



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #17-2023

No. 17/(23 to 29 Apr)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (May 22 - Apr 23)	ARI (Oct 22 - Apr 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Apr 23)	Pertussis (Jan 22 - Apr 23)	Measles (Jan 22 - Apr 23)	Dengue fever (Jun 22 - Apr 23)
Cumulative Cases (Data from 533 (86.9%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)	286,163	5,681,143	215,188	1,262	89,346	1,453
Death (CFR %)	111 (0.04)	1,799 (0.03)	7,892 (3.70)	15 (1.19)	422 (0.47)	3 (0.20)

New CCHF outbreak

- During the last week, 52 new CCHF cases (32 males and 20 females, all over 5 years of age) were reported, 48 from Kandahar, 2 from Helmand, and 2 from Herat provinces. 1 death was reported (CFR= 1.9%), the new death was a female aged 40 years from Helmand province.
- Out of 50 lab samples collected in Kandahar, 14 (28%) were tested positive by ELISA (Ig-M) in Kandahar Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL).
- Out of 14 tested positive (by ELISA Ig-M) cases, 13 are

Healthcare workers working in a private hospital in Kandahar.

- Between Jan 2022-Apr 2023, a total of 449 suspected CCHF cases were reported from 26 provinces, out of which 320 cases (71.3%) were males and all were over five years of age. out of the total reported cases, 115 (27.1%) were lab confirmed using PCR. A total of 23 CCHF associated deaths were also reported from 10 provinces including 9 deaths from 5 North Region provinces, Balkh (4), Samangan (1), Jawzjan (1), Faryab (1) and Takhar (2).

Response to the Current CCHF outbreak in Kandahar

The following multidisciplinary outbreak response have been conducted:

- Coordination meetings with MoPH, PPHD and relevant stakeholders at national and subnational levels conducted.
- An epidemiological investigation team has been assigned to visit the outbreak affected area in Kandahar Province. The team comprised of an epidemiologist from the WHO, focal point for MoPH surveillance department, and IPC consultant.

- The team is conducting case management and IPC training for the healthcare workers.
- WHO has supplied 30 doses of ribavirin for the case management and treatment of infected cases.
- WHO has supplied 1 PCR (96 tests) and 1 ELISA kit (96 tests) for CCHF diagnosis to the Kandahar Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL).
- SST teams have been deployed to the outbreak affected area to do active case findings.

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 29 Apr 2023

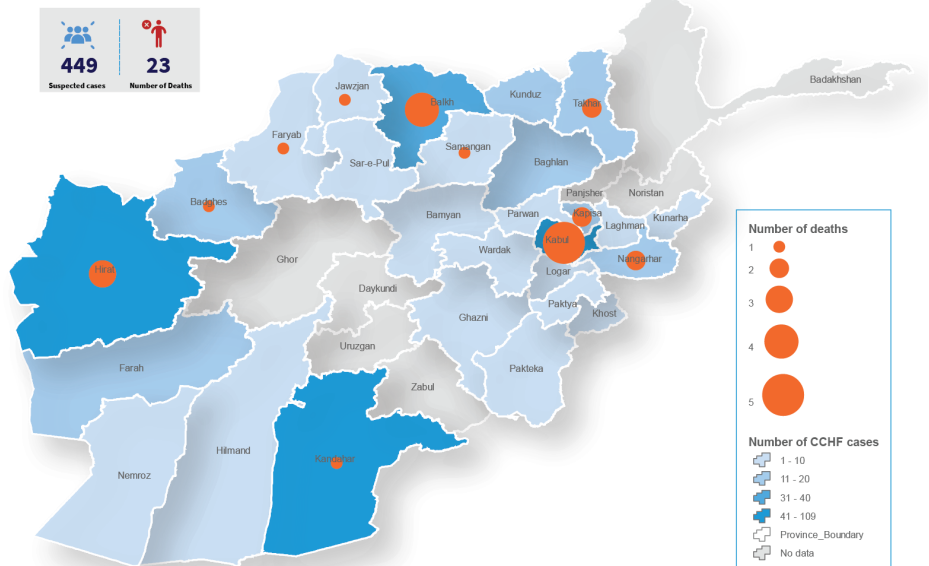






Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province, Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 May 2022 to 29 Apr 2023)

Table 1: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Mar– 29 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	1,878	2,486	2,942	2,954	3,639	3,314	2,335	2,906	
% Change cases	3.5	32.4	18.3	0.4	23.2	-8.9	-29.5	24.5	
Suspected deaths	1	0	0	2	3	5	3	3	
CFR (%)	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.15	0.13	0.10	

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases shows an increase since 18 March 2023 onwards, the epi curve shows upward trend between weeks 10-14, 2023 which could be linked with the start of the new season (spring) in some of the provinces, an increase is observed in the number of cases compared to last week which needs to be monitored closely (Figure 2).
- During week 17-2023, a total of 2,906 new AWD cases with dehydration and 3 new deaths were reported which represents 24.5% increase in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- The new suspected deaths were (2 males and 1 female) from Kabul (2) and Jawzjan (1) provinces.

- Out of 286,163 cases, 158,704 (55.5%) were children below 5 years and 142,848 (49.9%) were females.
- A total of 3,590 RDT tests were conducted among suspected AWD with dehydration cases.
- The first case of AWD with dehydration was reported on 04 May 2022 from Kandahar city of Kandahar province and now is reported from 178 districts in all 34 provinces (Figure 2).

