



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #42-2023

No. 42 (15-21 Oct 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (Jan - Oct 23)	ARI (Jan - Oct 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Oct 23)	Measles (Jan - Oct 23)	CCHF (Jan - Oct 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Oct 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 594 (96.9%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	190,724	1,056,614	227,261	22,408	1,180	955
Death (CFR %)	89 (0.05)	2,174 (0.2)	7,951 (3.5)	62 (0.3)	108 (9.2)	1 (0.1)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 21 Oct 2023)

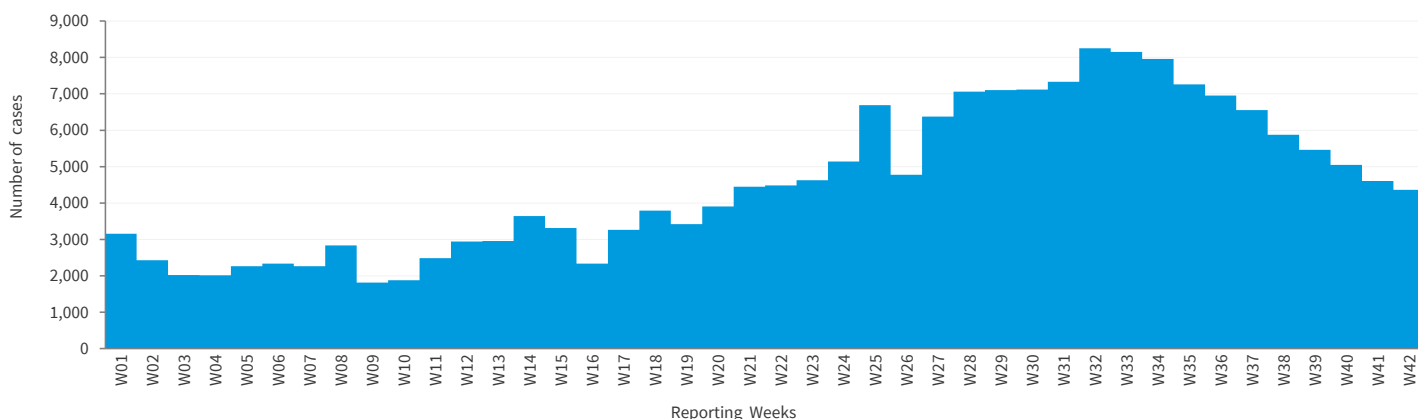
Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (27 Aug – 21 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Suspected cases	7,263	6,953	6,557	5,874	5,464	5,051	4,604 *	4,365	
% Change cases	-8.7	-4.3	-5.7	-10.4	-7.0	-7.6	-8.8	-5.2	
Suspected deaths	2	4	0	3	3	1	0	3	
CFR (%)	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	

*A Delayed reporting was experienced during week 41, the number of AWD with dehydration was modified from 3,691 to 4,604.

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- During week 42-2023; 4,365 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 170 districts which shows 5.2% decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- Three new AWD with dehydration associated deaths were reported during week 42 from 2 provinces (Kabul (2) and Baghlan (1)). All deaths were among under-five females.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 190,724 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 108,441 (56.9%) were under-five children and 94,903 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 42-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of 4,948 RDTs were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=190,724)

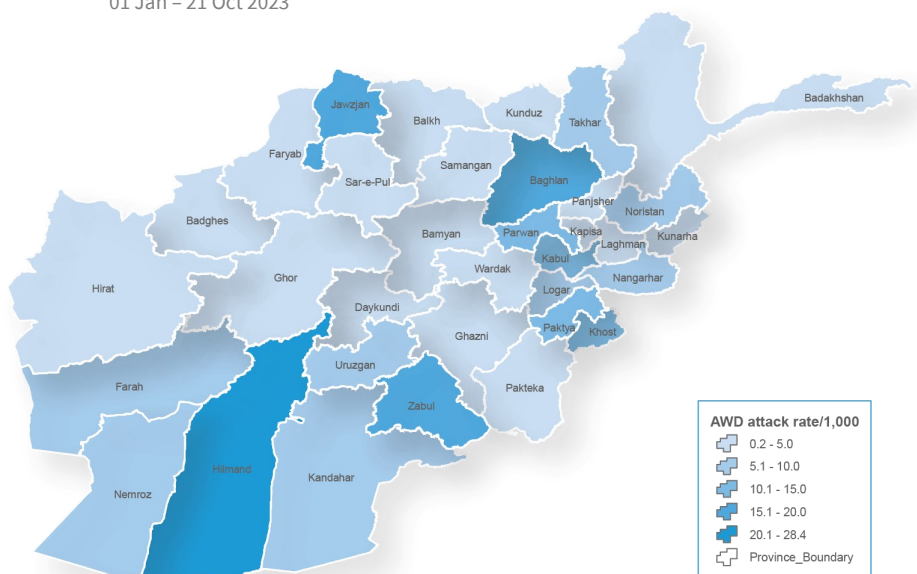


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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province

As of 21 Oct 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted between Health and WASH partners to coordinate the 2023 season AWD outbreak response.
- 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

- A total of 867 MDs and CHSs including 67 females have been trained on EBS procedures in 5 provinces: Nangarhar (total=240, 1 female), Kandahar (total=144, 22 females), Badakhshan (total=152, 4 females), Herat (total=205, 17 females) and Bamiyan (total=126, 23 females).
- Electronic surveillance reporting has been expanded from provincial to district level in 254 sentinel sites in all 8 regions since the beginning of 2023.
- 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

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 32 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to Paktia, Bamiyan, Daikundi and Nangarhar provinces.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 887 HCWs have been trained on AWD case management from 7 regions (Central, Central Highland, West, North, North-east, East, and South-east).

