



AFGHANISTAN

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #39-2023

No. 39 (24-30 Sep 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	CCHF (Jan - Sep 23)	AWD (Jan - Sep 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Sep 23)	Measles (Jan - Sep 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Sep 23)
Cumulative Cases <i>(Data from 609 (99.3%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</i>	1,115	176,704	226,380	21,620	822
Death (CFR %)	105 (9.4)	85 (0.05)	7,949 (3.5)	62 (0.3)	1 (0.1)

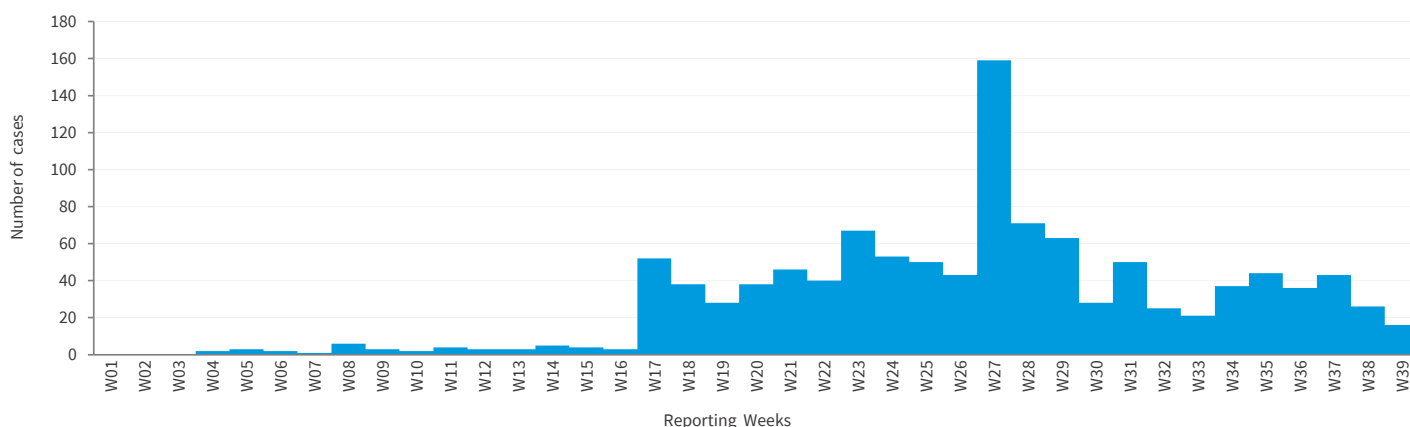
Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 30 Sep 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (06 Aug - 30 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	25	21	37	44	36	43	26	16	
% Change cases	-50.0	-16.0	76.2	18.9	-18.2	19.4	-39.5	-38.5	
Suspected deaths	2	2	4	4	1	3	1	0	
CFR (%)	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.1	2.8	7.0	3.8	0.0	

- During week 39-2023, a total of 16 new cases of CCHF with no deaths were reported, which shows a 38.5% decrease in the number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 1, Figure 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total number of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths has been 1,115 and 105, respectively (CFR 9.4%) (Figure2).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from the following 2 provinces: Kabul (48, 45.7%) and Balkh (15, 14.3%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,113 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 355 (31.8%) were females.
- In total 994 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 355 samples were positive (positivity rate = 35.7%).

Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 30 Sep 2023 (N=1,115)

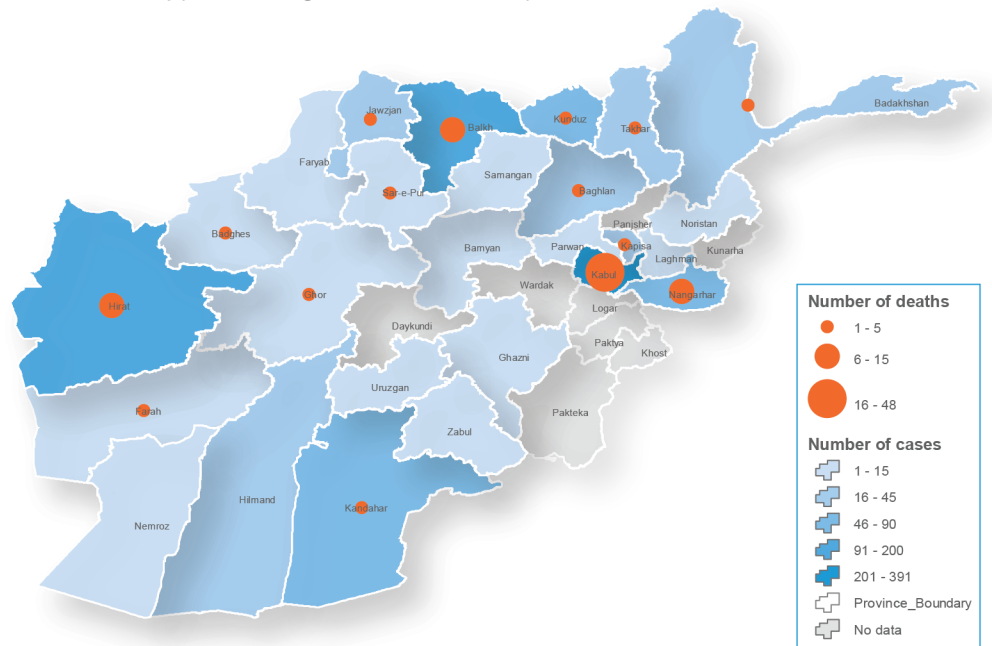




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Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 30 Sep 2023

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 30 Sep 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- During Sep 2023, a national consultative workshop to discuss the implementation of One Health in Afghanistan was 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).
 - ◊ The main recommendations of the workshop were: 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

- Balkh regional reference lab is equipped with one Automated Nucleic Acid extraction machine and lab staff received on the job training. This instrument will help strengthen lab testing capacity by decreasing the turnaround time and safety of staff while dealing with high threat pathogens like the CCHF virus.
- 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

- During Sep 2023, a 3-days training of trainers (ToT) was conducted on risk communication and community engagement for 25 officers of the Ministry of Public Health which include 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.



Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 30 Sep 2023)

Table 2: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (06 Aug - 30 Sep 2023)

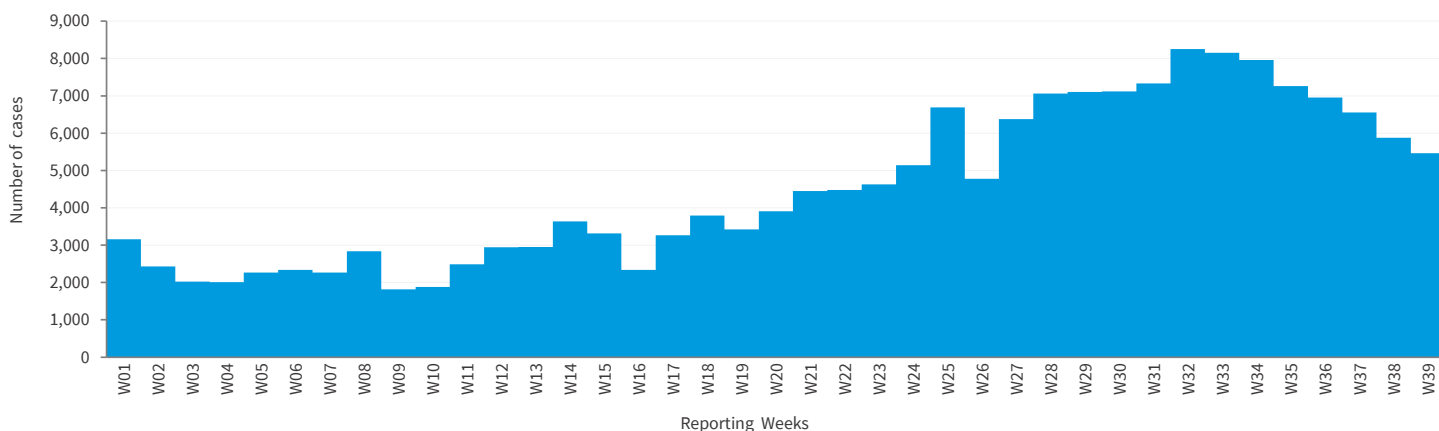
Indicators	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	8,255	8,153	7,959	7,263	6,953	6,557	5,874 *	5,464	
% Change cases	12.6	-1.2	-2.4	-8.7	-4.3	-5.7	-10.4	-7.0	
Suspected deaths	4	3	7	2	4	0	3	2	
CFR (%)	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.04	

*Delayed data entry was experienced during week 38-2023 as the number of AWD with dehydration cases were modified from 5,112 to 5,874.

- During week 39-2023; 5,464 AWD with dehydration cases and 2 associated deaths were reported from 198 districts which shows 7.0% decrease in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 3).
- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows decreasing trend since week 32-2023.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 2 provinces: Kabul (1) and Paktika (1). Out of 2 deaths, one was female and both were under five children.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 176,704 AWD with dehydration cases, out of which 100,571 (56.9%) were under-five children and 87,900 (49.7%) were females.
- During week 39-2023, no new districts reported alerts of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration remains at 333.
- A total of *4,316 RDTs were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

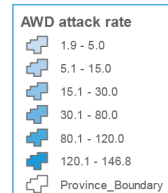
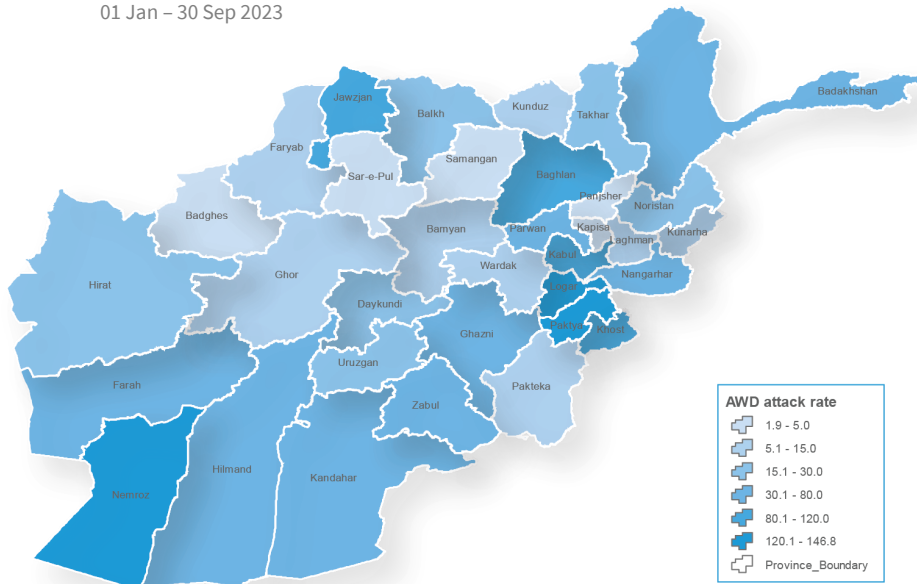
*A backlog data entry was made in the system from the beginning of the year and the number RDTs conducted during 2023 was modified from 3,590 to 4,316.

Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 30 Sep 2023 (N=176,704)



AFGHANISTAN AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province As of 30 Sep 2023

Figure 4. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 30 Sep 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 seasonal 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 week 39, a total of 208 MDs and CCHs were trained on EBS procedures in 3 provinces: Nangarhar (30 males), Herat (140 males & 10 females) and Badakhshan (38 males). This brings the total number of trained MDs and CHSs in 4 provinces to 676 including 37 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.
- In total, 195 SST members have been trained on outbreak investigation and reporting, lab sample collection and transportation in 7 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

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

Laboratory and Supplies

- During Sep 2023, a total of 47 cholera RDT kits were delivered to Kandahar RRL.
- A total of 1,330 RDTs and 5,350 Carry Blairs have been prepositioned in 34 provinces for supporting specimen collection and laboratory confirmation of AWD cases with dehydration since the beginning of 2023.
- 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 have been supplied with diagnostic kits.

WASH

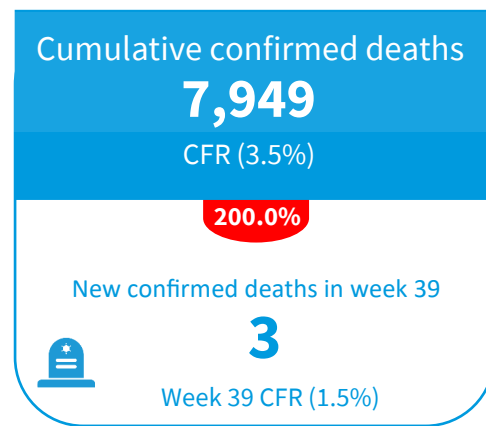
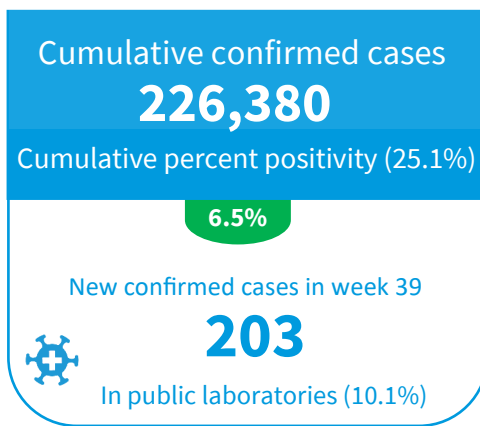
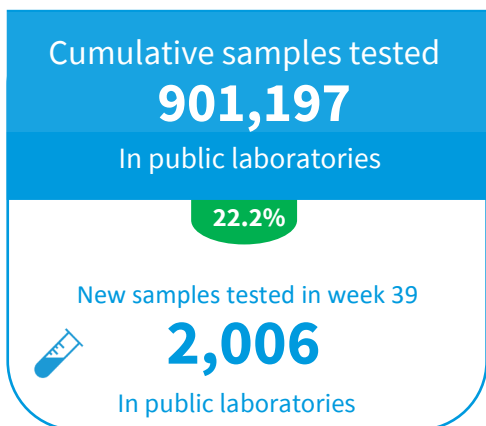
During the last 2 weeks (16-30 Sep 2023) the below activities were implemented by WASH partners:

- Provision of clean water to 3,566 individuals by chlorination of 266 wells in Badghis, Kunar, Nangarhar and Paktya provinces.
- Provision of safe drinking water to 12,468 individuals by rehabilitation of 108 water supply systems in Zabul, Kandahar, Kabul, Nangarhar, Kunar, and Balkh provinces.
- Provision of hygiene and sanitary facilities to 1,288 individuals by construction and rehabilitation of latrines in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Paktya, Kandahar, Khost and Zabul provinces.
- Conducting hygiene promotion sessions to more than 34,219 individuals in Badghis, Balkh, Hilmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktya, Parwan, Takhar and Zabul provinces.
- Provision of handwashing facility to 499 individuals in Zabul province.
- Distribution of household water treatment products to 61,891 individuals in Kandahar, Zabul, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Hilmand provinces.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to more than 16,492 individuals in Badghis, Balkh, Hilmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Nimroz, Paktya and Zabul provinces.
- Distribution of hand washing soaps to 19,379 individuals in Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul provinces.

RCCE

- During week 39, a three-day training on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) was conducted for 28 MoPH RCCE officers of the Central region including 4 women. This brings the total number of MoPH colleagues trained in RECC to 53 including 12 females.
- A total of 139,000 information education and communication materials (IEC) on AWD have been handed over to MoPH. These materials will be used as part of outbreak response in high-risk areas and affected communities.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 30 Sep 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

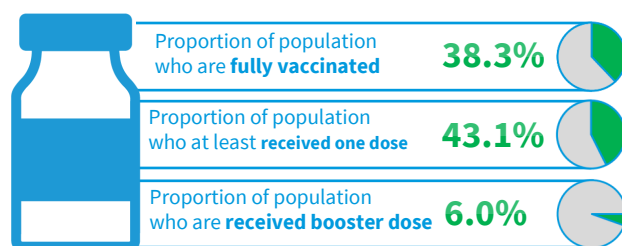


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (06 Aug - 30 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,976	2,146	2,926	3,179	2,974	2,814	2,579 *	2,006	
Confirmed cases	261	174	298	229	202	193	217 *	203	
% Change cases	38.8	-33.3	71.3	-23.2	-11.8	-5.4	12.4	-6.5	
Percent positivity (%)	8.8	8.1	10.2	7.2	6.8	6.9	8.4	10.1	
Deaths	3	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	
CFR (%)	1.1	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.5	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 38-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 2,348 to 2,579 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 204 to 217.

