



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #06-2024

No. 06 (04 - 10 Feb 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	ARI	COVID-19	AWD	Measles	CCHF	Dengue fever
Cumulative Cases 2024	244,231	1,314	11,971	4,871	29	314
Death 2024 (CFR %)	576 (0.2)	8 (0.6)	8 (0.1)	18 (0.4)	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 all 613 sentinel sites (completeness 100.0%).

*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 Jan-10 Feb 2024)



***244,231**

Total ARI Cases



***576**

Total Deaths



****499**

Samples tested for influenza



****21**

Lab confirmed influenza cases



4.2%

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 the ARI season and sending them to the National Influenza Center (NIC) for testing.

Table 1: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W51	W52	W1-24	W2-24	W3-24	W4-24	W5-24	W6-24	Trend lines
Suspected cases	35,793	38,719	38,071	38,881	42,010	41,919	40,339	43,011	
Suspected deaths	75	79	91	106	95	91	98	95	
CFR (%)	0.21	0.20	0.24	0.27	0.23	0.22	0.24	0.22	

- 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 06-2024, a total of 43,011 cases of ARI pneumonia and 95 associated deaths were reported compared to 40,339 cases and 98 deaths reported in the previous week, which shows a continuation of the high trend in the number of ARI-pneumonia cases and associated deaths.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 244,231 ARI-pneumonia cases and 576 associated deaths were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 153,835 (63.0%) were under-five children and 120,469 (49.3%) were females. The cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province is shown in (Figure 2).
- Out of total deaths, 499 (86.6%) were under-five children and 254 (44.1%) 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).



Figure 1. The epidemiological curve of ARI Pneumonia cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 – 10 Feb 2024 (N=1,628,877)

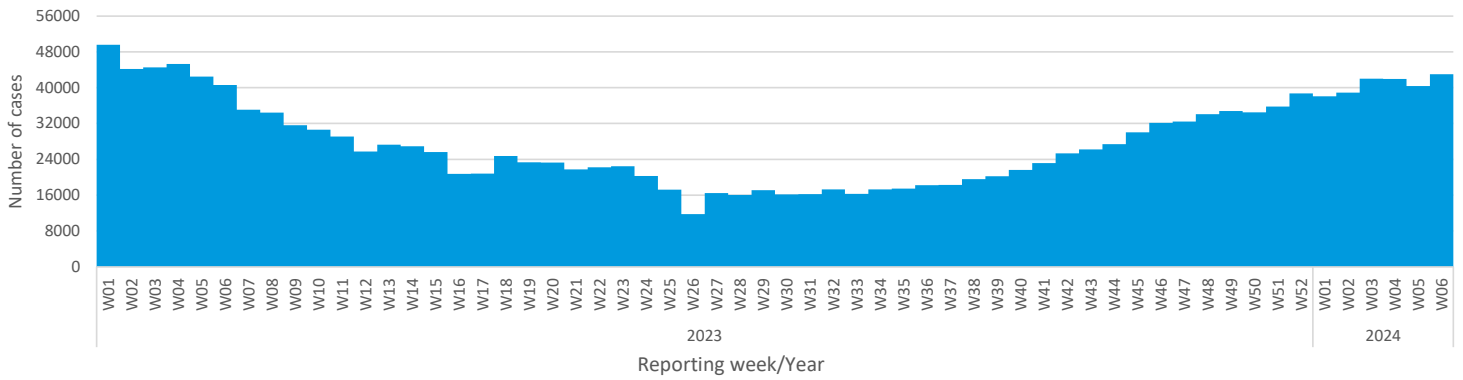


Figure 2. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan 01 Jan-10 Feb 2024

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

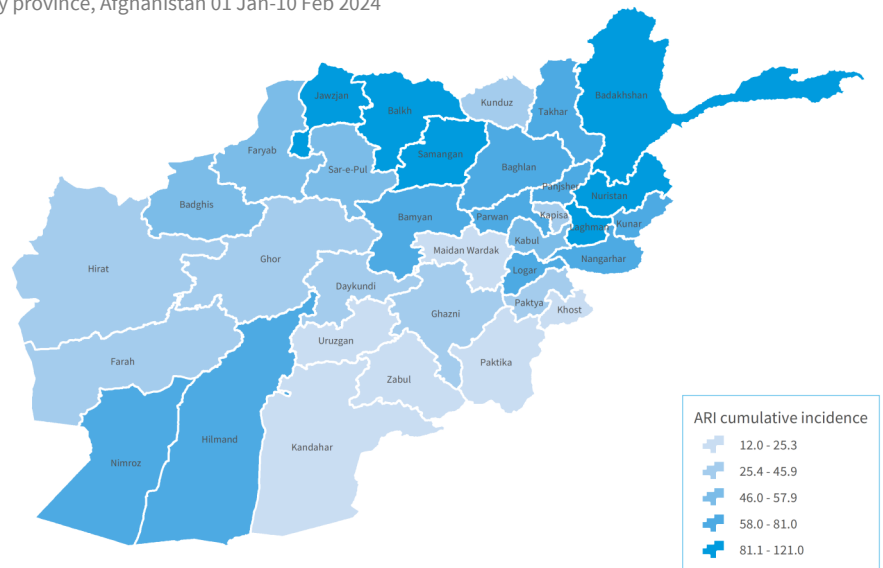
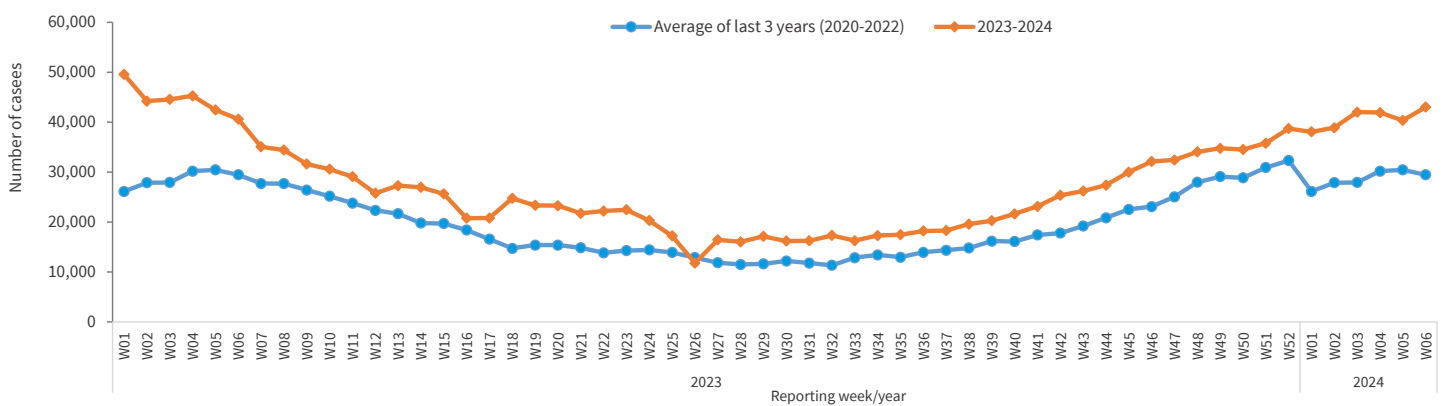


