








AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS





SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #38-2023

No. 38 (17-23 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)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 606 (98.9%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	1,099	170,478	226,164	21,347	805
Death (CFR %)	105 (9.6)	83 (0.05)	7,946 (3.5)	62 (0.3)	1 (0.1)

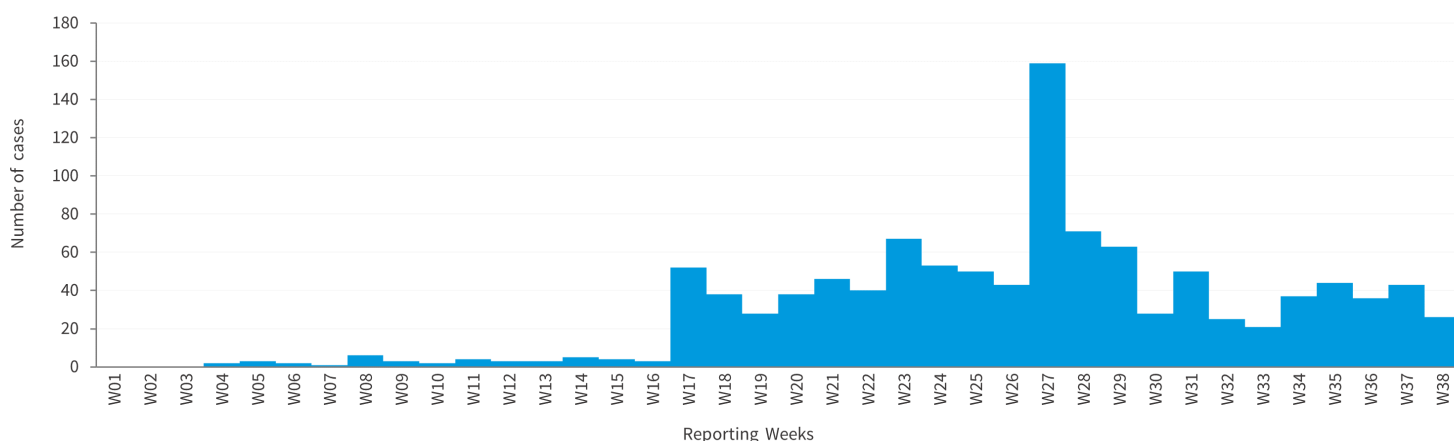
Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 23 Sep 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (30 Jul - 23 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	50	25	21	37	44	36	43	26	
% Change cases	78.6	-50.0	-16.0	76.2	18.9	-18.2	19.4	-39.5	
Suspected deaths	3	2	2	4	4	1	3	1	
CFR (%)	6.0	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.1	2.8	7.0	3.8	

- During week 38-2023, a total of 26 new cases of CCHF with 1 new death were reported, which shows 39.5% decrease in number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 1, Figure 1).
- The reported death was male, over five-year child from Kunduz province.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,099 and 105, respectively (CFR 9.6%) (Figure2).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (48, 45.7%) and Balkh (14, 13.3%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,098 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 353 (32.1%) were females.
- Totally, 992 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 353 samples were positive (positivity = 35.8%).

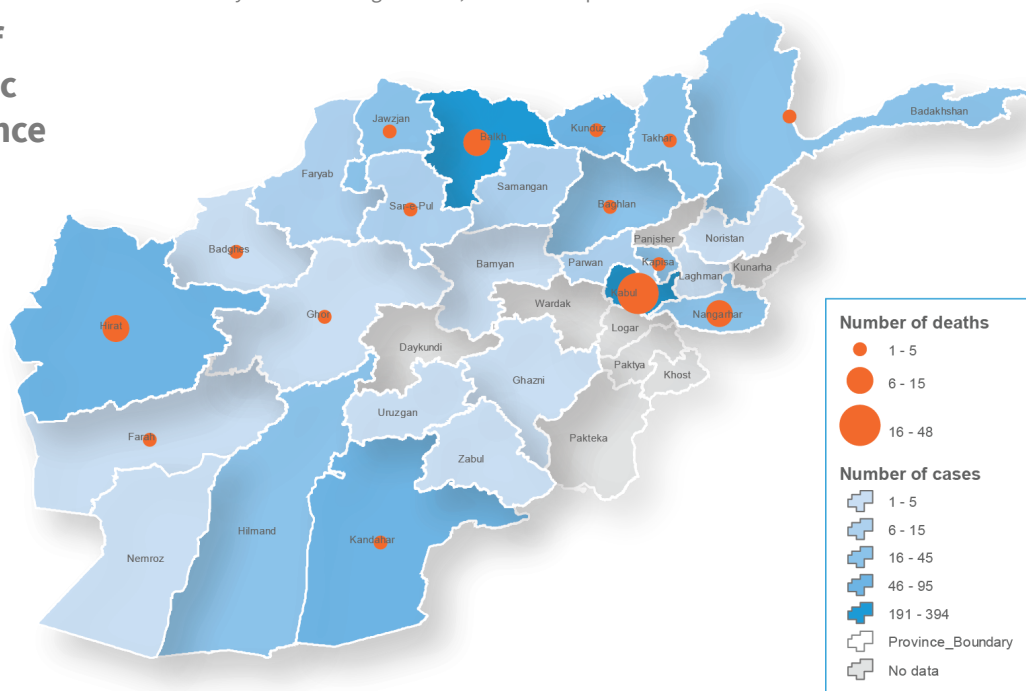
Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 23 Sep 2023 (N=1,099)



