



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #04-2024

No. 04 (21 - 27 Jan 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	ARI	COVID-19	AWD	Measles	CCHF	Dengue fever
Cumulative Cases 2024	160,756	849	8,402	2,757	24	204
Death 2024 (CFR %)	383 (0.2)	7 (0.8)	8 (0.1)	7 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cumulative Cases 2023	1,384,646	*230,647	222,249	25,876	1,243	1,496
Death 2023 (CFR %)	2,798 (0.2)	*7,972 (3.5)	101 (0.05)	64 (0.2)	114 (9.2)	1 (0.07)

(Data from 609 (99.3%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites

* These figures represent the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and associated deaths recorded from February 2020 to December 2023.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)

(01-27 Jan 2024)



*160,756

Total ARI Cases



*383

Total Deaths



**403

Samples tested for influenza



**24

Lab confirmed influenza cases



6.0%

Influenza test positivity ratio

*Currently ARI related data (morbidity and mortality) are reported from 613 surveillance sentinel sites across 34 provinces in the country.

**Currently, there are 10 functional influenza surveillance sentinel sites for both ILI and SARI in ten provinces of Afghanistan. At each site, there is one trained influenza surveillance assistant, collecting specimen and epidemiological data from 4 ILI and 6 SARI cases per week in ARI season and sending them to National Influenza Center (NIC) for testing.

Table 1: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W1-24	W2-24	W3-24	W4-24	Trend lines
Suspected cases	34,762	34,514	35,793	38,719	38,071	38,881	42,010 *	41,794	
Suspected deaths	59	65	75	79	91	106	95	91	
CFR (%)	0.17	0.19	0.21	0.20	0.24	0.27	0.23	0.22	

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 03-2024, the number ARI cases modified from 41,863 to 42,010.

- The epi curve shows an increase in ARI cases since the 3rd week of September 2023, which could be linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country (Figure 1).
- During week 04-2024, a total of 41,794 cases of ARI pneumonia and 91 associated deaths were reported, which shows a stabilization in the number of ARI cases and ARI-associated deaths compared to the previous week.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 160,756 ARI-pneumonia cases and 383 associated deaths were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 101,189 (62.9%) were under-five children and 79,277 (49.3%) were females. The cumulative incidence by province is shown in Figure 2.
- Out of total deaths, 327 (85.4%) were under-five children and 166 (43.3%) were females.
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the three preceding years (2020-2022), the higher number in 2023-24 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to the enhancement of the surveillance system and expansion of surveillance sentinel sites (Figure 3).
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 1,384,646 ARI-pneumonia cases (49.5% female, 61.5% under-5) and 2,798 deaths (46.1% female and 82.4% <5 children) with CFR=0.2% were reported. Also, 3,353 samples were collected for influenza, out of which 168 were reported positive (positivity rate, 5.0%).



Figure 1. The epidemiological curve of ARI Pneumonia cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 – 27 Jan 2024 (1,545,402)

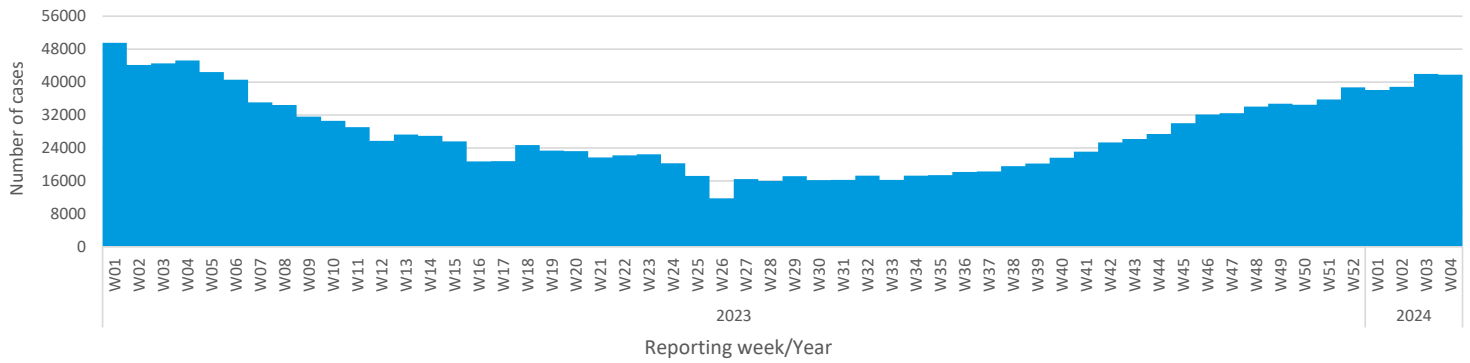


Figure 2. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01-27 Jan 2024

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ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01-27 Jan 2024

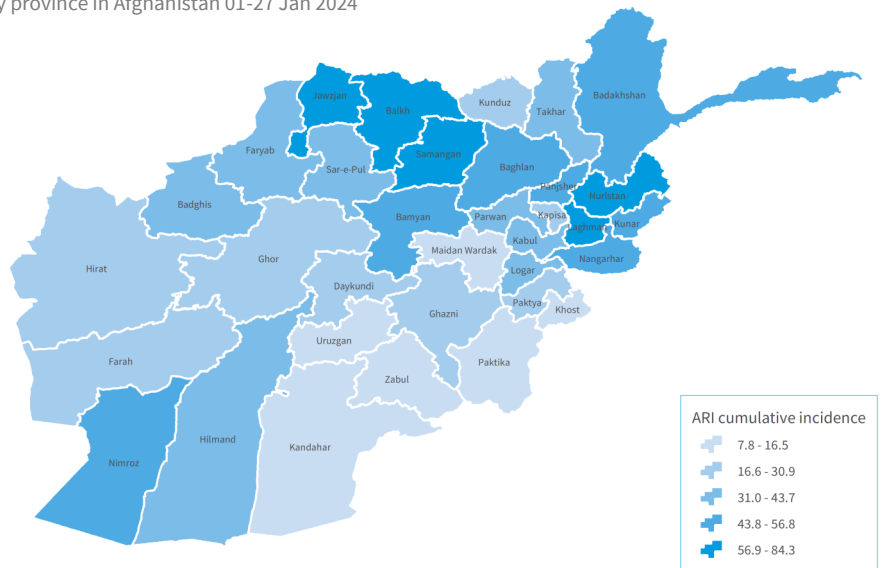
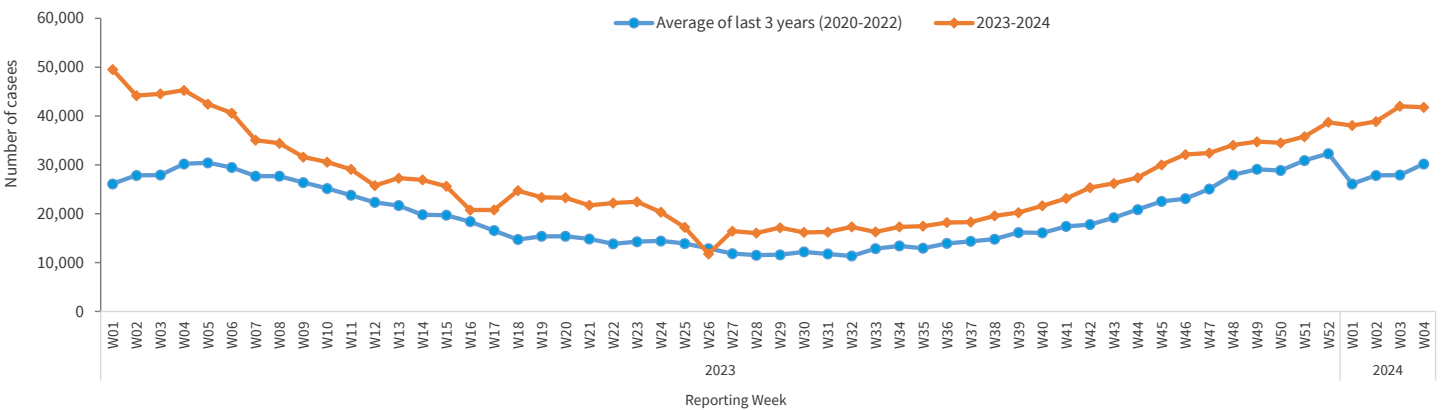


