



### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #43-2023

No. 43 (22-28 Oct 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (Jan - Oct 23)	ARI (Jan - Oct 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Oct 23)	Measles (Jan - Oct 23)	CCHF (Jan - Oct 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Oct 23)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> <small>(Data from 602 (98.2%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	<b>195,336</b>	<b>1,082,585</b>	<b>227,675</b>	<b>22,687</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,022</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>94 (0.05)</b>	<b>2,219 (0.2)</b>	<b>7,952 (3.5)</b>	<b>62 (0.3)</b>	<b>110 (9.2)</b>	<b>1 (0.1)</b>

### Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 28 Oct 2023)

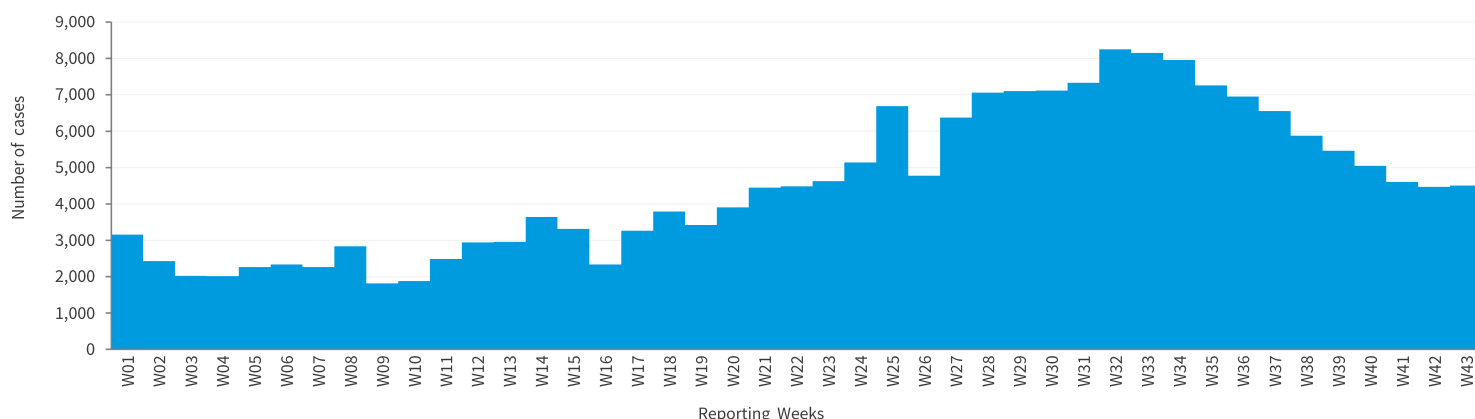
**Table 1:** Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Suspected cases	6,953	6,557	5,874	5,464	5,051	4,604	4,470 *	4,507	
% Change cases	-4.3	-5.7	-10.4	-7.0	-7.6	-8.8	-2.9	0.8	
Suspected deaths	4	0	3	3	1	0	3	5	
CFR (%)	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.11	

\*A Delayed reporting was experienced during week 42, the number of AWD with dehydration was modified from 4,365 to 4,470.

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- During week 43-2023; 4,507 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 191 districts which shows stabilization in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- Five new AWD with dehydration associated deaths were reported during week 43 from 3 provinces: Kabul (2), Faryab (2) and Herat (1), of which 4 (80.0%) were under-five children and 3 (60.0%) were females.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 195,336 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 111,121 (56.9%) were under-five children and 97,213 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 43-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 5,089 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

**Figure 1.** Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=195,336)

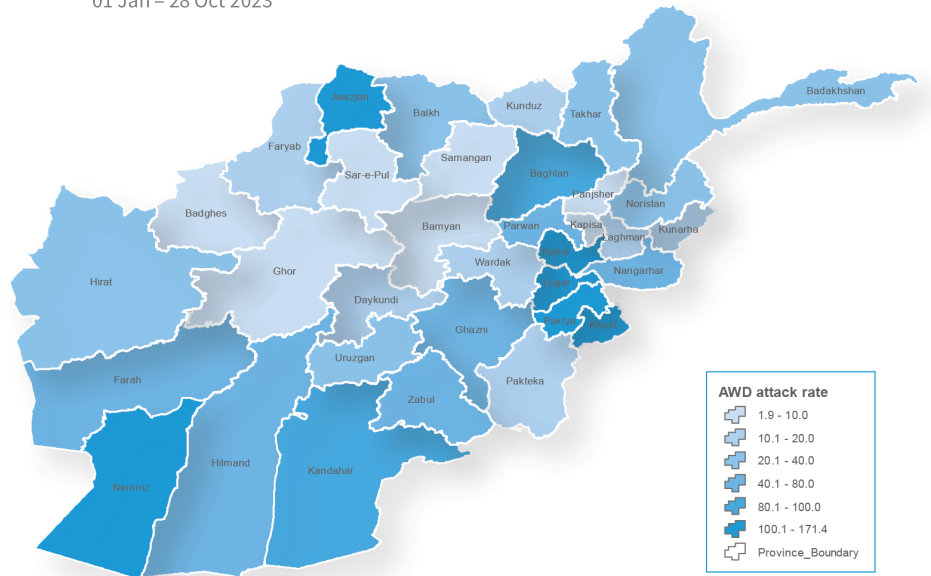


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## AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province

As of 28 Oct 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 28 Oct 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

- A total of 867 MDs and CHSs including 67 females have been trained on EBS procedures in 5 provinces: Nangarhar (total=240, 1 female), Kandahar (total=144, 22 females), Badakhshan (total=152, 4 females), Herat (total=205, 17 females) and Bamiyan (total=126, 23 females).
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to health facility level in 254 sentinel sites across all 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

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

### Laboratory and Supplies

- During week 43, 5 AWD with dehydration RDT kits were supplied to Baghlan province. This brings the total number of RDTs to 6,475 and Cary Blairs to 6,400 since Jan 2023 in all 34 provinces across the country.

- 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 supplied with diagnostic kits.