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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 23 Sep 2023

Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–23 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).
 - Main 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 Nucleic Acid extraction machine was installed in Balkh province RRL, and lab staff received on the job training. The instrument will help strengthen lab testing capacity by decreasing the turnaround 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 Sep 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 and communication 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 23 Sep 2023)

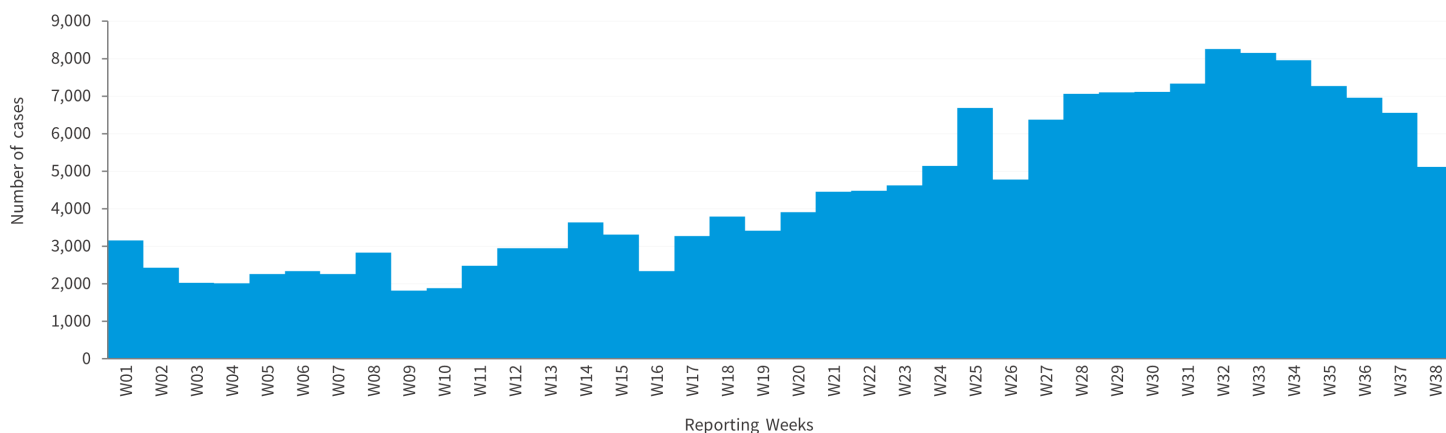
Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (30 Jul - 23 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	7,333	8,255	8,153	7,959	7,263	6,953	6,557*	5,112	
% Change cases	3.0	12.6	-1.2	-2.4	-8.7	-4.3	-5.7	-22.0	
Suspected deaths	5	4	3	7	2	4	0	3	
CFR (%)	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.06	

*Data entry error was experienced during week 37-2023 as the number of AWD with dehydration cases were modified from 6,575 to 6,557.

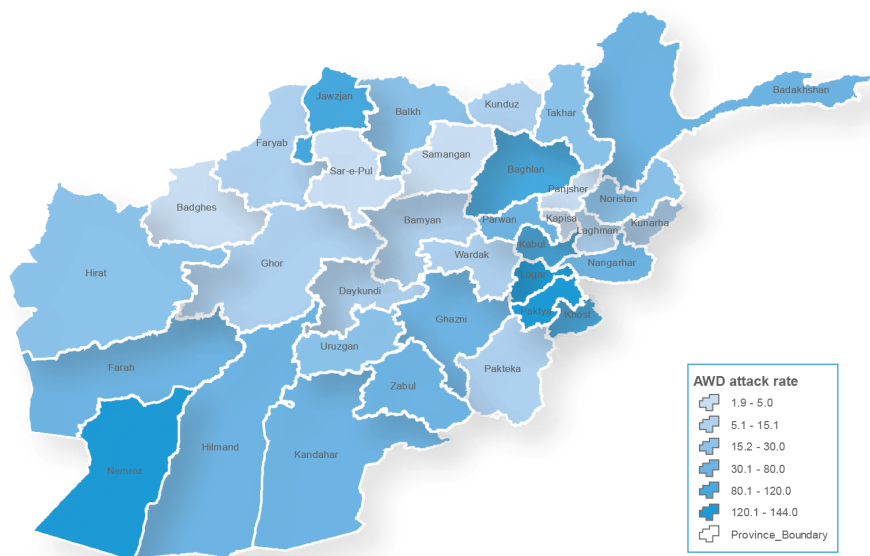
- During week 38-2023; 5,112 AWD with dehydration cases and 3 associated deaths were reported from 204 districts which shows 22.0% decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 3).
- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 3 provinces: Farah (1), Kabul (1) and Kandahar (1). Out of all 3 deaths, 2 (66.7%) were under 5 and all were males.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 170,478 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 97,182 (57.0%) were under-five children and 84,801 (49.7%) were females.
- During week 38-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 3,363 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 – 23 Sep 2023 (N=170,478)



AFGHANISTAN AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 23 Sep 2023

Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–23 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 week 38-2023, a total of 468 (including 27 females) MDs (medical doctors) and CHS (community health supervisors) were trained in 3 provinces on event-based surveillance (EBS) procedures; Nangarhar (210, 1 females), Kandahar (144, 22 females) and Badakhshan (114, 4 females).
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to district level in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 regions since the beginning of 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

- A total of 32 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to Paktya, Bamiyan, Daikundi and Nangarhar provinces.
- A total of 887 HCWs have been trained on AWD case management since January 2023 from 7 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, North-east, East, and South-east).

