

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS
SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #48-2024

No. 48 (24 - 30 Nov 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	ARI Pneu- monia	Measles (Suspected)	COVID-19 (Confirmed)	AWD with dehydration	Dengue fever (Suspected)	CCHF (Suspected)	Malaria (Confirmed)
Cumulative Cases 2024	1,223,647	55,491	12,863	167,594	4,437	1,191	79,314
Cumulative deaths 2024 (CFR %)	2,771 (0.2)	264 (0.5)	70 (0.5)	85 (0.05)	2 (0.05)	94 (7.9)	3 (0.004)

(Data from 610 (99.5%) out of 613 sentinel sites)

ARI Pneumonia

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)



*1,223,674

Total ARI Cases

Ť

Total ARI

771 **2

Samples tested for influenza

**119

Lab confirmed influenza cases

E

3.5%

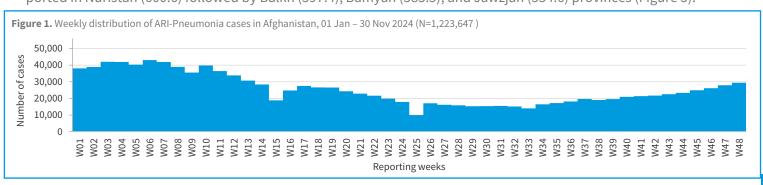
Influenza test positivity ratio

Table 1: Summary of the ARI-Pneumonia outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend lines
Suspected cases	21,349	21,729	22,534	23,349	24,952	26,145	27,890 *	29,451	
Suspected deaths	47	36	35	39	66	50	46 *	45	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	*

*A delayed reporting and data entry errors was experienced during week 47-2024 and the number of suspected cases and deaths were modified from 27,880 to 27,890 and from 56 to 46, respectively.

- 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 winter season in the country.
- During week 48-2024, 29,451 cases of ARI-Pneumonia and 45 associated deaths were reported, which shows a 5.6% increase in the number of ARI-Pneumonia cases compared to the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 1,223,647 ARI-Pneumonia cases and 2,771 associated deaths (CFR=0.2%) were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 771,192 (63.0%) were under-five children, and 605,137 (49.5%) were females.
- Out of 2,771 deaths, 2,335 (84.3%) were under-five children and 1,262 (45.5%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of ARI-Pneumonia per 10,000 population has been reported in Nuristan (600.6) followed by Balkh (597.4), Bamyan (583.5), and Jawzjan (554.6) provinces (Figure 3).



^{*}Currently ARI related data (morbidity and mortality) are reported from 613 surveillance sentinel sites across 34 provinces in the country.

^{**}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.

^{**}A data entry error were experienced during the past few weeks and the number of positive influenza cases were modified from 133 to 119.



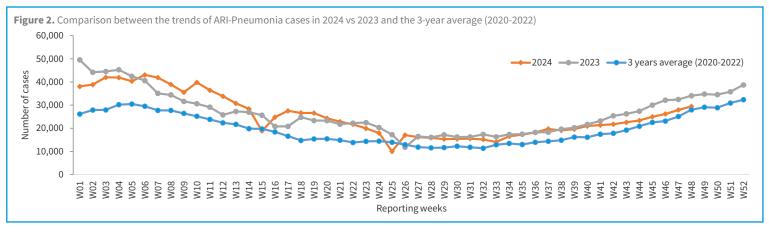
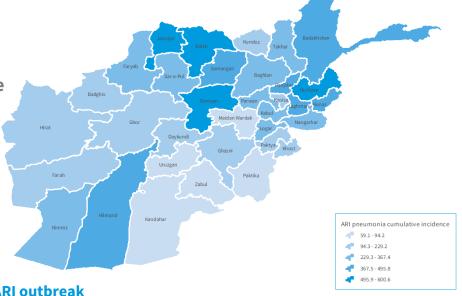


Figure 3. ARI-Pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 30 Nov 2024

ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province

01 Jan-30 Nov 2024



Updates on the response activities to the ARI outbreak

During week 48-2024, a total of 30 HCWs were trained on ARI Pneumonia case management in Northeast region. This brings the total number of HCWs trained in ARI Pneumonia case management to 220 in 6 regions (North, Central, Southeast, West, South, and Northeast) 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-
- WHO has handed over a total of 89,000 IEC materials on ARI to MoPH (64,000 Posters and 25,000 Brochures).

