



### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #37-2023

No. 37/(10-16 Sep 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	CCHF (Jan - Sep 23)	AWD (Jan - Sep 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Sep 23)	Measles (Jan - Sep 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Sep 23)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> <small>(Data from 609 (99.4%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>165,384</b>	<b>225,958</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>777</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>104 (9.7)</b>	<b>80 (0.05)</b>	<b>7,945 (3.5)</b>	<b>62 (0.3)</b>	<b>1 (0.1)</b>

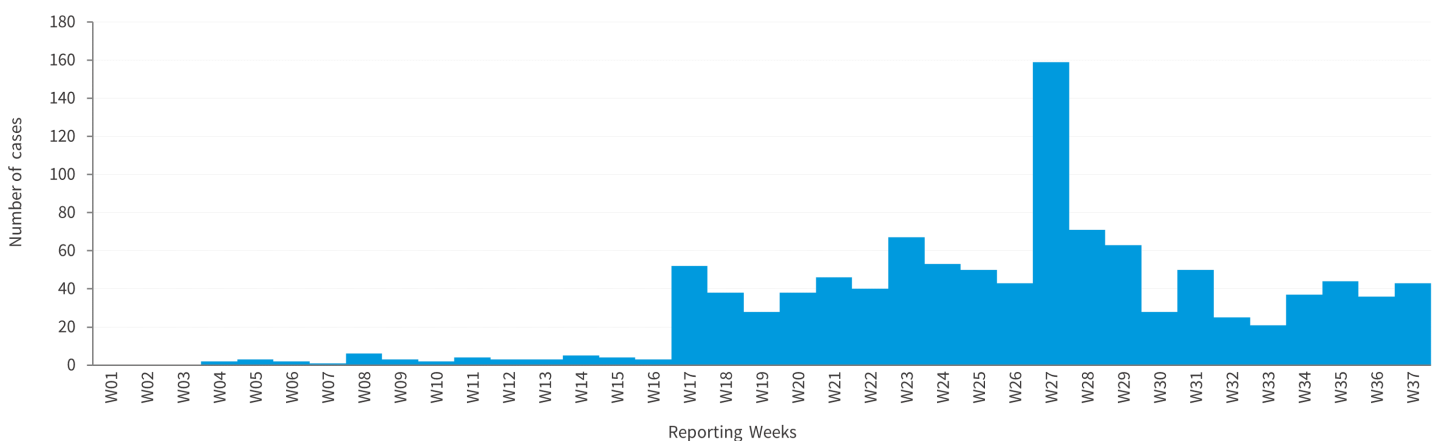
### Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 16 Sep 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Jul - 16 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	28	50	25	21	37	44	36	43	
% Change cases	-55.6	78.6	-50.0	-16.0	76.2	18.9	-18.2	19.4	
Suspected deaths	3	3	2	2	4	4	1	3	
CFR (%)	10.7	6.0	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.1	2.8	7.0	

- During week 37-2023, a total of 43 new cases of CCHF with 3 new deaths were reported, which shows 19.4% increase in number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 1, Figure 1).
- The reported deaths were from Kabul, Kapisa and Nangarhar provinces and all were above-five years males.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,073 and 104, respectively (CFR 9.7%) (Figure2).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces; Kabul (48, 46.2%) and Balkh (15, 14.4%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,072 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 339 (31.6%) were females.
- Totally, 977 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 352 samples were positive (positivity = 36.0%).

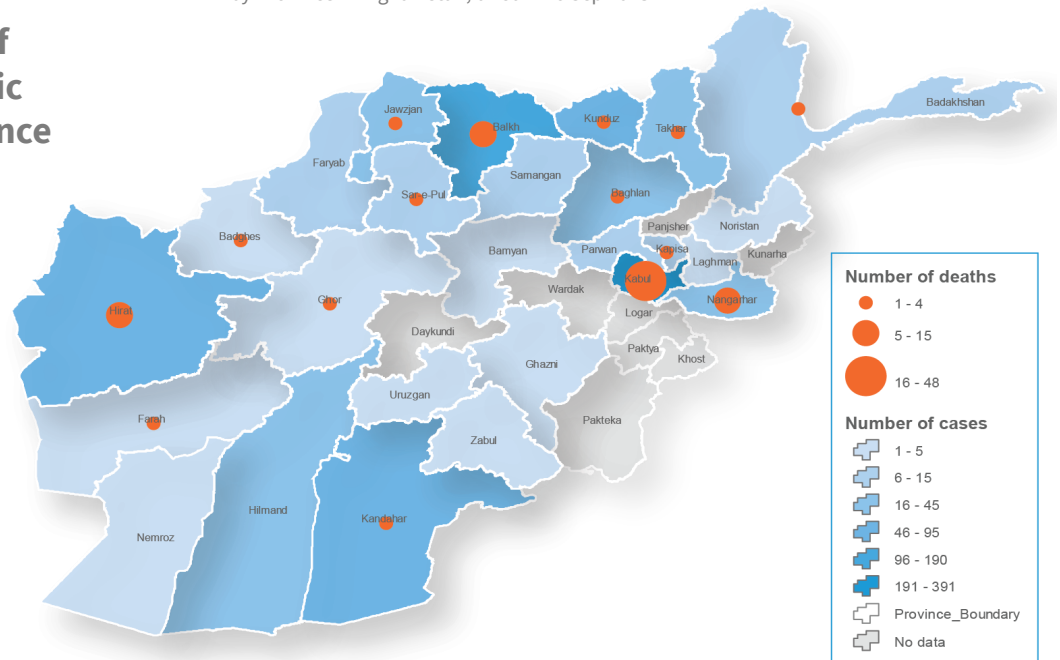
Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan–16 Sep 2023 (N=1,073)



