



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #44-2023

No. 44 (29 Oct-04 Nov 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (Jan - Nov 23)	ARI (Jan - Nov 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Nov 23)	Measles (Jan - Nov 23)	CCHF (Jan - Nov 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Nov 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 596 (97.2%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	199,568	1,112,127	228,023	22,996	1,201	1,076
Death (CFR %)	92 (0.05)	2,275 (0.2)	7,955 (3.5)	63 (0.3)	113 (9.4)	1 (0.1)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 04 Nov 2023)

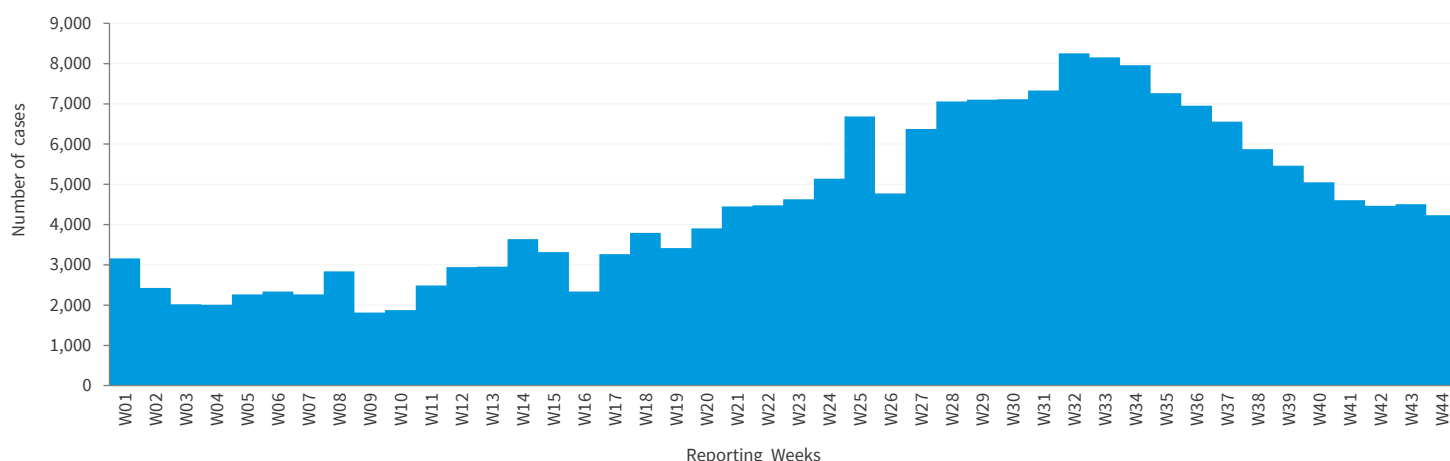
Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Suspected cases	6,557	5,874	5,464	5,051	4,604	4,470	4,507	4,232	
% Change cases	-5.7	-10.4	-7.0	-7.6	-8.8	-2.9	0.8	-6.1	
Suspected deaths	0	3	3	1	0	3	3 *	0	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	

*Number of AWD with dehydration associated deaths in week-43 were corrected from 5 to 3

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023. This decline could be explained by seasonal changes, conclusion of the summer season in the country.
- During week 44-2023; 4,232 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 155 districts which shows a decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- No new AWD with dehydration associated death was reported during week 44-2023.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 199,568 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 113,591(56.9%) were under-five children and 99,347 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 44-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 5,259 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 – 04 Nov 2023 (N=199,568)



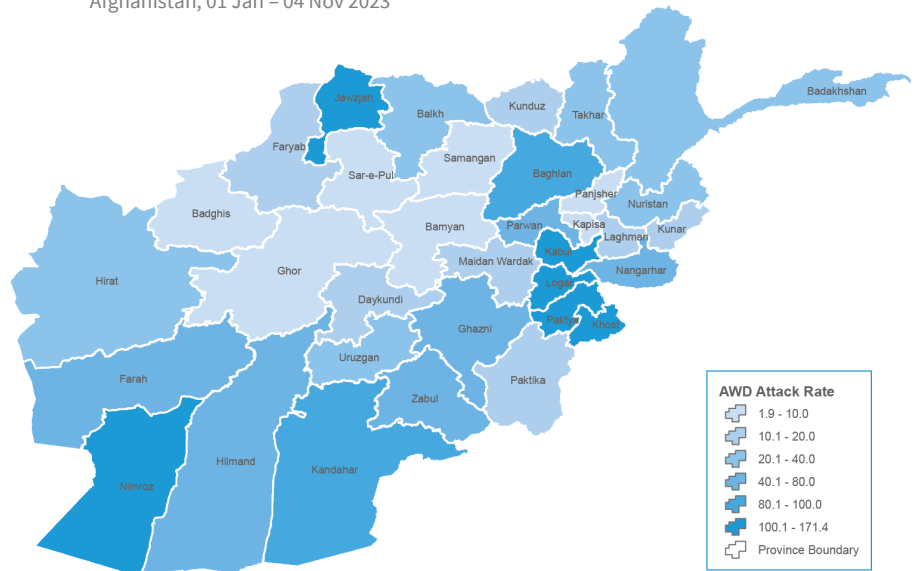


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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province

As of 04 Nov 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- 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 621 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to WHO sub-offices of Paktia, Bamiyan, Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar and Nangarhar provinces for responding to this outbreak.
- 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

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

- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktia, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH

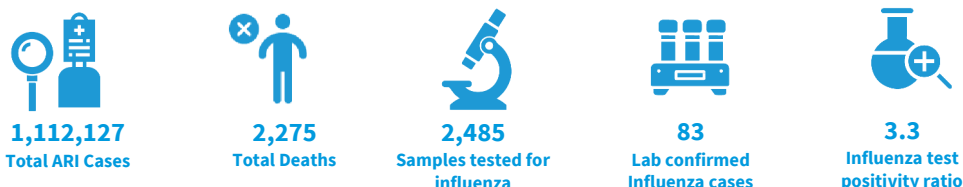
Between (15-28 Oct 2023), the below measures were detected:

