



COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan

Epidemiological Week 29 (17-23 July 2022)

Cumulative samples tested 643,889 In public laboratories only	Cumulative confirmed cases 184,672 Cumulative percent positivity (28.6%)	Cumulative confirmed deaths 7,737 CFR (4.1 %)
New samples tested in week 29 6,438 ↑198 % In public laboratories only	New confirmed cases in week 29 1,055 ↑244 % Weekly percent positivity (16%)	New confirmed deaths in week 29 6 ↑100 % Weekly CFR (0.6%)

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change

Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (28 May – 23 Jul 2022)

Indicators	W22-22	W23-22	W24-22	W25-22	W26-22	W27-22	W28-22	W29-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	6,610	7,235	9,395	5,572	7,207	4,468	2,160	6,438	
Confirmed cases	512	463	519	498	566	531	352	1,055	
Percent positivity (%)	8	6	6	9	8	12	16	16	
Confirmed deaths	8	1	3	4	7	4	3	6	
CFR (%)	1.6	0.2	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.6	

Highlights of the week

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **643,889** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.
- In week 29-2022, **6,438** samples were tested in public labs, of which **1,055** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **16**) and **6** new deaths were reported. This represents **244%** and **100%** increase in cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 28-2022, (Table 1). The observed increase in the number of cases reported during week 29 could be explained by two reasons: first the increased number of tests conducted and second: late reporting following EID period when reporting was incomplete due to holidays. The trend to be confirmed during the next 2 weeks.
- Cumulatively, **184,672** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **28.6**) of COVID-19 with **7,737** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 4.1%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.
- As of 23rd July 2022, **90.0** %, of cases have recovered.
- In week 29-2022, all 8 regions reported increase in the number of newly reported cases during week 29 compared to week 28 (Table 2). The top five provinces that reported positive cases included Kunduz (**188** cases), Parwan (**172** cases), Samangan (**70** cases), Wardak (**64** cases), and Kabul (**57** 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. Recently the WHO supported 14 GeneXpert PCR machines in 12 provinces with an average capacity of 1000 tests per day.

Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 29, 2022 (17-23 Jul 2022)

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 29 (%)	% of change compared to week 28	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		150 (14 %)	163%	50,042 (27.1%)
Central West		283 (27%)	396%	15,898(8.6%)
East		69 (7%)	109%	21,885 (11.9%)
North		115 (11%)	360%	15,264 (8.3%)
North East		337 (32%)	244%	19,775 (10.6%)
South		45 (4%)	165%	21,962(11.9%)
South East		47 (4%)	161%	12,218 (6.6%)
West		9 (1%)	350%	27,628 (15.0%)
National		1,055 (100%)	244%	184,672 (100%)

- In week 29-2022, 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 – 23 Jul 2022)

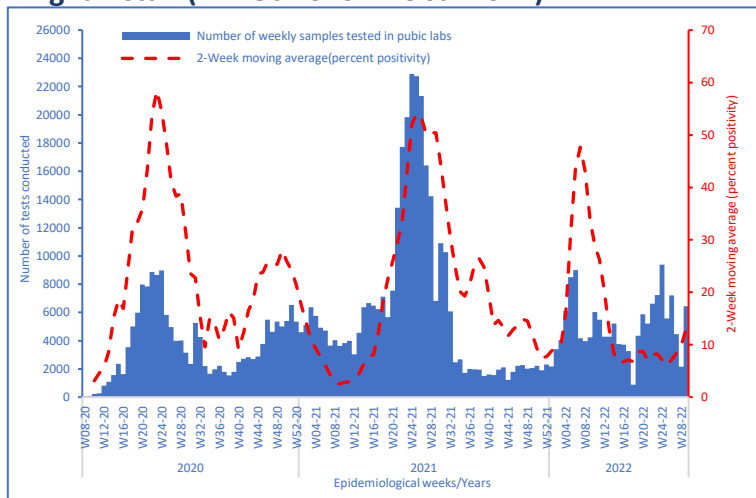


Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 23 Jul 2022)

