








AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS



SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #29-2023

No. 29/(16-22 July)

Disease Outbreaks	 CCHF (Jan - Jul 23)	 AWD (Jan - Jul 23)	 COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Jul 23)	 Measles (Jan - Jul 23)	 Dengue fever (Jan—Jul 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 604 (98.5%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	677	105,775	224,242	18,221	458
Death (CFR %)	67 (9.9)	50 (0.05)	7,934 (3.5)	50 (0.3)	1 (0.2)

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 22 Jul 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (28 May - 22 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	44	59	48	50	48	125	56	9	
% Change cases	12.8	34.1	-18.6	4.2	-4.0	160.4	-55.2	-83.9	
Suspected deaths	5	5	6	4	5	15	6	0	
CFR (%)	11.4	8.5	12.5	8.0	10.4	12.0	10.7	0.0	

- During week 29-2023, a total of 9 new cases of CCHF (2 cases were confirmed positive by PCR) and no new deaths were reported (Figure 1, Table 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, 677 suspected CCHF cases with 67 associated deaths were reported, (CFR 9.9%. (Figure2)
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 18 provinces; more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces; Kabul (25, 37.3%) and Balkh (14, 20.9%).
- Out of the total cases (677), 676 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 199 (29.4%) were females.
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from Central (Kabul), North (Balkh) and West (Herat) regions.
- Totally, 650 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 225 samples were positive (34.6% positivity).

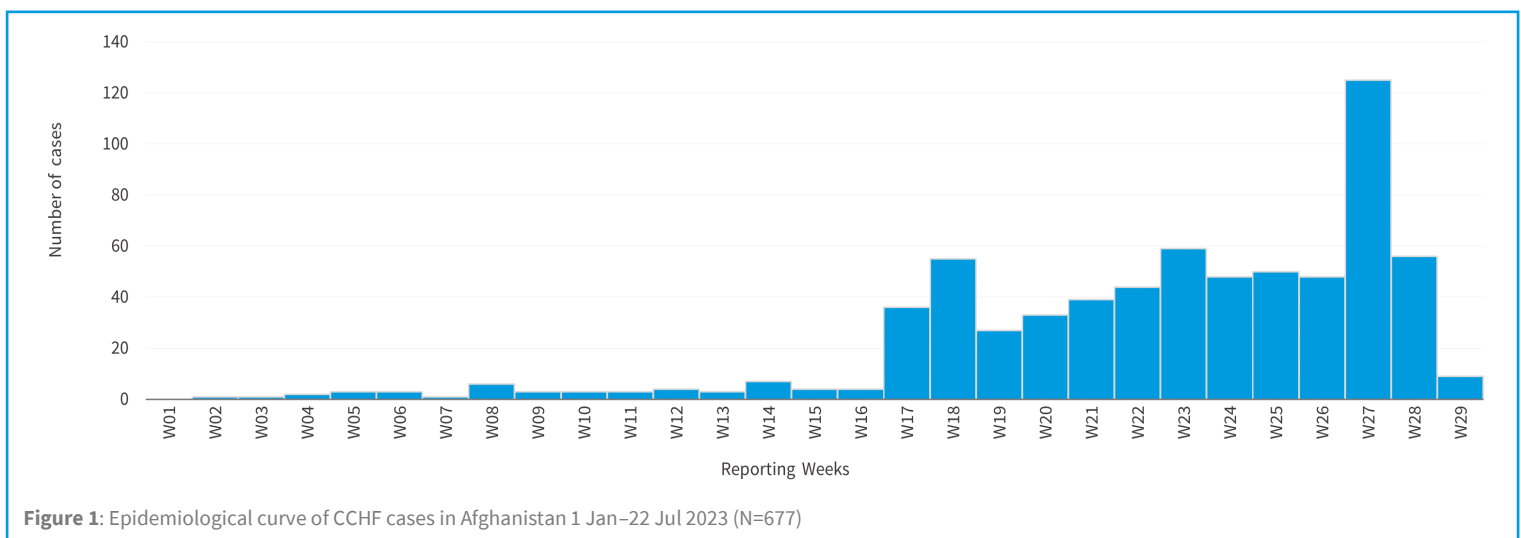


Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan–22 Jul 2023 (N=677)

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 22 Jul 2023

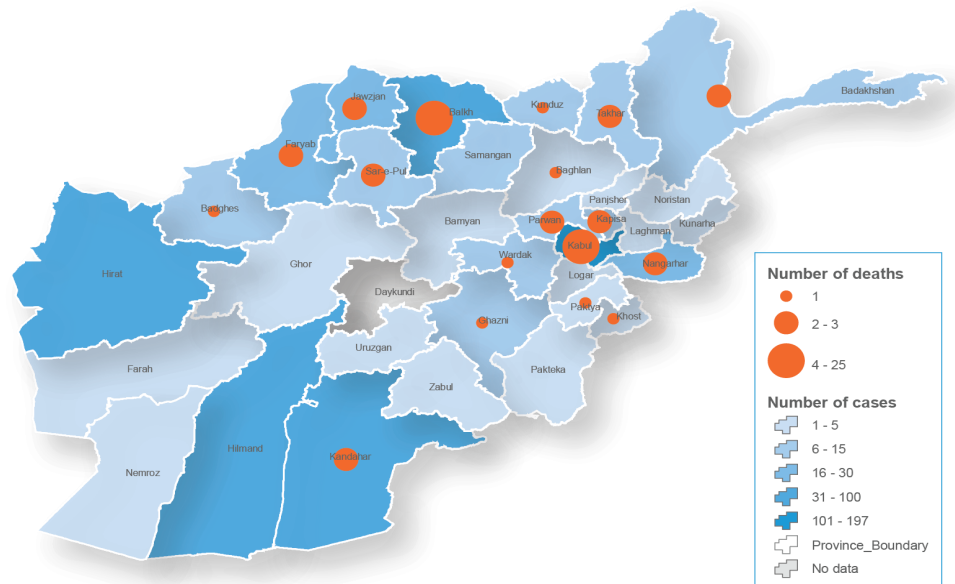


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–22 Jul 2023

CCHF Epi Situation between 2017 to 2022

- Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is endemic in Afghanistan; between 2017 and 2022, the total number of suspected cases and deaths reported were 1,971 and 207 respectively.
- Females represented 25.9% (510), and 97.5% (1,922) were over five years of age.
- The most frequently reported occupational groups were those dealing with animals (butchers, farmers, shepherds and animal dealers) representing 37.7% (743) followed by housewives (23.2%, 457).

