



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #08-2024

No. 08 (18 - 24 Feb 2024)

Disease Outbreaks	Measles	ARI	COVID-19	AWD	CCHF	Dengue fever
Cumulative Cases 2024	7,179	325,095	1,807	15,566	40	399
Death 2024 (CFR %)	29 (0.4)	749 (0.2)	14 (0.8)	10 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cumulative Cases 2023	25,876	1,384,646	*230,658	222,249	1,243	1,496
Death 2023 (CFR %)	64 (0.2)	2,798 (0.2)	*7,972 (3.5)	101 (0.05)	114 (9.2)	1 (0.07)

(Data from 612 (99.8%) out of 613 sentinel sites)

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

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan-24 Feb 2024)



Table 1: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	493	619	820	822	976	1141	1,118	1,190	
Suspected deaths	0	2	2	3	7	4	6	5	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	

- The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases demonstrates a rising trend since the third week of November 2023. This could be explained by increased community transmission exacerbated by the winter season and low immunization coverage (Figure 1).
- During week 08-2024, a total of 1,190 suspected cases and 5 measles-associated deaths were reported compared to 1,118 cases and 6 deaths during the previous week. This is the highest number of suspected cases reported in a week since week 26-2022 (1,574 cases).
- The 5 deceased cases were reported from 3 provinces: Helmand (2), Kandahar (2), and Samangan (1); out of the total deaths, 2 were females, while all of them were under-five children.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 7,179 suspected measles cases and 29 deaths (CFR=0.4%) were reported. Among suspected measles cases, 5,782 (80.5%) were under-five children, and 3,301 (46.0%) were females.
- Considering the number of suspected cases since the beginning of 2024, the highest cumulative incidence of suspected measles per 10,000 population was in Samangan (7.02) followed by Balkh (5.51), Farah (4.37), and Khost (4.21) (Figure 2)



Figure 1. The epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 to 24 Feb 2024 (N= 33,055)

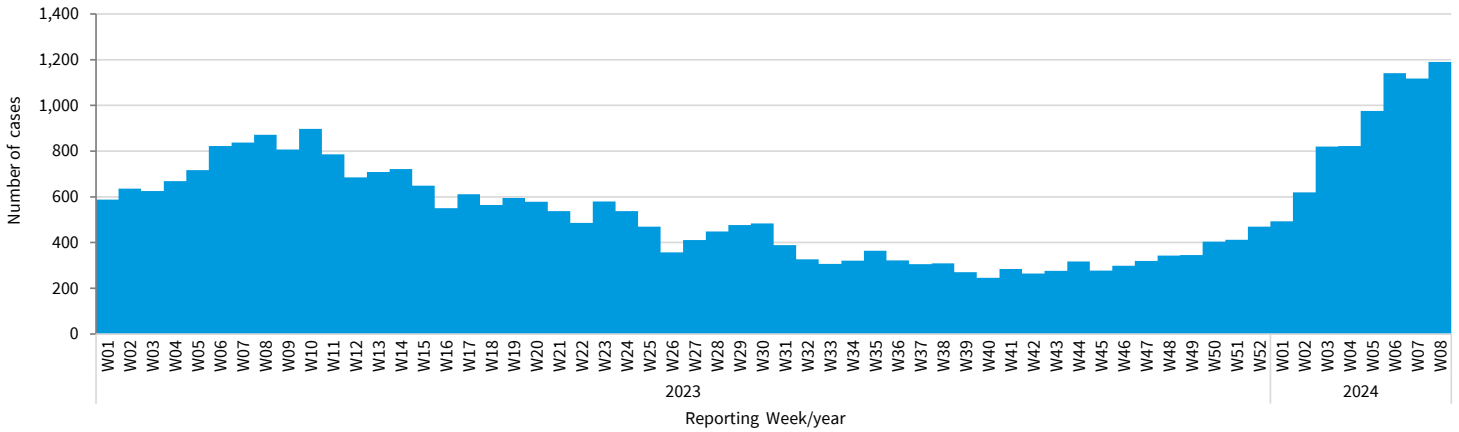


Figure 2. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-24 Feb 2024

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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan-24 Feb 2024

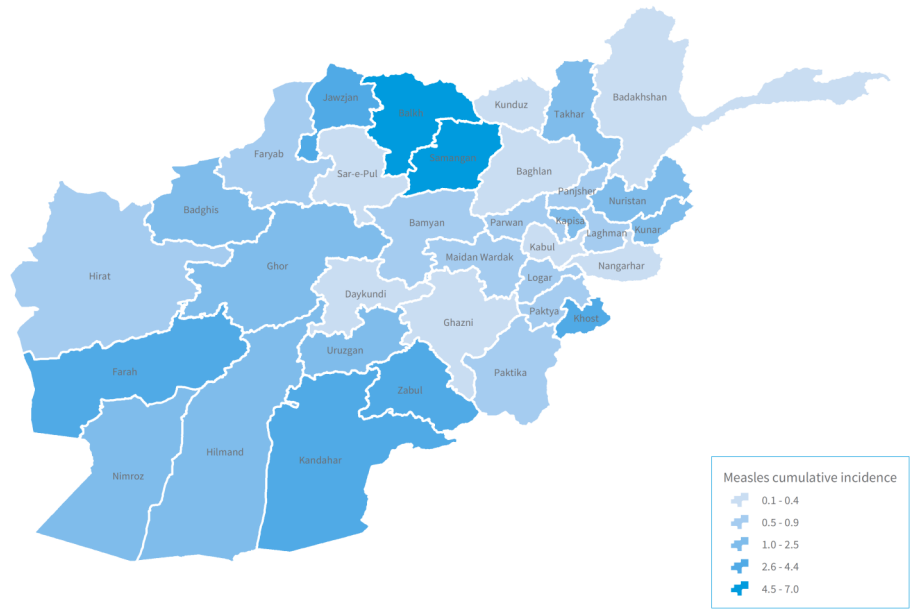
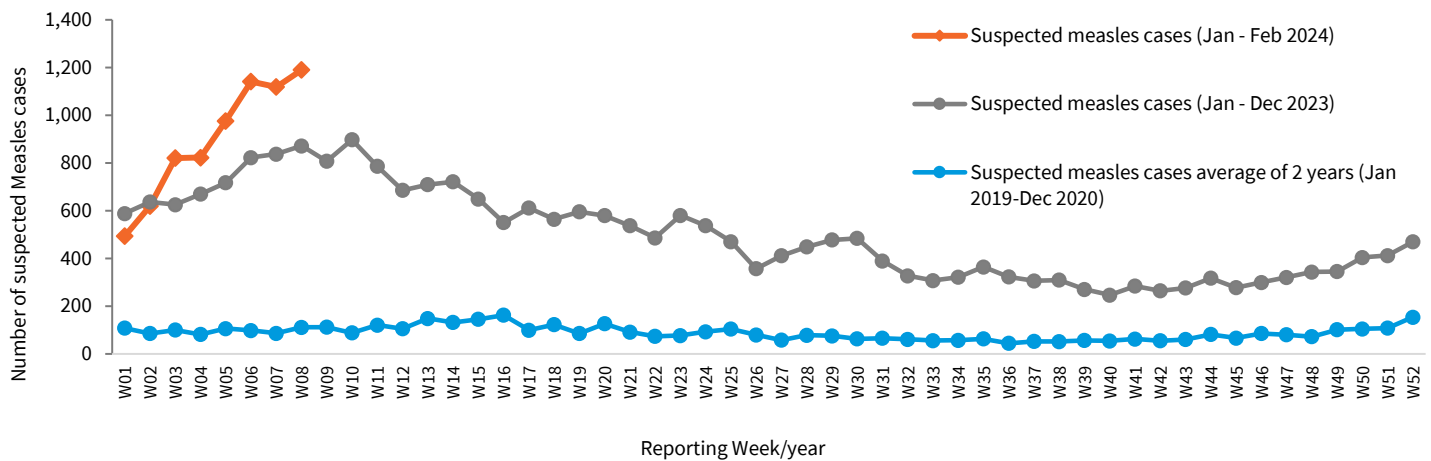


