








AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS





SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #23-2023

No. 23/(04-10 June)

Disease Outbreaks	 CCHF (Jan - Jun 23)	 AWD (Jan - Jun 23)	 COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Jun 23)	 Measles (Jan - Jun 23)	 Dengue fever (Jan - Jun 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 608 (99.2%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	111	67,754	222,823	15,509	364
Death (CFR %)	6 (5.4)	30 (0.04)	7,920 (3.5)	44 (0.28)	1 (0.3)

Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 10 Jun 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Apr - 10 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	0	52	17	4	16	8	4	2	
% Change cases	0.0	0.0	-67.3	-76.5	300.0	-50.0	-50.0	-50.0	
Suspected deaths	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	25.0	50.0	

- During week 23-2023, a total of 2 new cases of CCHF (all were lab confirmed by PCR test) and one new death were reported from infectious disease hospital (IDH) in Kabul province which represents 50.0% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- The reported death was a male, 35 years old from Kabul province (Table 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 111 cases were reported from 13 provinces (Figure 1), out of which 110 (99.1%) were aged above 5 years old and 67 (60.4%) were male.
- Cumulatively, since January 2023, 6 deaths (CFR = 5.4%) were reported (2 from Kandahar, 2 from Jawzjan and 2 from Kabul).
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from South (Kandahar) and north (Jawzjan and Balkh) provinces.
- Totally, 54 CCHF samples were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 20 samples were positive (positivity rate 37.0 %).

Response to the CCHF outbreak

- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- SOPs was shared for laboratory procedures, sample collection and selection of appropriate test with staff at Kandahar RRL.
- During week 23, 800 double bags were donated by WHO to Balkh province for CCHF case management. This brings the total number of double bags to 1,600 supplied to the North region.
- WHO biomedical engineer was deployed to Balkh province regional hospital (RH) for installation/fixing the centrifuge machine and other Lab and blood bank related equipment.
- WHO Laboratory officer was deployed to provide technical support to laboratory staff on CCHF sample processing in Kandahar.
- 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.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 health care workers (HCWs) from all regions have been trained on CCHF case management protocol.

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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 10 Jun 2023

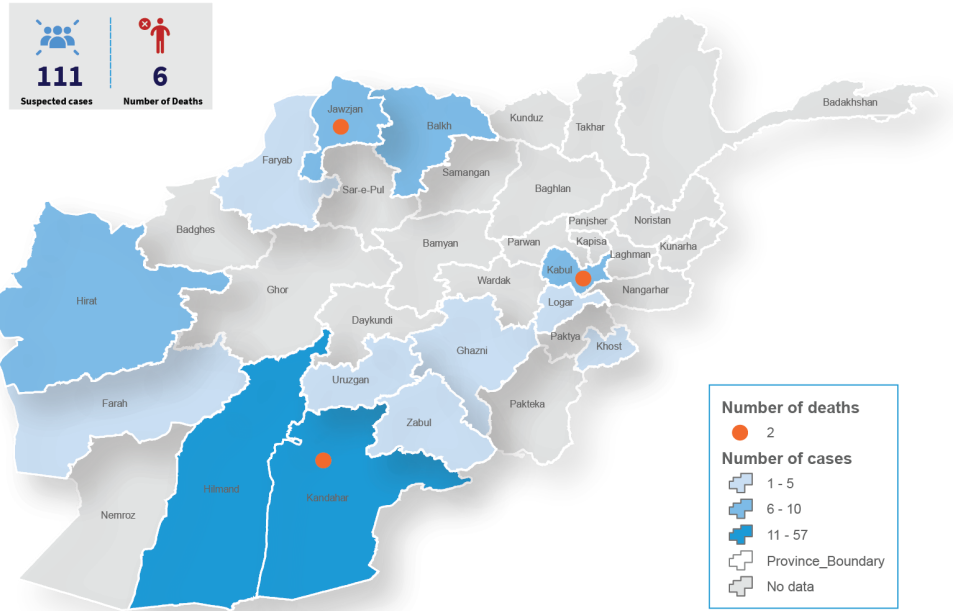


Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–10 Jun 2023

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 10 Jun 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Apr - 10 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	2,335	3,267	3,793	3,419	3,908	4,454	4,482	3,716	
% Change cases	-29.5	39.9	16.1	-9.9	14.3	14.0	-6.0	-17.1	
Suspected deaths	3	3	2	1	0	1	0	2	
CFR (%)	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.05	

* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 22-2023, and the number of cases was modified from 4,431 to 4,482.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases slightly decreased during week 23 compared to the previous week, however, the general trend is on the rise since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the start of the summer season (Figure 2).
- During week 23-2023, a total of 3,716 new AWD cases with dehydration and 2 new deaths were reported from all over the country, which shows 17.1% decrease in the number of cases compared to the previous week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 67,754 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 38,658 (57.1%) were children below 5 years and 33,516 (49.5%) were females.
- The new deaths were both under five; one male from Kabul and one female from Jawzjan province.
- During last week, around 57 new districts reported AWD with dehydration cases; this brings the total number of districts reporting AWD cases to 367 out of 400 districts in 34 provinces since Jan 2023 (Figure 3).
- A total of 792 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

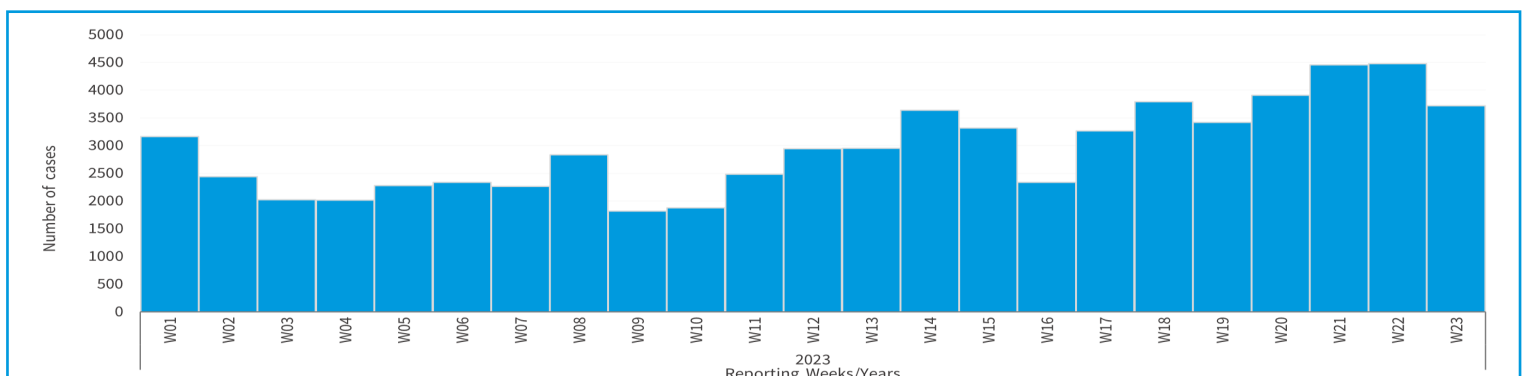


Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–10 Jun 2023 (N=67,754)

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AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province

As of 10 Jun 2023

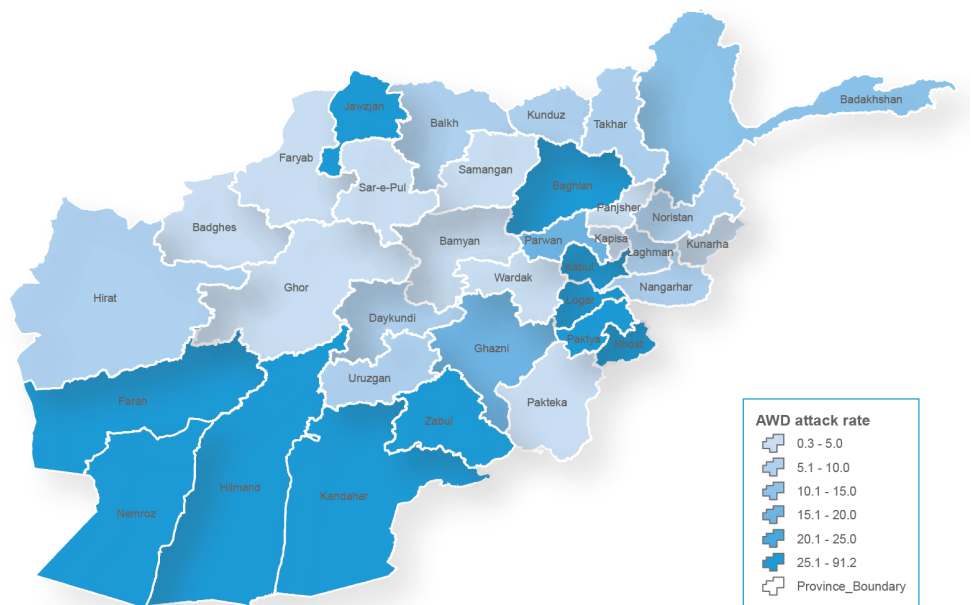


Figure 3. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–10 Jun 2023

Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- Regular biweekly AWD task force meetings are conducted for health partners to prepare for the 2023 season of 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 has been endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Surveillance