Figure 3. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024



Updates on the response activities to acute respiratory infection outbreak

Lab and supplies

- Since 1 Jan 2024, a total of 6,500 viral transport media (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 in 2023-24, a total of 397 case management kits have been prepositioned in the WHO main office and regional sub-offices.

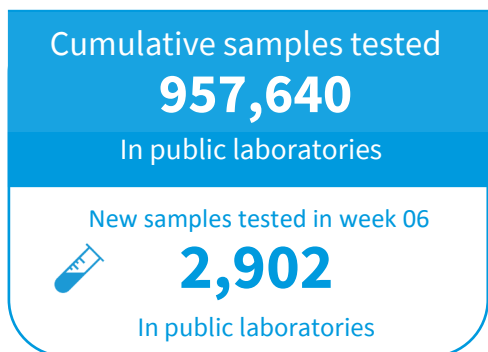
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- During week 06-2024, WHO officially handed over 85,000 (60,000 Poster and 25,000 Brochures) information, educa-

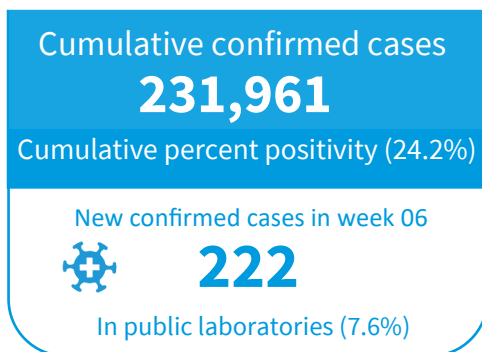
tion, and communication (IEC) materials on ARI to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as part of the country-wide winterization response to ARI. These IEC materials will be used in health facilities and affected communities across the country.

- 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.

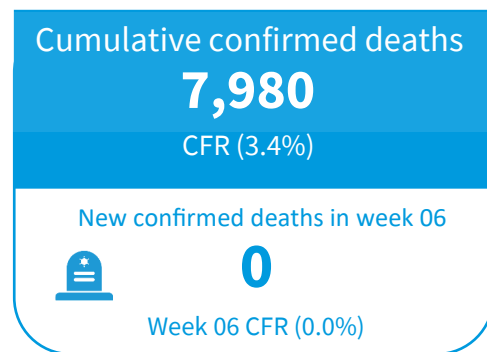
COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 10 Feb 2024)



+4.4%



-5.5%



-100.0%

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



*Technical problems encountered in the system and COVID-19 vaccination updates are not visible, therefore the figures were not updated.

* The denominator is 43,100,596 based on OCHA estimation 2024

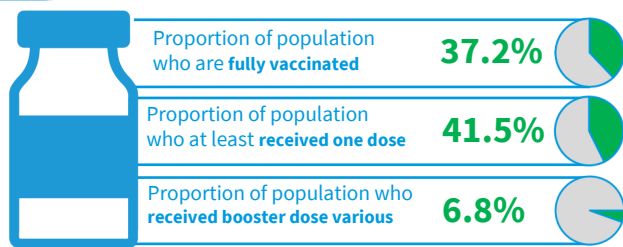


Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W51	W52	W01	W02	W03	W04	W05	W06	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	3,372	2,872	2,566	2,182	3,176	2,363	2,781 *	2,902	
Confirmed cases	300	248	203	191	253	210	235 *	222	
Percent positivity (%)	8.9	8.6	7.9	8.8	8.0	8.9	8.5	7.6	
Deaths	3	0	2	0	5	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 05-2024, the number of samples tested, and the number of confirmed cases were modified from 2,405 to 2,781 and from 210 to 235, respectively.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization at lower level 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 (37.2%).
- During week 6-2024, a total of 2,902 samples were tested in public labs, of which 222 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 7.6%).
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases shows stabilization during week 06-2024, with no associated death reported compared to one death reported in the previous week (Figures 4-5).
- During week 06-2024, among 222 confirmed cases, 9.0% (20 cases) were hospitalized while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, 957,640 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- 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 – 10 Feb 2024 (cases=231,961)

