



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #07-2024

No. 07 (11 - 17 Feb 2024)

| Disease Outbreaks | ARI | COVID-19 | AWD | Measles | CCHF | Dengue fever |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Cumulative Cases 2024 | 286,147 | 1,543 | 13,779 | 5,989 | 33 | 363 |
| Death 2024 (CFR %) | 668 (0.2) | 9 (0.6) | 9 (0.1) | 24 (0.4) | 0 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) |
| Cumulative Cases 2023 | 1,384,646 | *230,658 | 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-17 Feb 2024)



*286,147

Total ARI Cases



*668

Total Deaths



**589

Samples tested for influenza



**23

Lab confirmed influenza cases



3.9%

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 (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W1-24 | W2-24 | W3-24 | W4-24 | W5-24 | W6-24 | W7-24 | Trend lines |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-------------|
| Suspected cases | 38,719 | 38,071 | 38,881 | 42,010 | 41,919 | 40,339 | 43,053 * | 41,874 | |
| Suspected deaths | 79 | 91 | 106 | 95 | 91 | 98 | 95 | 92 | |
| CFR (%) | 0.20 | 0.24 | 0.27 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.22 | |

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 06-2024, the number of cases was modified from 43,011 to 43,053.

- 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 07-2024, a total of 41,874 cases of ARI pneumonia and 92 associated deaths were reported compared to 43,053 cases and 95 deaths reported in the previous week, which shows a slight decrease in the number of ARI pneumonia cases and associated deaths.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 286,147 ARI pneumonia cases and 668 associated deaths were reported from 34 provinces. Out of the total cases, 180,908 (63.2%) were under-five children and 141,583 (49.5%) were females.

The cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province is shown in (Figure 2).

- Out of total deaths, 583 (87.3%) were under-five children and 297 (44.5%) 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 – 17 Feb 2024 (N=1,670,793)

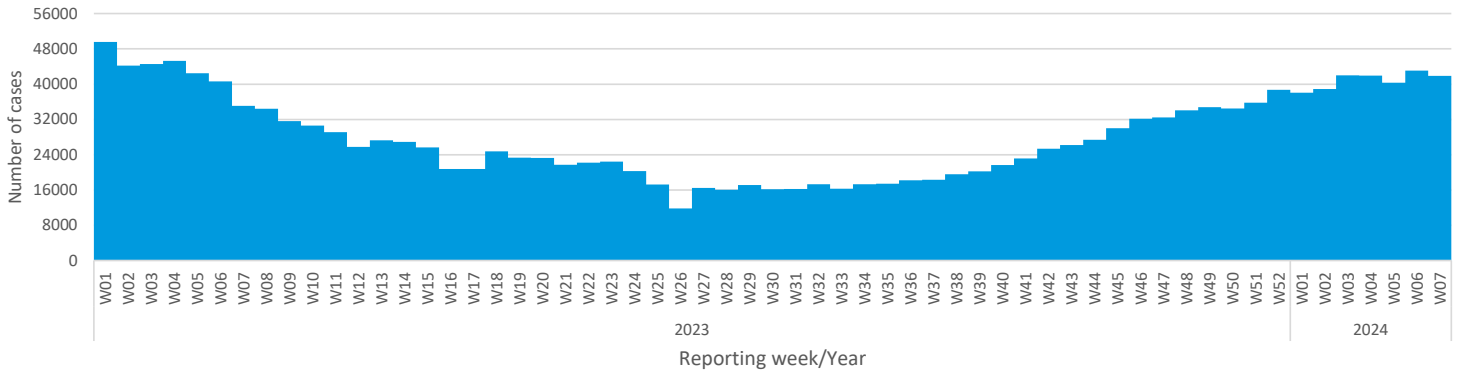


Figure 2. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan 01 Jan-17 Feb 2024

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ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-17 Feb 2024

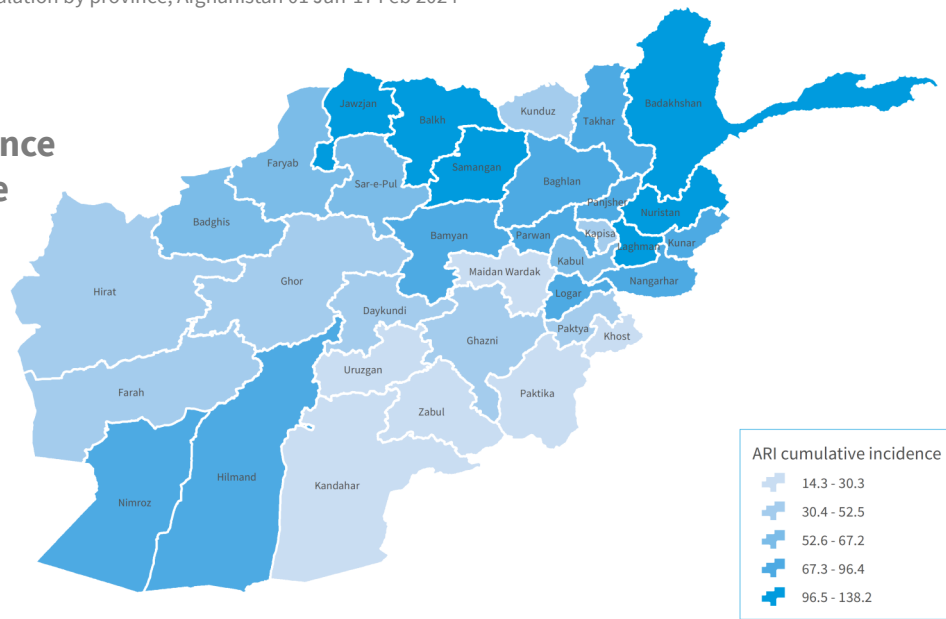
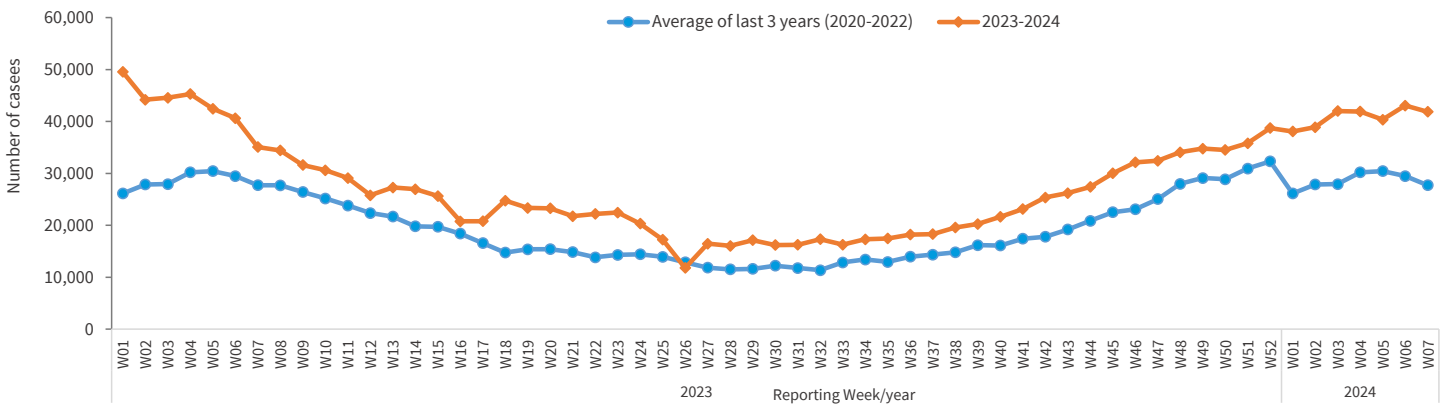


