








AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #24-2023





No. 24/(11-17 June)

Disease Outbreaks	 CCHF (Jan - Jun 23)	 AWD (Jan - Jun 23)	 COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Jun 23)	 Measles (Jan - Jun 23)	 Dengue fever (Jan—Jun 23)
Cumulative Cases (Data from 613 (100.0%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)	359*	73,458	223,174	16,034	372
Death (CFR %)	11* (3.1)	33 (0.04)	7,922 (3.6)	47 (0.3)	1 (0.3)

* The 359 cumulative cases of CCHF include 114 outbreak cases and 245 sporadic cases. Also, the 11 deaths includes both outbreak (6) and sporadic (5) reports.

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 17 Jun 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Apr - 17 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	52	17	4	16	8	4	2	35 *	
% Change cases	0.0	-67.3	-76.5	300.0	-50.0	-50.0	-25.0	1,650.0	
Suspected deaths	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
CFR (%)	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	

* 35 new cases include 3 outbreaks and 32 sporadic cases.

- During week 24-2023, a total of 35 new cases of CCHF (11 cases were confirmed positive by PCR and one was confirmed by Elisa) and no new associated death were reported (Table 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 359 cases were reported from 27 provinces (Figure 1), out of which 114 (31.8%) cases were reported from outbreak.
- Out of total cases (359), 358 (99.7%) were above 5 years of age and 110 (30.6%) were females.
- Cumulatively, since January 2023, 11 deaths (CFR = 3.1%)

were reported (3 from Balkh, 2 from Kandahar, 2 from Jawzjan and 2 from Kabul, 1 from each of Takhar and Samangan provinces).

- Main case load over the past 2 months is from South (Kandahar and Helmand), north (Balkh) and Central (Kabul) provinces.
- Totally, 72 CCHF samples were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 23 samples were positive (positivity rate 31.9 %).

Response to CCHF outbreak

- During week 24, national zoonosis committee was organized and chaired by CDC-MoPH where relevant departments from the ministry of Agriculture, Kabul municipality, ministry of information and technology, national and internal partners attended the meeting; coordinating the preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases outbreak (including CCHF); public awareness before the Eid ul Adha and case management of infected cases were discussed among the committee members.
- During week 24, 6 CCHF PCR kits were supplied to IDH-Kabul (3), NRRL (1), KRRL (1), and BRRL (1).
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- SOPs were shared for laboratory procedures, sample collection and selection of appropriate test with staff at Kandahar RRL.
- A total of 800 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh

province for CCHF case management. This brings the total number of double bags to 1,600 donated to the North region.

- WHO biomedical engineer was deployed to Balkh province regional hospital (RH) for installation/fixing the centrifuge machine and other Lab and blood bank related equipment.
- WHO Laboratory officer was deployed to provide technical support to laboratory staff on CCHF sample processing in Kandahar.
- A total of 15 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 177 health care workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol from all regions.

