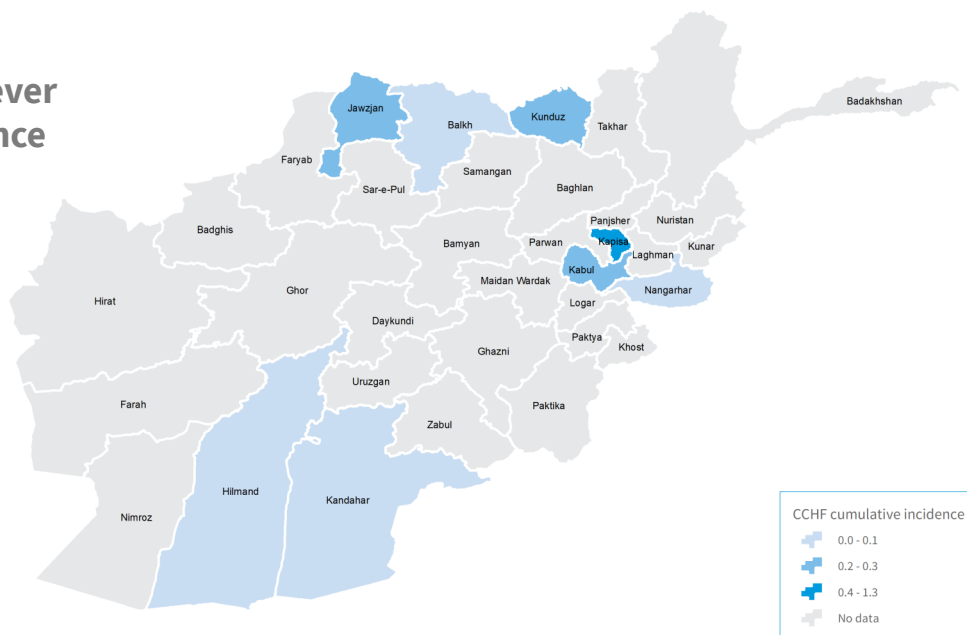




Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 02 Mar 2024

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Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province 01 Jan -02 Mar 2024



Updates on the response to the CCHF outbreak.

- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 469 doses of ribavirin 200mg tablets and 1,530 ribavirin injections have been supplied to 7 WHO sub-offices across the country.
- In the same period, the following activities have been conducted as preparedness and response to outbreak of CCHF in 7 provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Takhar) through the partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
 - A total of 1,000 tick samples and 500 blood samples have been collected from cattles.
 - A total of 26,020 households' animal stables and 46 live animal markets as well as 36 commercial dairy forms have been sprayed.
 - Awareness sessions related to the source of CCHF, route of transmission, and signs and symptoms of CCHF have been conducted in 60,715 households.
 - A total of 28,043 flyers and stickers were distributed between the targeted communities.
 - A total of 280 veterinarians have been trained on the case definition of CCHF as well as the collection, storage, and transportation of the blood and tick samples to the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) for confirmation and vector control activities.
 - A total of 700 butchers received training on preventive measures against CCHF and the safe handling of animals.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan-02 Mar 2024)


456
Total Cases


0
Total Deaths


255
Sample tested


121
Lab confirmed cases






53.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 Jan - 02 Mar 2024)

Indicators	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	W09-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	31	55	68	56	54	49	36	57	
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	



- Overall, the epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in the number of suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week Aug 2023; this could have been linked with increased vector activity and enhanced surveillance in vector-borne disease detection and reporting (Figure 15).
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases in 2024 is higher than 2 years average (2021-2022) and have even surpassed the previous year's trend. (Figure 16).
- During week 09-2024, 57 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported only from Nangarhar province, significantly higher than 36 cases reported during the preceding week from the same province.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 456 suspected cases of dengue fever and no deaths were reported, out of which 277 (60.7%) were females, and 3 (0.7%) were under 5 years of age. The geographical distribution and weekly change rate are shown in Figure 17.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 221 samples have been collected, out of which 121 were positive (positivity 53.8%).