### WASH

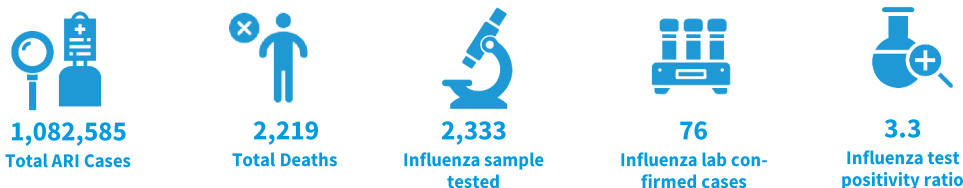
Between (15-28 Oct 2023), the below measures were detected:

- Provision of clean drinking water for around 13,000 individuals in 9 provinces (Badghis, Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktya, Takhar and Zabol) by chlorination of 245 wells.
- Provision of clean drinking water to 12,595 individuals by water trucking in 2 provinces (Herat and Nimroz).
- Provision of safe drinking water to almost 12,000 individuals by water supply system rehabilitation in 10 provinces (Balkh, Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktika, Paktya and Zabol).
- Distribution of Aquatabs to 10,856 individuals and soap to 5,000 individuals in 4 provinces in the South region (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabol).
- Provision of handwashing facilities to 200 individuals by installation of handwashing facilities in Zabol.
- Distribution of Hygiene Kits to 7,700 individuals in 8 provinces (Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Nimroz, Paktika, Panj Shir and Zabol).
- Conducting hygiene promotion sessions covering 31,420 individuals in 17 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktika, Paktya, Takhar and Zabol).
- Provision of sanitation facilities to 2,000 individuals by installation of emergency latrines in 9 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Paktika, Paktya and Zabol).

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- During week 43, a 3-day training on RCCE strategies, outbreaks response and social listening has been conducted for 27 healthcare workers, social mobilizer and MoPH staff, including 2 females from 9 provinces (Kandahar, Zabul, Nimroz, Urozgan, Helmand, Herat, Ghor, Badghis and Farah). This brings the total number of staff trained on RCCE strategies, outbreaks response and social listening to 226 across the country.
- Since 01 Oct 2023, a total of 477,700 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials (241,800 posters and 235,900 brochures) were distributed to health cluster partners for implementing RCCE activities as part of outbreak response.

### Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-28 Oct 2023)



**Table 2:** Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Suspected cases	18,210	18,300	19,579	20,256	21,536	21,728	24,835	25,971	
% Change cases	4.2	0.5	6.5	3.3	5.9	0.9	12.5	4.4	
Suspected deaths	37	29	31	28	34	36	56	45	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since epi week 34 which could be linked to winter season as the weather changed in some provinces across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 43, 25,971 cases of suspected ARI-pneumonia and 45 associated deaths were reported which shows 4.4% increase in the number of suspected cases and 19.6% decrease in the number of associated deaths compared to week 42.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,082,585 cases and 2,219 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the country. Out of the total cases, 667,401 (61.6%) were under-five children and 535,624 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,833 (82.6%) were under-five children and 1,020 (46.0%) were females reported from 34 provinces.
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the preceding three years (2020-2022) (Figure 5).

**Figure 3.** Epidemiological curve of ARI cases in 34 provinces, 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=1,082,585)

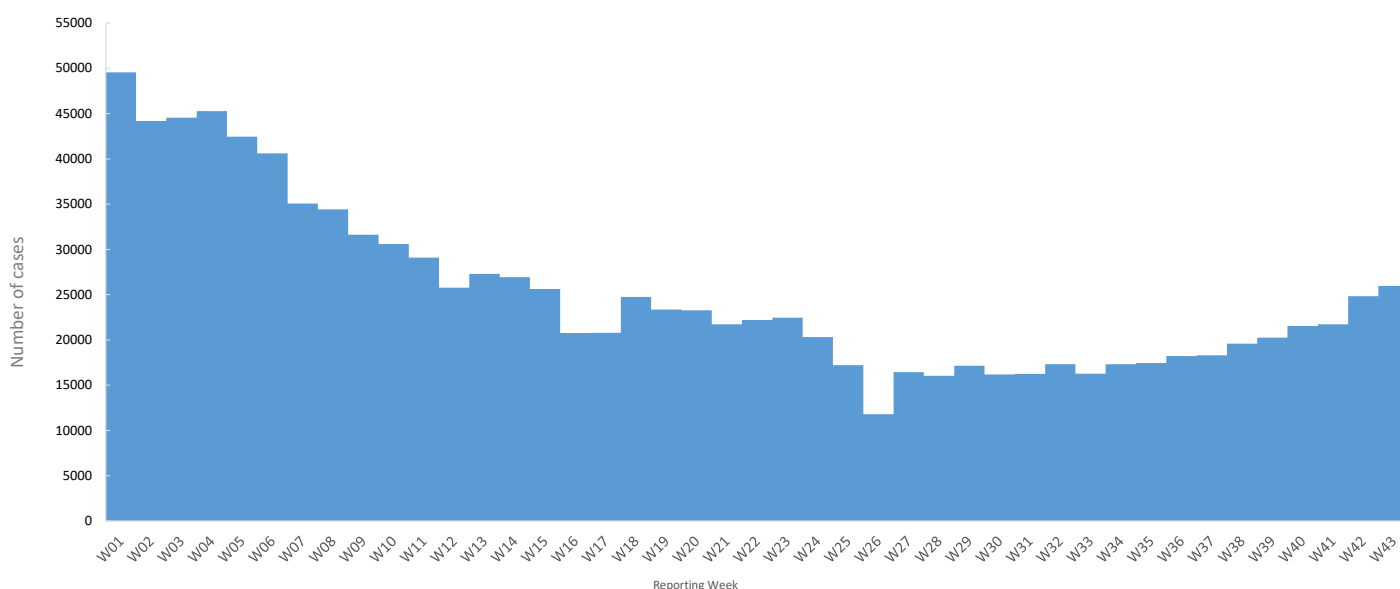


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of ARI cases by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=1,082,585)

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## Provincial distribution of suspected ARI pneumonia cases