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## Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 16 Sep 2023

Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–16 Sep 2023



### Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

#### Coordination and leadership

- A national consultative workshop to discuss the implementation of One Health in Afghanistan has been carried out for 2 days (on 5-6 Sep 2023) with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
  - ◊ Technical experts from different agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Dairy Form Union and veterinary department of Kabul University participated in the workshop.
  - ◊ During the workshop, six technical important areas were extensively discussed, where the current structure, gaps and challenges were highlighted (leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance).
  - ◊ Mian recommendations of the workshop included: gaining political support from the government; development of a strategic/national plan for and establishment of a national level Technical Working Group (TWG) were recommended by the participants.

#### Surveillance

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.

#### Laboratory and supplies

- One Automated Nucl Acic extraction machine was installed in Balkh province RRL, and lab staff received on the job training. The instrument will help strengthening lab testing capacity by decreasing the turn around time and safety of staff while dealing with a high threat pathogens like CCHF virus.
- A total of 14 CCHF PCR kits have been distributed to CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs across the country since the beginning of 2023.
- On-the-job training has been conducted for 6 regional reference laboratory staff; the capacities have been built to utilize the PCR and ELISA technologies for laboratory confirmation of CCHF.

#### Case management

- A total of 150 oral ribavirin (antiviral medicine) courses (each course containing 84 tablets), and 200 personal protective equipment for infection prevention and control have been supplied to the North region since the beginning of 2023.
- A total of 5,000 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul IDH and Nangarhar provinces to support CCHF case management.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 healthcare workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.

#### RCCE

- During week 37-2023, a 3-days training of trainers (ToT) was conducted on risk communication and community engagement for 25 officers of Ministry of Public Health including 8 females, in Kabul province.
- A total of 199,300 information education materials (IEC) on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH; and a total of 34,501 people have been reached through RCCE campaigns in Kandahar, Helmand and Herat provinces.

## Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 16 Sep 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Jul - 16 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	7,116	7,333	8,255	8,153	7,959	7,263	6,953 *	6,575	
% Change cases	0.2	3.0	12.6	-1.2	-2.4	-8.7	-4.3	-5.4	
Suspected deaths	4	5	4	3	7	2	4 **	0	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	

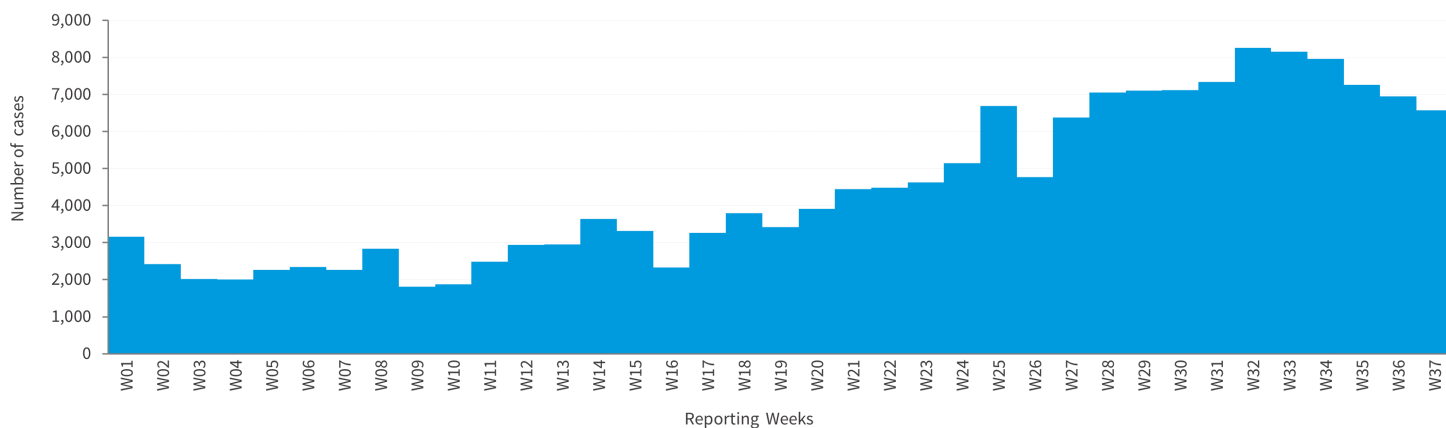
\*Delayed reporting was experienced during week 36-2023 as the number of AWD with dehydration cases were modified from 6,922 to 6,953.