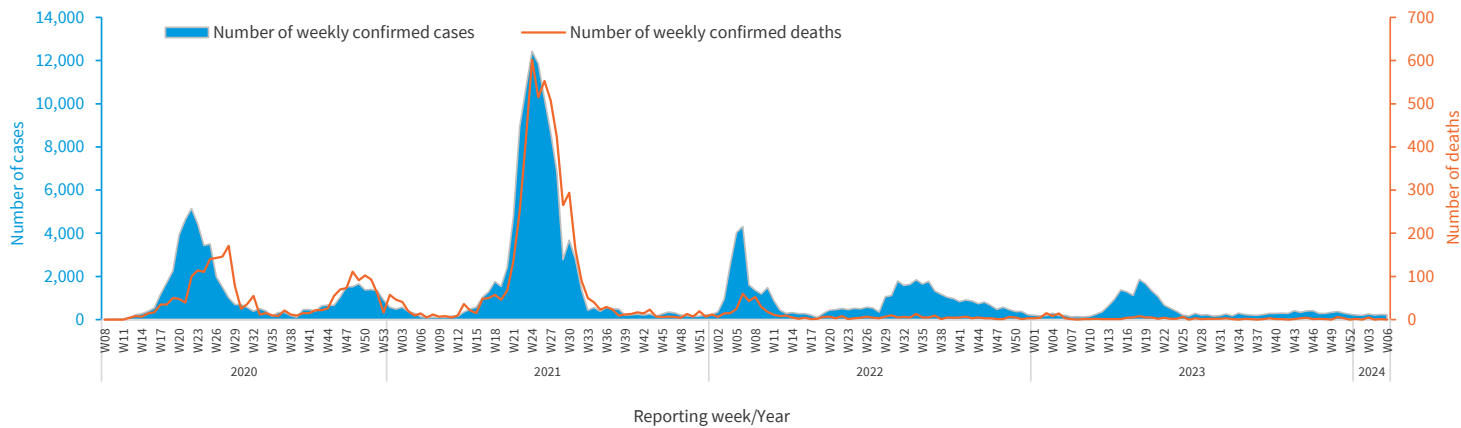


Figure 5. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 10 Feb 2024 (cases=24,078)

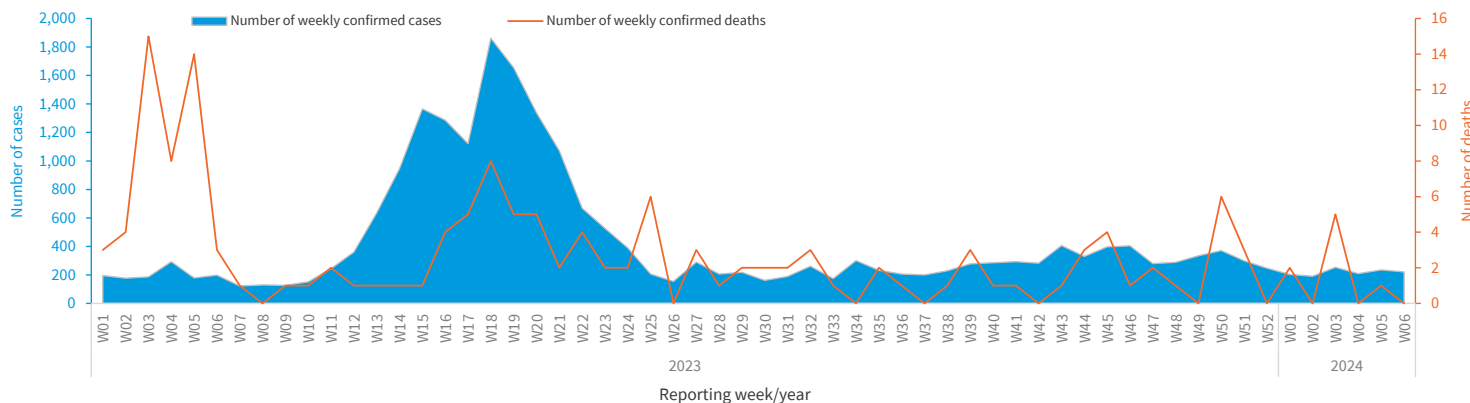
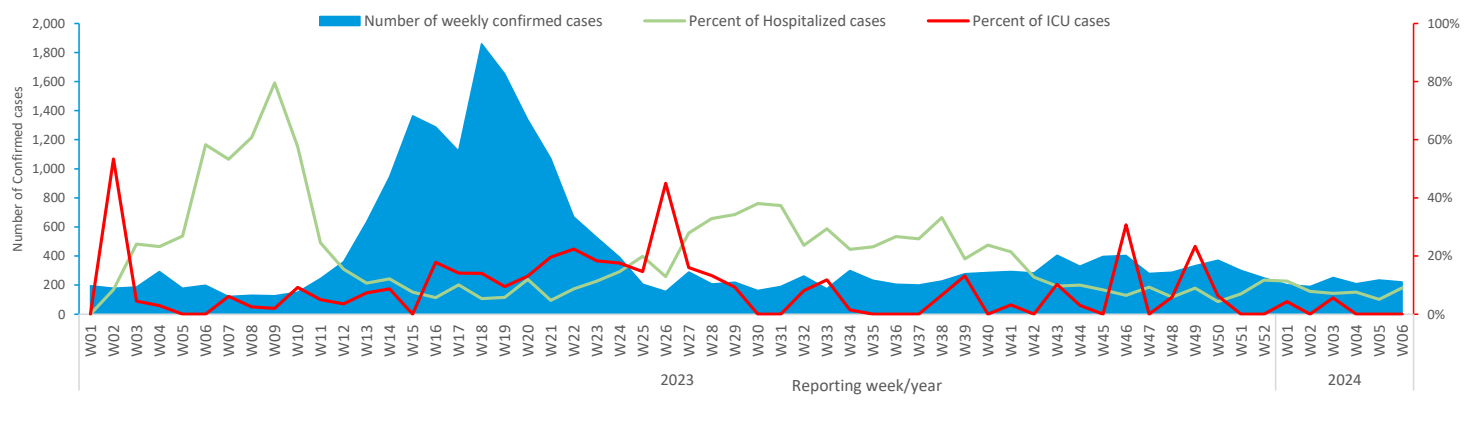


Figure 6. The weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan - 01 Jan 2023 and 10 Feb 2024 (cases=24,078)