Measles

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)



Total Cases

Total Deaths

Sample tested

Lab confirmed cases

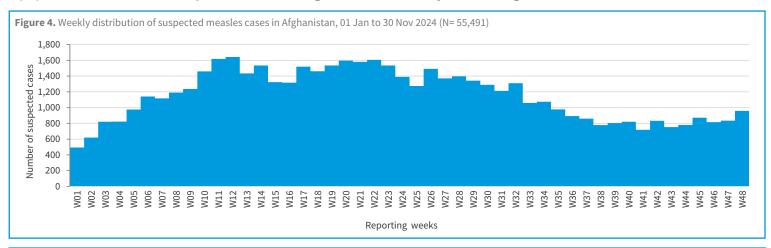
Test positivity rate

Table 2: Summary of the measles outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Suspected cases	719	833	752	780	872	816	835	959	
Suspected deaths	4	2	3	6	1	4	2	5	\\\\
CFR (%)	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.5	



- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases shows gradual increase over the last 5 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 48-2024, a total of 959 suspected cases and 5 associated deaths were reported showing a 14.9% increase in the number of suspected cases compared to the preceding week.
- Out of 5 new deaths, 3 were under five children while 2 of them were females reported from 4 provinces: Kabul (2), Jawzjan (1), Helmand (1), and Ghazni (1).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 55,491 suspected measles cases and 264 deaths (CFR=0.5%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 44,330 (79.9%) were under-five children, and 25,254 (45.5%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, Balkh has reported the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles cases per 10,000 population (36.2), followed by Khost (31.5), Urozgan (27.6), and Jawzjan (26.0) (Figure 6).



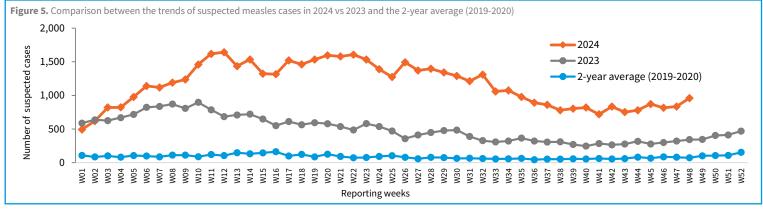
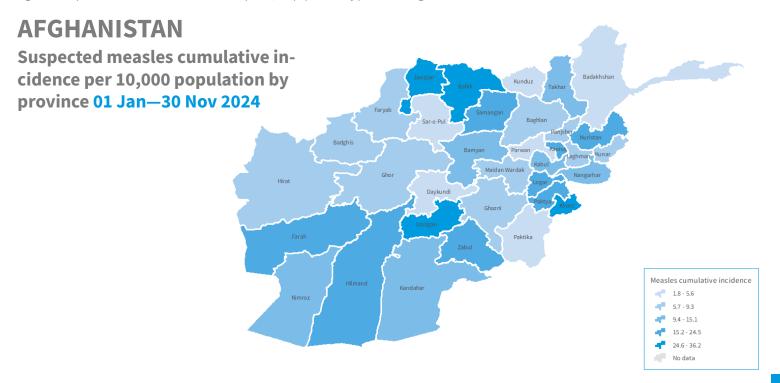


Figure 6. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-30 Nov 2024





Updates on the preparedness and response to the measles outbreak

- During week 48-2024, a total of 328 children 9-59 months have been vaccinated against measles in 6 provinces (Kabul, Wardak, Kandahar, Urozgan, Baghlan and Nuristan). This brings the number of children 9-59 months who have been vaccinated against measles to 31,415 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.
 - o 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