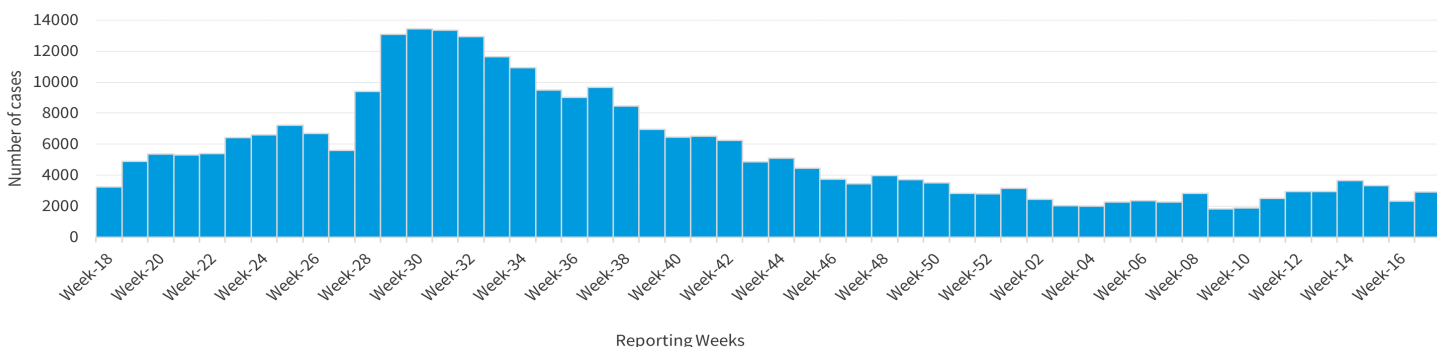


Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan May 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=286,163)

AFGHANISTAN AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province As of 29 Apr 2023



Figure 3. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, May 2022 - Apr 2023



Response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted among the partners to prepare for the next season of AWD outbreak response.
- Emergency and Preparedness Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.

Surveillance

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Totally, 1,018 medical officers and community health supervisors (CHSs) have been trained on procedures of community event-based surveillance (EBS) in 6 provinces (Kabul, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar).
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 292 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on AWD case management.

Laboratory and Supplies

As part of the preparedness plan for 2023 season:

- A total of 3,750 Cary Blairs and 325 kits of RDTs were prepositioned at 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- Forty laboratory technologists, from regional reference labs (RRLs) (5), provincial PCR labs (28), infectious diseases hospital (IDH) (2), Afghan Japan Hospital Lab (1), and the central public health laboratory (CPHL) (4), were trained on sample collection, transportation, and impact of sample quality on lab results.

WASH and RCCE

During the period 16 Apr-30 Apr 2023, the following activities were carried out as WASH response:

- More than 18,000 Hygiene Kits were distributed to 107,783 individuals in 7 provinces (Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Takhar).
- Clean water was provided to around 29,000 people by chlorination of the 473 wells in 3 provinces (Kabul, Kunar, Maidan-Wardak).
- Safe drinking water was provided to around 3,684 individuals in 4 provinces (Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Maidan Wardak) by rehabilitation of the water supply systems.
- Sanitation and hygiene facilities have been provided to more than 1,600 individuals by emergency latrines installation and rehabilitations in 2 outbreak affected provinces (Kapisa and Maidan Wardak).
- Hygiene promotion sessions were provided to around 112,933 people in 7 provinces (Baghlan, Balkh, Kabul, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan Wardak, Takhar).

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (01 Oct 2022 to 29 Apr 2023)

