



# COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan

Epidemiological Week 25 (19 – 25 June 2022)

<b>Cumulative samples tested</b> <b>623,616</b> In public laboratories only	<b>Cumulative confirmed cases</b> <b>182,168</b> Cumulative percent positivity (29.2%)	<b>Cumulative confirmed deaths</b> <b>7,717</b> CFR (4.2 %)
<b>New samples tested in week25</b> <b>5,572</b> ↓ 41 % In public laboratories only	<b>New confirmed cases in week25</b> <b>498</b> ↓ 4 % Weekly percent positivity (9%)	<b>New confirmed deaths in week25</b> <b>4</b> ↑ 33 % Weekly CFR (0.8%)

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change

**Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (30 Apr – 25 Jun 2022)**

Indicators	W18-22	W19-22	W20-22	W21-22	W22-22	W23-22	W24-22	W25-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	884	4,356	5,870	5,212	6,610	7,235	9,395	5,572	
Confirmed cases	97	283	440	457	512	463	519	498	
Percent positivity (%)	11	6	7	9	8	6	6	9	
Confirmed deaths	2	6	7	3	8	1	3	4	
CFR (%)	2.1	2.1	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	

## Highlights of the week

Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **623,616** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.

In week 25-2022, **5,572** samples were tested in public labs, of which **498** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **9**) and **4** new deaths were reported. This represents **4%** decrease and **33%** increase in cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 24-2022, (**Table 1**).

Cumulatively, **182,168** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **29.2**) of COVID-19 with **7,717** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 4.2%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.

As of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, **90.1** %, of cases have recovered.

In week 25-2022, the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases were reported in the Central West and East regions (120 and 118 cases, respectively) (Table 2). The top five provinces that reported positive cases included Nangarhar (103 cases), Parwan (92 cases), Kapisa (45 cases), Paktya (26 cases), and Kunduz (25 cases).

The WHO supported building the in-country capacity for genome sequencing, after training of two national staff on sequencing techniques in Dubai (December 2021). The WHO supported the procurement of the Oxford Nanopore Sequencer with the reagents

and consumables. Initially, the plan is to conduct genome sequencing for COVID-19, with a plan to expand it to include other high-threat pathogens. The team is currently working on processing the COVID-19 samples for sequencing, the results will be shared when available.

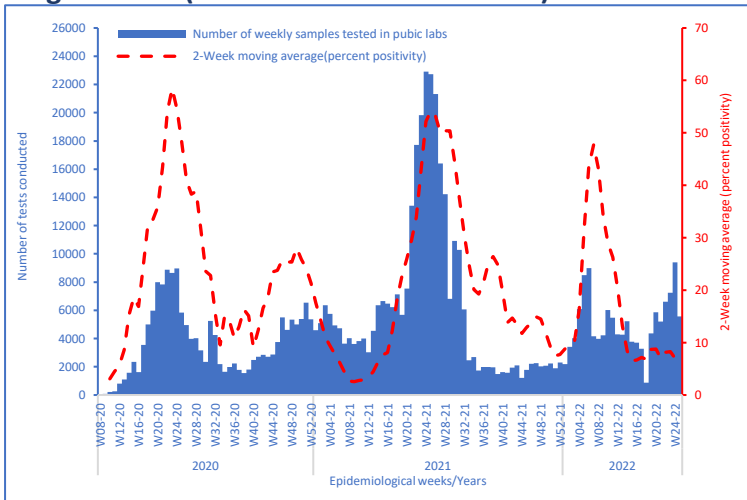
**Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 25, 2022 (19 – 25 Jun 2022)**

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 25 (%)	% of change compared to week 24	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		80 (16 %)	-18%	49,638 (27.2%)
Central West		120 (24%)	19%	15,281 (8.4%)
East		118 (24%)	5%	21,590 (11.9%)
North		8 (2%)	-47%	15,039 (8.3%)
North East		67 (13%)	103%	19,173 (10.5%)
South		32 (6%)	-9%	21,809 (12.0%)
South East		39 (8%)	-57%	12,076 (6.6%)
West		34 (7%)	-3%	27,562 (15.1%)
National		498 (100%)	-4%	182,168 (100%)