Potential reasons behind that increase:

• A real increase in the numbers of cases that could be attributed to:

- Environmental and ecological changes affecting the vectors breeding.
- Movement across neighboring countries.

• Enhanced reporting due to improvements brought to the national disease surveillance and response:

- Enhanced surveillance activities:
 - ◆ Employment of additional data reporting mechanisms that were not previously used in the preceding years; data in 2023 compiles data from IBS (sentinel sites) in addition to alerts of outbreaks reported from other sources (other than sentinel sites).
 - ◆ Expansion of the sentinel sites from 519 to 613 since November 2022.
 - ◆ Deployment of 130 surveillance support team support teams (SSTs) across the 34 provinces participat-

- The number of CCHF cases reported during 2023 is higher than: (Figure 3)
 - Average of cases reported before COVID-19 pandemic (2017 – 2019).
 - Average of cases reported after COVID-19 pandemic (2020 – 2022).
 - Average of cases reported over the past 6 years (2017 – 2022)
- The highest weekly number of cases during the past 6 years was recorded in 2019 (week 35, with 92 suspected cases), which was exceeded during week 27-2023 (125 suspected cases).

ing in the active case findings in the field.

- ◆ Declaration of the ending of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enhanced laboratory diagnostic capacities:
 - ◆ As of 2023, the CCHF testing capacities have been expanded to be conducted in 6 laboratories (CPHL, Advanced lab of Infectious Disease Hospital in Kabul, and four regional reference laboratories (RRLs) in Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, and Nangarhar.
- Two outbreaks of nosocomial CCHF were experienced in 2 regions (South and North):
 - ◆ The first nosocomial outbreak in the South Region was reported in late April 2023 which included an index case and 48 additional secondary cases.
 - ◆ The second nosocomial outbreak was reported from the North Region as of 12 May 2023. Between 12 - 30 May 2023, a total of 9 suspected CCHF cases have been reported from Jawzjan and Balkh provinces.

