

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (May-Dec 2022)	COVID-19 (Feb 20-Dec 2022)	Measles (Jan-Dec 2022)	Dengue fever (Jun-Dec 2022)	CCHF (Jan-Dec 2022)	Pertussis (Jan-Dec 2022)	Malaria (Jun-Dec 2022)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	240,077	207,412	76,519	1,258	388	1,032	2,591
Deaths "CFR (%)"	87 (0.04)	7,846 (3.8)	388 (0.5)	2 (0.2)	15 (3.8)	17(1.6)	0 (0.0)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 May to 24 Dec 2022)

Current Week	Cumulative Figures
2,819 new cases (49.2% under 5)	240,077 cases (<5 years, 55.3%)
1 new death	87 deaths (77.9% < 5 years), CFR=0.04%
0 new districts reported new alerts	175 districts in all 34 provinces
0 samples collected	2,633 samples collected

- During week 51-2022, a total of 2,819 new AWD cases with dehydration and 1 new death were reported which indicates 25% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the previous week (Figure 2).
- The highest number of new AWD cases were reported from Kabul (976, 34.6%), followed by Baghlan (456, 16.2%), Zabul (158, 5.6%) and Hilmand (153, 5.4%) provinces.
- The newly reported death was a female under 5 years old from Nimroz province.
- Cumulatively, Kabul (55,117, 22.9%), Helmand (40,905,

- 17.5%), Baghlan (17,659, 7.3%), Nangarhar (12,815, 5.4%), Kandahar (12,663, 5.3%), Jawzjan (9,285, 3.9%) and Paktya (8,653, 3.6%) are the most affected provinces (Figure 1).
- Out of the total 240,077 cases, 132,851 (55.3%) were children below 5 years and 119,912 (50.0%) were females (Figure 3).
- The first few cases of AWD were reported to the National Disease Surveillance and Response System (NDSR), MoPH and WHO on 04 May 2022 from Kandahar city of Kandahar province and spread to 175 districts in 34 provinces.

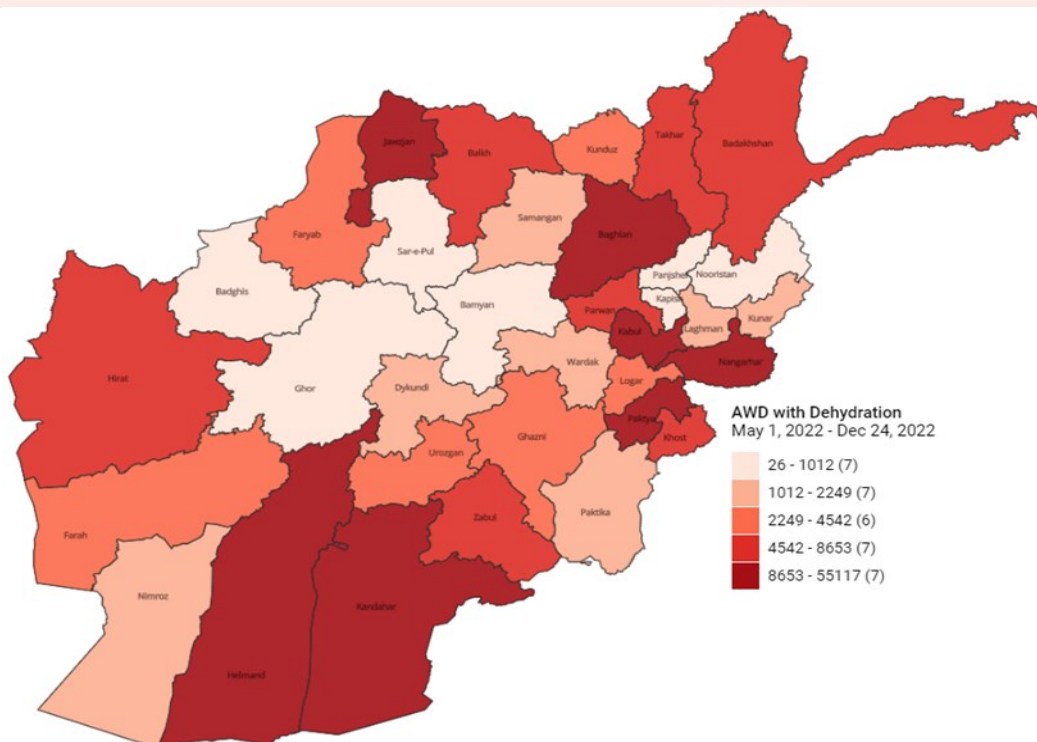


Figure 1. Hotspot areas of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan, May-Dec 2022 (N=239,856)

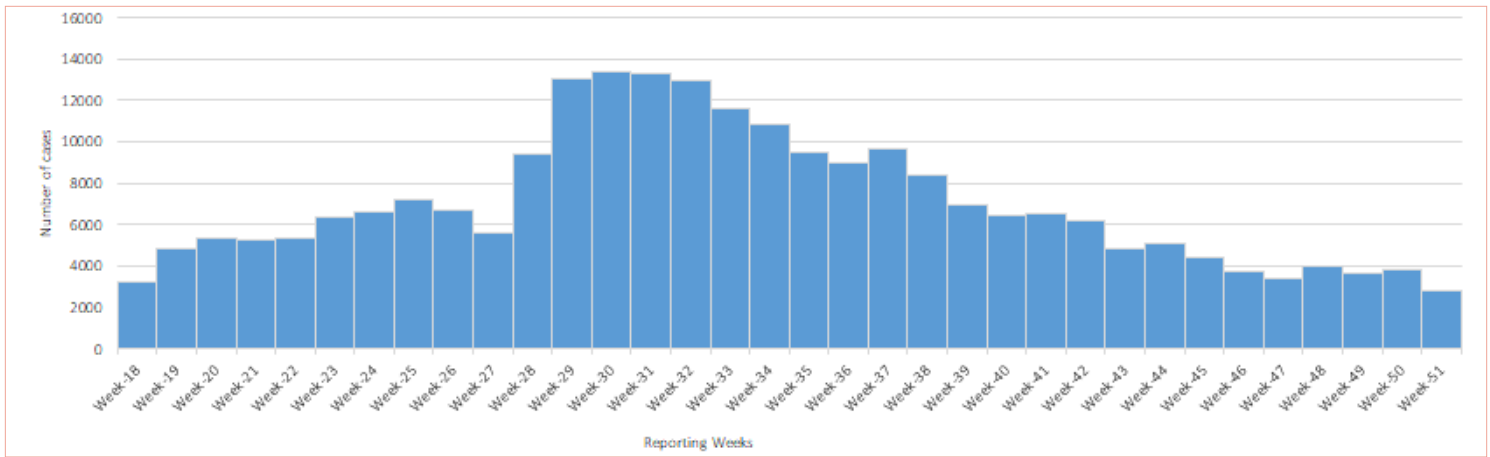


Figure 2. Weekly distribution of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan May-Dec 2022 (N=239,856)