5.6M
Total Cases

1,799
Total Deaths

1,398
Influenza
samples tested

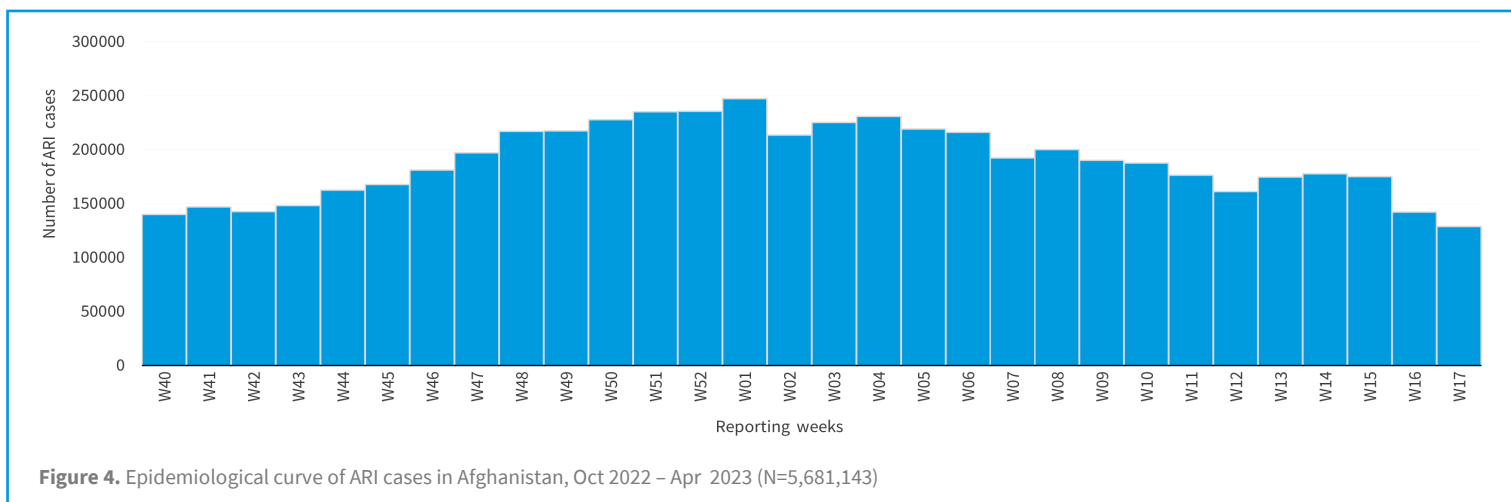
195
Influenza
lab confirmed cases

13.9%
Influenza test
positivity ratio

Table 2: summary of the acute respiratory infection outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Mar – 29 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	187,716	176,562	161,213	174,873	177,785	142,150	142,150	128,952	
% Change cases	-1.3	-5.9	-8.7	8.5	1.7	-20.0	0.0	-9.3	
Suspected deaths	60	48	78	49	43	49	33	56	
CFR (%)	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	

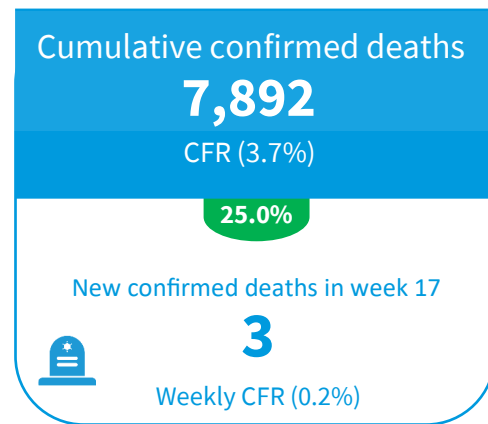
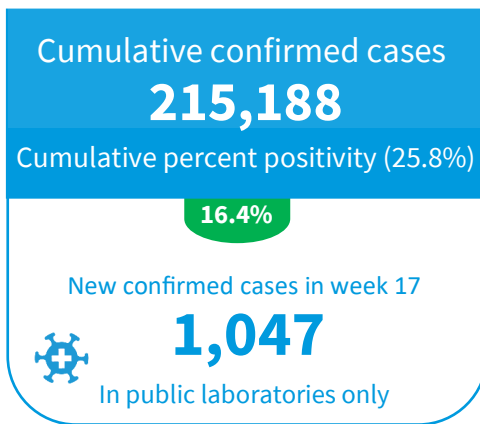
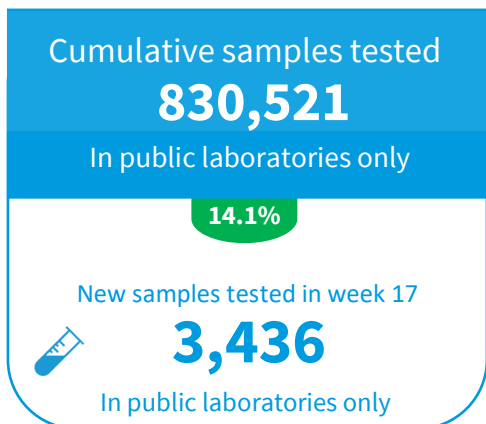
- The epi curve shows decline in the number of ARI cases since week 4-2023 onwards, which could be due to end of the winter season and starting of the spring in some of the provinces (Figure 4).
- During week 17-2023, a total of 128,952 new ARI cases and 56 new deaths were reported which indicates a 9.3% decrease in the number of cases and 69.7% increase in the number of deaths.
- Since Oct 2022, out of the total 5,681,143 ARI cases, representing 17.4% of the total population of Afghanistan, 2,572,578 (45.3%) were children below 5 years of age and 2,954,370 (52.0%) were females.



Response to Acute Respiratory Infection outbreak

- During last week, a total of 61 health care workers (22 MDs and 39 Nurses) were trained on ARI case management from Southeast region related provinces. This brings the total number of ARI trained health care workers (HCWs) to 844 in 12 provinces.
- During the last week, a total of 55 samples were collected and shipped to CPHL/NIC for testing.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, a total of 512 ARI case management kits and 960 packs of essential antibiotics were distributed in the 13 highly affected provinces.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 29 Apr 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

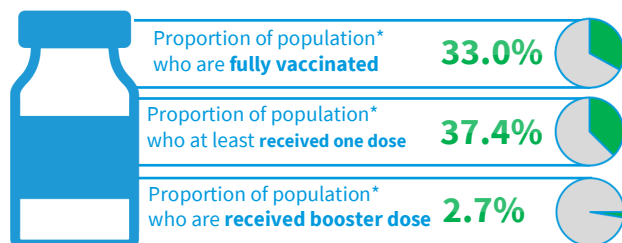


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (05 Mar - 29 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,894	4,050	2,288	3,435	4,163	4,730	4,001	3,436	
Confirmed cases	148	245	353	616	891	1233	1253	1047	
% Change cases	17.9	65.5	44.1	74.5	44.6	38.4	-1.6	-16.4	
Percent positivity (%)	5.1	6.0	15.4	17.9	21.4	26.1	31.3	30.5	
Deaths	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	
CFR (%)	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	

- The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases are decreasing, the epi curve in figure 5 shows increasing trend since week 10-2023, a slight decrease is observed during last week compared to previous week.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 830,521 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 17-2023, 3,436 samples were tested in public labs, of which 1,047 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 30.5%) and 3 new deaths were reported. This represents 16.4% decrease in the number of confirmed cases, compared to the previous week.