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 17 Jun 2023

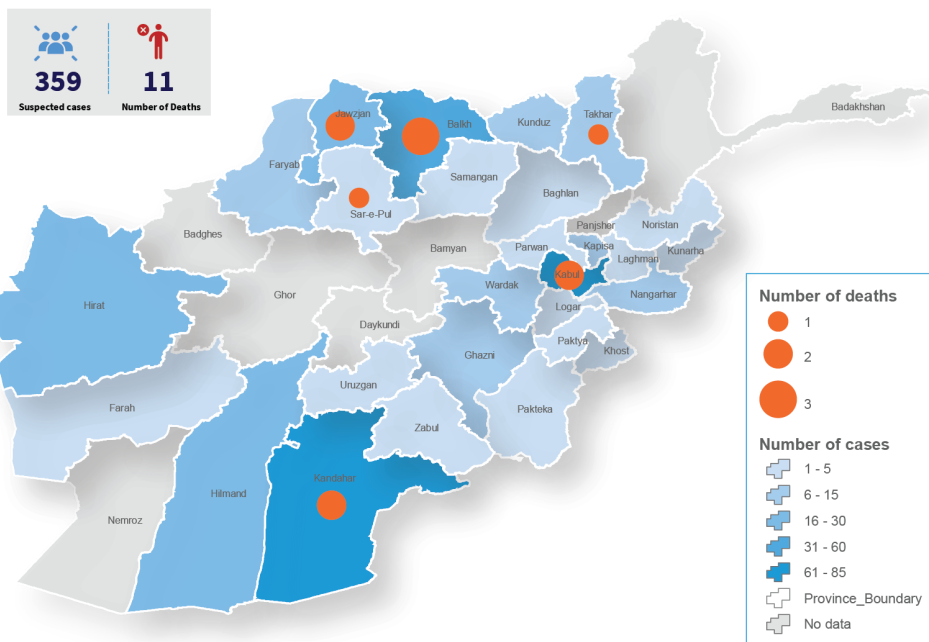


Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–17 Jun 2023

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 17 Jun 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Apr - 17 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	3,267	3,793	3,419	3,908	4,454	4,482	4627 *	4,824	
% Change cases	39.9	16.1	-9.9	14.3	14.0	0.6	3.2	4.3	
Suspected deaths	3	2	1	0	3	0	3 **	2	
CFR (%)	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.06	0.04	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 23-2023, and the number of cases was modified from 3,716 to 4,627.

**A delayed reporting was experienced during week 23-2023, and the number of deaths was modified from 2 to 3.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases are continuously increasing, the general trend is on the rise since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the start of the summer season (Figure 2).
- During week 24-2023, a total of 4,824 new AWD cases with dehydration and 2 new deaths were reported from 204 districts all over the country, which shows 4.3% increase in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 73,458 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 319 districts, out of which 42,040

(57.2%) were children below 5 years and 36,301 (49.4%) were females.

- The new deaths were both under five, males from Farah and Zabul provinces.
- During last week, no new district reported alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts remained at 319 (Figure 3).
- A total of 895 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

Note: The number of new districts reported alert and the number of districts reported AWD cases with dehydration in week 23 was a typo and corrected in week 24 Outbreak Situation Report.

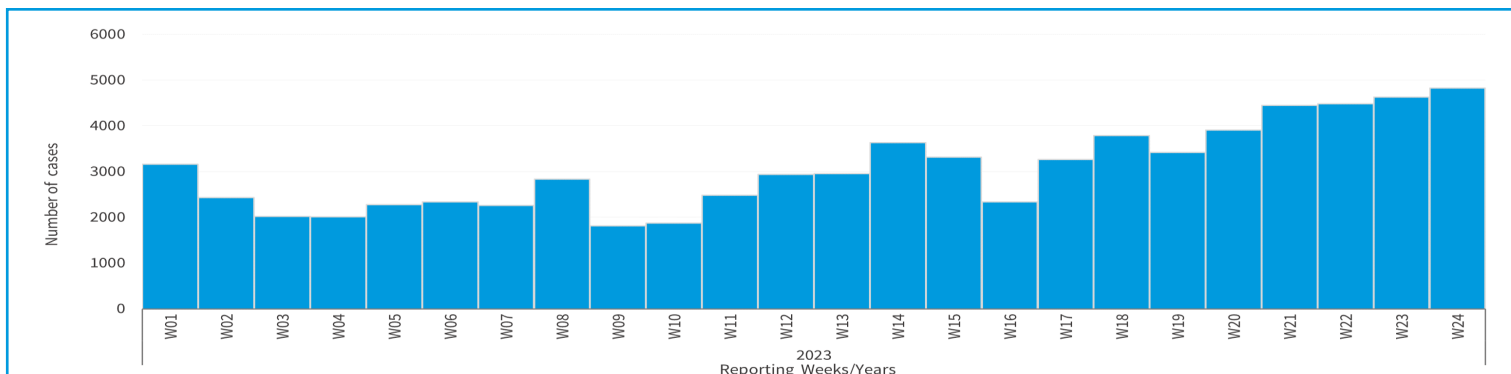


Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–17 Jun 2023 (N=73,458)