Figure 3. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024



Response to acute respiratory infection outbreak

Surveillance

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- 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 ARI outbreaks.

Lab and supplies

- Since 1 Jan 2024, a total of 6,500 VTM have been distributed to North-East and Central-East NDSR offices.

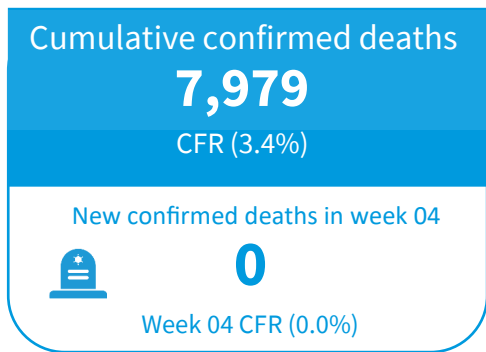
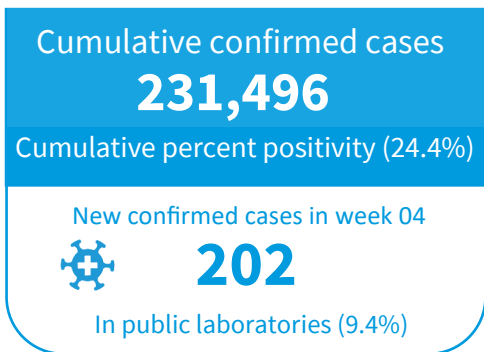
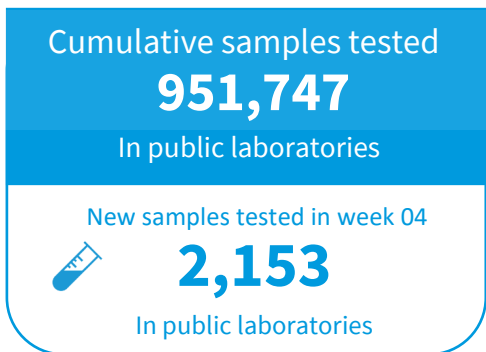
Case management

- As a part of the winter preparedness and response plan to ARI outbreak in 2023-24, a total of 397 case management kits have been prepositioned in the WHO main office and regional sub-offices.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- In Jan 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) co-led a meeting of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Sub-working Group (SWG). The meeting was attended by over 13 representatives from various organizations involved in RCCE and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the RCCE plans and priorities of health partners for the year 2024.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 27 Jan 2024)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Note: During Week 04-2024, around 14,722 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered which shows a 67.2% decrease compared to week 03-2024; also, the number of COVID-19 vaccinations was updated for week 02-2024 considering the delay reporting.

*The total population (denominator) was changed from 39,269,174 (UN estimation) to 43,100,596 (OCHA estimation), therefore, the calculated proportions dropped.

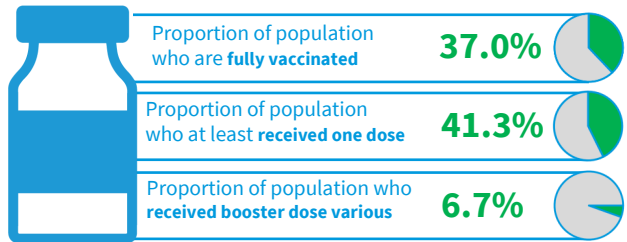


Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W01	W02	W03	W04	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	3,508	3,227	3,372	2,872	2,566	2,182	3,176 *	2,153	
Confirmed cases	334	371	300	248	203	191	253 *	202	
Percent positivity (%)	9.5	11.5	8.9	8.6	7.9	8.8	8.0	9.4	
Deaths	0	6	3	0	2	0	5	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	1.6	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 03-2024, the number of samples tested, and the number of confirmed cases were modified from 2,989 to 3,176 and from 243 to 253, respectively.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases since the 3rd week of June 2023, which could be attributed to a decrease in attendance of infected individuals at healthcare facilities and an improvement in vaccination coverage among eligible populations across the country (37%).
- During week 04-2024, a total of 2,153 samples were tested in public labs, of which 202 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 9.4%) and no COVID-19-associated deaths were reported.
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases shows a 20.2% decrease compared to the previous week, while no deaths were reported during week 04-2024 compared to 5 deaths reported in the previous week (Figures 4-5).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 951,747 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 04-2024, among 202 confirmed cases 6.9% (14 cases) were hospitalized while no hospitalized cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 162,472 samples were tested by public laboratories, of which 22,764 were positive (44.1% female, positivity rate 14.0%); also, 143 deaths (52.0% female) with CFR=0.6% were reported.