### As of 28 Oct 2023

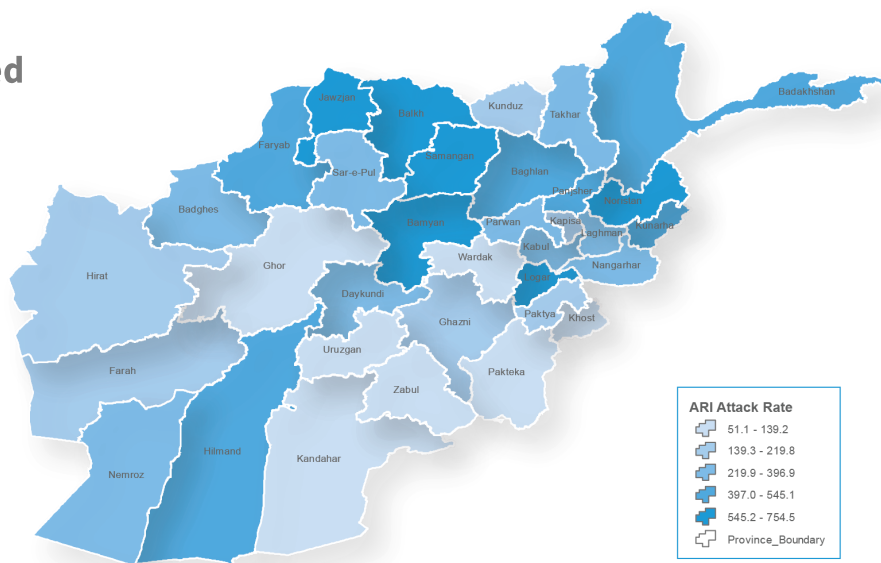
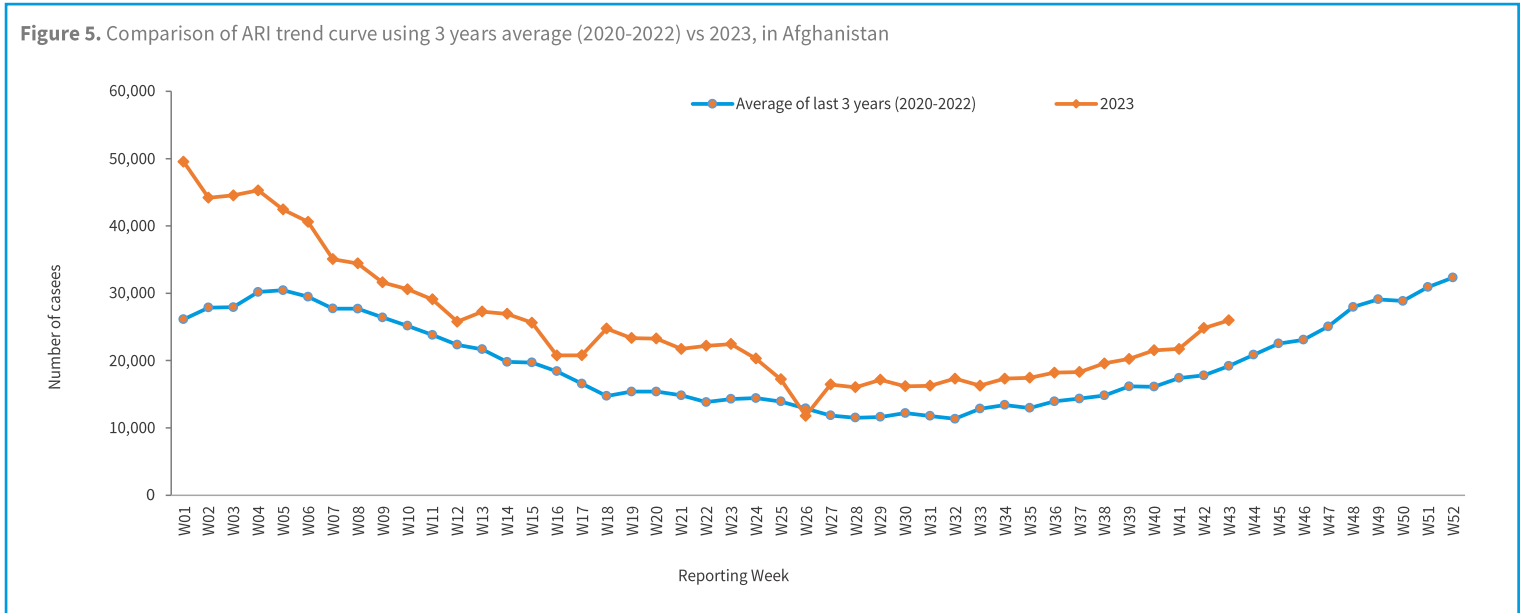


Figure 5. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023, in Afghanistan



## Response to Acute Respiratory infection outbreak

### Surveillance

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- 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 ARI outbreaks.

### Lab and supplies

Since Jan 2023:

- A total of 500 viral transport media (VTM) for collection of influenza's samples have been delivered to the 9 influenza sentinel sites.
- A total of 9 influenza assistants have been trained (1 per each sentinel site) on specimen collection, storage, and transportation to lab for testing and confirmation.

- A total of 1,500 influenza A/B PCR kits and consumables have been supplied to the national influenza center (NIC).
- As a part of preparedness and response to ARI outbreak, a total of 1,600 COVID-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul WHO warehouse and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

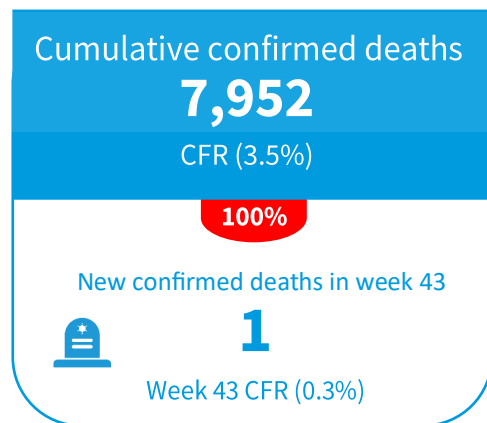
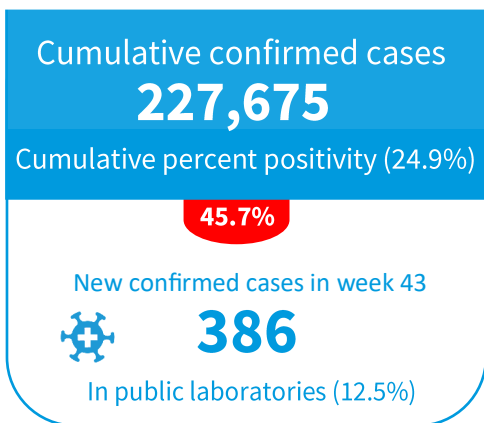
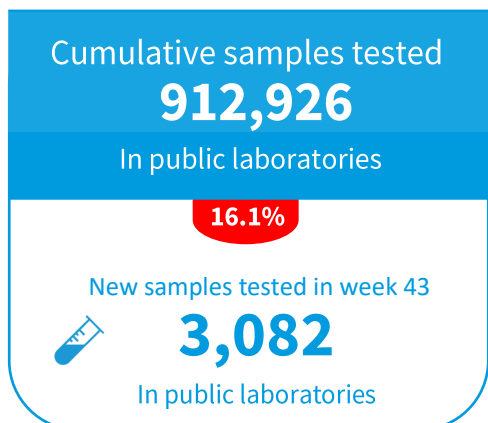
### Case management