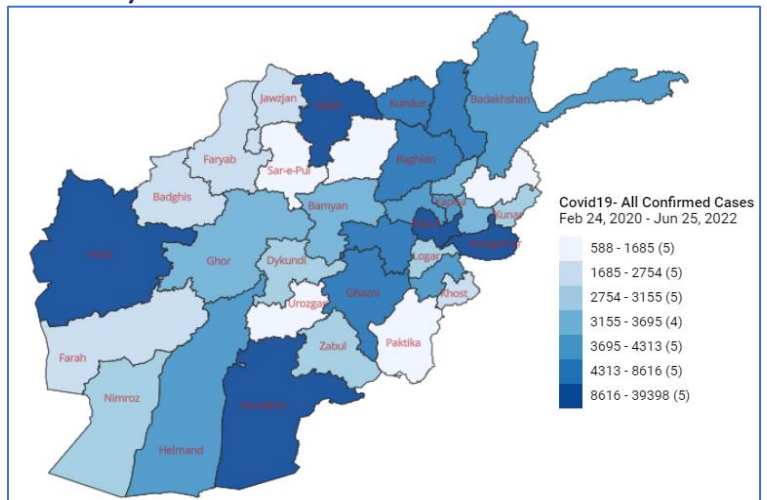
In week 25-2022, No new confirmed cases have been reported among health care workers.

Overall, Afghanistan has reported **4,763** confirmed cases and **97** associated deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs) since 2020. To date, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunar reported the highest number of positive cases among HCWs.

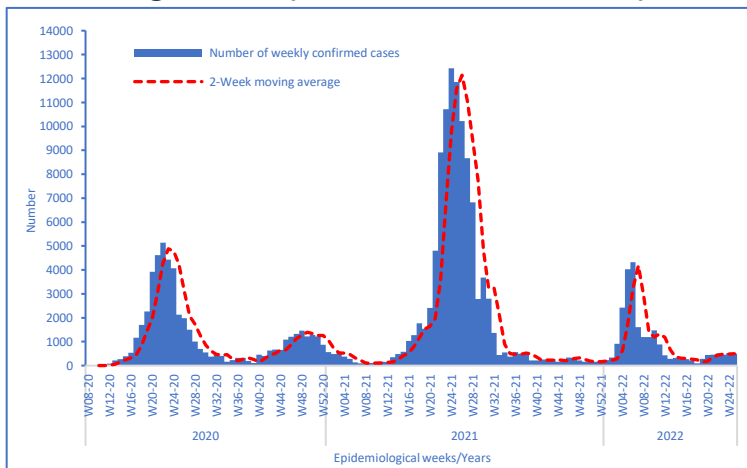
**Figure 1: Number of weekly PCR tests conducted and 2-week moving average of percent positivity in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 – 25 Jun 2022)**



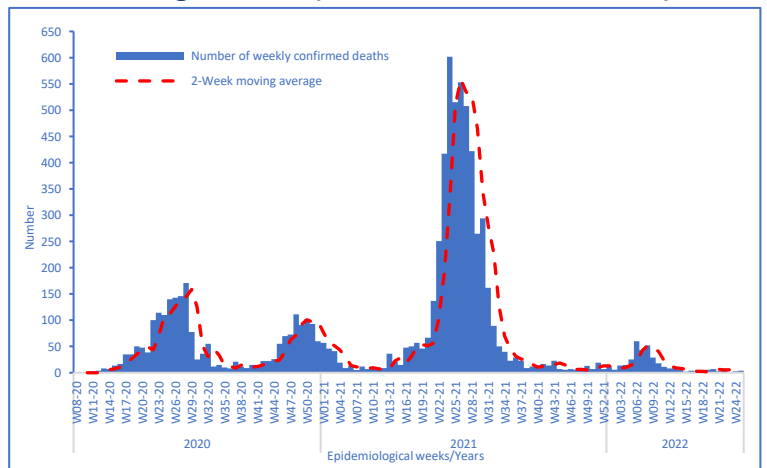
**Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



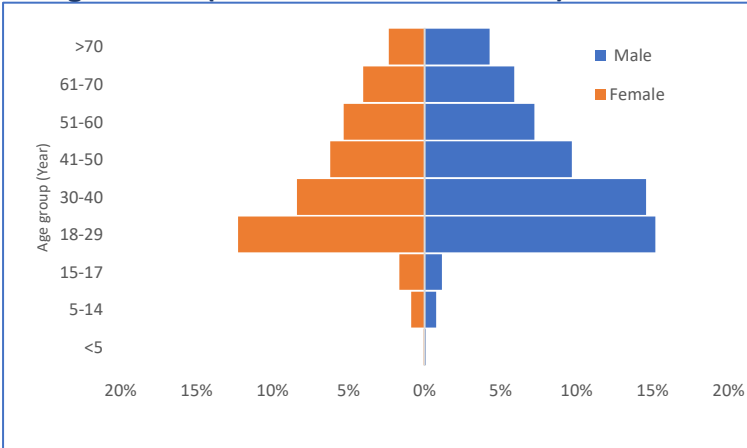
**Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