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

As of 17 Jun 2023

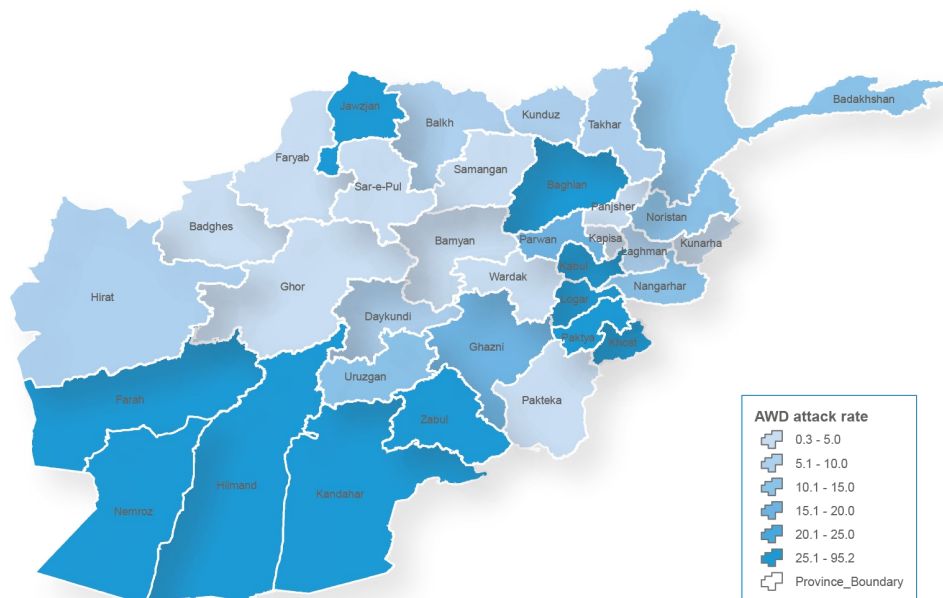


Figure 3. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–17 Jun 2023

Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted for health partners to prepare for the 2023 season of 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 last week, e-surveillance expansion from provincial to district level has been started, as the first step, a total of 53 surveillance sentinel focal points, 4 NDSR officers and 7 data management officers were trained on e-surveillance reporting from Kabul, Logar, Kapisa and Panjshir provinces.
- A total of 148 NDSR officers were trained on EBS and IBS procedures in Kabul province since Jan 2023.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Totally, 1,018 medical officers and community health supervisors (CHSs) have been trained on procedures of community event-based surveillance (EBS) in 6 provinces (Kabul, Badkhashan, Bamiyan, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar).

- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- During week 24, a total of 76 member of SSTs including 4 females were trained on surveillance and laboratory procedures from Central, Central Highland, Northeast and Southeast regions.

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 338 health care workers (HCWs) are trained on AWD case management.
- More than 750 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

Laboratory and Supplies

As part of the preparedness plan for 2023:

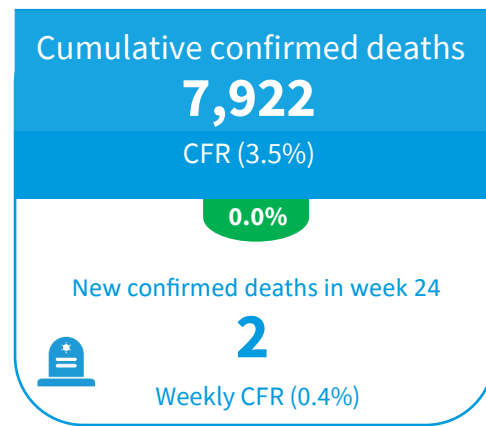
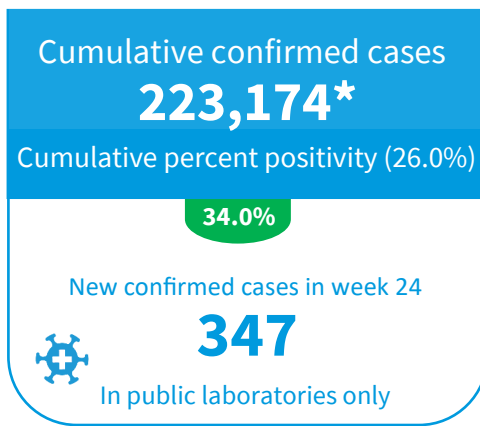
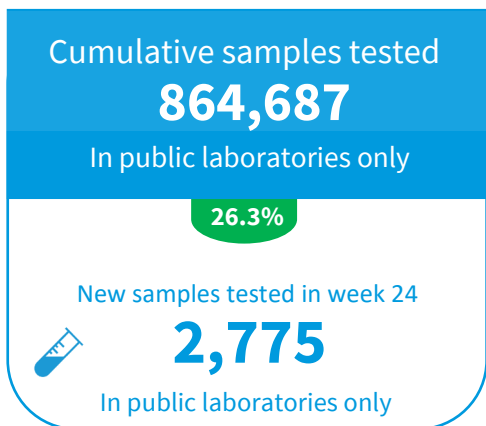
- During week 24, Lab training was conducted on PCR and ELISA for 6 Regional NDSR lab focal points at CPHL.
- 5 diagnostic AWD with dehydration RDTs kits were supplied to Kabul province NDSR.
- A total of 3,750 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 325 kits of RDTs were prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- 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 and RCCE