Response

During week 06-2024, a total of 50 kits (25 test/kit) of COVID-19 RDTs were delivered to each of the Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, and Kunduz NDSR offices.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan-10 Feb 2024)

Table 3: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

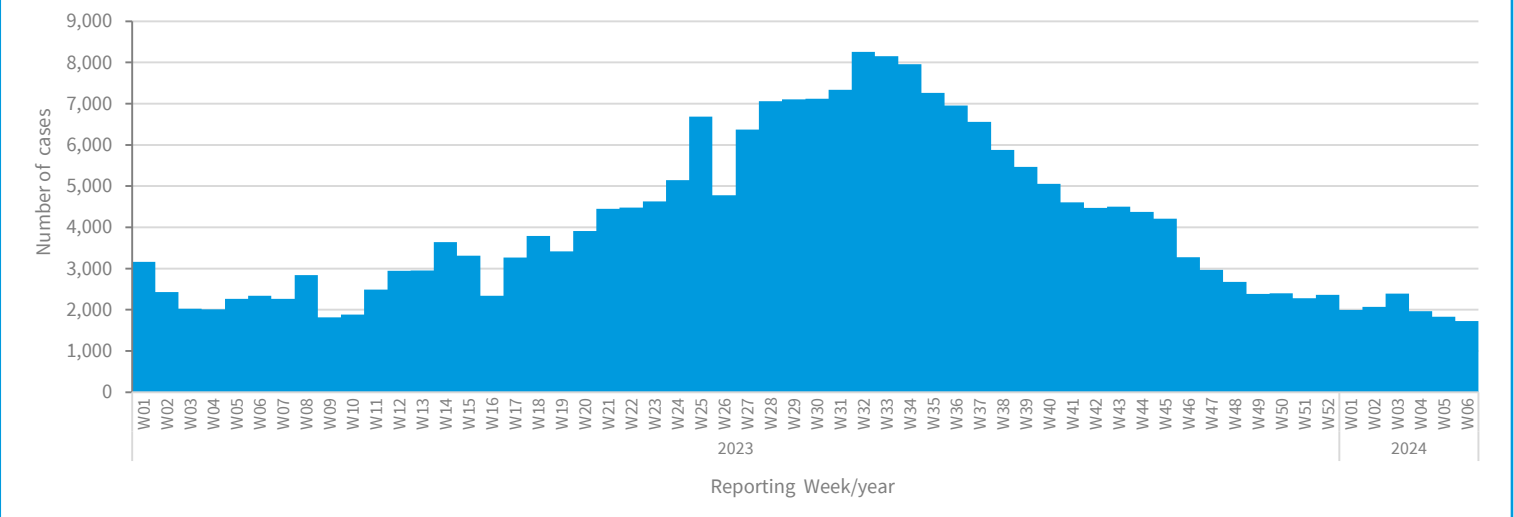
Indicators	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	2,281	2,363	1,995	2,068	2,391	1,966	1,829	1,722	
Suspected deaths	0	1	1	4	3	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	



- 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 06-2024; 1,722 AWD with dehydration cases with no associated deaths were reported from 111 districts compared to 1,829 cases in the previous week (Figures 7). Provincial distribution of AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population illustrated in figure 8.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 11,971 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 6,504 (54.3%)

- were under-five children and 5,968 (49.9%) were females.
- During week 06-2024, no new district reported an alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remained at 213 since the beginning of 2024.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 317 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases, of which 53 tests turned positive (positivity rate 16.7%).

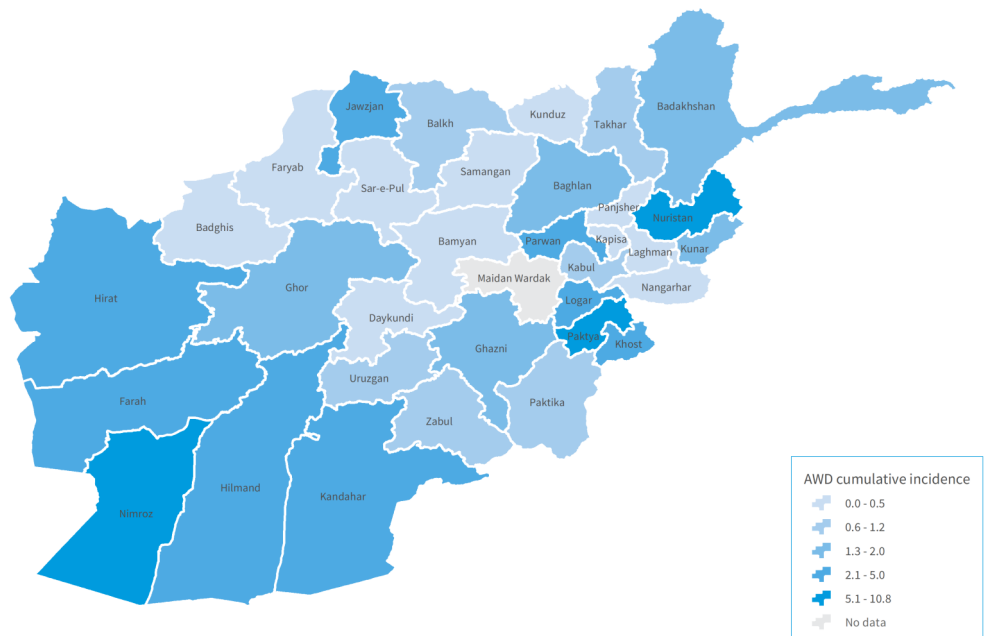
Figure 7. The epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023– 10 Feb 2024 (N= 234,220)



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

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



Updates on the preparedness and response to the AWD with dehydration outbreak

- The case management kits, lab reagents and RCCE materials supplied during 2023 are being used for the response to AWD with dehydration outbreaks reported during 2024.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, RCCE materials printed in 2023 are being used in outbreak investigations and response to AWD with dehydration outbreaks.

