

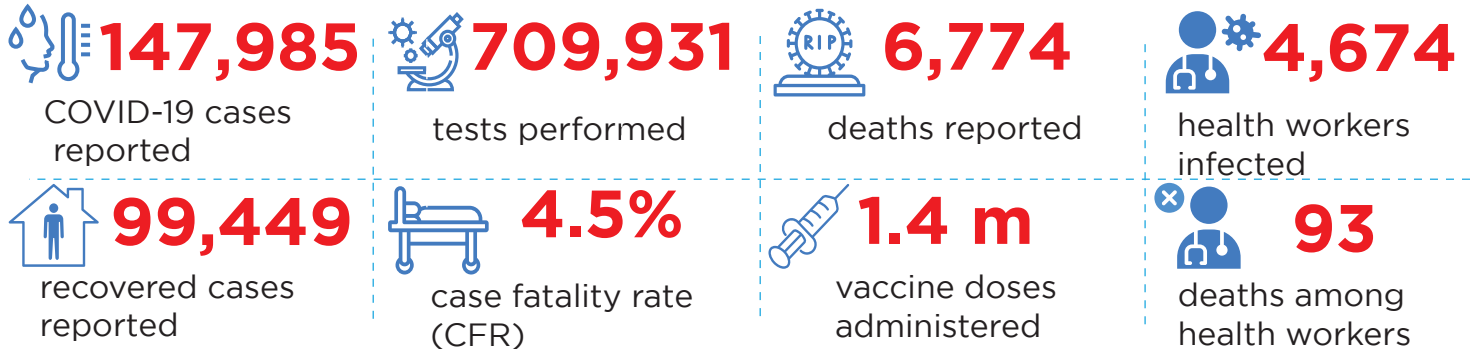


COVID-19 bi-weekly situation report

Afghanistan (16 - 31 July 2021)



Situation in numbers: (Feb 2020 to 31 July 2021)



Key highlights

- During the reporting period, new COVID-19 cases have dropped after a sharp rise during the month of June.
- **7,761** new cases and **676** deaths have been reported. This is a -57% decrease in cases and -36% decrease in deaths compared to the same duration in June.
- Almost 1,226 cases are currently hospitalized. 752 (61.3%) are males, and 474 (38.7%) are female).
- **1,865** COVID-19 hospital beds and **186** ICU beds available.
- **4,508** health workers trained on infection prevention & control measures; **1,074** trained on ICU care; **1,852** trained on case management.
- **474** Rapid Response Teams trained on standard screening and travelers' education at Points of Entry (PoE); and **12,325,171** people screened at PoEs.
- Planned establishment of a 21-bed infection ward at Laghman Provincial Hospital, Laghman province.
- **31** COVID-19 testing labs are currently functional across **24** provinces, with a total daily testing capacity of **8,700** and more than **300** trained technicians. 9 more labs will be added by the end of August 2021.
- **1,456,700** vaccine doses have been administered, with **678,314** persons fully vaccinated.
- **\$18,276,209** worth of supplies and equipment have been handed over to MoPH.
- Planning WASH activities (water wells, water supply network, solar power system for water supply, toilets and septic tanks construction, medical waste management facilities and incinerators) at 10 health facilities in high risk areas.



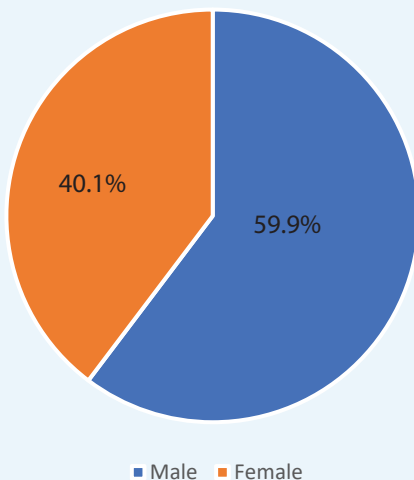
Work is ongoing to:

- enhance WASH services in health facilities in high-risk areas to provide safe and hygienic environment for health workers, patients and visitors.
- install 500 handwashing basins in 125 facilities to decrease cross contamination and encourage behavioural change among health workers, patients, care givers and visitors.
- establish a 21-bed infection ward, OPD, pharmacy, chlorine preparation area, changing room and 8 toilets at Laghman Provincial Hospital, Mehtarlam city, Laghman province.