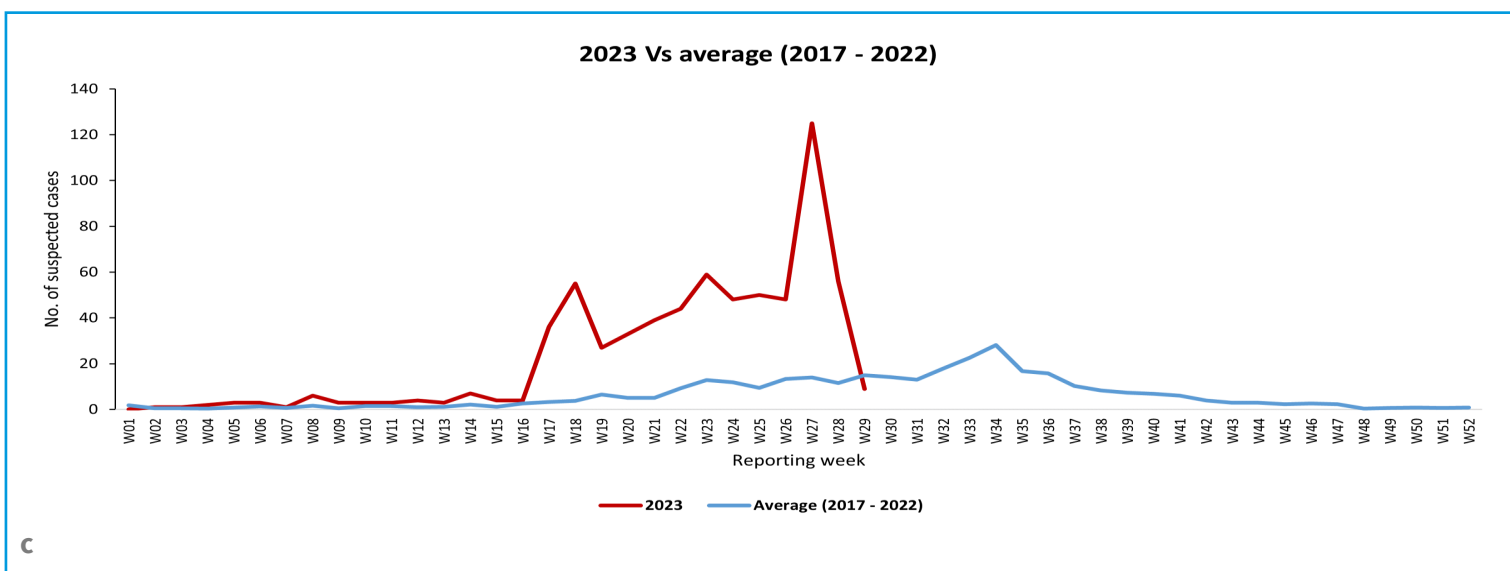
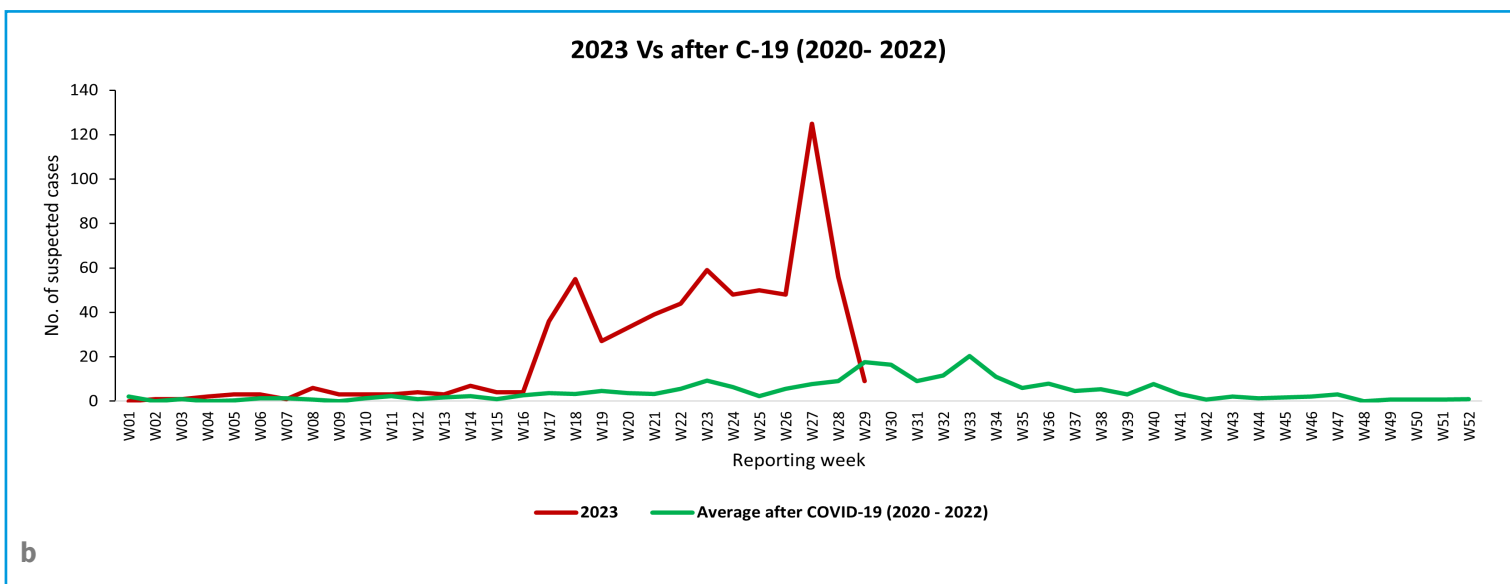
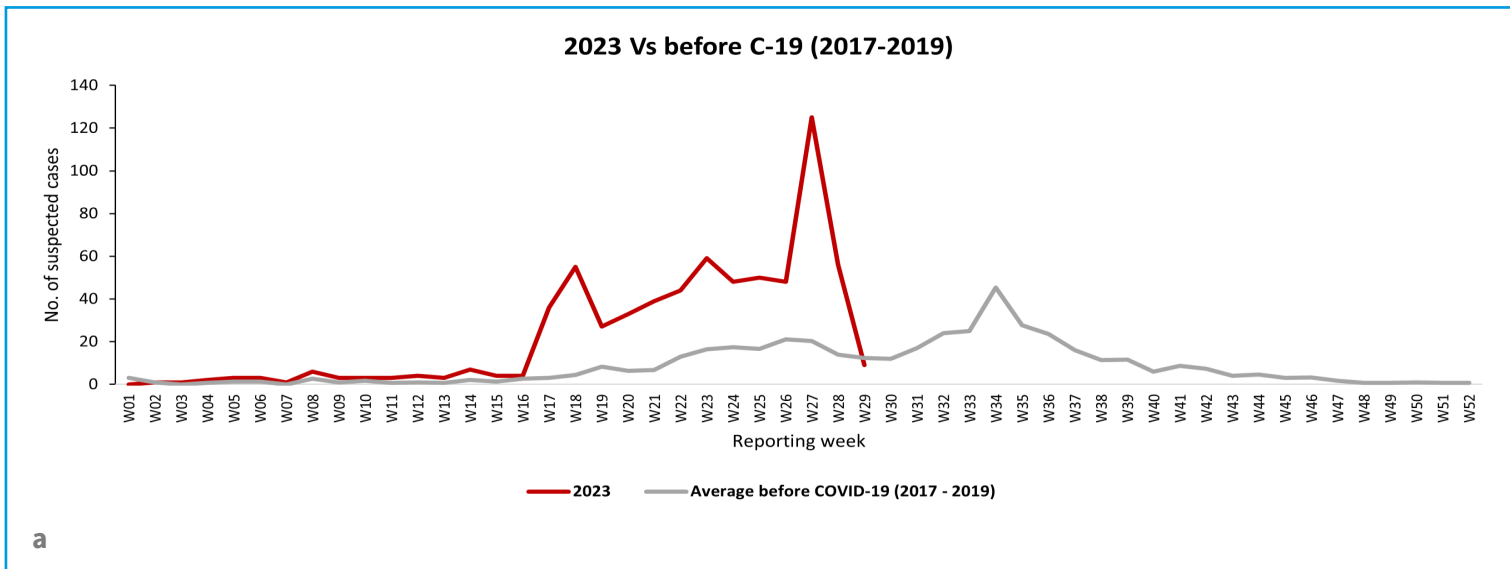


Figure 3. Comparison of weekly distribution of suspected CCHF cases during 2023, a. average before COVID-19 pandemic (2017 – 2019); b. average after COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022); c. average of last 6 years (2017 – 2022), Afghanistan



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

•National zoonosis committee meeting has been held and chaired by CDC-MoPH where relevant departments from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kabul Municipality, Ministry of Information and Technology, and national and international partners attended the meeting; coordinating the preparedness and response to zoonotic diseases outbreak (including CCHF); public awareness and case management of infected cases were discussed and decided among the committee members.

Surveillance

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

Laboratory and supplies

- During last week, CCHF PCR kits were delivered to the advanced Lab of the Infectious Disease Hospital (2), Balkh RRL (1) and Herat RRL (1); this makes the total number of CCHF CCR kits supplied to different laboratories to 13 since the beginning of 2023.
- Four (4) Automated Nucleic acid extraction machines are delivered to the CPHL (1), Nangarhar RRL (1), Herat RRL (1), Balkh RRL (1) that will minimize the sample processing time and improve the quality of the results and the safety of the lab staff.
- On-the-job training has been conducted for Nangarhar, Herat and Balkh RRLs’ staff; the capacities have been built to utilize the PCR and ELISA technologies for laboratory confirmation of CCHF.
- A 6-day training on PCR and ELISA has been conducted for 6 Regional NDSR lab focal points at CPHL.

