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INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #45-2023

No. 45 (05–11 Nov 2023)

Disease Outbreaks	AWD (Jan - Nov 23)	ARI (Jan - Nov 23)	COVID-19 (Feb 20 - Nov 23)	Measles (Jan - Nov 23)	CCHF (Jan - Nov 23)	Dengue fever (Jan - Nov 23)
Cumulative Cases <small>(Data from 605 (98.7%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	203,901	1,142,194	228,418	23,284	1,212	1,141
Death (CFR %)	93 (0.05)	2,336 (0.2)	7,959 (3.5)	63 (0.3)	114 (9.4)	1 (0.1)

Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 11 Nov 2023)

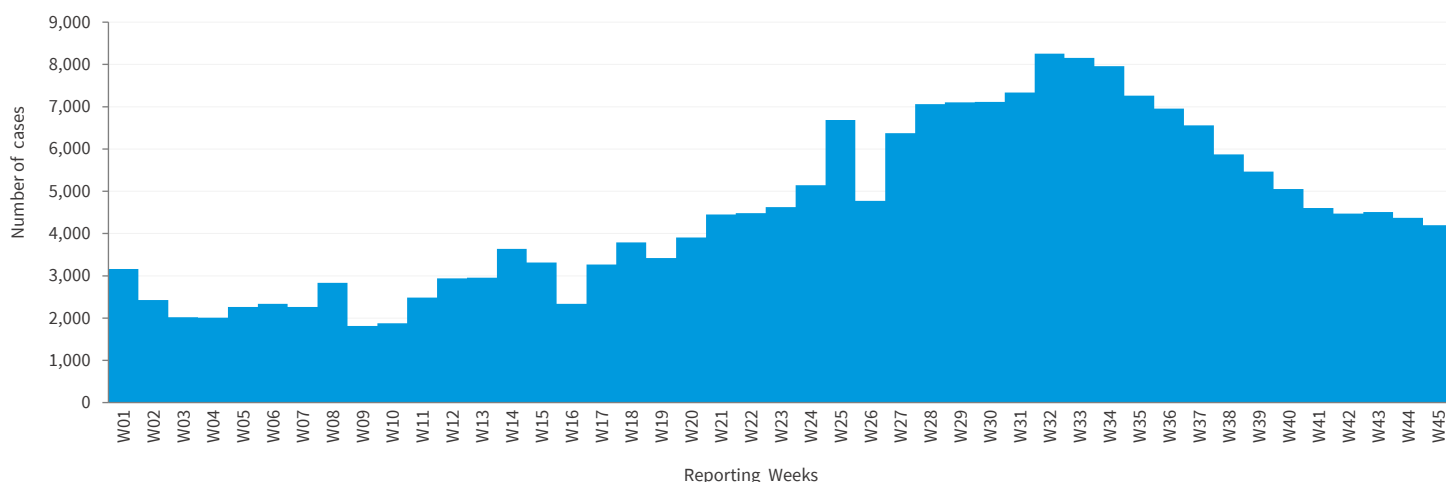
Table 1: Summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Sep – 11 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Trend line
Suspected cases	5,874	5,464	5,051	4,604	4,470	4,503	4372 *	4,197	
Suspected deaths	3	3	1	0	3	3	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.02	

*Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of suspected AWD with dehydration cases in week 44 and were modified from 4,232 to 4,372.

- The epi-curve of AWD with dehydration cases shows a decreasing trend since the 4th week of August 2023. This decline could be explained by seasonal changes, conclusion of the summer season in the country.
- During week 45-2023; 4,197 AWD with dehydration cases and one AWD with dehydration associated death was reported from 169 districts which shows a 4.0% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared to last week (Figure 1).
- The new death was an under-five female from Helmand province.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 203,901 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 116,194 (57.0%) were under-five children and 101,507 (49.8%) were females (Figure 2).
- During week 45-2023, a new district (Sayad district) from Sar-e-pul province reported alert of AWD with dehydration and the number of districts reported AWD with dehydration reached to 334.
- A total of 5,377 rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