- As a part of winter preparedness plan to ARI, a total of 397 different types of case management kits have been prepositioned in Kabul, WHO warehouse since Jan 2023, which will be pre-positioned to all regional sub-offices.

### RCCE

- As part of RCCE winterization plan, a total of 138,750 brochures and 99,150 posters of ARI have been distributed to high-risk provinces.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 28 Oct 2023)

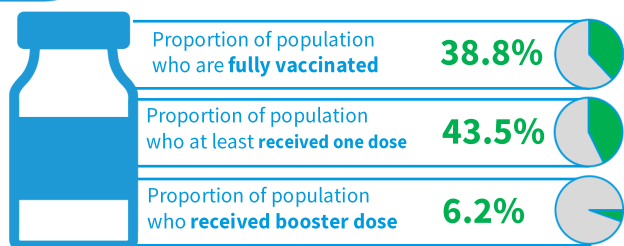


Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### 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 (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,974	2,814	2,579	2,539	2,841	2,618	2,655 *	3,082	
Confirmed cases	202	193	217	271	274	284	265 *	386	
% Change cases	-11.8	-5.4	12.4	24.9	1.1	3.6	-6.7	45.7	
Percent positivity (%)	6.8	6.9	8.4	10.7	9.6	10.8	10.0	12.5	
Deaths	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	

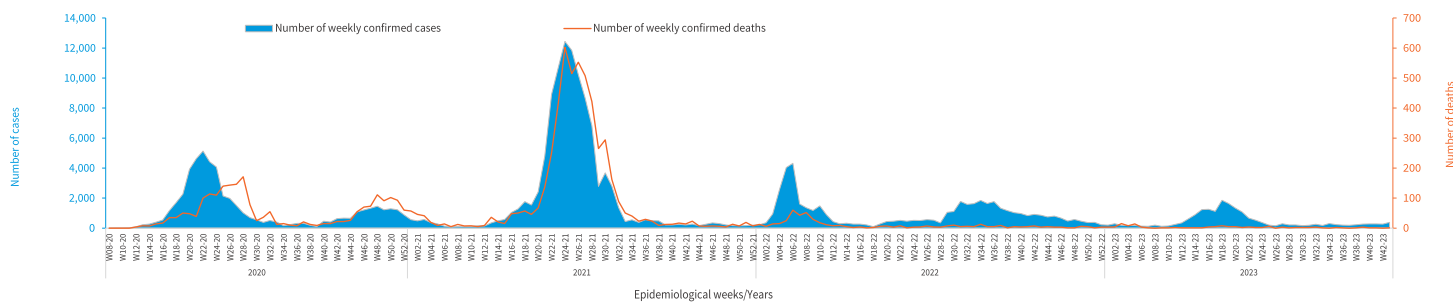
\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 42-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,554 to 2,655 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 255 to 265.

- During week 43-2023, a significant increase (45.7%) was observed in the number of COVID-19 cases compared to previous week for the first time after stabilization for the past 16 weeks (Figures 6-7).
- In week 43-2023, a total of 3,082 samples were tested in public labs, of which 386 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 12.5%) and one associated death was reported.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 912,926 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 43-2023, 10.1% (39/386 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 10.2% of those hospitalized (4/39) were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

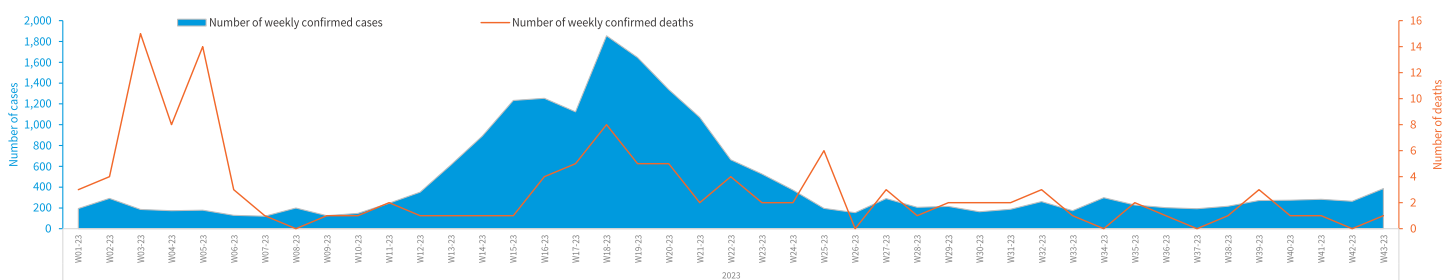
### Response

- During week 43, 800 boxes (25 test/box) of COVID-19 rapid antigen test, 42 boxes (1,000 gloves/box) of surgical gloves and 11 boxes (2,000 masks/box) of medical masks were delivered to Kabul provincial NDSR office.
- Since 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.

