

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS
SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #47-2024

No. 47 (17 - 23 Nov 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	ARI- Pneumonia	Measles (Suspected)	COVID-19 (Confirmed)	AWD with dehydration	Dengue fever (Suspected)	CCHF (Suspected)	Malaria (Confirmed)
Cumulative Cases 2024	1,194,186	54,532	12,703	165,629	4,314	1,185	78,366
Cumulative deaths 2024 (CFR %)	<b>2,736</b> (0.2)	<b>259 (</b> 0.5 <b>)</b>	<b>68</b> (0.5)	<b>83</b> (0.05)	<b>2</b> (0.05)	<b>94</b> (7.9)	3 (0.004)

(Data from 613 (100.0%) out of 613 sentinel sites)

## **Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) - Pneumonia**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



<sup>\*</sup>Currently ARI related data (morbidity and mortality) are reported from 613 surveillance sentinel sites across 34 provinces in the country.

### Table 1: Summary of the ARI-pneumonia outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend lines
Suspected cases	20,942	21,349	21,729	22,534	23,349	24,952	26,145	27,880	
Suspected deaths	39	47	36	35	39	66	50	56	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	<b>→</b>

- The epi curve indicates a gradual increase in ARI-pneumonia cases since week 34-2024, following the typical seasonal decrease observed during the summer (Figures 1 & 2). The increase could be explained by the start of the fall season in the country.
- During week 47-2024, 27,880 cases of ARI-pneumonia and 56 associated deaths were reported, which shows a 6.6% increase in the number of ARI cases compared to the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 1,194,186 ARI-pneumonia cases and 2,736 associated deaths (CFR=0.2%) were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 752,667 (63.0%) were under-five children, and 590,614 (49.5%) were females.
- Out of 2,736 deaths, 2,307 (84.3%) were under-five children and 1,254 (45.8%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of ARI-pneumonia per 10,000 population has been reported in Balkh (582.8), followed by Nooristan (582.6), Bamyan (570.1), and Jawzjan (541.2) provinces (Figure 3).



<sup>\*\*</sup>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 the ARI season and sending them to the National Influenza Center (NIC) for testing.



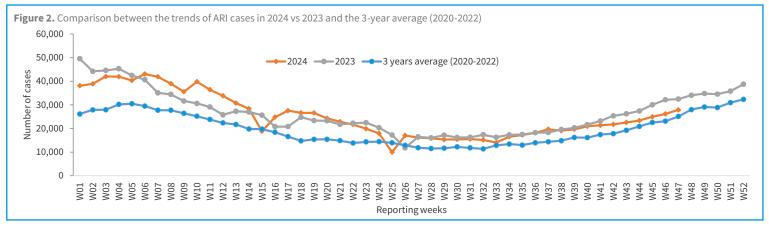
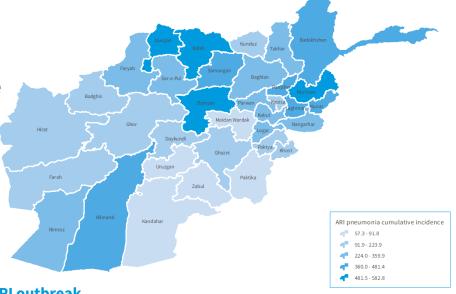


Figure 3. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 23 Nov 2024

ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province

01 Jan-23 Nov 2024



## Updates on the response activities to the ARI outbreak

- During week 47-2024, a total of 30 healthcare workers including 3 females have been trained on ARI case management in North region. This brings the total number of HCWs trained on ARI case management to 190 in 5 regions (North, Central, Southeast, West, and South) since the beginning of 2024.
- Since the beginning of 2024:
  - A total of 6,500 Viral Transport Media (VTM) have been distributed to the North-east and Central-east NDSR offices.
  - Eighty-nine Pediatric Severe Acute Malnutrition (PED-SAM) case management kits have been distributed to all WHO sub-offices.
  - ° WHO has handed over a total of 89,000 IEC materials on ARI to MoPH (64,000 Posters and 25,000 Brochures).