Figure 3. Comparison between suspected measles cases trend in 2024 vs 2023 and 2 years average (2019-2020), Afghanistan



Comparing the trends of 2024 with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020 and the trend of 2023 reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, measles cases are still occurring at a higher rate during the year 2024 as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 and previous year (Figure 3).

Updates on the Preparedness and Response to the Measles Outbreak

- During week 08-2024, a total of 3,704 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated in Nangarhar, Kabul, Badghis, Urozgan, Ghor and Wardak provinces in response to the measles outbreak by the implementing partners. This brings the total number of vaccinated children to 5,724 since Jan 2024.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)

(01 Jan-24 Feb 2024)



***325,095**

Total ARI Cases



***749**

Total Deaths



****669**

Samples tested for influenza



****28**

Lab confirmed



4.0%

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

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W1-24	W2-24	W3-24	W4-24	W5-24	W6-24	W7-24	W8-24	Trend lines
Suspected cases	38,071	38,881	42,010	41,919	40,339	43,053	41,874	38,948	
Suspected deaths	91	106	95	91	98	95	92	81	
CFR (%)	0.24	0.27	0.23	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.21	

- The epi curve shows an increase in ARI cases since the 3rd week of September 2023 which could have been linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country; however, a decrease is observed during the past two weeks (Figure 4).
- During week 08-2024, a total of 38,948 cases of ARI pneumonia and 81 associated deaths were reported, marking a decrease from the previous week's totals of 41,874 cases and 92 deaths.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 325,095 ARI pneumonia cases and 749 associated deaths were reported from 34

provinces. Out of the total cases, 205,585 (63.2%) were under-five children and 160,657 (49.4%) were females. The cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province is shown in (Figure 5).

- Out of total deaths, 653 (87.2%) were under-five children and 333 (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 and 2024 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to the enhancement of the surveillance system and ex-

Figure 4. The epidemiological curve of ARI Pneumonia cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan 2023 – 24 Feb 2024 (N=1,709,741)

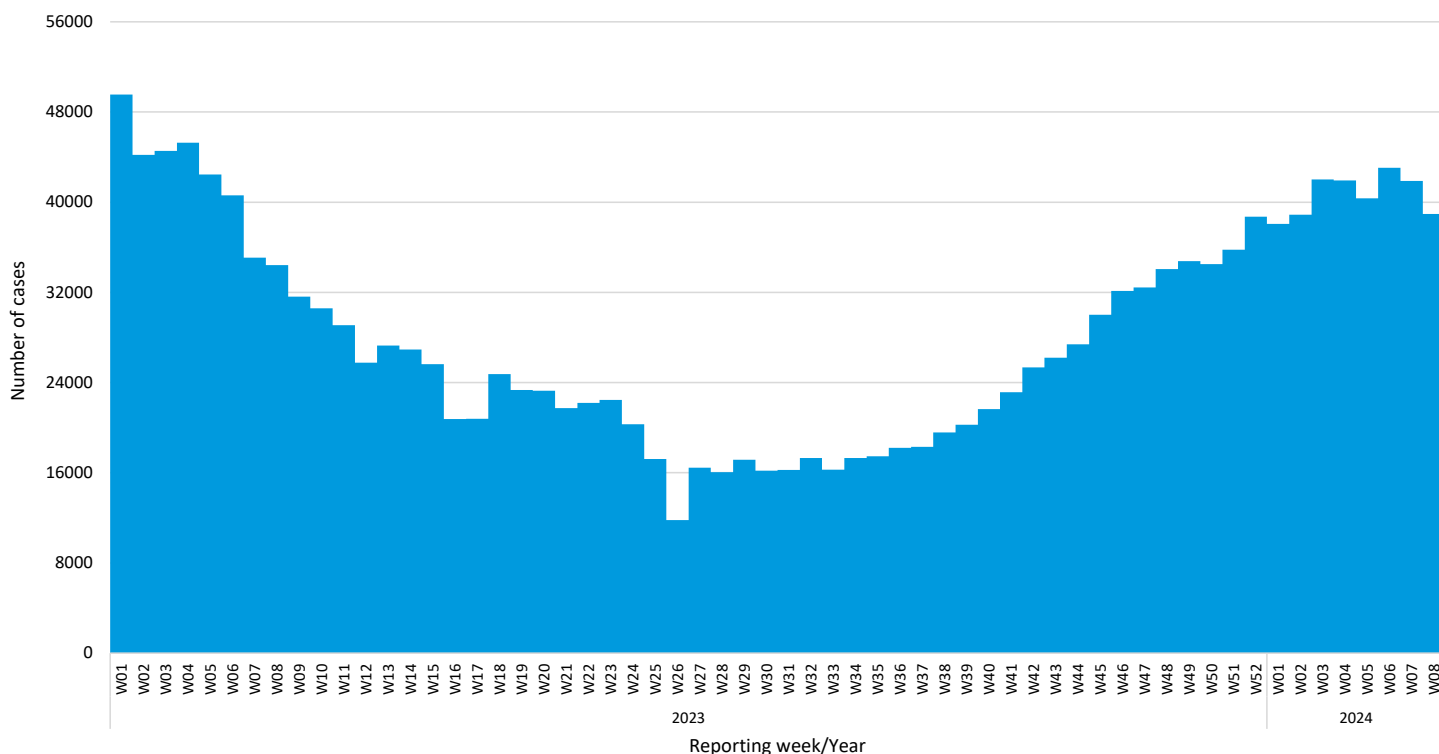


Figure 5. ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province, Afghanistan 01 Jan-24 Feb 2024

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ARI pneumonia cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province

