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INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #35-2023

No. 35/(27 Aug-02 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 590 (96.3%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	992	152,198	225,563	20,403	731
Death (CFR %)	100 (10.1)	76 (0.05)	7,944 (3.5)	62 (0.3)	1 (0.2)

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 02 Sep 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Jul - 02 Sep 2023)

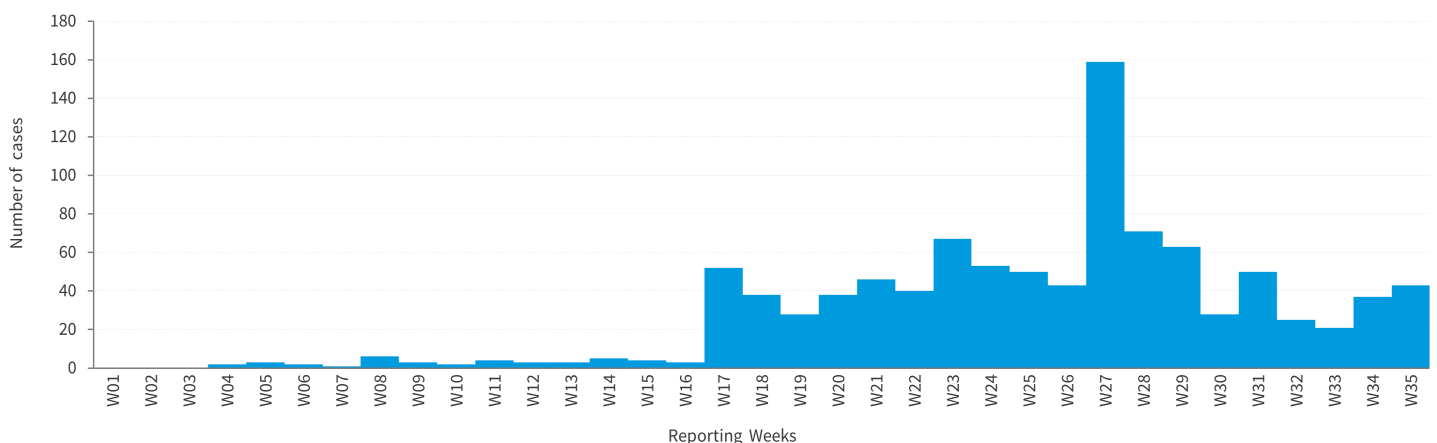
Indicators	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	71	63	28	50	25	21	37	42	
% Change cases	-55.3	-11.3	-55.6	78.6	-50.0	-16.0	76.2	13.5	
Suspected deaths	7	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	
CFR (%)	9.9	4.8	10.7	6.0	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.5	

- During week 35-2023, a total of 43 new cases of CCHF with 4 new deaths were reported, which shows 13.5% increase in the number of suspected CCHF case and stabilization in the number of deaths compared with the week 34 (Table 1, Figure 1).
- The reported deaths were from 2 provinces; Balkh (1) and Nangarhar (3). All deaths were males and over-five years of age.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths were 992

and 100, respectively (CFR 10.1%) (Figure2).

- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 14 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces; Kabul (46, 46.0%) and Balkh (14, 14.0%).
- Out of the total cases, 991 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 311 (31.4%) were females.
- Totally, 879 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 300 samples were positive (positivity = 34.1%).

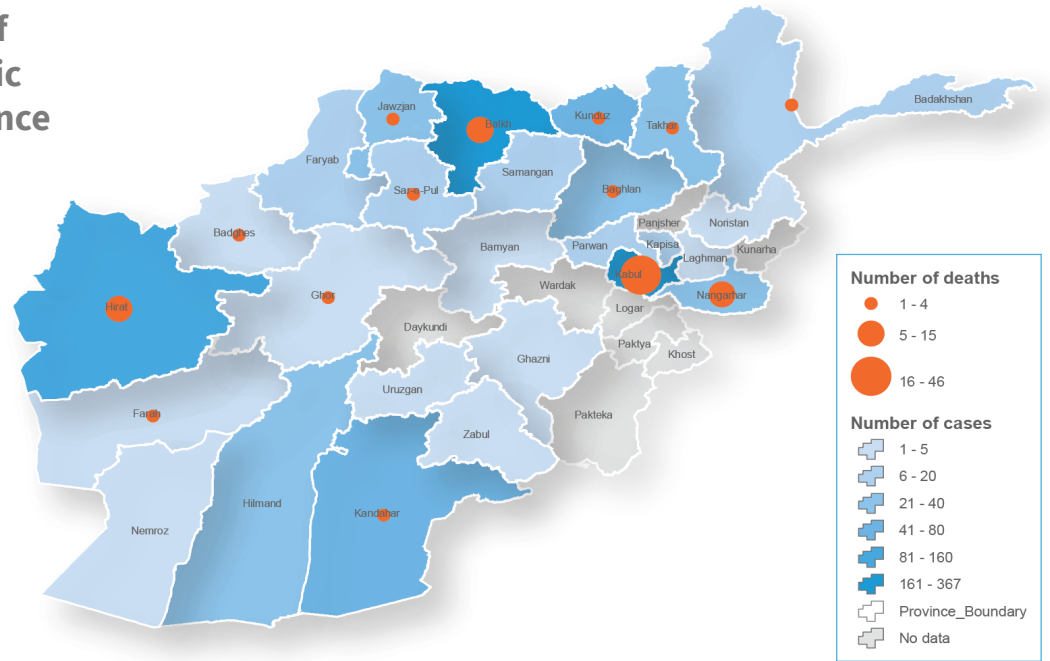
Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan-02 Sep 2023 (N=992)



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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 02 Sep 2023

Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–02 Sep 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- A joint meeting between WHO (EMRO and country office), MoPH, FAO, and MAIL has been conducted in order to coordinate the response to the ongoing CCHF outbreak and planned short term intervention in the hotspot areas.
- WHO, FAO and MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) conducted coordination meeting to discuss on how to limit the spread of CCHF outbreak.
- A 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, and national and international partners attended the meeting; coordinating the preparedness and response to CCHF outbreak (including public awareness and case management of infected cases).