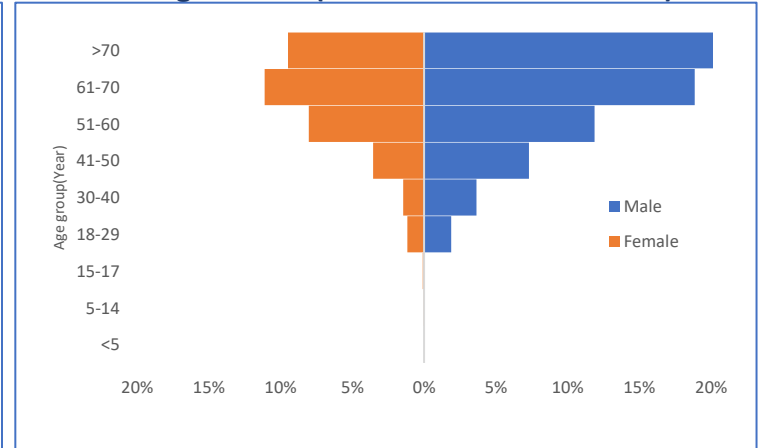
**Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



**Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



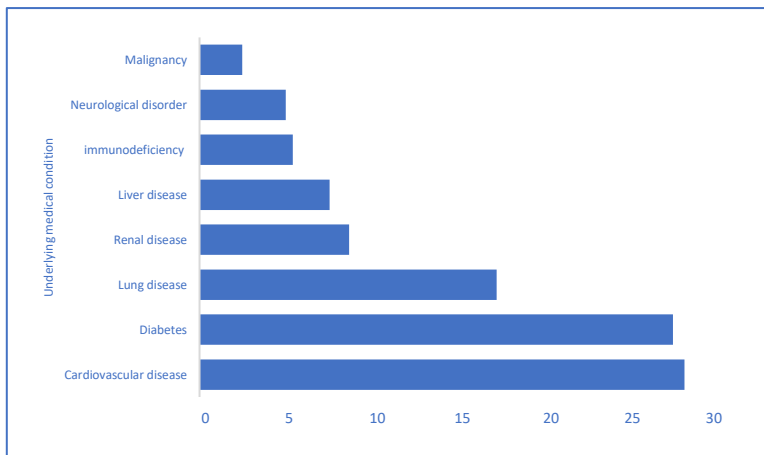
**Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



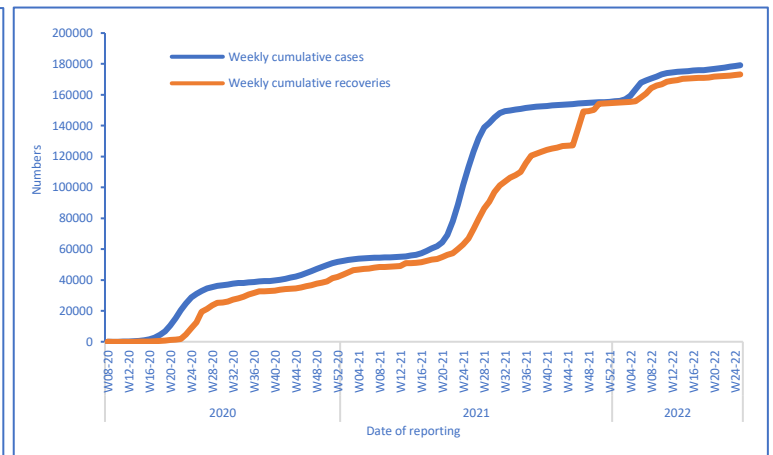
Of the confirmed COVID-19 cases, **58%** have been reported among males and **42%** among females. Majority of cases have been reported among those aged 18-40 years.

Of the COVID-19 associated deaths, **65%** were reported among males and **35%** among females. The graph indicates that most reported deaths were among those aged over 70 years.