01 Jan-24 Feb 2024

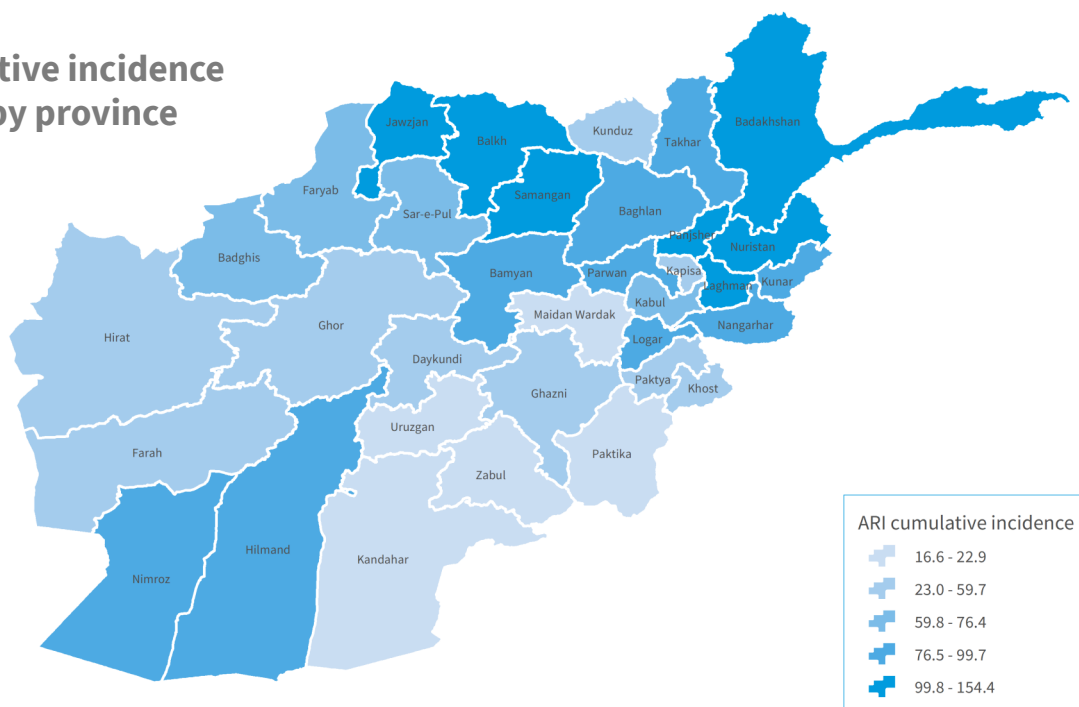
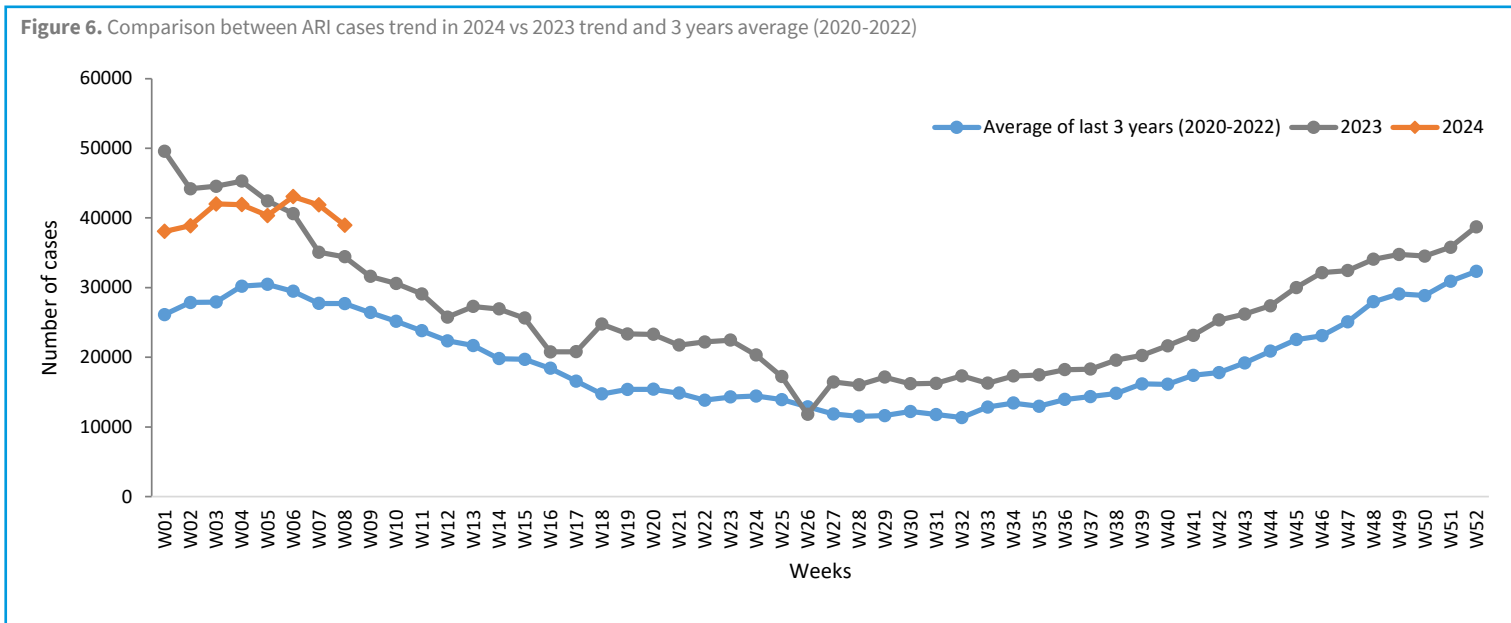


Figure 6. Comparison between ARI cases trend in 2024 vs 2023 trend and 3 years average (2020-2022)



Updates on the response activities to ARI outbreak

Lab and supplies

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

Case management

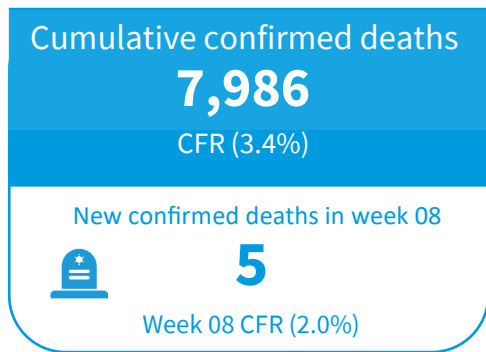
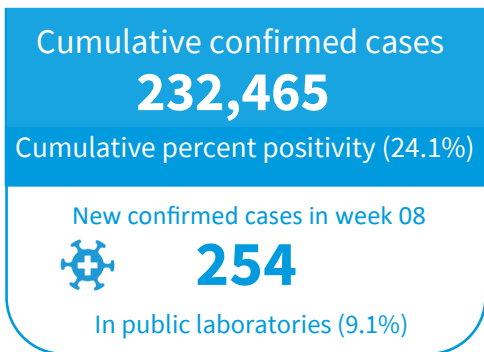
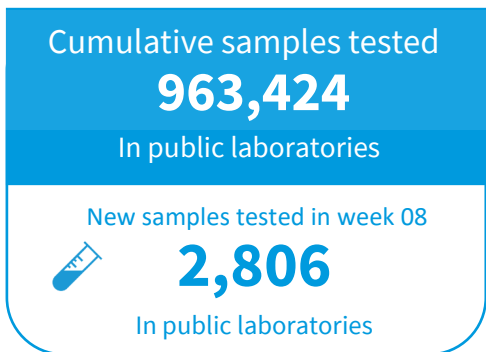
- As a part of the winter preparedness and response plan to ARI in 2023-24, a total of 397 case management kits have been prepositioned in the WHO main office and regional sub-offices. These kits are being used in health facilities across the country as a response to the ARI outbreak.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Since the beginning of 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 – 24 Feb 2024)

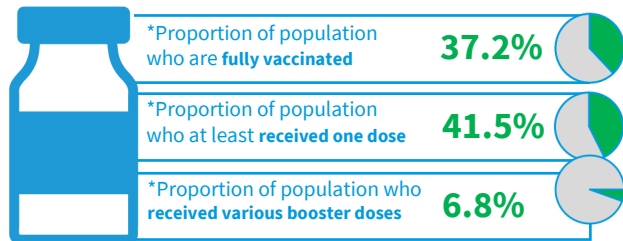


Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



*The MoPH/EPI has changed the frequency of COVID-19 vaccination reporting from weekly to monthly, thus the vaccination updates will be added on monthly basis starting from Feb 2024.