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.
- 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 information education materials (IEC) on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high risk areas and affected communities.
- A total of 70 social mobilizers (40 males and 30 females) have been trained in 7-days CCHF awareness campaign and deployed in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.
- 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 02 Sep 2023)

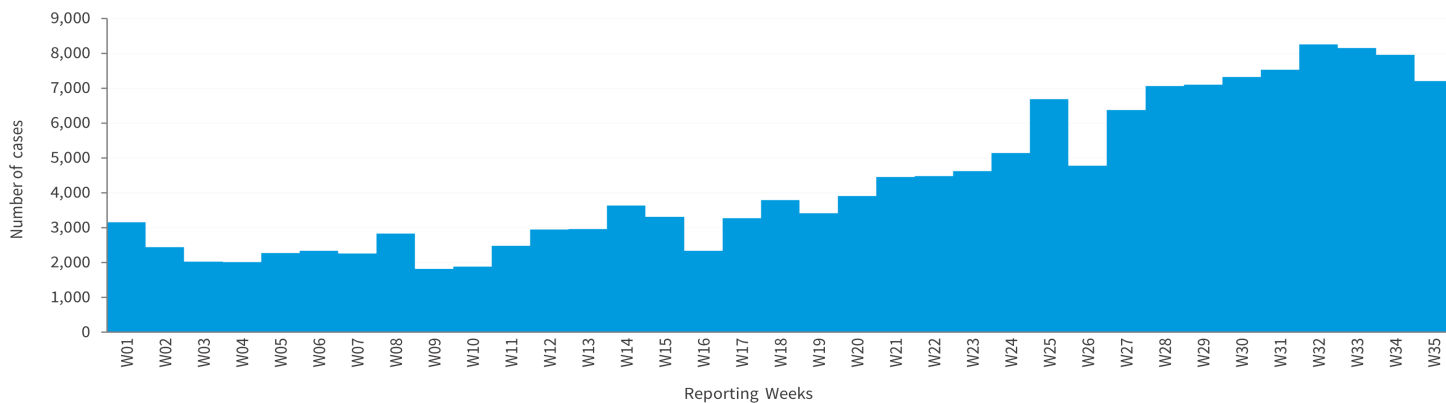
Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Jul - 02 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	7,059	7,105	7,323	7,525	8,255	8,153	7,959 *	7,206	
% Change cases	10.8	0.7	3.1	2.8	9.7	-1.2	-2.4	-9.5	
Suspected deaths	3	4	4	5	4	3	7 *	2	
CFR (%)	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.03	

*Data entry error and delayed reporting were experienced during week 34-2023, the number of deaths were modified from 8 to 7 and the number of suspected cases were modified from 7,510 to 7959.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases shows a slight decrease (9.5%) in week 35-2023 compared to previous week (Figure 3).
- During week 35-2023, no new district reported alert of AWD with dehydration.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 2 provinces: Helmand (1) and Kabul (1). Both deaths reported in this week were female and under-five years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 152,198 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 333 districts, out of which 87,242 (57.3%) were under-five children and 75,747 (49.8%) were females.
- A total of 2,522 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–02 Sep 2023 (N=152,198)

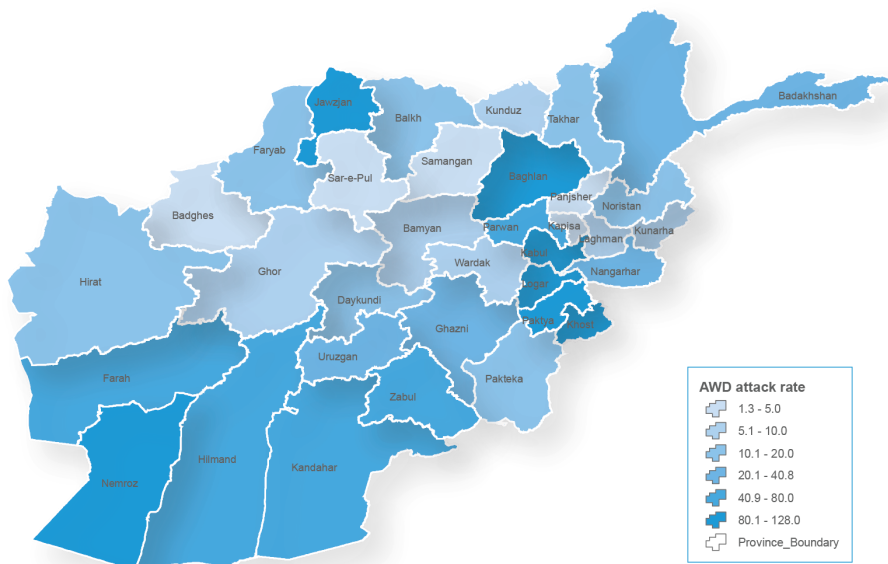


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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province