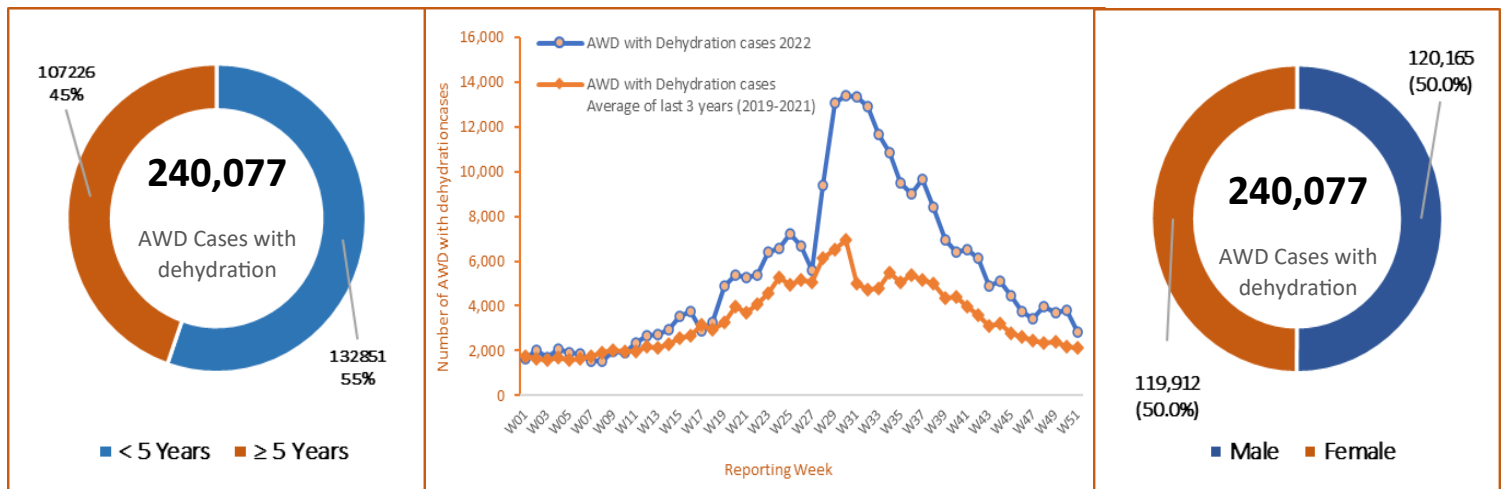


Figure 3. Distribution of AWD with dehydration cases by age groups in

Figure 3.a. Comparing the trend of AWD with dehydration cases using 3 years average (2019-2021) vs 2022, in Afghanistan

Figure 3.b. Distribution of AWD with dehydration cases by sex in Afghanistan, May-Dec 2022

Response to the AWD outbreak



Figure 4. Training community health supervisors (CHS) and Medical officers on EBS in Kandahar province, Dec 2022



Figure 5. AWD RCCE session, Kandahar Province, Dec 2022

Leadership and Coordination

- An annual Health-WASH planning workshop was conducted two weeks back between Health-WASH cluster partners to discuss the lessons learned and build on the AWD preparedness plan for the year 2023.
- Emergency and Preparedness Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.

Surveillance

- As part of the pilot implementation of EBS in 6 provinces, last week a total of 164 community health supervisors (CHSs) and medical officers in Kandahar were trained on procedures of event-based surveillance (EBS). This brings the total number of CHS and medical officers trained on EBS to 836 staff.
- 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 the beginning of the outbreak in May 2022, a total of 1,681 HCWs have been trained on AWD case management in 34 provinces.

Laboratory and Supplies

- During the last week, 5 central AWD case management kits have been distributed to Paktia, Paktika, Ghazni, Nuristan and Kunduz provinces (One kit/province).
- During December 2022, 700 Cary Blairs were distributed to Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces to support

sample collection and transportation. In addition, 5 AWD investigation kits were distributed to Kabul NDSR office for supporting the AWD investigation.

- Since the beginning of the outbreak in May 2022, more than 500 AWD case management kits and more than 1,000 investigation kits (Cary Bliars & RDTs) were distributed to all outbreak affected areas.

WASH and RCCE

During the last two weeks:

- A total of 4,400 wells were chlorinated in 5 provinces reaching more than 148,000 individuals.
- Water supply system was rehabilitated in Taloqan district of Takhar province which supported more than 4,000 individuals.
- Emergency latrines installations & rehabilitations were conducted in 5 provinces supporting 4,500 individuals.
- Around 6,500 hygiene Kits were distributed in 6 Provinces reaching in total 35,700 individuals.
- Hygiene promotion campaigns were conducted in 12 provinces with 133,500 individuals, in total.
- RCCE sessions have been provided to more than 265,000 individuals in 13 provinces for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