Laboratory and Supplies

- During week 42, about 20 investigation kits and 25 RDTs were delivered to Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces, respectively.
- About 6,200 AWD RDTs and Carry Blairs have been distributed to all provinces across the country since Jan 2023.
- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktia, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH

- No updates were reported during week 42.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- A 3-day training on RCCE has been conducted for 22 participants from 7 provinces (Nangarhar, Kunar, Nooristan, Laghman, Paktia, Paktika, and Khost) to build RCCE capacities across the provinces. The participants were trained on RCCE strategies and plans for outbreak response.
- One day social listening training has been conducted to 12 participants (health workers, social mobilizers, religious leaders, women, youth) to create awareness of public health diseases in Nangarahr province.
- Since 1st Oct 2023, a total of 477,700 information, education and communication (IEC) materials (including 241,800 posters and 235,900 brochures) were distributed to health cluster partners for implementing RCCE activities as part of outbreak response.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-21 Oct 2023)

1,056,614
Total ARI Cases

2,174
Total Deaths

2,290
Influenza sample tested

74
Influenza lab confirmed cases

3.2
Influenza test positivity ratio

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (27 Aug – 21 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Suspected cases	17,454	18,210	18,300	19,579	20,256	21,536	21,728	24,835	
% Change cases	0.8	4.2	0.5	6.5	3.3	5.9	0.9	12.5	
Suspected deaths	43	37	29	31	28	34	36	56	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	

- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since epi week 34 which might be due to winter season as the weather changed in some provinces across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 42, 24,835 cases of ARI-pneumonia were reported which shows an increase by 12.5% compared to week the number of reported cases during week 41. Additionally, 56 associated deaths were reported.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,056,614 cases and 2,174 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the coun-

- try. Out of the total cases, 651,469 (61.7%) were under-five children and 522,723 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,795 (82.6%) were under-five children and 1,004 (46.2%) were females reported from 34 provinces.
- Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2020-2022; reveals that the number of ARI cases are occurring at a higher rate as compared to the average of last three years (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of ARI cases in 34 provinces, 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=1,056,614)

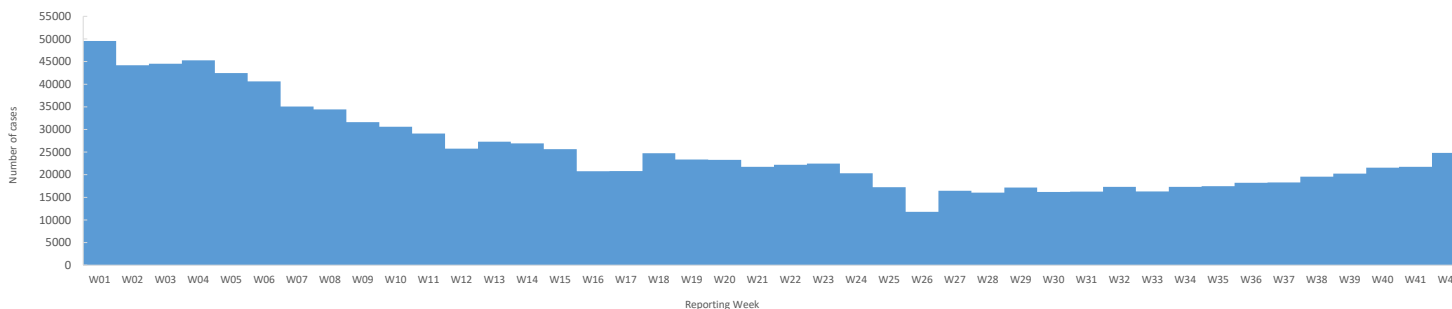


Figure 4. ARI attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=1,056,614)

AFGHANISTAN ARI attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 21 Oct 2023

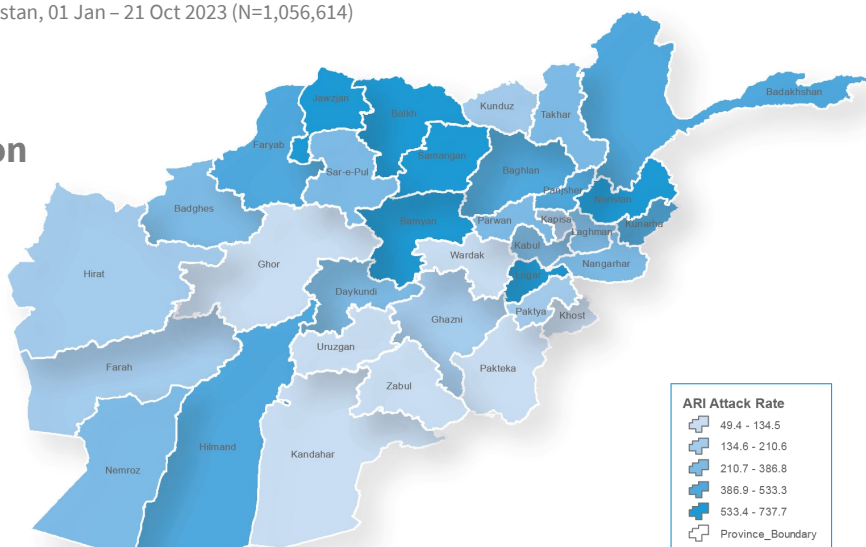
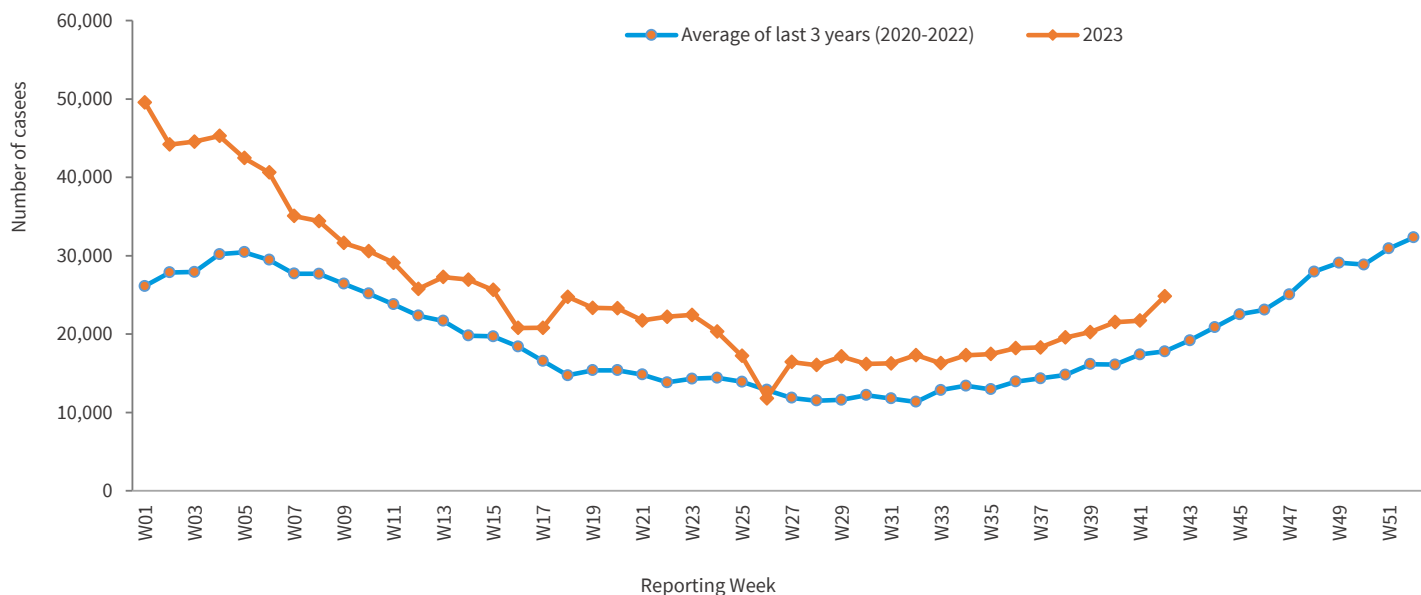