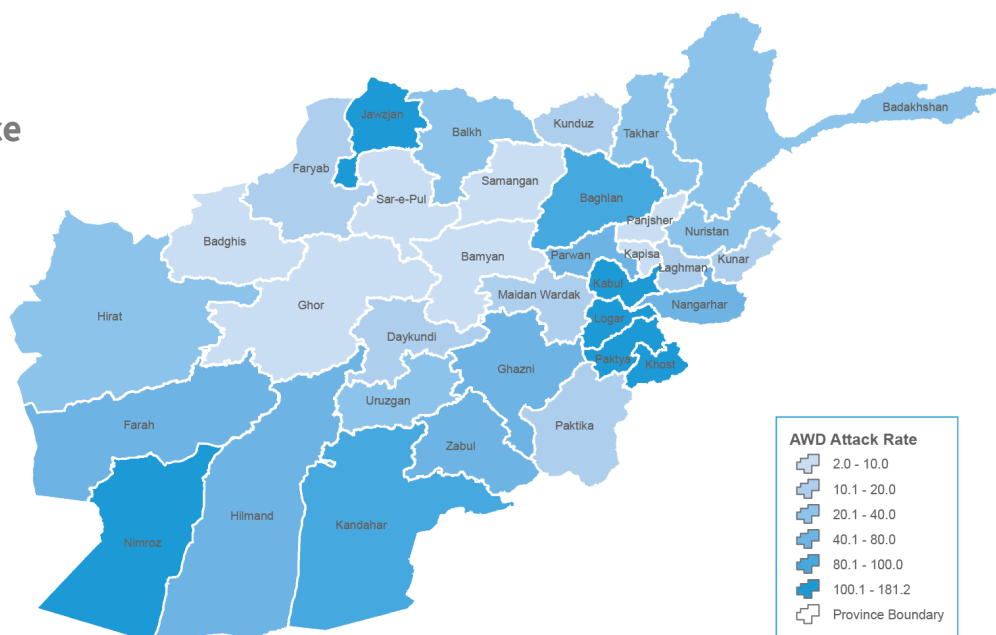
Figure 1. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023 (N=203,901)



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AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 11 Nov 2023

Figure 2. AWD with dehydration cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023



Preparedness and response to the AWD Outbreak

Leadership and Coordination

- 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 health facility level in 254 sentinel sites across all 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 621 different case management kits for AWD with dehydration have been delivered to WHO sub-offices of Paktya, Bamiyan, Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Mazar and Nangarhar provinces for responding to this outbreak.
- 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

- Since Jan 2023, 5 AWD with dehydration RDT kits were supplied to Baghlan province. This brings the total number of RDTs supplied to all 34 provinces across the country to 6,475 and Cary Blairs to 6,400.
- 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 supplied with diagnostic kits.


WASH

There is no response update in week 45 (05-11 Nov 2023).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- WHO provided technical support to MoPH in Herat province for conducting RCCE need assessment of people living in earthquake affected areas.
- One day social listening program was conducted for 11 participants from different parts of society such as HCWs, social mobilizer, religious leaders, women and youth to increase awareness of outbreak prone diseases including AWD with dehydration through focus group discussion (FGD) in Bamiyan province.

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) (1 Jan-11 Nov 2023)




1,142,194
Total ARI Cases



2,336
Total Deaths



2,585
Influenza sample tested



94
Influenza lab confirmed cases



3.6
Influenza test positivity ratio

Note: 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 ARI season and sending them to national influenza center (NIC) for testing.

Table 2: Summary of the ARI outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Sep – 11 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Trend lines
Suspected cases	19,579	20,256	21,637	23,140	25,349	26,204	27,383 *	29,966	
Suspected deaths	31	28	34	45	59	45	48 *	57	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

*Delayed reporting was experienced in the number of suspected cases of ARI and deaths during week 44 and the number of cases were modified from 27,282 to 27,383 and the number of deaths from 44 to 48.