- During week 39-2023, the number of COVID-19 cases slightly decreased (6.5%) compared to the previous week and generally the epi curve shows a decline in the number of confirmed cases since week 19-2023 (Figure 6).
- In week 39-2023, a total of 2,006 samples were tested in public labs, of which 203 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 10.1%) and 3 new deaths were reported (CFR=1.5%).
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 901,197 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 39-2023, 20.2% (41/203 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and 6 (14.6%) cases were admitted to ICU (Figure 7).

Response

- During week 39, a total of 12 COVID-19 VTM kits (50 VTMs/kit) were supplied to Samangan province.
- Since the beginning of 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 5. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan Feb 2020 – 30 Sep 2023

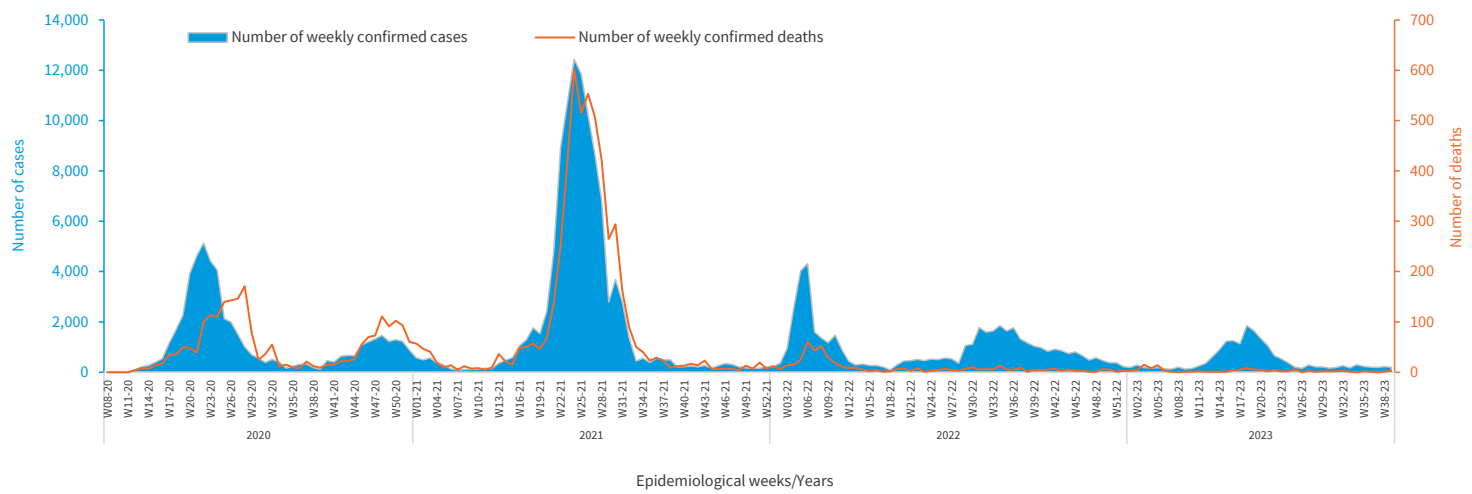


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 30 Sep 2023

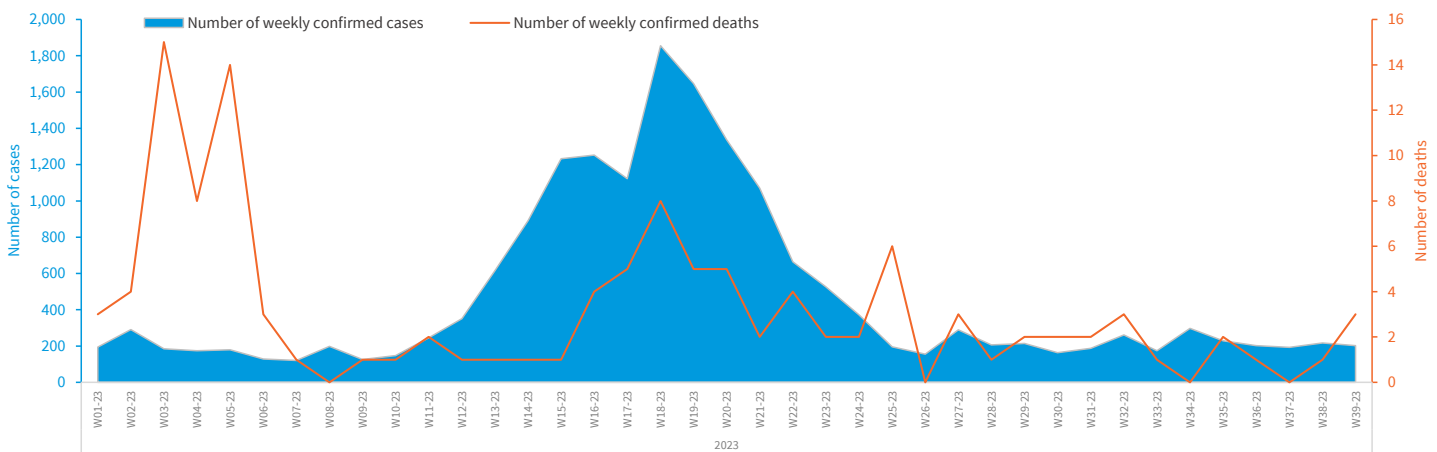
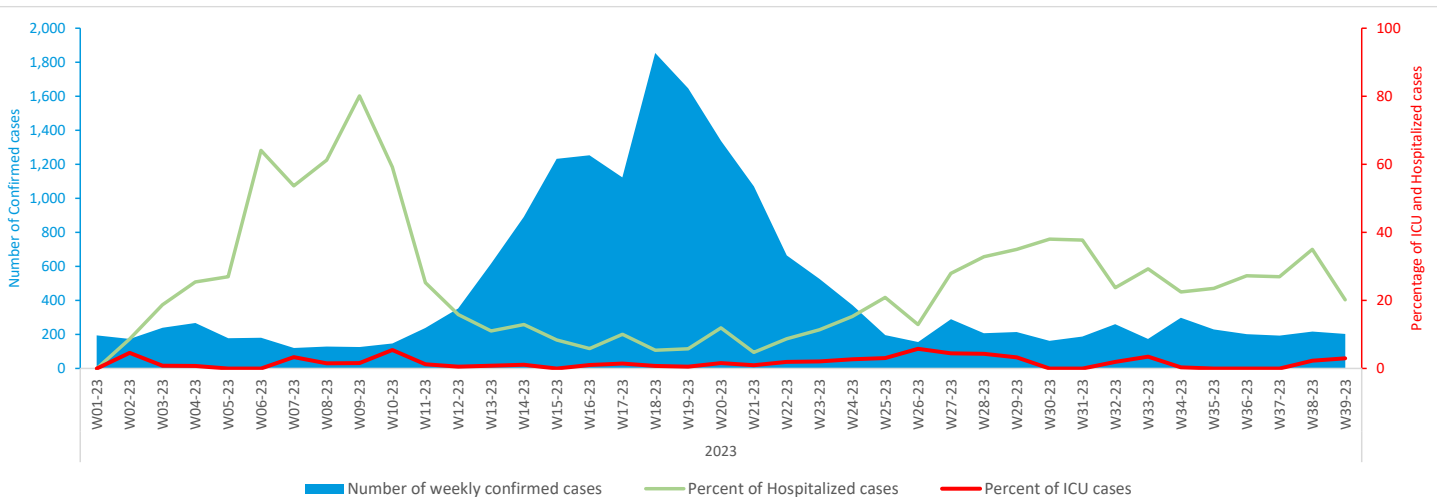


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 30 Sep 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 30 Sep 2023)

21,620
Total Cases

62
Total Deaths

4,693
Sample tested

2,387
Lab confirmed cases

50.9%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (06 Aug - 30 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	327	307	321	364	322	306	309*	270	
% Change cases	-15.9	-6.1	4.6	13.4	-11.5	-5.0	1.0	-12.6	
Suspected deaths	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	
CFR (%)	1.2	0.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

*Delayed reporting was experienced during week 38 and the number of suspected cases of measles were modified from 306 to 309

- Overall, the epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a declining trend since week 10 (Figure 8).
- During epidemiological week 39-2023, a total of 270 suspected cases were reported which shows a 12.6% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 21,620 suspected cases of measles and 62 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of reported cases 15,281 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,203 (47.2%) were females.

Figure 8. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 30 Sep 2023 (N=21,620)