Figure 5. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023, in Afghanistan



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 Jan 2023:
 - ◊ A total of 500 VTM for collection of influenzas' samples have been supplied to each of 9 functional influenza sentinel sites.
 - ◊ A total of 9 influenza assistants have been trained (1 per each sentinel site) on specimen collection, storage, and transportation to lab for testing and confirmation.

- ◊ A total of 1,500 influenza A/B PCR kits and consumables have been supplied to NIC/CPHL.
- ◊ As a part of preparedness and response to ARI outbreak, a total of 1,600 COVID-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul WHO warehouse, and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

Case management:

- As a part of winter preparedness plan to ARI, a total of 397 different types of case management kits have been prepositioned in Kabul, WHO warehouse since Jan 2023, which will be distributed to regional offices for timely responding to ARI outbreaks across the country.

RCCE:

- As part of RCCE winterization plan, a total of 138,750 brochures and 99,150 posters of ARI have been distributed to high-risk provinces.

COVID-19

(24 Feb 2020 – 21 Oct 2023)

Cumulative samples tested

909,743

In public laboratories

2.4%

New samples tested in week 42

2,554

In public laboratories

Cumulative confirmed cases

227,261

Cumulative percent positivity (25.0%)

10.2%

New confirmed cases in week 42

255

In public laboratories (10.0%)

Cumulative confirmed deaths

7,951

CFR (3.5%)

100%

New confirmed deaths in week 42

0

Week 42 CFR (0.0%)

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Total population : 39,269,174 (Ref : UN estimation, AFG CMYP 2022)

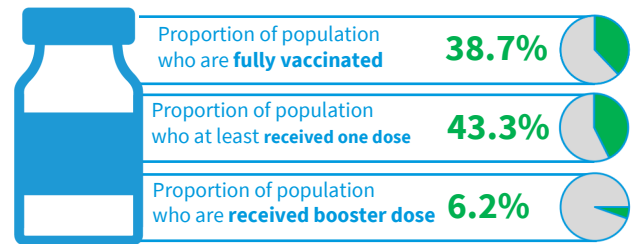


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (27 Aug – 21 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Samples tested (in public Labs)	3,179	2,974	2,814	2,579	2,539	2,841	2,618 *	2,554	
Confirmed cases	229	202	193	217	271	274	284 *	255	
% Change cases	-23.2	-11.8	-5.4	12.4	24.9	1.1	3.6	-10.2	
Percent positivity (%)	7.2	6.8	6.9	8.4	10.7	9.6	10.8	10.0	
Deaths	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 41-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,383 to 2,618 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 265 to 284.

- During week 42-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased by 10.2% compared to previous week and generally the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figures 6-7).
- In week 42-2023, a total of 2,554 samples were tested in public labs, of which 255 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 10.0%) with no new deaths reported.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 909,743 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 42-2023, 14.1% (36/255 confirmed cases) were hospitalized, meanwhile, no cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

Response

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 3 ID NOW instruments have been installed and 2,000 tests of COVID-19 ID NOW have been delivered to the CPHL-Kabul for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. Also, on the job training related to ID NOW instrument utilization and maintenance has been provided to the staff of 8 labs across the country.

Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 21 Oct 2023

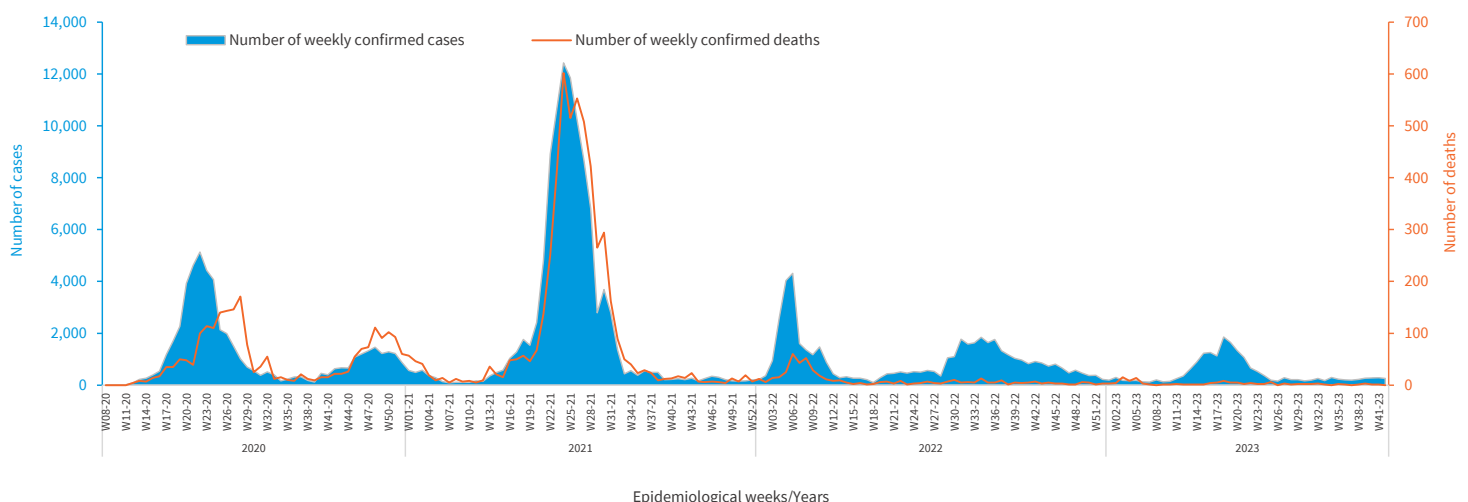


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023

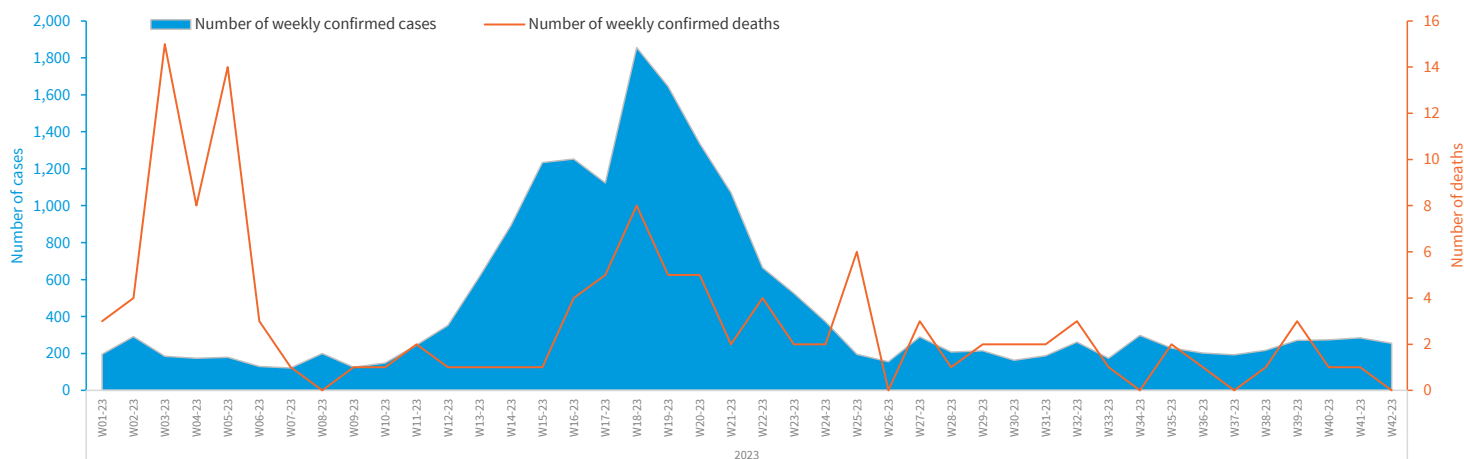
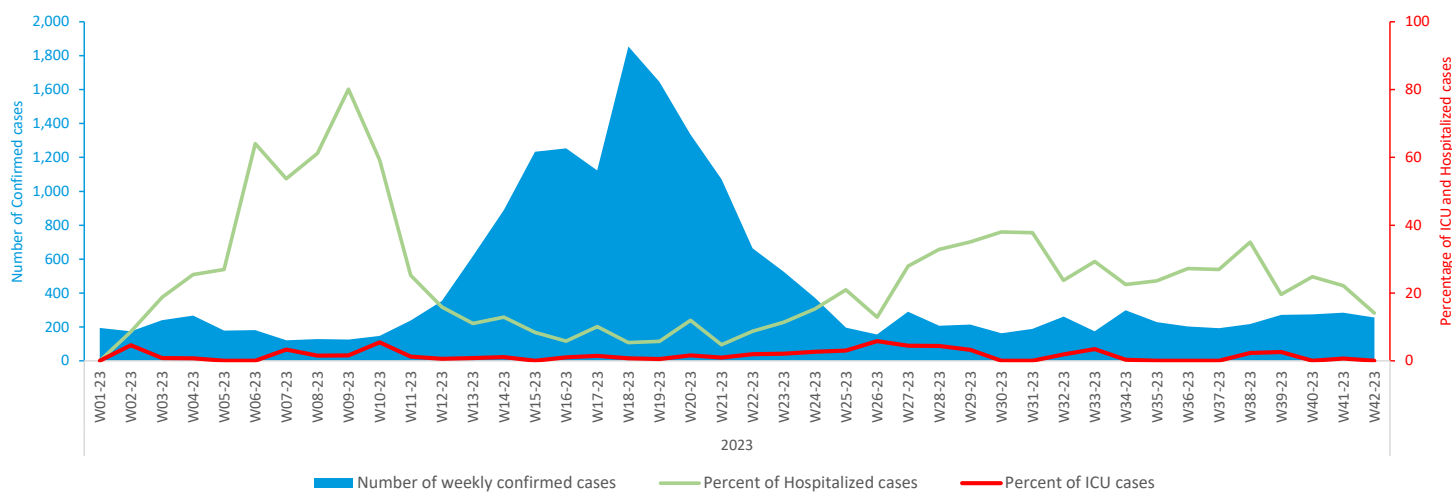


Figure 8. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 21 Oct 2023)

22,408
Total Cases

62
Total Deaths

5,049
Sample tested

2,454
Lab confirmed cases

48.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (27 Aug – 21 Oct 2023)