\*\*Data entry error was experienced during weeks 36-2023 and number of deaths were modified from 6 to 4.

- During week 37-2023; 6,575 AWD with dehydration cases and no associated deaths were reported from 223 districts which shows 5.4% decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 3).
- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- Out of all reported deaths, 66 (82.5%) were under 5 and 35 (43.7%) were female.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 165,384 AWD with dehydration

- cases were reported, out of which 94,367 (57.1%) were under-five children and 82,293 (49.8%) were females.
- During week 37-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 3,082 RDTs were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

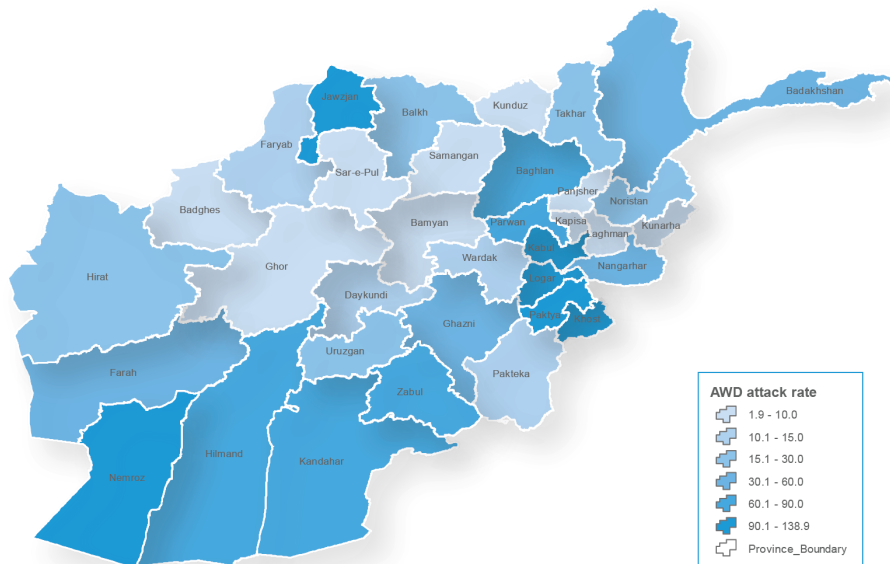
Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-16 Sep 2023 (N=165,384)



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### AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 16 Sep 2023

Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan-16 Sep 2023





## Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

### Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted between Health and WASH partners to coordinate the 2023 season AWD outbreak response.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- An integrated AWD preparedness plan has been developed jointly between Health and WASH clusters and endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

### Surveillance

- During the week 37-2023, 56 Medical Doctors (MDs) and Community Health Supervisors (CHSs) from Bamyan province have been trained on event-based surveillance (EBS) procedures.
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to district level in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 regions since the beginning of the 2023.
- In total, 195 SST members have been trained on outbreak investigation and reporting, lab sample collection and transportation in 7 regions since the beginning of 2023.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

### Case Management

- During week 37-2023, a total of 32 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration were delivered to Paktya, Bamyan, Daikundi and Nangarhar provinces.
- During week 37-2023, a total of 36 HCWs were trained on AWD case management from Southeast region. This brings the total trained HCWs to 887 since January 2023 from 7 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, Northeast, East and Southeast).

### Laboratory and Supplies

- A total of 1,330 RDTs and 5,350 Carry Blairs have been prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration since the beginning of 2023.
- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktya, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and they have been supplied with diagnostic kits.

### WASH

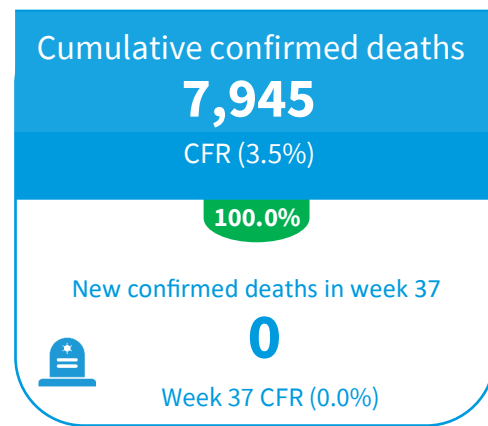
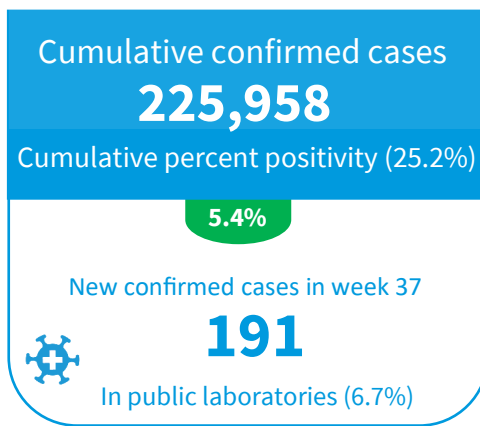
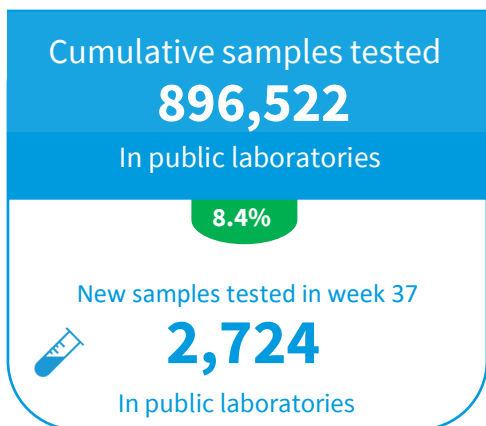
During last 2 weeks below activities were implemented by WASH partners