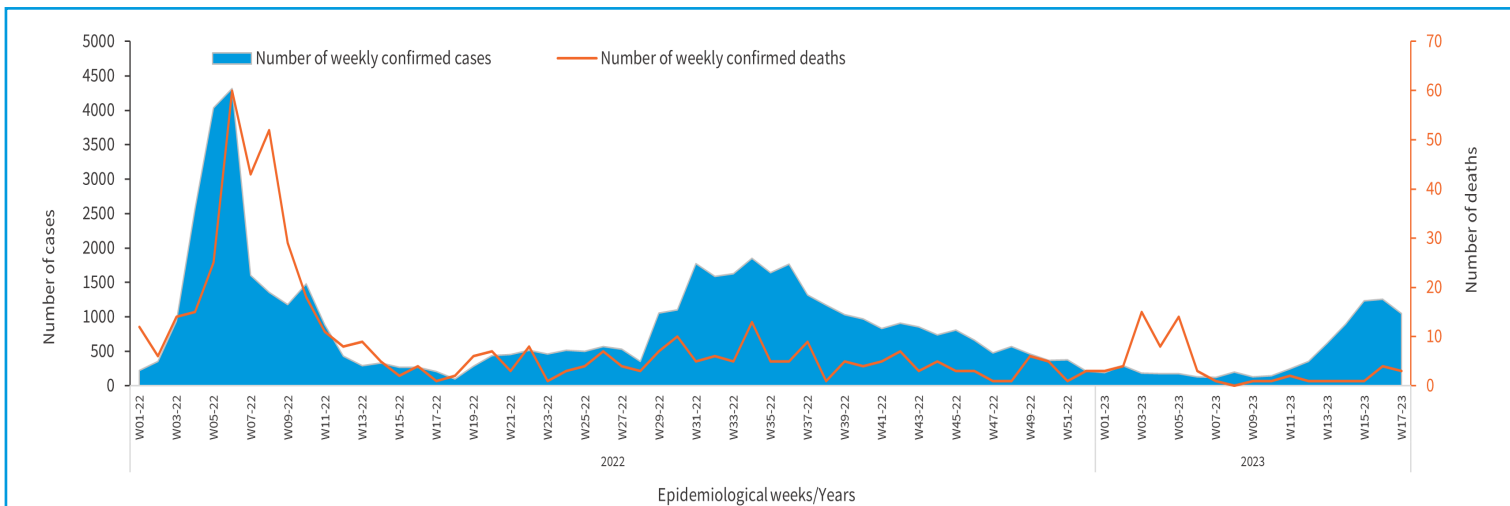


Figure 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

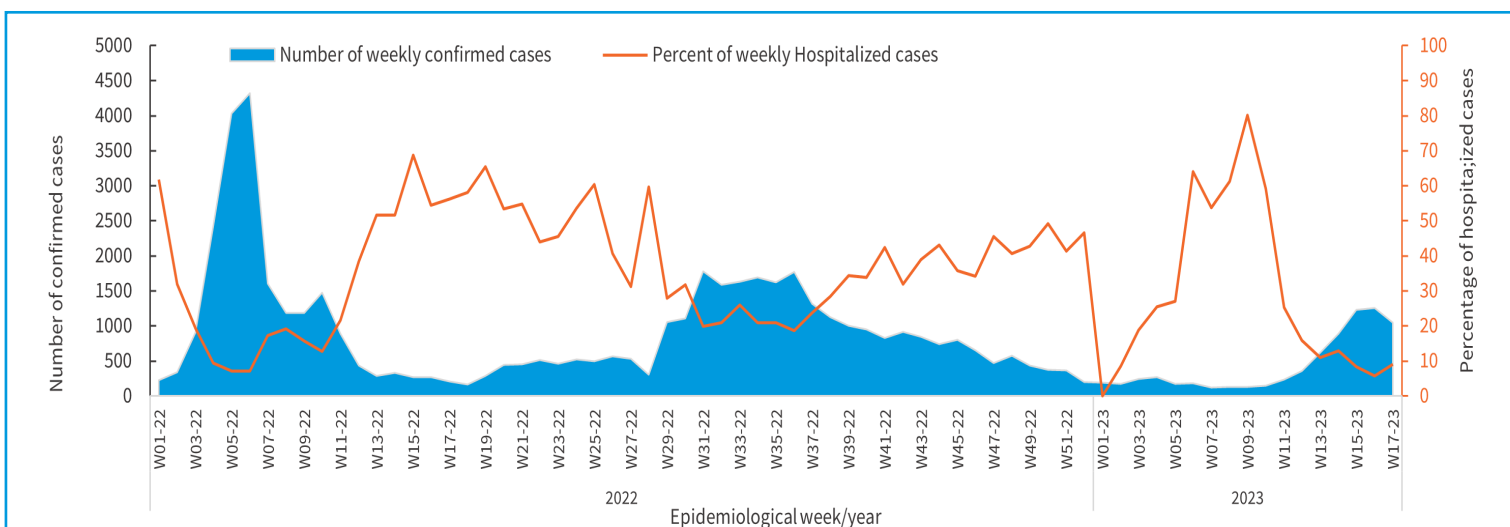


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of new COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan as of Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