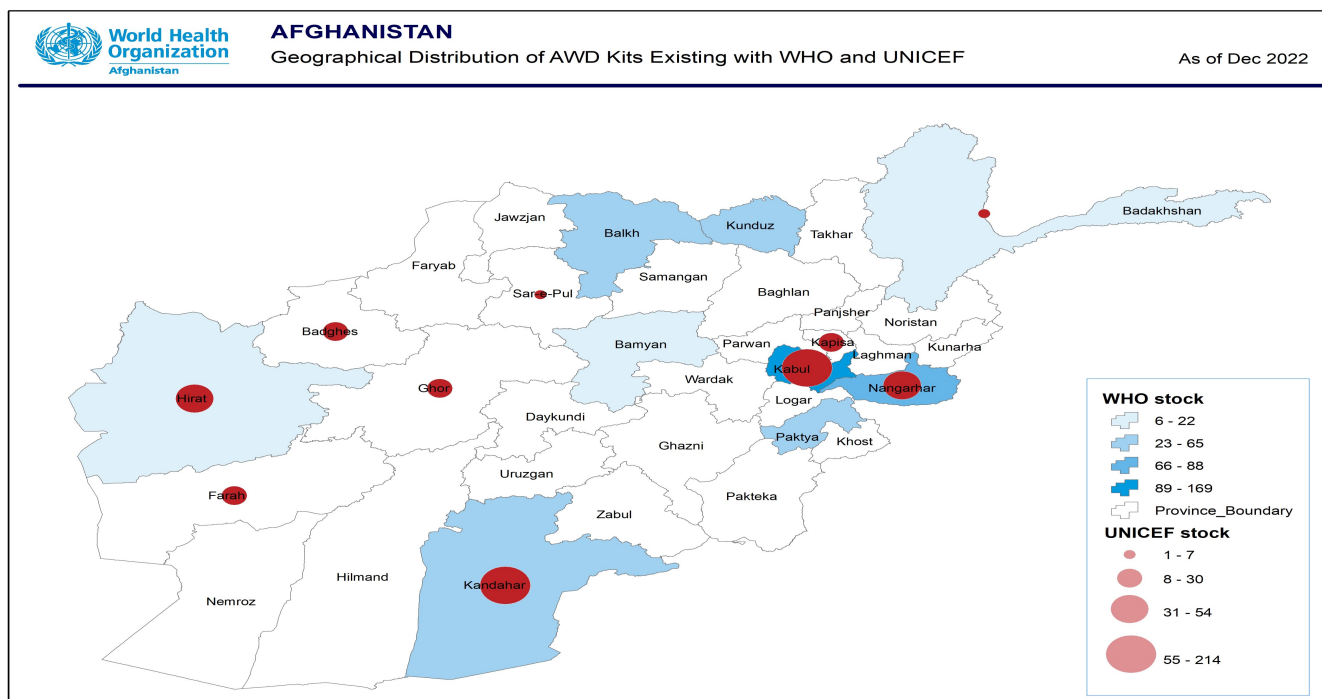
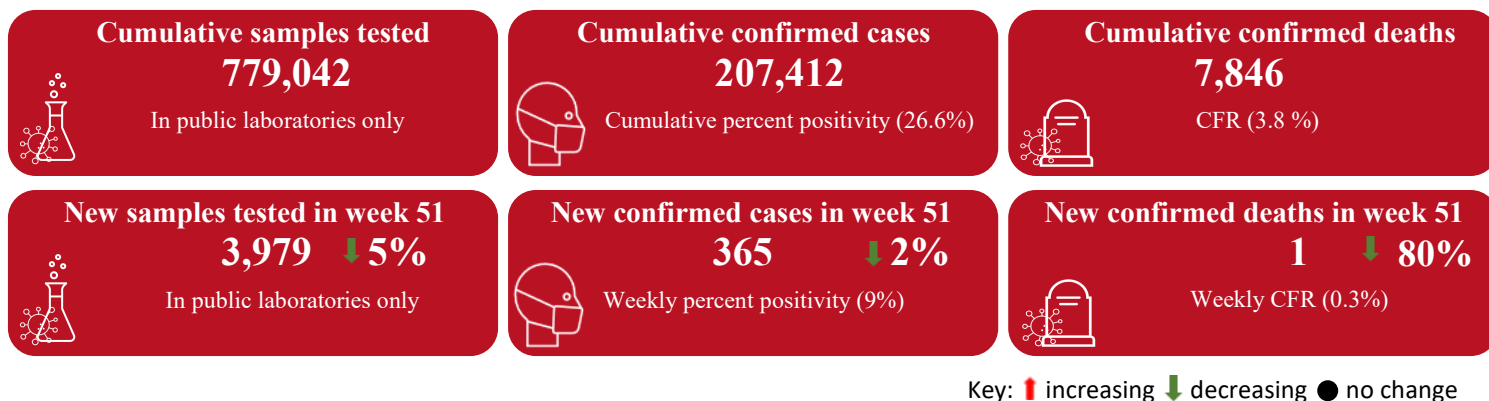


Figure 6. Distribution of existing AWD kits of WHO and UNICEF by province in Afghanistan, Dec 2022

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 24 Dec 2022)



COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (30 Oct – 24 Dec 2022)

Indicators	W44-22	W45-22	W46-22	W47-22	W48-22	W49-22	W50-22	W51-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Lab)	5,123	5,110	4,655	4,196	5,370	4,177	4,192	3,979	
Confirmed cases	739	800	657	474	573	439	372	365	
Percent positivity (%)	14	16	14	11	11	11	9	9	
Confirmed deaths	5	3	3	1	1	6	5	1	
CFR (%)	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.4	1.3	0.3	

Highlights of the week

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 779,042 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 51-2022, 3,979 samples were tested in public labs, of which 365 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 9%) and 1 new death was reported. This represents 2% and 80% decrease in the number of newly reported cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 50-2022 (Table 1).
- Cumulatively, 207,412 confirmed cases (overall test positivity of 26.6%) of COVID-19 with 7,846 associated deaths (case fatality ratio = 3.8%) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.
- As of 24 Dec 2022, 89.2% of cases have recovered.
- In week 51-2022, 3 out of 8 regions reported decrease in the number of newly reported cases compared to week 50. At the provincial level, the highest numbers of weekly new cases were reported from Bamyan (59 cases), Hirat (59 cases), Wardak (51 cases), Ghazni (32 cases), and Takhar (22 cases).