- Chlorination of 77 wells in 3 provinces from South region (Zabul, Kandahar and Urozgan).
- Distribution of aquatabs in all South region provinces to more than 27,000 individuals.
- Distribution of soap in all South region provinces to around 12,000 individuals.
- Installation of handwashing facilities in Kabul and Kandahar provinces.
- Hygiene kits were distributed to more than 12,000 individuals in 6 provinces (Balkh, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Zabul and Urozgan).
- Household water treatment promotion in Kabul province reached 17,000 individuals.
- Hygiene promotion activities in 11 provinces (Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Wardak, Nimroz, Paktya, Urozgan and Zabul) reached more than 53,000 individuals.
- Latrines construction and rehabilitation in Kabul and Zabul supported almost 500 individuals.
- Water chlorination in one water system in Kandahar.
- Around 200 water system rehabilitations or new set-ups in 8 provinces (Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Wardak, Paktya and Zabul) supported more than 8,000 individuals.

### RCCE

- A total of 139,000 information education materials (IEC) on AWD have been handed over to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 16 Sep 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

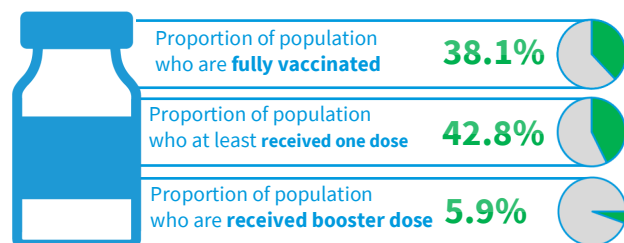


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (23 Jul - 16 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	1,966	2,614	2,976	2,146	2,926	3,179	2,974 *	2,724	
Confirmed cases	163	188	261	174	298	229	202 *	191	
% Change cases	-23.8	15.3	38.8	-33.3	71.3	-23.2	-11.8	-5.4	
Percent positivity (%)	8.3	7.2	8.8	8.1	10.2	7.2	6.8	7.0	
Deaths	2	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	
CFR (%)	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 36-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,836 to 2,974 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 190 to 202.

- During week 37-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased by 8.4% compared to previous week and the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figure 6).
- In week 37-2023, a total of 2,724 samples were tested in public labs, of which 191 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 7.0%) while no new death was reported (CFR=0%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 896,522 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 37-2023, 27.2% (52/191 confirmed cases) were hospitalized, while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 7).



### Response

- Since the beginning of Jan 2023, a total of 3 ID NOW instruments have been installed and 2,000 tests of COVID-19 ID NOW have been delivered to the CPHL-Kabul for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. Also, on the job training related to ID NOW instrument utilization and maintenance has been provided to the staffs of 8 labs across the country.

Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 20 Feb 2020–16 Sep 2023

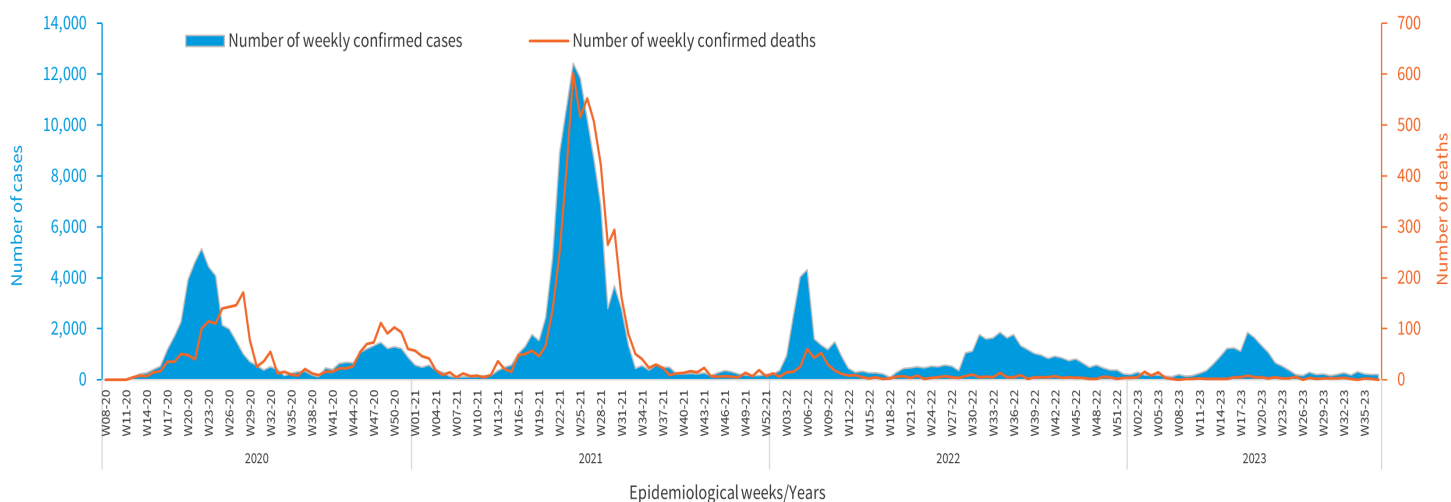


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 1 Jan–16 Sep 2023

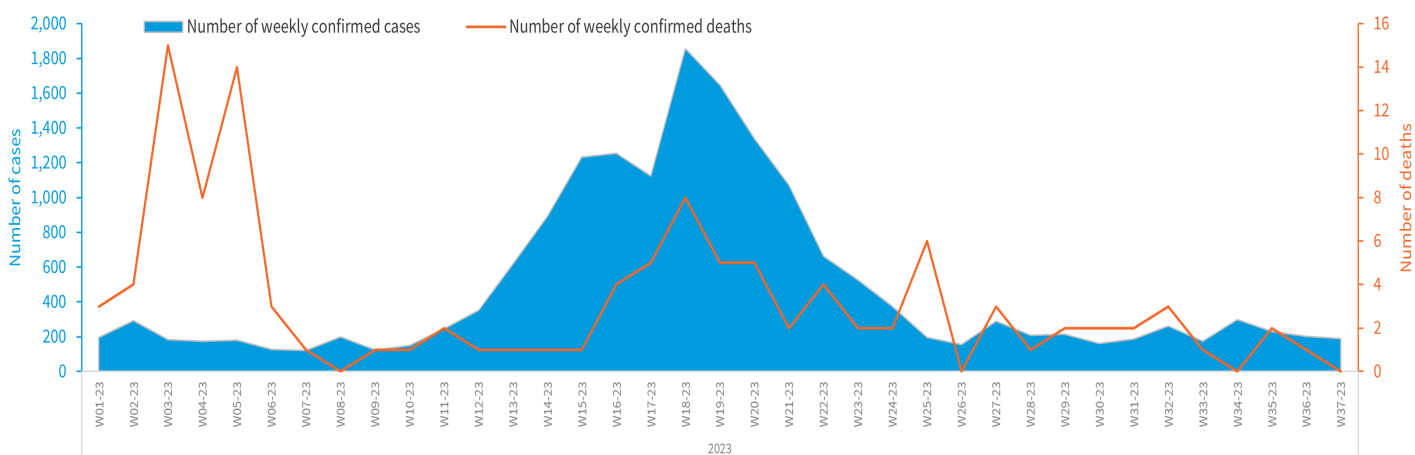
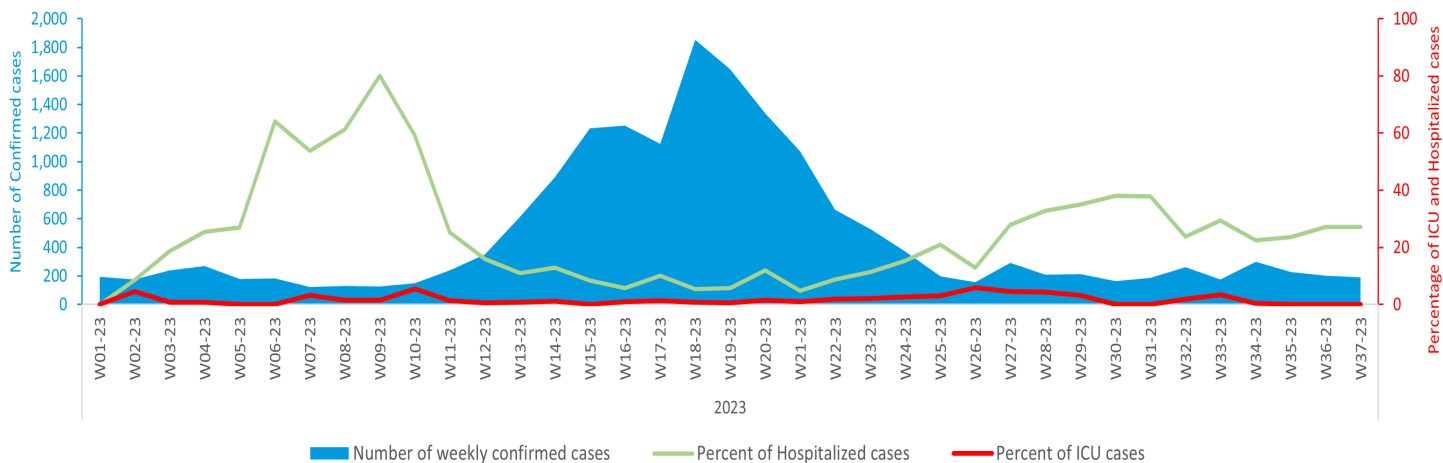