## **Measles Outbreak**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



**Total Cases** 



**Total Deaths** 



Sample tested



7.055 Lab confirmed cases

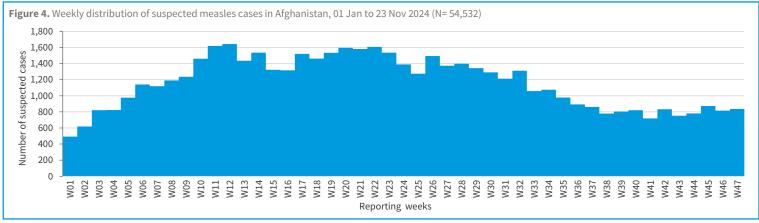
**Test positivity rate** 

#### **Table 2:** Summary of the measles outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	820	719	833	752	780	872	816	835	
Suspected deaths	6	4	2	3	6	1	4	2	<b>\</b>
CFR (%)	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.2	~~~~



- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases shows a gradual increase over the last 4 weeks (Figure 4). The trend in 2024 is higher than that reported in 2023 and the 2-year average before the 2021-2022 outbreak period (Figure 5).
- During week 47-2024, a total of 835 suspected cases and 2 associated deaths were reported showing a slight increase in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- The new deaths were both under-five children while one of them was female reported from 2 provinces: Herat and Kabul.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 54,532 suspected measles cases and 259 deaths (CFR=0.5%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 43,561 (79.9%) were under-five children, and 24,782 (45.4%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, Balkh has reported the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles cases per 10,000 population (35.2), followed by Khost (31.0), Urozgan (27.0), and Jawzjan (25.5) (Figure 6).



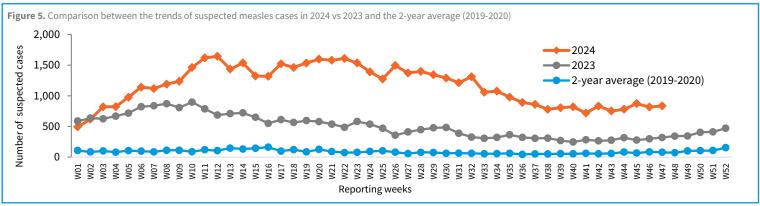
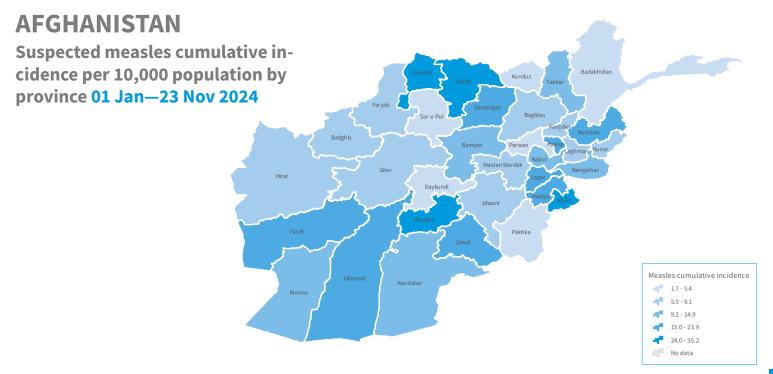