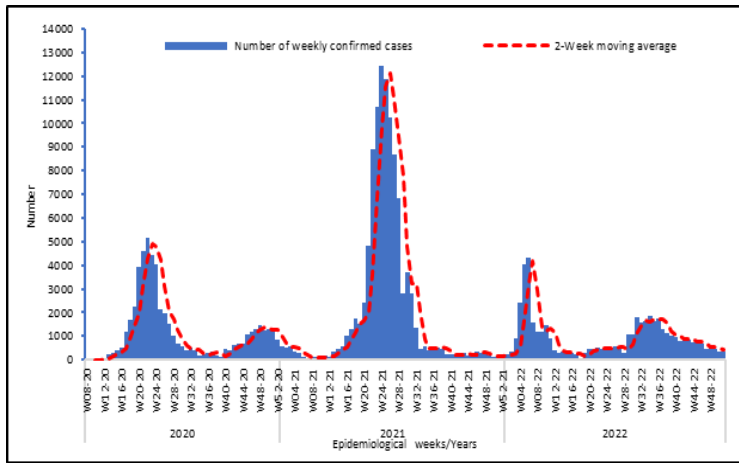


Figure 7: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

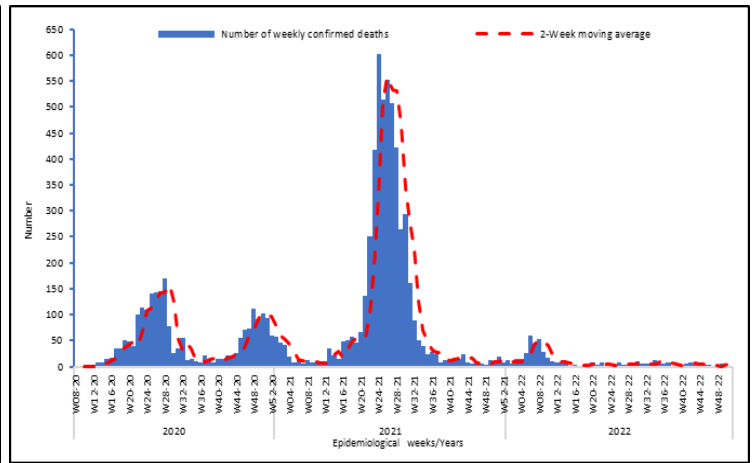


Figure 8: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

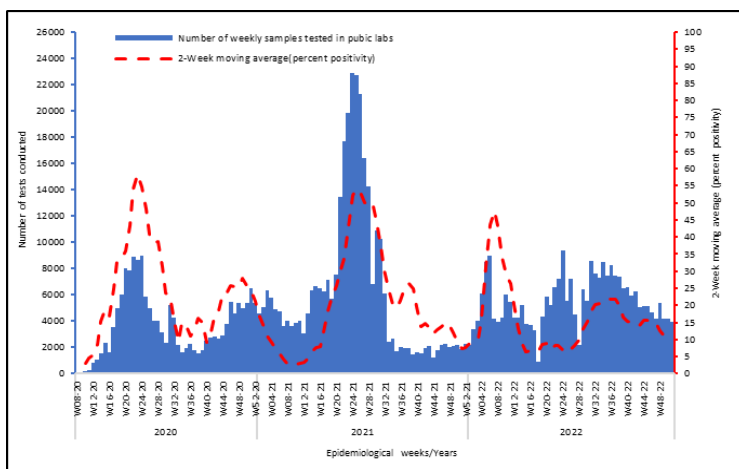


Figure 9: Number of weekly PCR tests conducted and 2-week moving average of percent positivity in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

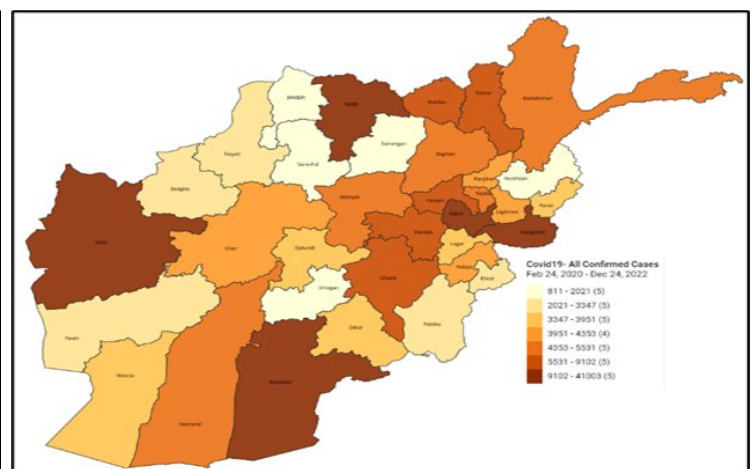


Figure 10: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

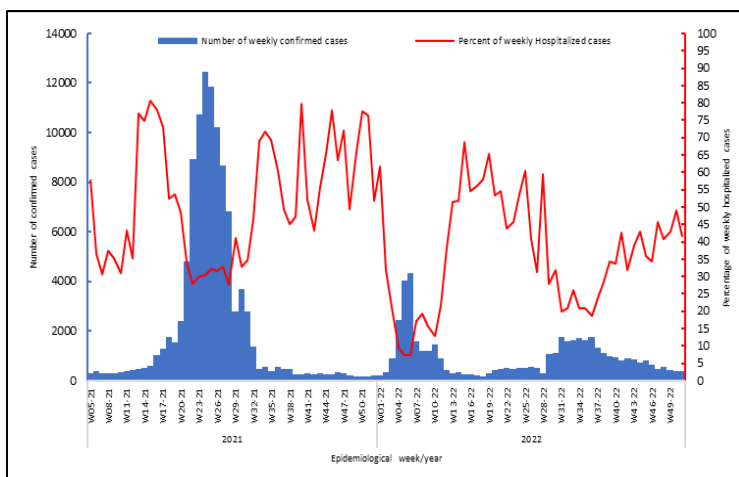


Figure 11: Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan as of (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