Figure 4. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 27 Jan 2024

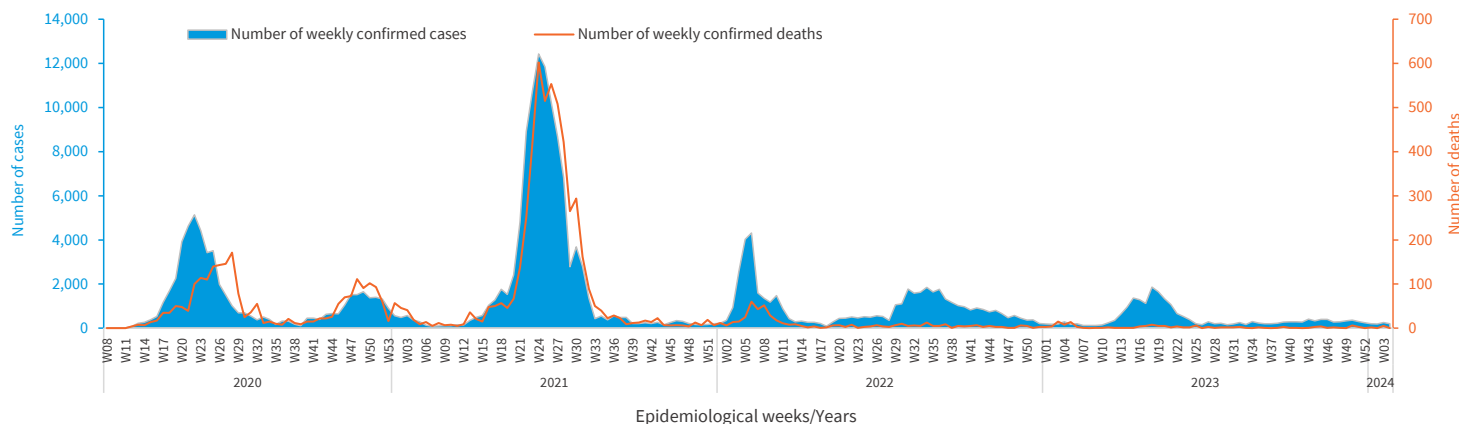


Figure 5. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 27 Jan 2024

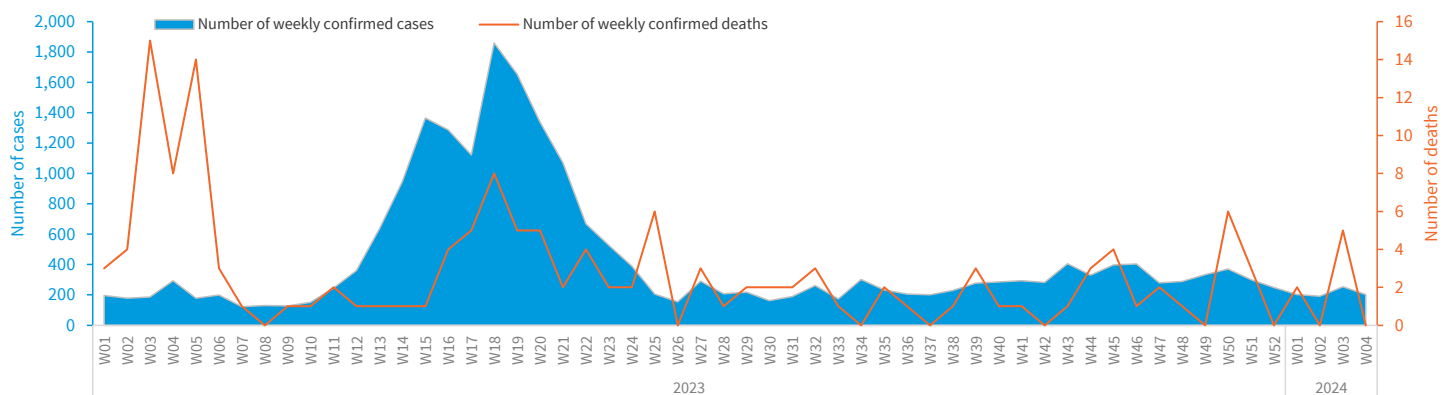
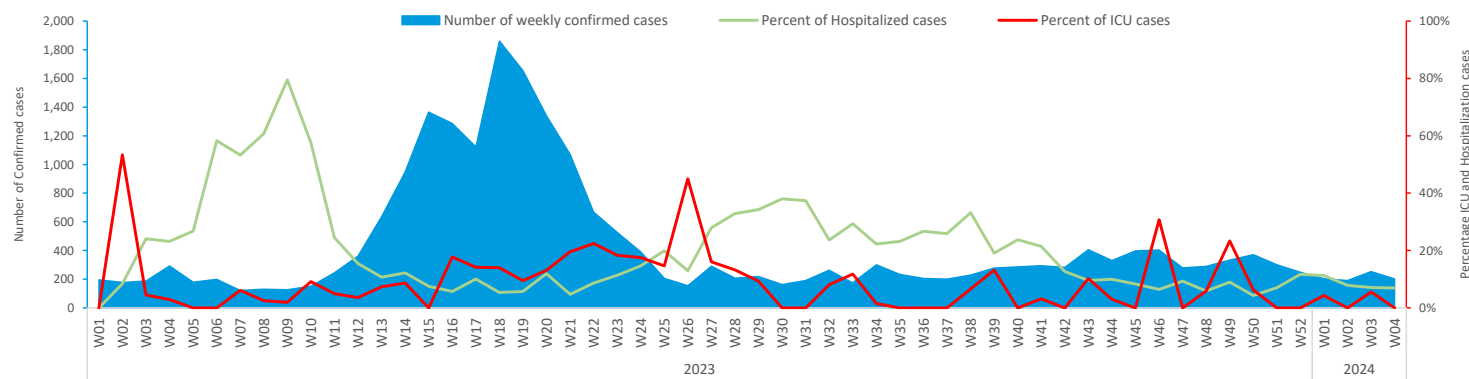


Figure 6. The weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan between 01 Jan 2023 to 27 Jan 2024



Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01-27 Jan 2024)