Measles Outbreak

(01 Jan-03 Feb 2024)



Total Cases



Total Deaths



Sample tested



Lab confirmed cases



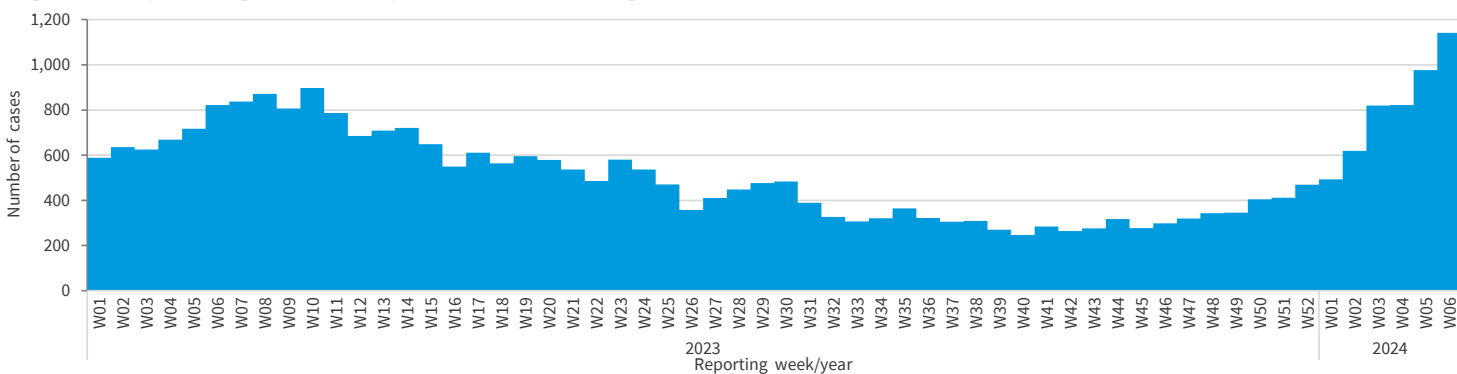
Test positivity rate

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	412	469	493	619	820	822	976	1,141	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	2	2	3	7	4	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	

- 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 06-2024, a total of 1,141 suspected cases and 4 measles-associated deaths were reported which shows a 16.9% increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared to previous week 05-2024.
- The 4 deceased cases were reported from 3 provinces: Jawzjan (2), Kapisa (1), and Zabul (1) and all of them were under five males.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 4,871 suspected measles cases and 18 deaths (CFR=0.4%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 3,936 (80.8%) were under-five children and 2,238 (45.9%) were females.

Figure 9. The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 to 10 Feb 2024 (N= 30,747)



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

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

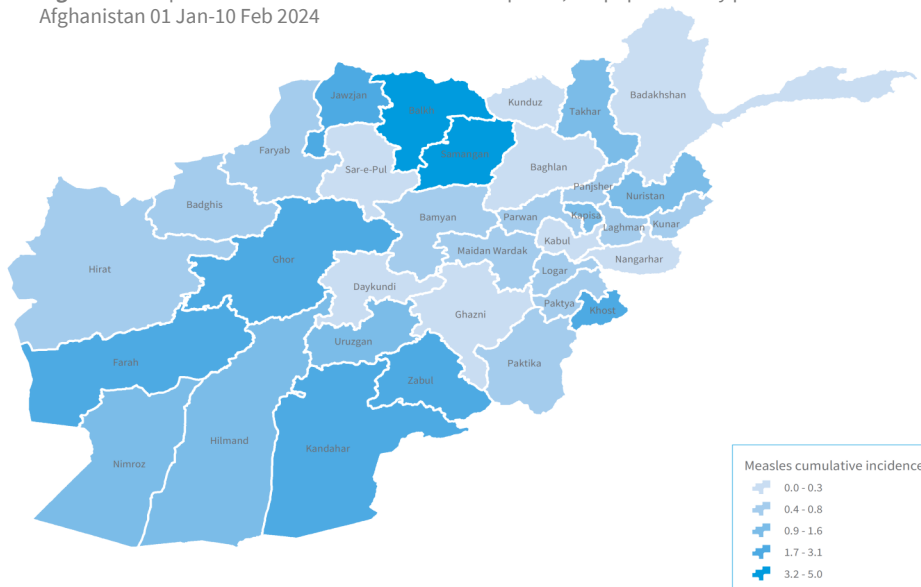
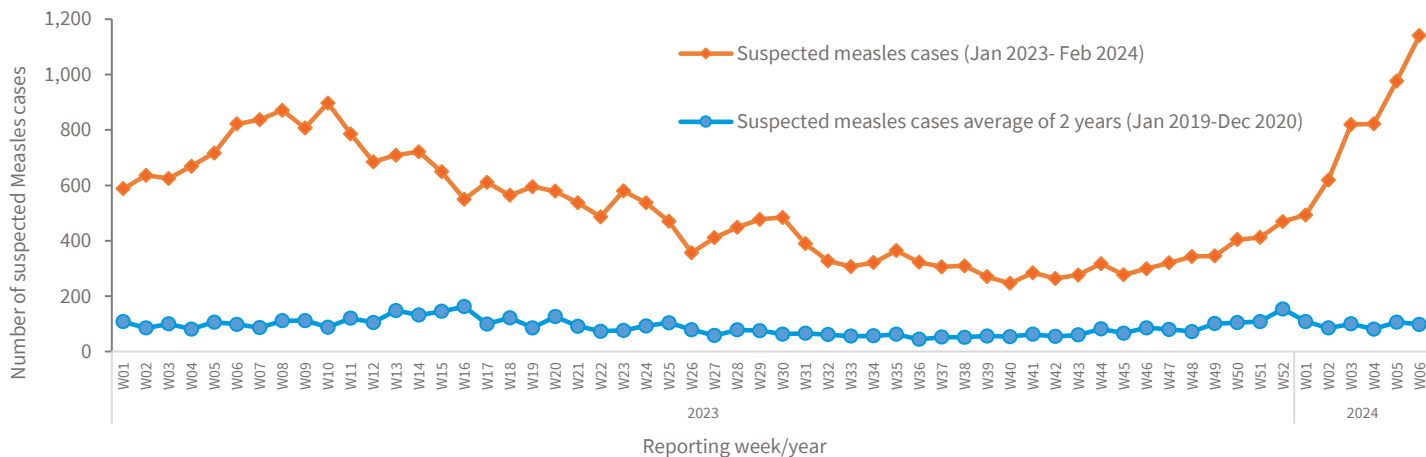




Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan



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).