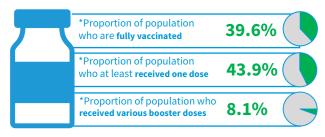
(24 Feb 2020 — 30 Nov 2024)

Cumulative samples tested Cumulative confirmed cases 1,060,803 243,599 In public laboratories Cumulative percent positivity (23.0%) New samples tested in week 48 New confirmed cases in week 48 2,033 O In public laboratories Weekly percent positivity (6.7%) 17.4% 0.7% Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change **COVID-19 Vaccination highlights**

Cumulative confirmed deaths 8,043 CFR (3.3%) New confirmed deaths in week 48 Week 48 CFR (0.7%) -50.0%



*Note: During November 2024, around 1,447 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered which shows a 91.7% increase compared to October 2024.



^{*} The denominator is 43,100,596 based on OCHA estimation 2024

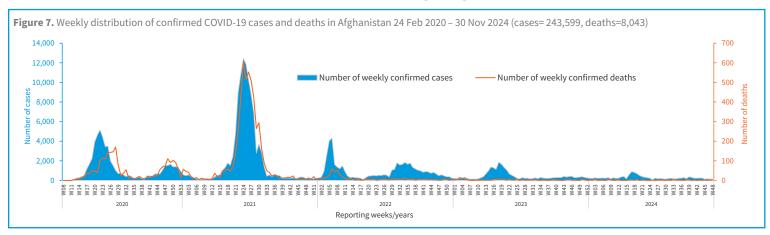
Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

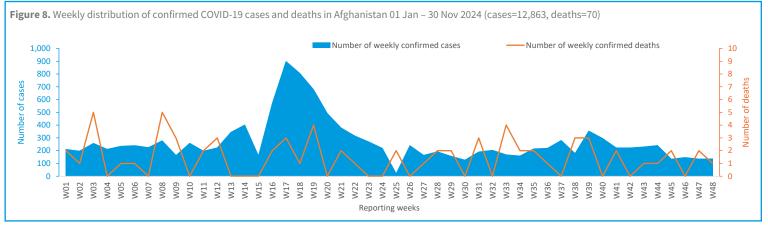
									1
Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,052	2,170	2,198	2,048	1,859	2,089	1,731 *	2,033	
Confirmed cases	222	222	230	241	134	147	135 *	136	
Percent positivity (%)	10.8	10.2	10.5	11.8	7.2	7.0	7.8	6.7	
Deaths	2	0	1	1	2	0	2 *	1	$\overline{}$
CFR (%)	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.5	0.0	1.5	0.7	\checkmark

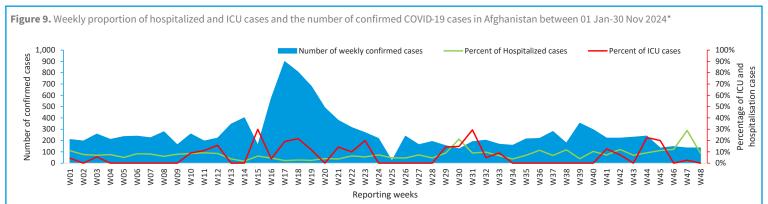
^{*}A delayed reporting was experienced during week 47-2024 and the number of tested samples, confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths were modified from 1,701 to 1,731, from 131 to 135, and from 0 to 2, respectively.



- The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases indicates a fluctuation at the lower level in the recent weeks following the peak in the week 17-2024 (Figures 7 & 8).
- During week 48-2024, a total of 2,033 samples were tested in public labs, of which 136 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 6.7%) with one associated death (CFR 0.7%). The number of positive cases shows a slight increase compared to the preceding week (Table 3 and Figure 8).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 12,863 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 70 deaths (CFR=0.5%) have been reported. Out of the total cases, 6,986 (54.3%) were females while females represented almost 3 quarters of deaths (52 74.3%).
- During week 48-2024, among 136 confirmed cases, 12 (8.8%) were hospitalized, while none of the hospitalized case was admitted to ICU (Figure 9).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 114,573 samples of COVID-19 have been tested by public health laboratories across the country, out of which 12,863 were positive (positivity rate 11.2%), while the overall number of COVID-19 samples tested by public health laboratories reached to 1,060,803 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