- A total of 148 NDSR officers were trained on EBS and IBS procedures in Kabul province since Jan 2023.
- Surveillance support teams (SSTs) are actively participating in outbreak investigation and response activities in 34 provinces.
- Totally, 1,018 medical officers and community health supervisors (CHSs) have been trained on procedures of community event-base surveillance (EBS) in 6 provinces (Kabul, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar).
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

Case Management

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 338 health care workers (HCWs) trained on AWD case management.
- More than 750 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

Laboratory and Supplies

As part of the preparedness plan for 2023:

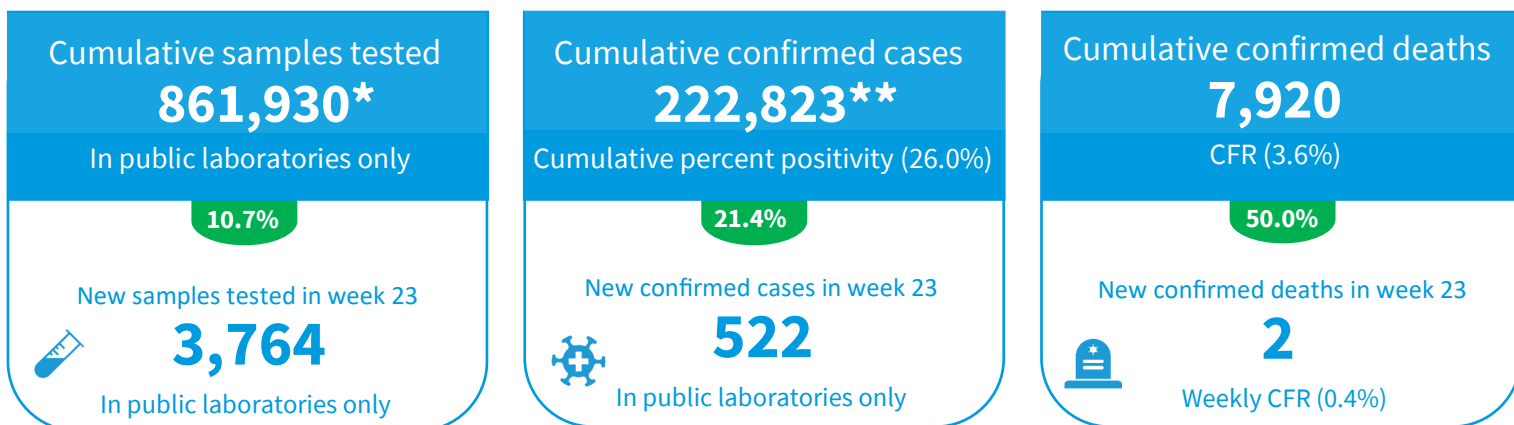
- 5 diagnostic AWD with dehydration RDTs kits were supplied to Kabul province NDSR.
- A total of 3,750 Carry Blairs media for laboratory culture and 325 kits of RDTs were prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration.
- Seven 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

During the first week of the June, the following WASH activities conducted as a response to AWD with dehydration

- Safe water was provided for around 1,600 individuals in Helmand and Zabul provinces by either construction or rehabilitation of the water supply system.
- Hygiene Promotion sessions were provided in Zabul province reaching almost 900 individuals.
- Aquatabs were distributed to around 300 individuals in Bamyan province.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 10 Jun 2023)



* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 22-2023, and the number of samples was modified from 4,037 to 4,214.