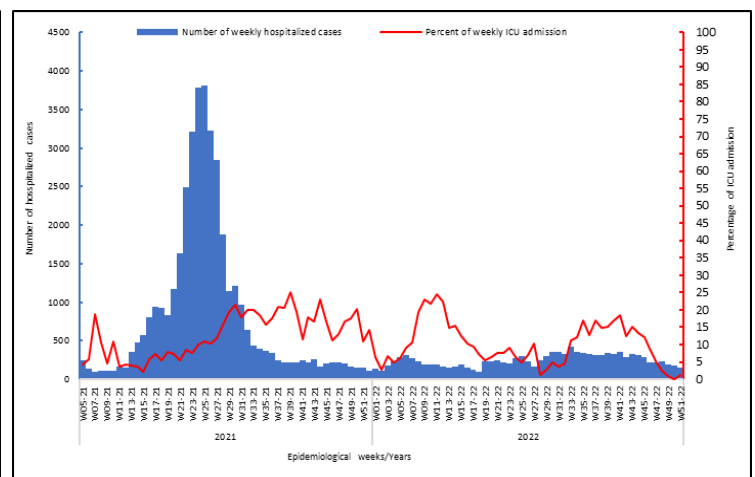


Figure 12: Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of (24 Feb 2020 - Dec 2022)

Measles outbreak (01 Jan to 24 Dec 2022)



Table 2 summary of the measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (30 Oct– 24 Dec 2022)

Indicators	W-44	W-45	W-46	W-47	W-48	W-49	W-50	W-51	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	631	544	556	679	636	568	699	592	
Deaths	0	2	2	3	0	0	1	2	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.37	0.36	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.34	

- During epidemiological week 51-2022, a total of 592 new cases and 2 new deaths were reported which indicates 15.0% decrease in the number of new cases, compared to last week.
- The two newly reported deaths were from Kabul (male under 5) and Urozgan (female under 5) provinces.
- The average number of suspected measles cases per week was around 613 cases during the last 8 weeks (Figure 15).
- During the last week, 4 out of 8 regions reported a decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared to the preceding week. The highest relative decrease was reported in the Central-east and South-east, regions (Table 3).
- Cumulatively, the most affected provinces are Badakhshan (11.5%), Kabul (10.9%), Nangarhar (9.8%), Helmand (8.4%), Kunduz (7.4%), Takhar (5.1%) and Hirat (4.9%) (Figure 14).
- Out of the total 9,841 samples tested for measles, 5,763 were laboratory confirmed between Jan-Dec 2022.
- During the last week, one new district reported suspected measles cases (Figure 13).

Table 3 number of suspected measles cases per region in the last 8 weeks 2022

Regions	W-44	W-45	W-46	W-47	W-48	W-49	W-50	W-51	Epi-curve	% of change compared to week 50
South	208	182	159	238	213	185	232	157		157 (↓32.3)
Central East	167	170	169	158	183	202	215	21		21 (↓90.2)
East	71	40	68	104	54	50	92	82		82 (↓10.9)
North	51	41	41	61	61	52	62	45		45 (↓27.4)
South East	59	41	38	46	51	25	48	23		23 (↓52.1)
North East	28	27	39	52	32	18	19	204		204 (↑973.7)
Central West	30	22	17	16	15	19	18	39		39 (↑116.7)
West	17	21	25	4	27	17	13	21		21 (↑116.5)

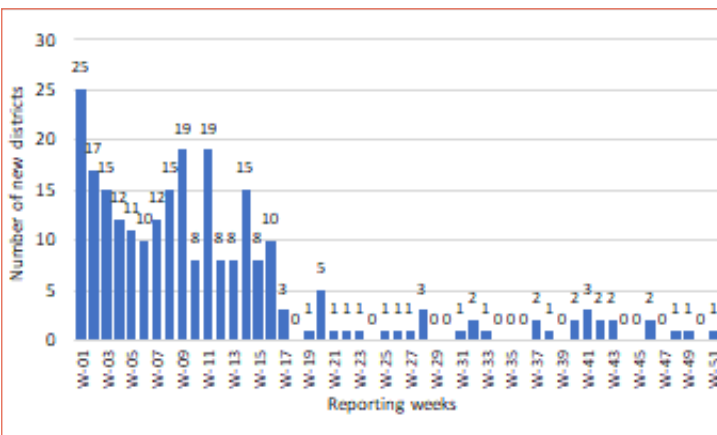


Figure 13. New districts reporting suspected measles cases on weekly basis in Afghanistan Jan-Dec 2022 (N=251)

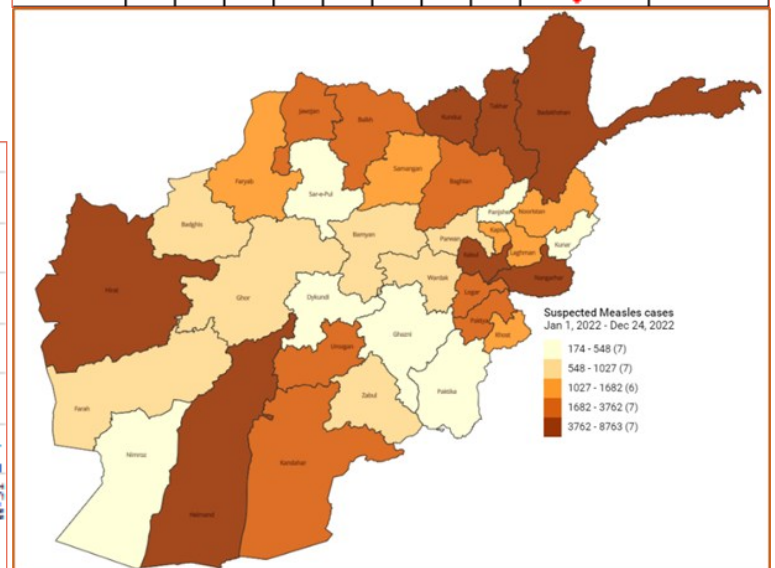


Figure 14. Geographical distribution of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan Jan - Dec 2022 (N=76,519)