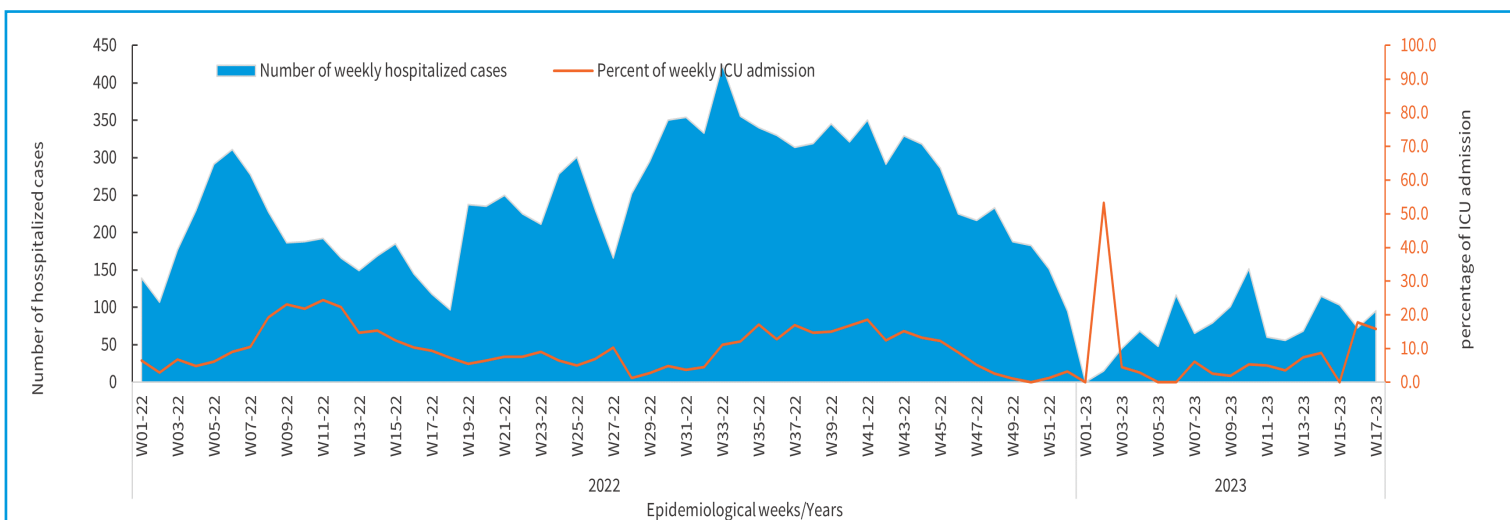






Figure 7. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of Jan 2022 - Apr 2023

Suspected Pertussis Outbreaks (Jan 2022 – Apr 2023)


1,262
Total Cases


15
Total Deaths

Table 4: summary of the suspected pertussis outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Mar – 29 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	6	10	12	26	13	35	17	34	
% Change cases	100.0	66.7	20.0	116.7	-50.0	169.2	-51.4	100.0	
Suspected 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 number of pertussis cases are increasing, the epi curve shows a low-level gradual increase since week-10 2023 (Figure 9).
- During week 17-2023, a total of 34 new suspected pertussis cases were reported from 6 provinces, Kabul (14), Kapisa (8), Zabul (5), Paktya (4), Khost (2) and Badakhshan (1); this brings the total number of suspected cases to 1,262 from 20 provinces.
- Out of the total 1,262 cases, 903 (71.6%) were children below 5 years and 599 (47.5%) were females.

AFGHANISTAN Geographical Distribution of Suspected Pertussis Cases by Province As of 29 Apr 2023

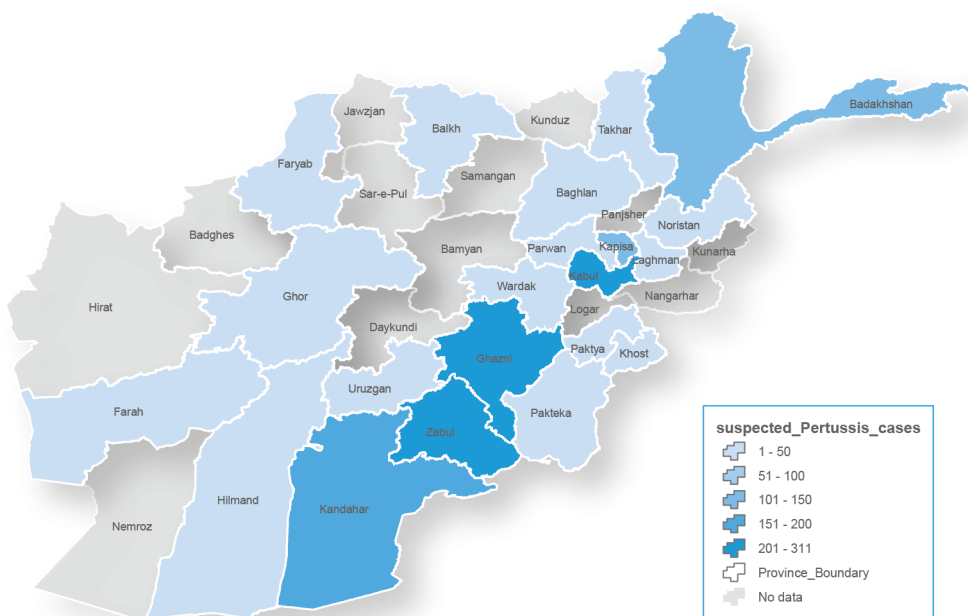


Figure 8. Geographical distribution of suspected pertussis cases in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=1,262)