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 1 Jan–16 Sep 2023



## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 16 Sep 2023)

**21,041**  
Total Cases

**62**  
Total Deaths

**4,689**  
Sample tested

**2,385**  
Lab confirmed cases

**50.9%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Jul - 16 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	484	389	327	307	321	364	322	306	
% Change cases	1.5	-19.6	-15.9	-6.1	4.6	13.4	-11.5	-5.0	
Suspected deaths	1	0	4	1	6	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- During epidemiological week 37-2023, a total of 306 suspected cases were reported which shows a 5% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- The epi-curve shows decrease in the number of suspected measles cases during week 37 compared to the previous week. Overall trend of measles cases also shows a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 8).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 21,041 suspected measles cases were reported, out of which 14,878 (70.7%) were under-five children and 9,940 (47.2%) were females.

Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan-16 Sep 2023 (N=21,041)

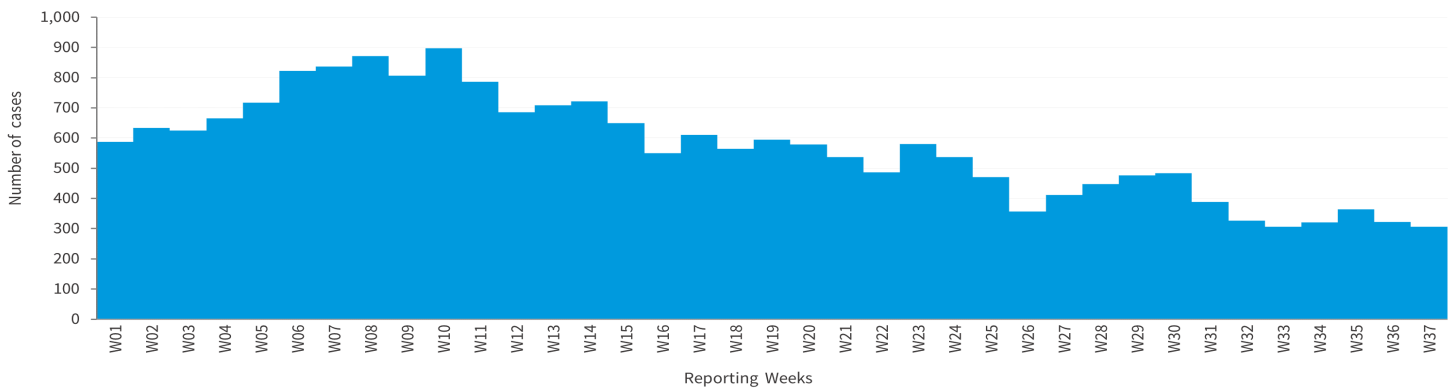
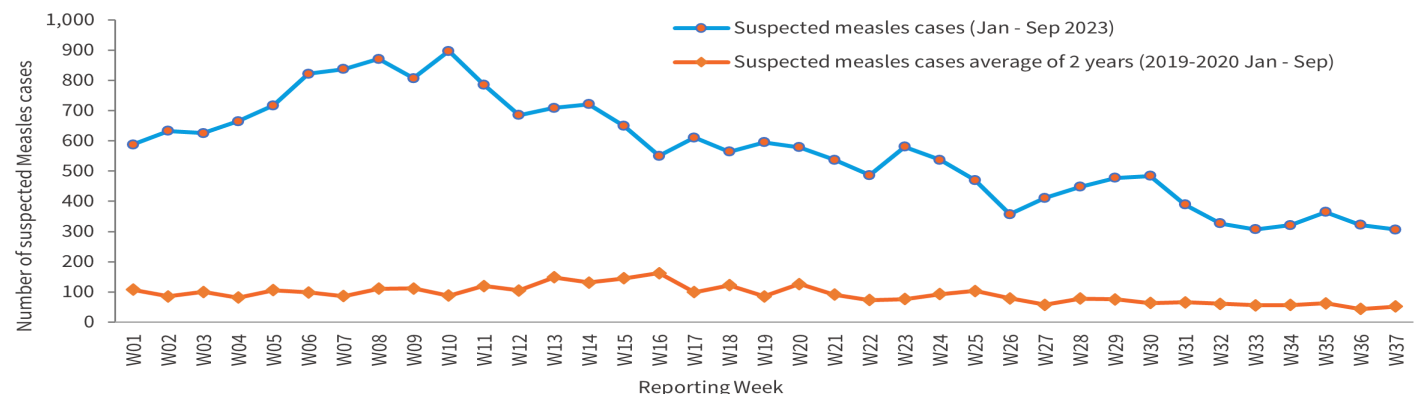


Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Sep 2023, Afghanistan

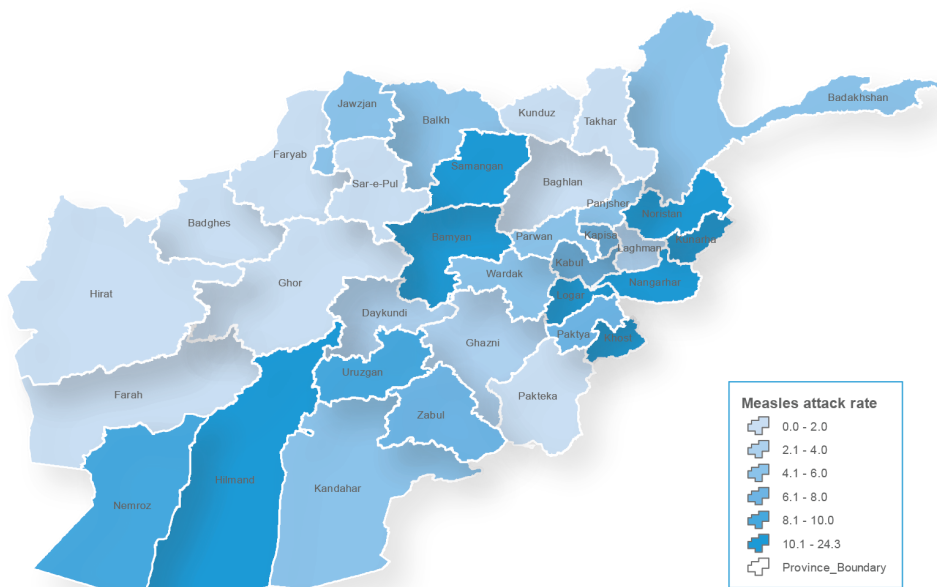


Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, still, measles cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 9).

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## Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 16 Sep 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–16 Sep 2023 (N=21,041)



### Preparedness and response to the Measles Outbreak

- A total of 7,133 children have been vaccinated as part of outbreak response localized immunization campaigns by the implementing NGOs in outbreak affected areas across the country since Jan 2023.
- A total of 132,000 information education materials (IEC) on Measles have been distributed to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high risk areas and affected communities.

### Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 09 Sep 2023)



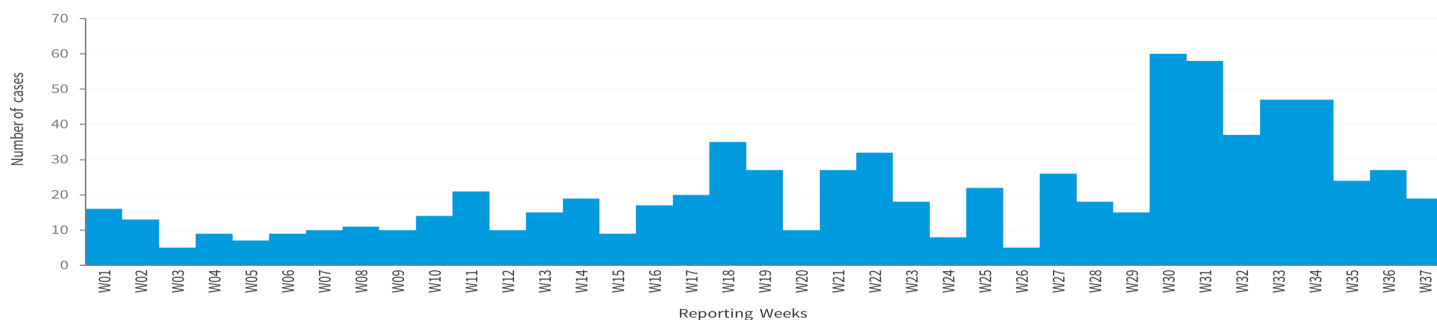
Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Jul - 16 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	60	58	37	47	47	24	27	19	
% Change cases	300.0	-3.3	-36.2	27.0	0.0	-48.9	12.5	-29.6	
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	

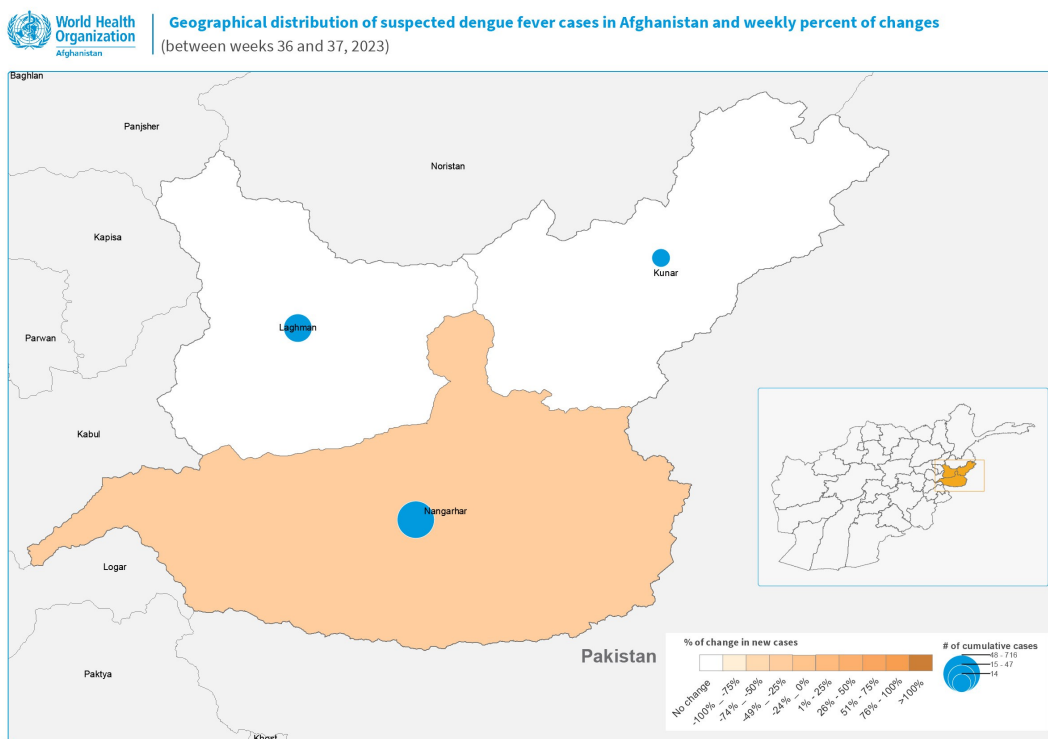
- A total of 19 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 37-2023; all cases were reported from Nangarhar. This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 777 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 37-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases shows 29.6% decrease compared to previous week (Figure 11).
- Out of 777 reported cases, 407 (52.4%) were females and 759 (97.7%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 260 samples have been collected, out of which 63 were confirmed (24.2% positivity).