Figure 3. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024



Updates on the response activities to ARI outbreak

Lab and supplies

- Since 1 Jan 2024, a total of 6,500 Viral Transport Medium (VTM) have been distributed to North-east and Central-east NDSR offices.

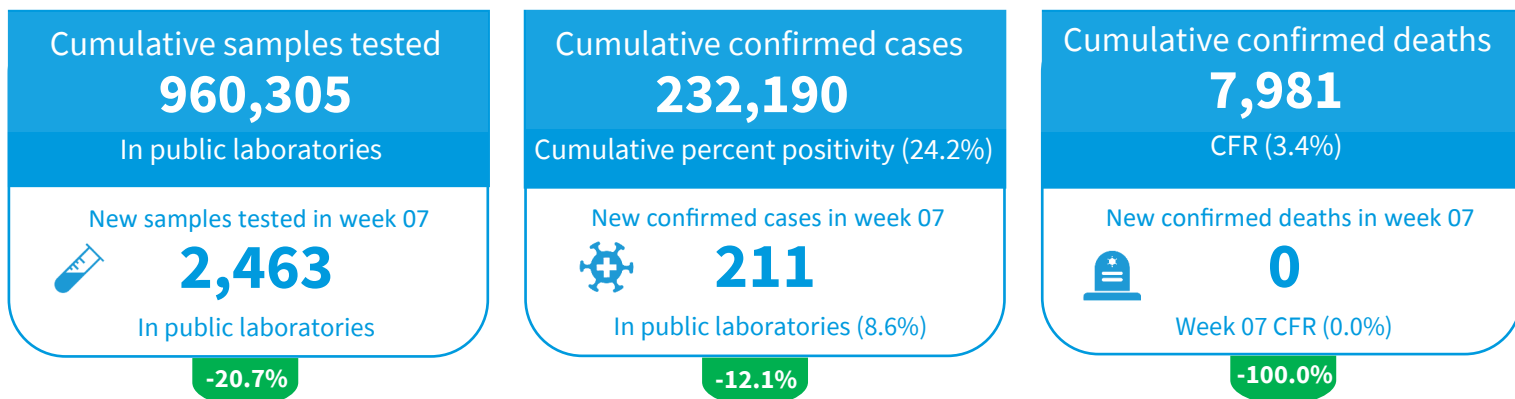
Case management

- 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)

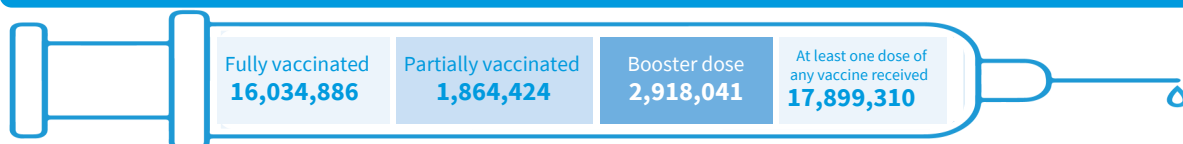
- Since Jan 2024, more than 85,000 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (60,000 Poster and 25,000 Brochures) on ARI have been handed over by WHO to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as part of the countrywide winterization response to ARI. These IEC materials are being used in health facilities and affected communities across the country.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 17 Feb 2024)

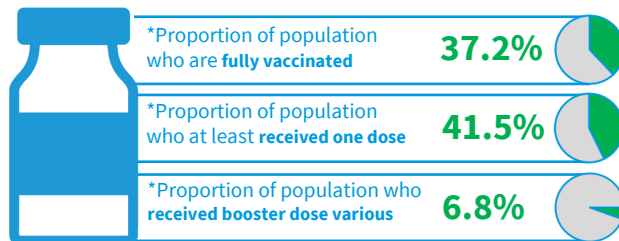


Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Note: The Ministry of Public Health's EPI department is consistently updating the DHIS2 system for COVID-19 vaccination on a monthly basis. Consequently, the COVID-19 vaccination figures will be refreshed monthly.