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)



Total AWD with dehydration cases



Total AWD with dehydration deaths



Samples tested for AWD with dehydration (RDTs)



1,399





14.6%

RDT positivity rate for AWD with dehydration

Table 4: Summary of the AWD with dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct - 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Number of cases	3,067	2,954	2,808	2,659	2,750	2,534	2,301	1,965	
Number of deaths	2	1	4	0	3	2	2 *	1	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	

^{*}A delayed reporting was experienced during week 47-2024 and the number of deaths was modified from 1 to 2.

- 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 48-2024, 1,965 AWD with dehydration cases with 1 associated death were reported from 130 districts, which shows a 14.6% decrease in the number of cases reported compared to the previous week.
- The new death was an under five female reported from Urozgan province.
- During week 48-2024, one new district (Koh-e-Zor from Herat) reported a new alert of AWD with dehydration.
- The highest cumulative incidence of AWD with dehydration per 10,000 population was reported from Paktya (137.2) followed by Nimroz (131.1), Logar (102.4), and Kabul (82.7) (Figure 11).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 167,594 AWD with dehydration cases and 85 associated deaths (CFR=0.05%) were reported from 351 districts. Out of the total cases, 92,996 (55.5%) were under-five children, and 82,940 (49.5%) were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 9,574 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) have been conducted on AWD with dehydration cases, of which 1,399 tests turned positive (positivity rate 14.6%).

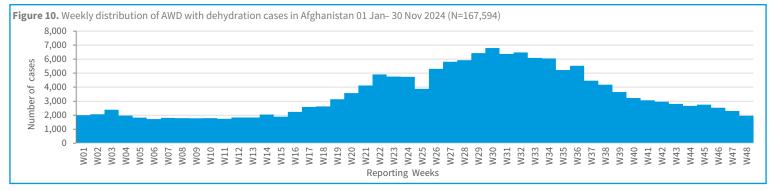


Figure 11. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 30 Nov 2024

AFGHANISTAN

AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 30 Nov 2024





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

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

- A total of 969 head of health facilities and CHSs have been trained on Event-based Surveillance (EBS) procedures 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).
- 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

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)



Total Cases

Total Deaths









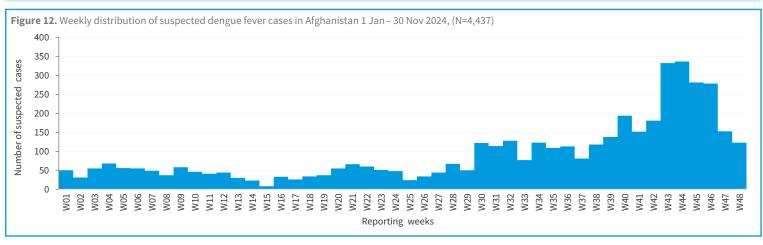
Test positivity ratio

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 https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/outbreak-toolkit/dengue--outbreak-toolbox_20220921.pdf?sfvrsn=29de0271_2

Table 5: Summary of the dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Suspected cases	152	181	333	337	282	279	153	123	
suspected deaths	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- The epi curve of suspected dengue fever cases shows a decrease during the past 4 weeks following an increasing trend since week 26 reaching its highest peak in week 44-2024 (Figure 12).
- During week 48-2024, 123 suspected cases of dengue fever with no associated deaths were reported from Nangarhar province. This shows a 19.6% 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 4,437 suspected cases of dengue fever with 2 associated deaths were reported (CFR=0.05%), out of which 1,986 (44.8%) were females, and 74 (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 1,427 samples have been tested, out of which 501 were positive by PCR (positivity rate 35.1%).