Case management

- Case management guideline for CCHF has been revised and being reviewed by the MoPH for their endorsement; a one-day workshop was also held with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and the guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 healthcare workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.
- A total of 1,600 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh province to support CCHF case management.
- A total of 15 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.

RCCE

- 9,538 people (2,736 females) were reached through a 7-day mass awareness campaign on Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in three districts of Herat province.
- 45 social mobilizers (15 women) were deployed to 23 locations in these districts to raise awareness through community engagement sessions and interpersonal communications.
- More than 13,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials (e.g., brochures and posters) on CCHF have been distributed during the campaign in Herat.

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 22 Jul 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (28 May - 22 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	4,481	4,627	5,143	6,688	4,775	6,373	7,059	7,103	
% Change cases	0.6	3.3	11.2	30.0	-28.6	33.5	10.8	0.6	
Suspected deaths	1	2	1	7	1	3	3	4	
CFR (%)	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.06	

*Figures were corrected by NDSR, number of suspected cases during week 28 were corrected from 7,238 to 7,059.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases is increasing. The general trend is on the rise since week 10-2023 which could be linked to the summer season (Figure 4).
- During week 29-2023, a total of 7,103 new AWD cases with dehydration and 4 new deaths were reported from 234 districts all over the country, which shows stabilization in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 5).
- During last week, one new district (Shutul district of Panjshir province) reported an alert of AWD with dehydration.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 4 provinces:

- Badakhshan, Helmand, Nimroz and Parwan. All the deaths were under-five and 75.0% (3 deaths) were females.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 105,775 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 327 districts, out of which 60,381 (57.1%) were children below 5 years and 52,409 (49.5%) were females.
- A total of 1,481 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

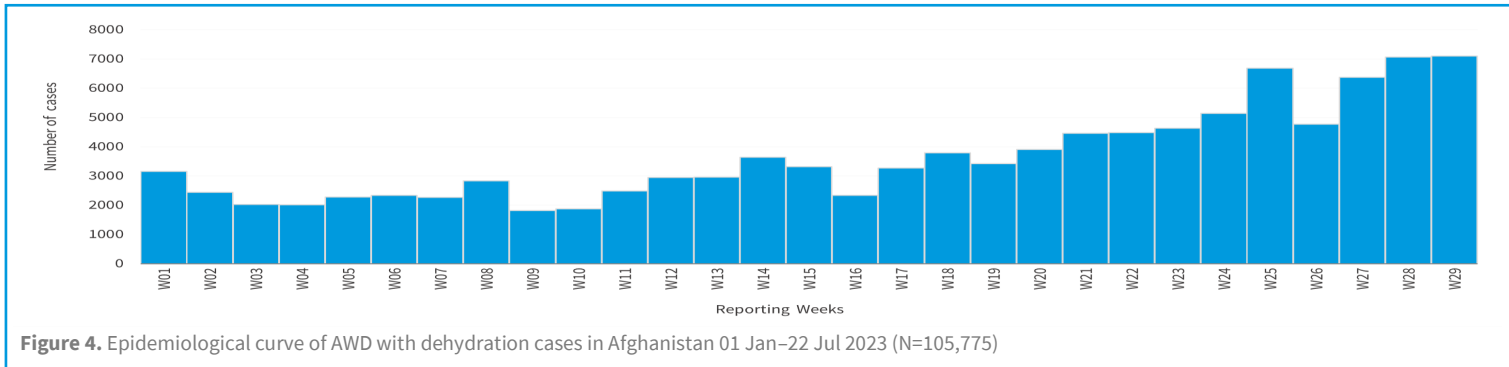


Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–22 Jul 2023 (N=105,775)

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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province
As of 22 Jul 2023

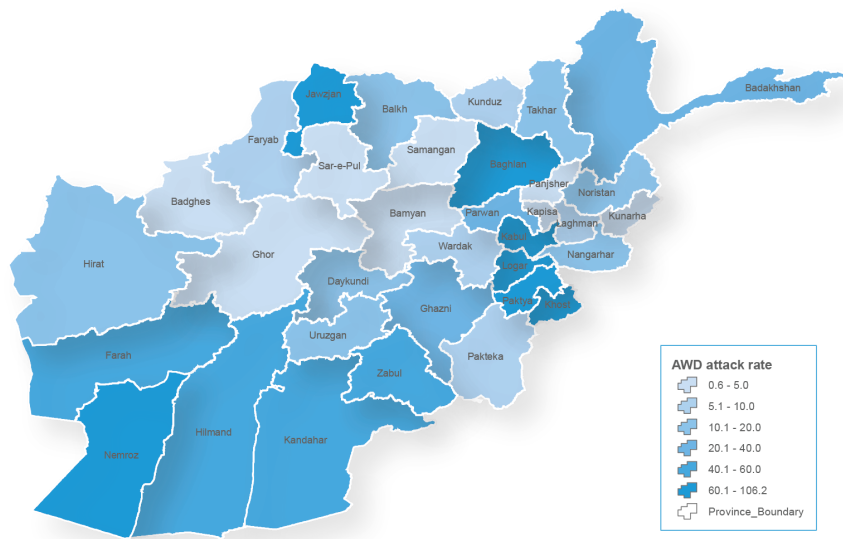


Figure 5. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–22 Jul 2023

Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted for health 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

- During last week, 30 SST members were trained on outbreak investigation and reporting, lab sample collection and transportation which brings the total number of SST members trained since the beginning of 2023 to 169.
- 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

- 696 HCWs have been trained on AWD case management in 4 regions (Central, West, North and East).
- Around 400 HCWs are targeted for case management

training over the coming few weeks.