During the first week of the June, the following WASH activities conducted as a response to AWD with dehydration:

- Safe water was provided for around 1,600 individuals in Helmand and Zabul provinces by either construction or rehabilitation of the water supply system.
- Hygiene Promotion sessions were provided in Zabul province reaching almost 900 individuals.
- Aqua tabs were distributed to around 300 individuals in Bamiyan province.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 17 Jun 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

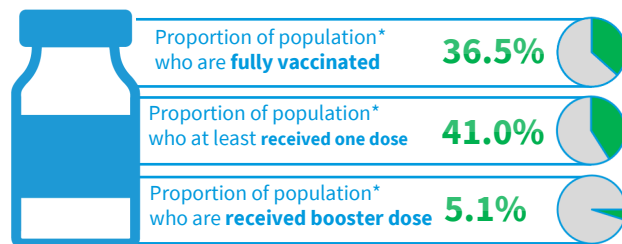


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (23 Apr - 17 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	3,569	5,906	6,280	6,047	5,065	4,214	3,764	2,757	
Confirmed cases	1123	1855	1646	1337	1071	664	526 *	347	
% Change cases	-10.4	65.2	-11.3	-18.8	-19.9	-38.0	-20.8	-34.0	
Percent positivity (%)	31.5	31.4	26.2	22.1	21.1	15.8	14.0	12.6	
Deaths	5	8	5	5	2	4	2	2	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 23-2023, and the number of new cases was modified from 522 to 526.

- The number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, the epi curve (Figure 4) shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases over the past 6 weeks.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 864,687 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 24-2023, 2,775 samples were tested in public labs, of which 347 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 12.5%) and 2 new deaths were reported.
- During week 24-2023, 13.8% (48 /347 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 5), including 10 cases (20.8% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- Since the beginning of the year, a total of 5,075 bottles of hand sanitizer have been distributed to NDSR offices in 34 provinces.