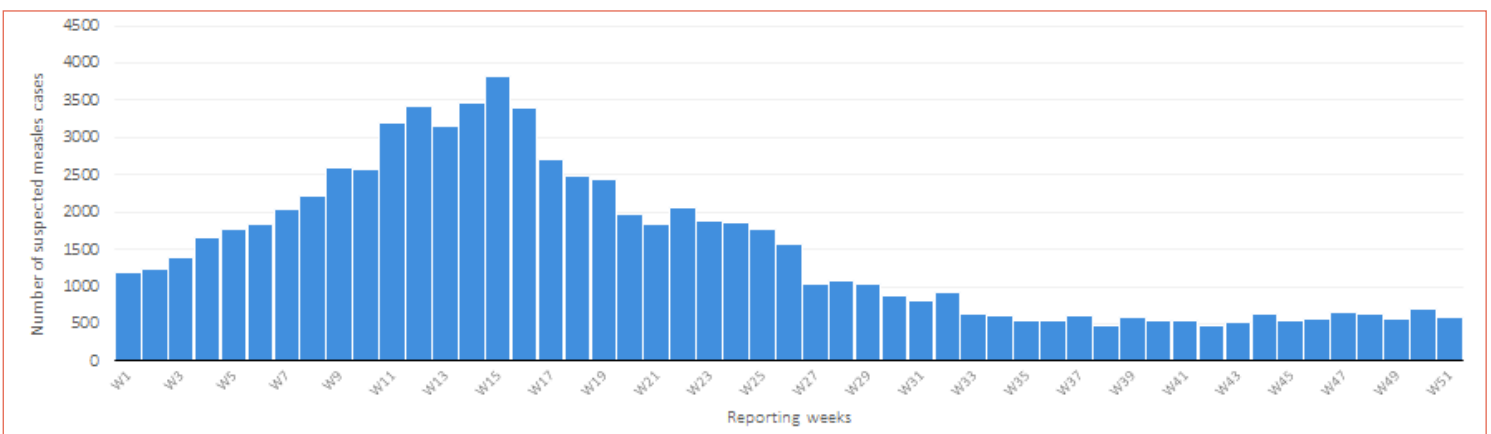


Figure 15. Weekly distribution of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, Jan– Dec 2022 (N=76,519)

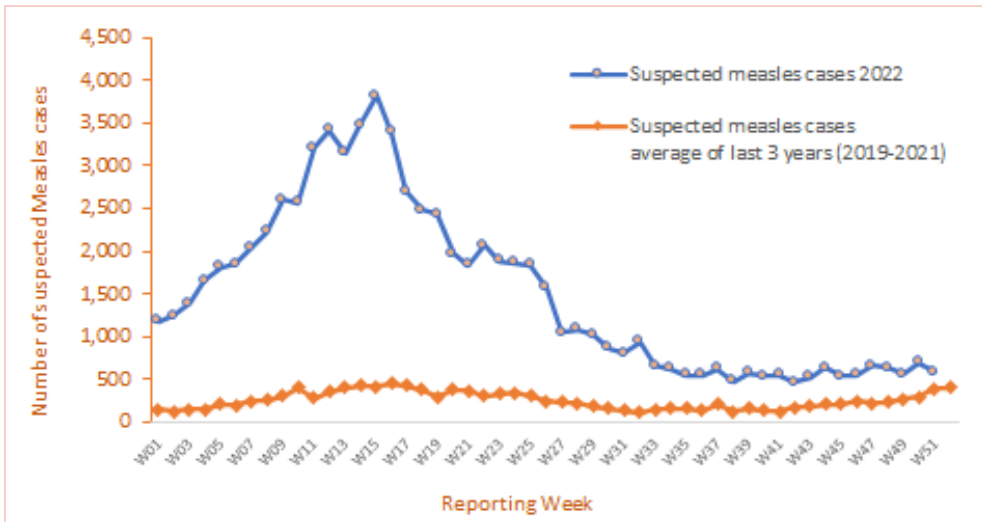


Figure 16. Comparing the trend of suspected measles cases using 3 years average (2019-2021) vs 2022, in Afghanistan

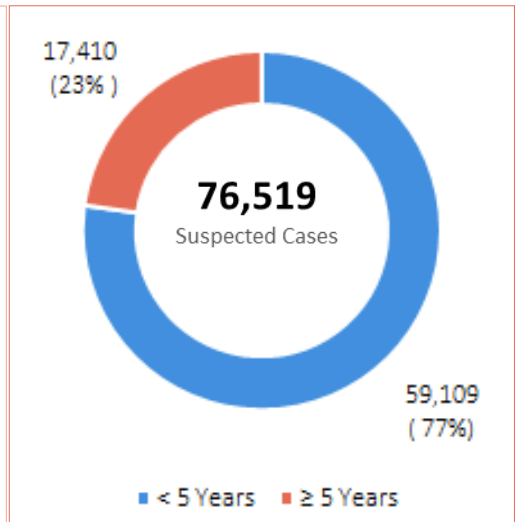


Figure 17. Distribution of suspected measles cases by age groups in Afghanistan, Jan-Dec 2022

Response to Measles outbreak

- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during 26 Nov-12 Dec-2022; immunizing 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% admin coverage).
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak response and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- A total of 593 measles kits have been supplied to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.



Figure 18. National measles immunization campaign, Nangarhar province Afghanistan, Dec 2022

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jun to 24 Dec 2022)

Highlight:

- A total of 12 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths have been reported during week 51-2022, all 12 cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases and deaths to 1,258 and 2, respectively.
- Out of 1,258 reported cases, 288 (22.9%) were females and 1,235 (98.1%) were over five years of age.
- Out of 1,258 samples, 383 (30.7%) samples were positive using PCR (370 and 13 in Nangarhar and Kabul, respectively).