- The epi curve shows an increase of ARI suspected cases since the 3rd week of September 2023, which could be linked to the change of the season to cold weather across the country (Figure 3).
- During week 45-2023, 29,966 cases of suspected ARI-pneumonia and 57 associated deaths were reported which shows 8.6% and 18.8 % increase in the number suspected cases and associated deaths, respectively, compared to week 44-2023.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,142,194 cases and 2,336 deaths were reported from 34 provinces across the country. Out of the total cases, 703,473 (61.6%) were under-five children and 565,320 (49.5%) were females (Figure 4).
- Out of total deaths, 1,923 (82.3%) were under-five children and 1,077 (46.1%) were females reported from 34 provinces.
- The current number of cases is higher than the average number of cases reported during the preceding three years (2020-2022), the higher number in 2023 could be explained by the improvement in reporting due to improved surveillance system (Figure 5).

Figure 3. Epidemiological curve of ARI cases in 34 provinces, 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023 (N=1,142,194)

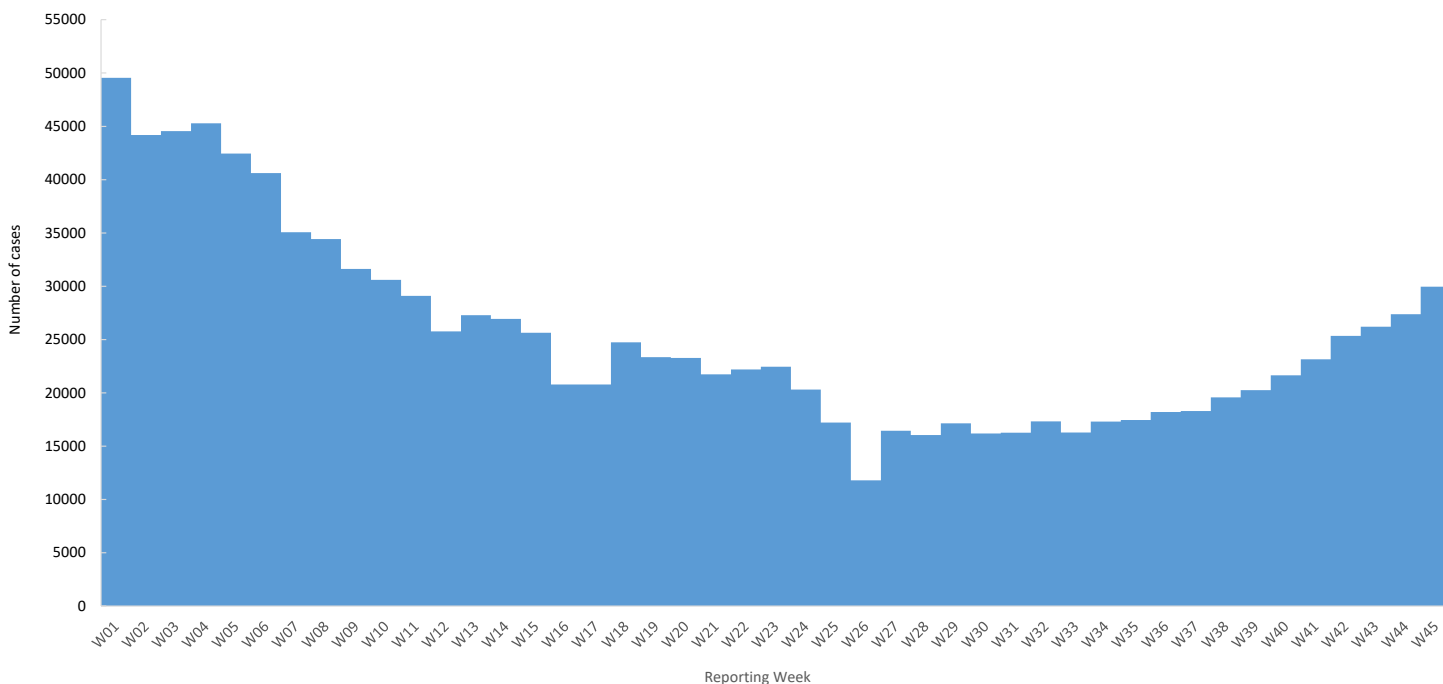


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of ARI cases by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023 (N=1,142,194)

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Provincial distribution of suspected ARI pneumonia cases as of 11 Nov 2023