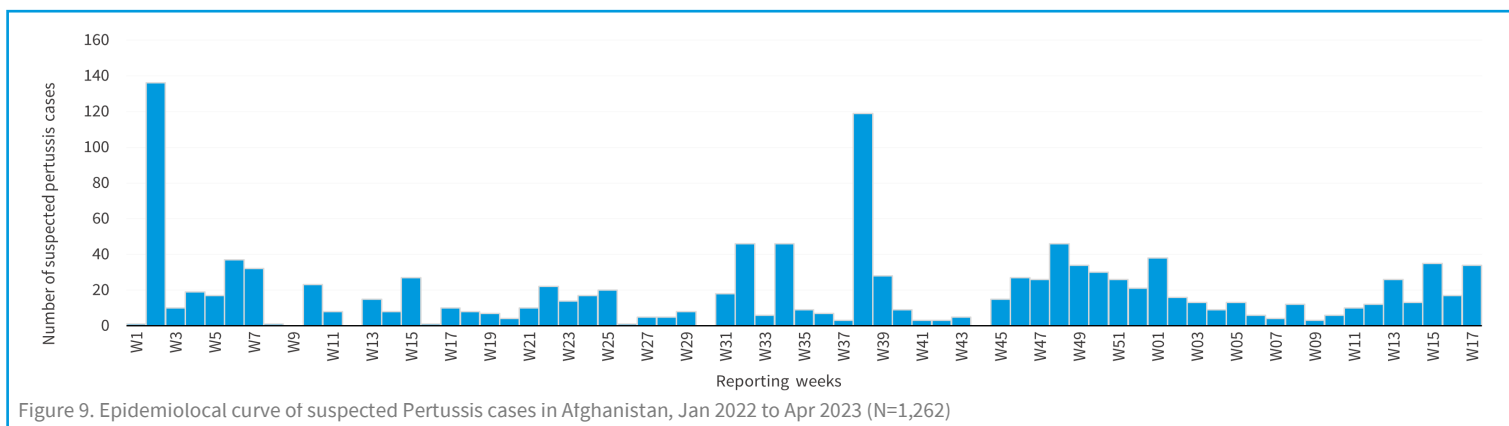


Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected Pertussis cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=1,262)

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan 2022 to 22 Apr 2023)

89,346
Total Cases

422
Total Deaths

12,215
Sample tested

7,059
Lab confirmed cases

57.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Mar – 29 Apr 2023)

Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	897	786	685	709	721	649	550	557	
% Change cases	11.2	-12.4	-12.8	3.5	1.7	-10.0	-15.3	1.3	
Suspected deaths	4	5	1	2	3	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	

- The number of measles cases are decreasing, the epi curve shows a gradual reduction in the number of suspected measles cases since week 11-2023 (Figure 11).
- During epidemiological week 17-2023, a total of 557 suspected cases and no new death were reported which indicates 1.3% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Out of the total 89,346 cases, 68,453(76.6%) were children under 5 years of age and 43,367 (48.5%) were females.

AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province As of 29 Apr 2023

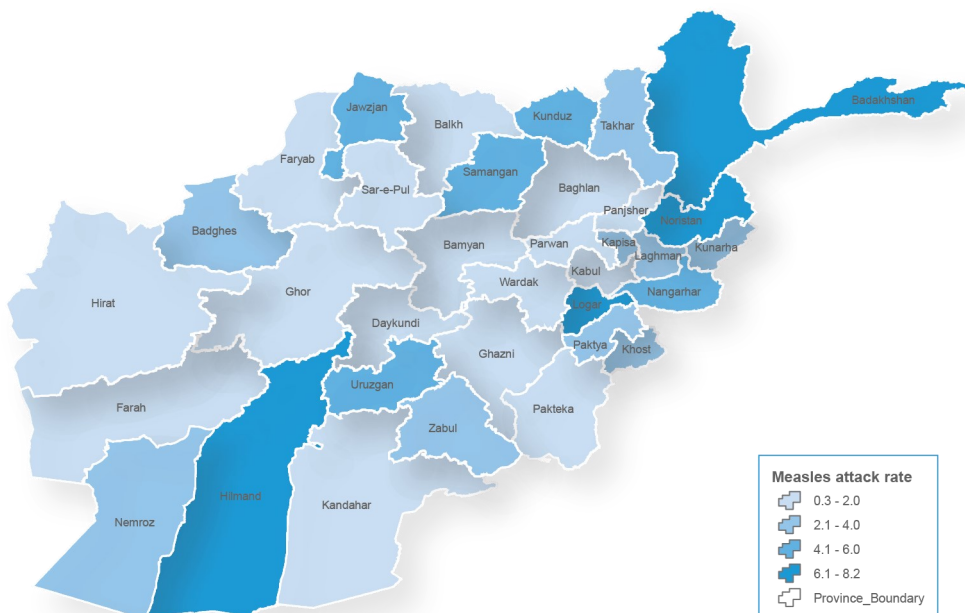


Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population of by province in Afghanistan Jan 2022 - Apr 2023 (N=89,346)