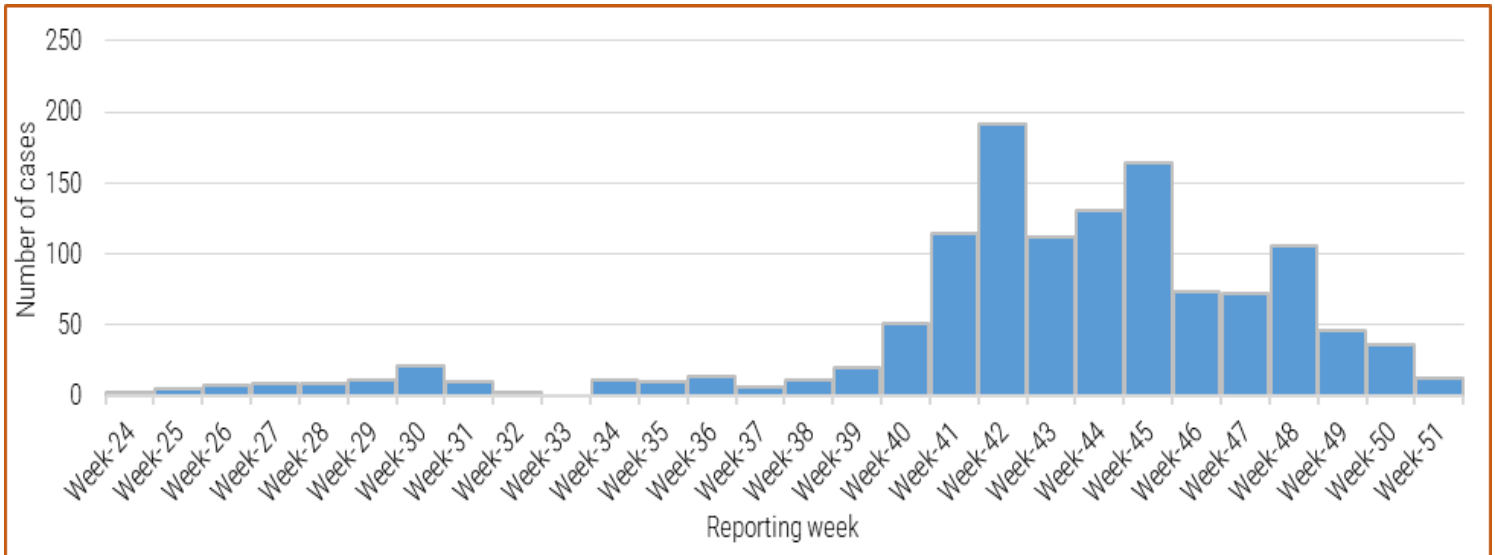
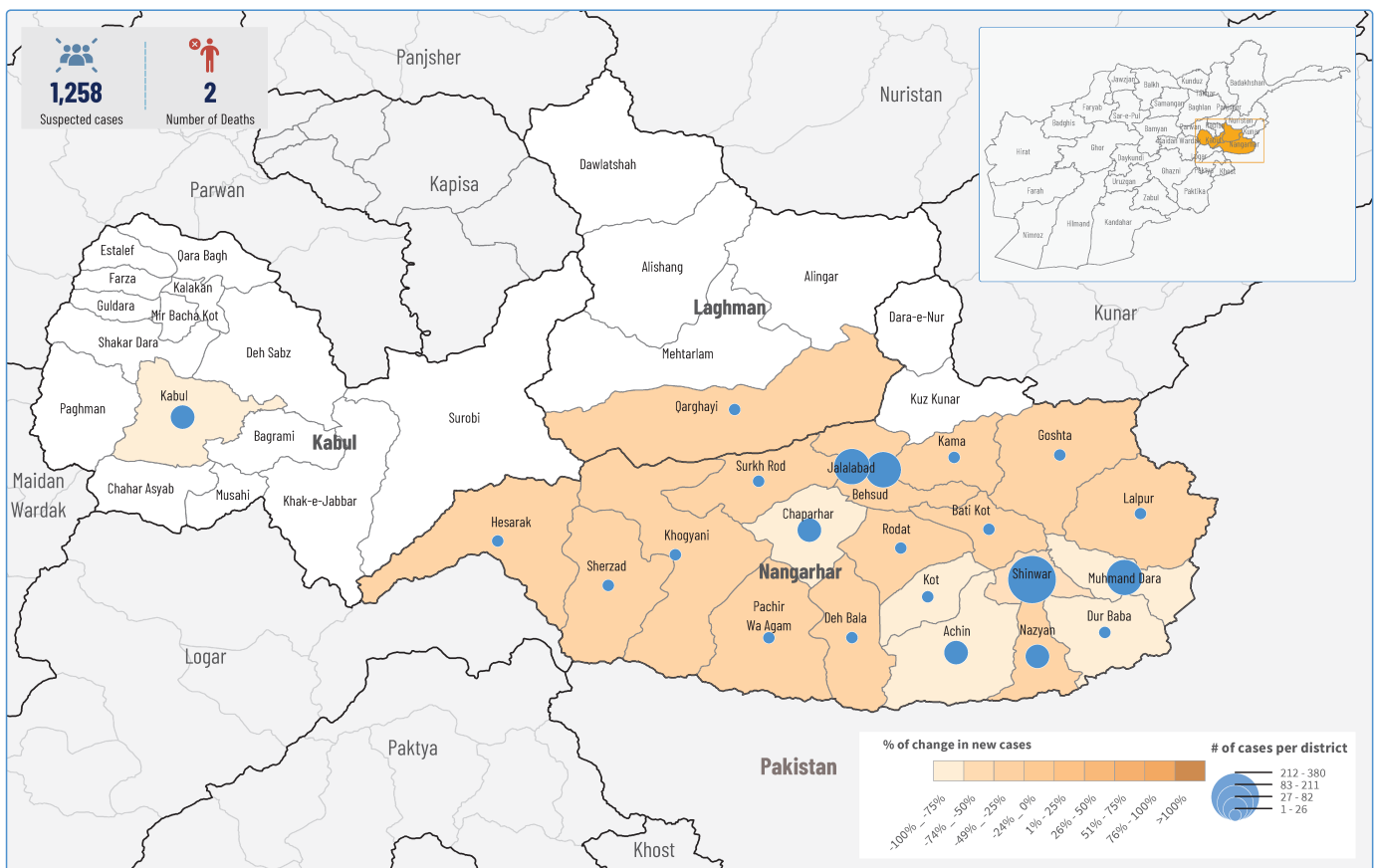


Figure 19. Weekly distribution of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan Jun-Dec 2022 (N=1,258)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 50 and 51, 2022)



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, AGCHO. Creation date: 25 December 2022.