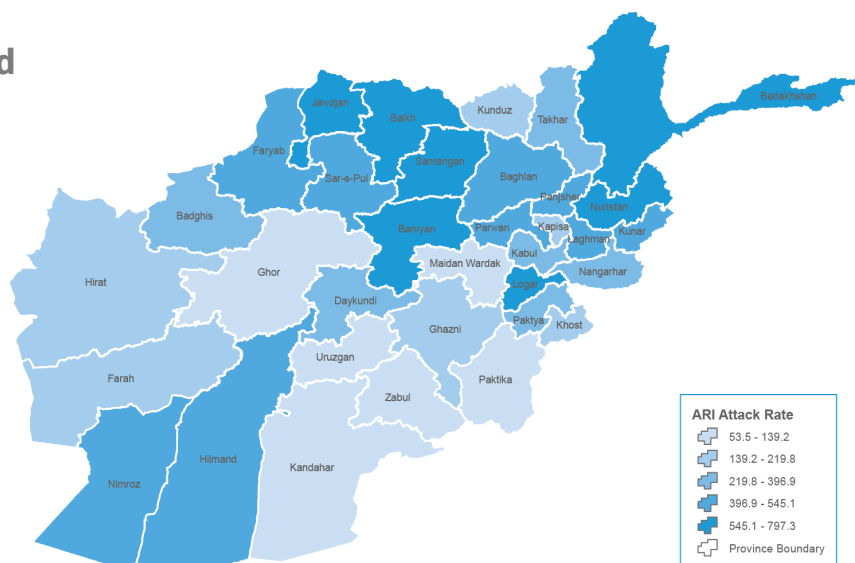
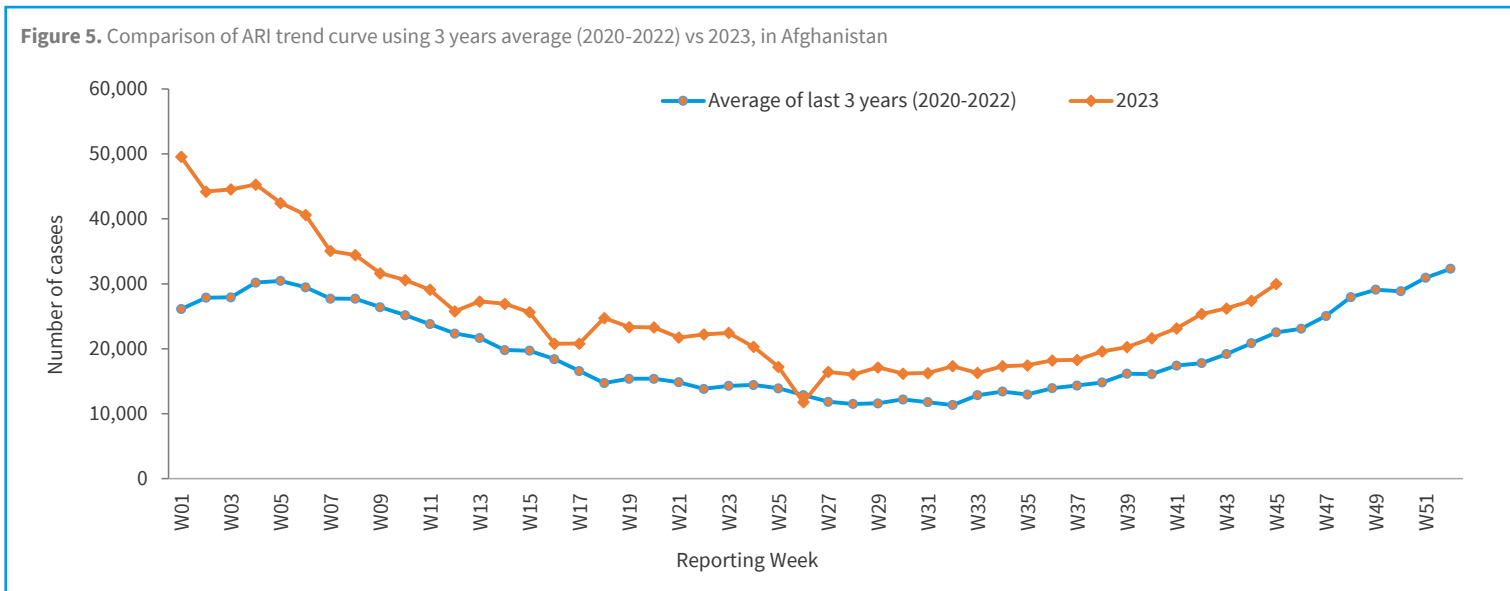