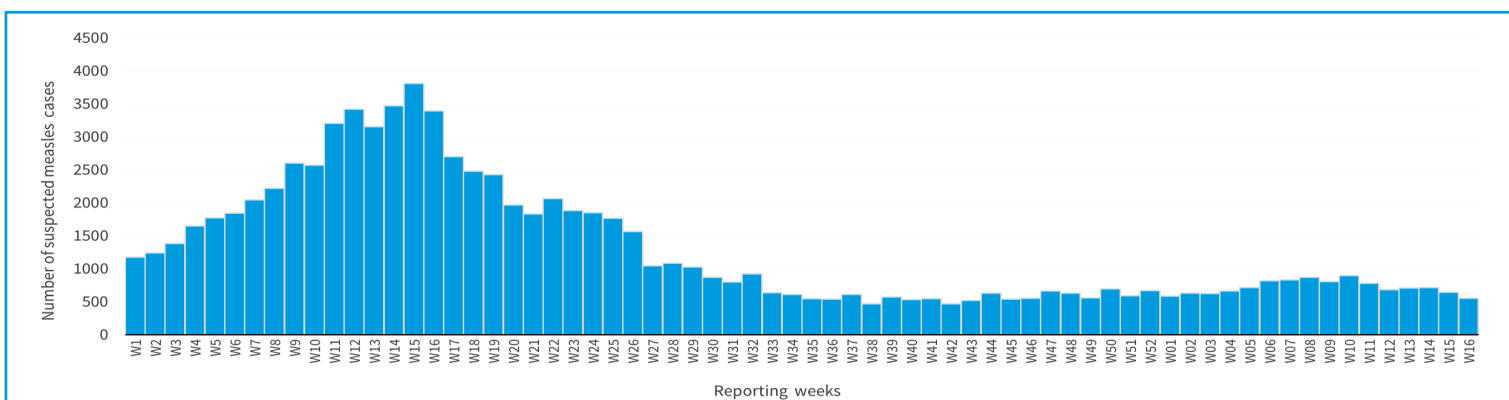
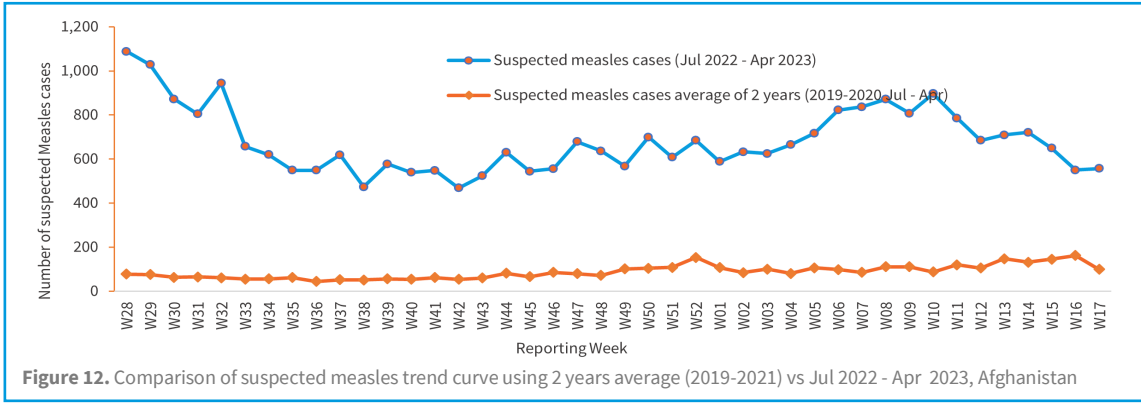


Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, Jan 2022 to Apr 2023 (N=89,346)



The weekly number of suspected measles cases indicates an increase since week 1-2023, followed by a decline observed since week 11, compared to the average of last 3 years.

Response to Measles outbreak

- Since January 2023, a total of 6,856 children aged 9-59 months have been vaccinated for measles as a response to the outbreak by implementing partners (NGOs) in different provinces.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; immunizing 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% administrative 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 case management kits have been supplied to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jun 2022 to 29 Apr 2023)