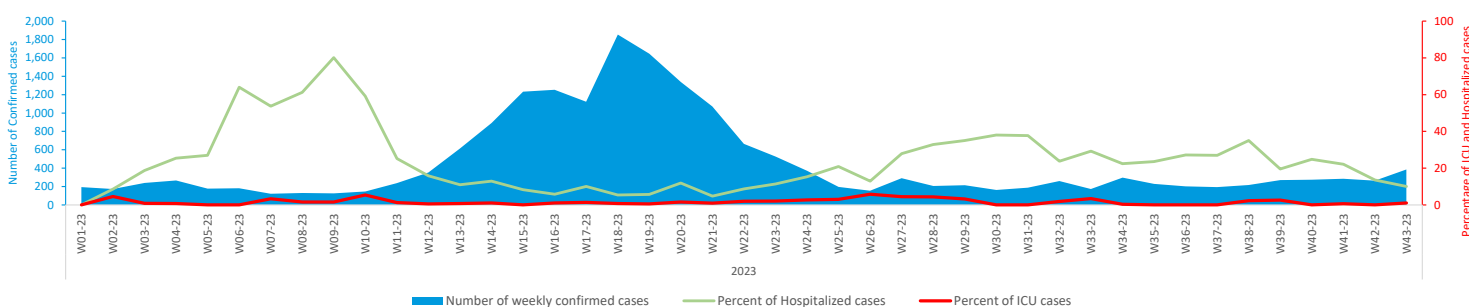
**Figure 6.** Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 28 Oct 2023



**Figure 7.** Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023



**Figure 8.** Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023




### Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 28 Oct 2023)

  
**22,687**  
Total Cases





  
**62**  
Total Deaths

  
**5,055**  
Sample tested

  
**2,455**  
Lab confirmed cases

  
**48.6%**  
Test positivity ratio

**Table 4:** Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

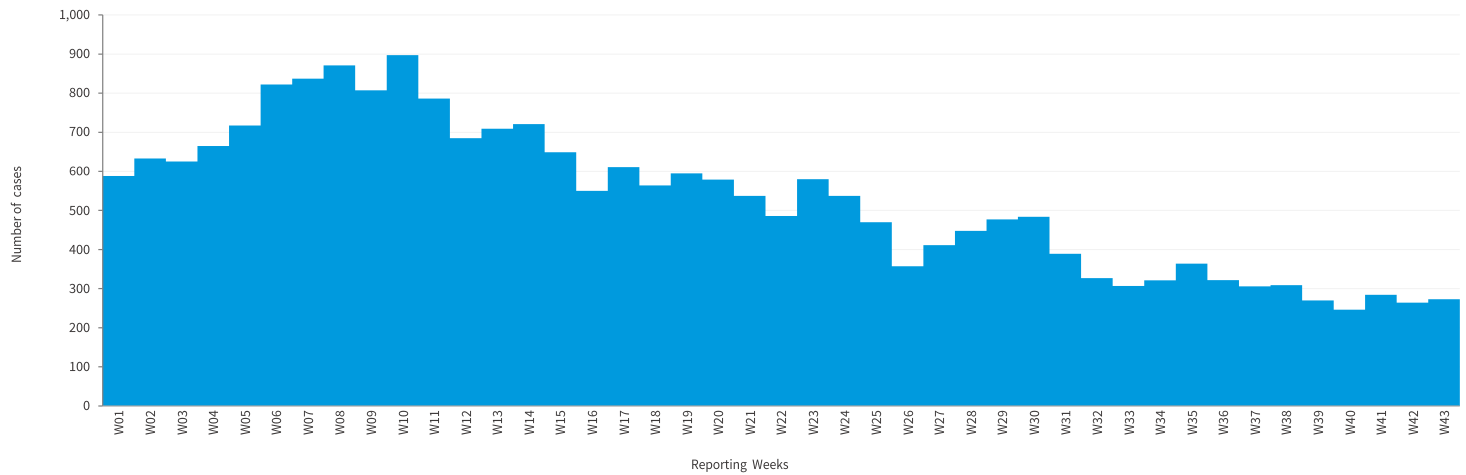
Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Suspected cases	322	306	309	270	246	284	264 *	273	
% Change cases	-11.5	-5.0	1.0	-12.6	-8.9	15.4	-7.0	3.4	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 42-2023, the number of suspected cases was modified from 258 to 264.

- Overall, the epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a declining trend since week 10 with stabilization of the number of suspected cases below 300 during the last 5 weeks (Figure 9).
- During week 43-2023, a total of 273 suspected cases were reported which shows 3.4% increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- No suspected measles associated death has been reported since week 35.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 22,687 suspected cases of measles and 62 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 16,039 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,683 (47.1%) were females (Figure 10).



Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 28 Oct 2023 (N=22,687)



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### Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 28 Oct 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=22,687)