As of 02 Sep 2023

Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–02 Sep 2023





Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted for health 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 324 FPs have been trained on e-surveillance in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 regions (Central East, Central West, Northeast, East, West, South, North and Southeast) since the beginning of the 2023.
- A joint WHO-UNICEF outbreak investigation have been conducted in Bihsood district and Jalalabad city of Nangarhar province; in which epidemiological investigation of AWD cases was conducted, RCCE sessions were organized and WASH materials (chlorine tablets and soaps) were distributed to the affected villages.
- 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 last week, a total of 58 medical doctors from Northeast region (Takhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan and Kunduz) were trained on AWD cases management. This brings the total trained HCWs to 820 since January 2023 from 6 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, Northeast and East).
- Around 270 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

Laboratory and Supplies

- During week 35, 200 RDTs and 200 Carry Blairs were distributed to each of Balkh and Kunduz province. This brings the total number of each RDTs and Carry Blairs to 1,000 distributed to Kandahar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunduz provinces.

- A total of 4,350 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 330 kits of RDTs have been prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- 11 AWD central case management kits and 200 community case management kits are distributed to all WHO-sub-offices including Mazar, Kabul, Nangarhar and Kandahar.
- 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.

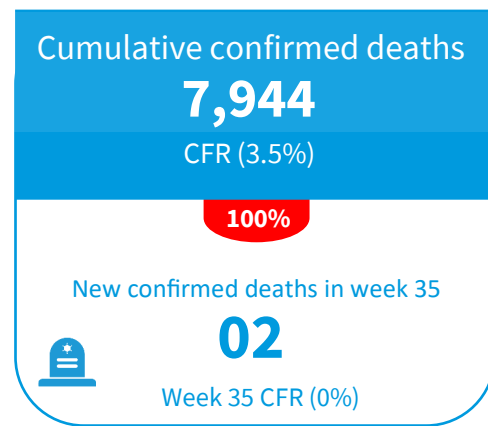
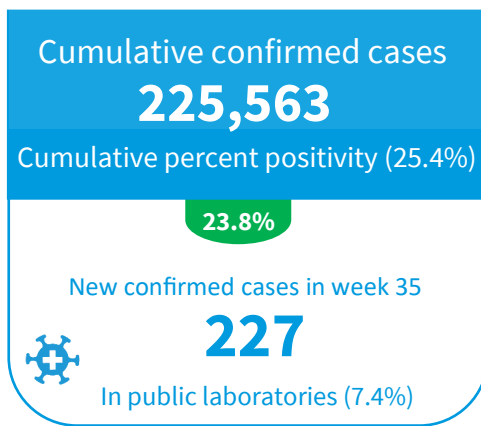
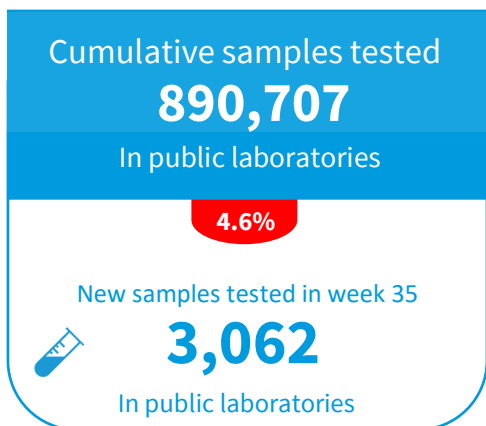
WASH

- Chlorination of 25 wells in Zabul reached 323 individuals.
- Distribution of aquatabs in the South region provinces covering more than 62,000 individuals, and soap covering almost 55,000 individuals.
- Distribution of hygiene kits in 7 provinces (Balkh, Helmand, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nimroz, Zabul and Uruzgan) to more than 13,000 individuals.
- Household water treatment promotion in Kabul reached 17,000 individuals.
- Hygiene promotion activities in 8 provinces (Kabul, Ghazni, Hilmand, Kandahar, Logar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul) reached almost 73,000 individuals.
- Rehabilitation or new set-ups of around 100 water system are in 5 provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Zabul) supported more than 3,000 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 preparedness and response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 02 Sep 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

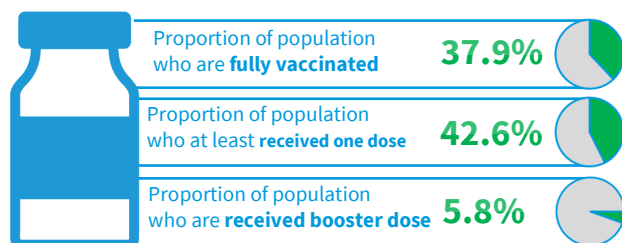


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (09 Jul - 02 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,553	2,482	1,966	2,614	2,976	2,146	2926 *	3,062	
Confirmed cases	207	214	163	188	261	174	298 *	227	
% Change cases	-28.6	3.4	-23.8	15.3	38.8	-33.3	71.3	-23.8	
Percent positivity (%)	8.1	8.6	8.3	7.2	8.8	8.1	10.2	7.4	
Deaths	1	2	2	2	3	1	0	2	
CFR (%)	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 34-2023, the number of samples tested were modified from 2,886 to 2,926 and number of cases modified from 294 to 298.