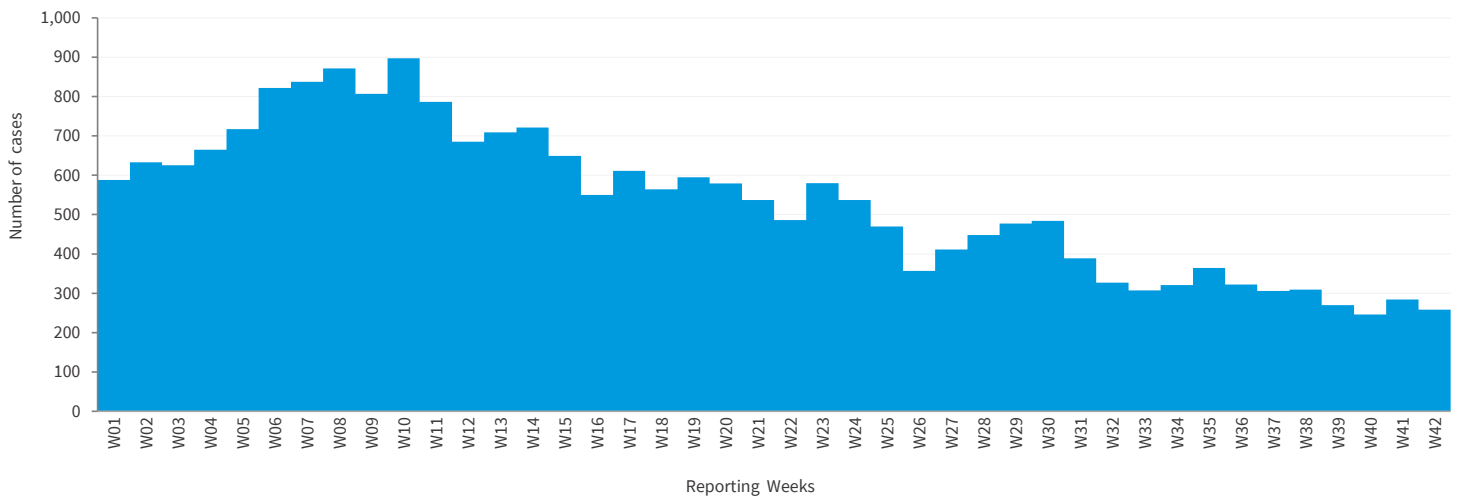
Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Suspected cases	364	322	306	309	270	246	284 *	258	
% Change cases	13.4	-11.5	-5.0	1.0	-12.6	-8.9	15.4	-9.2	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 41-2023, the number of suspected cases was modified from 265 to 284.

- Overall, the epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 9).
- During week 42-2023, a total of 258 suspected cases were reported which shows 9.2% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- Over the last eight weeks, no suspected measles associated death has been reported.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 22,408 suspected cases of measles and 62 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 15,840 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,551 (47.1%) were females (Figure 10).



Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 21 Oct 2023 (N=22,408)



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Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province As of 21 Oct 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=22,408)

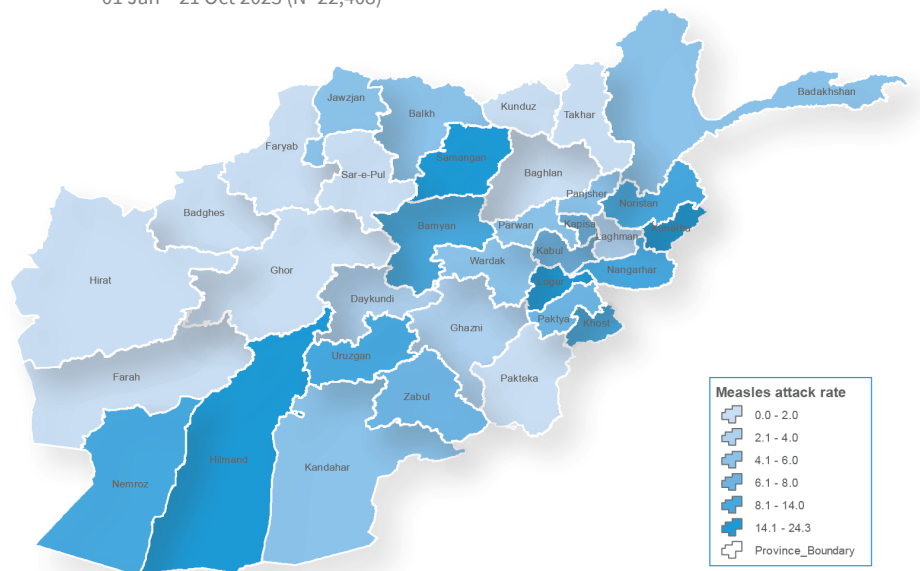
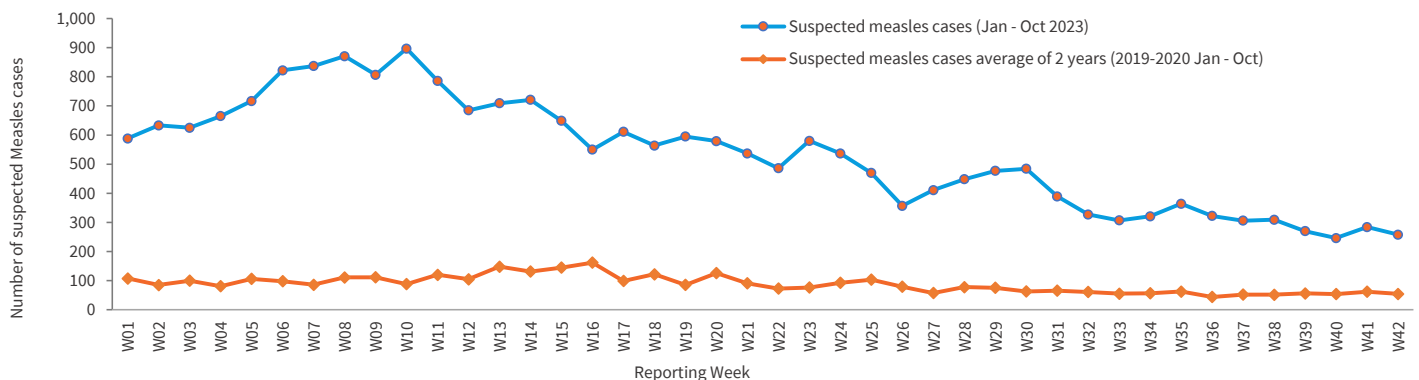