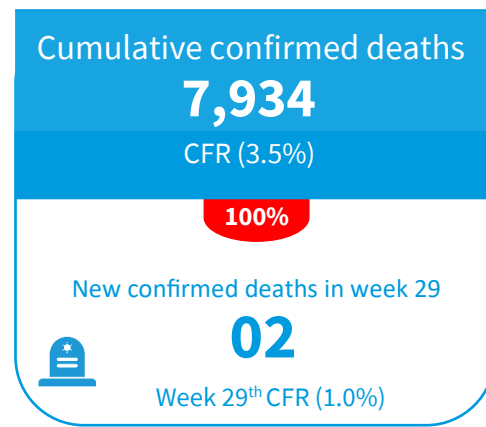
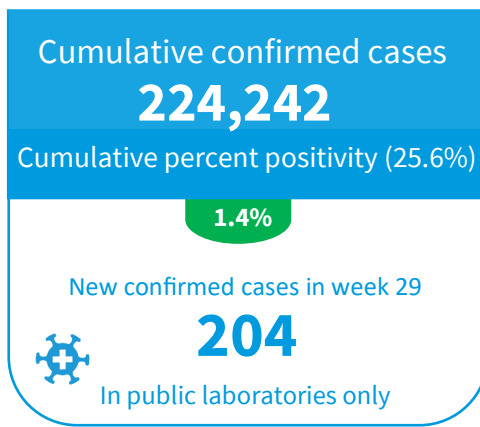
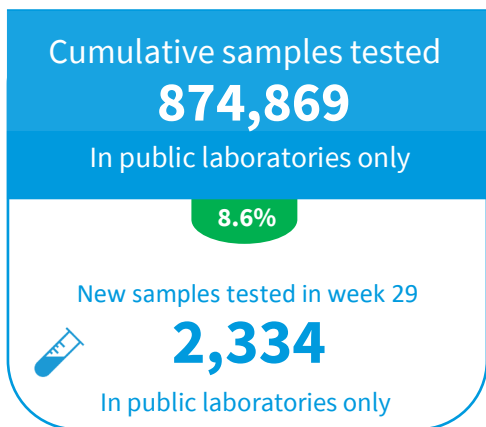
Laboratory and Supplies

- A total of 3,750 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 330 kits of RDTs were prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktya, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and they have been supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH and RCCE

- No updates during last week, updates are shared by partners on a bi-weekly basis.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 22 Jul 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

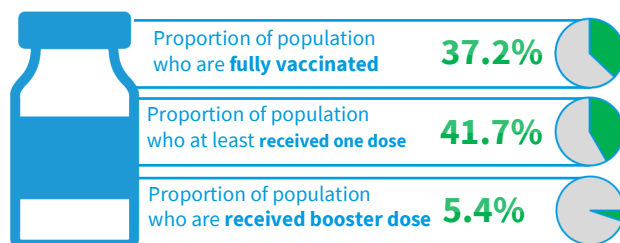


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (28 May - 22 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	4,214	3,764	3,022	1,943	904	2,183	2,553	2,334	
Confirmed cases	664	526	372	196	155	290	207 *	204	
% Change cases	-38.0	-20.8	-29.3	-47.3	-20.9	87.1	-28.6	-1.4	
Percent positivity (%)	15.8	14.0	12.3	10.1	17.1	13.3	8.1	8.7	
Deaths	4	2	2	6	0	3	1	2	
CFR (%)	0.6	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 28-2023, and the number of samples tested, and new cases were modified from 2,388 to 2,553 and from 200 to 207, respectively.

- During week 29, the number of COVID-19 cases is stabilizing. Generally, the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases over the past 10 weeks (Figure 6).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 874,869 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 29-2023, a total of 2,334 samples were tested in public labs, of which 204 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 8.7%) and 2 new deaths were reported (CFR=1.0%).
- During week 29-2023, 19.1% (39/204 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 7), including 7 cases (17.9% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