Laboratory and Supplies

- During week 38, a total of 47 cholera RDT kits were delivered to Kandahar RRL.
- 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

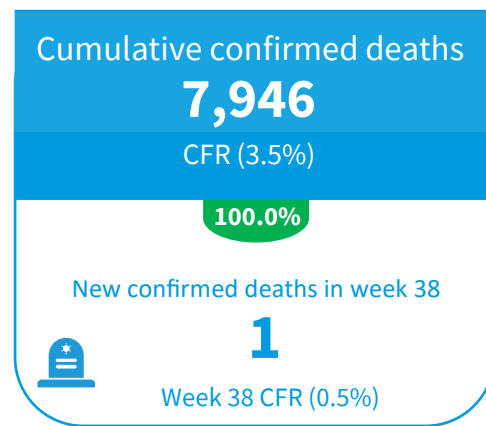
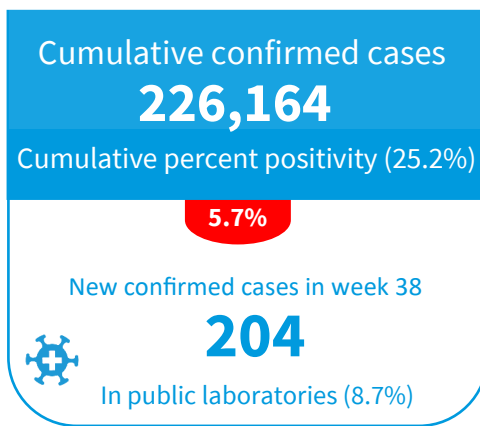
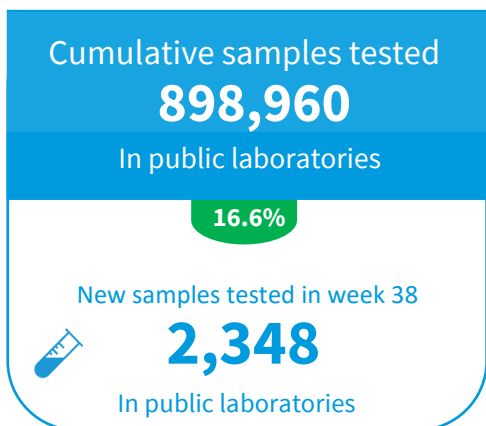
During last 2 weeks below activities were implemented by WASH partners

- Chlorination of 77 wells in 3 provinces from South region (Zabul, Kandahar and Urozgan).
- Distribution of aqua tabs 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

- During week 38, a total of 25 MoPH staff (including 8 females) from different departments were trained on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE).
- A total of 139,000 information education and communication 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 – 23 Sep 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

*The data entry error was experienced during week 37 and the number of partial vaccinated individual was modified from 1,855,434 to 1,854,659.

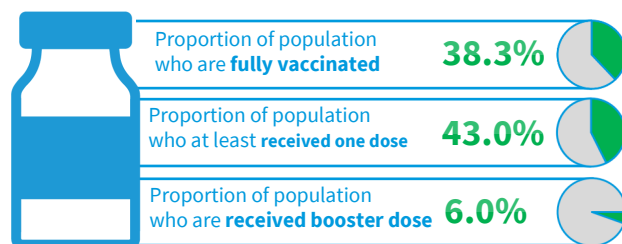


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (30 Jul - 23 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,614	2,976	2146 *	2,926	3,179	2,974	2814 *	2,348	
Confirmed cases	188	261	174	298	229	202	193 *	204	
% Change cases	15.3	38.8	-33.3	71.3	-23.2	-11.8	-5.4	5.7	
Percent positivity (%)	7.2	8.8	8.1	10.2	7.2	6.8	6.9	8.7	
Deaths	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	1	
CFR (%)	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 37-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,724 to 2,814 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 191 to 193.

- During week 38-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases slightly increased (5.7%) compared to previous week, however, generally the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figure 6).
- In week 38-2023, a total of 2,348 samples were tested in public labs, of which 204 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 8.7%) and one new death was reported (CFR=0.5%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 898,960 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 38-2023, 19.1% (39/204 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 5 (12.8%) 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 staff of 8 labs across the country.

Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 23 Sep 2023

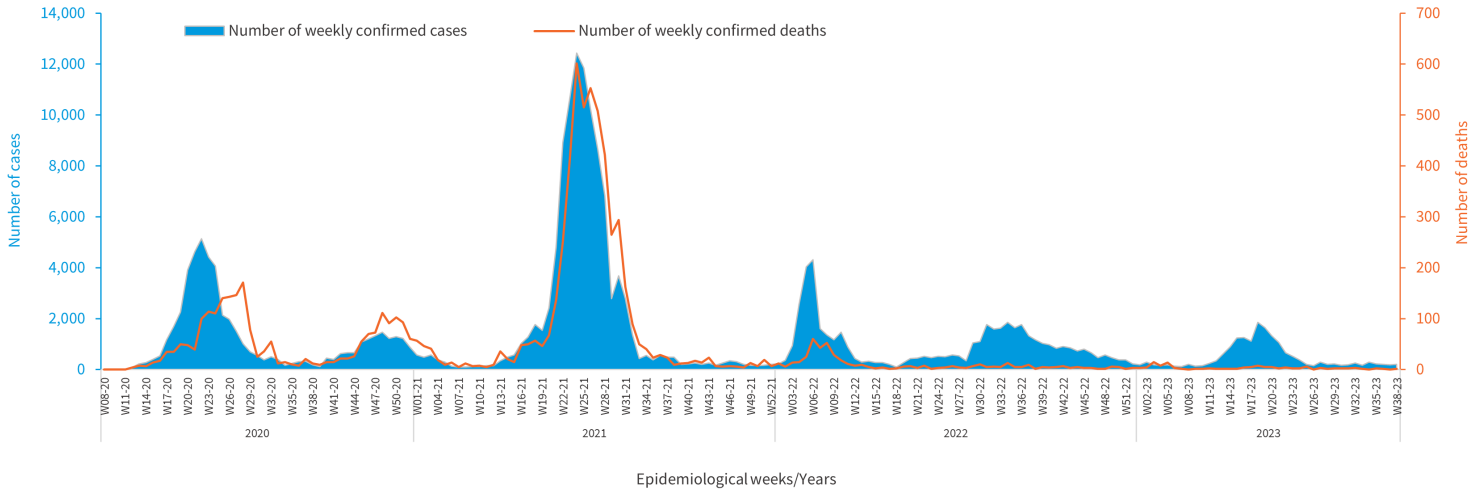


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 23 Sep 2023

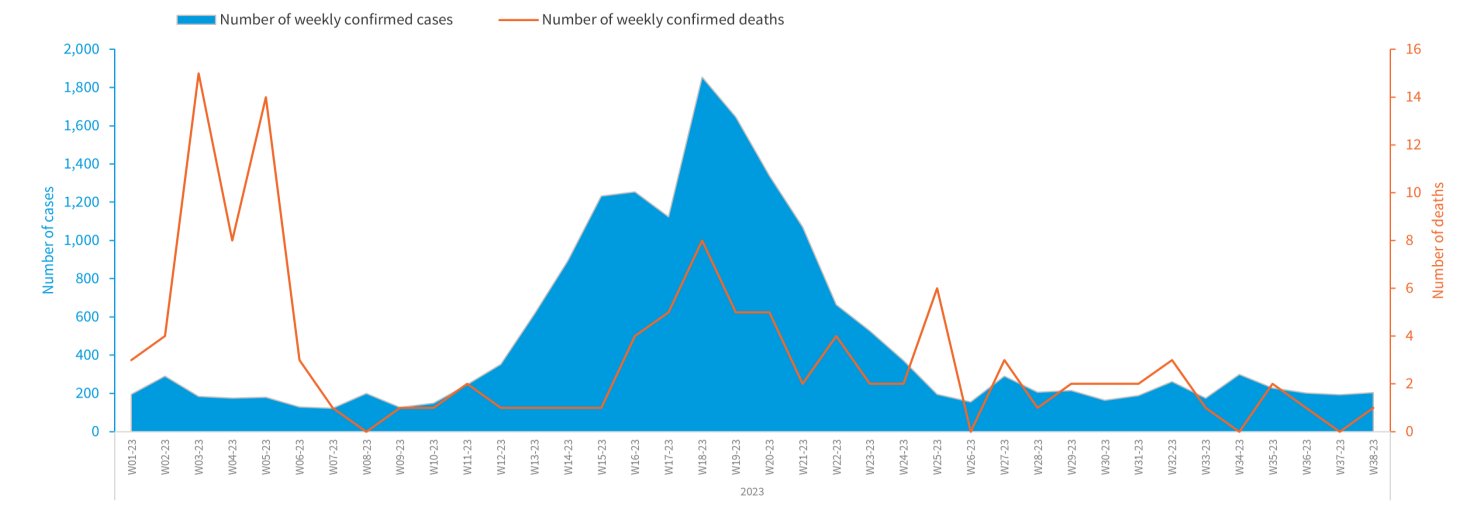
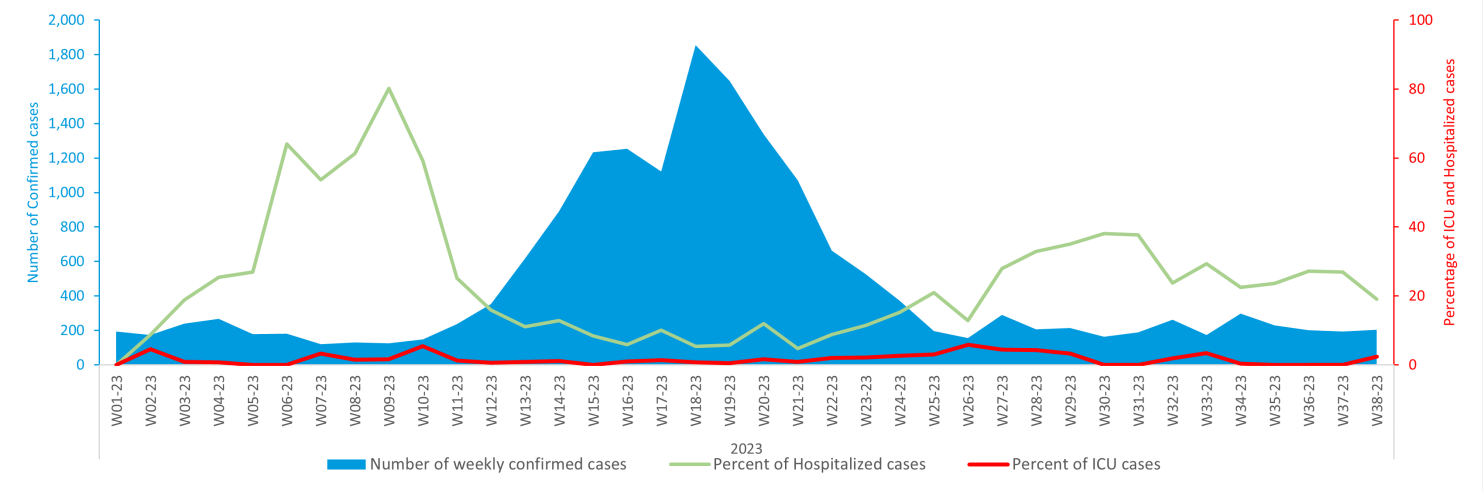