- During week 35-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased by 23.8% 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 35-2023, a total of 3,062 samples were tested in public labs, of which 227 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 7.4%) while 2 new deaths were reported (CFR=0.9%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 890,707 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 35-2023, 16.3% (37/227 confirmed cases) were hospitalized, while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 7).

Response

- During week 35, 3 ID NOW instruments are installed and 2,000 tests of COVID-19 ID NOW have been delivered to the CPHL-Kabul for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19.
- During week 35, on the job training related to ID NOW instrument utilization and maintenance were provided to the staffs of the 8 labs across the country.

Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 20 Feb 2020–02 Sep 2023

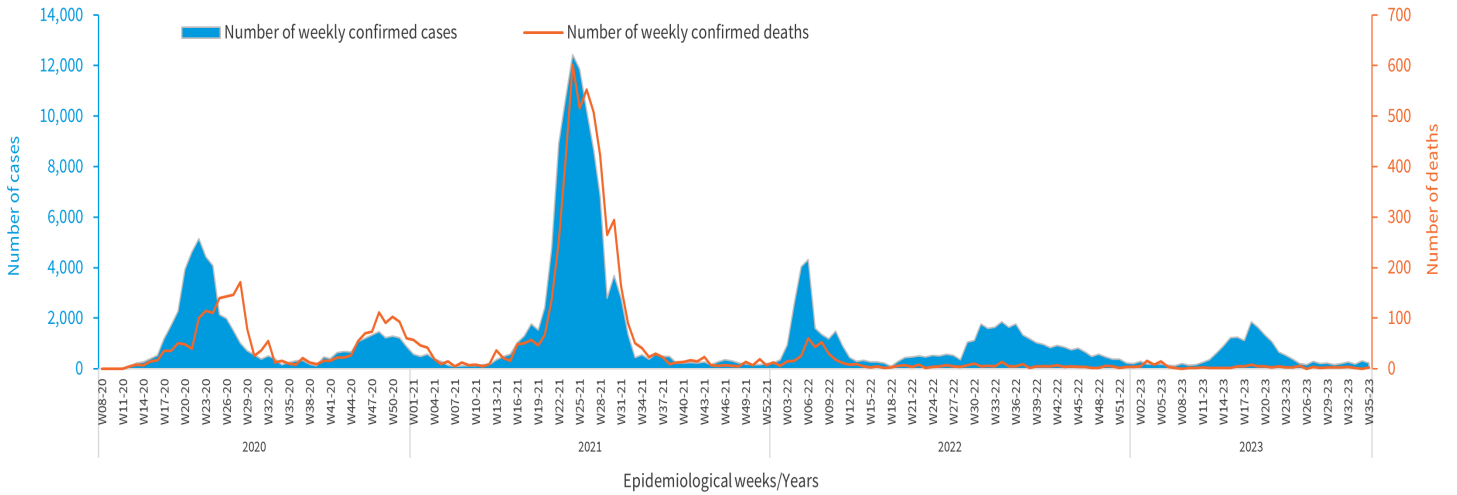


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 1 Jan–02 Sep 2023

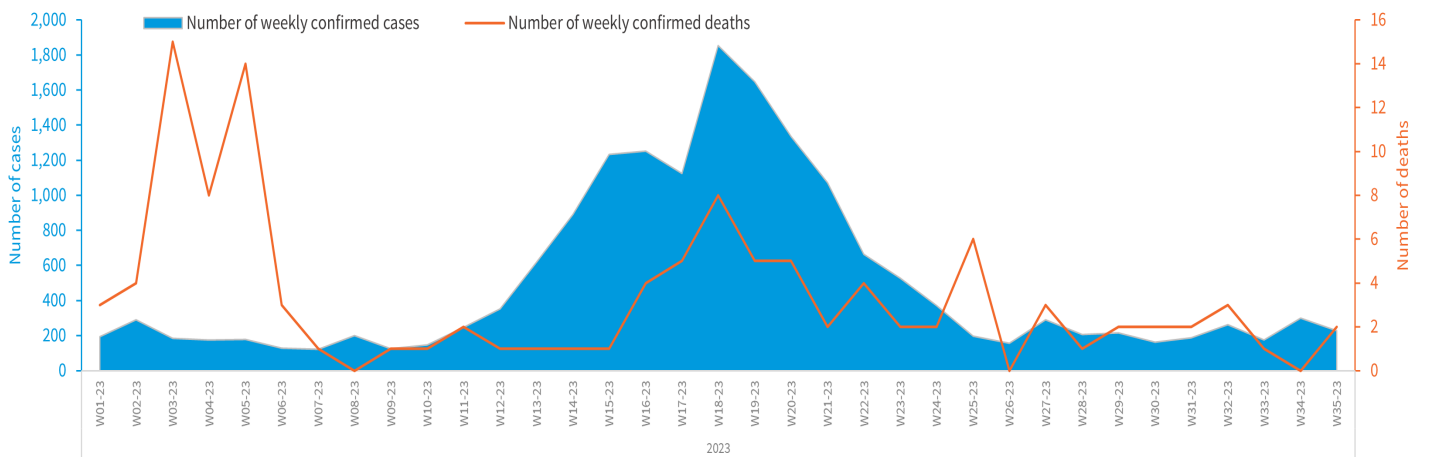
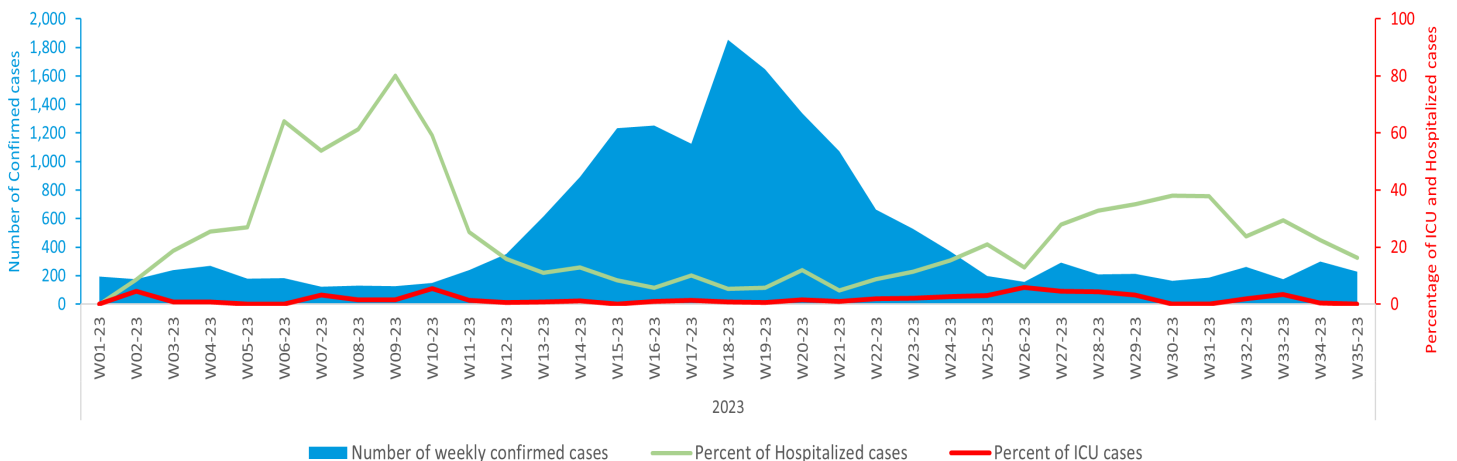


