








### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #26-2023





No. 26/(25 Jun-01 Jul)

Disease Outbreaks	 CCHF (Jan - Jul 23)	 AWD (Jan - Jul 23)	 COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Jul 23)	 Measles (Jan - Jul 23)	 Dengue fever (Jan—Jul 23)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> <small>(Data from 389 (63.4%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites); the under reporting was due to Eid holidays</small>	<b>422</b>	<b>85,228</b>	<b>223,549</b>	<b>16,883</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>35*</b> (8.3)	<b>40</b> (0.05)	<b>7,928</b> (3.5)	<b>48</b> (0.3)	<b>1</b> (0.3)

\*9 CCHF deaths were added to the cumulative number of deaths which were reported sporadically from 5 provinces during Jan-Jul 2023.

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

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 May - 01 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	4	16	8	4	3	35	15	48	
% Change cases	-76.5	300.0	-50.0	-50.0	-25.0	1066.7	-57.1	220.0	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	3	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	80.0	6.3	

- During week 26-2023, a total of 48 new cases of CCHF (15 cases were confirmed positive by PCR) and 3 new deaths were reported. This brings the total number of CCHF cases to 422 from 31 provinces since the beginning of 2023 (Table 1, Figure2).
- 9 additional CCHF associated deaths were added to cumulative deaths which were reported sporadically from 5 provinces. This brings the total number of CCHF associated deaths to 35 (CFR=8.3%) from the beginning of 2023.
- The CCHF associated deaths were reported from 12 provinces (13 from Kabul, 6 from Balkh, 3 from Parwan, 3 from

Takhar, 2 from Jawzjan, 2 from Kandahar, and one from each of Baghlan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kapisa, Paktya, and Sari-Pul).

- Out of total cases (422), 421 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 128 (30.3%) were females.
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from South (Kandahar and Helmand), North (Balkh) and Central (Kabul) provinces.
- Totally, 136 CCHF samples were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 53 samples were positive (positivity rate 39.0%).

### Response to CCHF outbreak

- Case management guideline for CCHF has been revised and under MoPH approval; a one day workshop was also held with participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- In the last two weeks, a total of 7 CCHF PCR kits have been supplied to IDH (3), Nangarhar (1), Herat (1), Balkh (1), and Kandahar (1) RRLs. This brings the total number of CCHF PCR kits distributed to RRL to 13.
- On-the-job training has been provided to Nangarhar, Herat and Balkh RRLs' staff; and the capacities have been built to perform PCR and ELISA for CCHF laboratory confirmation.
- The following activities as preventive measures to CCHF have been carried out in Badakhshan province by NDSR:
  - Training was held on application of CCHF preventive measures during slaughtering to 150 butchers.
  - The brochures and banners related to CCHF preventive measures were installed in various parts of the Kishm and Baharak districts of Badakhshan province.

-Staff of Ustad Rabani hospital were trained on CCHF case management, and IPC measures.

- National zoonosis committee meeting has been held and chaired by CDC-MoPH where relevant departments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul Municipality, Ministry of Information and Technology, national and international partners attended the meeting; coordinating the preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases outbreak (including CCHF); public awareness and case management of infected cases were discussed and decided among the committee members.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- 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.

- 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.
- Lab training has been conducted for 6 days on PCR and ELISA 6 Regional NDSR lab focal points at CPHL.
- 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.

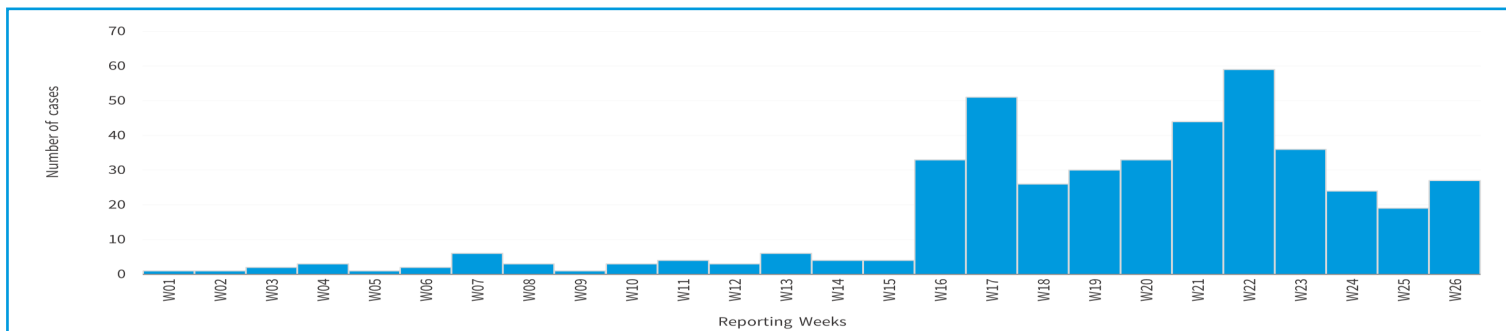


Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 01 Jul 2023 (N=422)