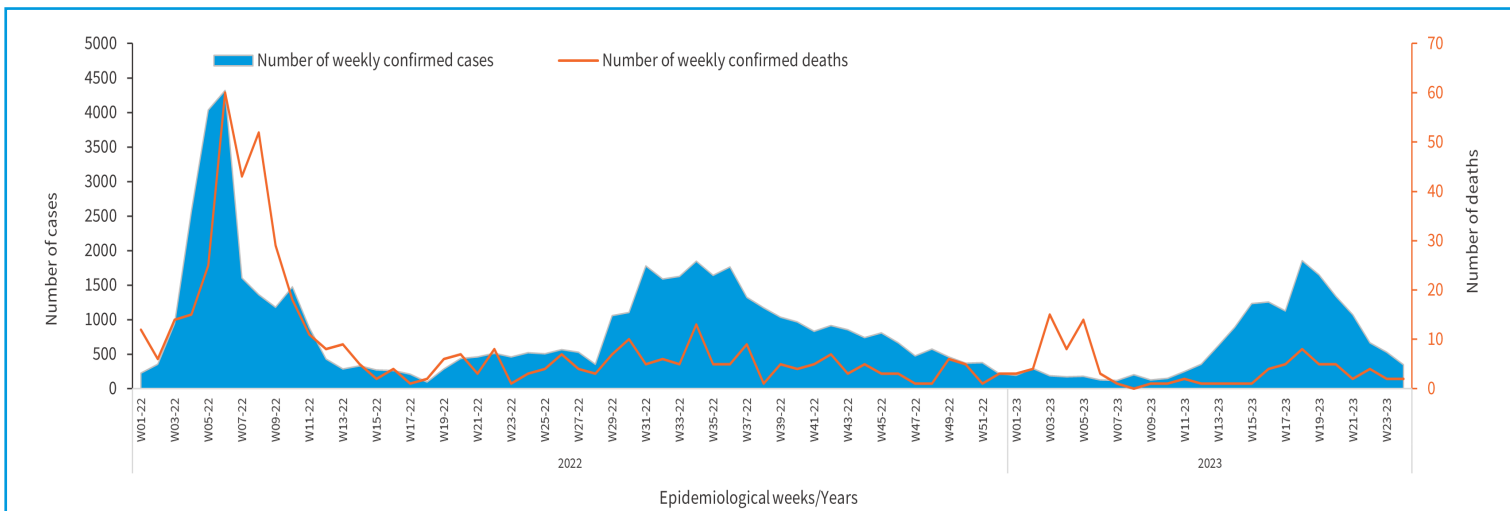


Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–17 Jun 2023

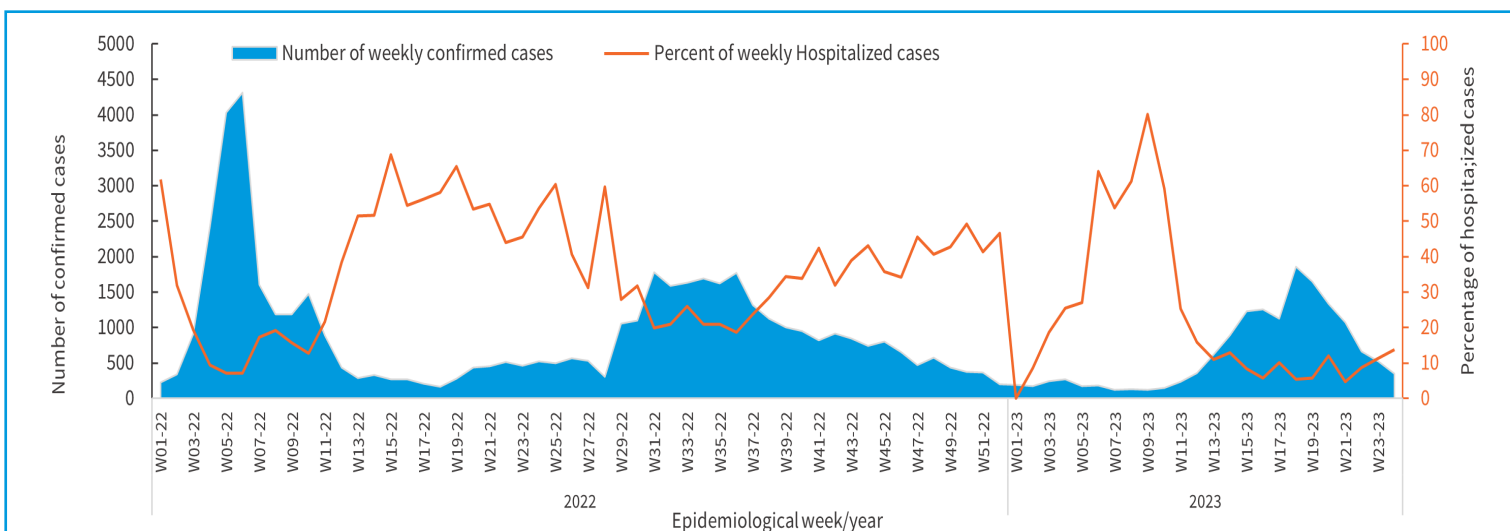


Figure 5. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–17 Jun 2023

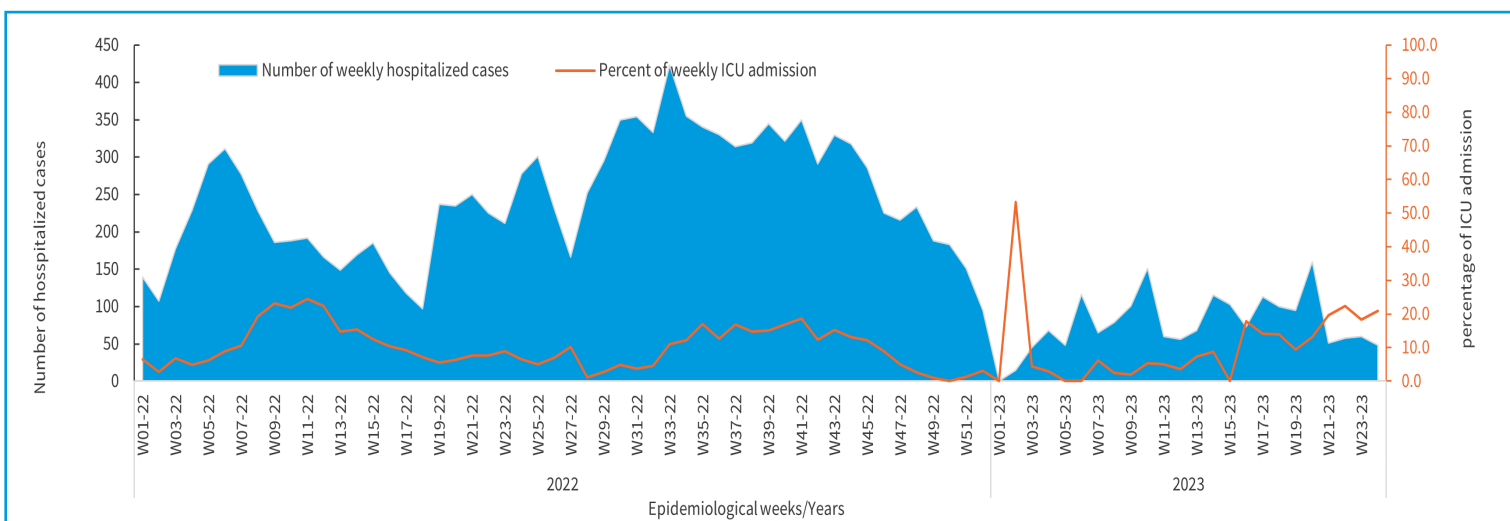


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–17 Jun 2023

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 17 Jun 2023)

16,034
Total Cases

47
Total Deaths

2,982
Sample tested

1,537
Lab confirmed cases

51.5%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Apr - 17 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	611	564	595	579	537	486	580 *	513	
% Change cases	11.1	-7.7	5.5	-2.7	-7.3	-9.5	19.3	-11.6	
Suspected deaths	0	1	1	6	2	1	1 **	2	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 23, and the number of suspected cases of measles was corrected by MOPH from 524 to 580.