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 1 Jan–02 Sep 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 02 Sep 2023)

20,403
Total Cases

60
Total Deaths

4,666
Sample tested

2,376
Lab confirmed cases

50.9%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Jul - 02 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	448	477	484	389	327	307	321	354	
% Change cases	9.0	6.5	1.5	-19.6	-15.9	-6.1	4.6	10.3	
Suspected deaths	1	1	1	0	4	1	6 *	0	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.0	

*A delayed data entry was experienced during week 34, and the number of deaths were modified from 4 to 6.

- The epi-curve shows increase in the number of suspected measles cases during week 35 compared to the previous week. The overall measles cases show a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 8).
- During epidemiological week 35-2023, a total of 354 suspected cases were reported which shows 10.3% increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 20,403 suspected measles cases were reported, out of which 14,442 (70.8%) were under-five children and 9,629 (47.2%) were females.

Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan-02 Sep 2023 (N=20,403)

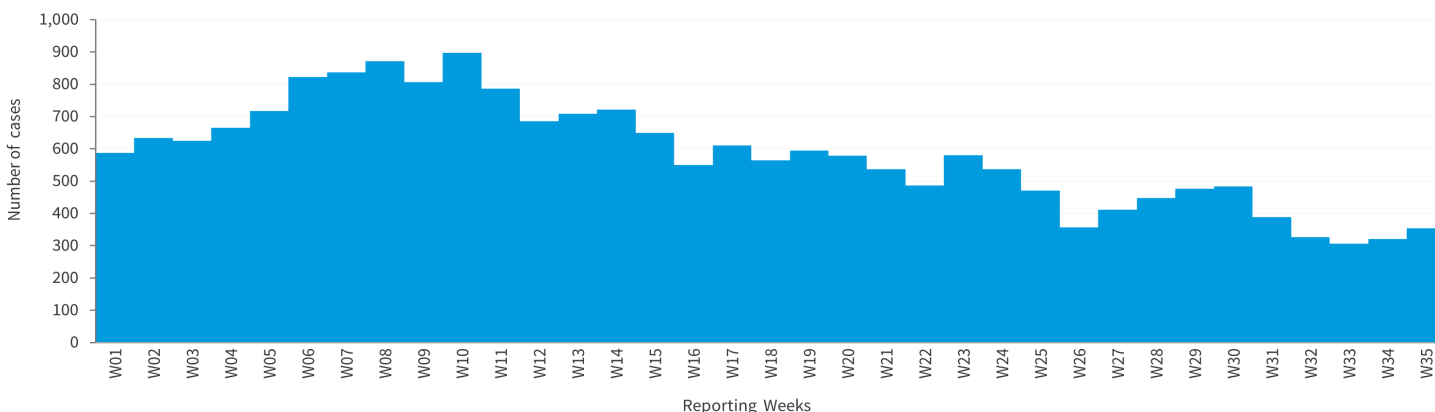
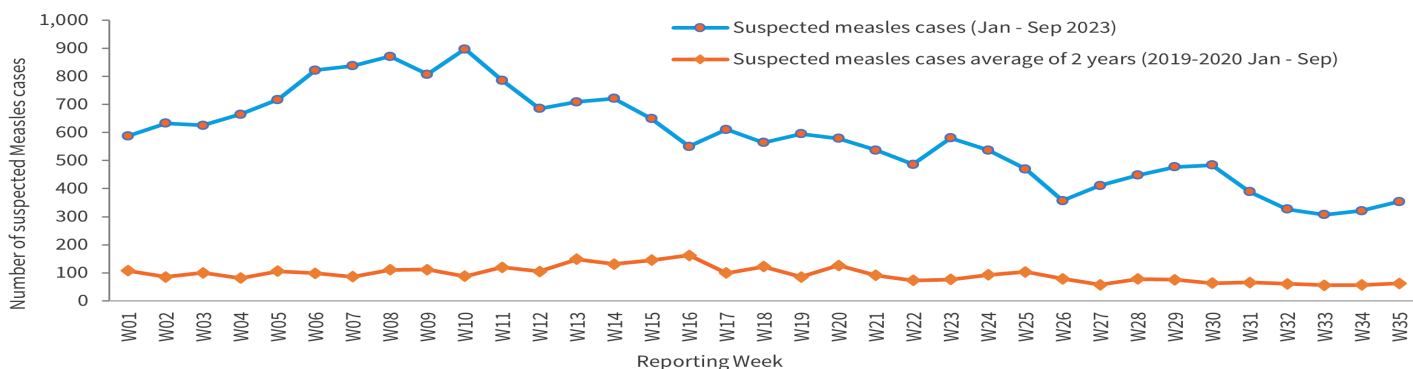


Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Sep 2023, Afghanistan

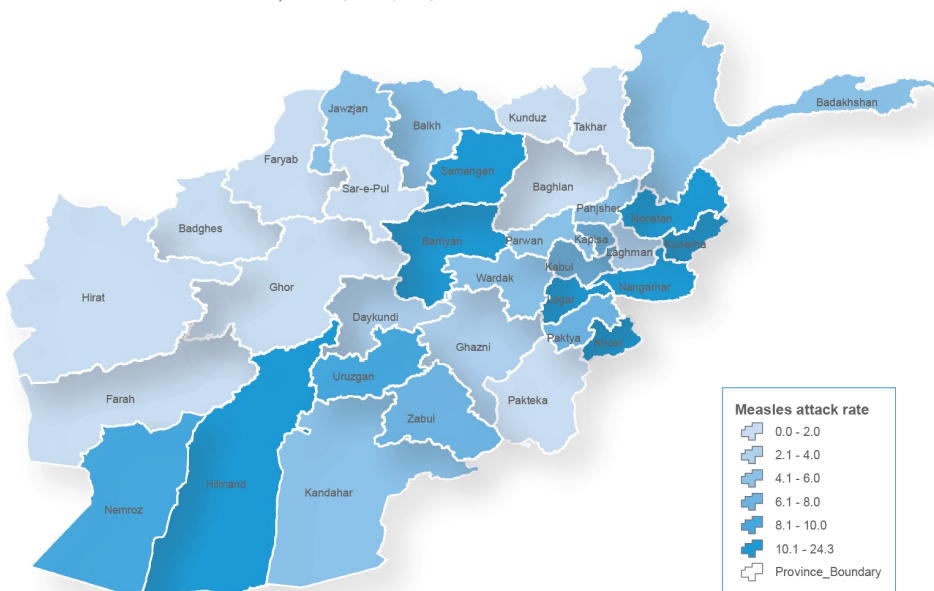


Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, still, measles cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 9).

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Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 02 Sep 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-02 Sep 2023 (N=20,403)



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 02 Sep 2023)

731
Total Cases

1
Total Deaths

214
Sample tested

46
Lab confirmed cases

21.5%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Jul - 02 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W28	W29	W30	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	18	15	60	58	37	47	47	24	
% Change cases	-30.8	-16.7	300.0	-3.3	-36.2	27.0	0.0	-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	

- A total of 24 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 35-2023; most of the cases (21, 87.5%) were reported from Nangarhar while the remaining 3 cases were reported from Laghman (2) and Kunar (1). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 731 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 35-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases shows 48.9% decrease compared to previous week (Figure 11).
- Out of 731 reported cases, 385 (52.7%) were females and 714 (97.7%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 214 samples have been collected, out of which 46 were confirmed (21.5% positivity).

Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-02 Sep 2023 (N=707)