Table 3: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

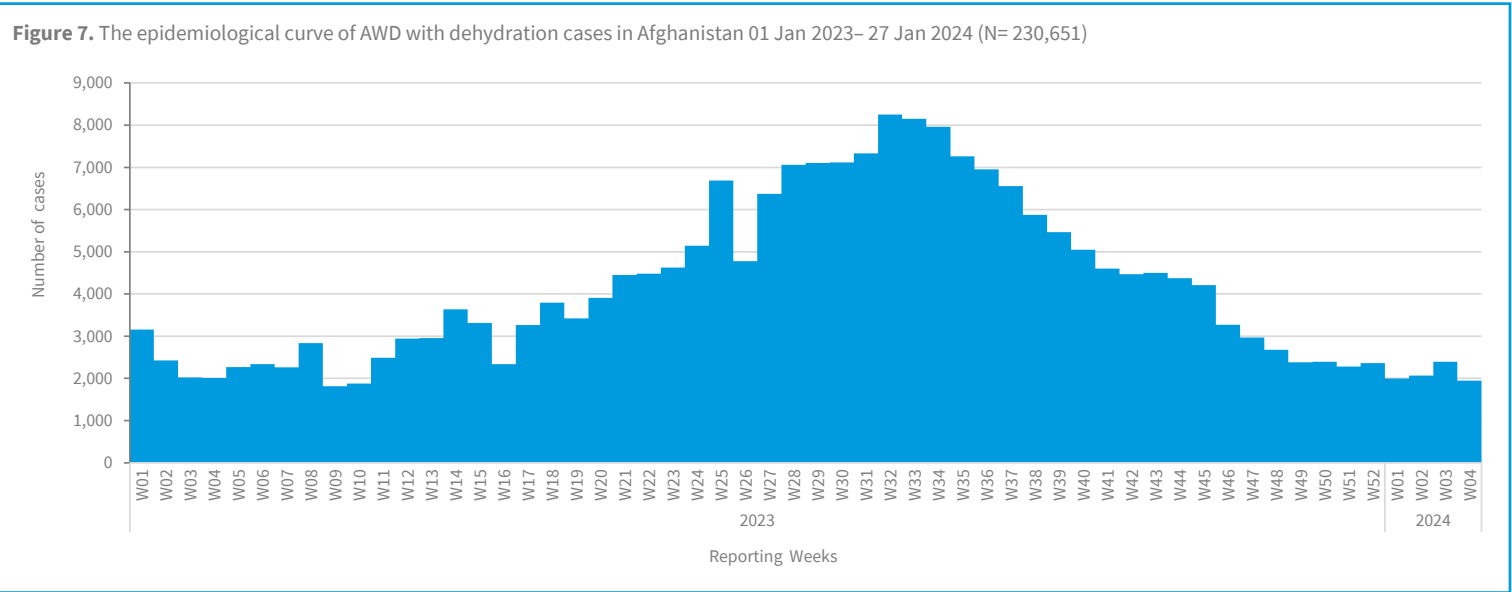
Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	2,382	2,395	2,281	2,363	1,995	2,068	2,391 *	1,948	
Suspected deaths	4	1	0	1	1	4	3	0	
CFR (%)	0.17	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.19	0.13	0.00	

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 03-2024, the number AWD cases modified from 2,372 to 2,391.



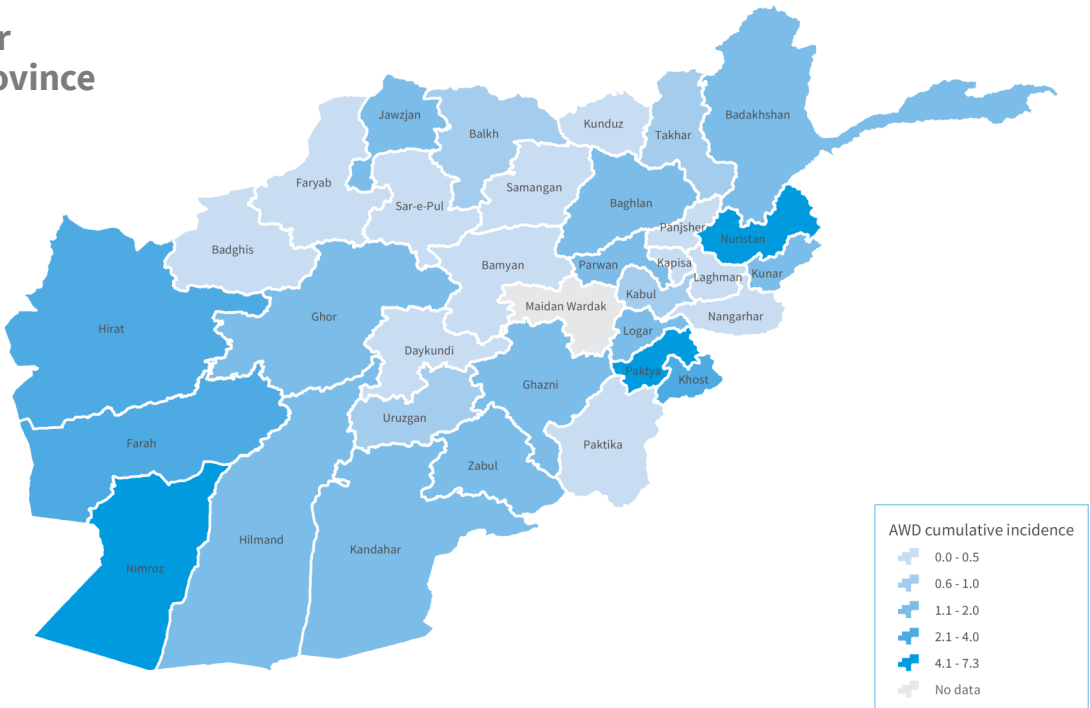
- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023. This decline could be explained by seasonal changes, the conclusion of the summer season in the country.
- During week 04-2024; 1,948 AWD with dehydration cases with no associated deaths were reported from 129 districts compared to 2,391 cases and 3 associated deaths in the previous week (Figures 7 & 8).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 8,402 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 4,632 (55.1%) were under-five children and 4,146 (49.3%) were females.
- During week 04-2024, no new district reported an alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remained at 201 since the beginning of 2024.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 205 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehy-

- dration cases, of which 38 samples were reported positive (positivity rate 18.5%).
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 222,249 AWD with dehydration cases (49.8% female, 57.1% under-5) and 101 deaths (44.6% females, 81.2% under-5) with CFR=0.2% were reported. Also, 6,079 RDTs were conducted, of which 1,333 were positive (positivity rate 21.9%).



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AWD with dehydration
cumulative incidence per
10,000 population by province
01 - 27 Jan 2024

Figure 8. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 – 27 Jan 2024



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial level.
- An integrated AWD preparedness plan has been developed jointly between Health and WASH clusters and endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Surveillance

- During week 04-2024, a total of 2,485 bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed to 34 provincial NDSR offices across the country for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities.
- 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

- Case management kits supplied during 2023 are being used for responding to AWD with dehydration outbreak cases reported since 01 Jan 2024.

Laboratory and Supplies

- Laboratory kits supplied during 2023 are being used for the confirmation of AWD with dehydration outbreak cases reported since 01 Jan 2024.

WASH

During the last two weeks of Jan 2024 (16 - 27 Jan 2024), the following activities were conducted as WASH response:

- Distribution of hygiene kits to 3,500 individuals in 4 provinces (Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Urozgan).
- Distribution of hand washing soaps to 553 individuals in Urozgan province.
- Distribution of aqua-tabs to 1,659 individuals in Urozgan provinces.
- Conducting hygiene promotion sessions reaching 7,700 individuals in different districts of 7 provinces (Ghazni, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktya, and Urozgan).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- RCCE materials printed in 2023 are being used in outbreak investigations and response to AWD with dehydration outbreaks, since Jan 2024.