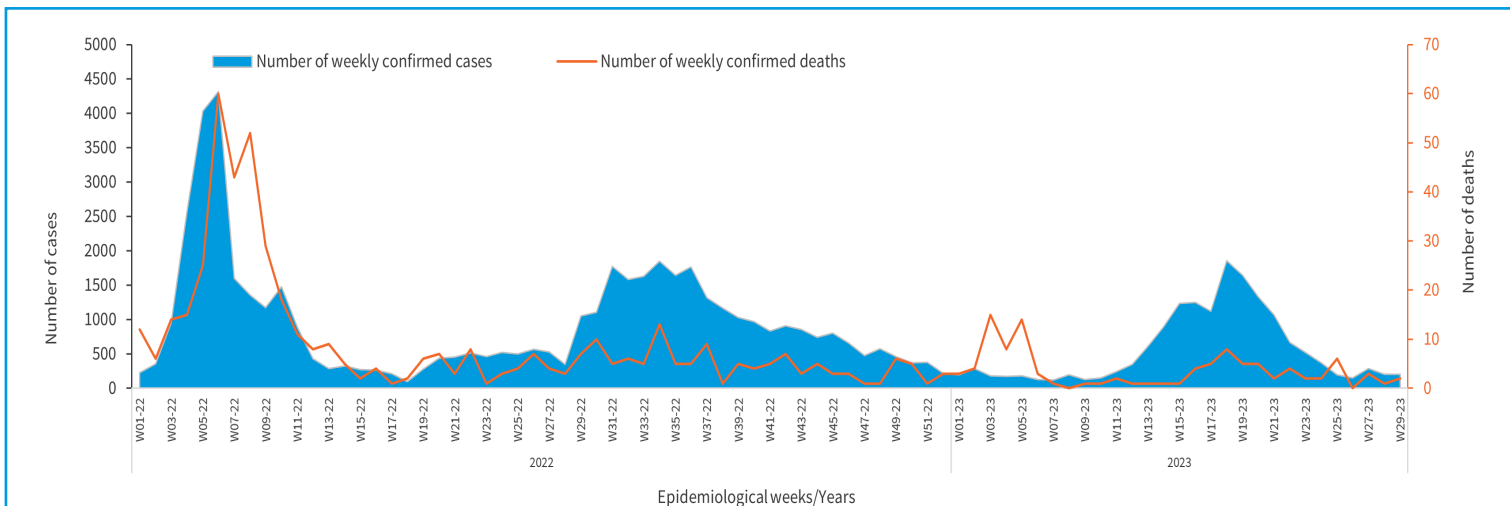


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–22 Jul 2023

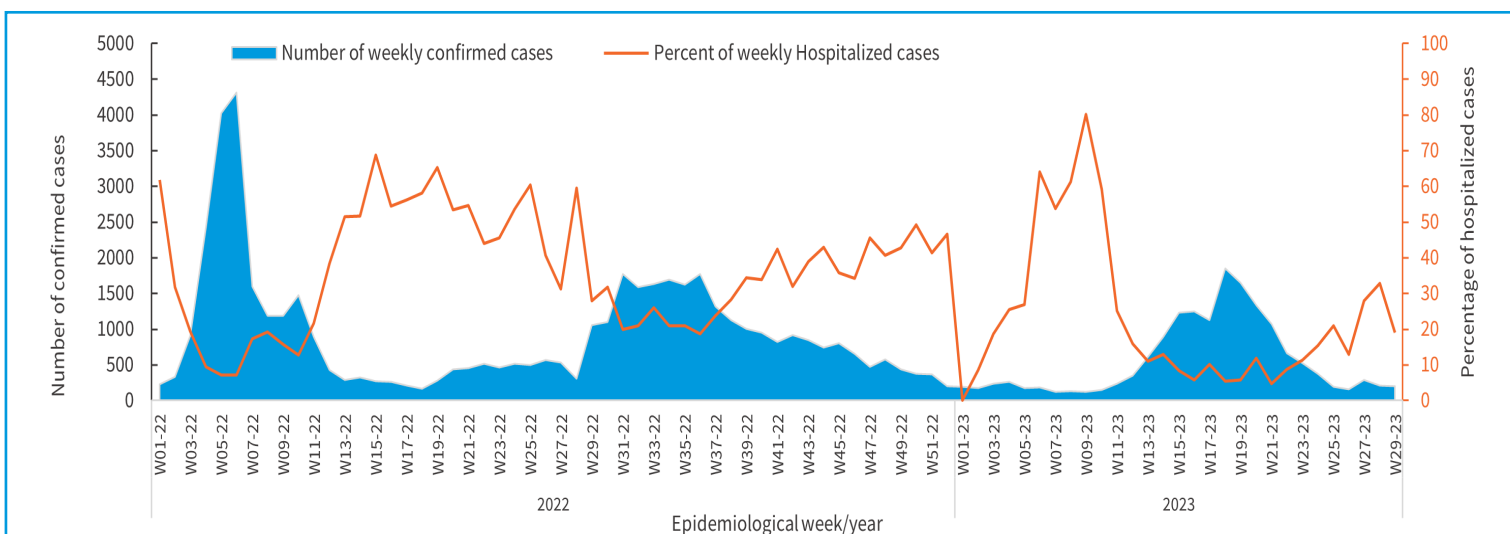


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–22 Jul 2023

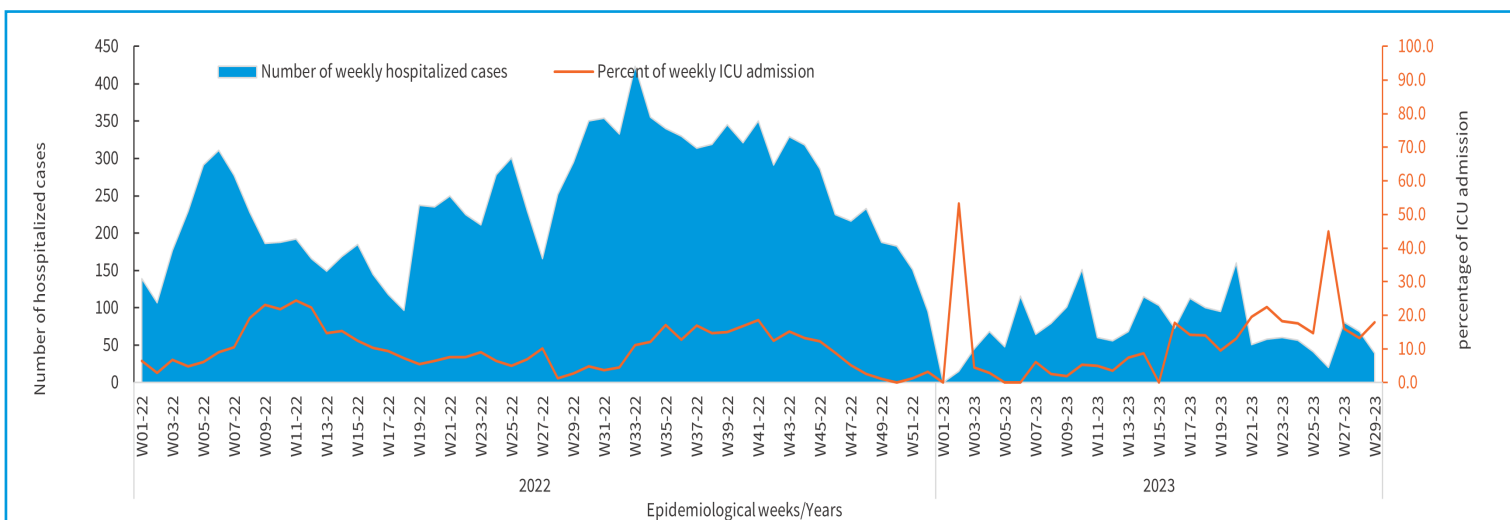


Figure 8. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–22 Jul 2023

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 22 Jul 2023)

18,221
Total Cases

50
Total Deaths

4,074
Sample tested

2,063
Lab confirmed cases

50.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (28 May - 22 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	486	580	537	470	357	411	448	477	
% Change cases	-9.5	19.3	-7.4	-12.5	-24.0	15.1	9.0	6.5	
Suspected deaths	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	

- The epi-curve shows an increase in the number of suspected measles cases for 3 consecutive weeks; however, overall, measles cases are showing a slow declining trend since week 10 (Figure 9).
- During epidemiological week 29-2023, a total of 477 suspected cases and one associated death were reported which indicates 6.5% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 18,221 suspected measles cases were reported, out of which 12,937 (71.0%) were children under 5 years of age and 8,603 (47.2%) were females.