* 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 (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W01 | W02 | W03 | W04 | W05 | W06 | W07 | Trend line |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------------|
| Samples tested (in public Labs) | 2,872 | 2,566 | 2,182 | 3,176 | 2,363 | 2,781 | 3,104 * | 2,463 | |
| Confirmed cases | 248 | 203 | 191 | 253 | 210 | 235 | 240 * | 211 | |
| Percent positivity (%) | 8.6 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 8.6 | |
| Deaths | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 * | 0 | |
| CFR (%) | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | |

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 06-2024, the number of samples tested, the number of confirmed cases, and the number of deaths were modified from 2,902 to 3,104, from 222 to 240, and from 0 to 1, respectively.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization at a 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 07-2024, a total of 2,463 samples were tested in public labs, of which 211 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 8.6%).
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases shows a 12.1% decrease compared to the previous week with no associated death reported compared to one death reported in the previous week (Figures 4-5).
- During week 07-2024, among 211 confirmed cases, 8.5% (18 cases) were hospitalized while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020; 960,744 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 – 17 Feb 2024 (# of cases=232,201 and deaths=7,981)

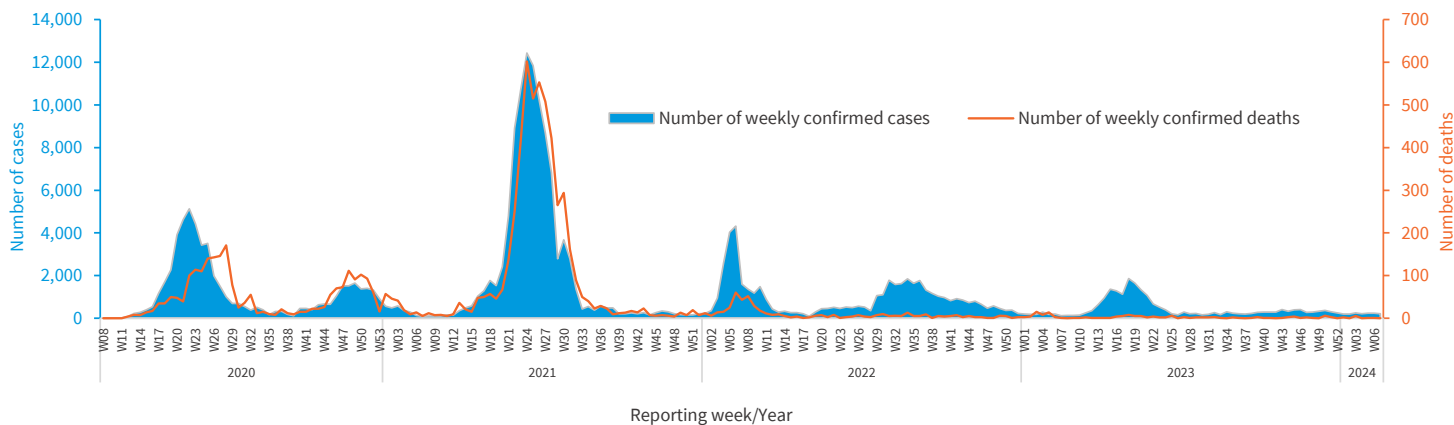


Figure 5. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 17 Feb 2024 (# of cases=24,307 and deaths=152)

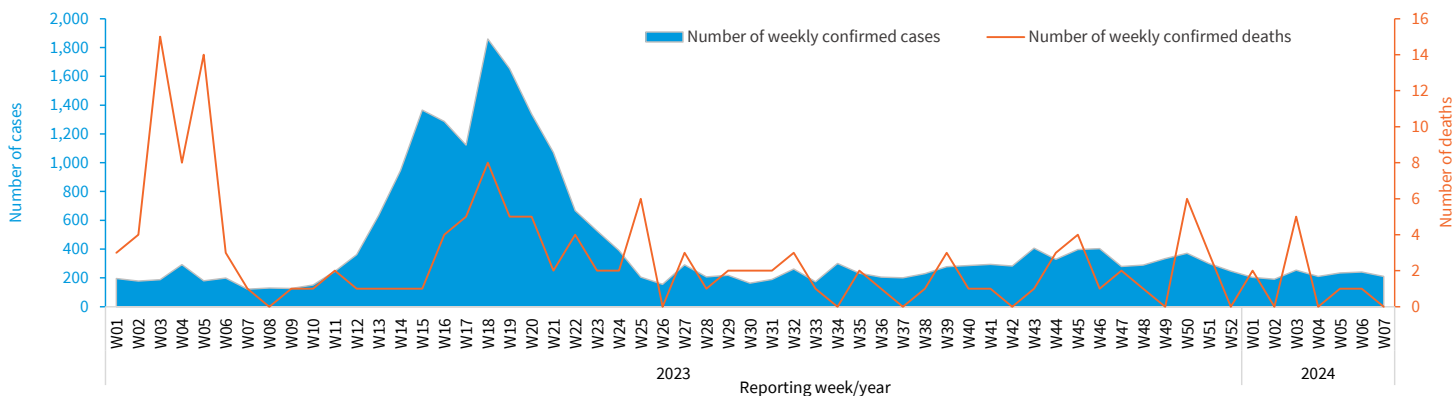
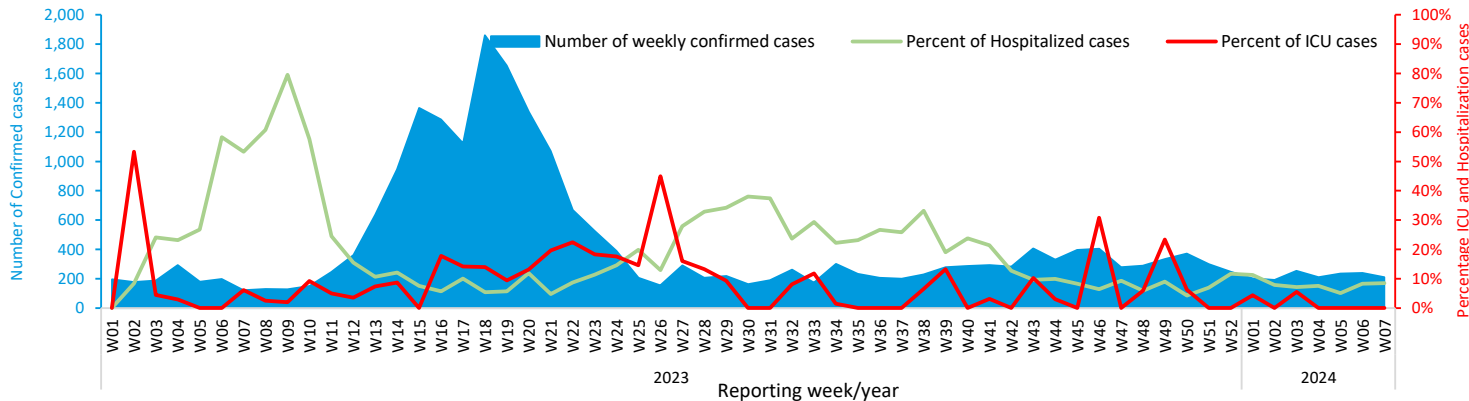