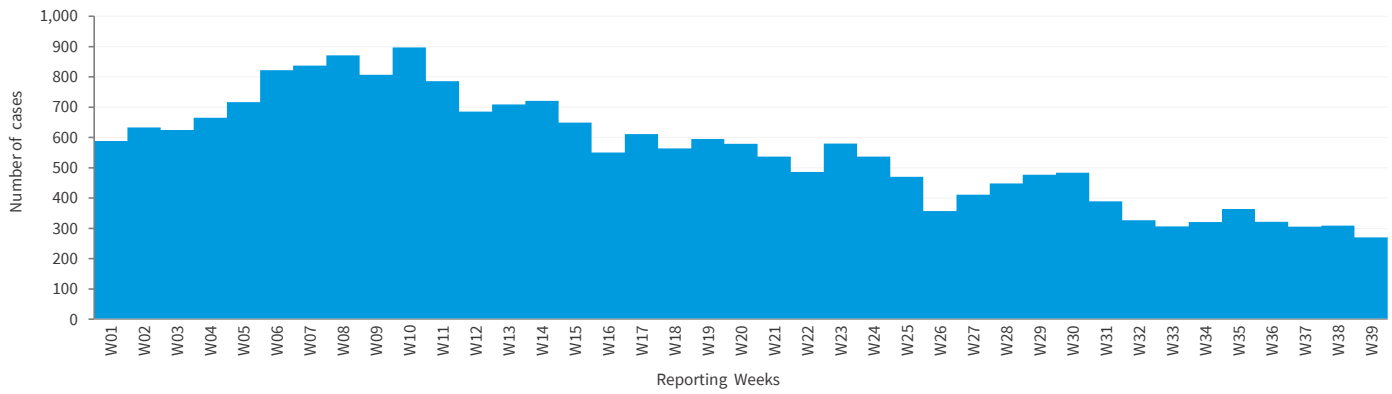
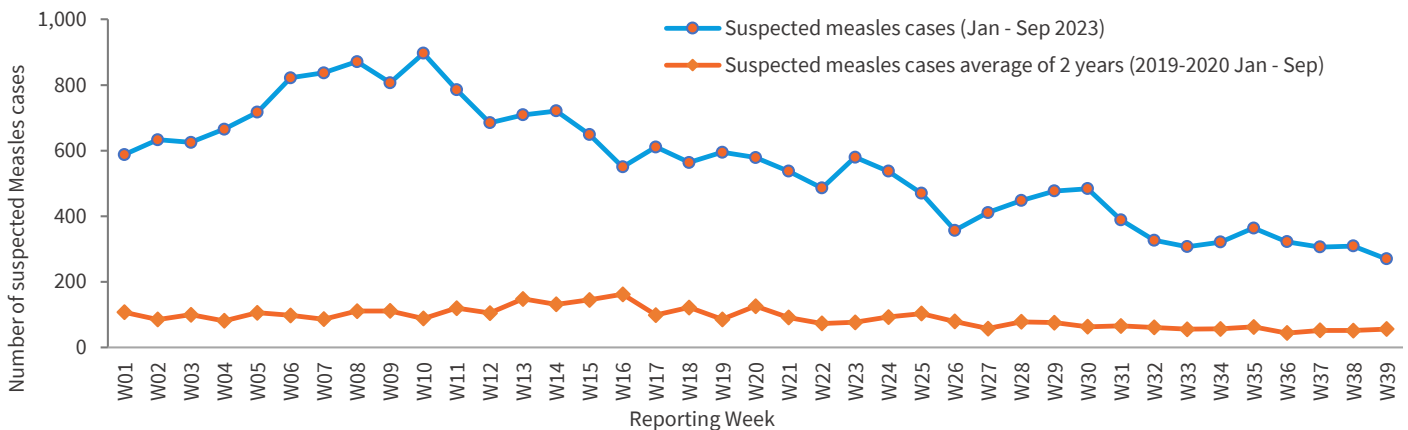


Figure 9. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Sep 2023, Afghanistan



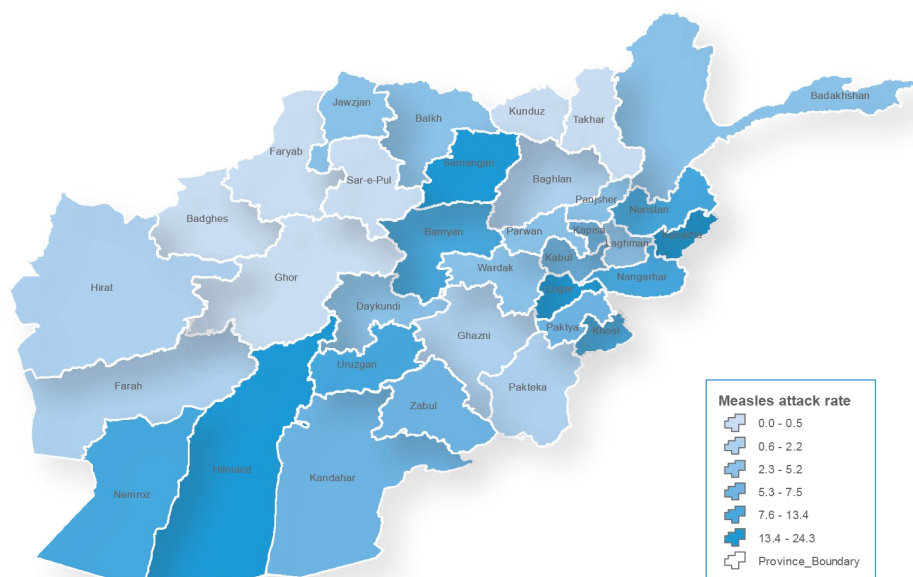
Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020 reveals that despite efforts to control the outbreak, measles cases are still occurring at a higher rate as compared to the endemic level during 2019-2020 (Figure 9).

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

As of 30 Sep 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 30 Sep 2023 (N=21,620)



Preparedness and response to the

- During week 39, 20 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated as part of outbreak response immunization campaign by the implementing NGO in Wardak province. This brings the total number of children vaccinated against measles outbreak to 7,153 by the implementing NGOs across the country since Jan 2023.
- 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.

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 30 Sep 2023)

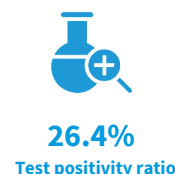


Table 5: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (06 Aug - 30 Sep 2023)

Indicators	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38	W39	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	37	47	47	24	27	19	28	17	
% Change cases	-36.2	27.0	0.0	-48.9	12.5	-29.6	47.4	-39.3	
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 17 new suspected dengue fever cases were reported during week 39-2023; all were reported from Nangarhar province. This brings the total number of suspected dengue fever cases to 822 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 39-2023, the number of weekly suspected cases shows 39.3% decrease compared to previous week (Figure 11).
- Out of 822 reported cases, 425 (51.7%) were females and 803 (97.7%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 296 samples have been collected, out of which 78 were confirmed (26.4 positivity).