Figure 6. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-23 Nov 2024





### Updates on the preparedness and response to the Measles outbreak

- During week 47-2024, a total of 329 children 9-59 months have been vaccinated against measles in 4 provinces (Urozgan, Paktya, Kabul, and Kunduz). This brings the number of children 9-59 months who have been vaccinated against measles to 31,087 as part of outbreak response immunization activities across the country.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:
  - ° A total of 103 SSTs (each team included 2 members) were trained on sample collection, storage, and shipment from 3 regions: Central (63 SSTs), West (3 SSTs), and South (37 SSTs) regions.
  - A total of 126 measles case management kits have been distributed to WHO sub-offices across the country.
  - ° During April and May 2024, a total of 794,676 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in 2 phases of the Multi-Antigen Acceleration Campaign (MAAC) in 78 districts of 25 provinces:
    - ♦ During the first phase, 624,767 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in 53 districts of 13 provinces (Kapisa, Kandahar, Logar, Zabul, Helmand, Khost, Takhar, Nangarhar, Kunar, Balkh, Faryab, Farah, and Kabul).
    - ♦ During the second phase, a total of 169,909 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in 25 districts of 12 provinces (Wardak, Bamyan, Parwan, Panjshir, Urozgan, Paktya, Paktika, Ghazni, Baghlan, Nuristan, Samangan, and Badghis).

#### COVID-19

(24 Feb 2020 — 23 Nov 2024)

Cumulative samples tested
1,054,036
In public laboratories

New samples tested in week 47
1,701
In public laboratories

-18.6%

Cumulative confirmed cases **242,967**Cumulative percent positivity (23.1%)

New confirmed cases in week 47

安

131

Weekly percent positivity (7.7%)

-10.9%

Cumulative confirmed deaths

8,040

CFR (3.3%)

New confirmed deaths in week 47

0.0%

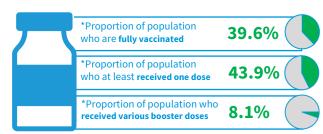
Week 47 CFR (0.0%)

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

# **COVID-19 Vaccination highlights**

Fully vaccinated \*17,074,485 Partially vaccinated \*1,864,500 Partially vaccinated \*3,491,231 Partially vaccine received \*18,938,985

\*Note: During October 2024, around 755 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered which shows a 97.2% decrease compared to September 2024.



<sup>\*</sup> The denominator is 43,100,596 based on OCHA estimation 2024

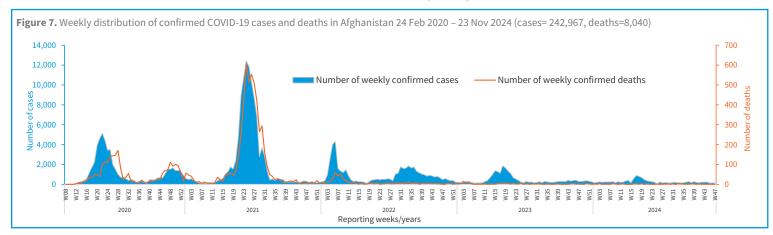
### Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

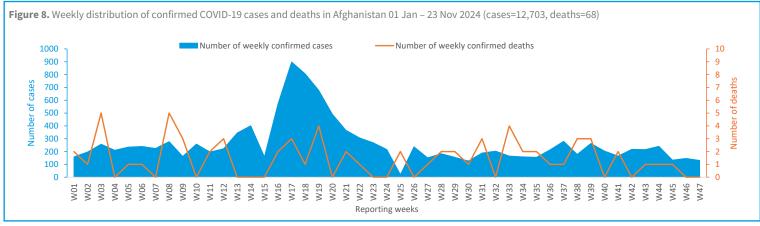
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Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	1,856	1,572	2,138	2,156	2,025	1,672	2,089 *	1,701	
Confirmed cases	205	165	218	216	241	134	147 *	131	·
Percent positivity (%)	11.0	10.5	10.2	10.0	11.9	8.0	7.0	7.7	••••
Deaths	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	$\wedge$
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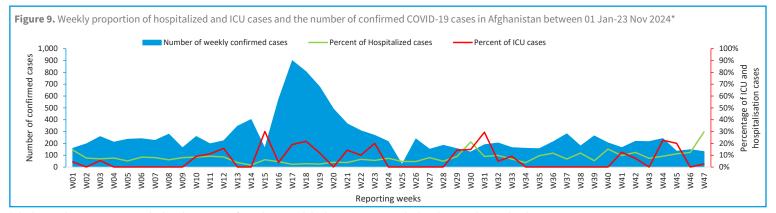
<sup>\*</sup>A delayed reporting was experienced during week 46-2024 and the number of samples tested and confirmed COVID-19 cases were modified from 1,843 to 2,089 and from 129 to 147, respectively.