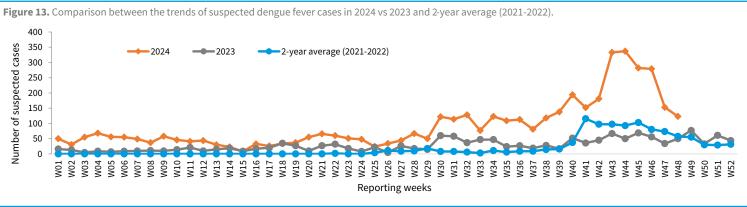
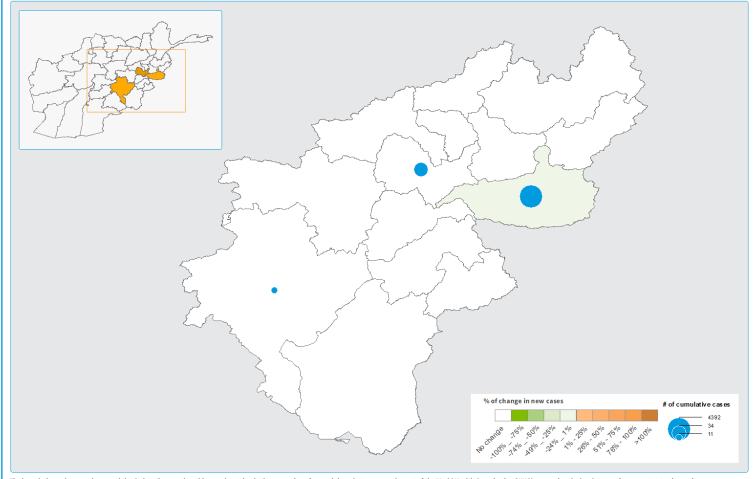


Figure 14. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 30 Nov 2024



World Health Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar, Ghazni and Kabul provinces and weekly Organization percent of changes (between weeks 47 and 48, 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: 30 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.

Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)



Total CCHF



Total CCHF deaths



Samples tested for CCHF



Lab-confirmed

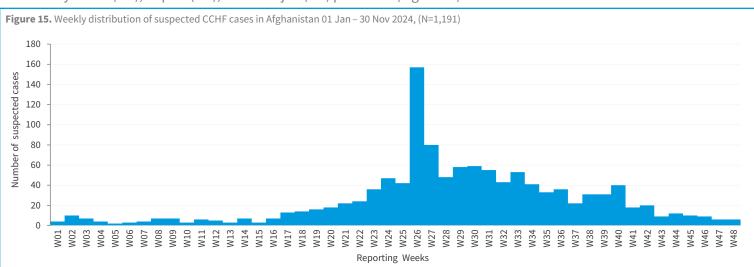


32.7%
CCHF test positivity

Table 6: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Suspected cases	18	20	9	12	10	9	6	6	-
Suspected deaths	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	
CFR (%)	5.6	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	

- The epi-curve of suspected CCHF cases shows a declining trend since week 27-2024 (Figures 15 & 16).
- During week 48-2024, 6 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, which is the same as the number of suspected CCHF cases reported the preceding week (Table 6).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 1,191 suspected cases of CCHF with 94 associated deaths (CFR=7.9%) were reported. Out of the total cases, 1,186 (99.6%) were over-five, while 370 (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 793 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, out of which 259 were positive (positivity rate 32.7%) 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 (8.1), Kapisa (7.0), and Jawzjan (6.4) provinces (Figure 17).