Measles Outbreak

(01-27 Jan 2024)

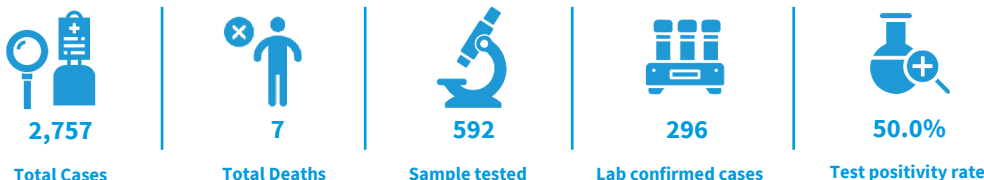


Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

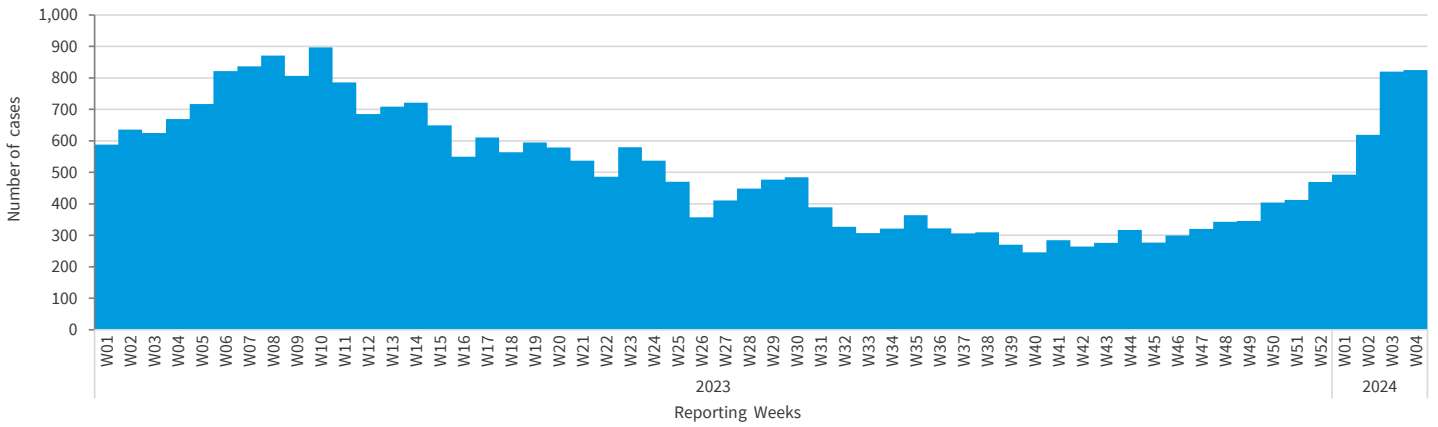
Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	345	404	412	469	493	619	820 *	825	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 03-2024, the number suspected measles cases modified from 817 to 820.

- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases demonstrates a rising trend since the third week of November 2023, which could be explained by increased community transmission exacerbated by the winter season and low immunization coverage (Figure 9).
- During week 04-2024, a total of 825 suspected cases and 3 measles-associated deaths were reported which shows a stabilization in the number of suspected measles cases and an increase in measles associated deaths from 2 in week 03-2024 to 3 in week 04-2024.
- The 3 deceased cases were: two under-five females from Balkh and Kandahar, and one under-five male from Jawzjan provinces.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 2,757 suspected measles cases and 7 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 2,210 (80.2%) were under-five children and 1,263 (45.8%) were females.
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 25,876 suspected measles cases (47.1% female, 71.5% under 5) and 64 deaths (43.8% females, 92.2% under 5) with CFR=0.2% were reported. Also, 5,497 samples were tested; of which 2,639 were positive (positivity rate= 48.0%).



Figure 9. The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 to 27 Jan 2024 (N= 28,633)



AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01-27 Jan 2024

Figure 10. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 -27 Jan 2024

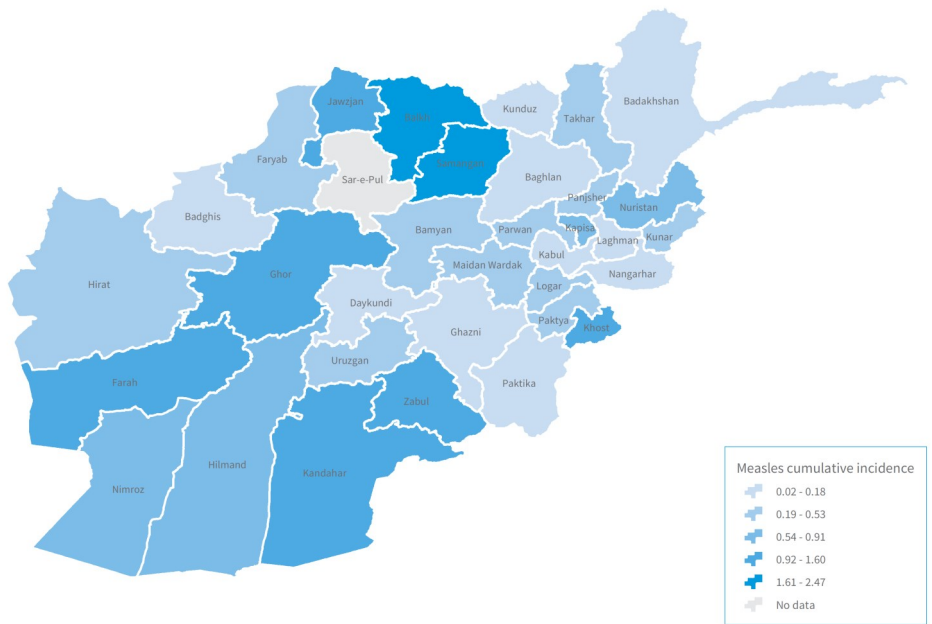
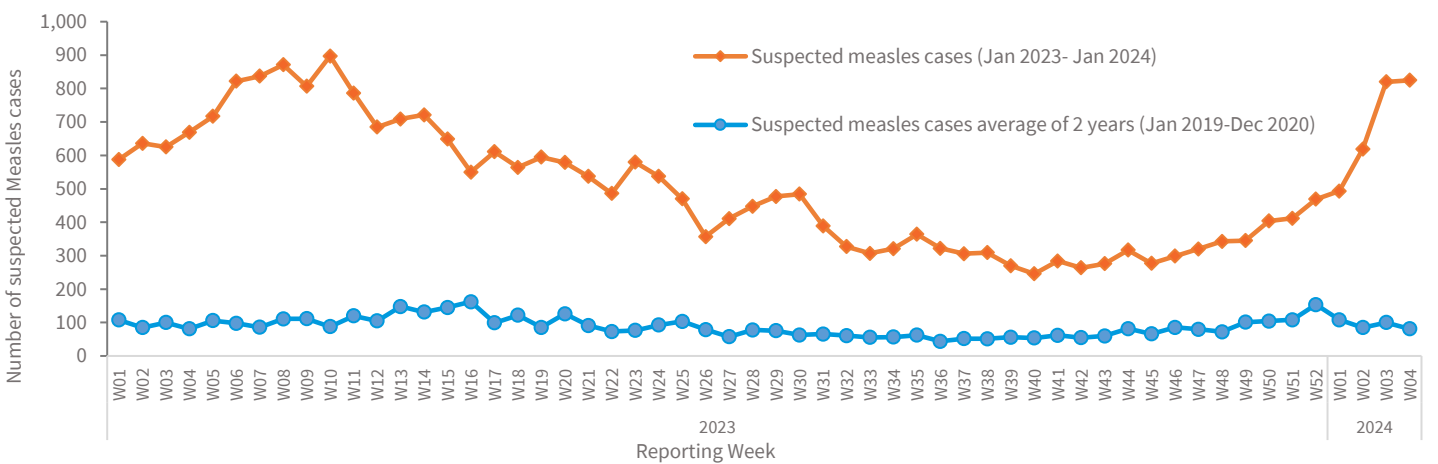