Figure 20. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jun-Dec 2022 (N=1,258)

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- Overall, 1,000 Kg of larvicides have been released and distributed to Nangarhar sub-office to support dengue fever vector control activities.
- A total of 8 dengue fever PCR Kits (200 tests) have been supplied to Nangarhar Regional Reference Lab to support the case confirmation of diagnosis among suspected cases.
- A task force committee is coordinating the dengue fever outbreak response activities with the active participation of PPHD, WHO, NDSR, vector control program, BPHS and EPHS implementers in the outbreak affected areas.
- Surveillance support teams and entomology teams continue to do their work after receiving on-the-job training.
- Health education sessions were conducted in two villages, among those identified as hotspot areas; the main message was to raise public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.



Figure 21. Blood sample collection from a suspected dengue fever case in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, Dec 2022

Other infectious diseases outbreaks (Jan-Dec 2022)

CCHF Highlight:

- During week 51-2022, 2 new suspected CCHF cases were reported from Kunduz province. This brings the total number of suspected CCHF cases to 388 from 26 provinces.
- Out of 388 cases, 301 (77.7%) were males and all were over five years of age.
- Out of 388 cases, 103 (26.7%) were lab confirmed using PCR.
- No new deaths have been reported for the last twelve weeks, and the total number of CCHF associated deaths remained at 15 (Kabul (5), Hirat (3), Takhar (2), Kapisa (2), Nangarhar (2) and Badghis (1)).
- The CCHF cases are managed in the health facilities according to the national guidelines. Ribavirin and double bags needed for the treatment of CCHF cases have been distributed to all regions.
- Training on CCHF case management has been conducted and included 91 HCWs (33 provinces).

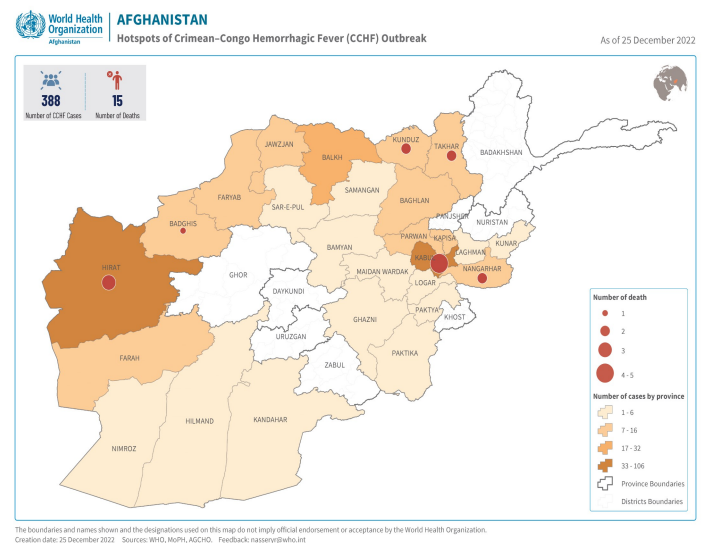


Figure 22. Hotspot areas of CCHF cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Dec 2022

Pertussis Highlight:

- During week 51-2022, a total of 86 new suspected pertussis cases were reported from Zabul (86) province, this brings the total number of suspected cases to 1,032 from 18 provinces.
- Out of the total 1,032 cases, 664 (64.3%) were children below 5 years and 495 (47.9%) were females.
- The highest number of suspected cases have been observed in Kabul (213, 20.6%) and Ghazni (197, 19.0%) and followed by Kandahar (156, 15.1%) Figure 23.
- Two new suspected pertussis associated deaths (1 male over 5 and 1 female under 5) have been reported from Shahjoy district of Zabul province. The total suspected pertussis associated deaths reached to 17.
- As part of preparedness activities to respond to the expected pertussis outbreak during the upcoming winter season, required supplies prepositioning has been completed in five provinces (Badakhshan, Jawzjan, Daikundi, Nooristan and Ghazni).

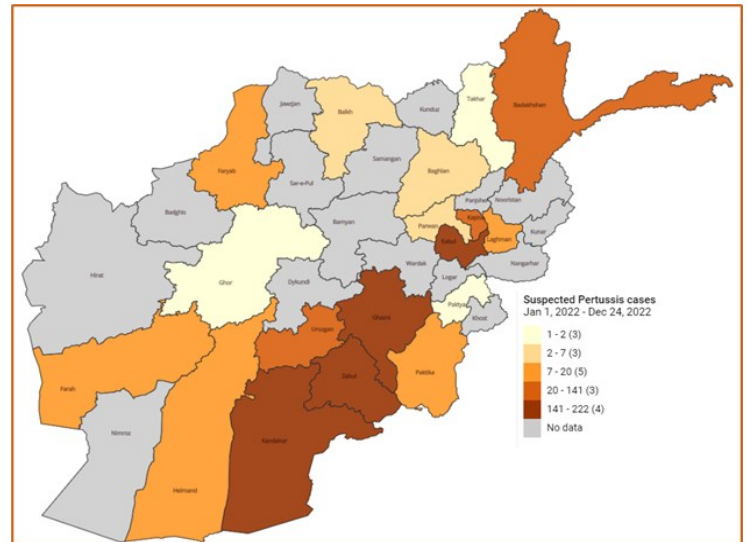


Figure 23. Geographical distribution of suspected pertussis cases in Afghanistan Jan - Dec 2022 (N=1,032)

Malaria Outbreak Highlight:

- During the last eight weeks, there was no indication of a new outbreak while comparing trends in different locations. In total, the number of suspected malaria cases remained at 2,591 from 7 provinces, Kandahar (683, 26.4%), Laghman (663, 25.6%), Kunar (562, 21.7%), Badghis (552, 21.3%), Nangarhar (86, 3.3%) Farah (39, 1.5%) and Kapisa (6, 0.2%).
- Out of 2,591 cases, 1,112 (42.9%) were females and 419 (16.2%) were children below 5.
- 32 malaria case management kits were supplied to Nangarhar province; 9 kits were distributed to outbreak affected area (Amarkhil village of Surkhrood district).
- Required medicine for case management and RDTs for the diagnosis of the suspected malaria were supplied by partners to the outbreak affected area.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Contact us for further information:

Dr Alaa AbouZeid MD, MPH, MSc, PhD: Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO-CO, (abouzeida@who.int)

Dr. Mohamed Moustafa Tahon, MD, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preapredness, WHO-CO, (tahonm@who.int)

Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)

Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)