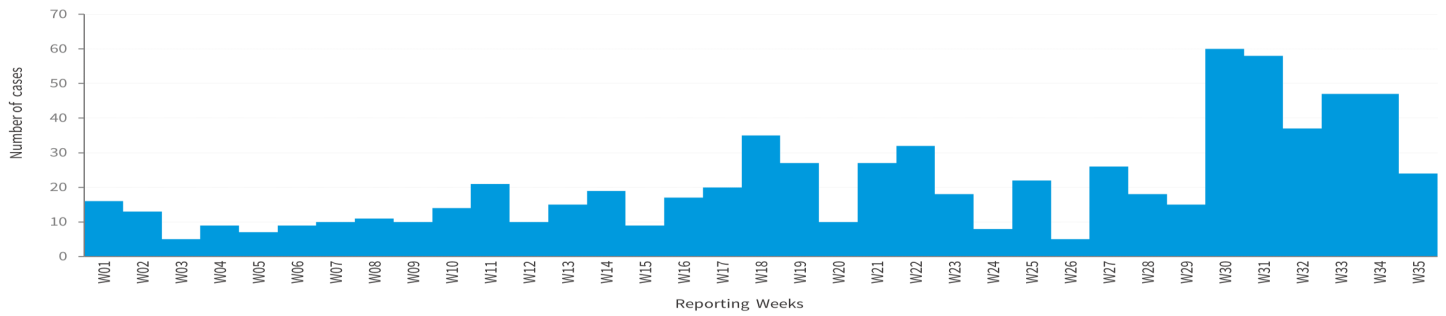
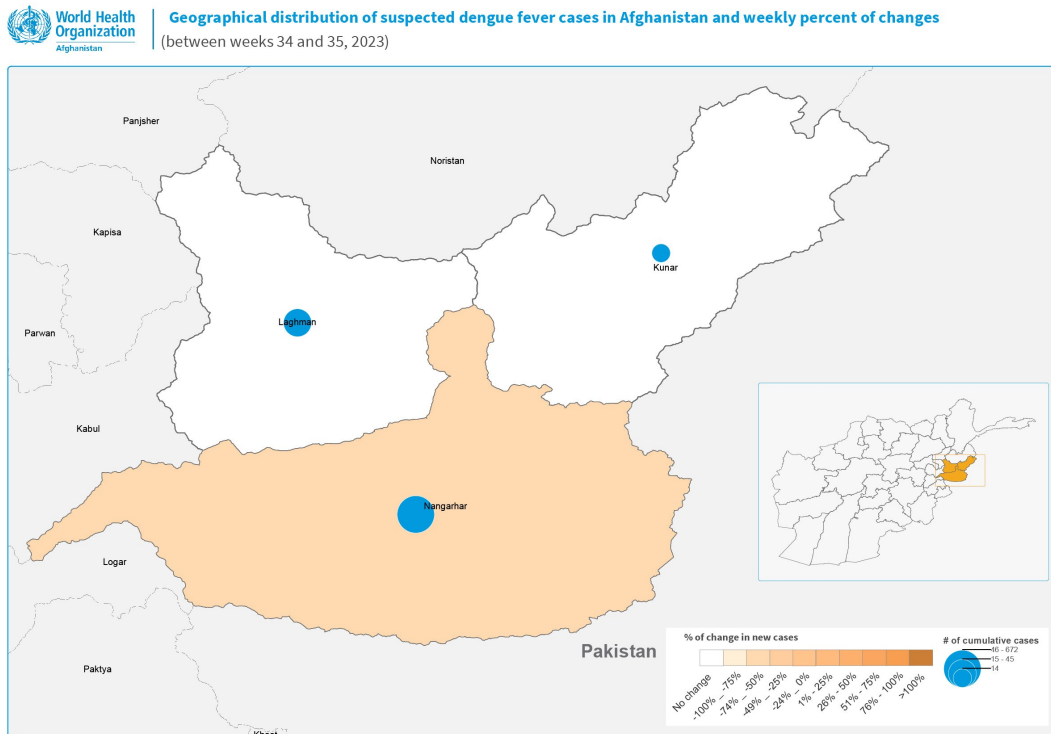


Figure 12. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Sep 2023



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of 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, AGCHD. Creation date: 02 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:

- Since the beginning of the outbreak 04-Jul-2023, a total of 630 confirmed cases of malaria (464 were lab confirmed and 119 RDTs positive) were reported from 12 districts of 5 provinces (Kapisa (4), Kunar (3), Badakhshan (2), Kandahar (2), and Parwan(1)).
- Out of the total cases, 284 (45.1%) were females and 64 (10.2%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by outbreak investigation teams and proper health education have been provided (Figure 14).
- During week 35, the below new outbreaks of malaria were reported:
 - ◊ Kapisa Provinces
 - ♦ A total of 7 cases of malaria (all were lab confirmed positive) were reported from two districts of Kapisa province; Alasay (3) and Kohband (4); 3 cases (42.9%) were female and 1 (14.3%) was under-five.
 - ♦ Cumulatively, 13 cases (all were lab confirmed positive) were reported from 3 districts (Alasay, Kohband and Kohistan-2) of Kapisa province; 6 (46.2%) cases were females and 1 (7.7%) case was under-five years of age.

◇ Kunar province:

- ◆ A total of 11 cases of malaria (all were lab confirmed positive) were reported from Sarkiani district of Kunar province. Out of which 6 (54.5%) cases were females and all were over-five years of age.
- ◆ Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 409 malaria cases (290 lab microscopic positive and 119 RDTs positive) were reported from 3 districts (Khas Kunar, Sawkay and Sarkiani) of Kunar province; 181 (44.3%) cases were females and 41 (10.0%) cases were under-five years of age.