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan



Comparing the 2023-24 trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, measles cases are still occurring at a higher rate during years 2023-24 as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 11).

Preparedness and response to the Measles Outbreak

- During week 04-2024, a total of 1,146 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in various provinces as a response to the measles outbreak by the implementing partner. This brings the total number of children aged 9-59 months vaccinated for measles to 1,221 in targeted provinces across the country since 1 Jan 2024.

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01-27 Jan 2024)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	3	0	2	7	3	10	7	4	
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 epi-curve for Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) indicates a decreasing trend in the number of suspected CCHF cases since 3rd week of September 2023. This decline could be attributed to seasonal changes towards winter and response activities (Figures 12 & 13).
- During week 04-2024, 4 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, compared to 7 cases reported in the previous week (Table 5).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, 24 suspected cases of CCHF with no associated deaths were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 6 (25%) of them were females.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 16 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested and none of them were reported positive (positivity rate 0%).
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 1,243 suspected CCHF cases (27.2% females, 0.2% under-5) and 114 deaths (27.2% female, 100% over 5) with CFR=9.2% were reported. Also, 1,098 samples were tested; of which 383 were positive (positivity rate 34.9%).

Figure 12. The epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 27 Jan 2024, (N=1,267)

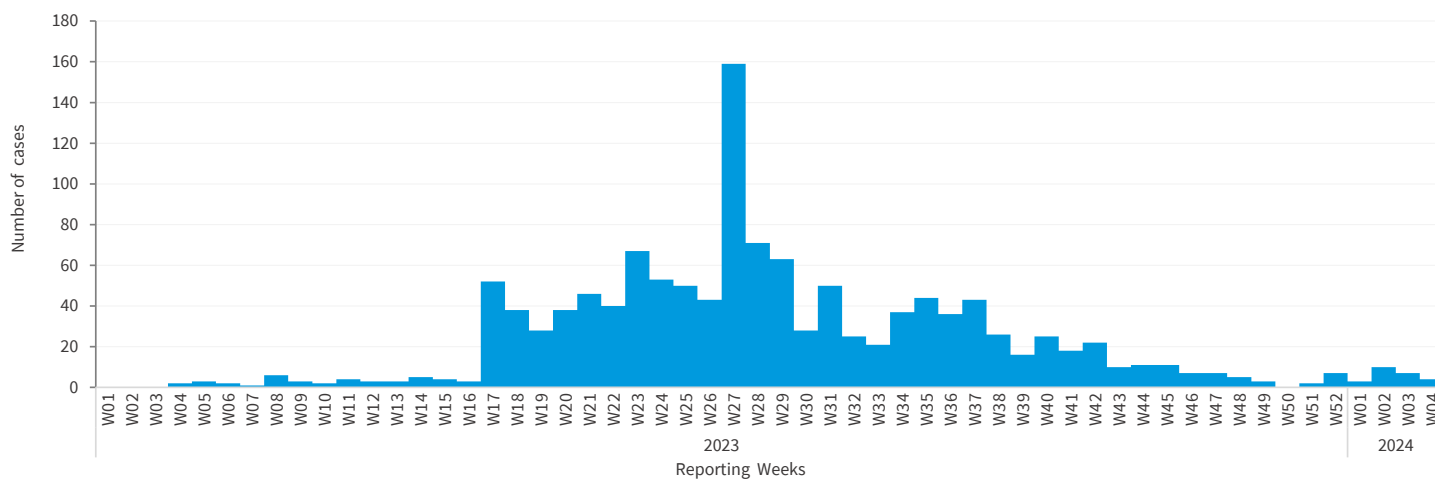
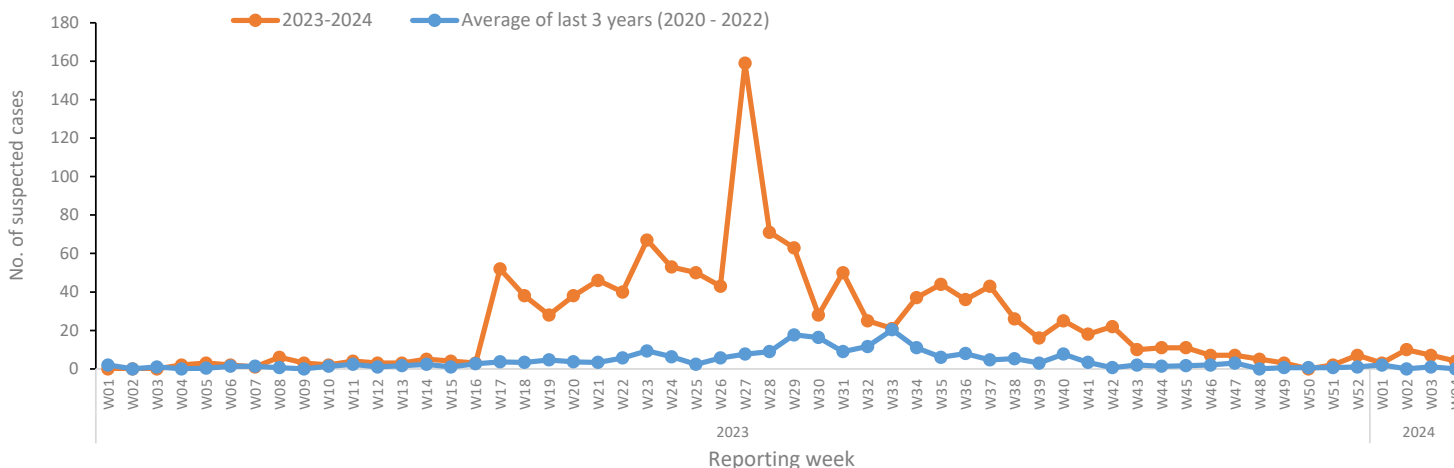


Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan

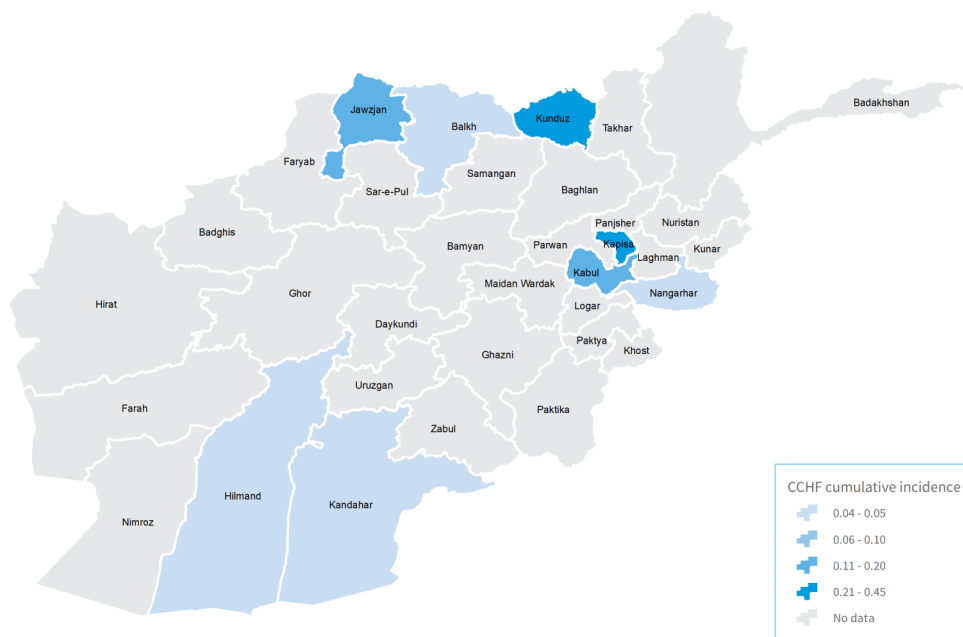




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Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province 01-27 Jan 2024

Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 -27 Jan 2024



Response to CCHF outbreak

Coordination and leadership (during 2023)

- A 2-day national workshop was conducted in Kabul-Afghanistan focused on implementing the One Health approach and involved various stakeholders, including experts from organizations like WHO, FAO, MoPH, NEPA, MAIL, Dairy Form Union, and Kabul University's veterinary department. The workshop covered six key areas: leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, highlighting existing structures, gaps, and challenges. The main recommendations from the workshop included securing government support and creating a strategic national plan, along with establishing a national-level Technical Working Group (TWG).

Surveillance

- During week 04-2024, a total of 219 tick samples, and 106 blood samples were collected from cattle in 4 provinces (Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Takhar). This brings the total number of ticks and blood samples to 487 and 277, respectively since Jan 2024.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 8,567 households' animal stables have been sprayed in different districts of 4 provinces (Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Takhar).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, awareness sessions related to the source of CCHF, route of transmission, and signs and symptoms of CCHF have been conducted in 13,101 households in various districts of 4 provinces (Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Takhar).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 31 live animal markets have been sprayed for vector control in different districts of 4 provinces (Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Takhar).
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 280 veterinarians have been trained on the case definition of CCHF as well as the collection, storage, and transportation of the blood and tick samples to the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) for confirmation and vector control activities.

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.

Laboratory and supplies

- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 469 doses of ribavirin 200mg film-coated tablets and 1,530 ribavirin injections have been supplied to 7 WHO sub-offices across the country.

Case management

- Case management supplies delivered during 2023 are being used for responding to CCHF outbreak cases reported since 01 Jan 2024.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Since Jan 2024, 700 butchers received training on preventive measures against CCHF and the safe handling of animals through the partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01-27 Jan 2024)

204
Total Cases

0
Total Deaths

68
Sample tested

48
Lab confirmed cases

70.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (03 Dec 2023 - 27 Jan 2024)

Indicators	W49	W50	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	77	33	61	44	50	31	55	68	
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	

- Overall, the epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week of Aug 2023; this could be linked to increased vector activity and enhanced surveillance in vector-borne disease detection and reporting (Figures 15 & 16).
- During week 04-2024, 68 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported from Nangarhar (63) and Ghazni (5) provinces compared to 55 suspected dengue fever cases reported in the previous week.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 204 suspected cases of dengue fever and no deaths were reported (Figure 17), out of which, 124 (60.8%) were females and 2 (1.0%) were under 5 years of age.
- The first-ever confirmed cases of dengue fever (Elisa, IGM positive) were reported from the provincial hospital of Ghazni province during week 03-2024. The confirmed cases were a male 14-year-old and a female 11-year-old from the Langar Khail area of Ajeristan district, Ghazni province. A family of 6 members was admitted to the PH hospital of Ghazni province on 16 Jan 2024 with fever, cough, sore throat, anorexia, malaise, nausea, and general body pain. After lab examination for dengue by ELISA, the results of 2 individuals were confirmed positive.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 68 samples have been collected, out of which 48 were confirmed (positivity 70.6%).
- Between Jan and Dec 2023, a total of 1,496 suspected dengue fever cases (48.3% females, 2.3% under 5 children) and 1 death with CFR=0.07% were reported. Also, 921 samples were tested; out of which, 356 (positivity rate 38.7%) were positive.

Figure 15. The epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan 2023 – 27 Jan 2024, (N=1,700)

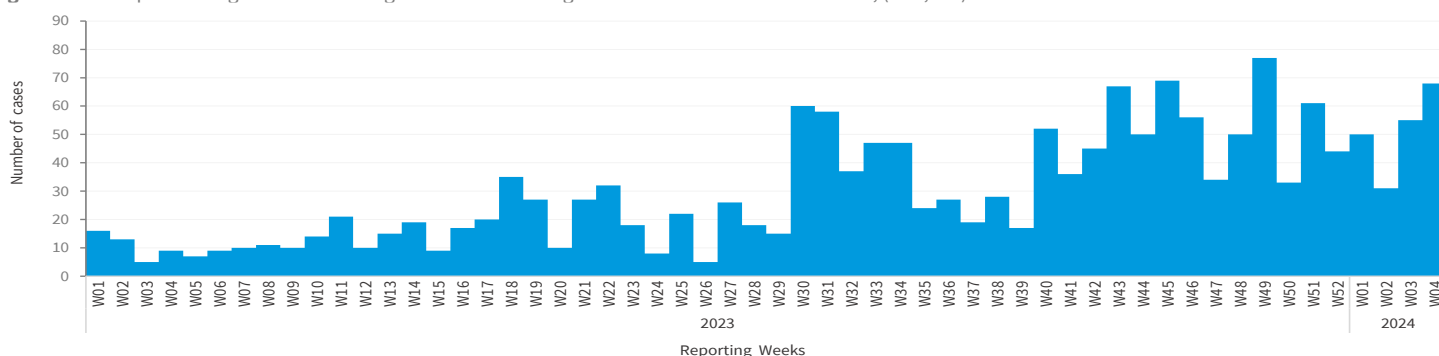


Figure 16. Comparison of trend curves for suspected dengue fever cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024,