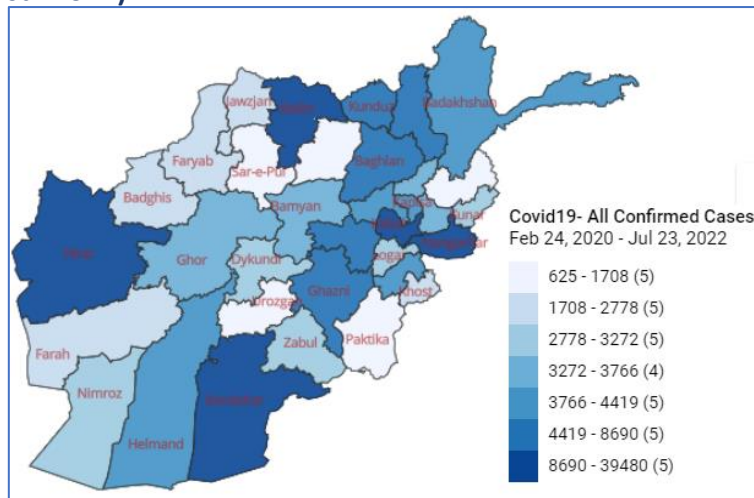


Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 23 Jul 2022)

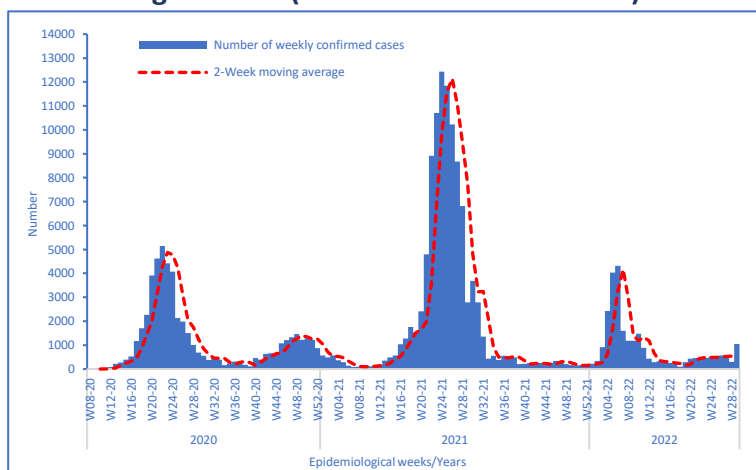


Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 23 Jul 2022)

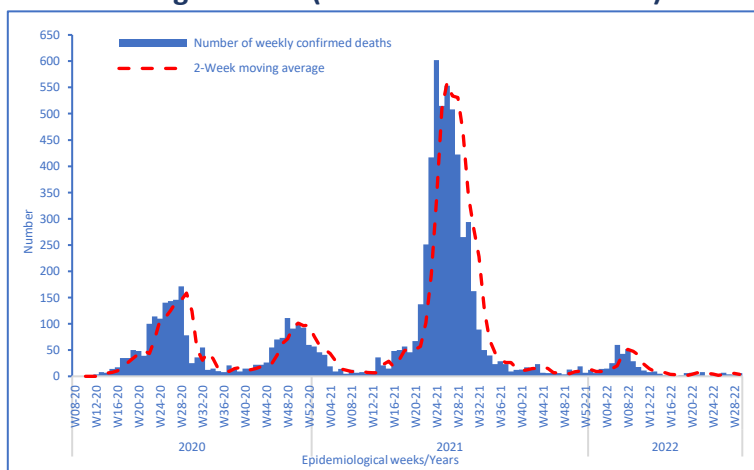


Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 23 Jul 2022)