- Provision of clean drinking water for around 13,000 individuals in 9 provinces (Badghis, Balkh, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Paktia, Takhar and Zabul) 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, Paktia and Zabul).
- Distribution of Aquatabs to 10,856 individuals and soap to 5,000 individuals in 4 provinces in the South region (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul).
- Provision of handwashing facilities to 200 individuals by installation of handwashing facilities in Zabul.
- Distribution of Hygiene Kits to 7,700 individuals in 8 provinces (Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Nimroz, Paktika, Panjshir and Zabul).
- 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, Paktia, Takhar and Zabul).
- Provision of sanitation facilities to 2,000 individuals by installation of emergency latrines in 9 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Paktika, Paktia and Zabul).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- WHO provided technical support to MoPH in Herat province for conducting RCCE need assessment of people living in earthquake affected areas.
- One day social listening program was conducted for 11 participants from different parts of society such as HCWs, social mobilizer, religious leaders, women and youth to increase awareness of outbreak prone diseases including AWD with dehydration through focus group discussion (FGD) in Bamiyan province.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-04 Nov 2023)



Note: Currently, there are 10 functional influenza surveillance sentinel sites for both ILI and SARI in ten provinces of Afghanistan. At each site, there is one trained influenza surveillance assistant, collecting specimen and epidemiological data from 4 ILI and 6 SARI cases per week in ARI season and sending them to national influenza center (NIC) for testing.

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Suspected cases	18,300	19,579	20,256	21,637	23,140	25,349	26,204	27,282	
% Change cases	0.5	6.5	3.3	6.4	6.5	8.7	3.3	4.0	
Suspected deaths	29	31	28	34	45	59	45	44	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since the 3rd week of September 2023, which could be linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 44, 27,282 cases of suspected ARI-pneumonia and 44 associated deaths were reported which shows 4.0% increase in the number of suspected cases and stabilization in the number of associated deaths compared to week 43.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,112,127 cases and 2,275 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the country. Out of the total cases, 685,067 (61.6%) were under-five children and 550,446 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,877 (82.5%) were under-five children and 1,046 (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), the higher number in 2023 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to improved surveillance system (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of ARI cases in 34 provinces, 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023 (N=1,112,127)

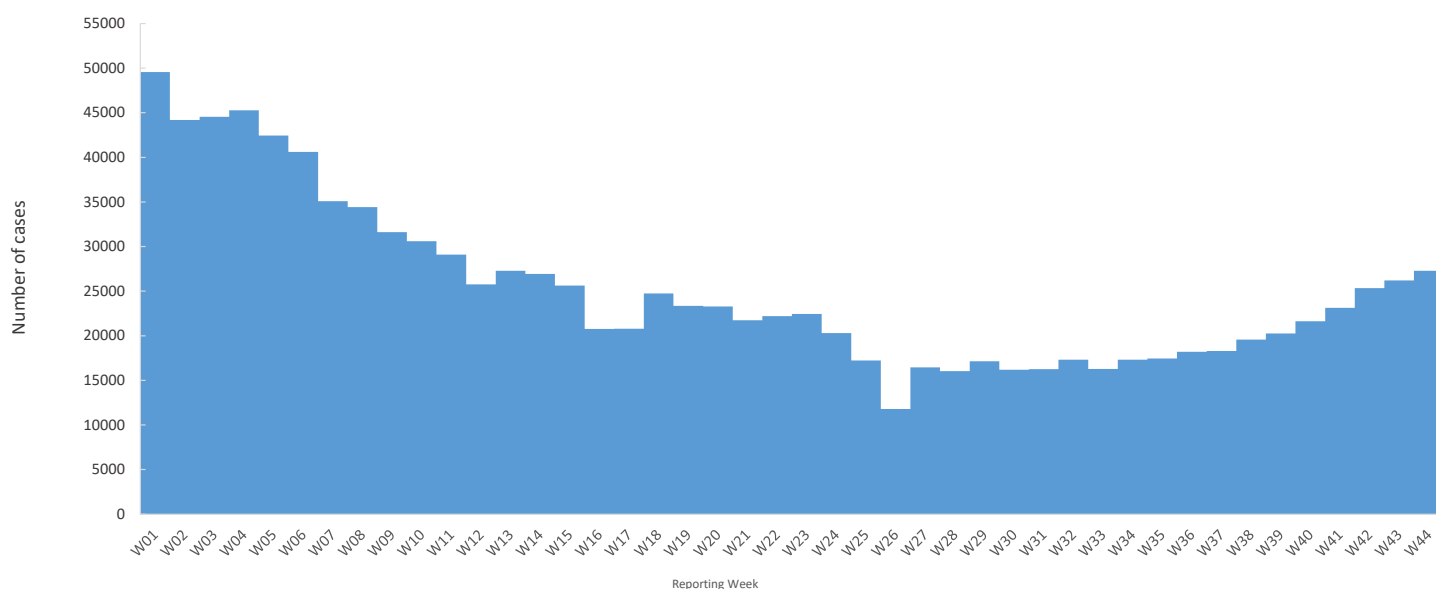


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of ARI cases by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023 (N=1,112,127)

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Provincial distribution of suspected ARI pneumonia cases