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

Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W01	W02	W03	W04	W05	W06	W07	W08	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,566	2,182	3,176	2,363	2,781	3,104	2,776 *	2,806	
Confirmed cases	203	191	253	210	235	240	221 *	254	
Percent positivity (%)	7.9	8.8	8.0	8.9	8.5	7.7	8.0	9.1	
Deaths	2	0	5	0	1	1	0	5	
CFR (%)	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	2.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 07-2024, the number of samples tested and the number of confirmed cases were modified from 2,463 to 2,776 and from 211 to 221 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 08-2024, a total of 2,776 samples were tested in public labs, of which 254 were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 9.1%).
- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases shows a 14.9% increase compared to the previous week, while 5 associated deaths reported compared to no deaths reported in the previous week (Figures 7 and 8).
- During week 08-2024, among 254 confirmed cases, 6.3% (16 cases) were hospitalized, while no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 9).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020; 963,424 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.

Figure 7. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 24 Feb 2024 (cases=232,465)

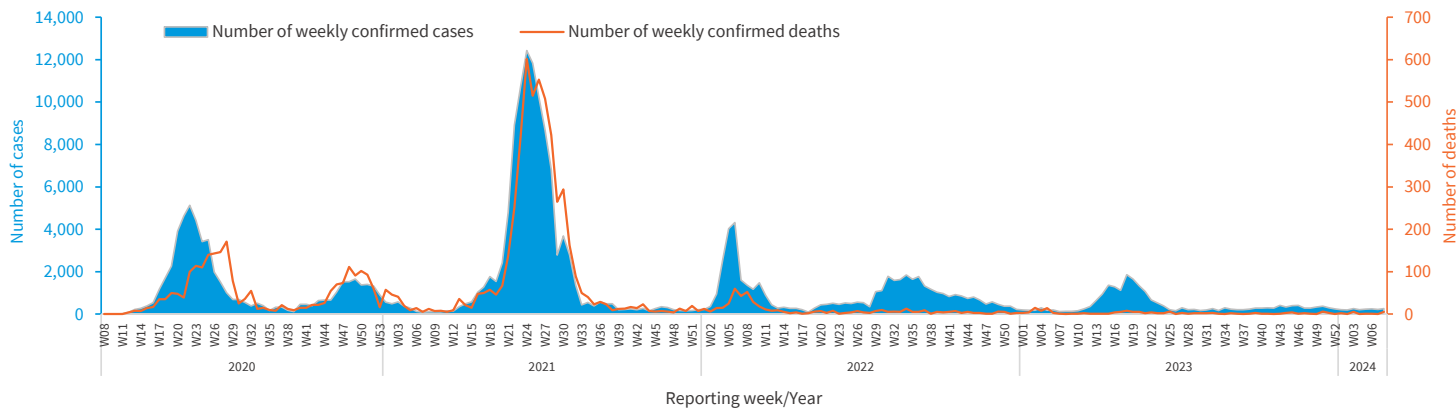


Figure 8. The epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2023 – 24 Feb 2024 (cases=24,571, deaths=157)

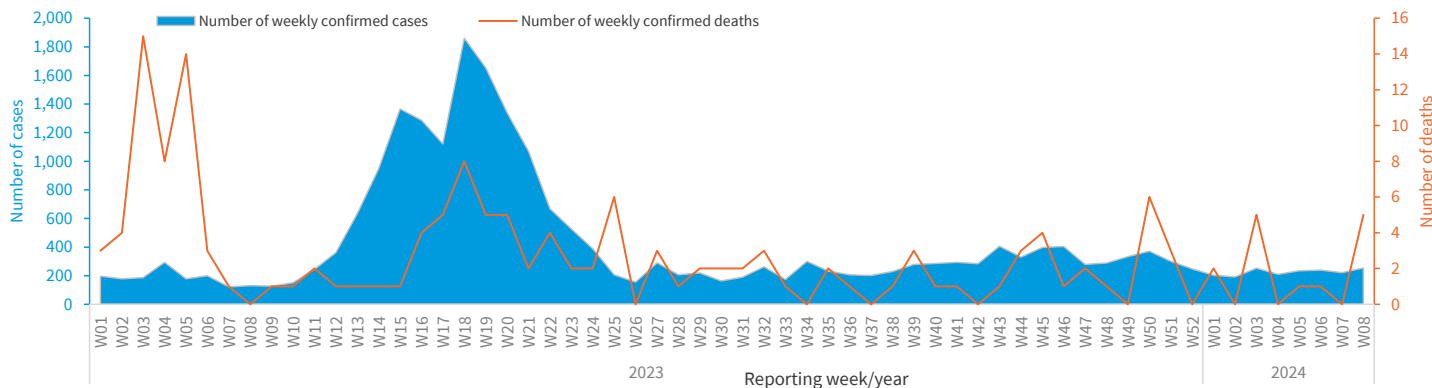
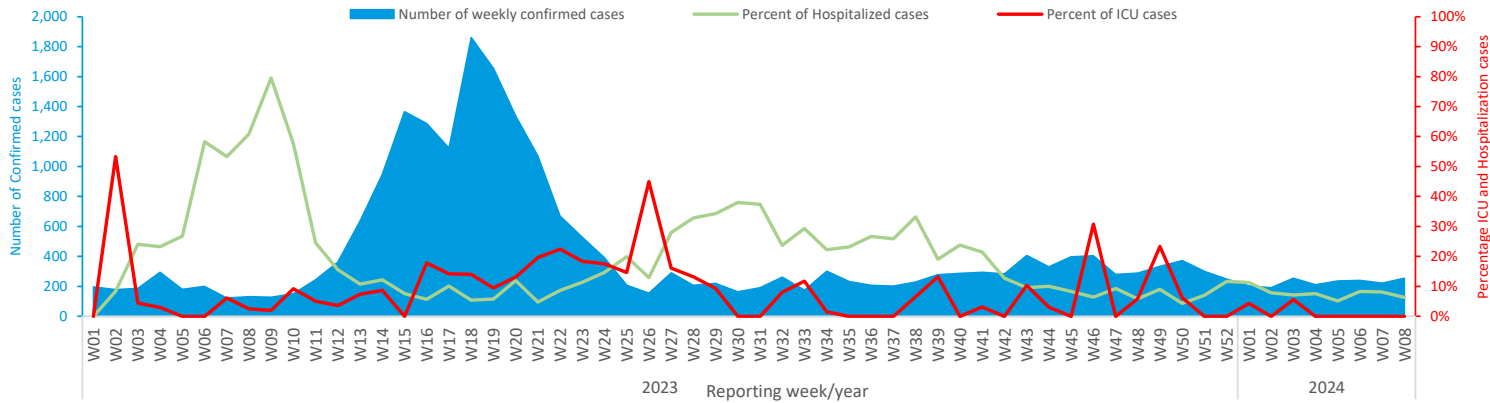