- The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases indicates a fluctuation in the recent weeks following the peak in the week 17-2024 (Figures 7 & 8).
- During week 47-2024, a total of 1,701 samples were tested in public labs, of which 131 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 7.7%) with no associated deaths (CFR 0.0%). The number of positive cases shows a 10.9% decrease compared to the preceding week (Table 3 and Figure 8).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 12,703 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 68 deaths (CFR=0.5%) have been reported. Out of the total cases, 6,891 (54.2%) were females while females represented almost 3 quarters of deaths (50 73.5%).
- During week 47-2024, among 131 confirmed cases, 39 (29.8%) were hospitalized, while one of the hospitalized case was admitted to ICU (Figure 9).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 112,664 samples of COVID-19 have been tested by public health laboratories across the country, out of which 12,703 were positive (positivity rate 11.3%), while the overall number of COVID-19 samples tested by public health laboratories reached to 1,054,036 since the beginning of the pandemic in February 2020.







\*The hospitalization rate was calculated among confirmed cases, while the ICU rate was calculated among hospitalized cases.

#### **Update on the response activities to COVID-19**

- Since the beginning of 2024, the below supplies have been distributed to all regional sub-offices:
  - ° A total of 930 VTM kits (50 units per kit).
  - ° A total of 1,571 COVID-19 RDT kits (25 tests per kit).



# **Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



165,629
Total AWD with dehydration cases



Total AWD with dehydration deaths



Samples tested for AWD with dehydration (RDTs)



1,380
RDT-positive cases for

**AWD** with dehydration



14.7%

RDT positivity rate for AWD with dehydration

Table 4: Summary of the AWD with dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep - 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Number of cases	3,228	3,067	2,954	2,808	2,659	2,750	2,534	2,301	
Number of deaths	3	2	1	4	0	3	2	1	<b></b>
CFR (%)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	\/\

- The epi-curve shows a decreasing trend since week 31-2024, which could be linked to the end of the summer season (Figure 10).
- During week 47-2024, 2,301 AWD with dehydration cases with 1 associated death were reported from 147 districts, which shows a 9.2% decrease in the number of cases reported compared to the previous week.
- The new death was an under five female reported from Kabul province.
- During week 47-2024, no new district reported an AWD with dehydration alert.
- The highest cumulative incidence of AWD with dehydration per 10,000 population was reported from Paktya (135.2) followed by Nimroz (128.9), Logar (101.9), and Kabul (81.7) (Figure 11).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 165,629 AWD with dehydration cases and 83 associated deaths (CFR=0.05%) were reported from 350 districts. Out of the total cases, 91,871 (55.5%) were under-five children, and 81,972 (49.5%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 9,396 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) have been conducted on AWD with dehydration cases, of which 1,380 tests turned positive (positivity rate 14.7%).

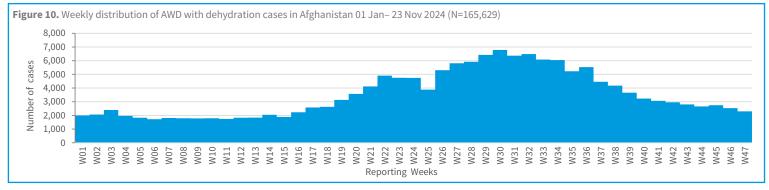
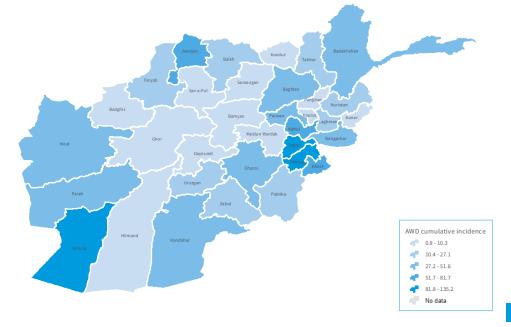