Figure 6. The weekly % of hospitalized and ICU cases out of confirmed COVID-19 cases, Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 - 17 Feb 2024 (# of cases=24,307 and Death=152)



Response

Since Jan 2024, a total of 50 kits (25 tests per kit) of COVID-19 RDTs have been distributed to each of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, and Kunduz NDSR offices.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan-17 Feb 2024)

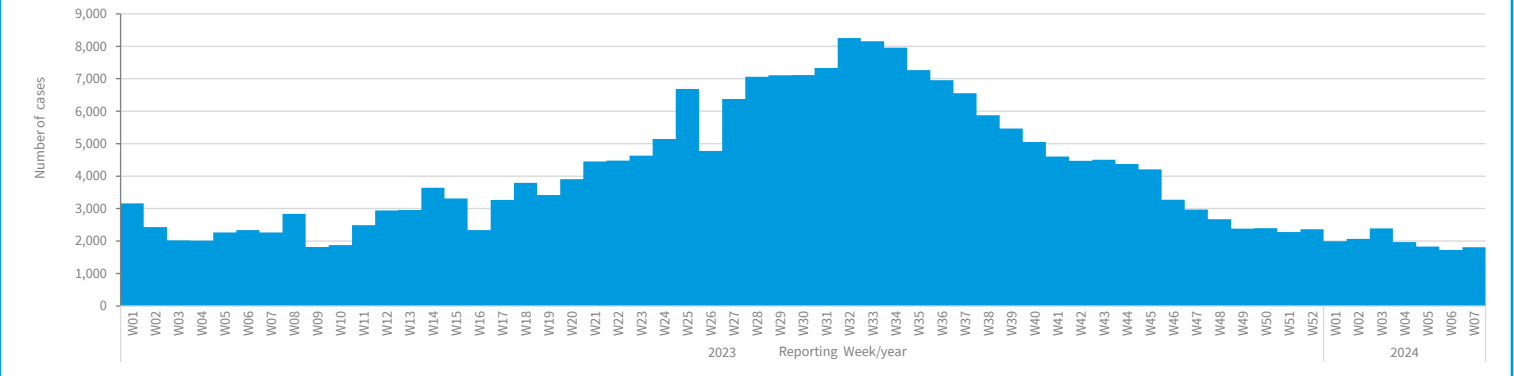
Table 3: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W01-24 | W02-24 | W03-24 | W04-24 | W05-24 | W06-24 | W07-24 | Trend line |
|------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Suspected cases | 2,363 | 1,995 | 2,068 | 2,391 | 1,966 | 1,829 | 1,722 | 1,808 | |
| Suspected deaths | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| CFR (%) | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.05 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.06 | |



- 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 towards winter in the country.
- During week 07-2024; 1,808 AWD with dehydration cases and one associated death were reported from 116 districts compared to 1,722 cases and zero deaths in the previous week (Figure 7). Provincial distribution of AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population is illustrated in Figure 8.
- The deceased case was an under five females reported from Baghlan province.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 13,779 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 7,495 (54.4%) were under-five children and 6,881 (49.9%) were females.
- During week 07-2024, no new district reported AWD with dehydration cases and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remained at 219 since the beginning of 2024.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 387 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases, of which 62 tests turned positive (positivity rate 16.0%).

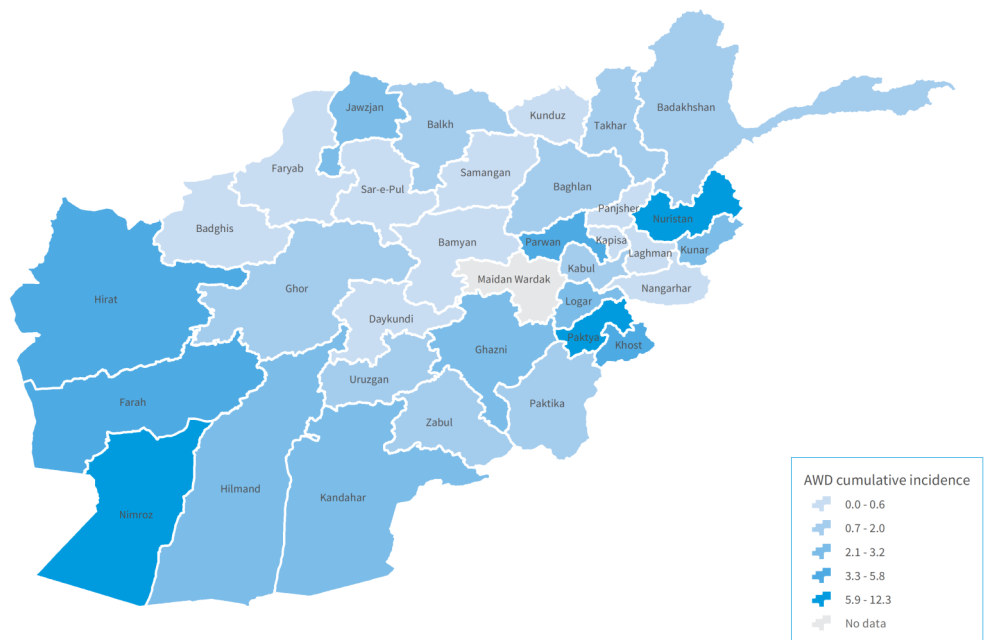
Figure 7. The epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023– 17 Feb 2024 (N=236,028)



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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 17 Feb 2024

Figure 8. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 17 Feb 2024



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

Surveillance

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

WASH

During the first two weeks of Feb 2024 (01-15 Feb 2024), the following activities were conducted as WASH response:

- Provision of clean drinking water to 1,100 individuals by chlorination of wells in Kandahar, Khost, and Kabul provinces.
- Provision of safe drinking water to 6,500 individuals by rehabilitation/construction of water supply systems in 7 provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Khost, Paktika, Takhar, and Zabul).
- Distribution of aquatabs to 1,900 individuals in Urozgan province.
- Distribution of hand washing soaps to 600 individuals in Urozgan province.