Updates on the Preparedness and Response to the Measles Outbreak

- During week 06-2024, a total of 563 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in Urozgan and Badghis provinces as a response to the measles outbreak by the implementing partners. This brings the total number of vaccinated children to 1,784 since Jan 2024.

**Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
(01 Jan-10 Feb 2024)**

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	2	7	3	10	7	4	2	3	
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 06-2024, 3 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, compared to 2 cases reported in the previous week (Table 5).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 29 suspected cases of CCHF with no associated deaths were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 7 (24.1%) of them were females.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 20 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, of which none of them were reported positive (positivity rate 0.0%).

Figure 12: The epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 10 Feb 2024, (N=1,272)

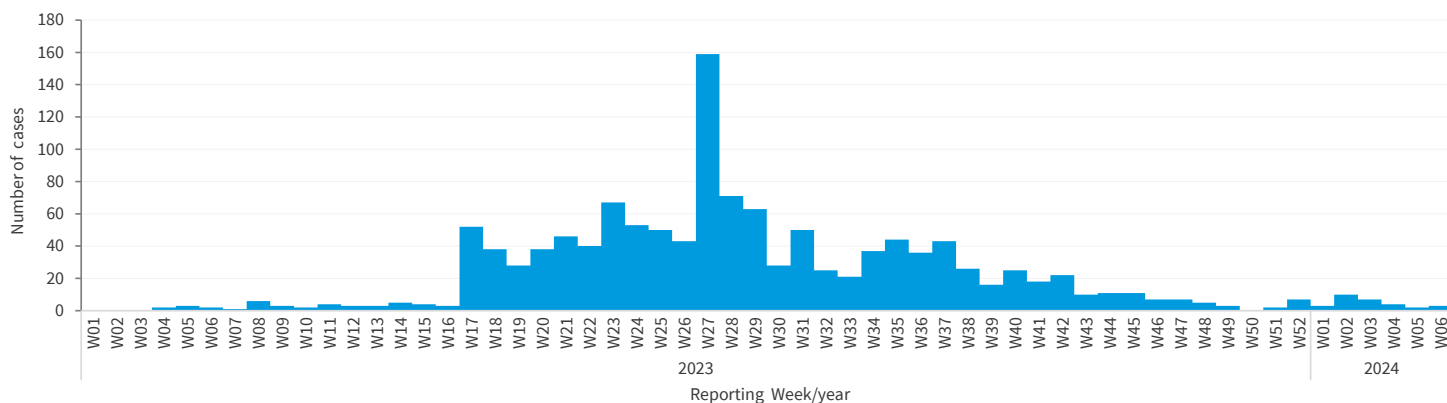
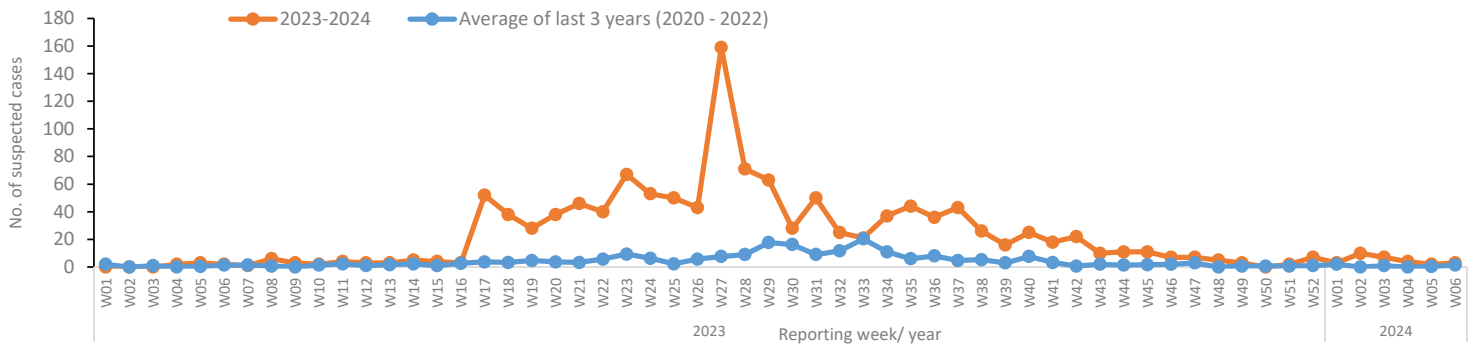