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 23 Sep 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 23 Sep 2023)



21,347
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 (30 Jul - 23 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	389	327	307	321	364	322	306	306	
% Change cases	-19.6	-15.9	-6.1	4.6	13.4	-11.5	-5.0	0.0	
Suspected deaths	0	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- Overall, the epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 8).
- During epidemiological week 38-2023, a total of 306 suspected cases were reported which shows a stabilization in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 21,347 suspected measles cases were reported, out of which 15,085 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,078 (47.2%) were females.

Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 23 Sep 2023 (N=21,347)

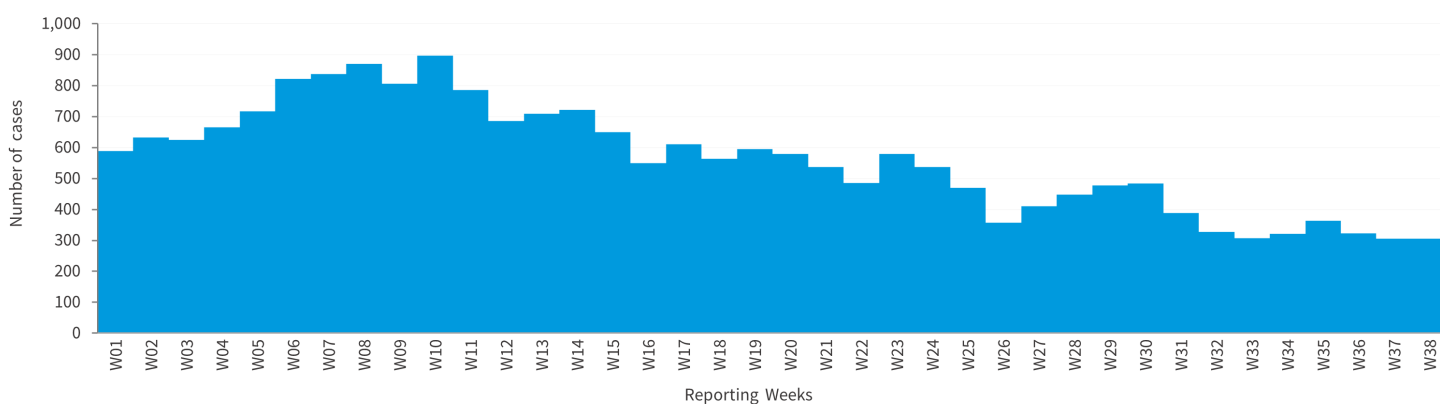
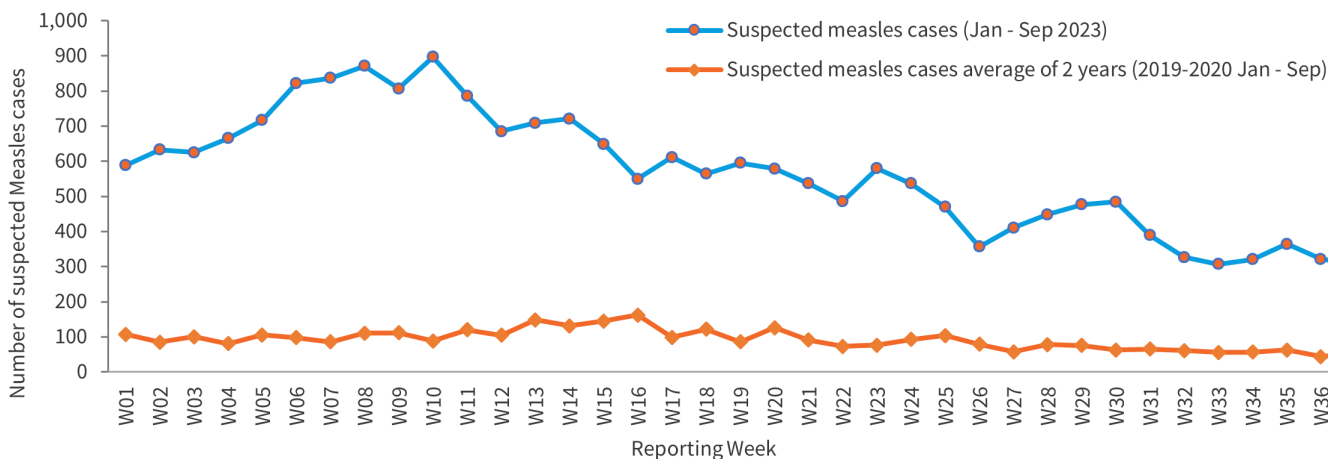


Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Sep 2023, Afghanistan



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).

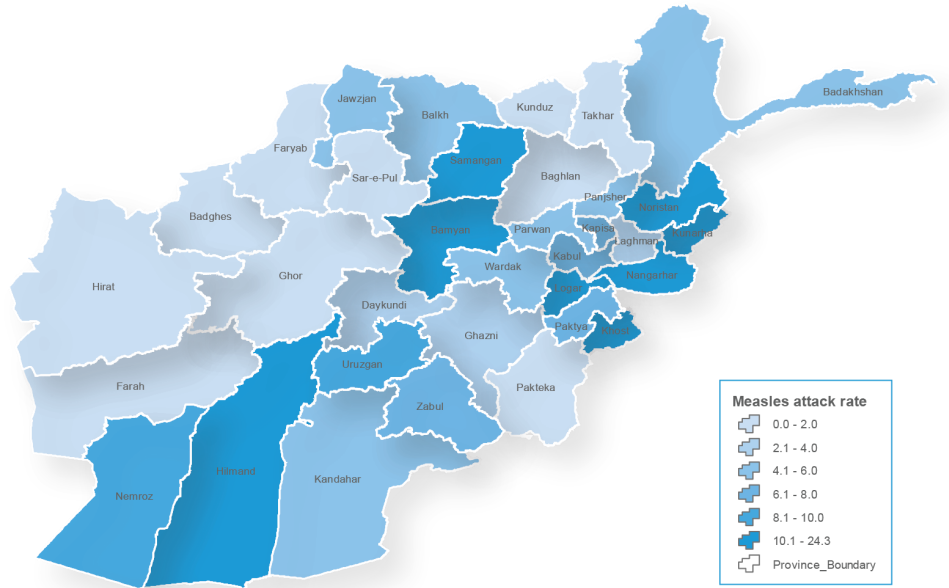


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Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province

As of 23 Sep 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 23 Sep 2023 (N=21,347)



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 and communication 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 com-

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 23 Sep 2023)

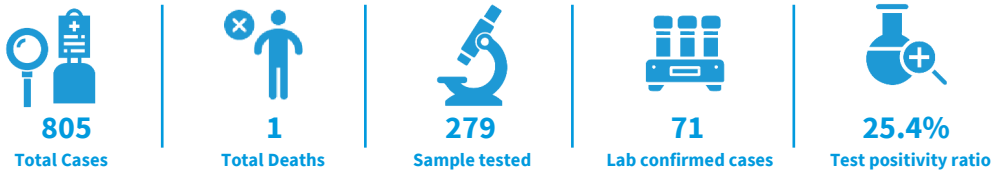


Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (30 Jul - 23 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	58	37	47	47	24	27	19	28	
% Change cases	-3.3	-36.2	27.0	0.0	-48.9	12.5	-29.6	47.4	
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 28 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 38-2023; Nangarhar (23), Kunar (3) and Laghman (2). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 805 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 38-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases shows 47.4% increase compared to previous week (Figure 11).
- Out of 805 reported cases, 419 (52.0%) were females and 786 (97.6%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 279 samples have been collected, out of which 71 were confirmed (25.4 positivity).

Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 23 Sep 2023 (N=805)