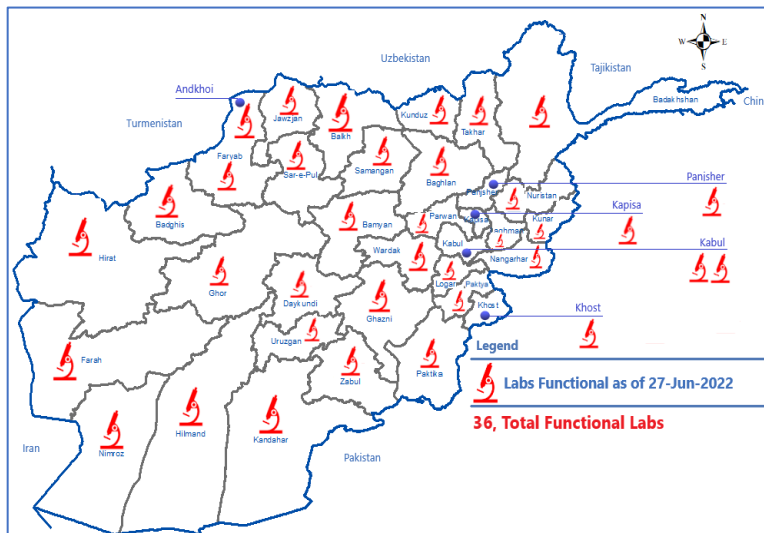
**Figure 7: Proportion of underlying medical conditions among COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan, 24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022 (n=1,797)**



**Figure 8: Weekly cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and recoveries in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 25 Jun 2022)**



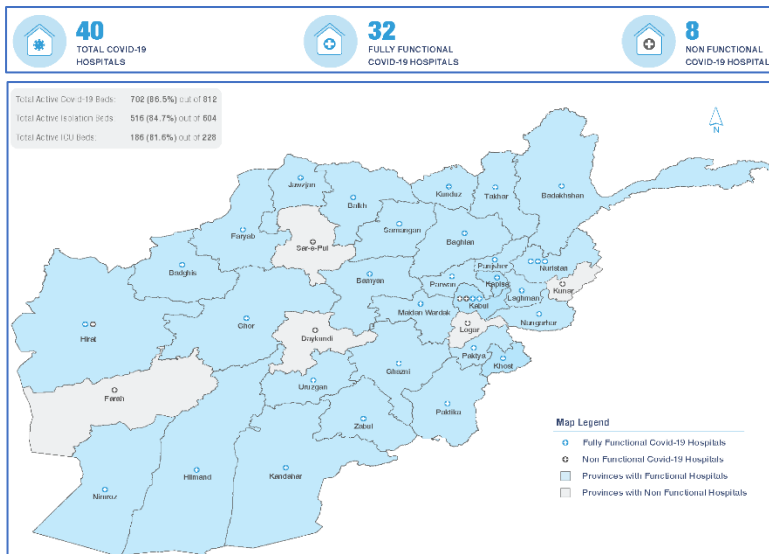
**Figure 9: COVID-19 confirmatory diagnostic public laboratories in Afghanistan, as of 25 Jun 2022**



**Laboratory functionality updates:**

- The WHO has supported the establishment of COVID-19 laboratories since the start of the pandemic. The support included the provision of diagnostic equipment, infrastructure, capacity building and human resources.
- As of 27 June 2022, there are 36 of 37 functional COVID-19 laboratories distributed across 34 provinces. The testing capacity is 9,200 tests/24 hours.

**Figure 10: COVID-19 hospitals status run by MoPH and other partners in Afghanistan, as of 25 Jun 2022**



**Integration of COVID-19 services into the current system**

Since the start of the pandemic, 40 COVID-19 hospitals were established in almost all provinces with number of beds ranging between 20 to 100.

Since the beginning of 2022, there was a decrease in the COVID-19 incidence with low hospitalization rate in designated hospitals. After discussion with the de facto MOPH, there was an agreement on the integration of the COVID-19 into the currently existing public hospitals. The integration process has started with a joint comprehensive assessment.

The assessment will enable health sector to identify the current status of COVID-19 hospitals in the country and recommend integration options. The assessment started on 15 May 2022 and expected to last for 8 weeks using a standardized tool.

## COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

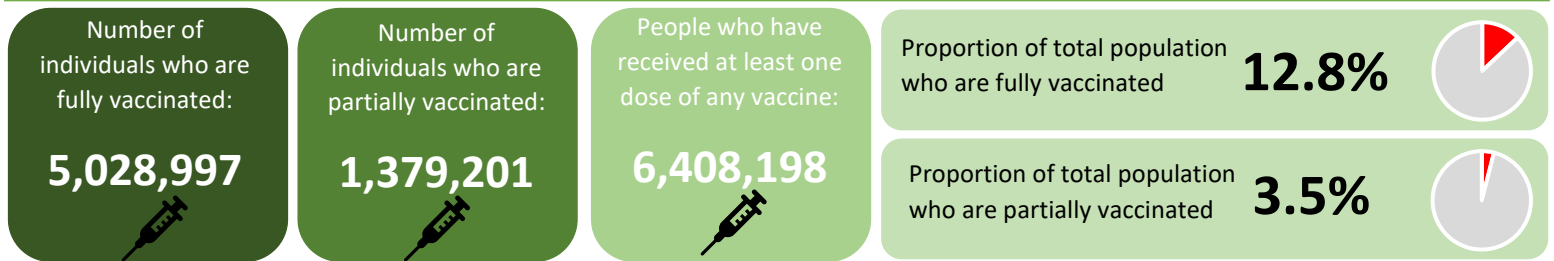
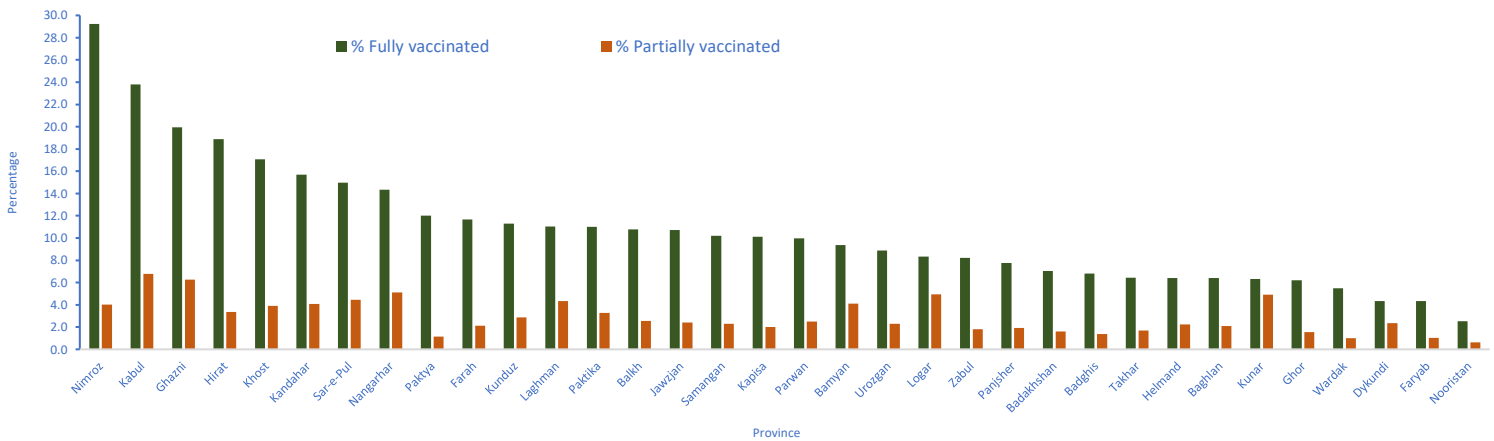


Figure 11: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 25 Jun 2022

Figure 12: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 25 Jun 2022



Figure 13: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 25 Jun 2022



## COVID-19 vaccination campaign

- Currently, there are 252 fixed sites supported by WHO, UNICEF, CORDAID and Swedish Committee. There are ongoing discussions with the National EPI to establish additional 313 fixed sites for covid-19 vaccination. Whereas 1390 mobile teams will be established for COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The campaign is planned to launch in July 2022.
- As the Haj season is coming, the WHO in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health is supporting the testing of Hujaj (People going to Hajj) for COVID-19 and also for vaccinating them.
- The target number of Hujaj for testing and vaccination is around 7,500.

### Contacts for further information:

- Dr. Mohamed Moustafa Tahon: Epidemiologist WHE, WHO-CO, (tahonm@who.int)
  - Hafizullah Safi : Data Management Officer WHO-CO (safih@who.int)
- Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG\_CMYP\_2022)  
Data source: DHIS2-MoPH-Afghanistan, Public dashboard: <http://covid.moph-dw.org/#/>