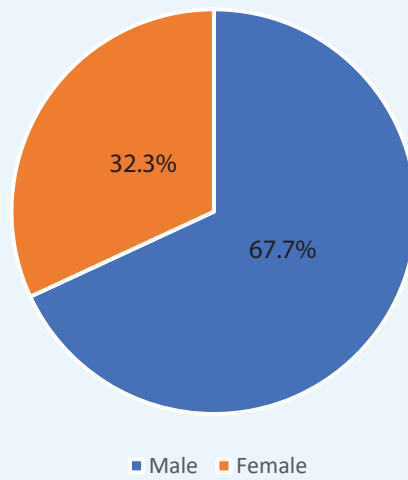


Health Information Management & Surveillance

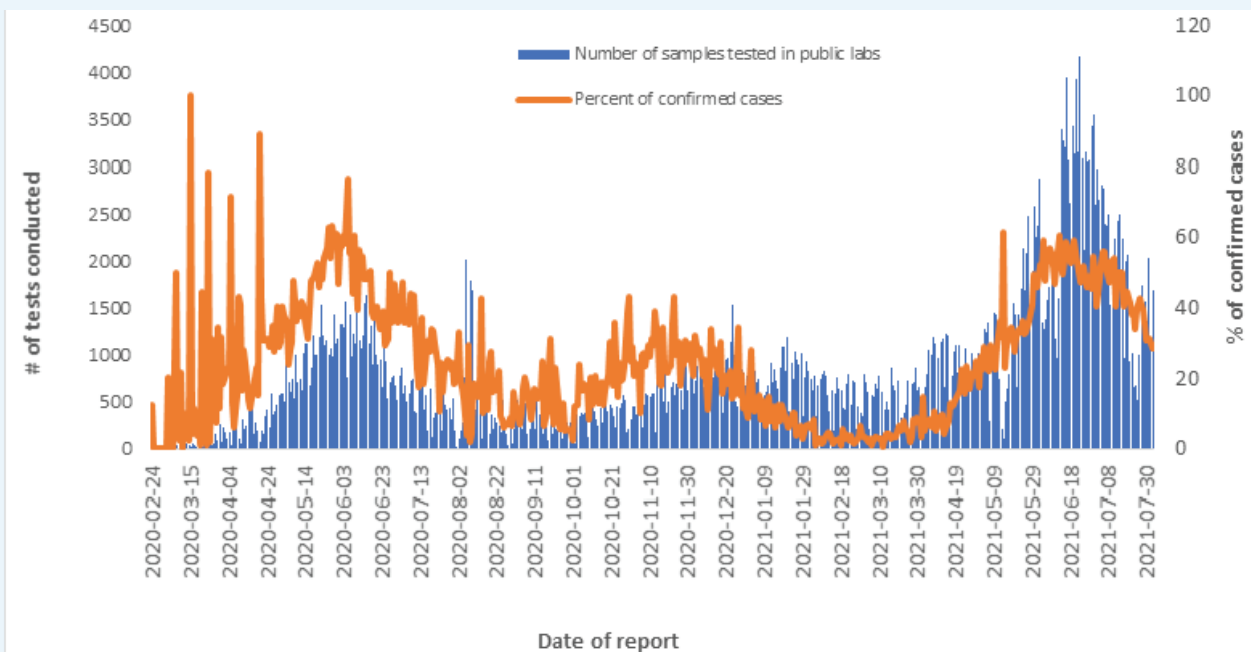
Percentage of cumulative **cases** by gender



Percentage of cumulative **deaths** by gender



Number of PCR tests conducted and percentage of positivity rate, as of 31 July 2021



763,936 Total # vaccinated with 1st dose	876,781 males vaccinated
678,314 Total # vaccinated with 2nd dose	566,069 females vaccinated