**A delayed reporting was experienced during week 22-2023, and the number of new cases was modified from 616 to 664.

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

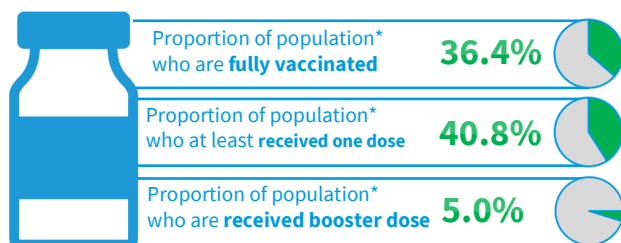


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (16 Apr - 10 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	4,001	3,569	5,906	6,280	6,047	5,065	4,214	3,764	
Confirmed cases	1253	1123	1855	1646	1337	1071	664	522	
% Change cases	1.6	-10.4	65.2	-11.3	-18.8	-19.9	-38.0	-21.4	
Percent positivity (%)	31.3	31.5	31.4	26.2	22.1	21.1	15.8	13.9	
Deaths	4	5	8	5	5	2	4	2	
CFR (%)	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.4	

- The number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, the epi curve (Figure 4) shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases over the past 5 weeks.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 861,930 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 23-2023, 3,764 samples were tested in public labs, of which 522 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 13.9%) and 2 new deaths were reported.
- During week 23-2023, 11.5% (60 /522 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 5), including 11 cases (18.3% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- Since the beginning of the year, a total of 5,075 bottles of hand sanitizer have been distributed to NDSR offices in 34 provinces.