Figure 9. The weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan between 01 Jan 2023 and 24 Feb 2024



Update on the response activities to COVID-19

Since the beginning of 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-24 Feb 2024)

Table 4: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	1,995	2,068	2,391	1,966	1,829	1,722	1,808	1,787	
Suspected deaths	1	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	
CFR (%)	0.04	0.05	0.19	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023 with almost stabilization during the past 4 weeks. The decline could be explained by seasonal changes towards winter in the country.
- During week 08-2024, 1,787 AWD with dehydration cases and one associated death were reported from 112 districts, which shows stabilization in the number of cases compared to the previous week (Figure 10). The cumulative incidence of AWD with dehydration cases per 10,000 population by province is illustrated in Figure 11.
- The deceased case was an under-five female reported

- from Baghlan province.
- Since 01 Jan 2024, a total of 15,566 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 8,477 (54.5%) were under-five children and 7,742 (49.7%) were females.
- The number of districts reported AWD with dehydration has reached 224 since the beginning of 2024 while no new district reported AWD with dehydration cases during this week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, 444 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted on AWD with dehydration cases,

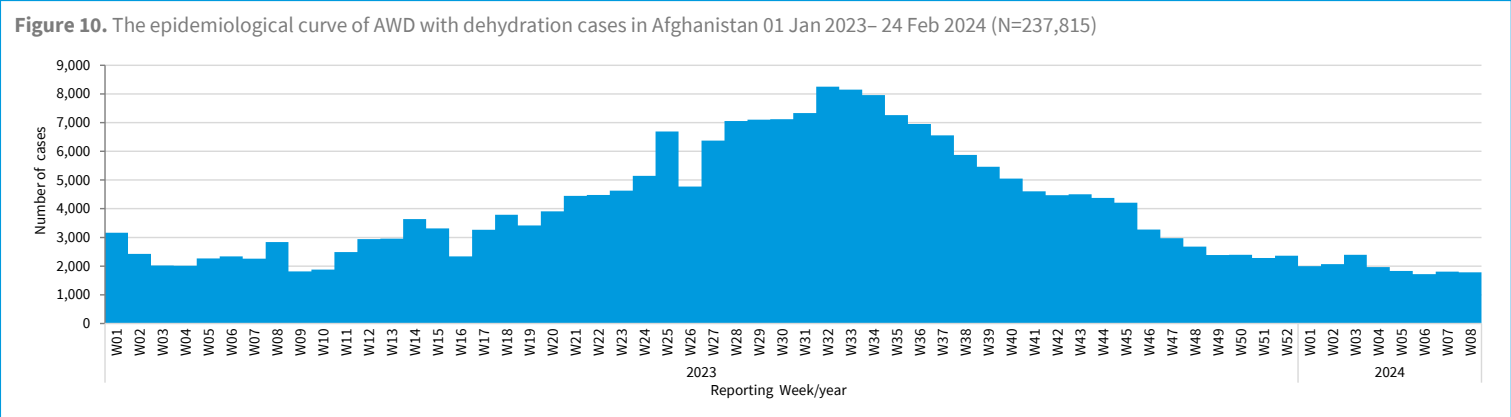
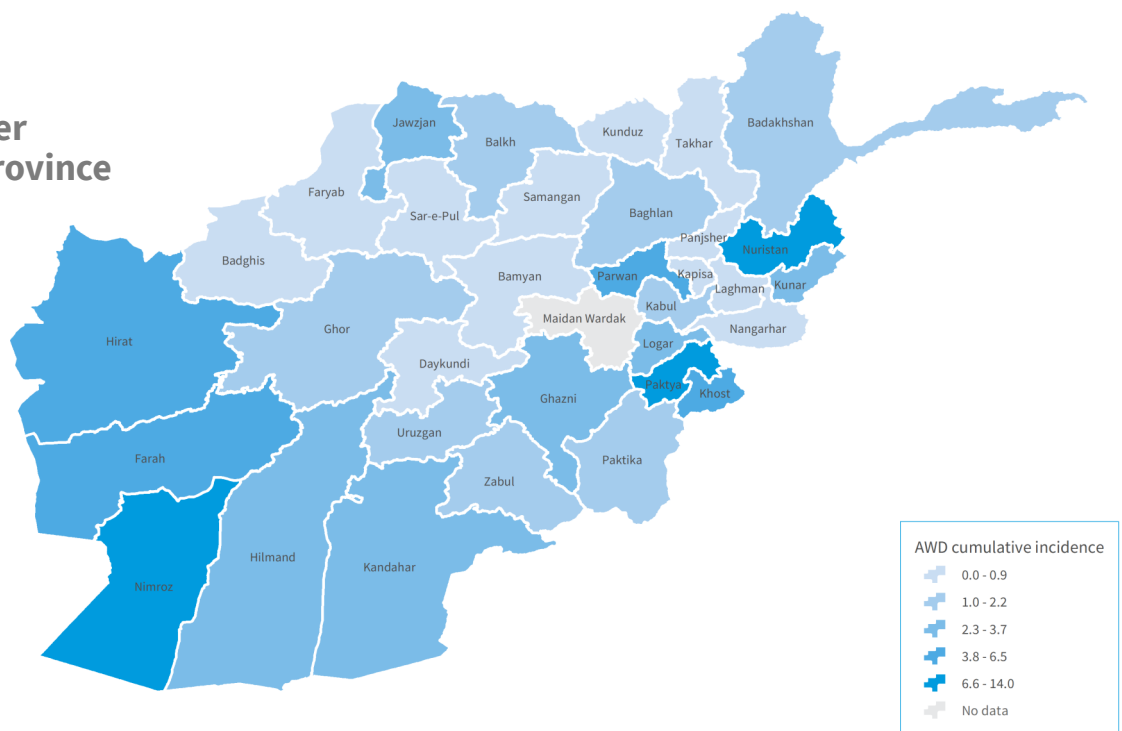


Figure 11. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 24 Feb 2024

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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province 01 Jan - 24 Feb 2024



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

Surveillance

- During week 08-2024, a total of 93 surveillance sentinel sites focal points (including 10 females) of Kabul province have been trained on surveillance procedures.
- 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.

WASH

- The updates are provided on a bi-weekly basis, hence no updates for this week.



Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

(01 Jan-24 Feb 2024)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	3	10	7	4	2	3	4	7	
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 indicates that the peak for suspected CCHF cases was during the week 27-2023 with a declining trend in the weeks later, while a stabilization is observed in recent weeks in 2024. The decline could have been attributed to seasonal changes toward winter and response activities (Figures 12 & 13).
- During week 08-2024, 7 new suspected CCHF cases with no associated deaths were reported, compared to 4 cases

- reported in the previous week (Table 5).
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 40 suspected cases of CCHF with no associated deaths were reported. All the suspected cases were over five years of age, while 13 (32.5%) of them were females.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 29 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 – 24 Feb 2024, (N=1,283)

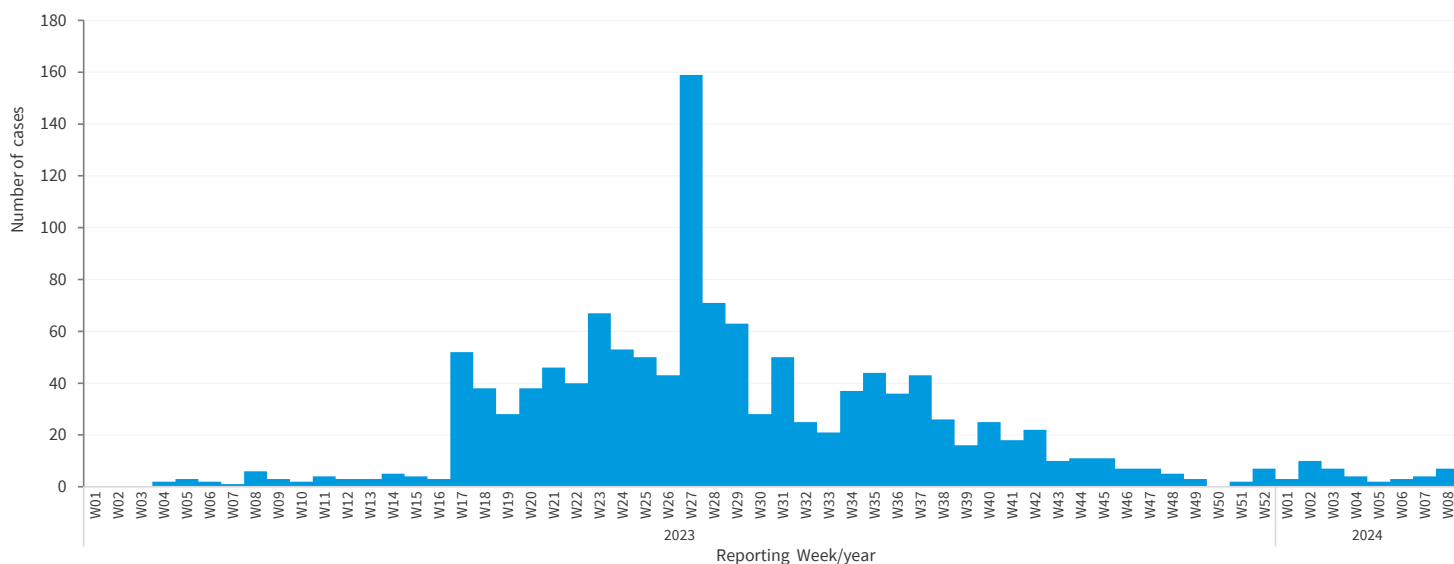


Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023 and 2024, Afghanistan

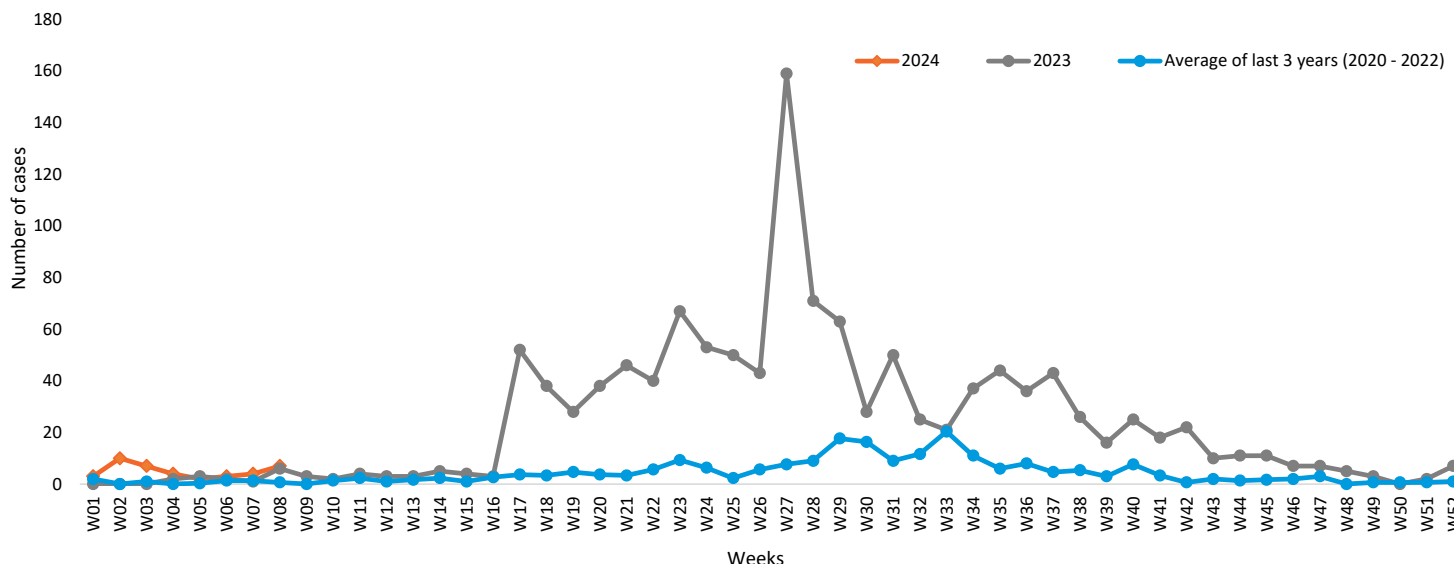
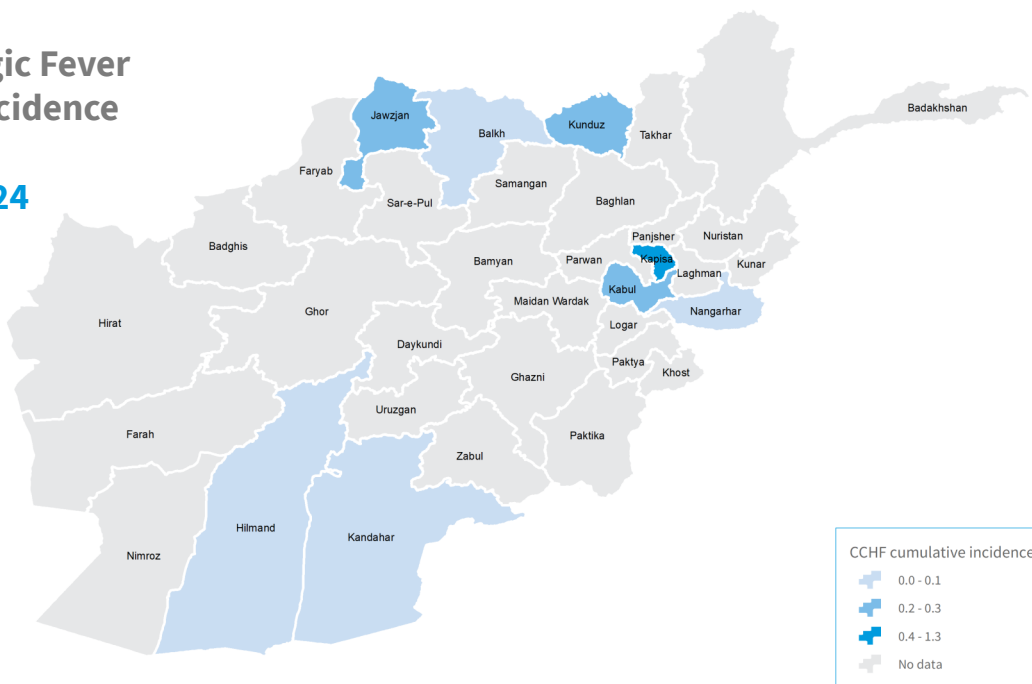