As of 04 Nov 2023

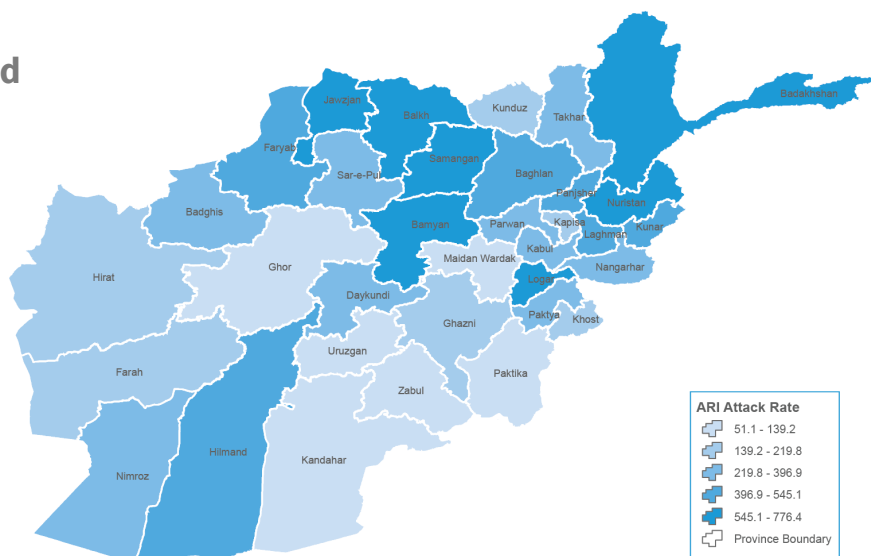
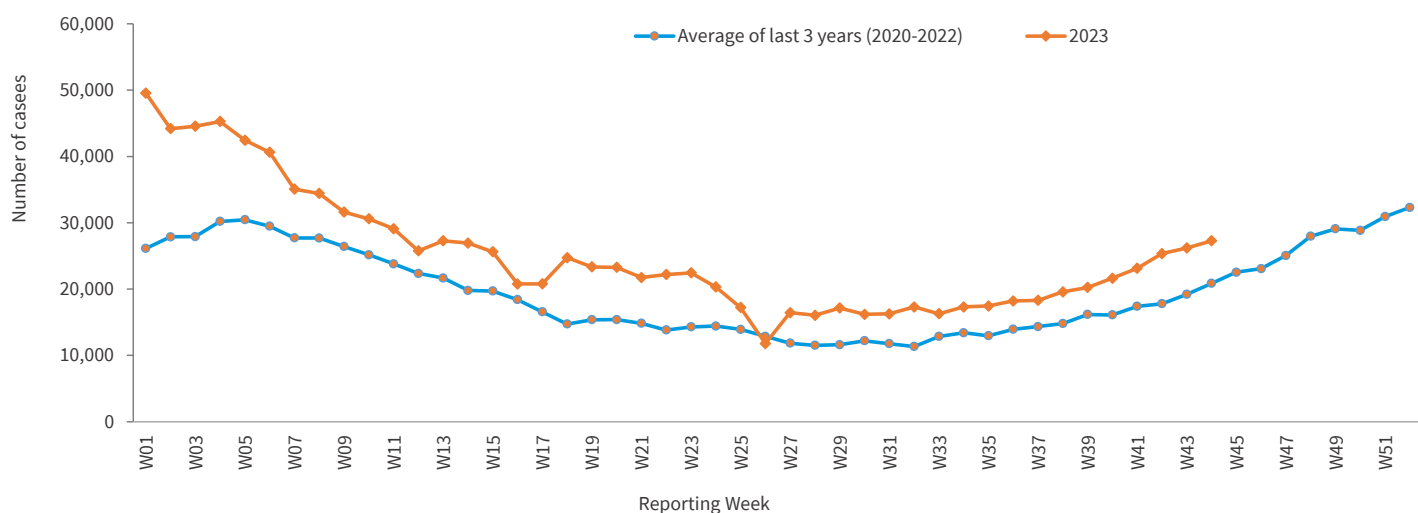


Figure 5. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023, in Afghanistan



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 4,720 kits of COVID-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul WHO warehouse and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

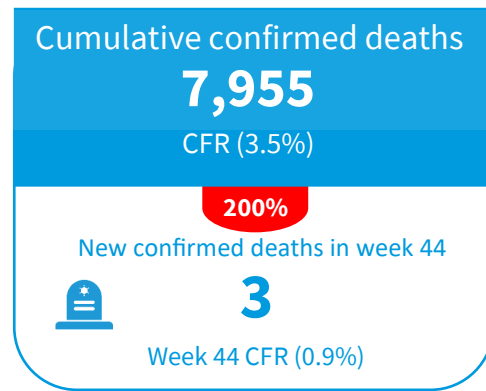
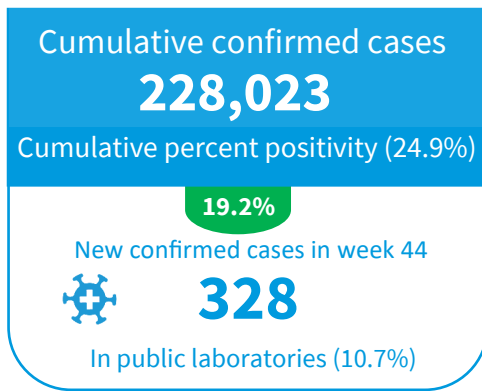
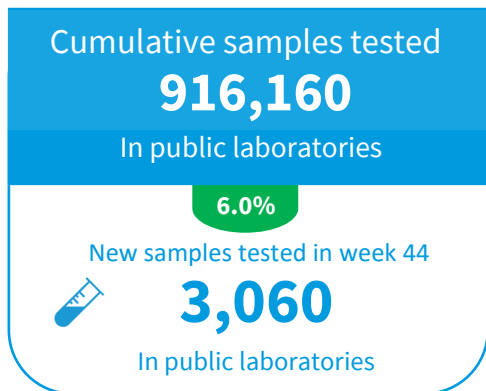
Case management

- During week44, 36 health care workers (28 male and 8 female) were trained on ARI case management in Mazar sharif. This brings the total number of HCWs trained on ARI case management to 1,341 since Jan 2023 from all 8 regions.
- 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 – 04 Nov 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Note: During Week 44-2023, around 96,000 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines were administered.
Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG CMYP 2022)

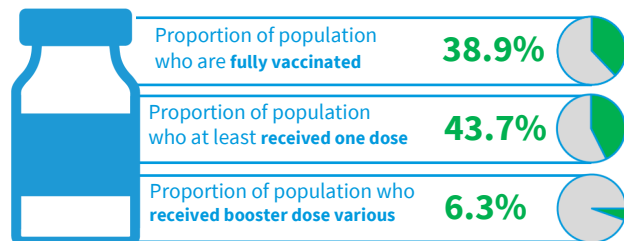


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,814	2,579	2,539	2,841	2,618	2,655	3,256 *	3,060	
Confirmed cases	193	217	271	274	284	265	406 *	328	
% Change cases	-5.4	12.4	24.9	1.1	3.6	-6.7	53.2	-19.2	
Percent positivity (%)	6.9	8.4	10.7	9.6	10.8	10.0	12.5	10.7	
Deaths	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	3	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.9	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 43-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 3,082 to 3,256 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 386 to 406.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases since the 3rd week of June 2023, which could be attributed to a decrease in reporting of infected individuals to healthcare facilities and an improvement in vaccination coverage among eligible population across the country (43.7%).
- During week 44-2023, the number of confirmed COVID-19 case decreased by 19.2% while the number of COVID-19 associated deaths increased from 1 to 3 deaths (Figures 6-7).
- The new deaths were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (2) and Kunduz (1). Out of total deaths, 2 (66.7%) were female and all were over five.
- In week 44-2023, a total of 3,060 samples were tested in public labs, of which 328 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 10.7%) and 3 associated deaths were reported.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 916,160 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 44-2023, 10.1% (33/328 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 3.0% of those hospitalized (1/33) were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

Response

- During week 44, a total of 10,000 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests were supplied to Wardak and an additional 500 test were delivered to Kabul provincial NDSR offices. This brings the total number of COVID-19 RDTs to 30,500 tests delivered to all 34 provinces since Jan 2023.