Figure 11. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 30 Sep 2023 (N=822)

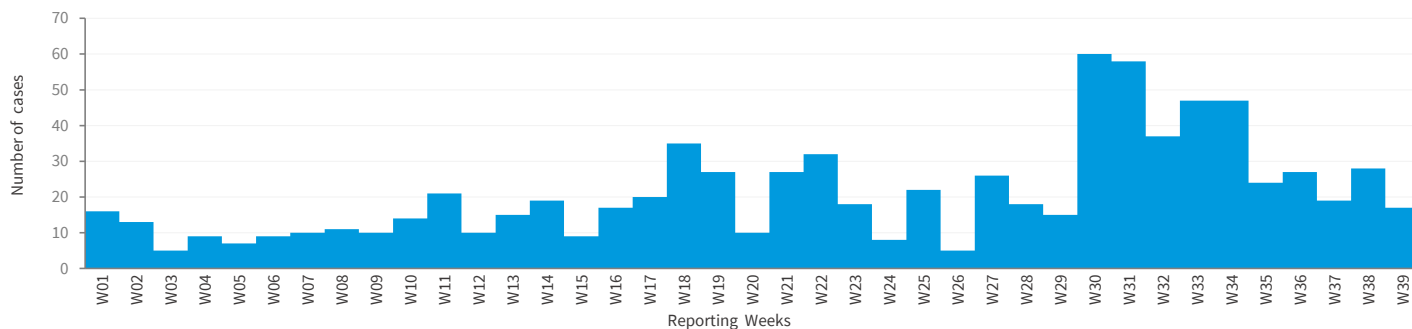
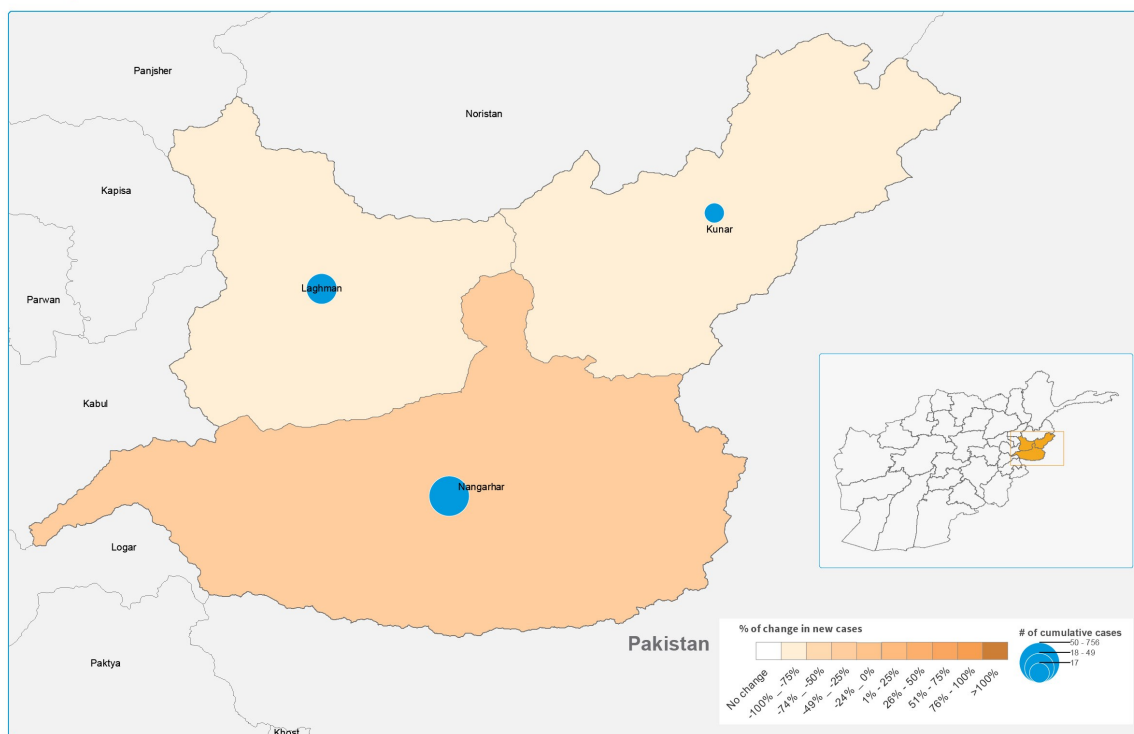


Figure 12. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Sep 2023



Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases in Afghanistan and weekly percent of changes
(between weeks 38 and 39, 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: 30 Sep 2023.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

- During week 39, 500 dengue fever RDTs were received and stocked at WHO’s warehouse in Kabul.
- During Sep 2023, a total of 60 dengue RDT kits were supplied to 4 provinces: Nangarhar (50), Kunar (3), Laghman (3), Nuristan (2) and Kabul (2).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- Case management guideline for dengue fever has been revised and a one-day workshop was held with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the Eastern region.

Malaria outbreak

- Between 04 Jul-30 Sep 2023, a total of 1,311 outbreak confirmed cases of malaria (1,077 were lab confirmed and 234 were positive by RDTs) were reported from 19 districts in 9 provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Parwan, Faryab, Paktika and Takhar).
- Out of the total cases, 560 (42.7%) were females and 148 (11.3%) were under-five.
- All the cases were managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education was provided (Figure 14).
- No new outbreak of malaria has been reported during week-39 of 2023.