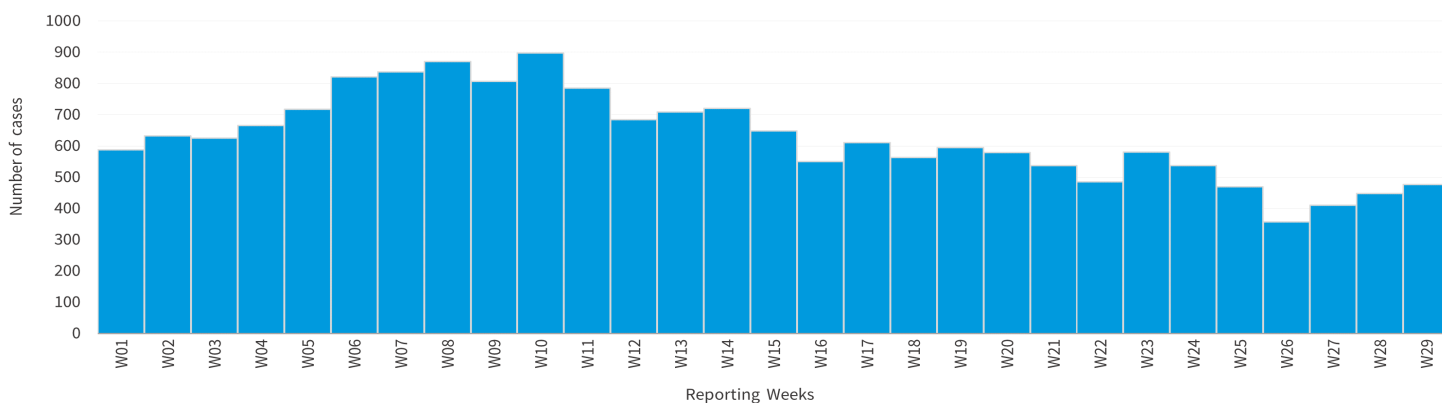


Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 22 Jul 2023 (N=18,221)

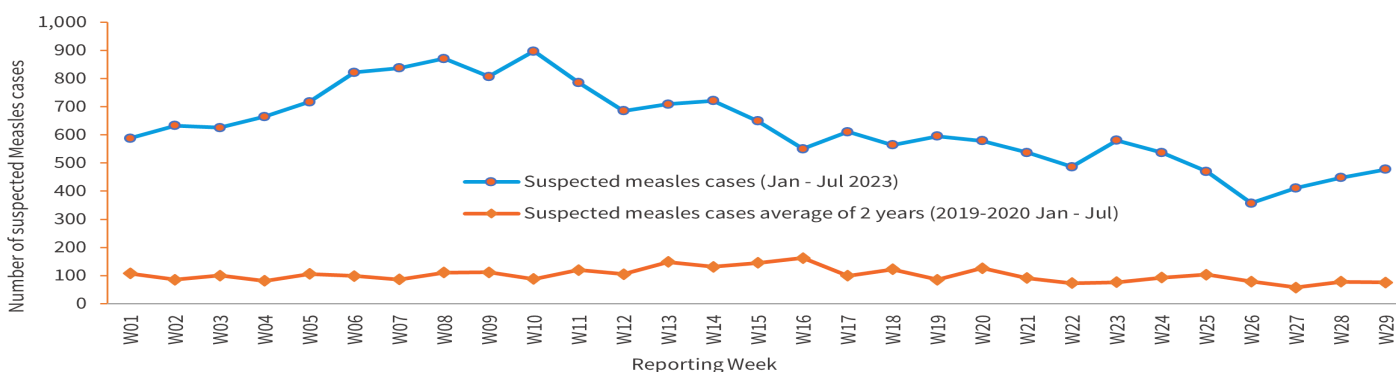


Figure 10. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Jul 2023, Afghanistan

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 10).

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Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population of by province

As of 22 Jul 2023

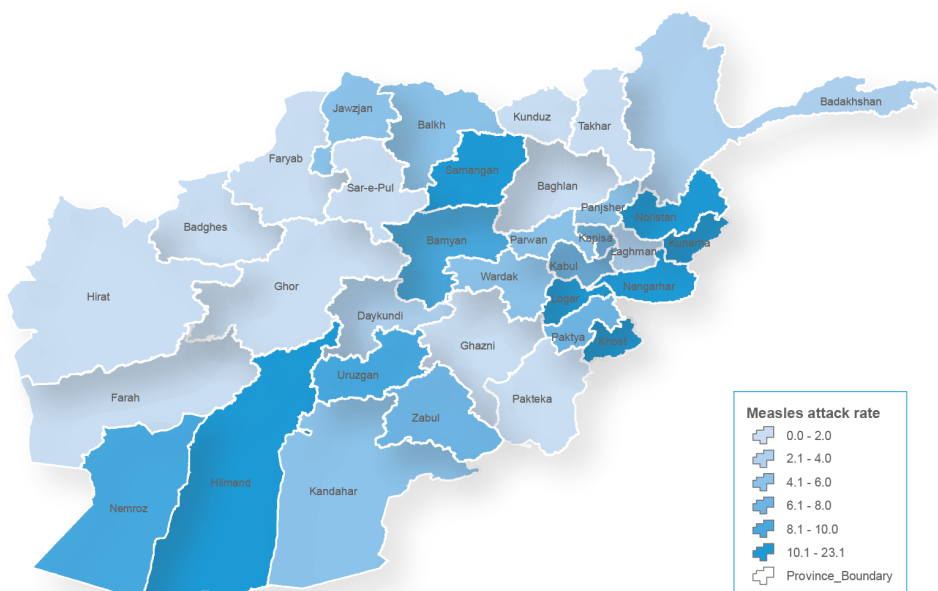


Figure 11. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–22 Jul 2023 (N=18,221)