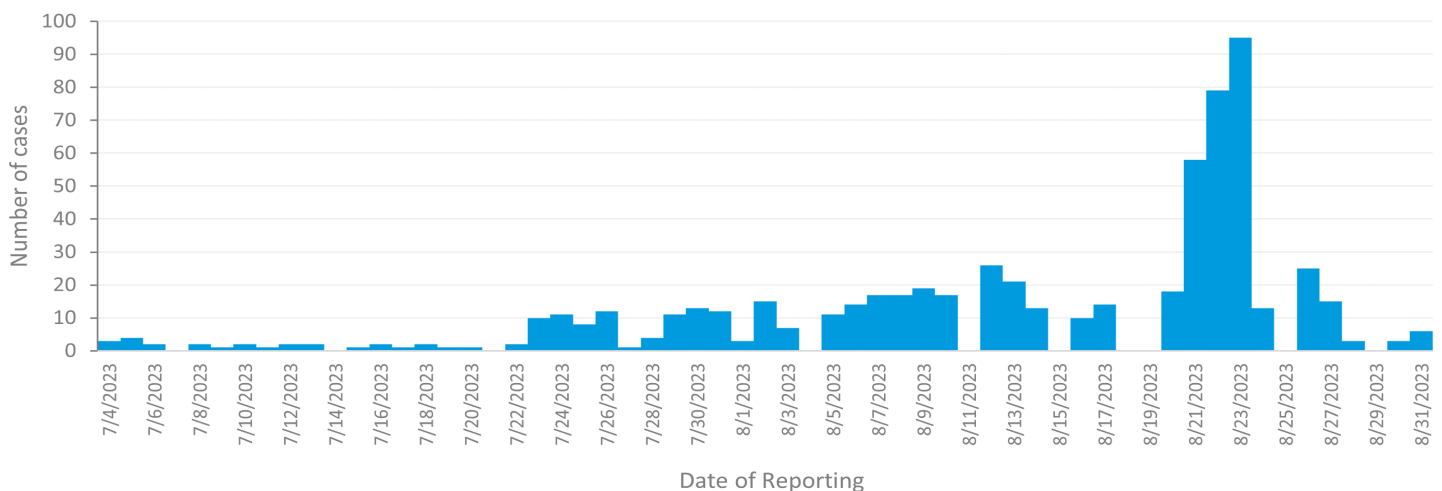
◇ Parwan province:

- ◆ A total of 9 cases of malaria (all were lab confirmed positive) were reported, out of which 4 cases (44.4%) were female and all aged above five years.

Figure 13. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul–02 Sep 2023



Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 5 provinces during 04 Jul–02 Sept 2023 (N=630)

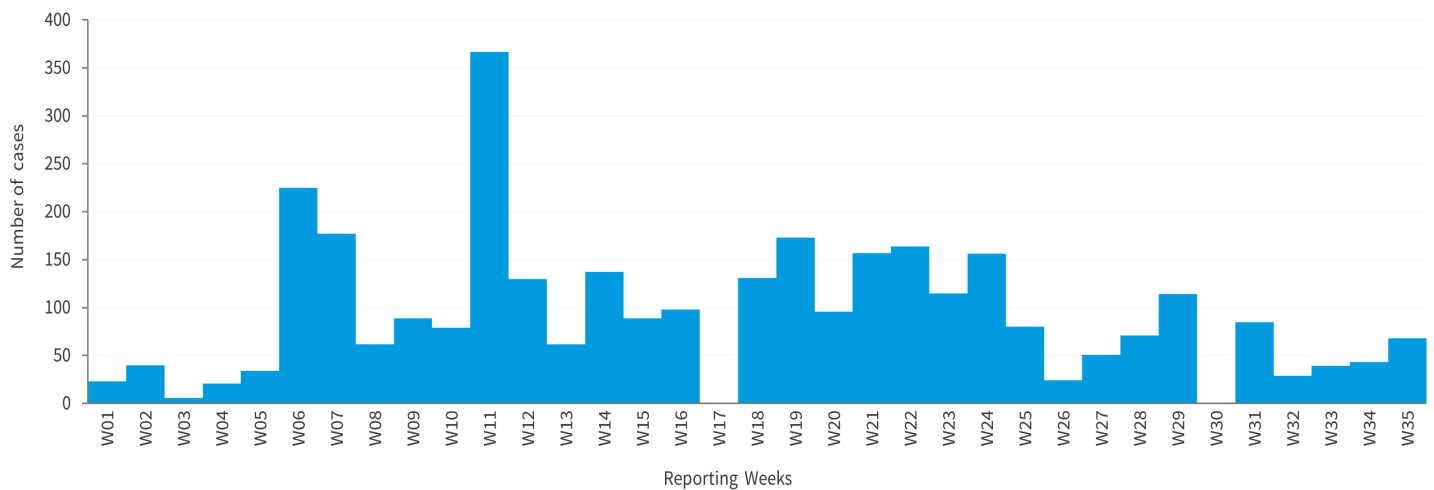




Chicken pox highlights:

- During weeks 35-2023, 68 suspected cases of chicken pox were reported from 2 provinces; Bamyan (59) and Panjshir (9). The number of cases has increased by 58.1% compared to the last week.
- Cumulatively; 3,235 suspected chickenpox cases with no deaths were reported from 34 provinces since the beginning of the 2023.
- The suspected cases of chicken pox were almost equally distributed among male (50.1%) and female (49.9%), while over 5 years of age were affected more than twice (69.8%) as much as under-five children.
- Herat province has reported the highest number of suspected chickenpox cases (581, 18.0%) followed by Bamyan (273, 8.4%), Wardak (247, 7.6%) and Ghor (232, 7.2%).
- The number of suspected cases of chicken pox in 2023 are higher compared to the average of last 7 years (2016-2022).
- The highest number of suspected chicken pox case (300) were reported during epi week 11-2023 (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Epidemiological curve of suspected chicken pox cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan–2 Sep 2023 (N=3,235)



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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