- 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 – 04 Nov 2023

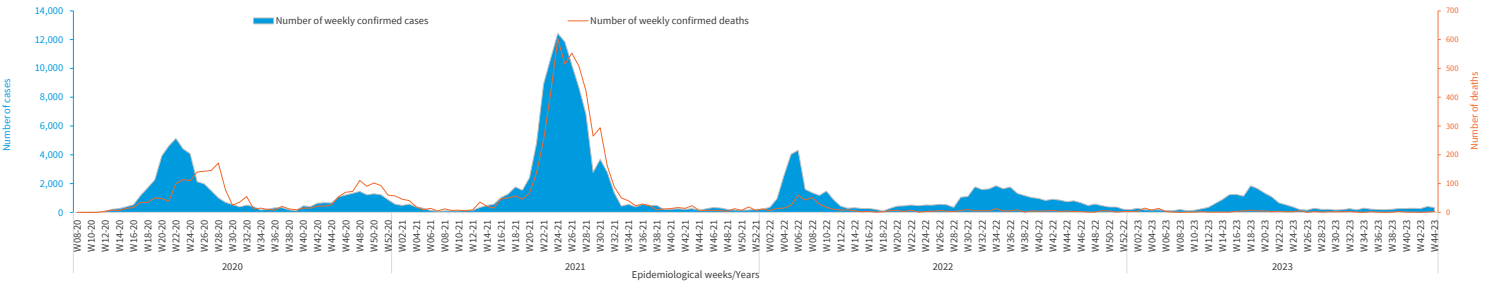


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023

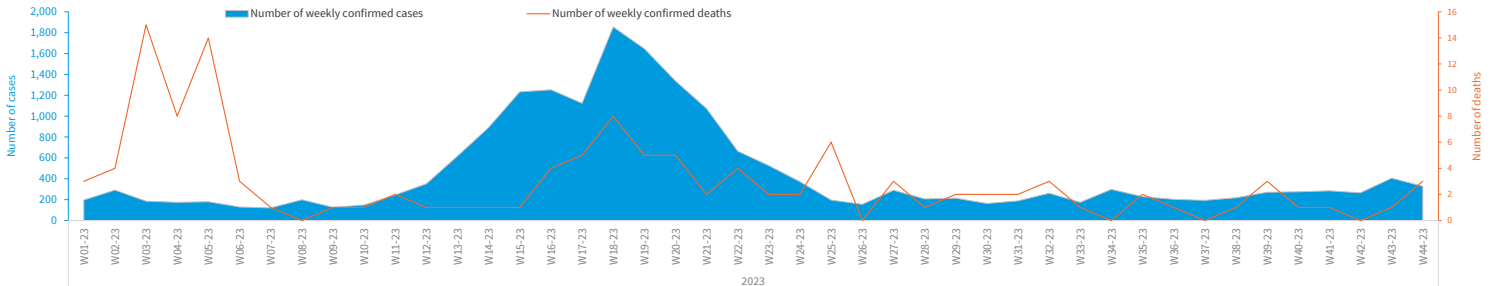
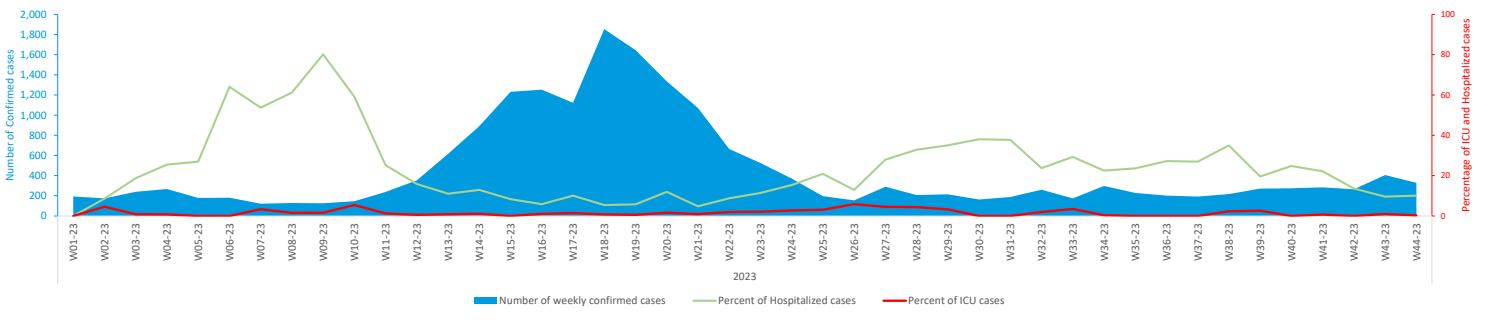



Figure 8. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 04 Nov 2023)


22,996
Total Cases


63
Total Deaths


5,064
Sample tested


2,462
Lab confirmed cases







48.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Suspected cases	306	309	270	246	284	264	276 *	306	
% Change cases	-5.0	1.0	-12.6	-8.9	15.4	-7.0	4.5	10.9	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	