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Oct 2023, Afghanistan



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

Preparedness and response to the Measles Outbreak

- Since Jan 2023, a total of 7,153 children aged 9-59 were vaccinated against measles as part of outbreak response immunization campaign by the implementing NGOs across the country.
- A total of 132,000 information education and communication materials (IEC) on measles have been distributed to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak preparedness and response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

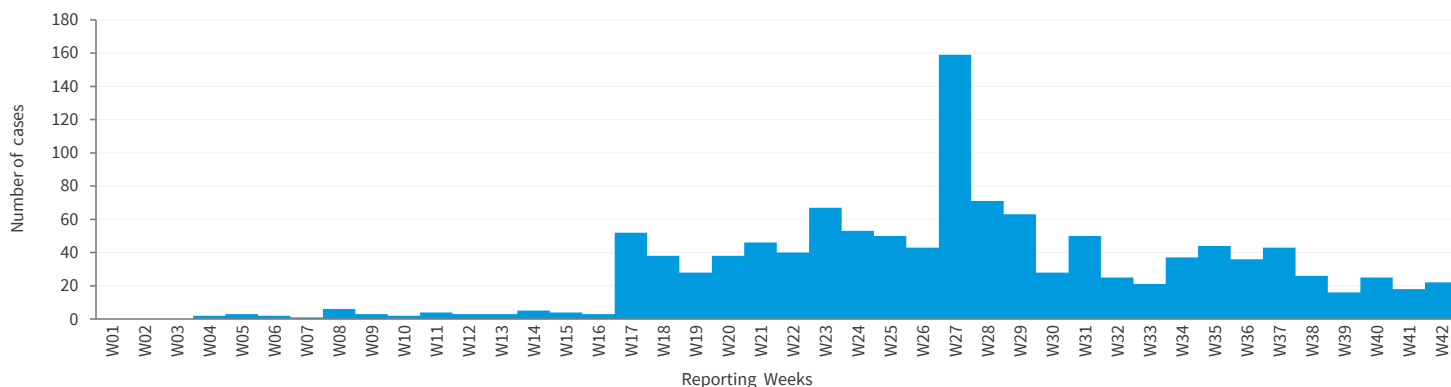
Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 21 Oct 2023)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (27 Aug - 21 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Suspected cases	44	36	43	26	16	25	18	22	
% Change cases	18.9	-18.2	19.4	-39.5	-38.5	56.3	-28.0	22.2	
Suspected deaths	4	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	
CFR (%)	9.1	2.8	7.0	3.8	0.0	4.0	5.6	4.5	

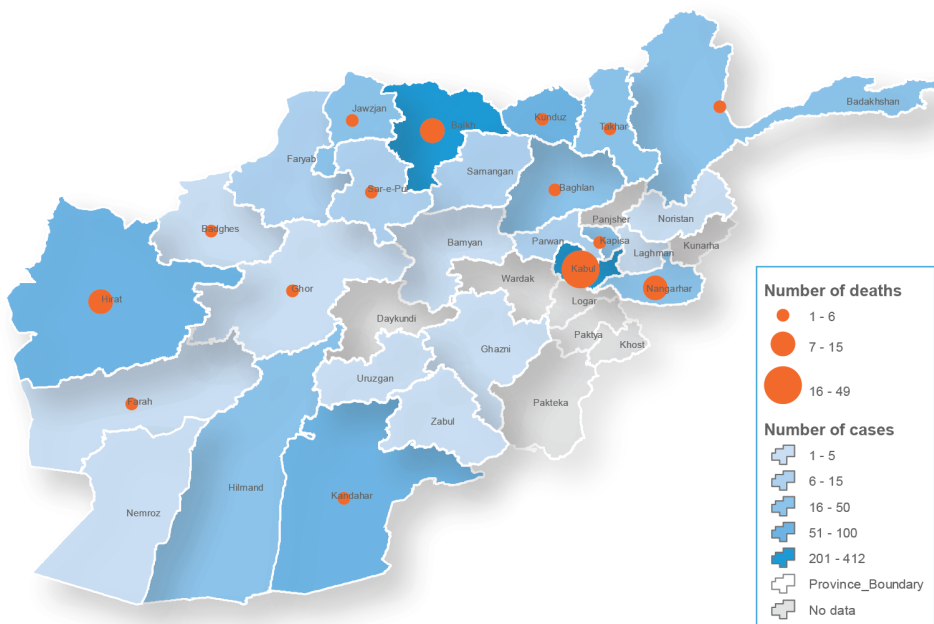
- During week 42-2023, a total of 22 new cases of CCHF and 1 death were reported, which shows 22.2% increase in number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 5, Figure 12).
- The new death was over 5 years male reported from Kandahar province.
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total numbers of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,180 and 108, respectively (CFR 9.2%) (Figure 13).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (49, 45.4%) and Balkh (15, 13.9%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,177 (99.7%) were above 5 years of age and 367 (31.1%) were females.
- Totally, 1,039 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 364 samples were positive (positivity = 35.0%).

Figure 12: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=1,180)



AFGHANISTAN Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 21 Oct 2023

Figure 13. Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 21 Oct 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- A national consultative workshop to discuss the implementation of One Health in Afghanistan has been carried out for 2 days with the participation of relevant stakeholders.
 - ◊ Technical experts from different agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agricultural, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Dairy Form Union and veterinary department of Kabul University participated in the workshop.
 - ◊ During the workshop, six technical important areas were extensively discussed, where the current structure, gaps and challenges were highlighted (leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance).
 - ◊ Main recommendations of the workshop included: gaining political support from the government; development of a strategic/national plan for and establishment of a national level Technical Working Group (TWG) were recommended by the participants.

Surveillance

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

Laboratory and supplies

- A total of 14 CCHF PCR kits have been distributed to CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs across the country since the beginning of 2023.
- On-the-job training has been conducted for 6 regional reference laboratory staff; the capacities have been built to utilize the PCR and ELISA technologies for laboratory confirmation of CCHF.