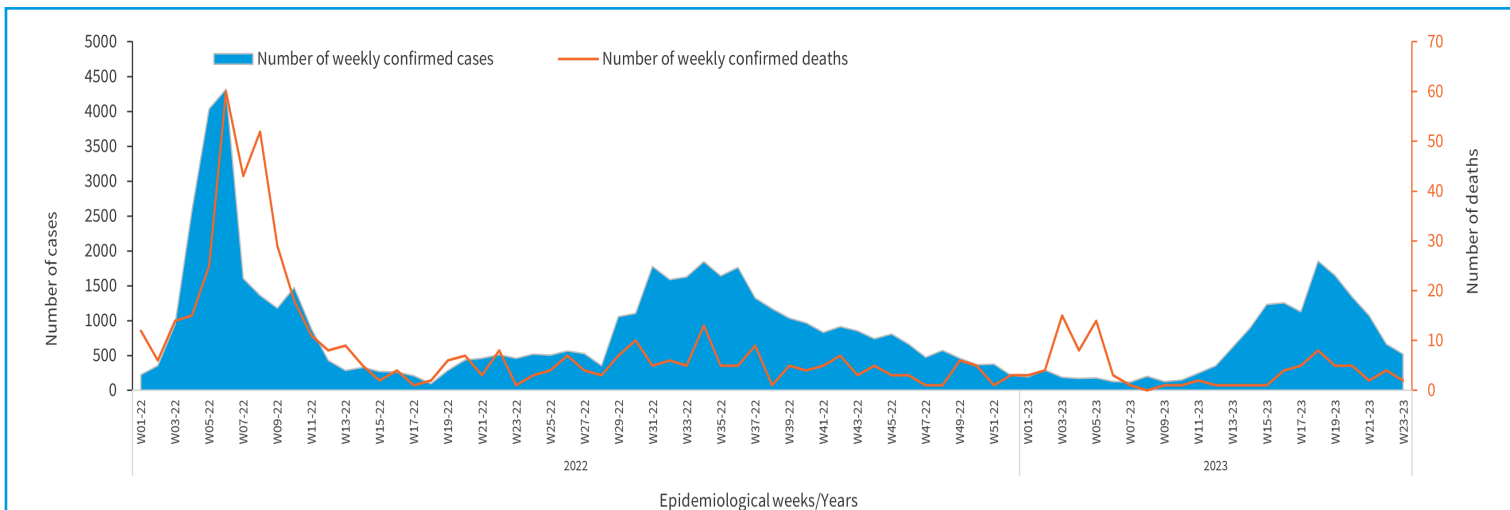


Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–10 Jun 2023

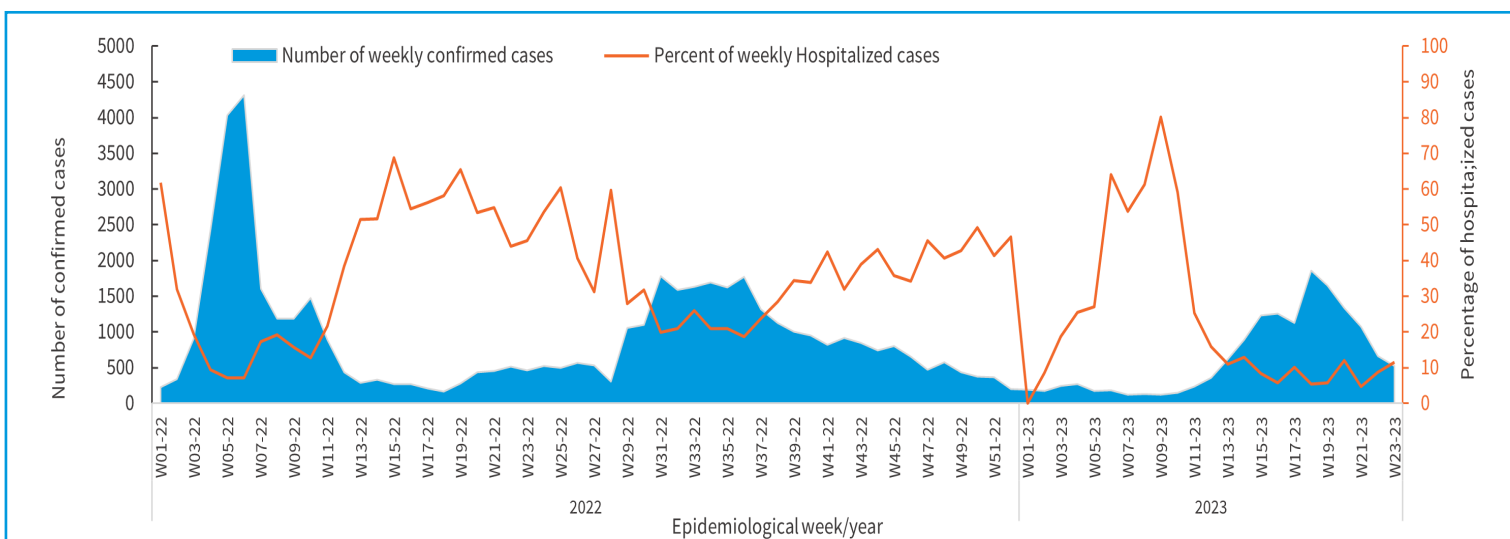


Figure 5. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–10 Jun 2023

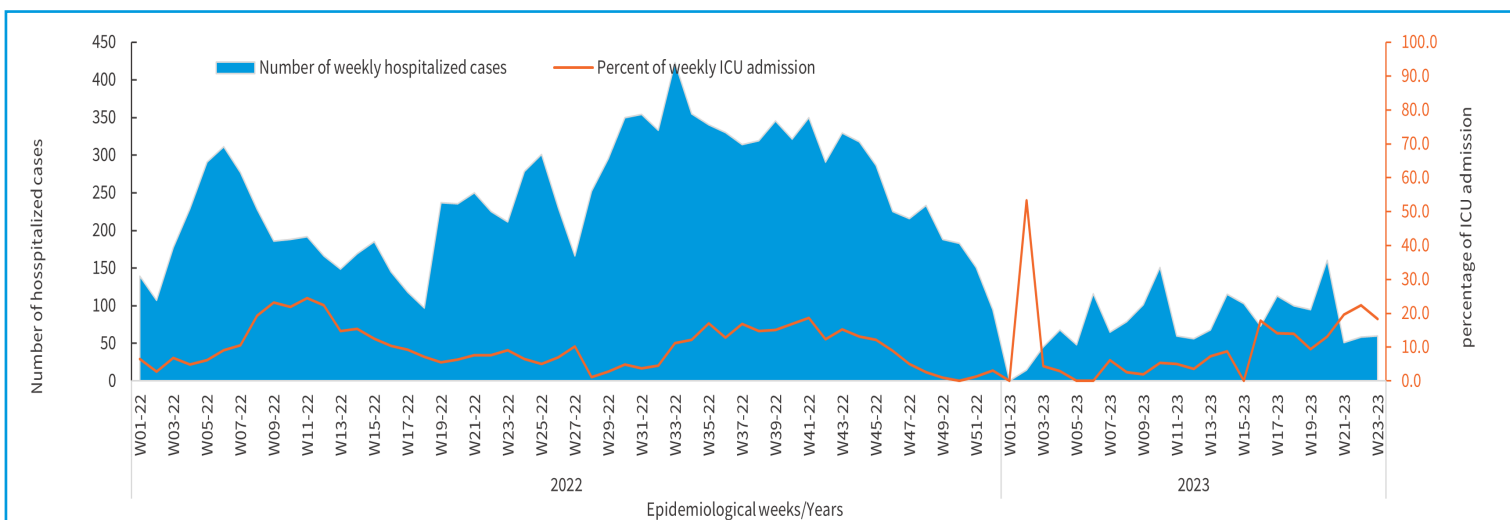


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–10 Jun 2023

Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 10 Jun 2023)