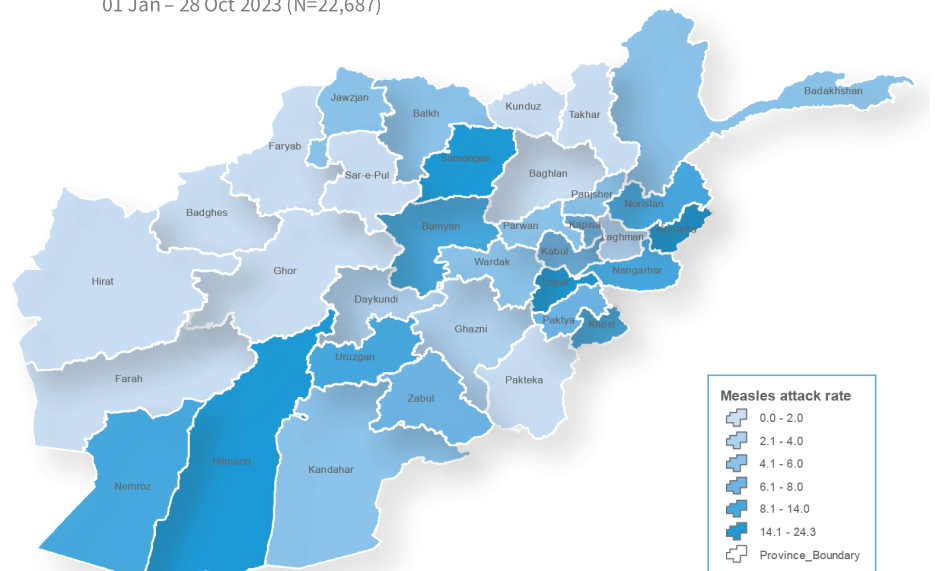
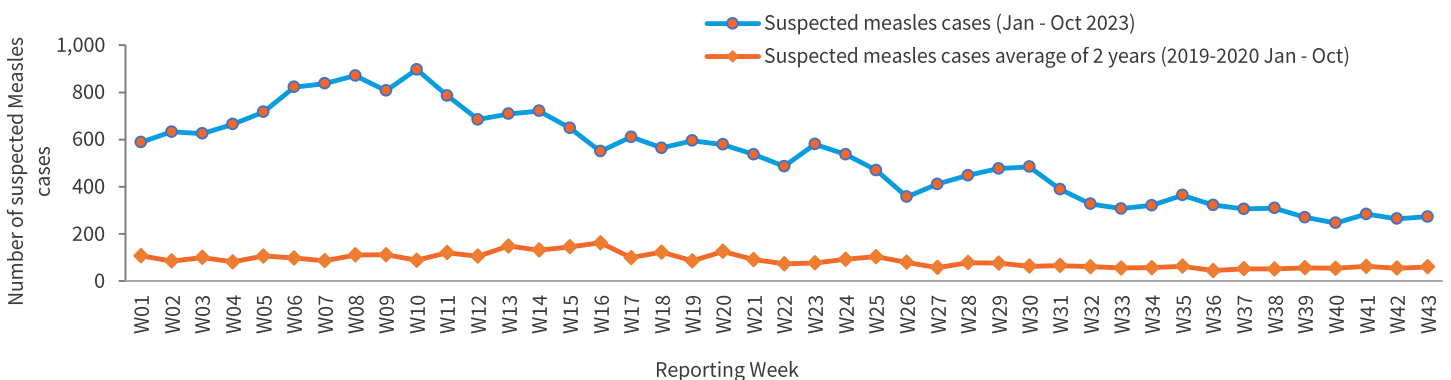


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Oct 2023, Afghanistan



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 11).

### Preparedness and response to the Measles Outbreak

- During week 43, 55 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated as part of outbreak response and immunization campaign by the implementing NGOs in Khakriz district of Kandahar province. This brings the total number of children vaccinated to 7,208 since January 2023.
- A total of 132,000 IEC materials on measles have been delivered to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

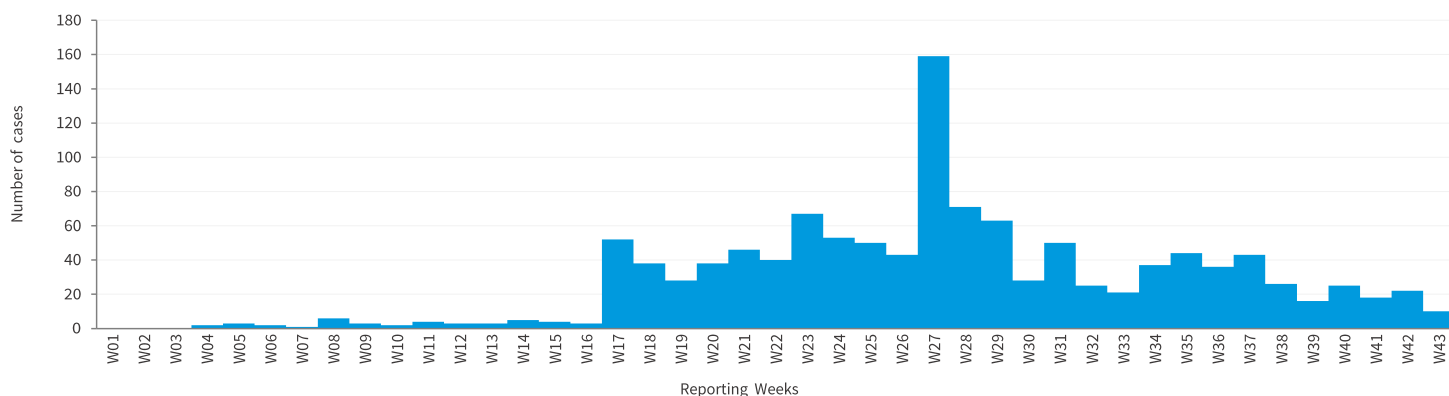
## Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 28 Oct 2023)

**Table 5:** Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Suspected cases	36	43	26	16	25	18	22	10	
% Change cases	-18.2	19.4	-39.5	-38.5	56.3	-28.0	22.2	-54.5	
Suspected deaths	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	
CFR (%)	2.8	7.0	3.8	0.0	4.0	5.6	4.5	20.0	

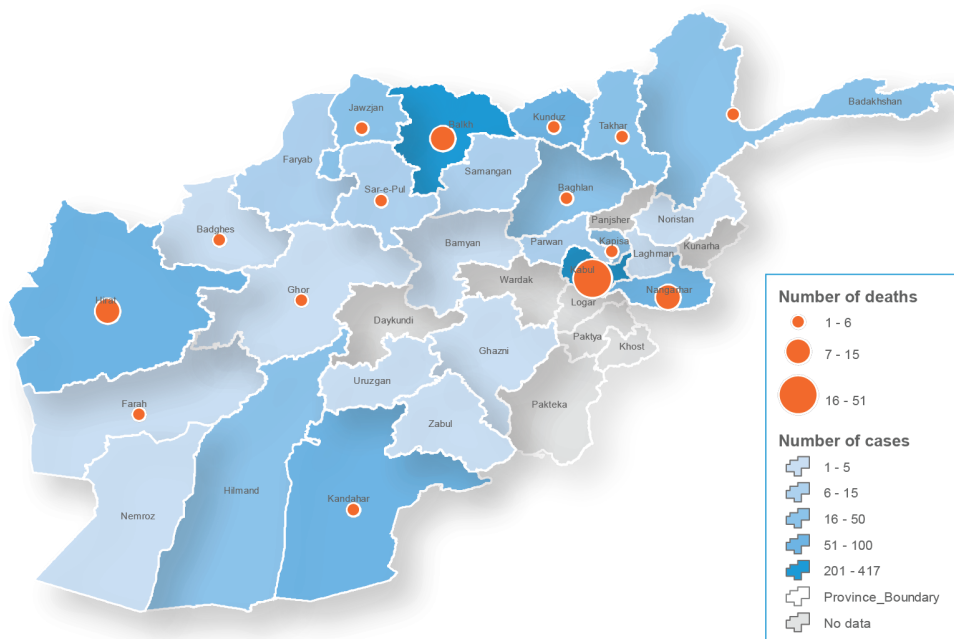
- During week 43-2023, a total of 10 new cases of CCHF and 2 deaths were reported, which shows 54.5% decrease in the number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 5, Figure 12).
- The two new deaths were over 5 years males reported from Kabul province.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,190 and 110, respectively (CFR 9.2%) (Figure 13).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (51, 46.4%) and Balkh (15, 13.6%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,187 (99.7%) were above 5 years of age and 368 (30.9%) were females.
- Totally, 1,052 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 370 samples were positive (positivity = 35.2%).