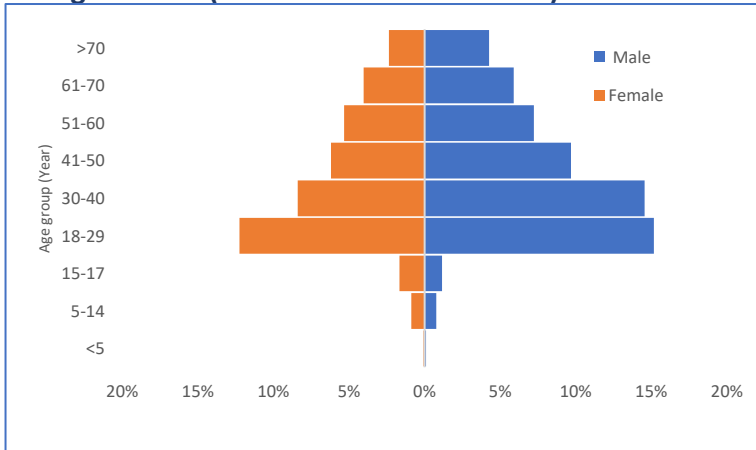
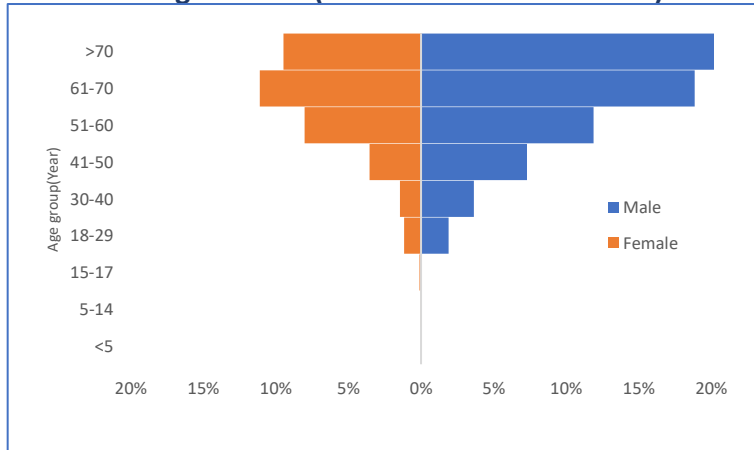


Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 23 Jul 2022)



- 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.