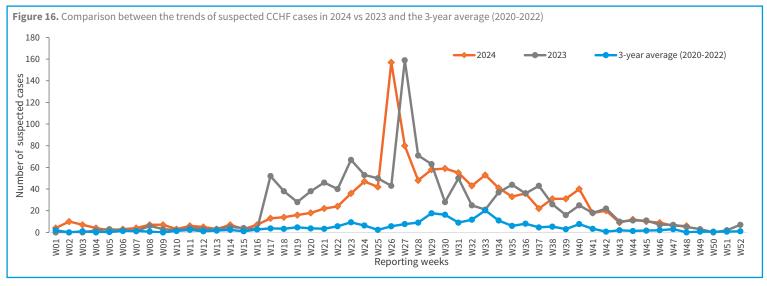
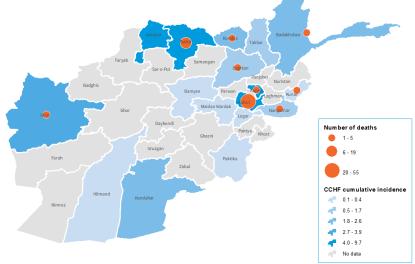


Figure 17. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 30 Nov 2024

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province and provincial distribution of deaths 01 Jan -30 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.



Malaria

(01 Jan-30 Nov 2024)







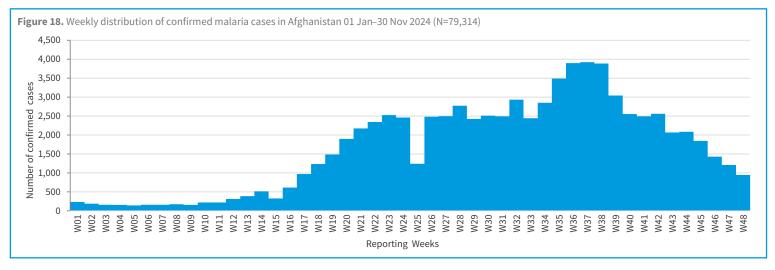
3 (0.004)

Total malaria deaths (CFR %)

Table 7: Summary of the confirmed malaria outbreak in the last eight weeks in Afghanistan (06 Oct – 30 Nov 2024)

Indicators	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	W46	W47	W48	Trend line
Confirmed cases	2,493	2,560	2,066	2,086	1,845	1,431	1,210	948	
Confirmed deaths	1	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 epi curve of confirmed malaria cases shows a declining trend since week 38-2024, 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 48-2024, 948 confirmed cases with no associated deaths were reported from 17 provinces, which shows a 21.7% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 79,314 confirmed malaria cases with 3 associated deaths (CFR=0.004%) were reported from 33 provinces. Out of the total cases, 16,541 (20.9%) were under-five children, and 37,274 (47.0%) were females.
- The highest cumulative incidence of malaria per 10,000 population was reported from Nuristan (407.6) followed by Kunar (291.9), Laghman (187.1), and Nangarhar (101.3) (Figure 20).



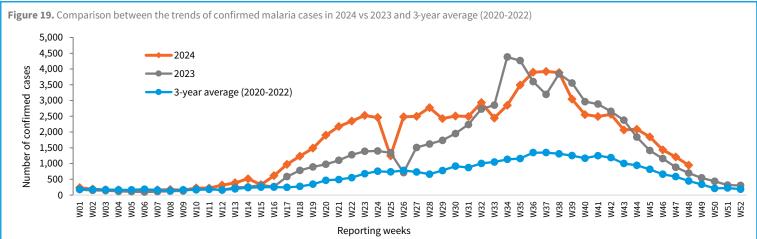
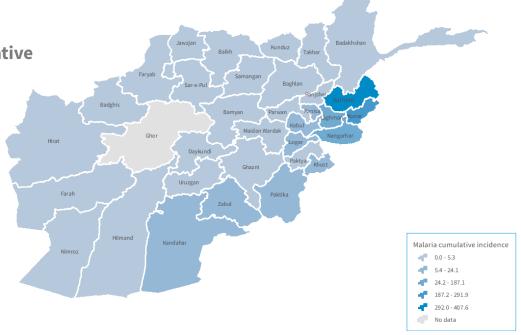




Figure 20. Confirmed malaria cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan - 30 Nov 2024

Confirmed malaria cumulative Incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-30 Nov 2024



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

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD: Epidemiologist, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Infectious Hazard Preparedness Team Health Emergencies Program (WHE) (emacoafgihpt@who.int)