## AFGHANISTAN

### Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 01 Jul 2023

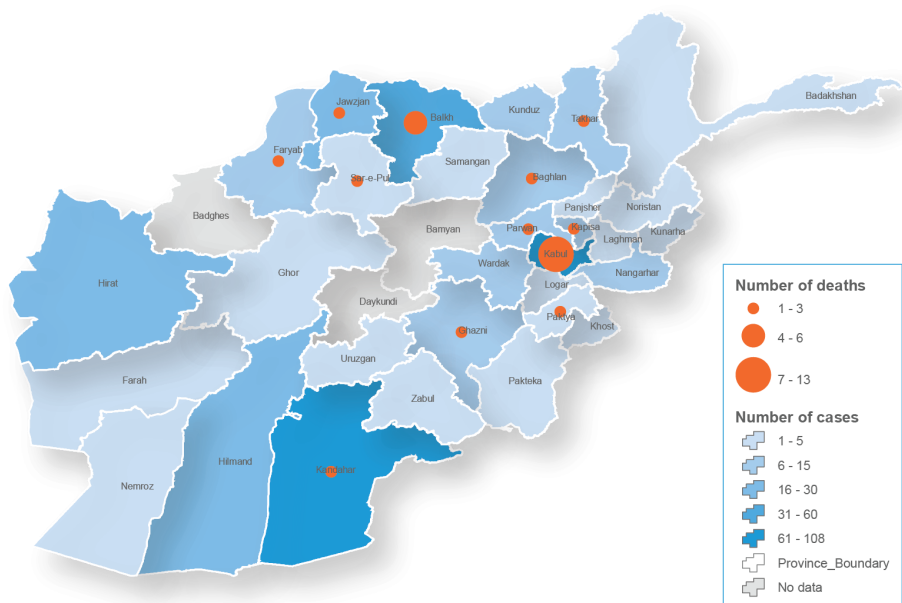


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan-01 Jul 2023

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

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 May - 01 Jul 2023)

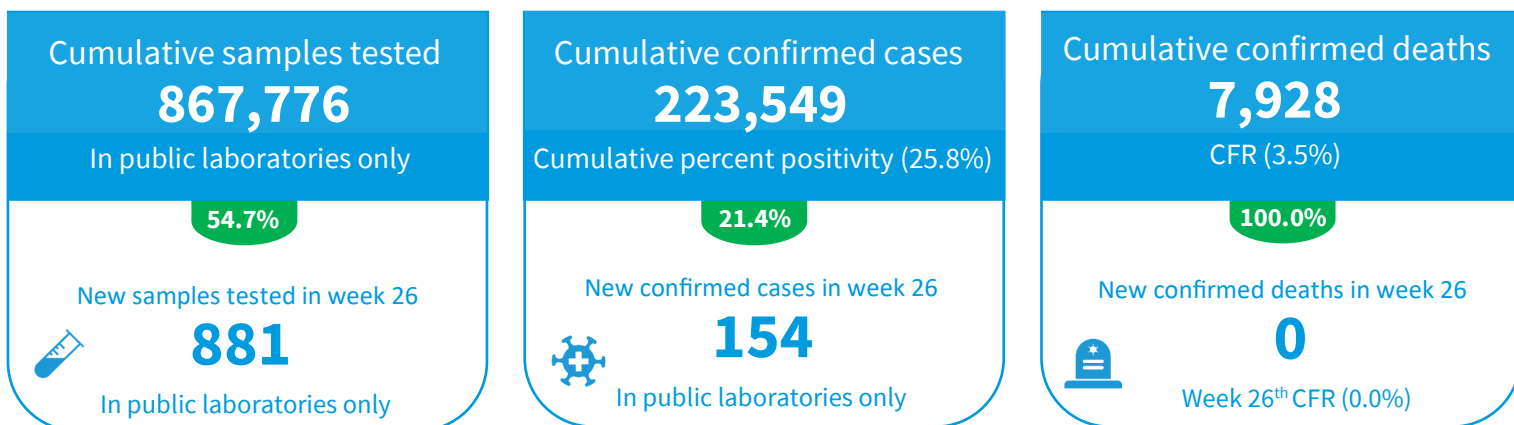
Indicators	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	3,419	3,908	4,454	4,481	4,627	5,143	6688*	4,763	
% Change cases	-9.9	14.3	14.0	0.6	3.3	11.2	30.0	-28.8	
Suspected deaths	1	0	3	1	2	1	7*	1	
CFR (%)	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.02	

\* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 25-2023, and the number of cases and deaths were modified from 6,207 to 6,688 and from 2 to 7, respectively.

- During week 26-2023, a total of 4,763 new AWD cases with dehydration and one new death was reported from 211 districts all over the country. This shows that the number of cases dropped by 28.8% in this week following increasing trend since week 10-2023; while the increasing trend could have been linked with start of the summer season, the drop in the number of AWD cases could be explained by non-response of HFs due to Eid al-Adha holidays (Figure 3).
- During last week, one new district (Geezab district of Daykundi province) reported alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reached to 324.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 85,228 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 324 districts, out of which 48,532 (56.9%) were children below 5 years and 42,035 (49.3%) were females.
- The new death was from Kabul province, male and over 5 years of age.
- A total of 1,060 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.



## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 01 Jul 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

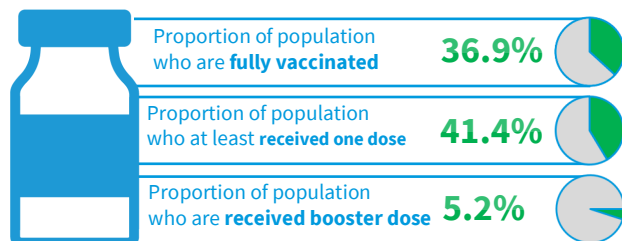


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (07 May - 01 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	6,280	6,047	5,065	4,214	3,764	3,022	1,943	881	
Confirmed cases	1646	1337	1071	664	526	372	196	154	
% Change cases	-11.3	-18.8	-19.9	-38.0	-20.8	-29.3	-47.3	-21.4	
Percent positivity (%)	26.2	22.1	21.1	15.8	14.0	12.3	10.1	17.5	
Deaths	5	5	2	4	2	2	6	0	
CFR (%)	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.0	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 25-2023, and the number of samples tested, and new cases were modified from 1,845 to 1943 and from 179 to 196, respectively.

- The number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, the epi curve (Figure 5) shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases over the past 8 weeks.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 867,776 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 26-2023, 881 samples were tested in public labs, of which 154 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 17.5%) and no new death was reported.
- During week 26-2023, 3.2% (5 /154 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 6), including 2 cases (40.0% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 7).