**A delayed reporting was experienced during week 23, and the number of deaths were modified by the MoPH from 0 to 1.

- Overall, measles cases are showing a slow declining trend since week 10, although still the number of reported cases is considered high as compared to the endemic level of the country prior to the outbreak (Figure 7&9).
- During epidemiological week 24-2023, a total of 513 suspected cases and 2 associated deaths were reported which indicates 11.6% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- 2 new measles associated death were both below 5 years of age, one female from Kapisa and one male from Helmand.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 16,034 measles cases were reported, out of which 11,429 (71.3%) were children under 5 years of age and 7,551 (47.1%) were females.

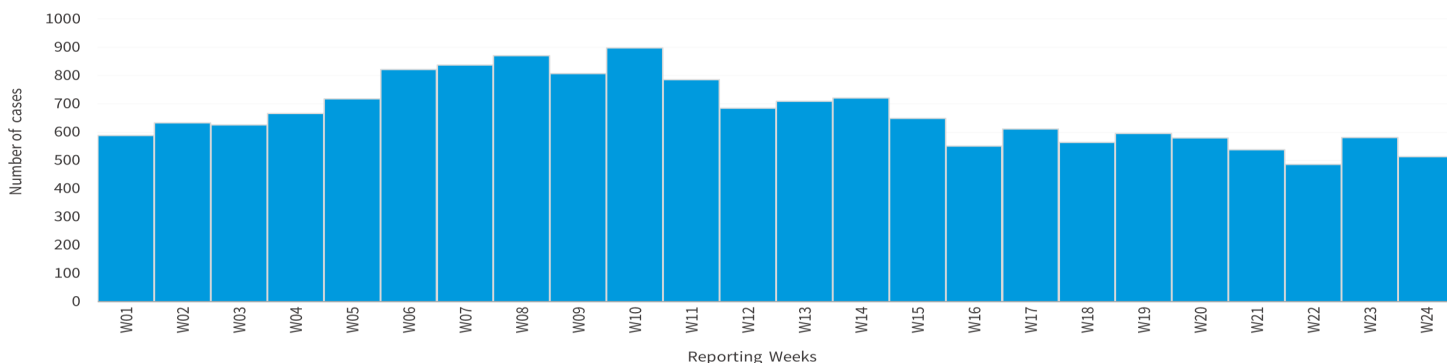


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 17 Jun 2023 (N=16,034)

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Suspected measles attack per 10,000 population of by province