Figure 5. Comparison of ARI trend curve using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs 2023, in Afghanistan



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 viral transport media (VTM) for collection of influenza's samples have been delivered to the 10 influenza sentinel sites.
- A total of 10 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 the national influenza center (NIC).

- As a part of preparedness and response to ARI outbreak, a total of 4,720 kits of COVID-19 RDTs were prepositioned in Kabul WHO warehouse and will be distributed to regional offices for quick differential diagnosis of ARI.

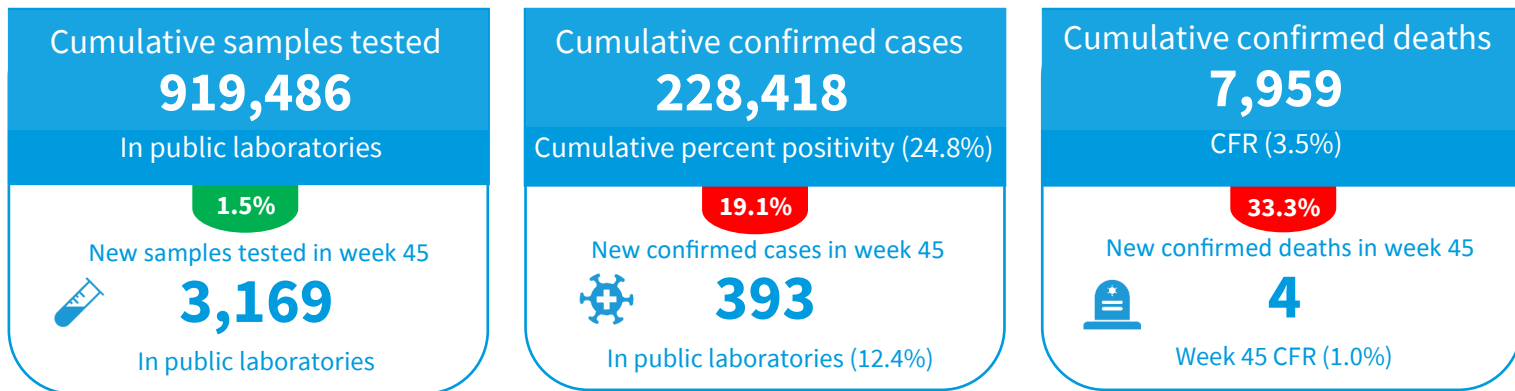
Case management

- During week 45-2023, 35 health care workers (30 males and 5 females) were trained on ARI case management in West region (Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor provinces). This brings the total number of HCWs trained in ARI case management to 1,376 since Jan 2023 from all 8 regions.
- 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 pre-positioned to all regional sub-offices.