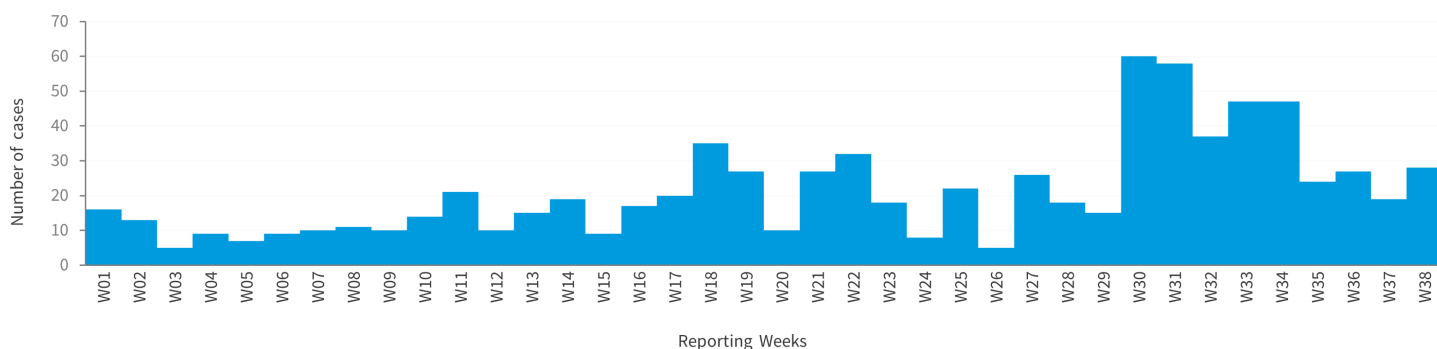
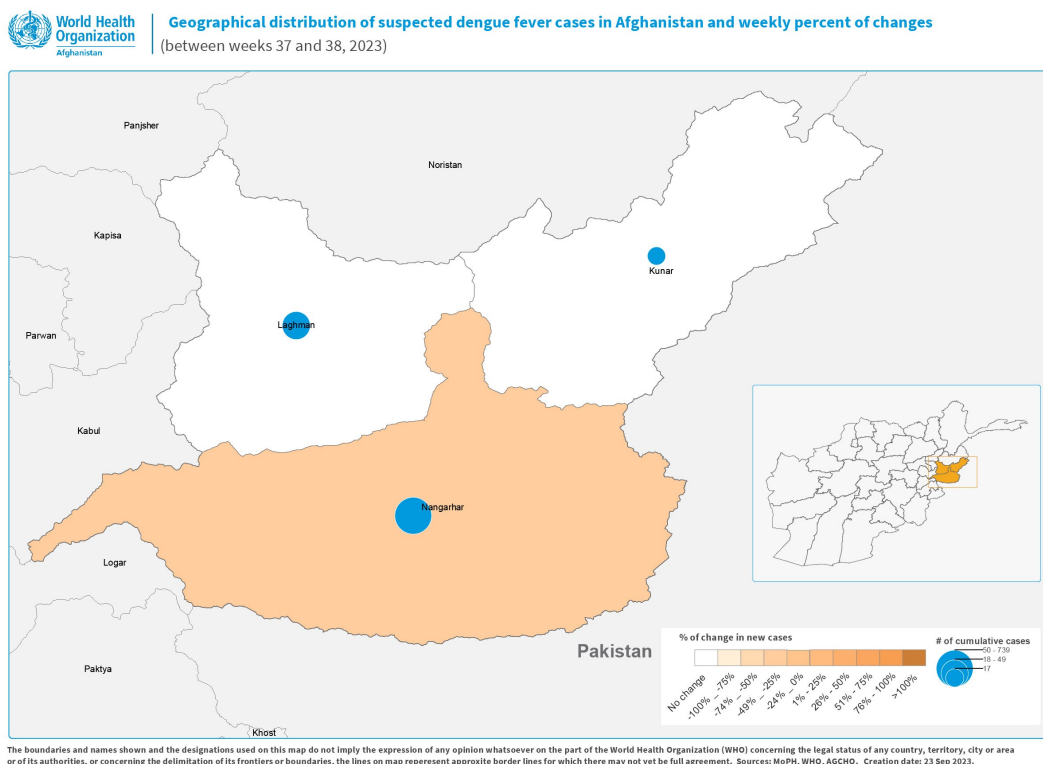


Figure 12. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Sep 2023



Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- During week 38, a total of 60 dengue RDT kits were supplied to 4 provinces: Nangarhar (50), Kunar (3), Laghman (3), Nuristan (2) and Kabul (2).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- Case management guidelines 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 38-2023, 4 new outbreaks of malaria were reported from 4 provinces: Kunar (Nari district), Takhar (Cha Aab district), Paktika (Waza Khwa district) and Faryab (Almar district) with a total of 491 confirmed cases (396 from Kunar, 64 from Takhar, 20 from Paktika and 11 from Faryab provinces). Among the reported cases, 195 (39.7%) were female and 61 (%) were under-five children.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak on 04-Jul-2023, a total of 1,311 confirmed cases of malaria (1,077 were lab confirmed and 234 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 19 districts in 9 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Parwan, Faryab, Paktika and Takhar).
- Out of the total cases, 560 (42.7%) were females and 148 (11.3%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education have been provided (Figure 14).