As of 17 Jun 2023

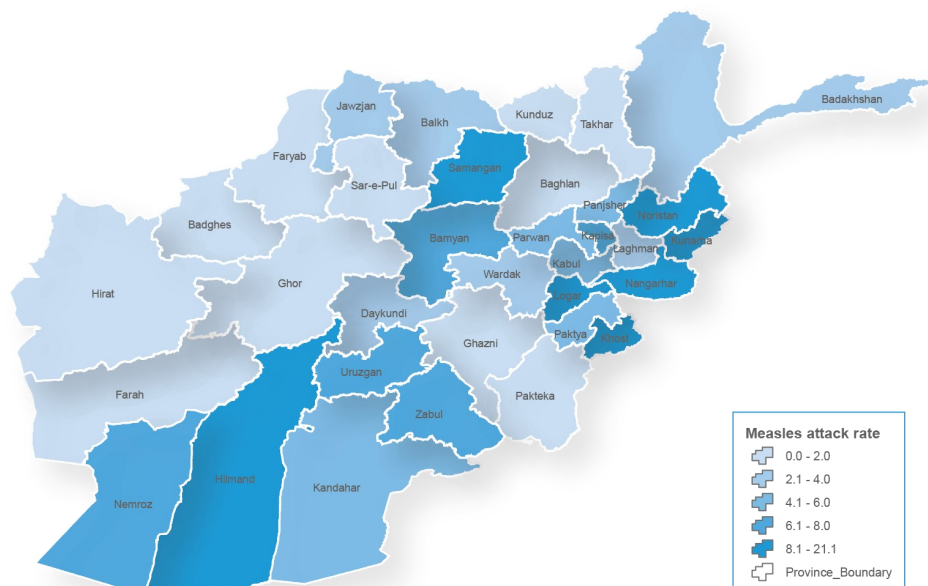
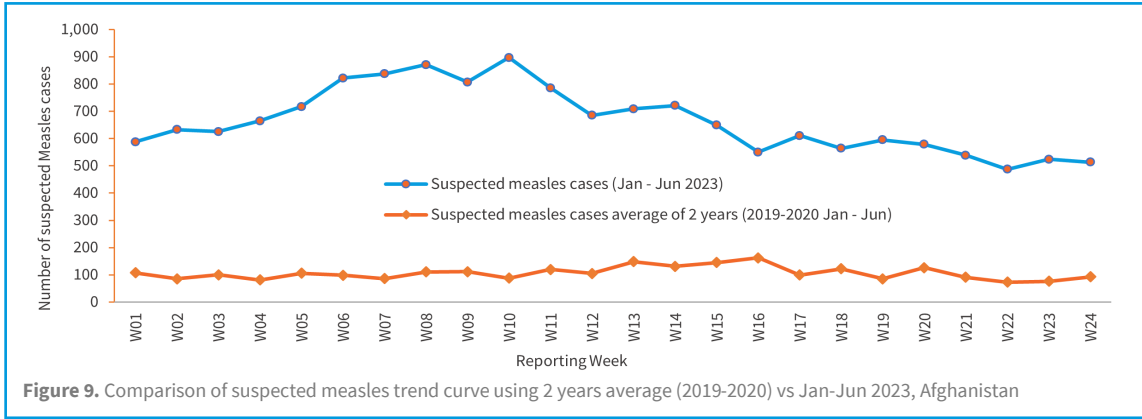


Figure 8. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–17 Jun 2023 (N=16,034)



Comparing the current curve with the curve for the average number of suspected cases reported during (2019-2020); it 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).

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

Response to 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.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; vaccinating 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% admin coverage).
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak response and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- A total of 593 measles case management kits were provided to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 17 Jun 2023)

372
Total Cases

1
Total Deaths

158
Sample tested

39
Lab confirmed cases

24.7%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (23 Apr - 17 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	20	35	27	10	27	32	18	8	
% Change cases	17.6	75.0	-22.9	-63.0	170.0	18.5	-43.8	-55.6	
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 8 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 24-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 372 and one death since the beginning of the 2023.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows a decrease during week 24 compared to the preceding week. The average number of dengue fever for the last 8 weeks was 22.1 cases (range between 8-35) which needs close monitoring given the start of the season of vector breeding in Nangarhar province (Figure 10).
- Out of 372 reported cases, 212 (57.0%) were females and 363 (97.6%) were over 5 years of age.