Serious AEFI cases reported	2	Recent case investigated and reported unattributable to J&J vaccine
Deaths attributed to vaccine	1	
Fixed sites providing vaccination services	584	Kabul city & provinces
Mobile teams providing vaccination services	154	Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangahar, Kandahar



Vaccines

- A total **5 million doses** of vaccines received: 500,000 AZ India; 700,000 Chinese Sinopharm; 468,000 COVAX; 3.3 m J&J; 124,800 AZ Sweden.
- Expected vaccines in August: 468,000 AZ from COVAX; 144,000 AZ from France; 1 m doses of Sinopharm from China.

Vaccine doses administered	Percentage of population vaccinated	Persons fully vaccinated
1,456,700	5.7%	678,314



Laboratories

Indicators	New cases	% of change compared to 15-30 June	Cumulative number
# of Samples tested	35,044	-39%	709,930
# of lab confirmed cases	7,761	-57%	147,985
Recovered / discharged	12,481	-17%	99,449 (67.2%)
Associated deaths	676	-36%	6,774 (CFR=4.5%)



Operations Support & Logistics

- **\$4,094,866** worth of supplies and equipment are currently in the pipeline including ICU and hospital beds as well as PPEs for health staff.
- Distribution of medical supplies and equipment to hospitals at the national and provincial levels is ongoing, including the 500 oxygen concentrators that arrived on 26 July.
- 6 incinerators arrived on 2 August. Incinerators are crucial to ensure safe management of healthcare wastes & to prevent adverse health impacts. 2 have been delivered to COVID testing sites. The remaining will be delivered in the coming week.



Partnerships & Coordination

- The health cluster adhoc meeting on 18 July included COVID-19 response, particularly community awareness and infection prevention & control, among the priorities for the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) reserve allocation.
- Health partners continue to deliver PPEs to health workers in HFs supported by them.



Risk Communications and Community Engagement

- Coordinating with WHO EURO on use of Dari/Pashto COVID-19 materials in neighbouring central Asian states to target displaced Afghans with protective RCCE messages.
- Launch of four discussion guides for use by frontline workers to address COVID-19 vaccine fears, rumours and concerns in Pashto and Dari.



Research Knowledge & Management

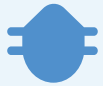
- COVID-19 sero-epidemiological provincial survey of 23,000 households is on standby. Field implementation temporarily paused due to volatile security situation.
- 2nd phone survey of 1,200 respondents on COVID-19 knowledge, attitude, practice and attributable death planned to start first week of August. Training of data collectors is in progress.



Int'l Health Regulations & Social Measures

- Conducting an assessment of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) and drafting an action plan to further improve operationalization.
- Launch of the electronic Public Health Emergency Response management (ePHERM) system to facilitate event-based surveillance, management of public health signals, enhance communication and notifications.

Challenges



Lack of consumables and difficulty to maintain a steady level of supplies and equipment due to very high cost.



Difficulties in applying and adhering to public health measures.



Insecurity has limited not only COVID response activities but also public utilization of COVID and non-COVID services, including vaccination against COVID-19.

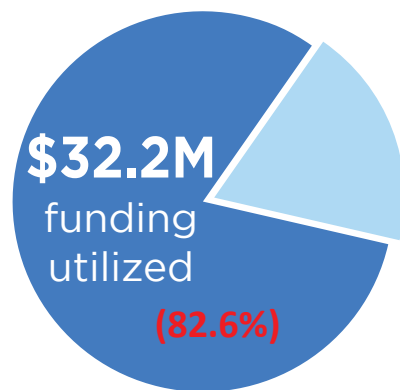


Inability to reach and support COVID diagnosis and treatment facilities with both technical and material support such as laboratory equipment.

Funding

Total funding received

\$39 million



Funding received by



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



ADB ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



United Nations
CERF Central
Emergency
Response
Fund



AHF Afghanistan
Humanitarian
Fund

For more information:

WHO Afghanistan website: <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/afg/>
Dr Alaa AbouZeid, WHE Team Lead, abouzeida@who.int