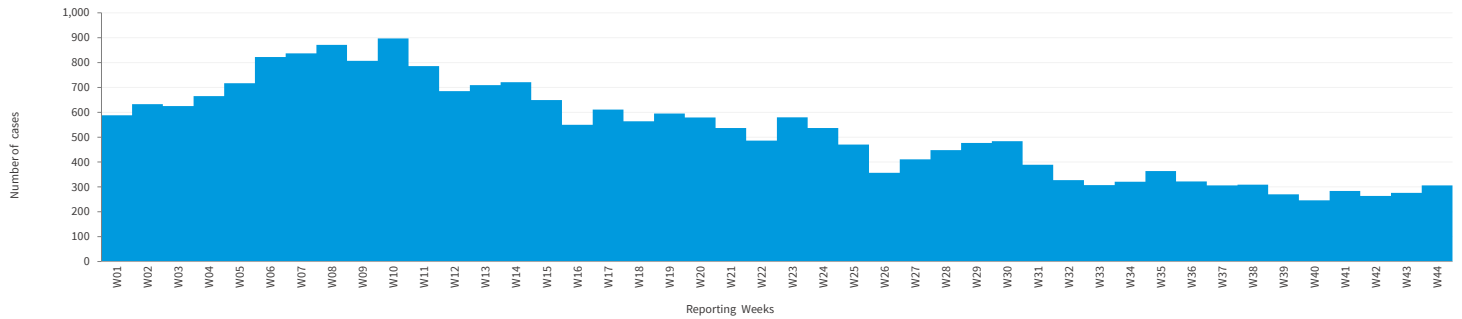
*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 43-2023, the number of suspected cases was modified from 273 to 276.

- The epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a stabilization since the 4th week of September 2023 with slight increase in this week, which needs closely monitoring and might be due to seasonal changes as the winter season is approaching in the country (Figure 9).



- During week 44-2023, a total of 306 suspected cases and one measles associated death were reported which shows 10.9% increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- The new death was female, under five-year child from Samangan province.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 22,996 suspected cases of measles and 63 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 16,263 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,823 (47.1%) were females (Figure 10).

Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 04 Nov 2023 (N=22,996)



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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province As of 04 Nov 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023

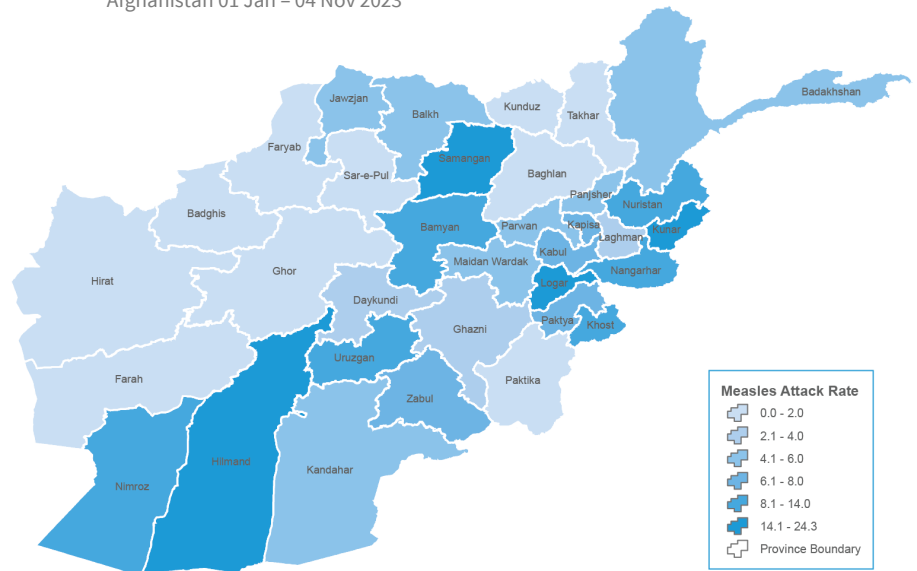
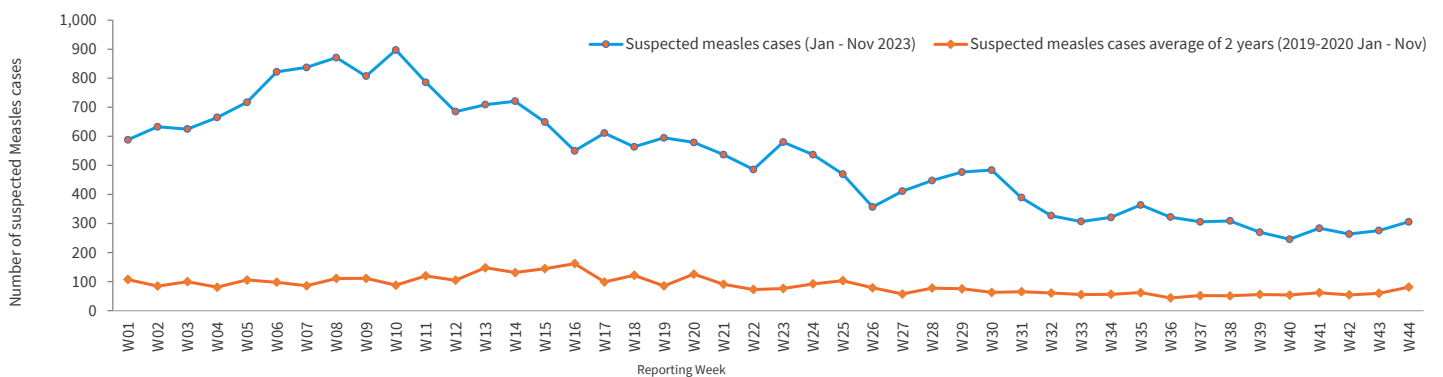


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Nov 2023, Afghanistan



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

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 7,208 children aged 9-59 months have been vaccinated as part of outbreak response and immunization campaign by the implementing NGOs across the country.
- 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 04 Nov 2023)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Suspected cases	43	26	16	25	18	22	10	11	
% Change cases	19.4	-39.5	-38.5	56.3	-28.0	22.2	-54.5	10.0	
Suspected deaths	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	
CFR (%)	7.0	3.8	0.0	4.0	5.6	4.5	20.0	27.3	

- The epi-curve for Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) indicates a decreasing trend in the number of suspected CCHF cases since 3rd week of September 2023. This decline could be attributed to seasonal changes towards winter (Figure 12, 13).
- During week 44-2023, a total of 11 new cases of CCHF and 3 deaths were reported, which shows 10.0% increase in the number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 5).
- The 3 new deaths were all female over 5 years children reported from Jawzjan (2) and Balkh (1), provinces.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,201 and 113, respectively (CFR 9.4%) (Figure 14).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (52, 46.0%) and Balkh (17, 15.0%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,198 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 371 (30.9%) were females.
- Totally, 1,063 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 374 samples were positive (positivity = 35.2%).