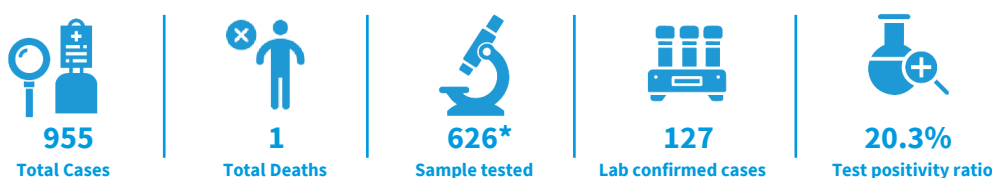
Case management

- A total of 150 oral ribavirin (antiviral medicine) courses (each course containing 84 tablets), and 200 personal protective equipment for infection prevention and control have been supplied to the North region since the beginning of 2023.
- A total of 5,000 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul IDH and Nangarhar provinces to support CCHF case management.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 healthcare workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.

RCCE

- A 3-days training of trainers (ToT) was conducted on risk communication and community engagement for 25 officers of Ministry of Public Health including 8 females, in Kabul province.
- A total of 199,300 information education and communication materials (IEC) on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH; and a total of 34,501 people have been reached through RCCE campaigns in Kandahar, Helmand and Herat provinces.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 21 Oct 2023)



*A backlog data of samples collected from suspected dengue fever cases were added to the cumulative number.

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (27 Aug – 21 Oct 2023)

Indicators	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	Trend lines
Suspected cases	24	27	19	28	17	52	36	45	
% Change cases	-48.9	12.5	-29.6	47.4	-39.3	205.9	-30.8	25.0	
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	

- During week 42-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases of dengue fever shows a 25.0% increase compared to previous week (Figure 14).
- A total of 45 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 42-2023; all were reported from 2 provinces, Nangarhar (42) and Laghman (3). This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 955 and one death since the beginning of 2023 (Figure 15).
- Out of 955 reported cases, 484 (50.7%) were females and 935 (97.9%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 626 samples have been collected, out of which 127 were confirmed (positivity= 20.3%).

Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 21 Oct 2023 (N=955)

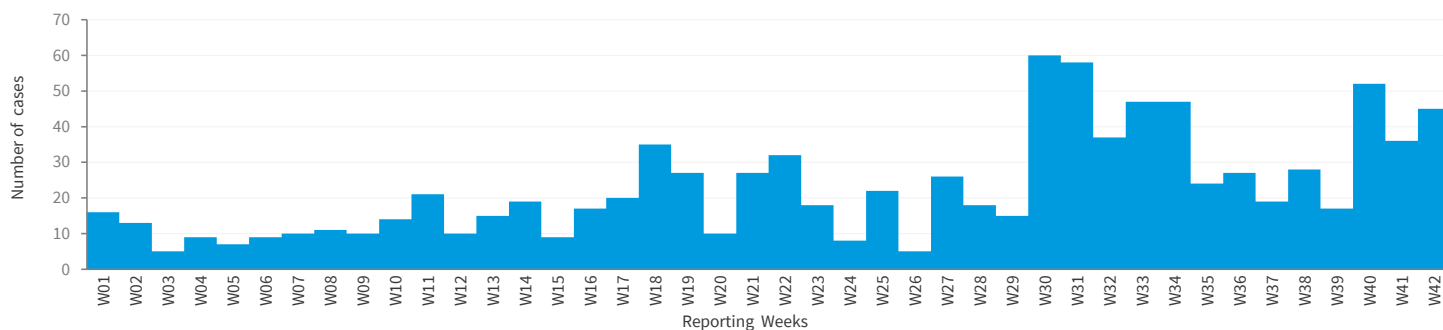
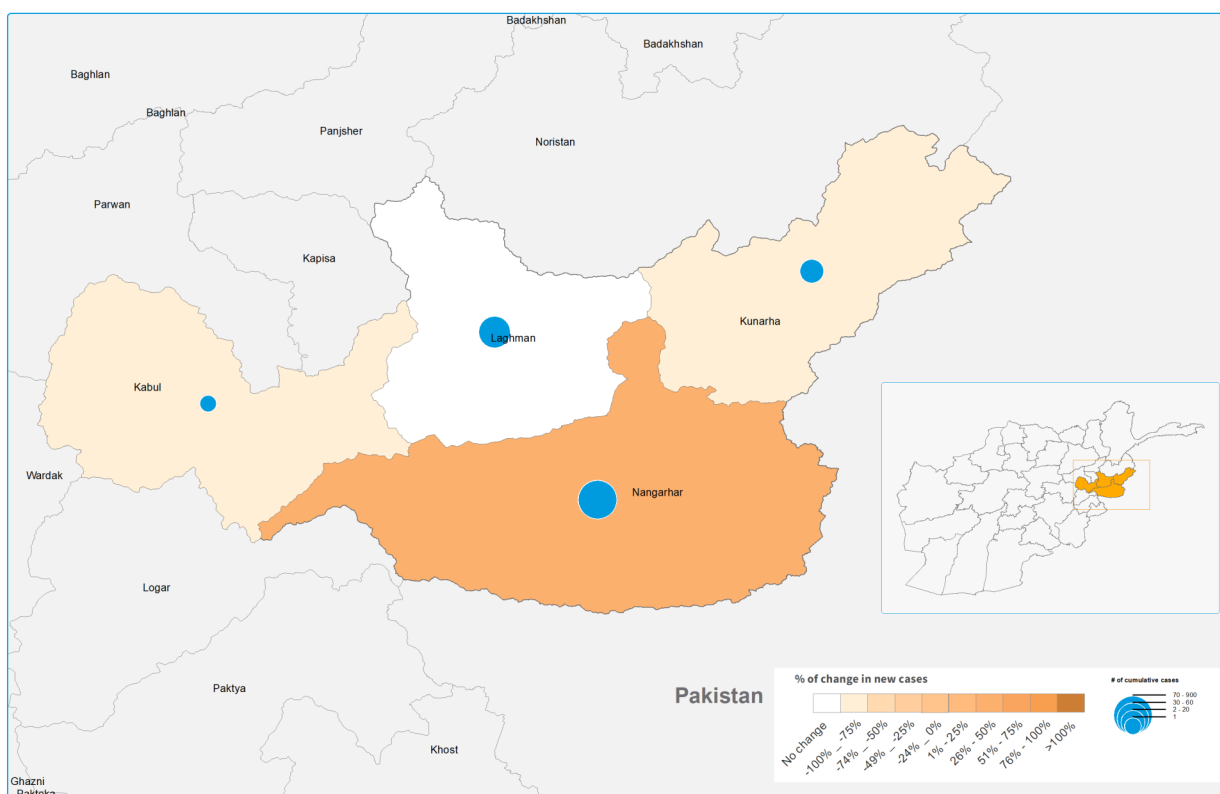