Response to Measles outbreak

- A total of 7,133 children have been vaccinated as part of outbreak response localized immunization campaigns by the implementing NGOs in outbreak affected areas across the country since Jan 2023.
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak responses and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- The national measles immunization campaign was conducted during November – December 2022; vaccinating 5.3 million children aged 9-59 months in 329 planned districts of 34 provinces across the country (almost 99% admin coverage).
- A total of 593 measles case management kits were provided to 28 provinces in 7 regions across the country to support case management.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 22 Jul 2023)

458
Total Cases

1
Total Deaths

181
Sample tested

40
Lab confirmed cases

22.1%
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (28 May - 22 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	32	18	8	22	5	26	18	15	
% Change cases	18.5	-43.8	-55.6	175.0	-77.3	420.0	-30.8	-16.7	
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 total of 15 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 29-2023; all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 458 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 29, the number of weekly suspected cases shows a reduction by almost 17% compared to week 28 (Figure 12).
- Out of 458 reported cases, 243 (53.1%) were females and 445 (97.2%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 181 samples have been collected, out of which 40 were confirmed (22.1% positivity).

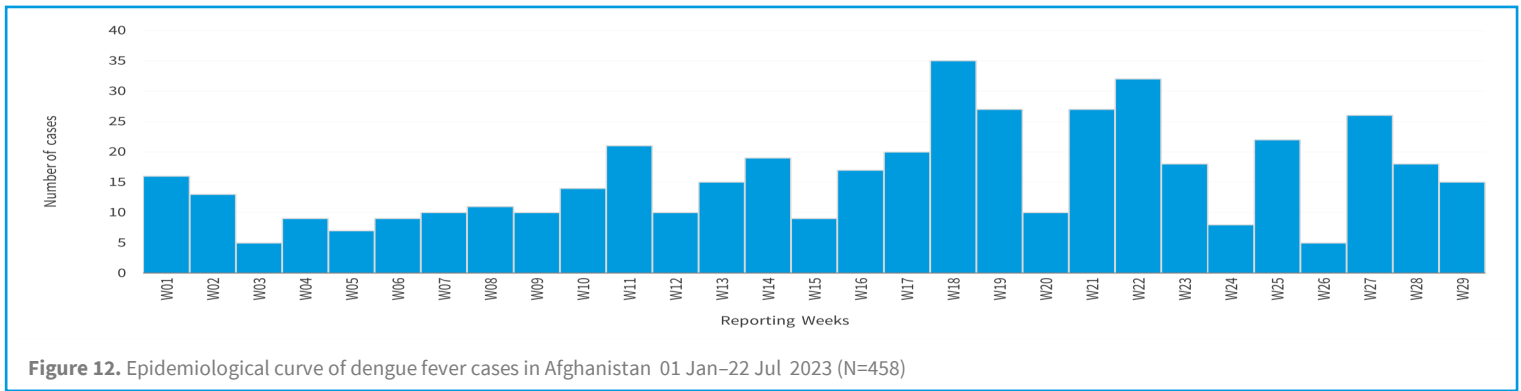
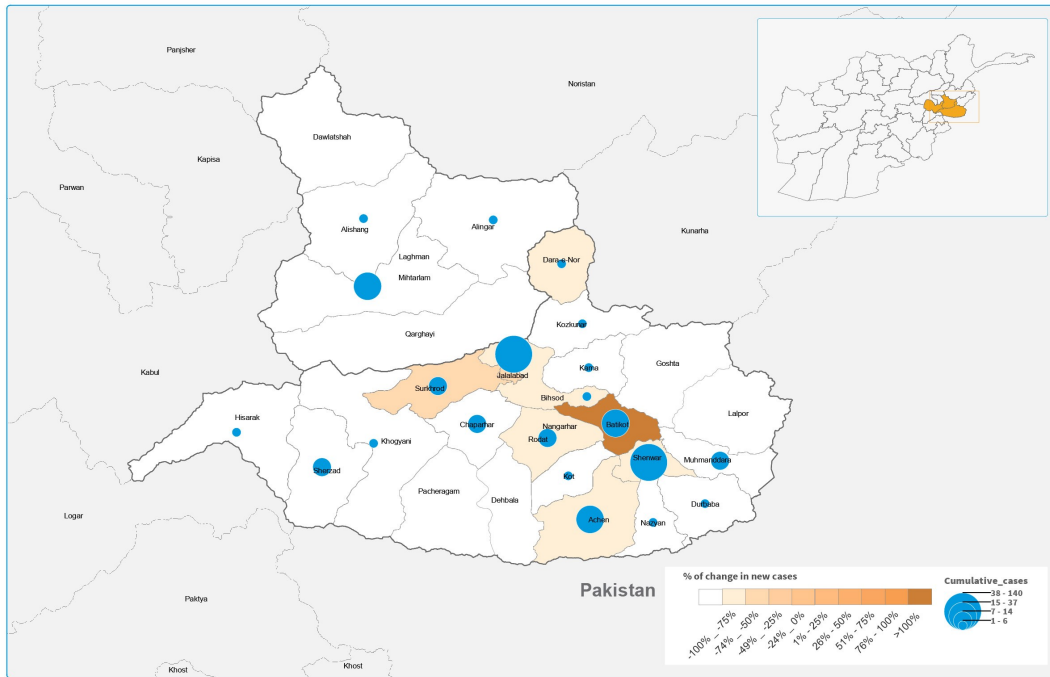


Figure 12. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–22 Jul 2023 (N=458)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 27 and 28, 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: 15 July 2023.

Figure 13. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Jul 2023

Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and being reviewed by the MoPH for their endorsement; a one-day workshop was also held with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and the guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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