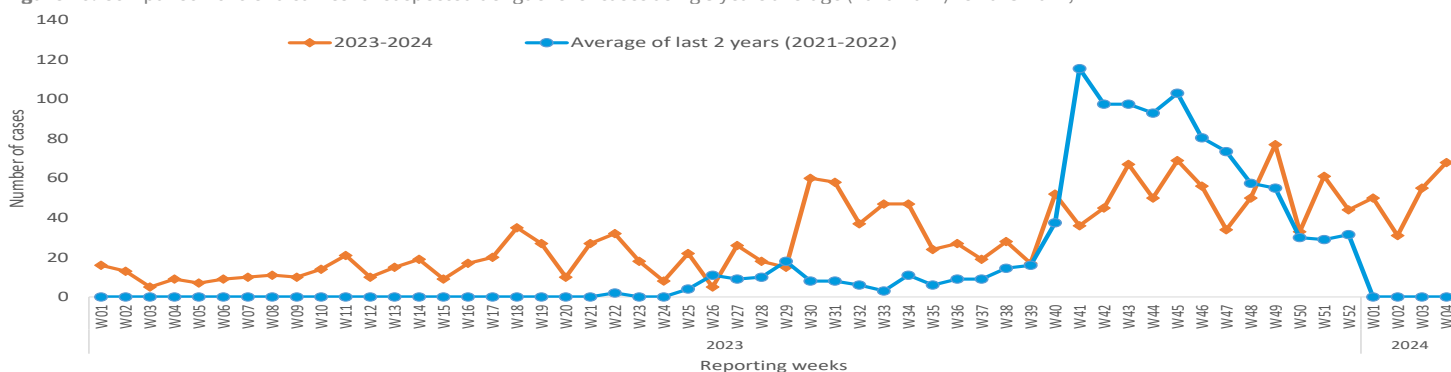
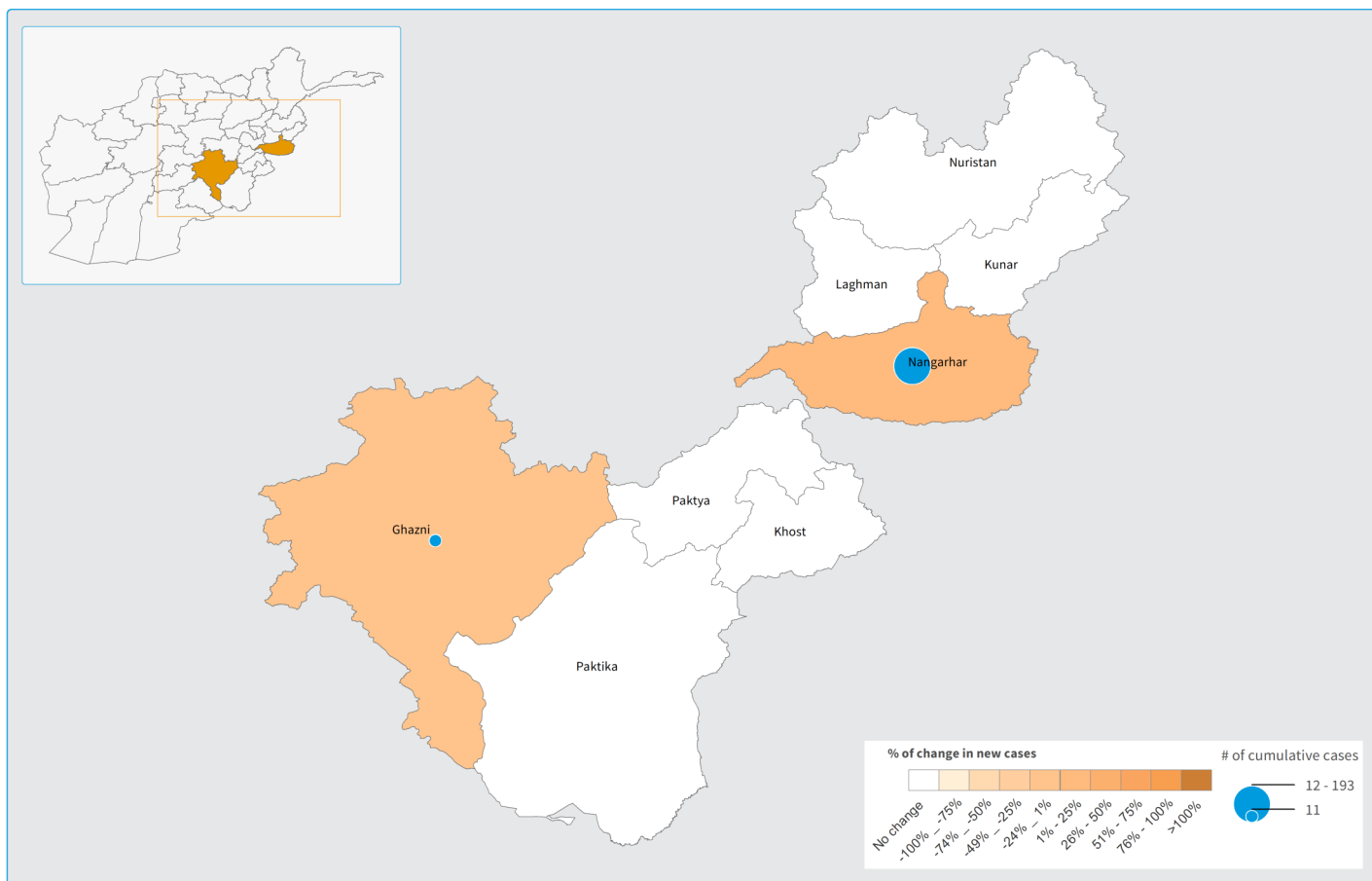


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01-27 Jan 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 03 and 04, 2024)



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: 27 Jan 2024.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- Since Jan 2024, a total of 380 Kits (10 tests/kit) of dengue RDTs have been delivered to Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar NDSR offices.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees (EPR) are active at the provincial levels.
- 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 dengue fever outbreaks.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds

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