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Provincial distribution of Malaria cases As of 30 Sep 2023

Figure 13. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul–30 Sep 2023

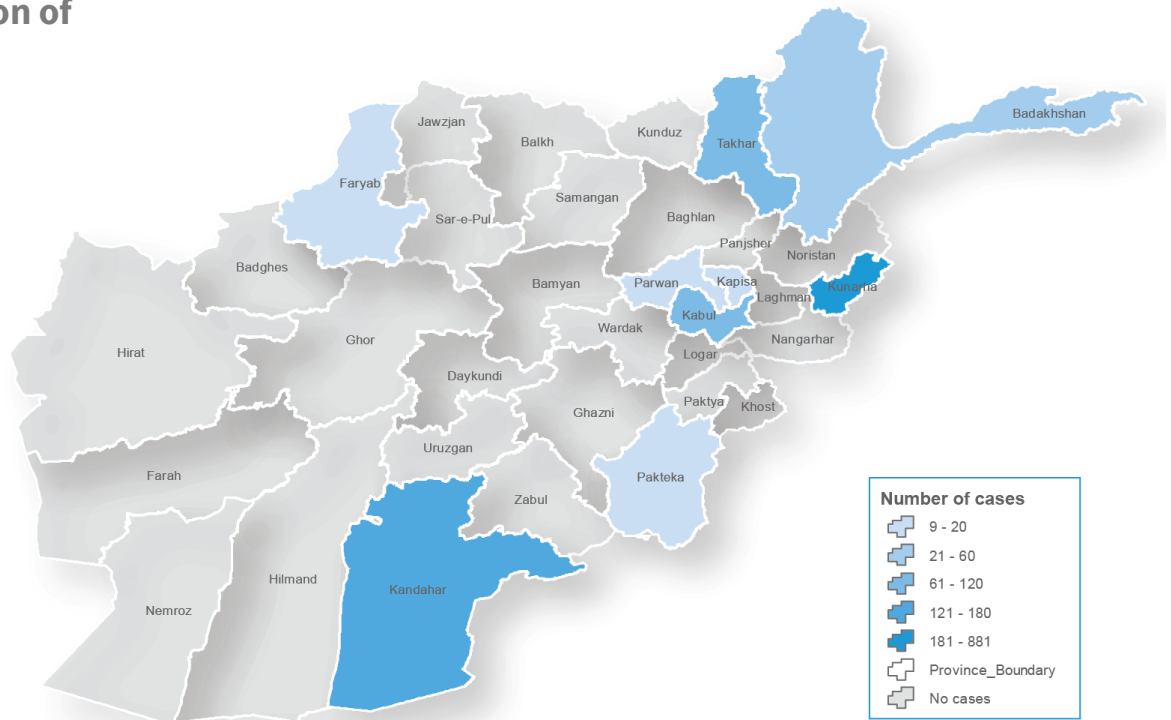
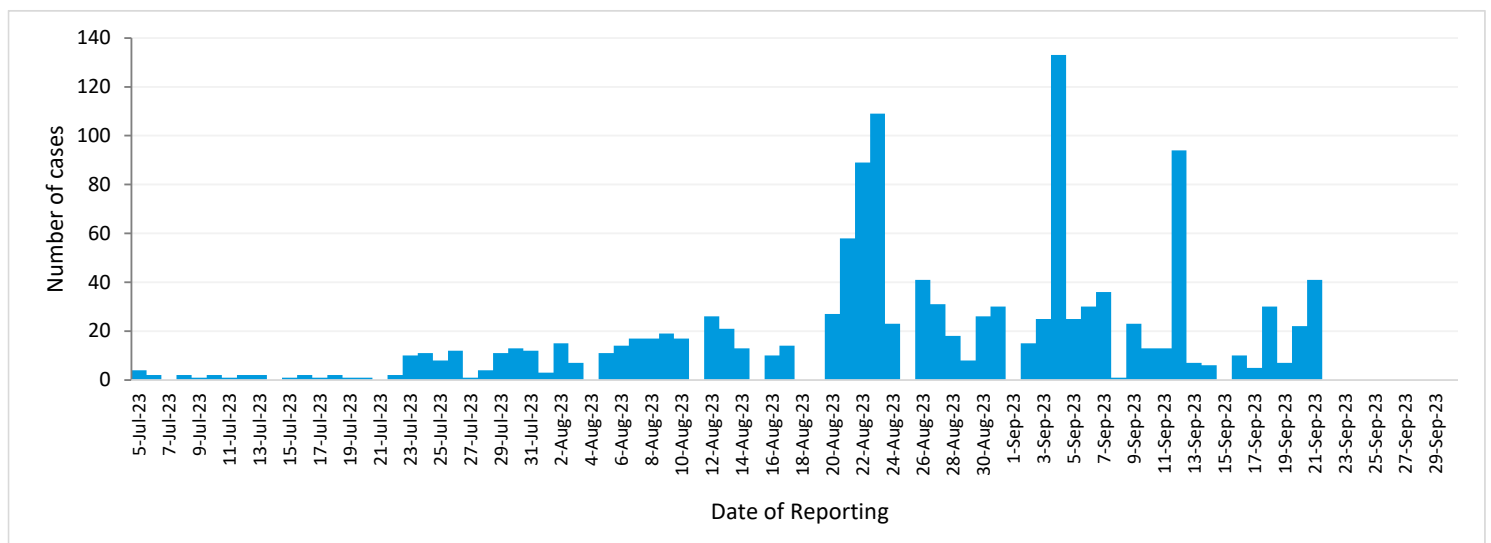


Figure 14. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 7 provinces during 04 Jul – 30 Sep 2023 (N=1,311)



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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