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Provincial distribution of Malaria cases

As of 23 Sep 2023

Figure 13. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul–23 Sep 2023

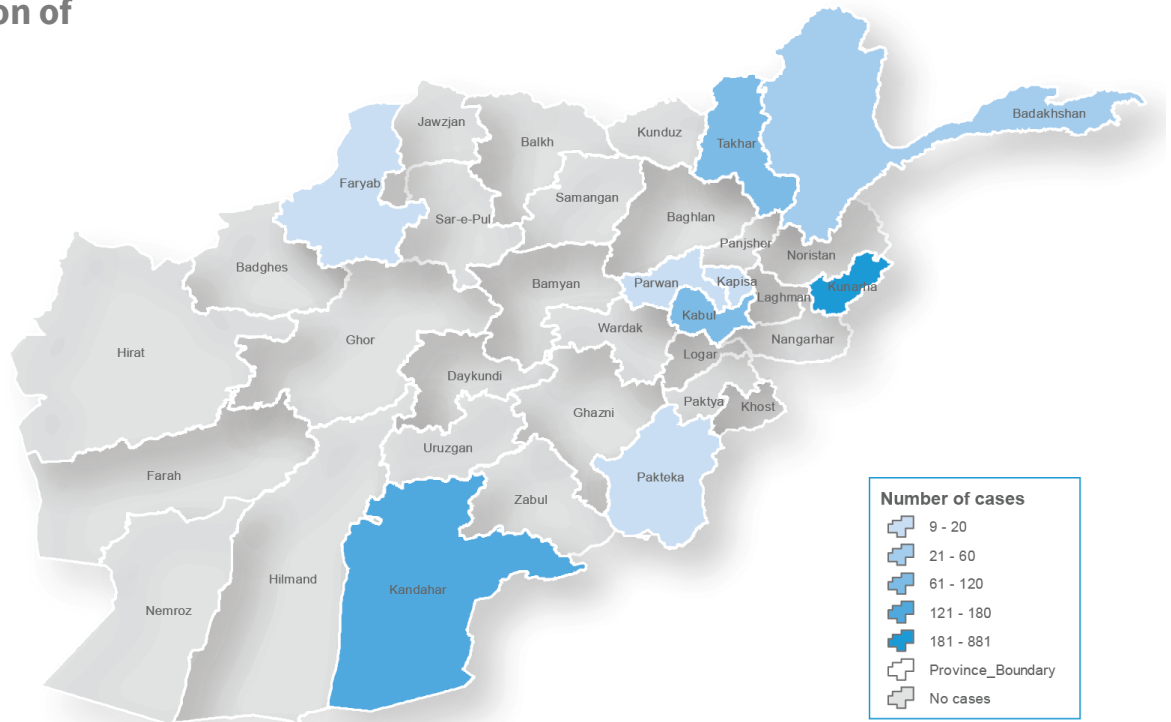
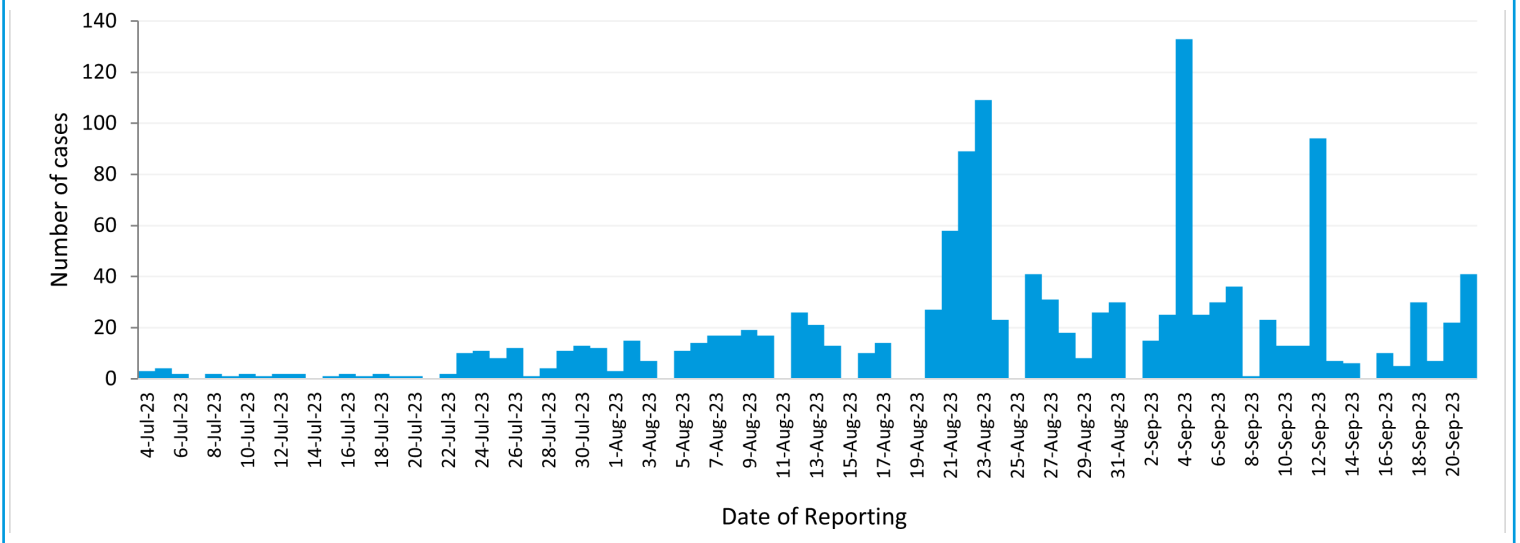


Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 7 provinces during 04 Jul – 23 Sep 2023 (N=1,311)



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)
- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preparedness, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)
- Mr. Abdul Wahid Amiri: Surveillance Data Analyst, WHO-CO, (amiria@who.int)