- Distribution of hygiene kits to 26,000 individuals in 14 provinces (Badghis, Balkh, Ghazni, Herat, Kabul, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar, Urozgan and Zabul).
- Conducting household water treatment promotion sessions for 2,000 individuals in 7 provinces (Balkh, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Logar, Paktya, and Takhar).
- Conducting hygiene promotion sessions for 80,000 individuals in 15 provinces (Badakhshan, Balkh, Ghazni, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar, Urozgan and Zabul).
- Provision of sanitary facilities for 181,448 individuals by construction and installation of emergency latrines in 11 provinces (Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz, Paktya, Takhar, and Zabul).

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan-17 Feb 2024)

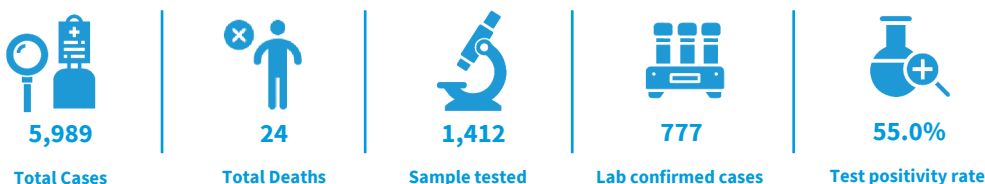


Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W01-24 | W02-24 | W03-24 | W04-24 | W05-24 | W06-24 | W07-24 | Trend line |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Suspected cases | 469 | 493 | 619 | 820 | 822 | 976 | 1,141 | 1,118 | |
| Suspected deaths | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | |
| CFR (%) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.5 | |

- 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 07-2024, a total of 1,118 suspected cases and 6 measles-associated deaths were reported compared to 1,141 cases and 4 deaths during the previous week.
- The 6 deceased cases were reported from 5 provinces: Helmand (2), Baghlan (1), Jawzjan (1), Kandahar (1), and Zabul (1), out of the total deaths, 5 were under-five children and 4 were females.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 5,989 suspected measles cases and 24 deaths (CFR=0.4%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 4,845 (80.9%) were under-five children and 2,754 (46.0%) were females.

Figure 9. The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 to 17 Feb 2024 (N= 31,865)

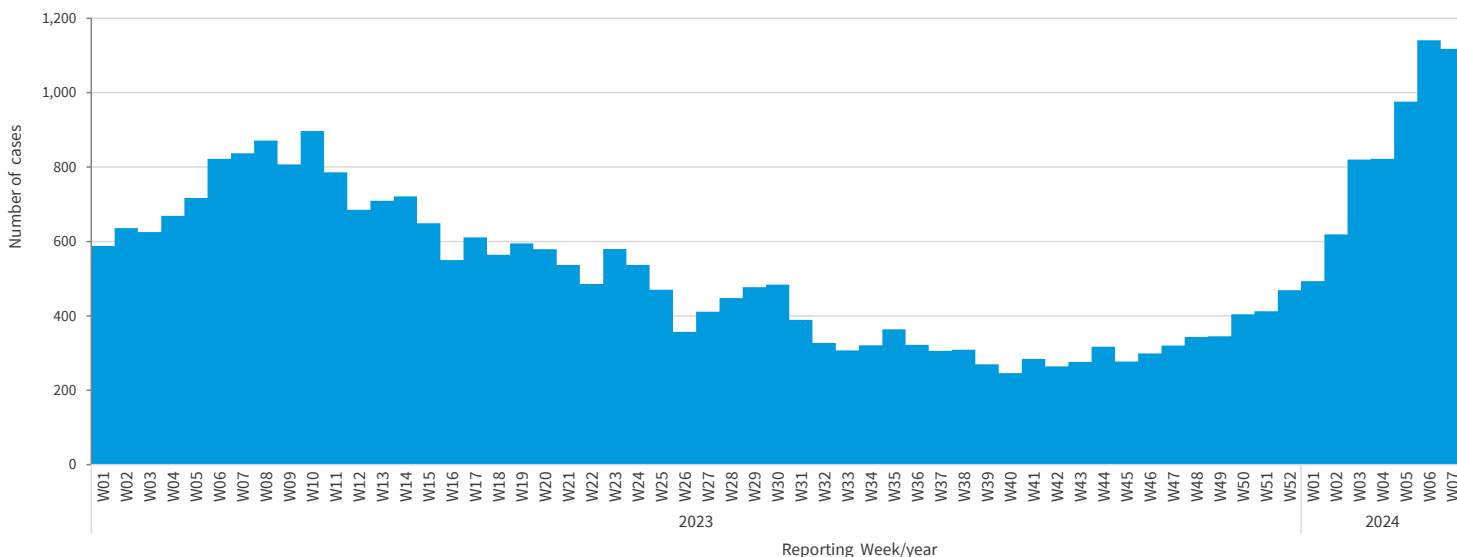


Figure 10. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-17 Feb 2024

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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-17 Feb 2024