Figure 12: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 04 Nov 2023 (N=1,201)

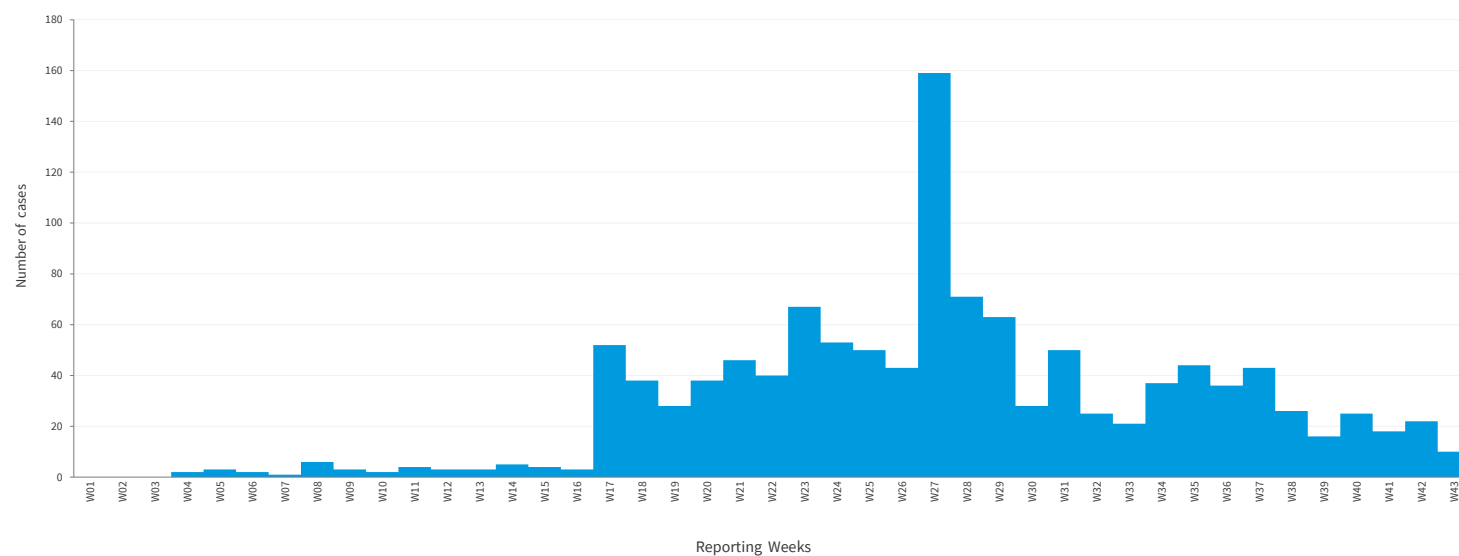
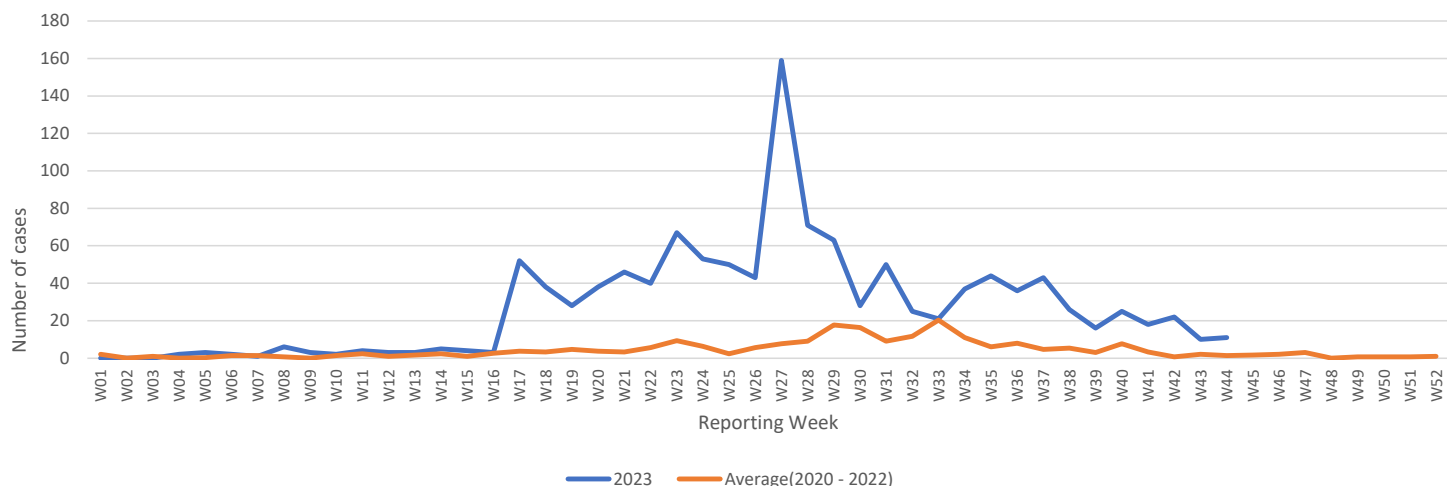