RCCE

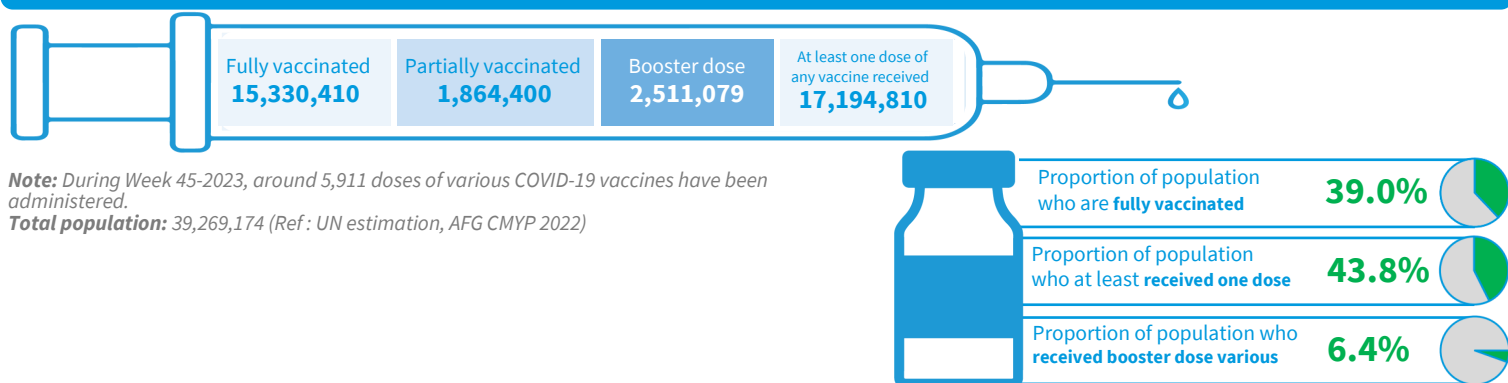
- As part of winterization plan WHO has prepared 397,900 (209,150 posters and 188,750 brochures) information education and communication (IEC) materials on ARI. These IEC materials will be used in health facilities and affected communities across the country.

COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 11 Nov 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



Note: During Week 45-2023, around 5,911 doses of various COVID-19 vaccines have been administered.

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 (17 Sep – 11 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Trend line
Samples tested (in public Labs)	2,579	2,539	2,841	2,618	2,655	3,256	3,217 *	3,169	
Confirmed cases	217	271	274	284	265	406	330 *	393	
Deaths	1	3	1	1	0	1	3	4	
CFR (%)	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.9	1.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 44-2023, the number of samples tested was modified from 3,060 to 3,217 and number of confirmed cases was modified from 328 to 330.

- The epidemiological curve indicates a stabilization in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases since the 3rd week of June 2023, which could be attributed to a decrease in reporting of infected individuals to healthcare facilities and an improvement in vaccination coverage among eligible population across the country (43.8%).
- In week 45-2023, a total of 3,169 samples were tested in public labs, of which 393 samples were positive for COVID-19 (positivity rate 12.4%) and 4 associated deaths were reported. The number of confirmed COVID-19 case increased by 19.1% and the number of COVID-19 associated deaths increased by 33.3% (Figures 6-7).
- The new deaths were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (3) and Bamiyan (1). Out of total deaths, 2 (50.0%) were female and all were over five.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 919,486 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- During week 45-2023, 8.4% (33/393 confirmed cases) were hospitalized and no case was admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

Response:

- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 30,500 COVID 19 RDTs have been delivered to all 34 provinces across the country.
- 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 – 11 Nov 2023