1,453
Total Cases



3
Total Deaths



474
Sample tested



383
Lab confirmed cases

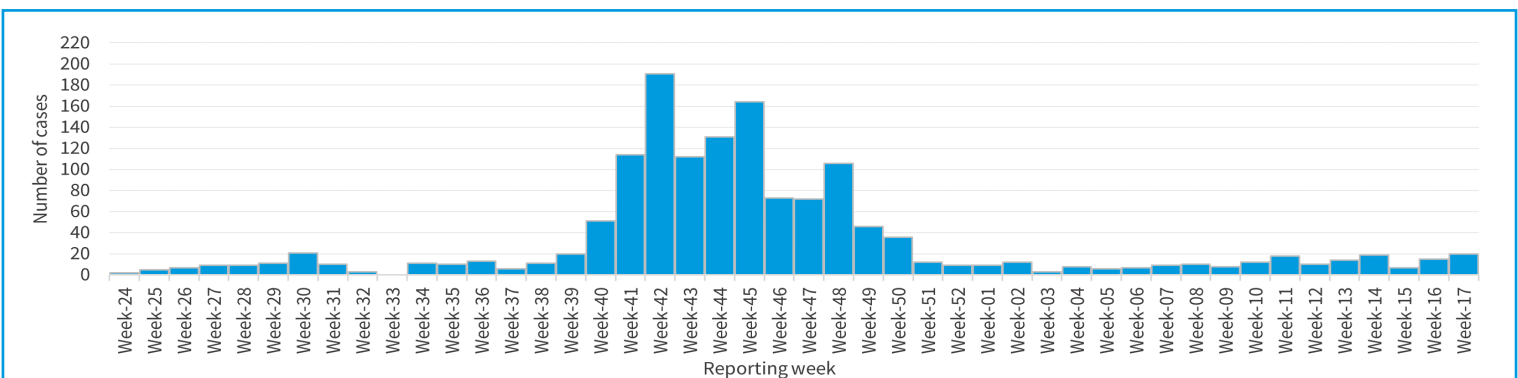


80.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (05 Mar – 29 Apr 2023)

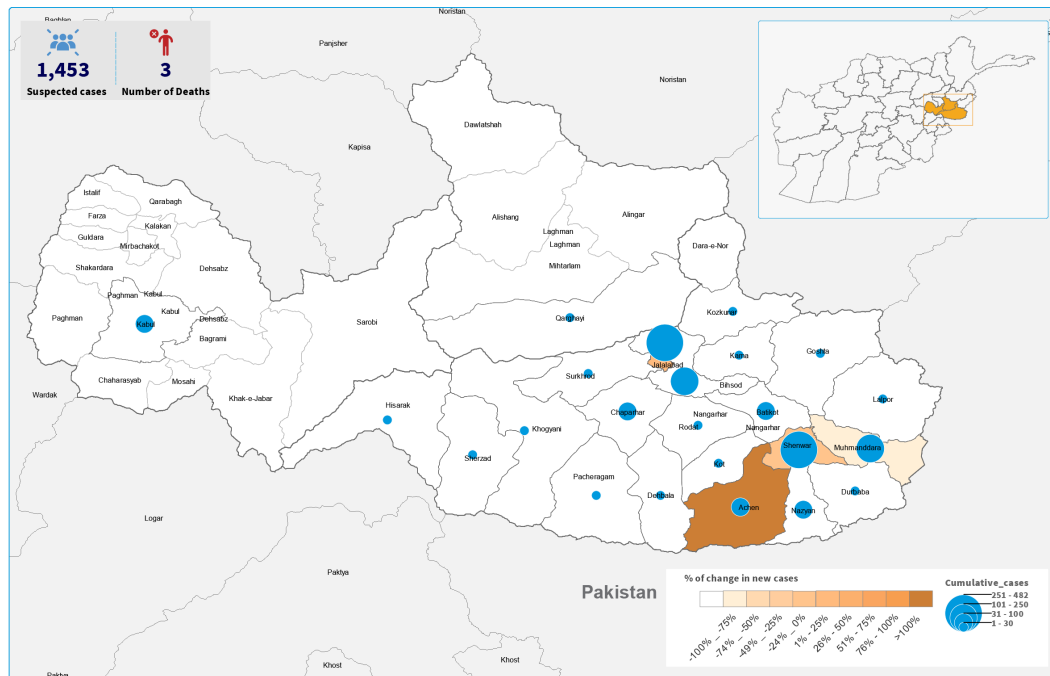
Indicators	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	12	18	10	14	19	7	15	20	
% Change cases	50.0	50.0	-44.4	40.0	35.7	-63.2	114.3	33.3	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	

- The number of confirmed dengue cases is increasing; the epi curve shows a gradual increase since the last two weeks. The situation needs to be closely monitored given the start of the season for vector breeding in Nangarhar province (Figure 13).
- A total of 20 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths have been reported during week 17-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases and deaths to 1,453 and 3 deaths respectively.
- Out of 1,453 reported cases, 389 (26.8%) were females and 1,434 (98.7%) were over 5 years of age.





Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 16 and 17, 2023)



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, AGCHD. Creation date: 29 April 2023.

Figure 14. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jun 2022 - Apr 2023

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- Since July 2022 a total of 9 PCR kits (sufficient for testing 720 samples) have been delivered to the Nangarhar regional reference lab (RRL) and 4 dengue ELISA kits (sufficient for testing 320 samples) to central public health laboratory (CPHL), infectious disease hospital (IDH) and Nangarhar regional reference lab (RRL) to support the confirmation of diagnosis among suspected dengue cases.
- Overall, 1,000 Kgs of larvicides have been released and distributed to Nangarhar sub-office to support dengue fever vector control activities.
- Surveillance support and entomology teams in addition to surveillance activities (case detection, reporting and sample collection) monitor the outbreak situation.
- Health education sessions were conducted in two villages of hotspot areas (Jalalabad city and Shinwar district) for increasing public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.
- Since the beginning of April 2023, 200 health care workers (HCWs) were trained on dengue case management in Nangarhar province.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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