Figure 15. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Oct 2023



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes
(between weeks 41 and 42, 2023)



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: 14 Oct 2023.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

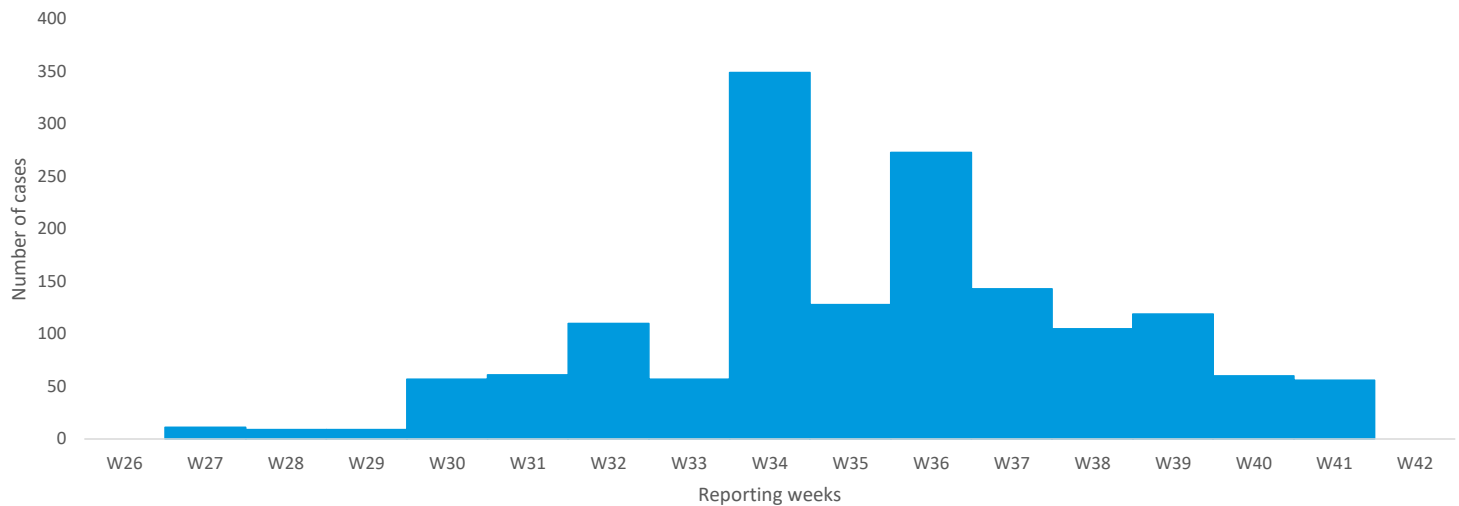
- Since 1 Jan 2023, 5,000 dengue fever RDTs were received and stocked at WHO warehouse in Kabul.
- Since Jan 2023:
 - ◊ A total of 60 dengue RDT kits have been supplied to 4 provinces: Nangarhar (50), Kunar (3), Laghman (3), Nuristan (2) and Kabul (2).
 - ◊ A total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
 - ◊ A total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.
- A guideline for case management of dengue fever has been revised followed by a one-day workshop with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.



Malaria outbreak

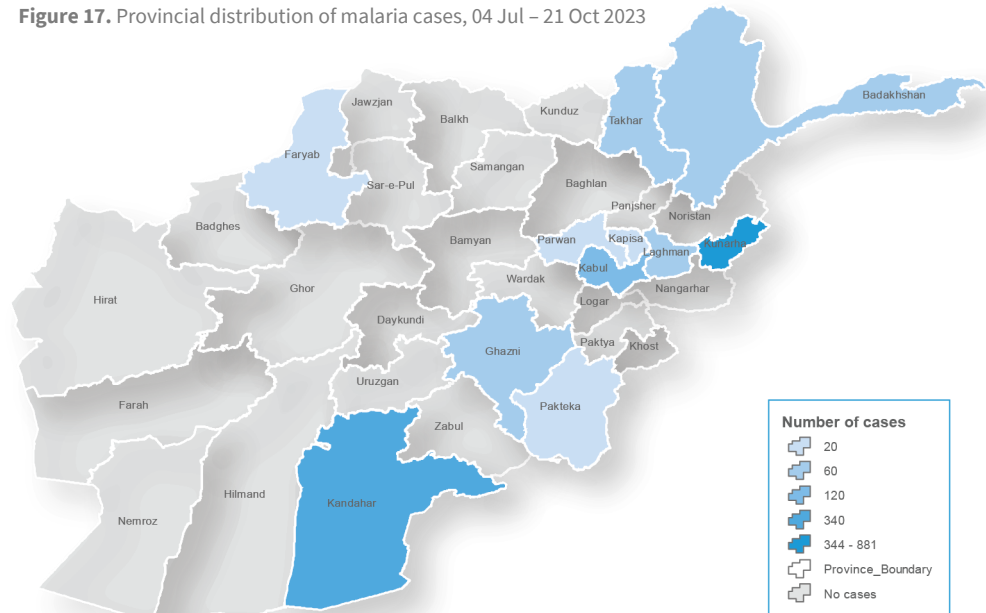
- No alerts of outbreak have been reported during week 42.
- Since 04 Jul-2023, a total of 1,546 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 243 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 22 districts in 11 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Parwan, Faryab, Paktika, Takhar, Laghman and Ghazni) (Figure 17).
- Out of the total cases, 679 (43.9%) were females and 181 (11.7%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.

Figure 16. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 7 provinces during 04 Jul – 21 Oct 2023 (N=1,546)



AFGHANISTAN Provincial distribution of Malaria cases As of 21 Oct 2023

Figure 17. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul – 21 Oct 2023



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

[Case definition & alert/outbreak thresholds](#)

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