Figure 11. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 23 Nov 2024

# **AFGHANISTAN**

AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 23 Nov 2024





### Updates on the preparedness and response to the AWD with dehydration outbreak

- During week 47-2024, a total of 160 sentinel sites' focal points have been trained on Event-based Surveillance (EBS) procedures in Kandahar province. This brings the total number of healthcare workers (MDs, CHSs, Heads of HFs) trained on EBS procedures to 969 in 6 provinces: Kandahar (160, all males), Balkh (87 including 10 females), Bamyan (124 including 26 females), Herat (205, all males), Badakhshan (151 including 3 females), and Nangarhar (242, all males).
- Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:
  - ° A total of 485 Surveillance sentinel sites' FPs have been trained on e-surveillance (automated analysis) in the Central, East, Southeast, and West regions.
  - ° A total of 29 Surveillance Supporting Team members (SSTs) from Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces were trained on sample collection, storage, and shipment of surveillance-targeted diseases.
  - A total of 403 sentinel sites' focal points (including 24 females) have been trained on surveillance procedures in Kabul province, East, South, North, and West regions.
  - A total of 210 HCWs have been trained on AWD with dehydration case management in 5 regions: Central region (70 including 15 females), East region (35 including 15 females), South region (35 all males), North region (35 including 5 females), and Northeast region (35 including 17 females).
  - ° A total of 38 Data Management Officers, Data Assistants, and Data Entry Clerks (including 3 females) have been trained on data management and analysis.
  - ° A total of 114 Cary Blair kits (100/kit) and 424 RDT kits have been distributed to 7 WHO sub-offices.
  - ° A total of 125 case management kits have been distributed to the affected communities.
  - A total of 2,700 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (1,200 posters and 1,500 brochures) on AWD have been delivered by WHO to Ghor province. These IEC materials have been used in health facilities and floodaffected communities.

### **WASH update:**

There are no updates for the past 2 weeks.

# **Dengue Fever Outbreak**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



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2 \*1

\*1,423

498

35.0%

Note: Dengue fever laboratory data was reviewed, utilizing the confirmed case definition from WHO. This definition is characterized by confirmation through PCR, positive virus culture, DENV NS1 antigen detection, seroconversion of IgG in paired sera, or a significant increase (fourfold) in IgG titer in paired sera. The focus was placed on cases confirmed by PCR, excluding cases that were only positive for IgM or IgG based on a single sample <a href="https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/outbreak-toolkit/dengue--outbreak-toolbox\_20220921.pdf?stvsn=29de0271\_2">https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/outbreak-toolkit/dengue--outbreak-toolbox\_20220921.pdf?stvsn=29de0271\_2</a>

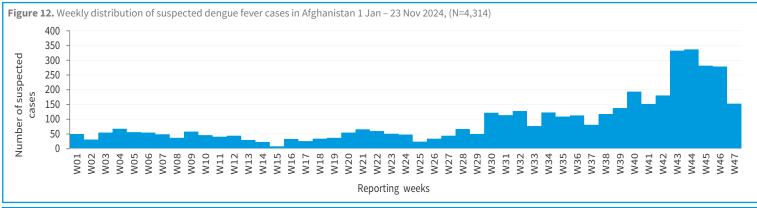
#### **Table 5:** Summary of the dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	194	152	181	333	337	282	279	153	
suspected deaths	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	\
CFR (%)	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	\

- The epi curve of suspected dengue fever cases shows a decrease during the past 3 weeks following an increasing trend since week 26 reaching its highest peak in week 44-2024 (Figure 12).
- During week 47-2024, 153 suspected cases of dengue fever with no associated deaths were reported from Nangarhar province. This shows a 45.2% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the number of suspected dengue fever cases is higher than the 2-year average (2021-2022) and even higher than the number of suspected cases reported in the corresponding weeks in 2023 (Figure 13).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 4,314 suspected cases of dengue fever with 2 associated deaths were reported (CFR=0.05%), out of which 1,938 (44.9%) were females, and 73 (1.7%) were under-five children. The geographical distribution and weekly change rate are shown in Figure 14.



• Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 1,423 samples have been tested, out of which 498 were positive by PCR (positivity rate 35.0%).



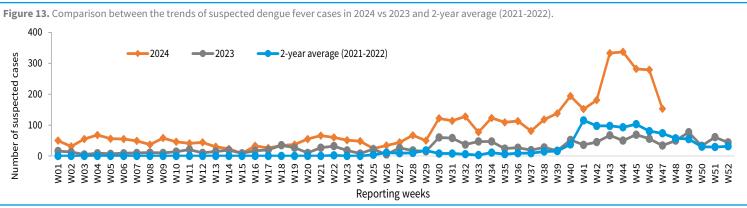
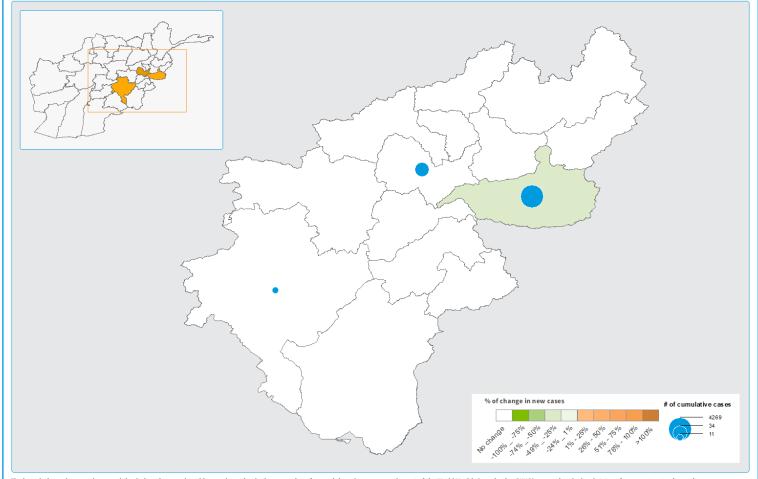


Figure 14. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 23 Nov 2024



**World Health** Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar, Ghazni and Kabul provinces and weekly Organization percent of changes (between weeks 46 and 47, 2024)



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 reperesent approxite border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Sources: MoPH, WHO, AGCHO. Creation date: 23 Nov 2024.



#### Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities were conducted:

- As part of the outbreak response to dengue fever Gravitraps and larvicides are being distributed to the hotspot areas of Nangarhar province.
- A total of 835 dengue fever RDT kits (10 tests/kit) have been distributed to South and East WHO sub-regional offices.
- A total of 386 HCWs (MDs and Nurses) have been trained on dengue fever case management from Kandahar (46 males and 42 females), Southeast region (64 males and 43 females), and East region (104 males and 87 females).
- A total of 150 lab technicians of HFs of Kandahar (28), Southeast region (54), and East region (68) have been trained on dengue fever diagnosis.

## **Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



Total CCHF



Total CCHF deaths



Samples tested for CCHF



Lab-confirmed

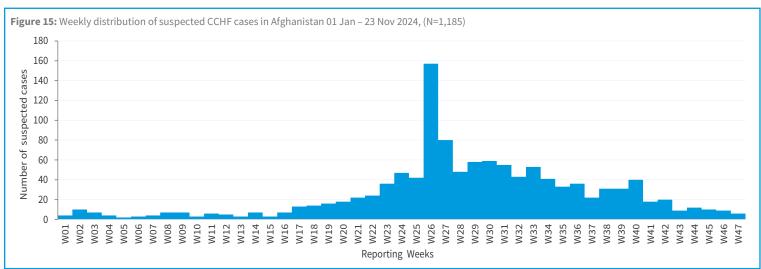


32.9%
CCHF test positivity

### Table 6: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Suspected cases	40	18	20	9	12	10	9	6	
Suspected deaths	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	2.5	5.6	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	