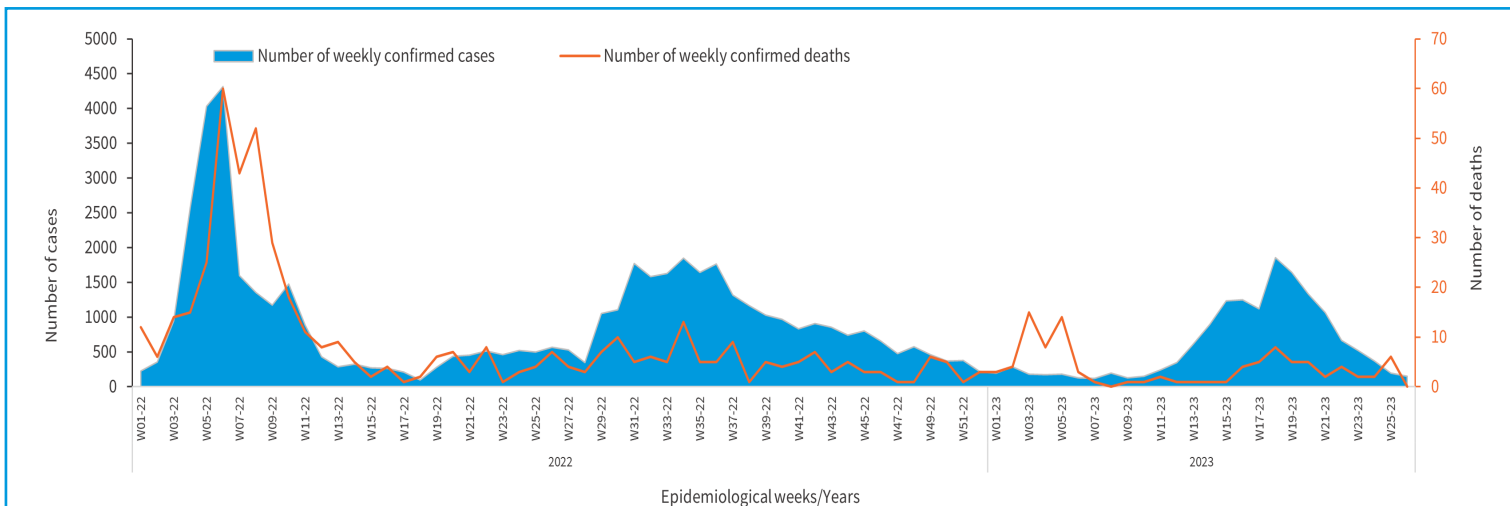


Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–01 Jul 2023

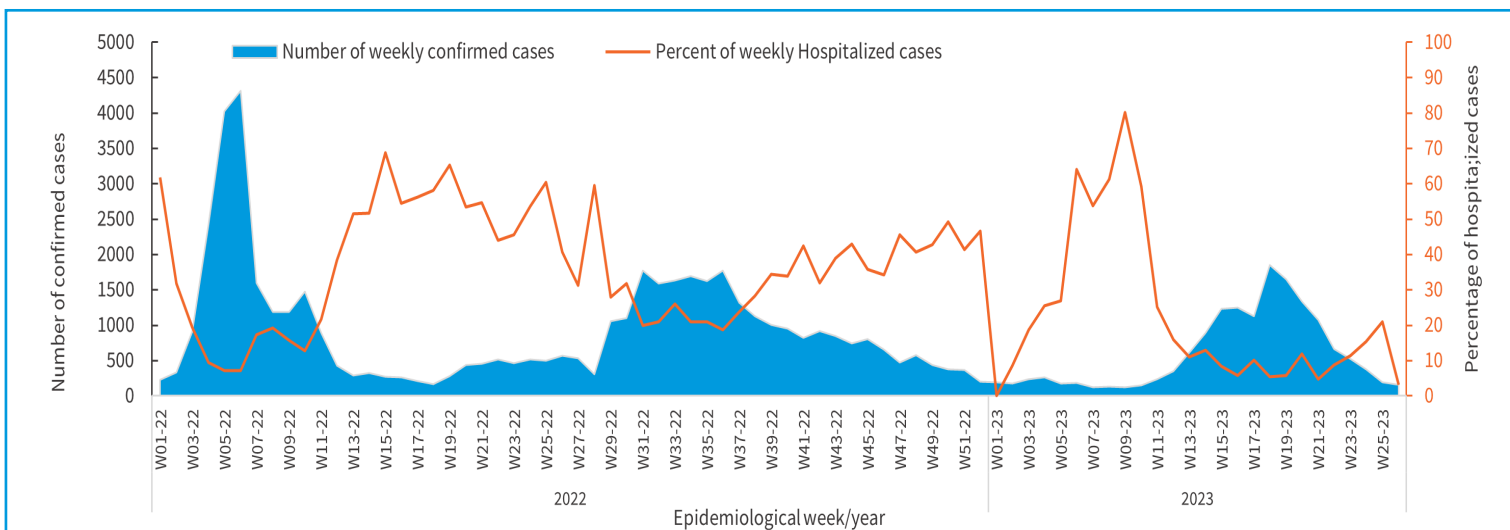


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–01 Jul 2023

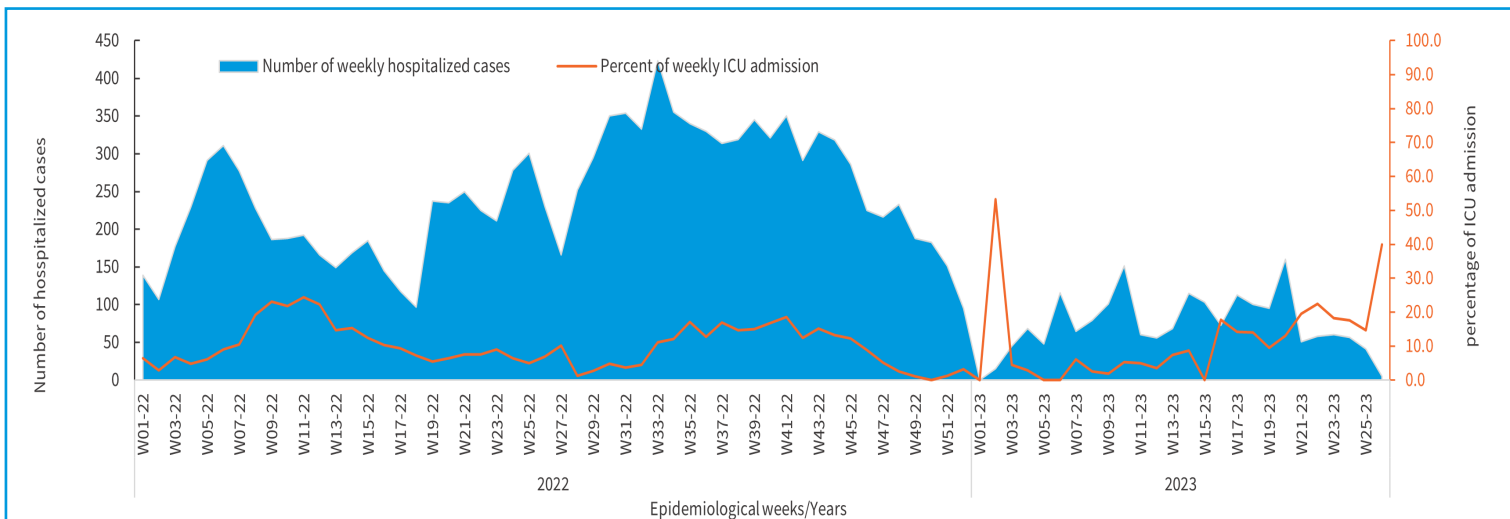


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–01 Jul 2023

## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 01 Jul 2023)

**16,883**  
Total Cases

**48**  
Total Deaths

**3,033**  
Sample tested

**1,568**  
Lab confirmed cases

**51.7%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 May - 01 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	595	579	537	486	580	537	470	355	
% Change cases	5.5	-2.7	-7.3	-9.5	19.3	-7.4	-12.5	-24.5	