**Figure 11.** Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-16 Sep 2023 (N=777)



**Figure 12.** Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Sep 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of an 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: 16 Sep 2023.

## Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and a one-day workshop was also held with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.

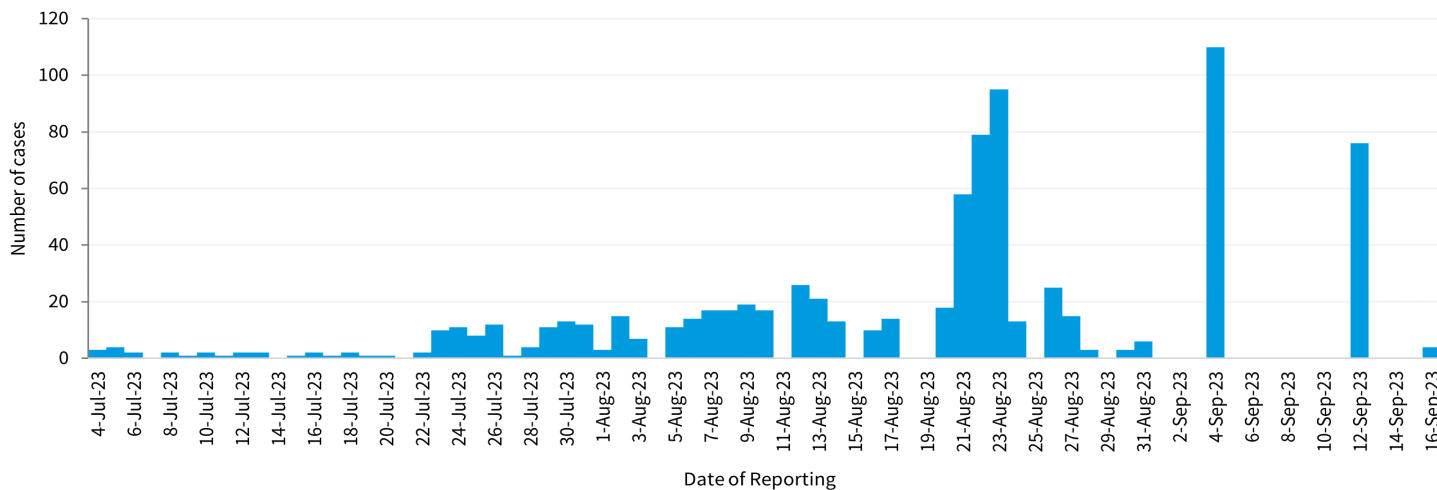
## Malaria highlights:

- During week 37-2023, 2 new outbreaks of malaria were reported from 2 provinces; Kunar (Bar Kunar district) and Kapisa (Alasay district) with a total of 80 confirmed cases (76 from Kunar and 4 from Kapisa). Among the reported cases, 33 (41.3%) were female and 14 (17.5%) were under-five children.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak on 04-Jul-2023, a total of 820 confirmed cases of malaria (653 were lab confirmed and 234 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 15 districts in 7 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Nangarhar and Parwan).
- Out of the total cases, 365 (44.5%) were females and 87 (10.6%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education have been provided (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul–16 Sep 2023



Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 5 provinces during 04 Jul–16 Sept 2023 (N=820)



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Alaa AbouZeid, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD: Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO-CO, ([abouzeida@who.int](mailto:abouzeida@who.int))
- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preparedness, WHO-CO, ([tahounm@who.int](mailto:tahounm@who.int))
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, ([mmashal@who.int](mailto:mmashal@who.int))
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, ([safih@who.int](mailto:safih@who.int))
- Mr. Abdul Wahid Amiri: Surveillance Data Analyst, WHO-CO, ([amiria@who.int](mailto:amiria@who.int))