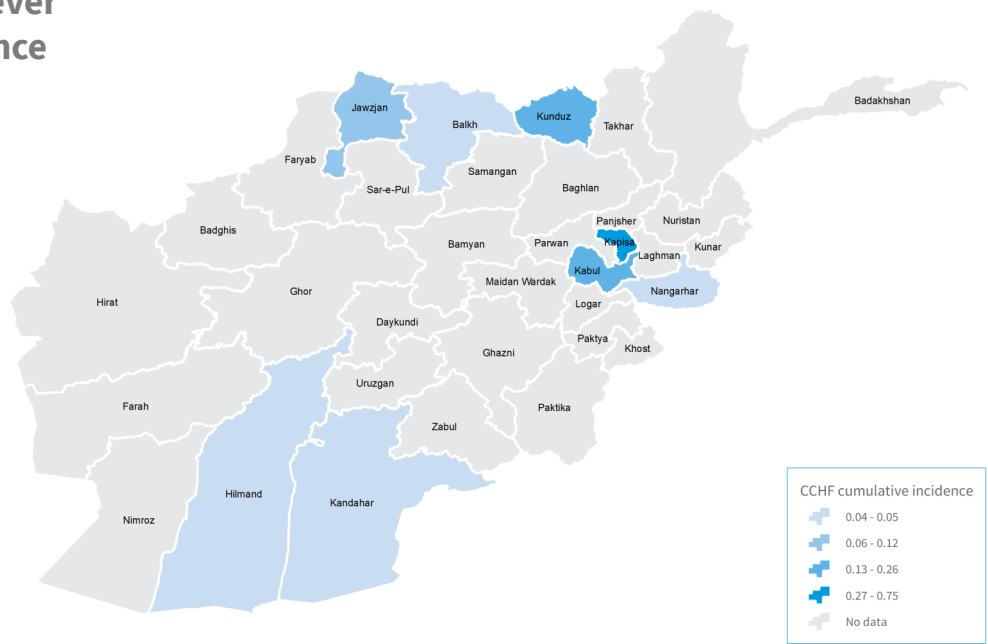
Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan



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Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province 01 Jan -10 Feb 2024

Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan -10 Feb 2024



Updates on the response to CCHF outbreak.

- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 469 doses of ribavirin 200mg tablets and 1,530 ribavirin injections have been supplied to 7 WHO sub-offices across the country.
- Since Jan 2024, the following activities have been conducted as an outbreak preparedness and response to CCHF in 7 provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Takhar) through the partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
 - A total of 973 tick samples, and 473 blood samples have been collected from cattle.
 - A total of 23,575 households' animal stables and 46 live animal markets as well as 36 commercial dairy forms have been sprayed.
 - Awareness sessions related to the source of CCHF, route of transmission, and signs and symptoms of CCHF have been conducted in 60,715 households.
 - A total of 28,043 flyers and stickers were distributed between the targeted communities.
 - 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 La-

boratory (CVDRL) for confirmation and vector control activities.

- A total of 700 butchers received training on preventive measures against CCHF and the safe handling of animals.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan-10 Feb 2024)


314
Total Cases


0
Total Deaths


145
Sample tested


96
Lab confirmed cases






66.2%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Dec 2023-10 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W51	W52	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	61	44	50	31	55	68	56	54	
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 06-2024, 54 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported only from Nangarhar province compared to 56 cases reported during the preceding week.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 314 suspected cases of dengue fever and no deaths were reported (Figure 17), out of which, 202 (64.3%) were females and 2 (0.6%) were under 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 145 samples have been collected, out of which 96 were confirmed positive (positivity 66.2%).

Figure 15. The epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan 2023 – 10 Feb 2024, (N=1,810)

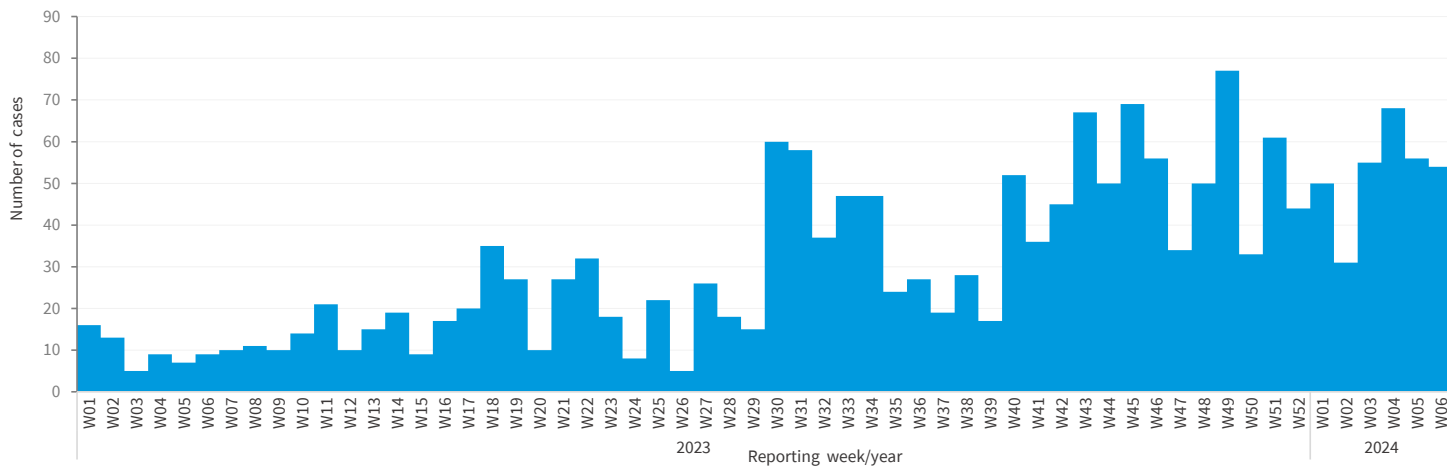


Figure 16: Comparison of trend curves for suspected dengue fever cases using 2 years average (2021-2022) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan

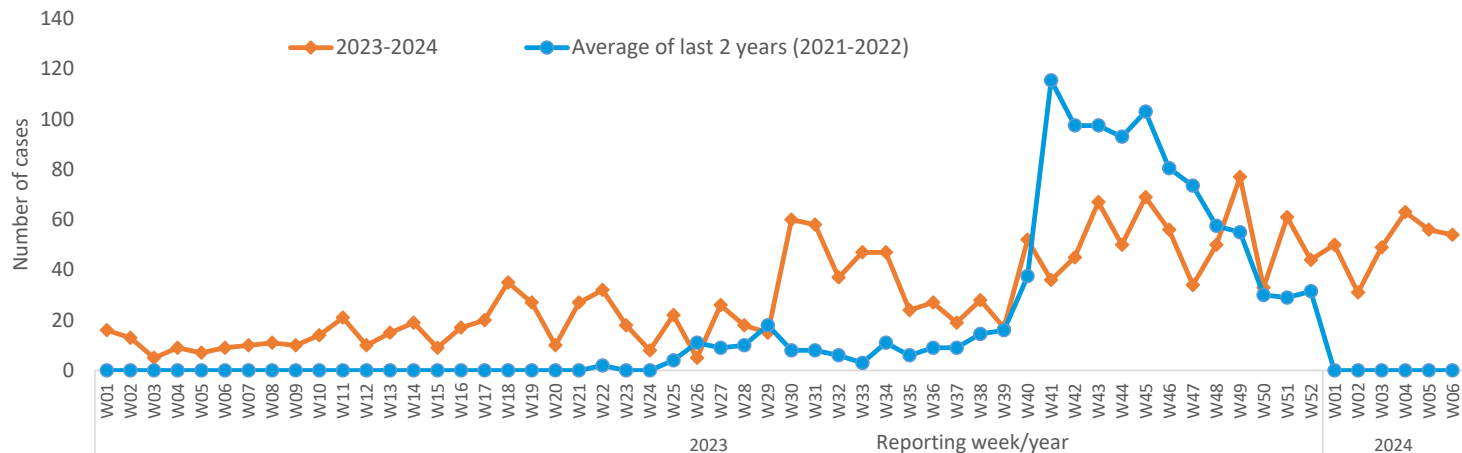
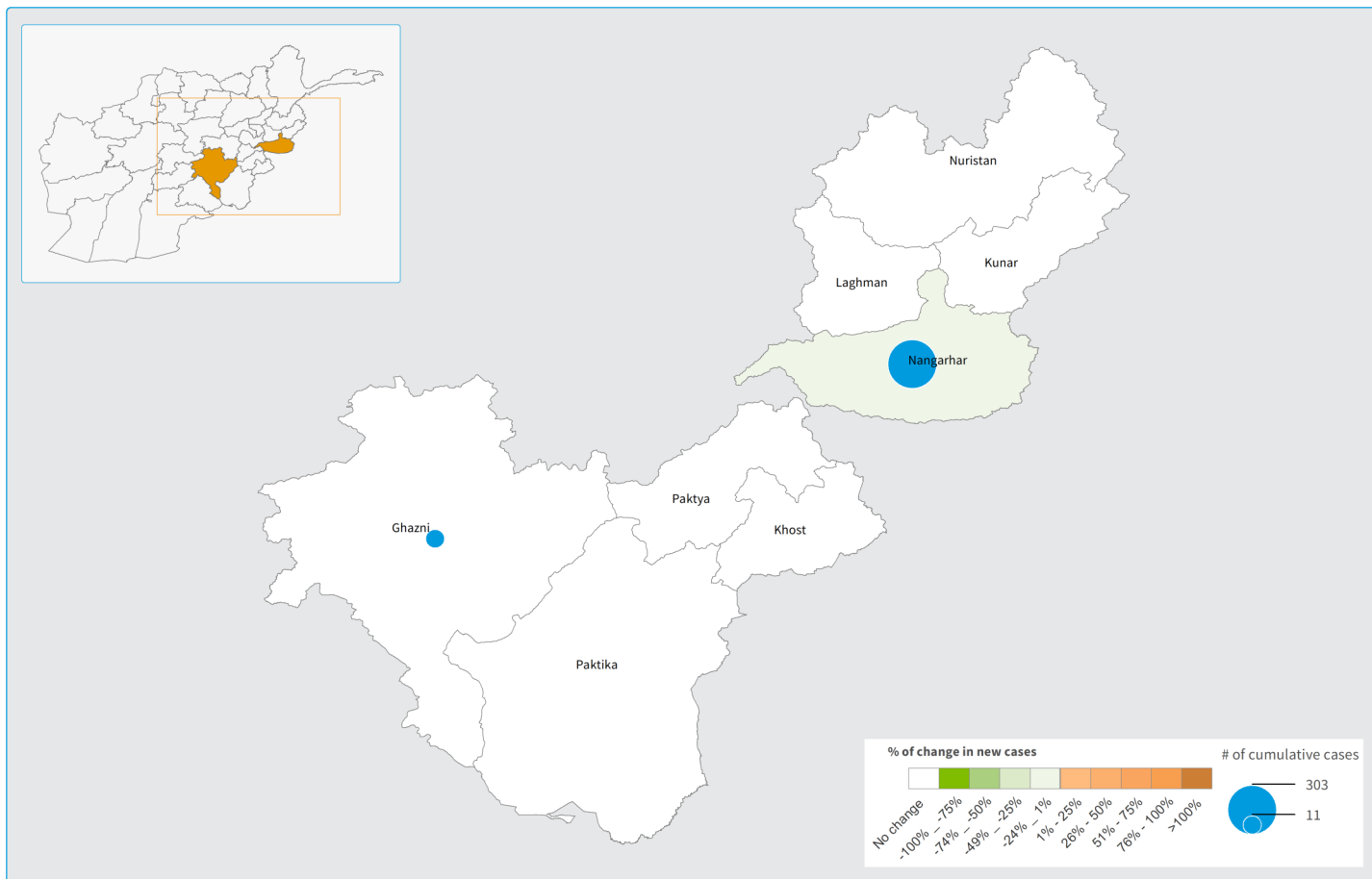


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 10 Feb 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 05 and 06, 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: 10 Feb 2024.

Updates on the response to the dengue fever outbreak

- During week 06-2024, approximately 15,000 Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) were distributed to control the dengue fever vector in Behsood district of Nangarhar province.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 380 Kits (10 tests/kit) of dengue RDTs have been delivered to Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar NDSR offices.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD: Epidemiologist, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Haris Abdianwall, MD, MSc, PhD: Outbreak Preparedness and Response Officer WHO-CO, (abdianwallm@who.int)
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)
- Mr. Abdul Wahid Amiri: Surveillance Data Analyst, WHO-CO, (amiria@who.int)