15,509
Total Cases

44
Total Deaths

2,938
Sample tested

1,523
Lab confirmed cases

51.8%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Apr - 10 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	550	611	564	595	579	539	487 *	524	
% Change cases	-15.3	11.1	-7.7	5.5	-2.7	-6.9	-9.6	7.6	
Suspected deaths	1	0	1	1	6	2	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	

*data entry error was experienced during week 22, and the number of suspected cases of measles was corrected by the MOPH from 492 to 487.

- The epidemiologic curve shows a slight increase in the number of suspected cases of measles in epi-week 23. Overall, measles cases are showing a slow declining trend since week 10, although still the number of reported cases is considered high as compared to the endemic level of the country prior to the outbreak (Figure 7&9).
- During epidemiological week 23-2023, a total of 524 suspected cases were reported which indicates 7.6% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- No new measles associated death was reported during the week 23.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 15,509 measles cases were reported, out of which 11,041 (71.2%) were children under 5 years of age and 7,324 (47.2%) were females.

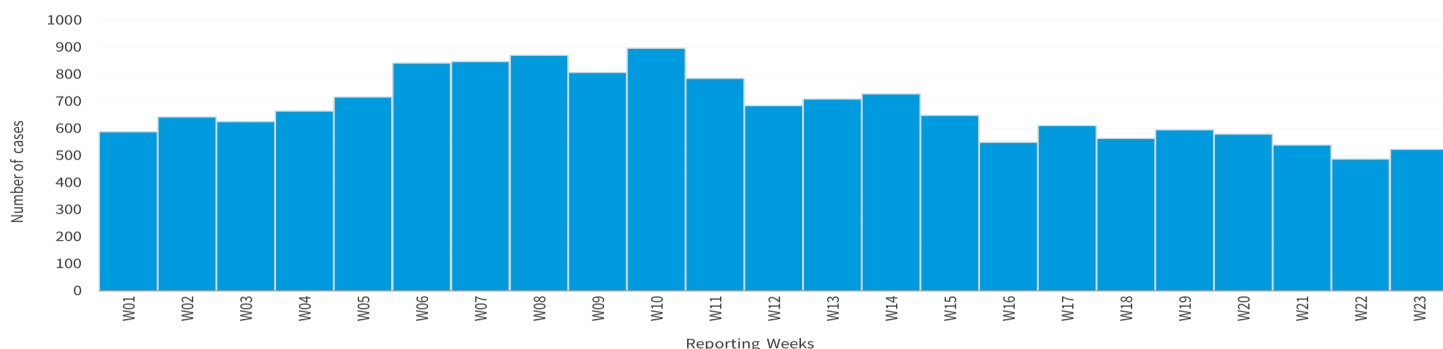


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 03 Jun 2023 (N=15,509)

AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province As of 10 Jun 2023

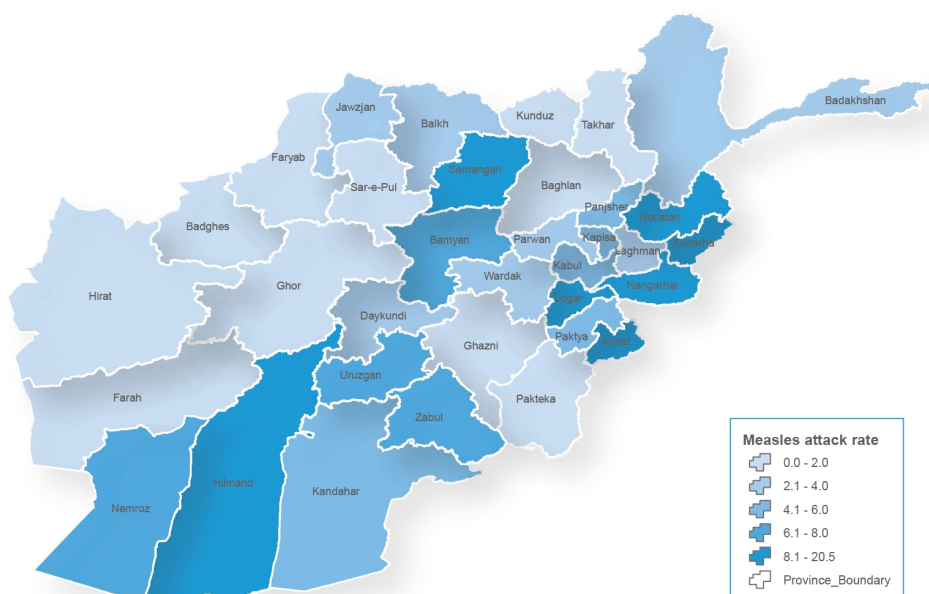
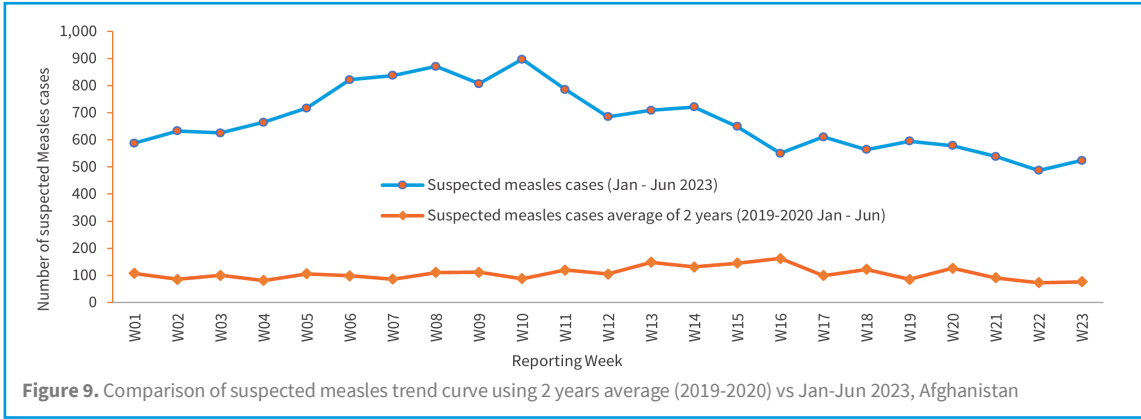


Figure 8. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-03 Jun 2023 (N=15,509)



Comparing the current curve with the curve for the average number of suspected cases reported during (2019-2020); it 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 9).





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.
- 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).
- Since December 2021, around 11 million children (aged between 6 months to 14 years) have been vaccinated through 5 different measles outbreak response and national immunization campaigns in 34 provinces.
- 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 10 Jun 2023)

 364 Total Cases	 1 Total Deaths	 158 Sample tested	 39 Lab confirmed cases	 24.7% Test positivity ratio
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Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (16 Apr - 10 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	W23	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	17	20	35	27	10	27	32	18	
% Change cases	88.9	17.6	75.0	-22.9	-63.0	170.0	18.5	-43.8	
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 18 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 23-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 364 and one death since the beginning of the 2023.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows a decrease during week 23 compared to the preceding week. The average number of dengue fever for the last 8 weeks was 23.3 cases (range between 10-35) which needs close monitoring given the start of the season of vector breeding in Nangarhar province (Figure 10).
- Out of 364 reported cases, 209 (57.4%) were females and 355 (97.5%) were over 5 years of age.