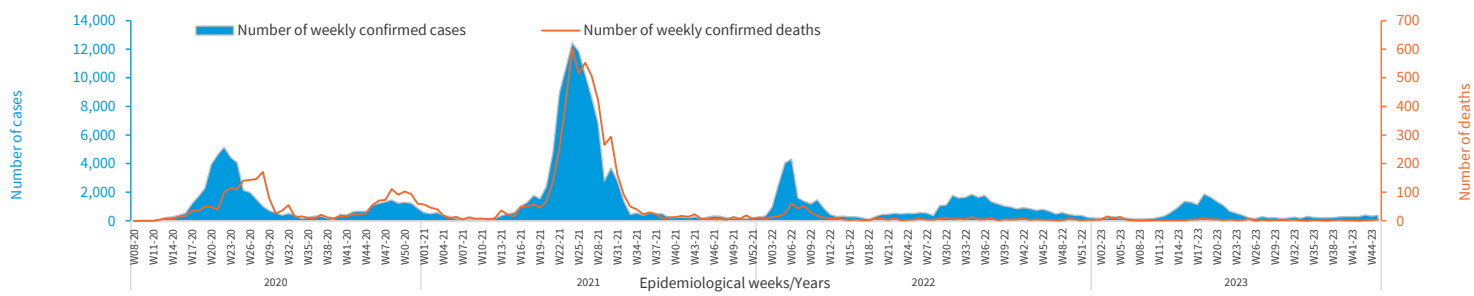


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023

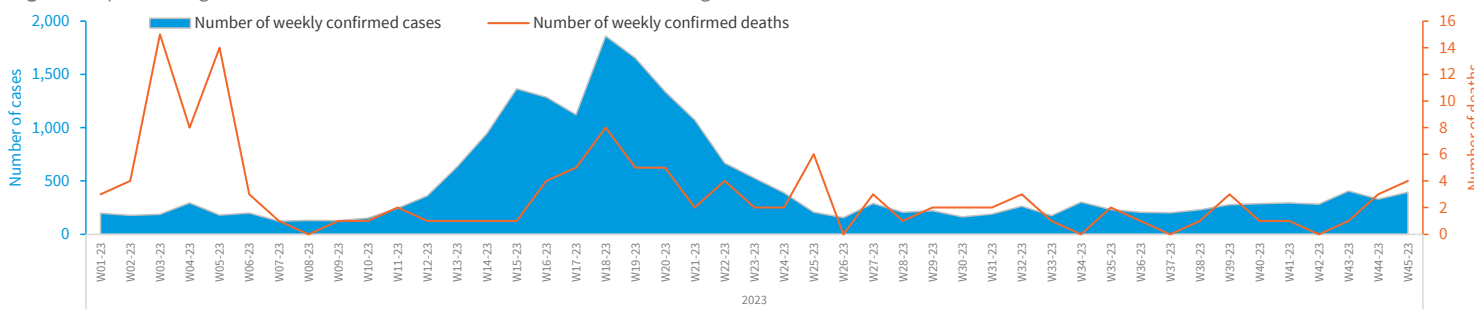
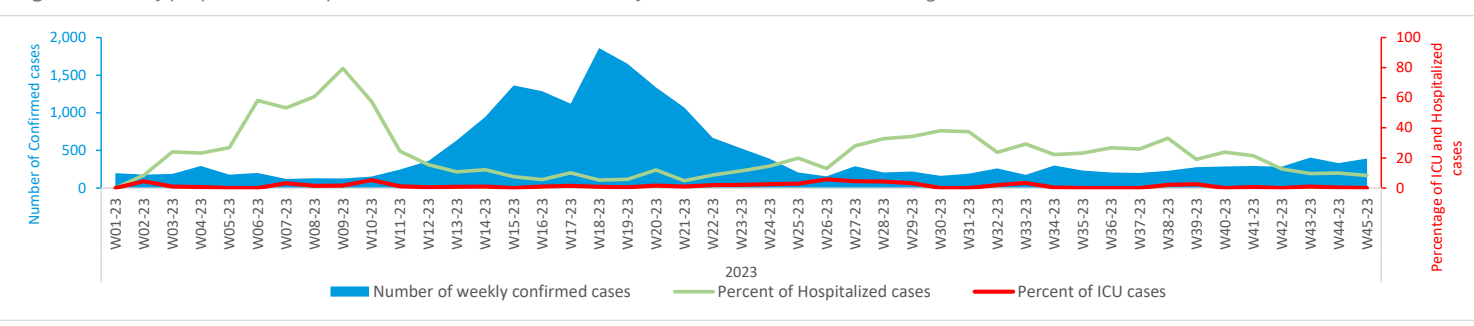



Figure 8. Weekly proportion of hospitalized and ICU cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023



Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 11 Nov 2023)


23,284
Total Cases


63
Total Deaths


5,070
Sample tested


2,463
Lab confirmed cases







48.6%
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: Summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Sep – 11 Nov 2023)