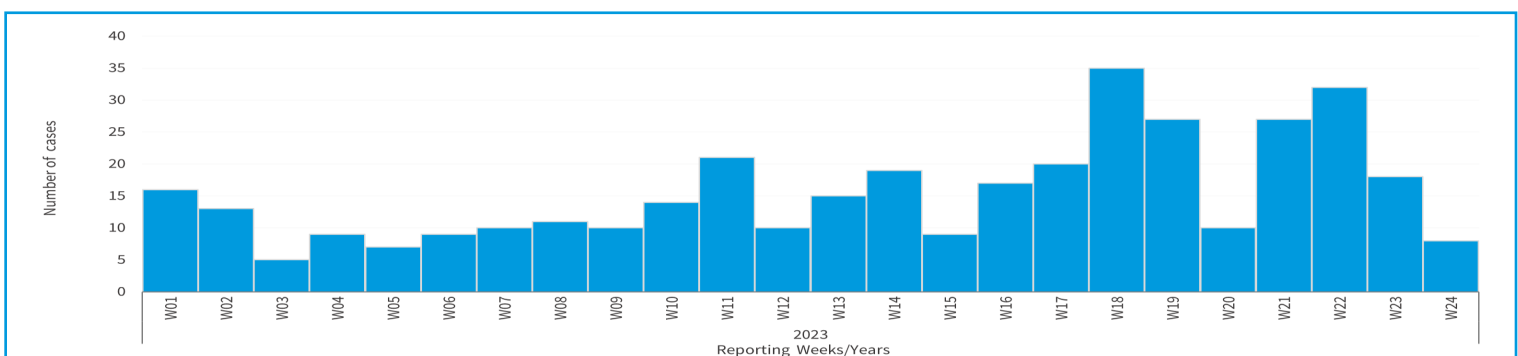
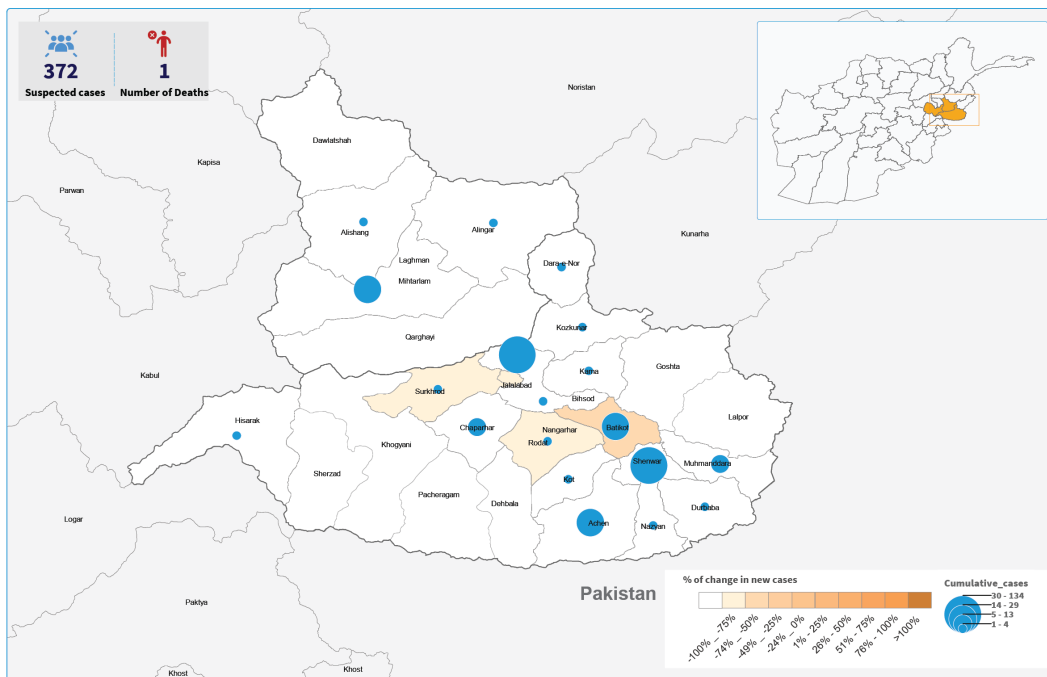


Figure 10. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-17 Jun 2023 (N=372)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 23 and 24, 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: 17 June 2023.

Figure 11. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Jun 2023

Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- During week 24, 4 Dengue PCR kits were supplied to IDH (1), CPHL (1) and NRRL (3).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on dengue case management in East region.
- Health education sessions were conducted in two villages of hotspot areas (Jalalabad city and Shinwar district) for increasing public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.

Malaria Highlight

- During week 23, a malaria outbreak was reported from Ghazi Mirzaman CHC of Narang district of Kunar province.
- A total of 71 malaria cases (63 were PV positive by microscopic test) with no death were detected in the village; out of which 40 (56.3%) were male and 66 (93.0%) were over 5 years of age.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Committee was established in provincial level; the investigation team including PMVDP Manager, CDC Officer of MOPH, and NDSR officer along with SST was assigned and moved to the affected field for investigation.
- Active case finding was performed by surveillance support team (SST), Case management was accomplished by the implementing partner and health education session has been conducted by CDC officer.
- As preparedness plan for 2023, a total of 300 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on Malaria case management in the East region.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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