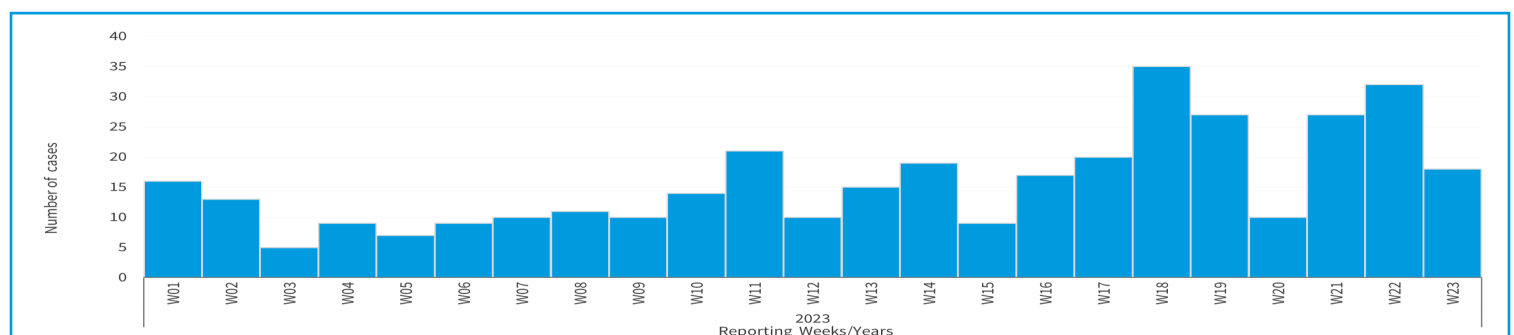
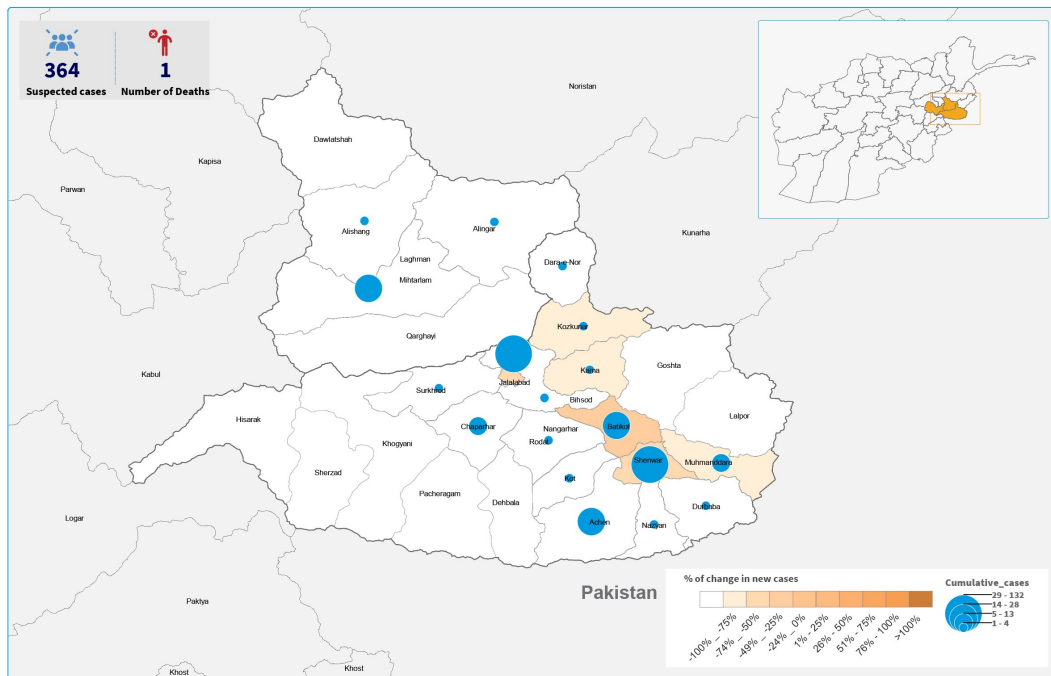


Figure 10. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan-10 Jun 2023 (N=364)



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes (between weeks 22 and 23, 2023)



The boundaries and names shown 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: 27 May 2023.

Figure 11. Hotspot areas of dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan-Jun 2023

Response to the Dengue fever outbreak

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on dengue case management in East region.
- Surveillance Health education sessions were conducted in two villages of hotspot areas (Jalalabad city and Shinwar

district) for increasing public awareness regarding source reduction activities as well as how to protect themselves from being infected.

Malaria Highlight

- During week 23, a malaria outbreak was reported from Ghazi Mirzaman CHC of Narang district of Kunar province.
- A total of 71 malaria cases (63 were PV positive by microscopic test) with no death were detected in the village; out of which 40 (56.3) were male and 66 (93.0) were over 5 years of age.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Committee was established in provincial level; the investigation team including PMVDP Manager, CDC Officer of MOPH, and NDSR officer along with SST were assigned and moved to the affected field for investigation.

- Active case finding was performed by surveillance support team (SST), Case management was accomplished by the implementing partner and health education session has been conducted by CDC officer.
- As preparedness plan for 2023, a total of 300 health care workers (HCWs) have been trained on Malaria case management in the East region.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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