- The epi-curve of suspected CCHF cases shows a declining trend since week 27-2024 (Figures 15 & 16).
- During week 47-2024, 6 new suspected CCHF cases with one associated death were reported, which shows a 33.3% decrease in the number of suspected CCHF cases reported the preceding week (Table 6).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 1,185 suspected cases of CCHF with 94 associated deaths (CFR=7.9%) were reported. Out of the total cases, 1,180 (99.6%) were over-five, while 368 (31.1%) were females.
- The reported deaths were mostly over five years old (93, 98.9%), while 26 (27.7%) were females. Deaths were reported from 9 provinces Kabul (55), Balkh (19), Herat (5), Kunduz (4), Kapisa (4), Nangarhar (3), Baghlan (2), Badakhshan (1), and Kunar (1).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 787 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, out of which 259 were positive (positivity rate 32.9%) from 13 provinces.
- The positive cases were reported from 14 provinces Kabul (170), Balkh (23), Kunduz (20), Herat (12), Kapisa (11), Nangarhar (8), Takhar (3), Baghlan (3), Badakhshan (2), Jawzjan (2), Kandahar (2), Helmand (1), Paktika (1), and Logar (1).
- The highest cumulative incidence of suspected CCHF per 100,000 population in 2024 is reported from Balkh (9.7) followed by Kabul (8.0), Kapisa (7.0), and Jawzjan (6.0) provinces (Figure 17).





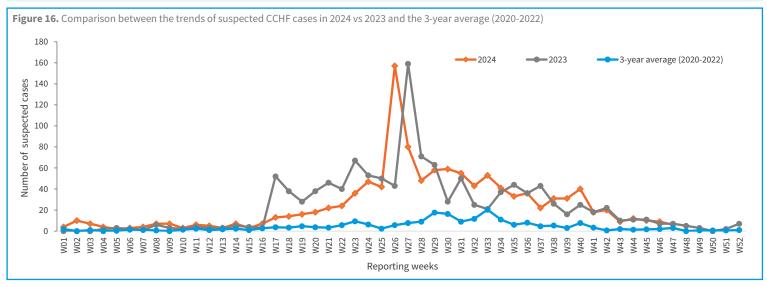
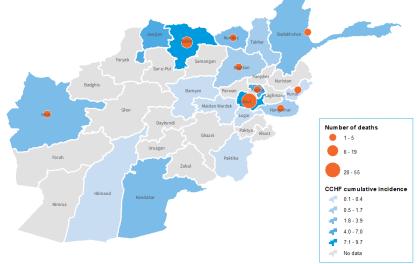


Figure 17. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 23 Nov 2024

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths 01 Jan -23 Nov 2024



#### **Updates on the response to the CCHF outbreak**

Since the beginning of 2024, the following activities have been conducted:

- A total of 569 doses of ribavirin tablets and 1,540 doses of ribavirin injections have been distributed to the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Kabul and all WHO sub-offices.
- Insecticides have been supplied to all 34 provinces for cattle spraying against ticks in animal markets by The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The national CCHF preparedness and response plan has been drafted and shared with MoPH for endorsement. The plan aims to prepare and respond to the CCHF outbreak with focused interventions on surveillance/outbreak investigation, laboratory confirmation, case management and supplies, RCCE for high-risk individuals, and the capacity of healthcare workers.