Suspected deaths	1	6	2	1	1	2	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 25, and the number of suspected cases of measles was corrected from 431 to 470.

- 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 8 & 10).
- During epidemiological week 26-2023, a total of 355 suspected cases and no associated deaths were reported which indicates 24.5% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 16,883 measles cases were reported, out of which 11,995 (71.0%) were children under 5 years of age and 7947 (47.1%) were females.

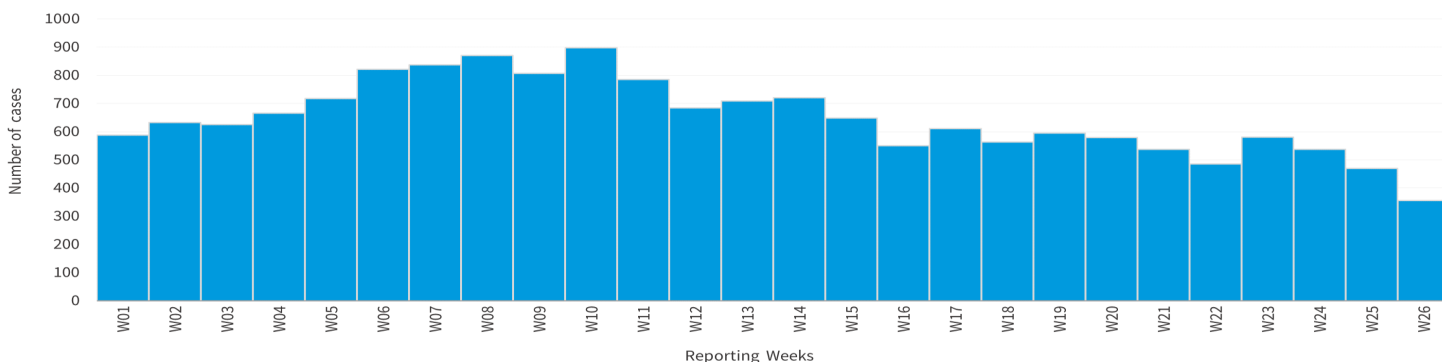


Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 01 Jul 2023 (N=16,883)

## AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack per 10,000 population of by province As of 01 Jul 2023

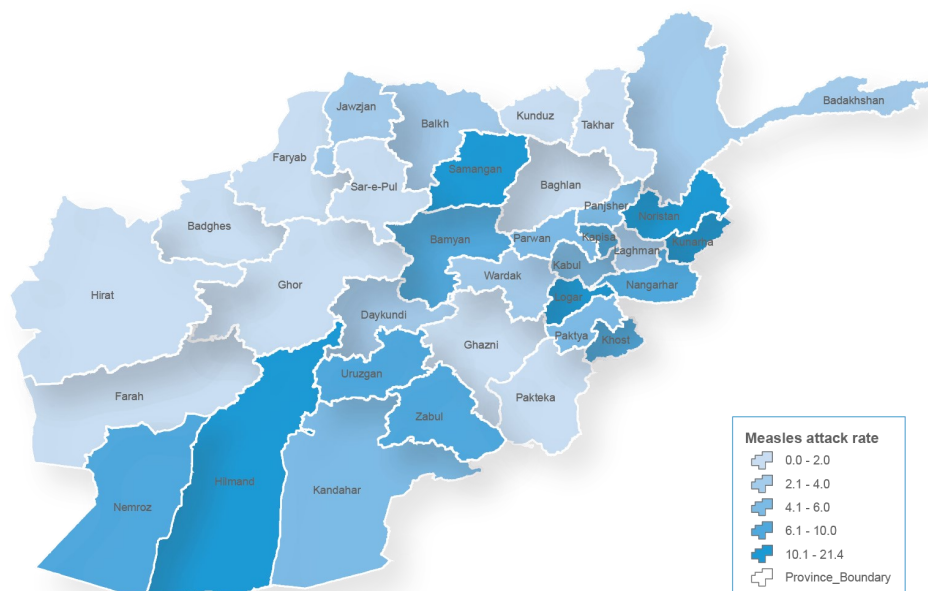
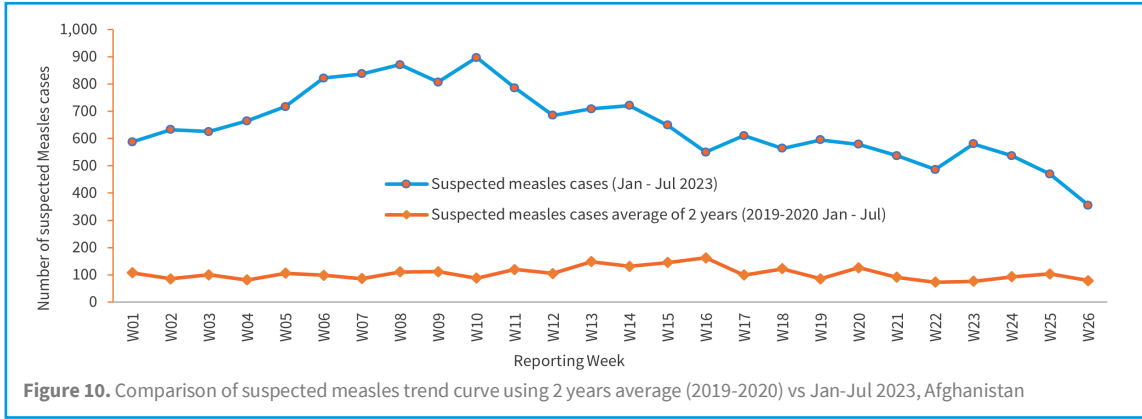


Figure 9. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–01 Jul 2023 (N=16,883)




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 10).


### 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 01 Jul 2023)



**399**  
Total Cases



**1**  
Total Deaths



**162**  
Sample tested




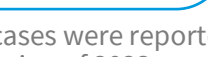


**40**  
Lab confirmed cases



**24.7%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (07 May - 01 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	27	10	27	32	18	8	22	5	
% Change cases	-22.9	-63.0	170.0	18.5	-43.8	-55.6	175.0	-77.3	
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 5 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 26-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 399 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows 77.3% decrease during week 26 compared to the preceding week which might be due non-response of HFs during Eid al-Adha holidays (Figure 11).
- Out of 399 reported cases, 222 (55.6%) were females and 390 (97.7%) were over 5 years of age.