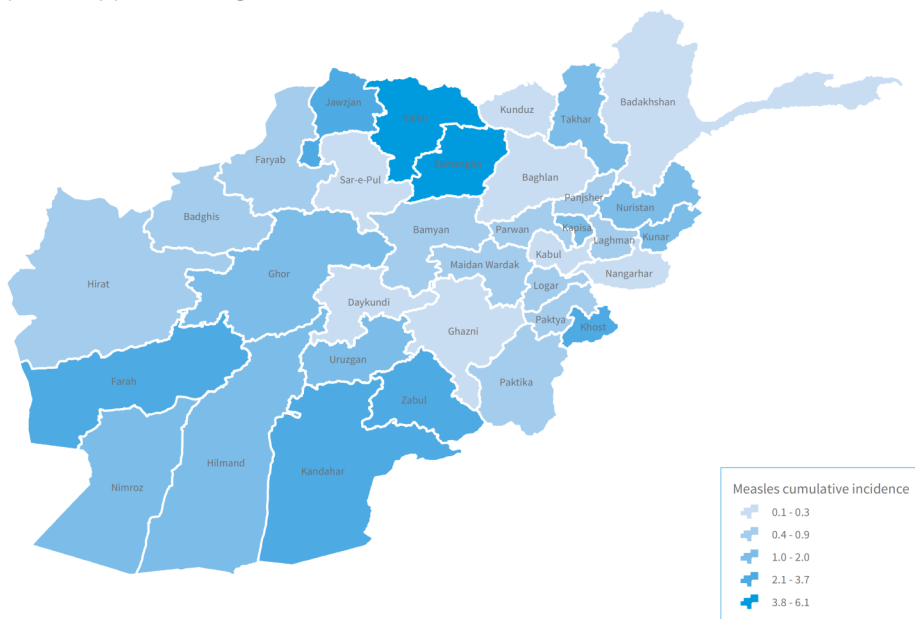
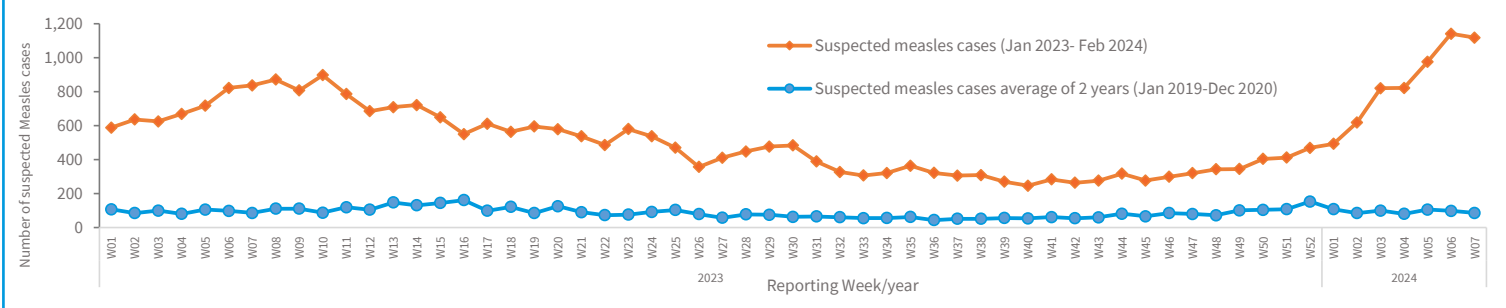


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan



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 07-2024, a total of 236 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in Helmand and Nangarhar provinces in response to the measles outbreak by the implementing partners. This brings the total number of vaccinated children to 2,020 since Jan 2024.

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan-17 Feb 2024)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W01-24 | W02-24 | W03-24 | W04-24 | W05-24 | W06-24 | W07-24 | Trend line |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Suspected cases | 7 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 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 07-2024, 4 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, compared to 3 cases reported in the previous week (Table 5).
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 33 suspected cases of CCHF with no associated deaths were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 9 (27.3%) of them were females.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 27 samples of suspected CCHF cases have been tested, of which none of them were reported positive.

Figure 12. The epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 17 Feb 2024, (N=1,276)

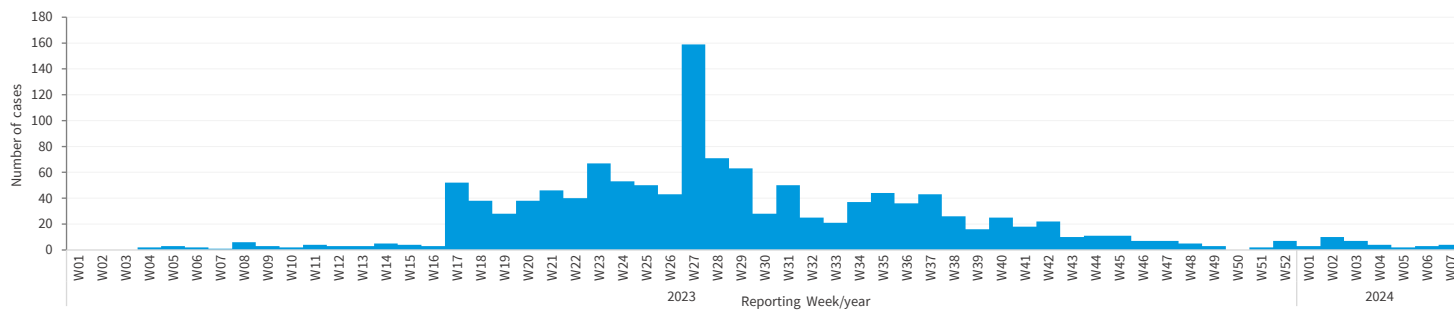
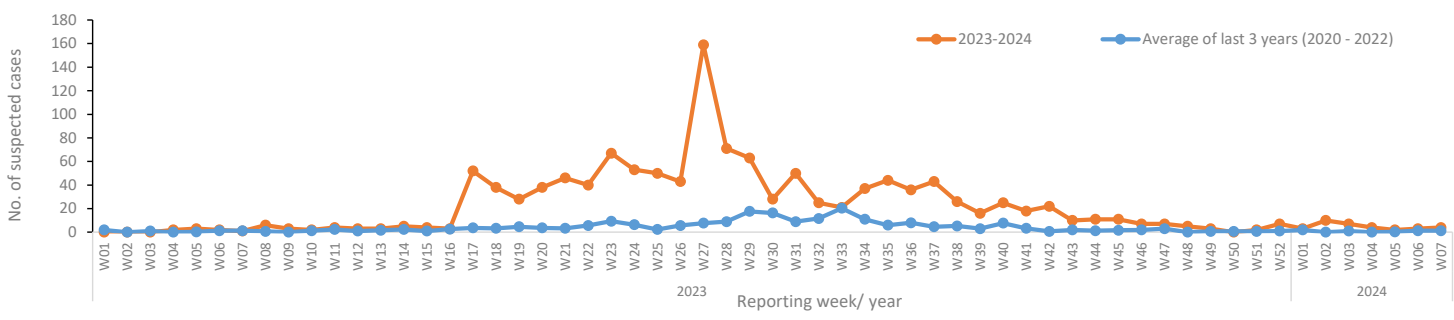