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

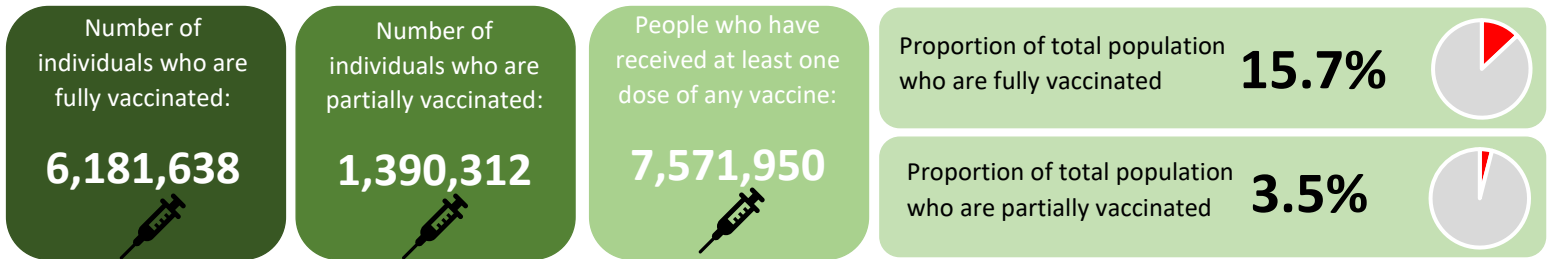


Figure 11: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 23 Jul 2022

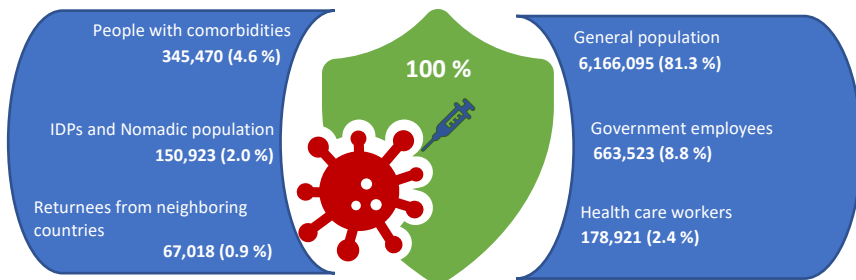


Figure 12: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 23 Jul 2022

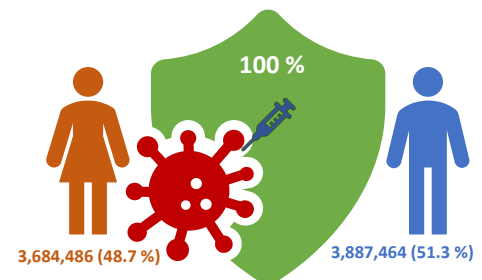
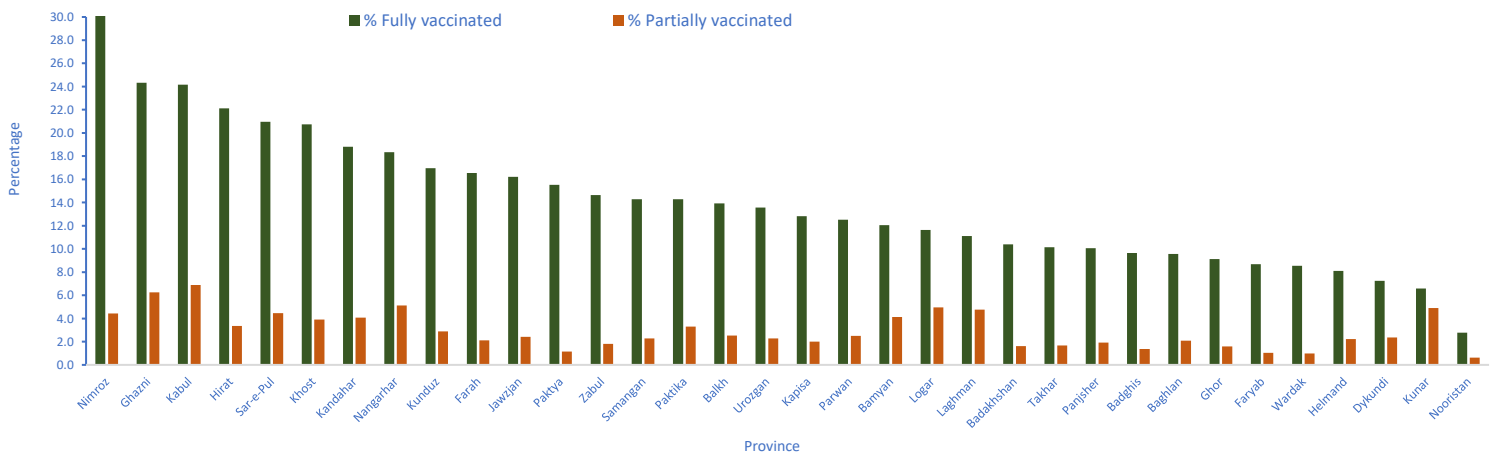


Figure 13: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 23 Jul 2022



COVID-19 vaccination campaign

- Currently, there are 347 fixed sites supported by WHO, UNICEF, CORDAID and Swedish Committee.
- A countrywide vaccination campaign has been started on 16th July 2022 with the help of 1,390 mobile teams and will continue for one month
- The target population is 4.8 million over 18 years old in 33 provinces (all except Kabul).
- Between 16 -23 July, more than 1.1 M individuals have been vaccinated through the campaigns.
- About 54.2% of the doses were received by females.
- The highest number of vaccine doses were administered in Nangarhar (100.1K), followed by Hirat (88.2K), Balkh (59.2K) and Faryab (58.8K).

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- Total population: 39,269,174 (Ref: UN estimation, AFG_CMYP_2022)
Data source: DHIS2-MoPH-Afghanistan, Public dashboard: <http://covid.moph-dw.org/#/>