**Figure 12:** Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=1,190)



### AFGHANISTAN Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 28 Oct 2023

**Figure 13.** Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 28 Oct 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 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

- 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

- A total of 199,300 IEC materials 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.

## Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 28 Oct 2023)



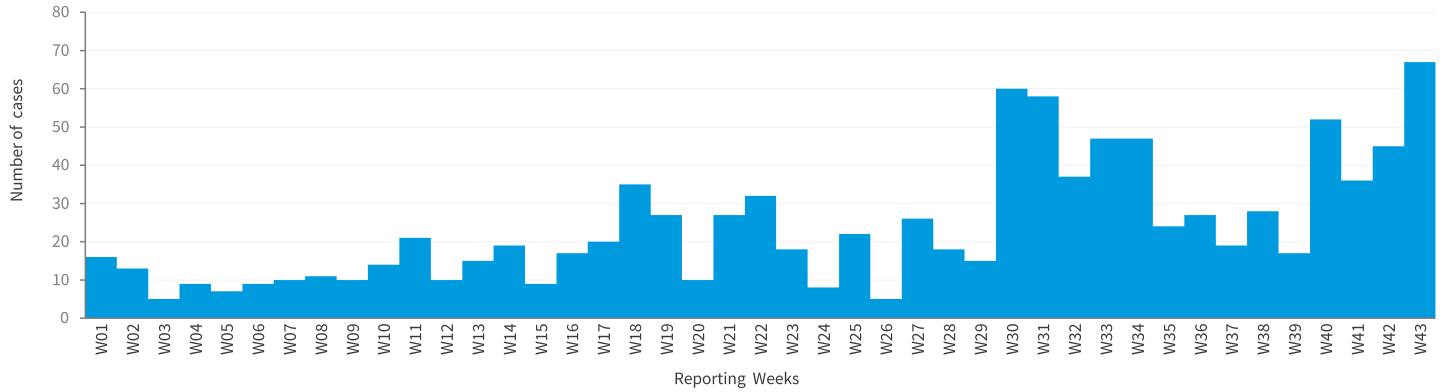
**Table 6:** Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Sep – 28 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	Trend lines
Suspected cases	27	19	28	17	52	36	45	67	
% Change cases	12.5	-29.6	47.4	-39.3	205.9	-30.8	25.0	48.9	
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	

- During week 43-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases of dengue fever shows a 48.9% increase compared to previous week (Figure 14).

- A total of 67 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 43-2023; all were reported from 3 provinces, Nangarhar (65), Laghman (1) and Kunar (1). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 1,022 and one death since the beginning of 2023 (Figure 15).
- Out of 1,022 suspected cases, 509 (49.8%) were females and 1001 (97.9%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 660 samples have been collected, out of which 157 were confirmed (positivity= 23.8%).

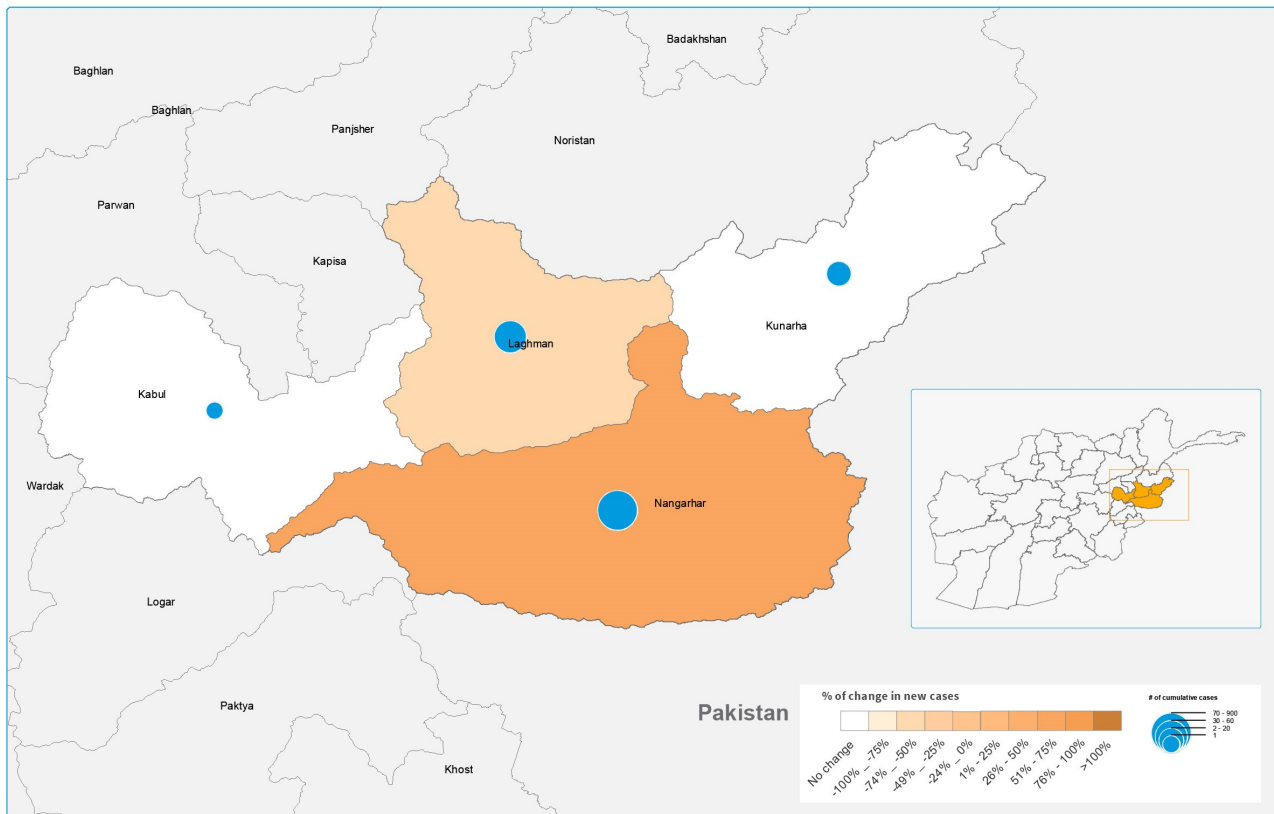
**Figure 14.** Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 28 Oct 2023 (N=1,022)