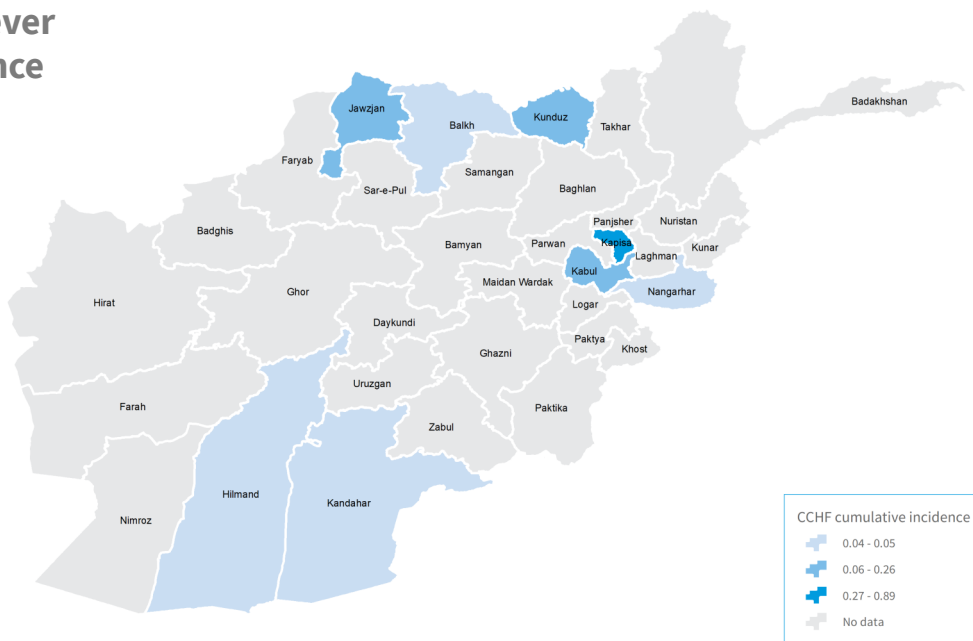
Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan



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Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province 01 Jan –17 Feb 2024

Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan -17 Feb 2024



Updates on the response to the 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 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 985 tick samples and 485 blood samples have been collected from cattle.
 - A total of 24,530 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 Laboratory (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-17 Feb 2024)



363
Total Cases



0
Total Deaths



175
Sample tested



108
Lab confirmed cases



61.7%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (24 Dec 2023-17 Feb 2024)

| Indicators | W52 | W01-24 | W02-24 | W03-24 | W04-24 | W05-24 | W06-24 | W07-24 | Trend line |
|-----------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Suspected cases | 44 | 50 | 31 | 55 | 68 | 56 | 54 | 49 | |
| 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 07-2024, 49 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported only from Nangarhar province compared to 54 cases reported during the preceding week from the same province.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 363 suspected cases of dengue fever and no deaths were reported, out of which, 228 (62.8%) were females and 3 (0.8%) were under 5 years of age. The geographical distribution and change rate is shown in Figure 17.
- Since Jan 2024, a total of 175 samples have been collected, out of which 108 were positive (positivity 61.7%).

Figure 15. The epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan 2023 – 17 Feb 2024, (N=1,859)

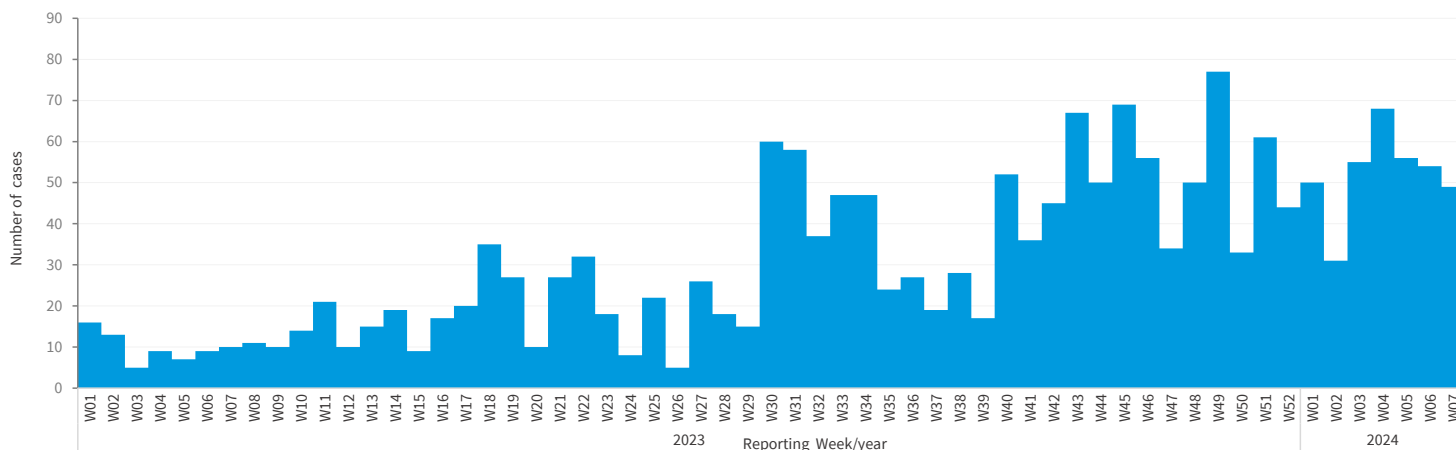


Figure 16. Comparison of trend curves for suspected dengue fever cases using 2 years average (2021-2022) vs 2023-2024, Afghanistan