### **RCCE**

Since the beginning of 2024, the following RCCE activities have been conducted as a response to outbreaks:

- WHO has conducted a mass online awareness campaign through the WHO's official social media accounts (<u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>) on CCHF and dengue fever preventive measures as a response to infectious diseases, reaching around 25,000 social media users.
- WHO has conducted a seven-day training and mass awareness campaign in Herat, Balkh, and Kandahar provinces, focused on Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and other infectious diseases. The campaign included one day of training followed by six days of community outreach. During the campaign, WHO deployed around 110 (43 female and 67 male) social mobilizers to Herat (40 including 18 females), Balkh (35 including 16 females), and Kandahar (35 including 9 females) provinces and reached around 111,696 people through mass awareness campaigns on CCHF and other infectious diseases.



#### **Confirmed Malaria Outbreak**

(01 Jan-23 Nov 2024)



Total confirmed
Malaria Cases



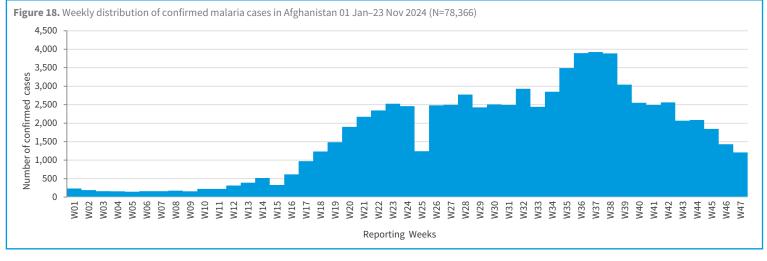
3 (0.004)

Total malaria deaths (CFR %)

Table 7: Summary of the confirmed malaria outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (29 Sep – 23 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	Trend line
Confirmed cases	2,553	2,493	2,560	2,066	2,086	1,845	1,431	1,210	
Confirmed deaths	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b></b>
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b></b>

- The epi curve of confirmed malaria cases shows a declining trend over the past 9 weeks, after reaching its peak during week 37-2024. The trend of confirmed malaria cases in 2024 is higher than the 3-year average (2020-22), while closely following the trend observed in 2023 (Figures 18 & 19).
- During week 47-2024, 1,210 confirmed cases with no associated deaths were reported from 20 provinces, which shows a 15.4% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 78,366 confirmed malaria cases with 3 associated deaths (CFR=0.004%) were reported from 33 provinces. Out of the total cases, 16,361 (20.9%) were under-five children, and 36,840 (47.0%) were females.
- The highest cumulative incidence of malaria per 10,000 population was reported from Nuristan (403.9) followed by Kunar (290.0), Laghman (184.1), and Nangarhar (99.6) (Figure 20).



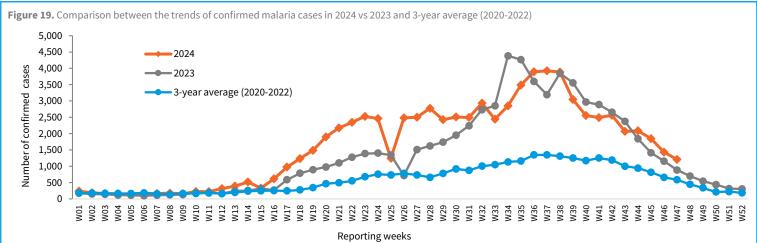
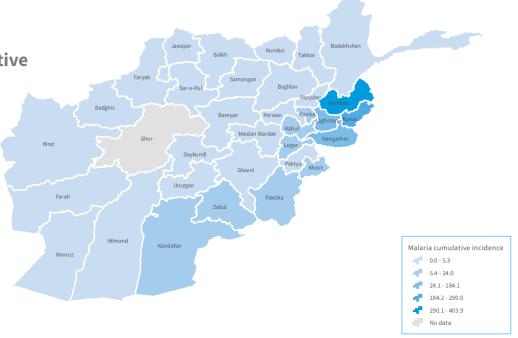




Figure 20. Confirmed malaria cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 23 Nov 2024

Confirmed malaria cumulative Incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-23 Nov 2024



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds

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