**Figure 15.** Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Oct 2023



**Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes**  
(between weeks 42 and 43, 2023)



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: 28 Oct 2023.

## Response to the dengue fever outbreak

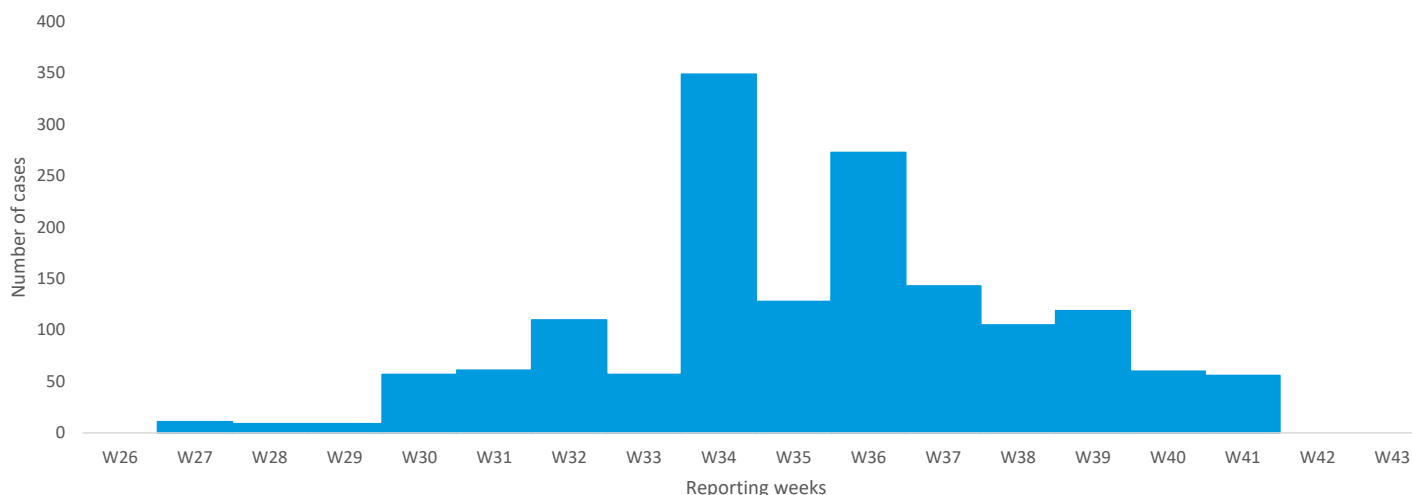
- Since Jan 2023:
  - ◊ A total of 60 dengue RDT kits have been supplied to 4 provinces: Nangarhar (50), Kunar (3), Laghman (3), Nuristan (2) and Kabul (2).
  - ◊ A total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
  - ◊ A total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.
- A guideline for case management of dengue fever has been revised followed by a one-day workshop with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.



## Malaria outbreak

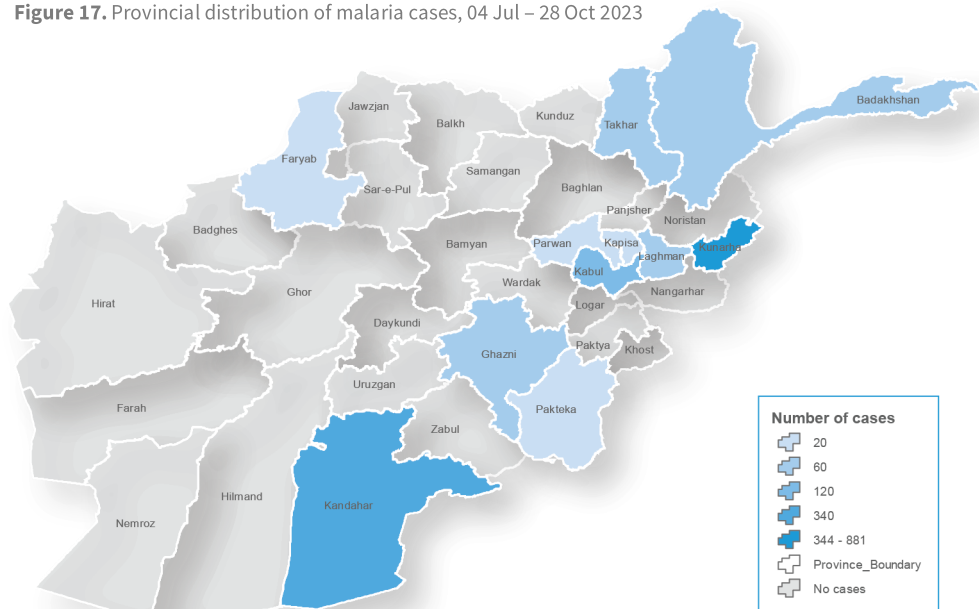
- No alerts of malaria outbreak have been reported for the last two weeks.
- Since 04 Jul-2023, a total of 1,546 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 243 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 22 districts in 11 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Parwan, Faryab, Paktika, Takhar, Laghman and Ghazni) (Figure 17).
- Out of the total cases, 679 (43.9%) were females and 181 (11.7%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.

**Figure 16.** Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 12 provinces during 04 Jul – 28 Oct 2023 (N=1,546)



## AFGHANISTAN Provincial distribution of Malaria cases As of 28 Oct 2023

**Figure 17.** Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul – 28 Oct 2023



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

[Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds](#)

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