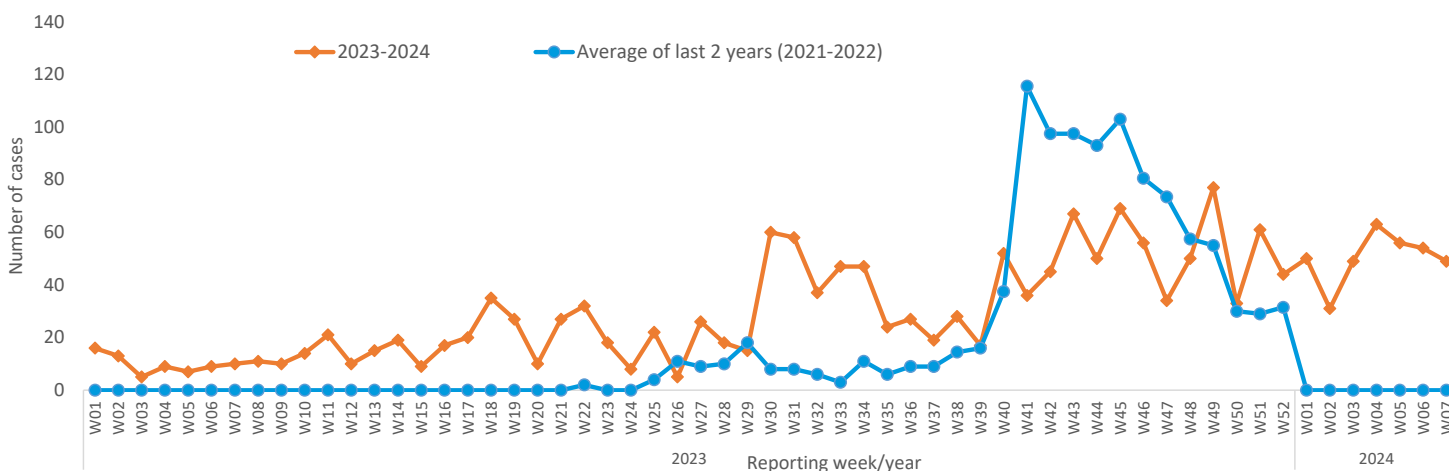
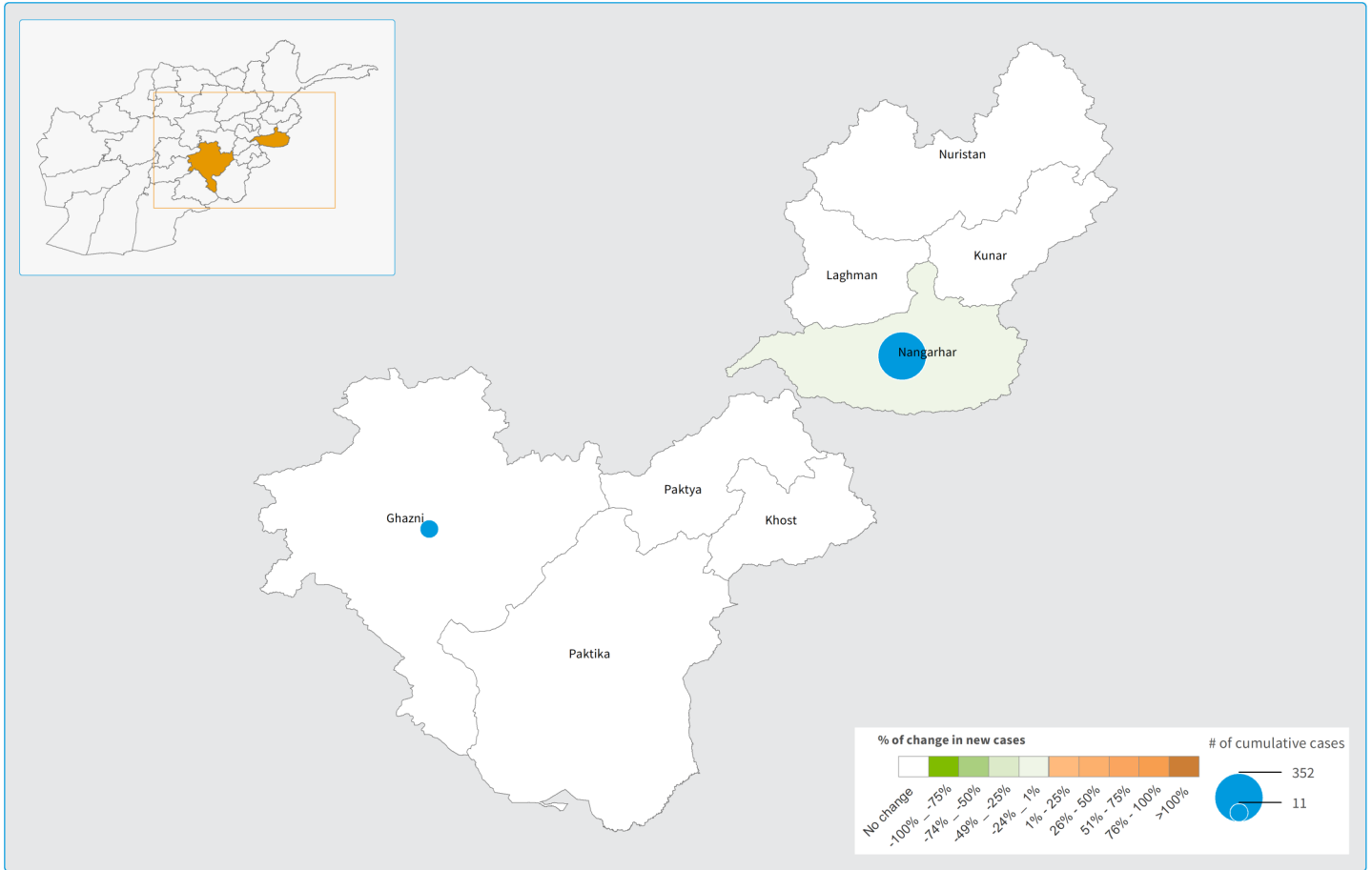


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 17 Feb 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 06 and 07, 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: 17 Feb 2024.

Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

- Since Jan 2024, a total of 380 Kits (10 tests per kit) of dengue RDTs have been delivered to the 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)