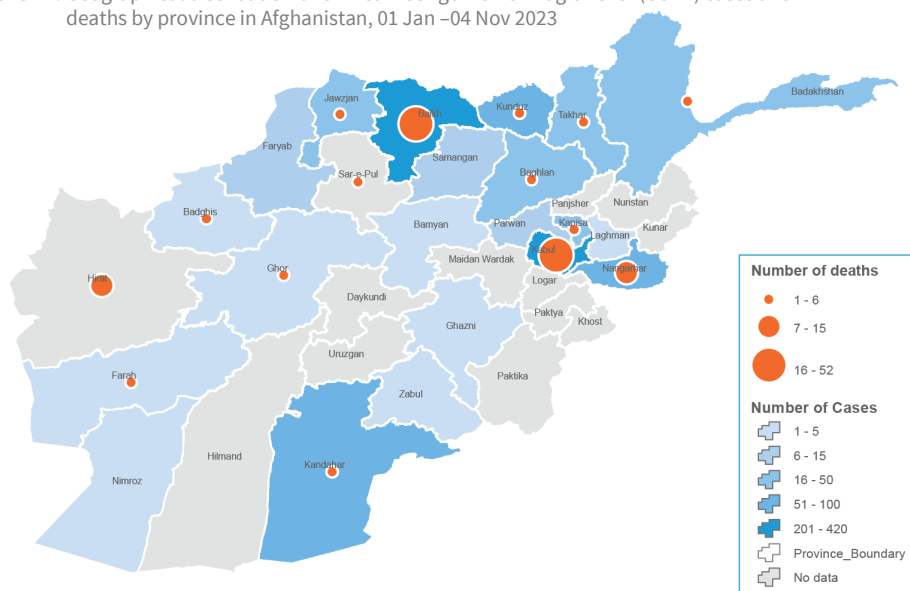
Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs Jan-Nov 2023, Afghanistan



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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 04 Nov 2023

Figure 14. Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan –04 Nov 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- A national 2-day workshop was conducted in Kabul-Afghanistan focused on implementing the One Health approach and involved various stakeholders, including experts from organizations like WHO, FAO, MoPH, NEPA, MAIL, Dairy Form Union, and Kabul University's veterinary department. The workshop covered six key areas: leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, highlighting existing structures, gaps, and challenges. The main recommendations from the workshop included securing government support and creating a strategic national plan, along with establishing a national-level Technical Working Group (TWG).

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 04 Nov 2023)

1,076
Total Cases

1
Total Deaths

679
Sample tested

170
Lab confirmed cases

25.0%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (10 Sep – 04 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	Trend line
Suspected cases	19	28	17	52	36	45	67	54	
% Change cases	-29.6	47.4	-39.3	205.9	-30.8	25.0	48.9	-19.4	
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	

- The epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in suspected dengue fever cases starting from end of Aug 2023, this is the peak season for vector activities as reported during 2021 and 2022 outbreaks, as well (figure 15 and 16).
- During week 44-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases of dengue fever shows a 19.4% decrease compared to previous week.
- A total of 54 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 44-2023; all were reported from 2 provinces, Nangarhar (50) and Kunar (4). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 1,076 and one death since the beginning of 2023 (Figure 17).
- Out of 1,076 suspected cases, 529 (49.2%) were females and 1054 (98.0%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 679 samples have been collected, out of which 170 were confirmed (positivity= 25.0%).

Figure 15. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 04 Nov 2023 (N=1,076)

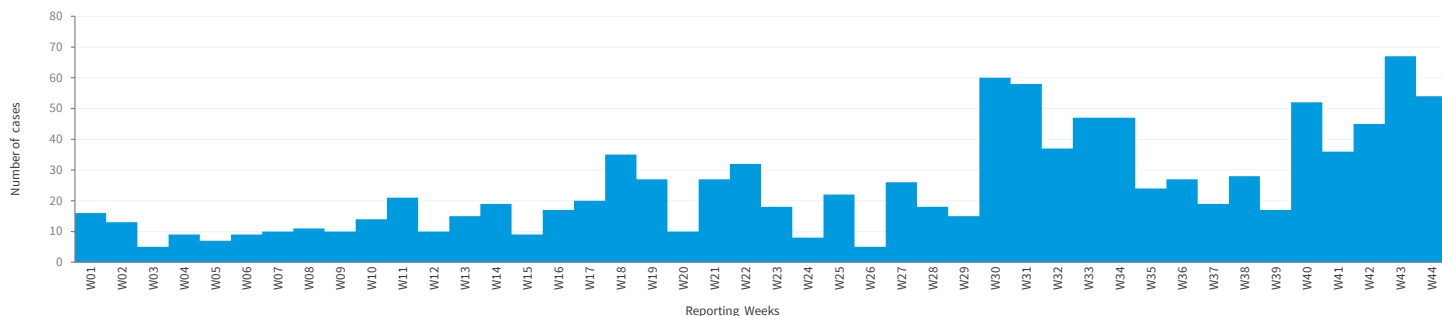


Figure 16: Comparison of trend curves for suspected dengue fever cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs Jan-Nov

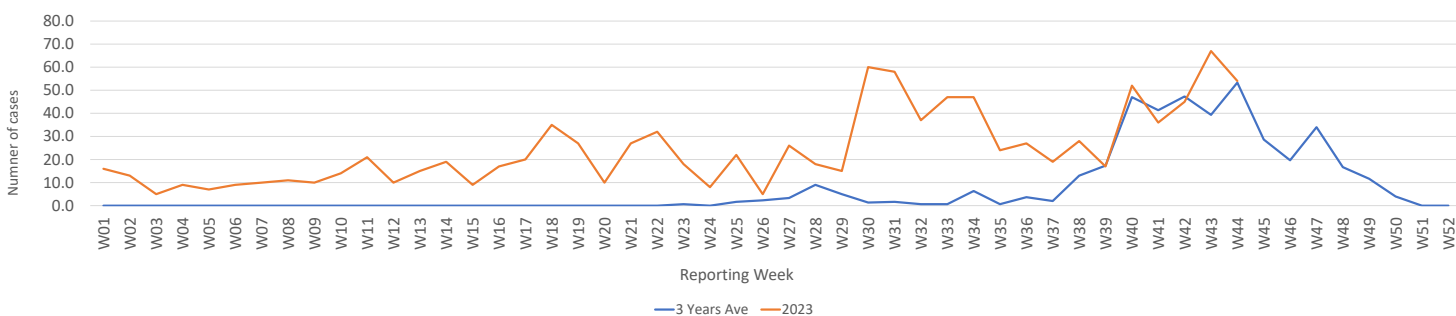
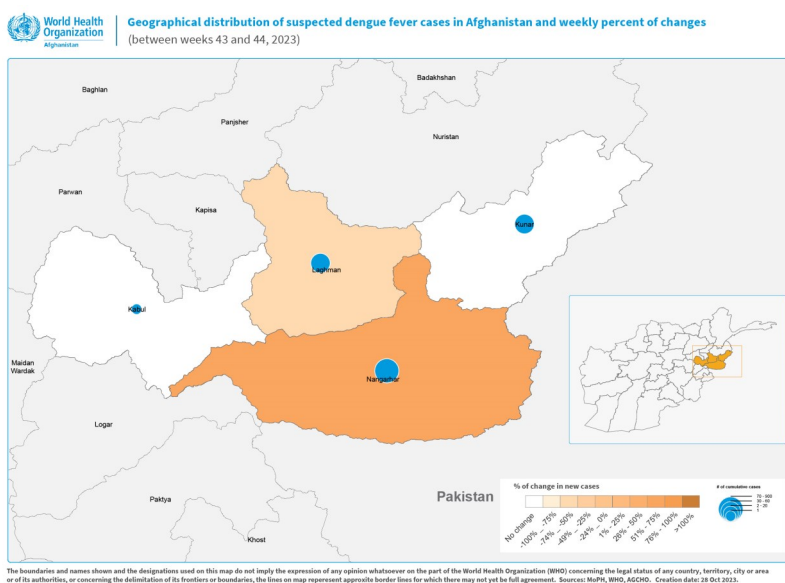