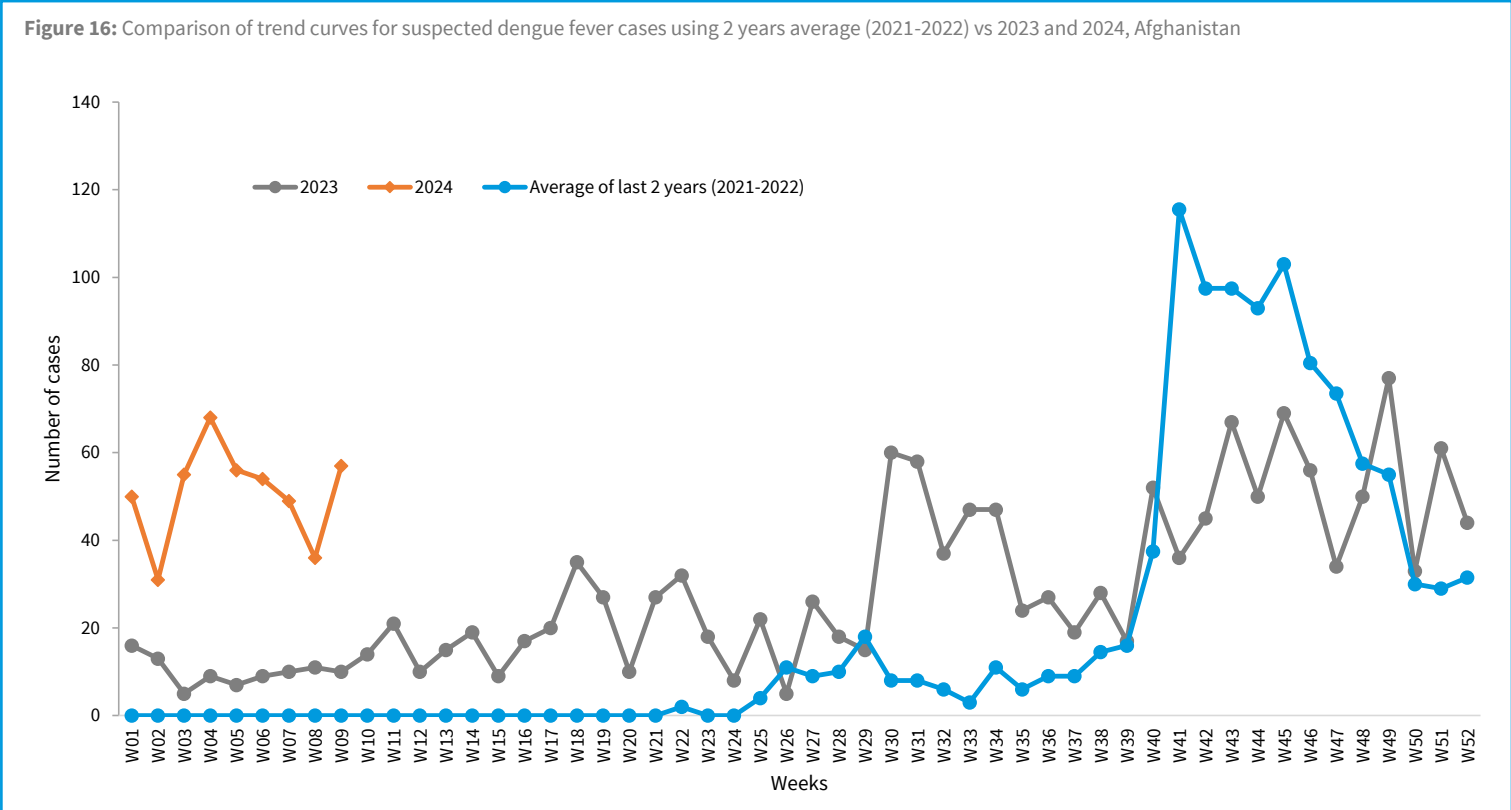
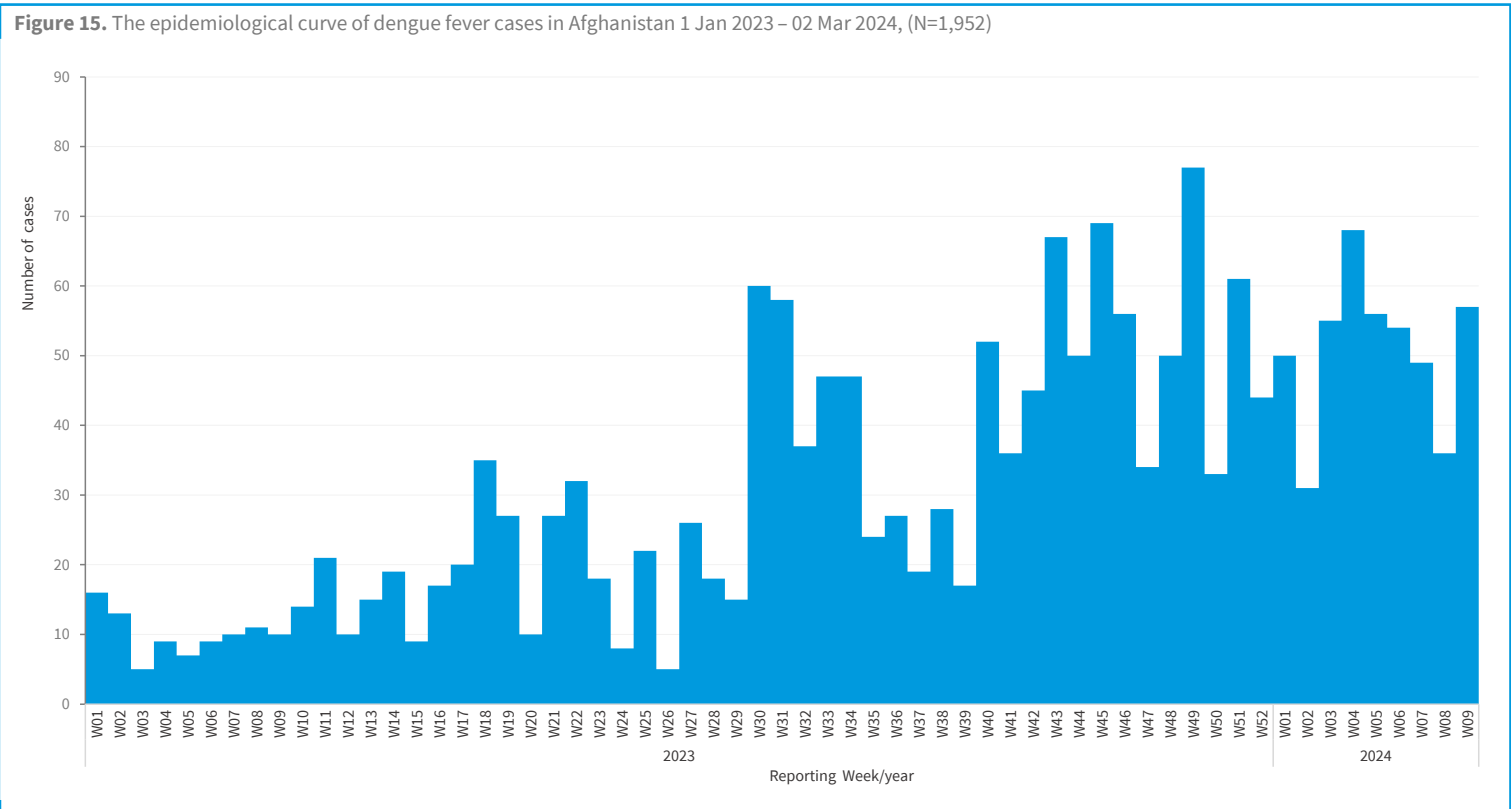
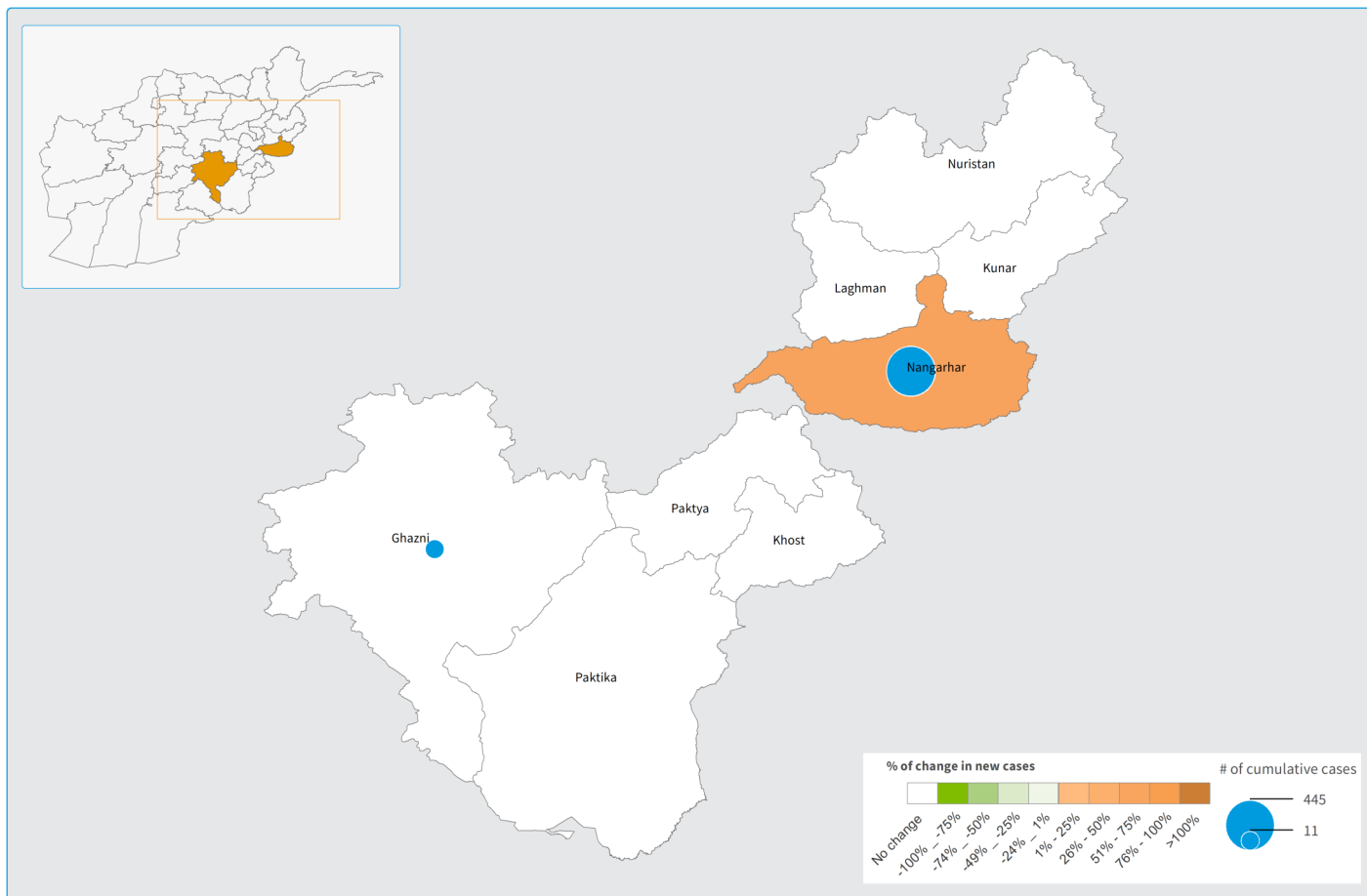


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 02 Mar 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 08 and 09, 2024)



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, AGCHO. Creation date: 02 Mar 2024.

Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 380 Kits (10 tests per kit) of dengue RDTs have been delivered to Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar NDSR offices.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds

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