Figure 14. Cumulative incidence of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases per 100,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan -24 Feb 2024

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Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases cumulative incidence per 100,000 population by province 01 Jan -24 Feb 2024



Updates on the response to the CCHF outbreak.

- Since the beginning of 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.
- In the same period, 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 1,000 tick samples and 500 blood samples have been collected from cattle.
 - A total of 25,762 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-24 Feb 2024)

399
Total Cases

0
Total Deaths

201
Sample tested

119
Lab confirmed cases

59.2%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (31 Dec 2023-24 Feb 2024)

Indicators	W01-24	W02-24	W03-24	W04-24	W05-24	W06-24	W07-24	W08-24	Trend line
Suspected cases	50	31	55	68	56	54	49	36	
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 the number of suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week Aug 2023; this could have been linked with increased vector activity and enhanced surveillance in vector-borne disease detection and reporting. However, there was a slight decrease in suspected dengue fever cases in the last 4 weeks (Figures 15 & 16).
- During week 08-2024, 36 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported only from Nangarhar province compared to 49 cases reported during the preceding week.
- Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 399 suspected cases of dengue fever and no deaths were reported, out of which 248 (62.2%) were females, and 3 (0.8%) were under 5 years of age. The geographical distribution and change rate are shown in Figure 17.

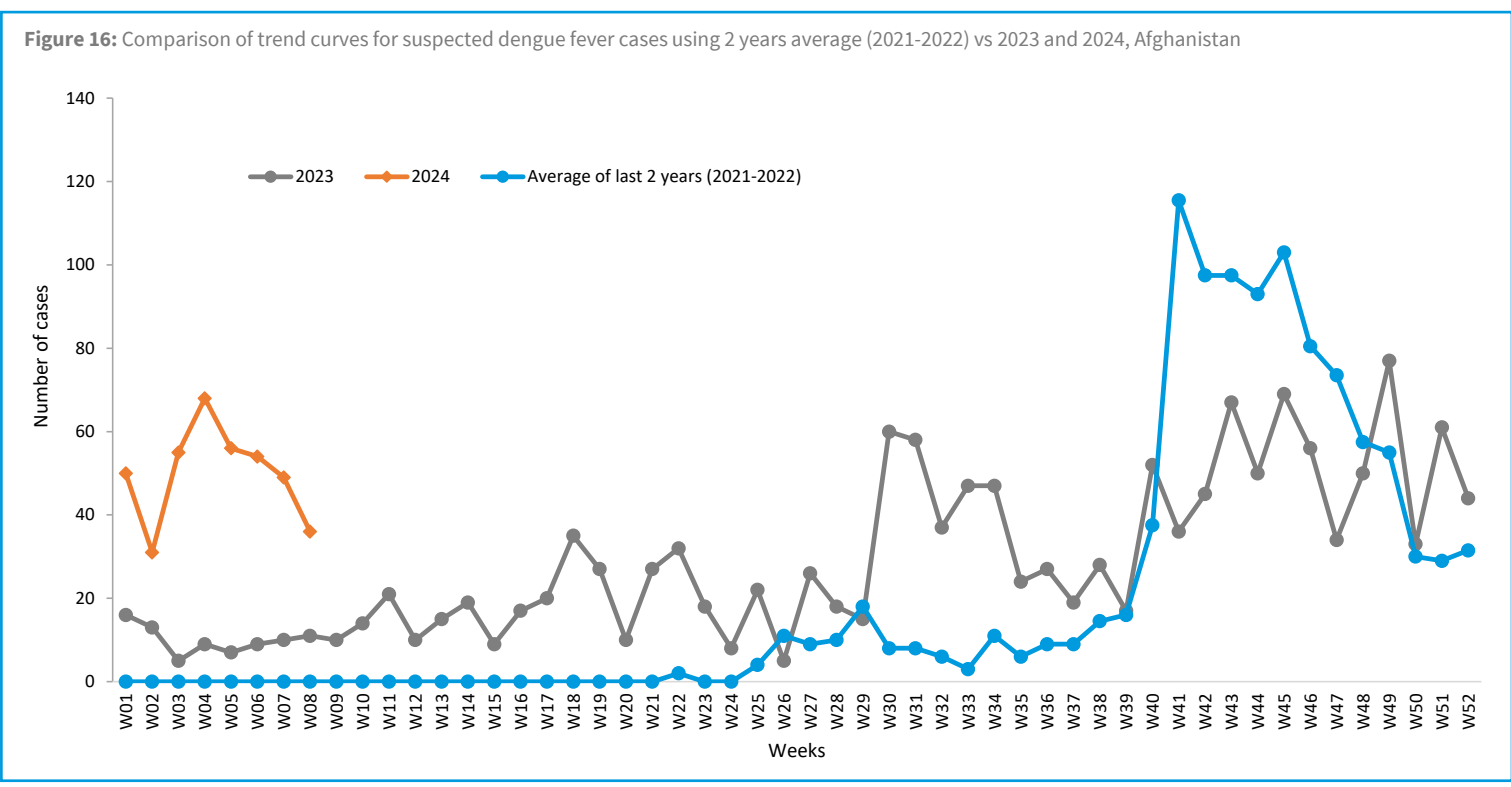
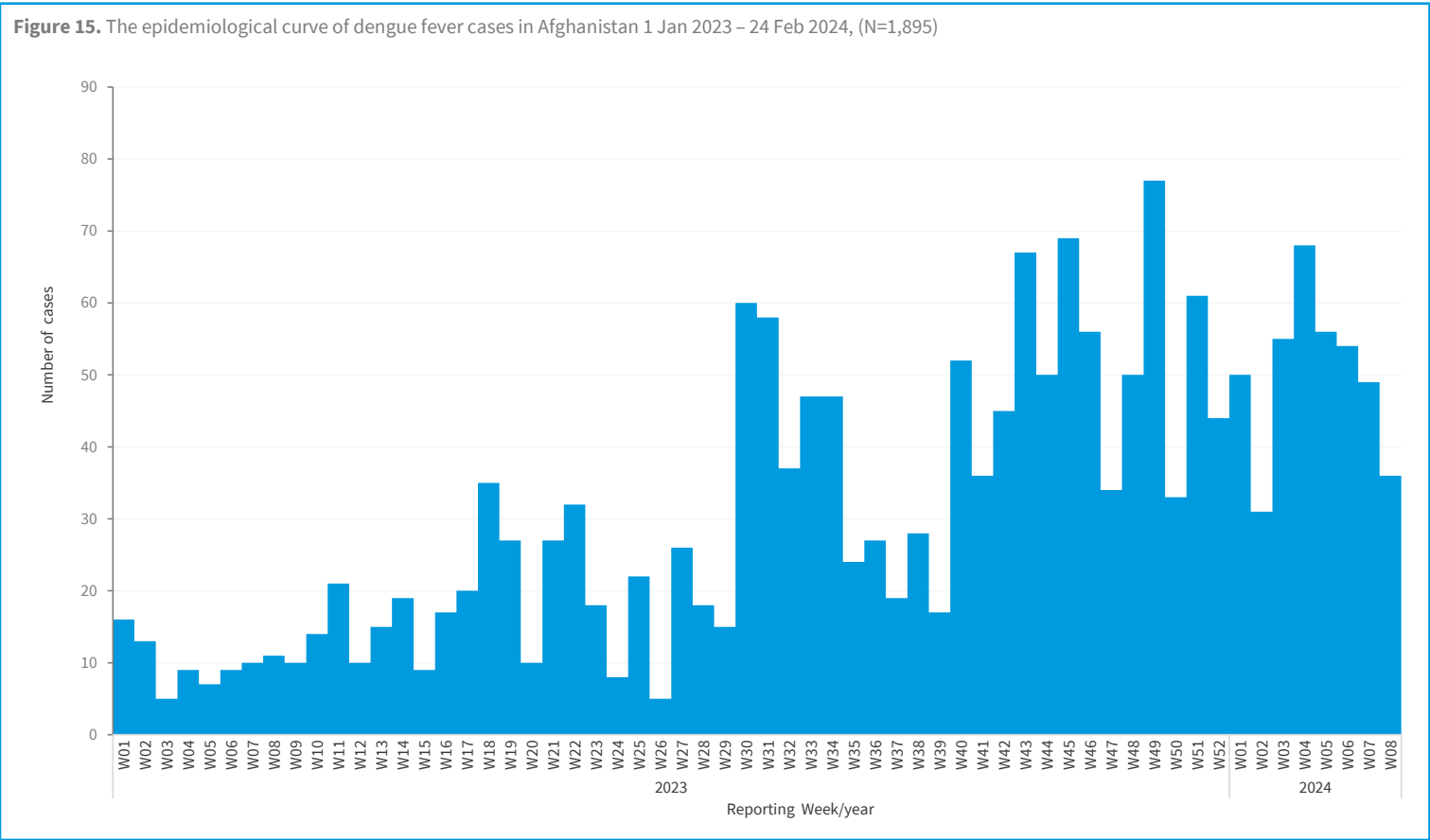
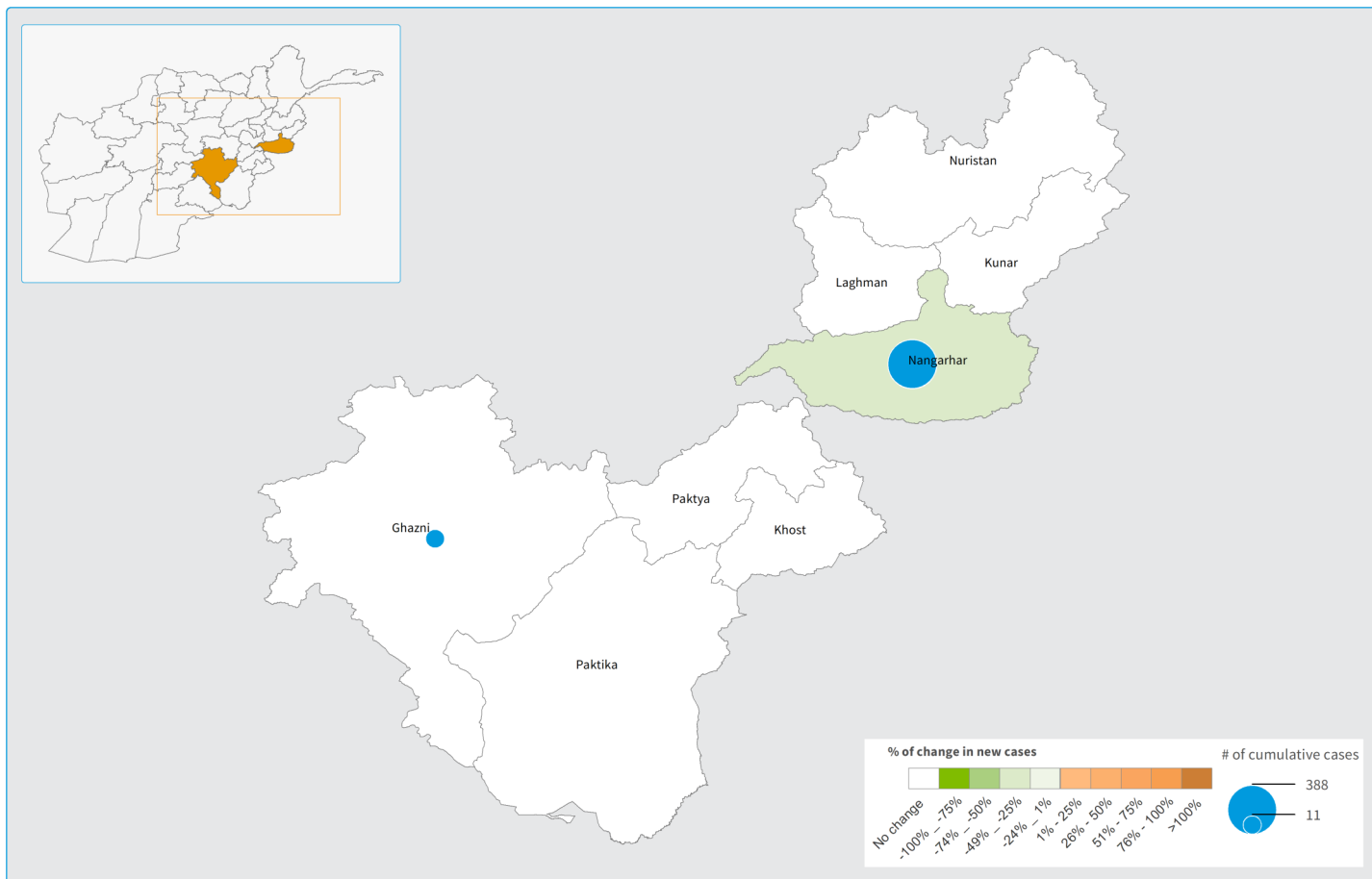


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 24 Feb 2024



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Nangarhar and Ghazni provinces and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 07 and 08, 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: 24 Feb 2024.

Updates in the response to the dengue fever outbreak

Since the beginning of 2024, a total of 380 Kits (10 tests per 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

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