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Nov 2023



The boundaries and names shown 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, AGOHO. Creation date: 18 Oct 2023.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

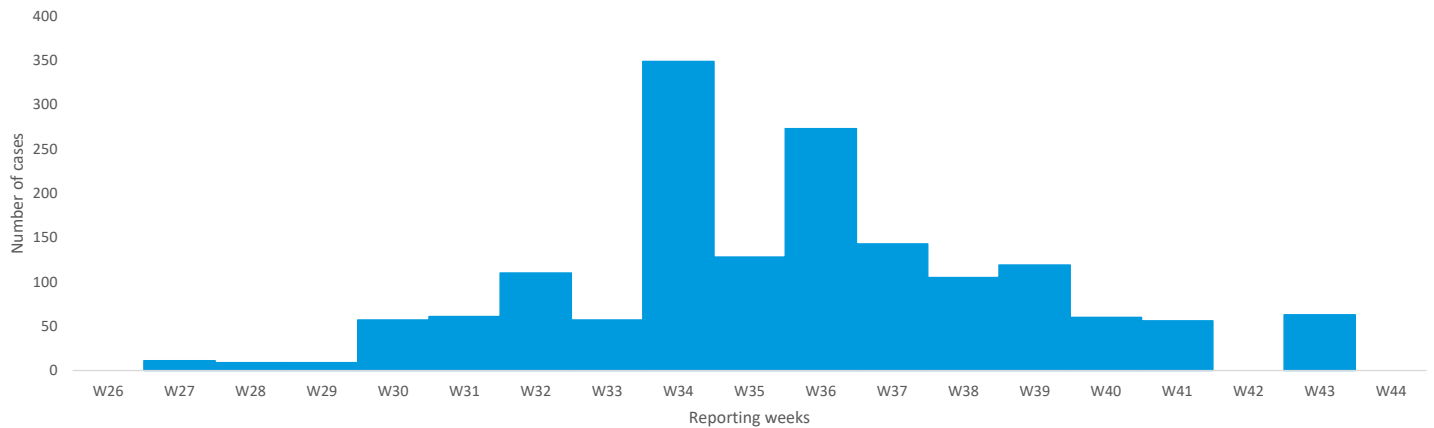
- During week 44, a total of 23 dengue RDT kits were delivered to Nangarhar province, this brings the cumulative supply of RDT kits to 83 kits since the start of 2023 in 5 provinces (73 to Nangarhar, 3 to Laghman, 3 to Kunar, 2 to Nuristan and 2 to Kabul).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have 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

- During week 43-2023, a new outbreak of malaria was reported from Maiwand district of Kandahar provinces with a total of 63 RDT confirmed cases. Among the reported cases 29 (46.0%) were female and 16 (25.4%) were under five years of age (Figure 18).
- Since 04 Jul-2023, a total of 1,609 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 306 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 19).
- Out of the total cases, 708 (44.0%) were females and 197 (12.2%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.

Figure 18. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 11 provinces during 04 Jul – 04 Nov 2023 (N=1,609)

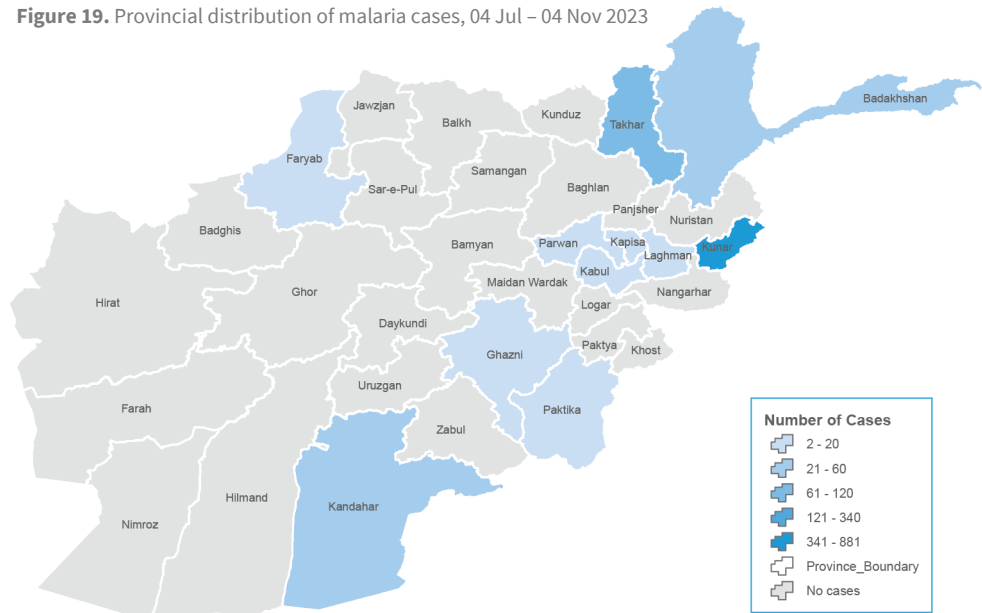


AFGHANISTAN

Provincial distribution of Malaria cases

As of 04 Nov 2023

Figure 19. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul – 04 Nov 2023



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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

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