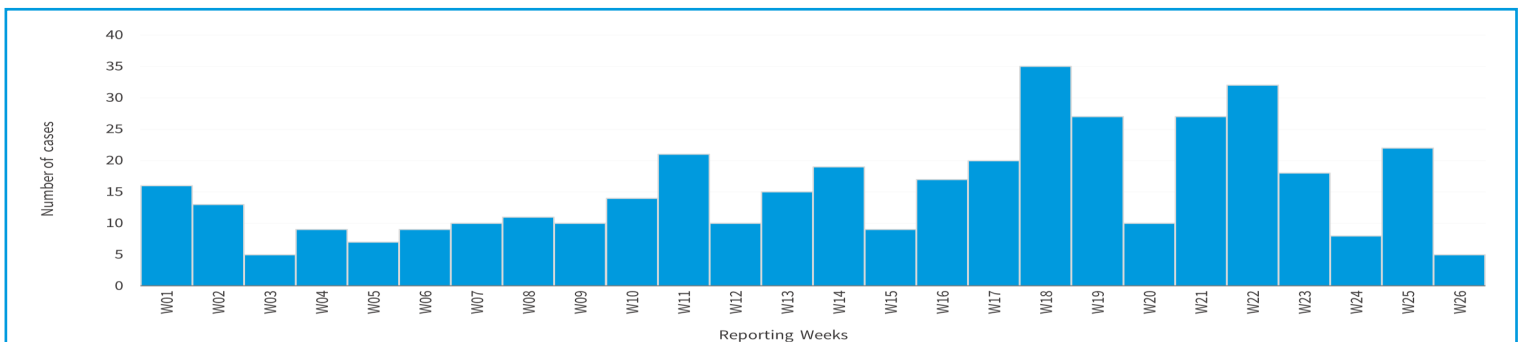
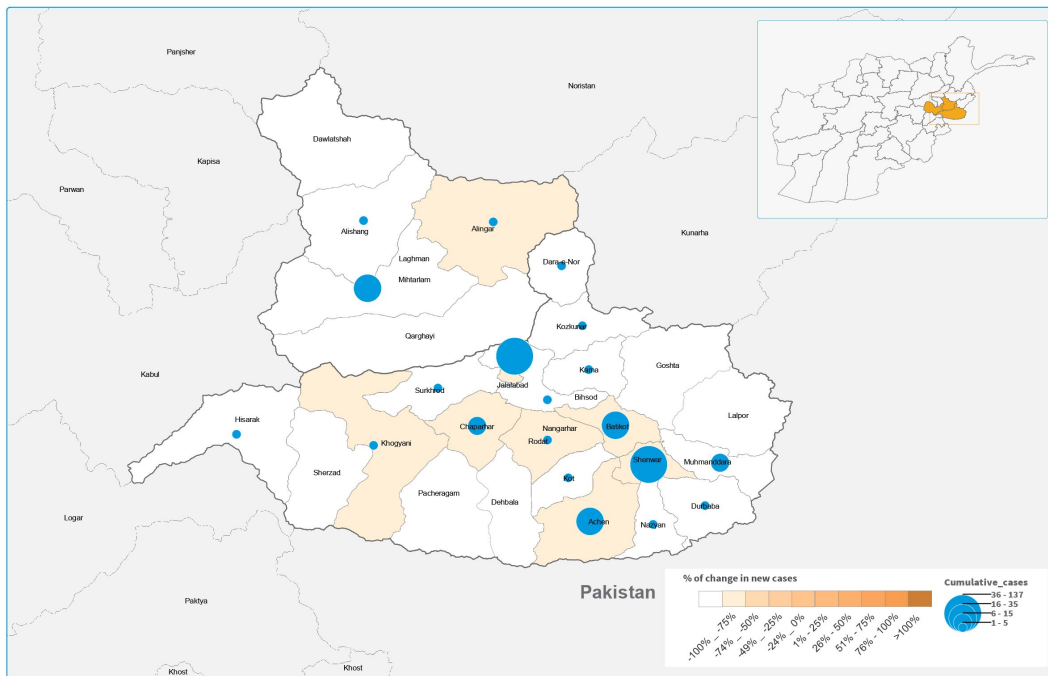


Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-01 Jul 2023 (N=399)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 25 and 26, 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: 01 July 2023.

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

### Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and under MoPH approval; a one day workshop was also held with participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- 5 Dengue PCR kits have been 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.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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