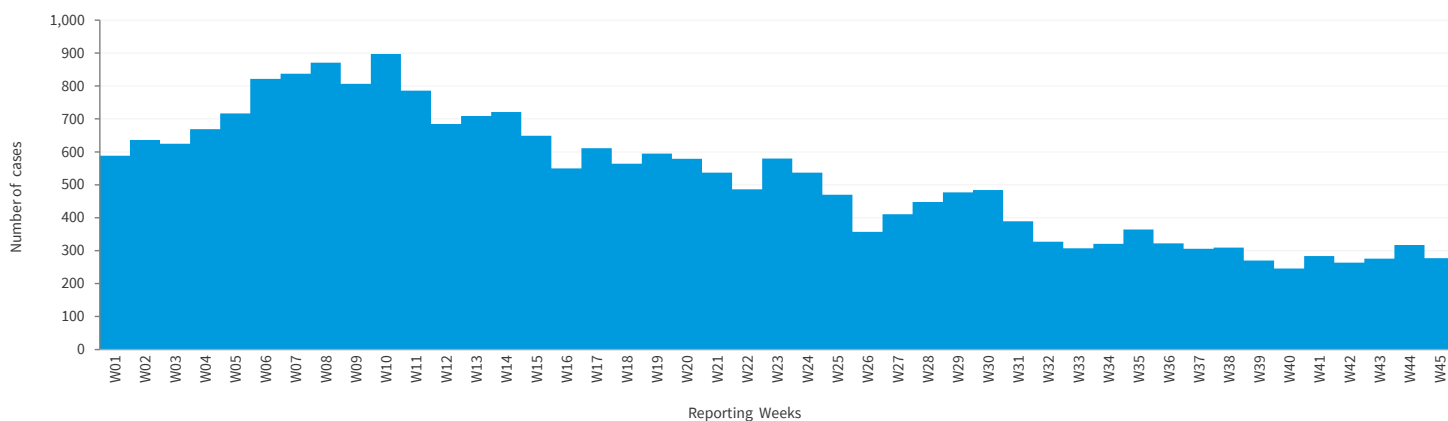
Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Trend line
Suspected cases	309	270	246	284	264	276	317 *	277	
% Change cases	1.0	-12.6	-8.9	15.4	-7.0	4.5	14.9	-12.6	
Suspected deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	

*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 44-2023, the number of suspected cases was modified from 306 to 317.

- The epi curve of measles suspected cases shows a consistent stabilization for the last 7 weeks, maintaining an average of 276 cases during this period (Figure 9).
- During week 45-2023, a total of 277 suspected cases with no measles associated deaths were reported which shows 12.6% decrease in the number of suspected measles cases compared to previous week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 23,284 suspected cases of measles and 63 deaths (CFR=0.3%) were reported, out of which 16,465 (70.7%) were under-five children and 10,969 (47.1%) were females (Figure 10).



Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 11 Nov 2023 (N=23,284)



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Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province as of 11 Nov 2023

Figure 10. Suspected measles cumulative incidence per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan –11 Nov 2023

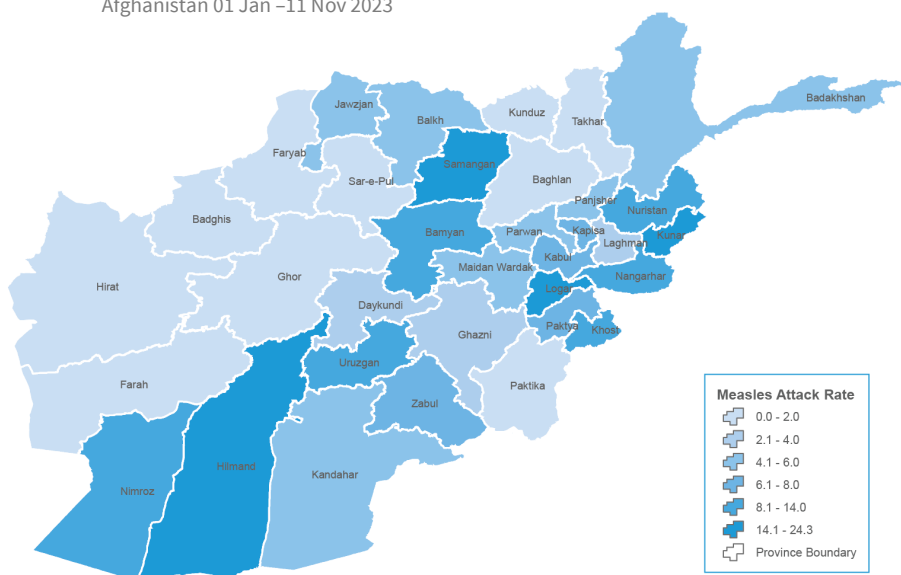
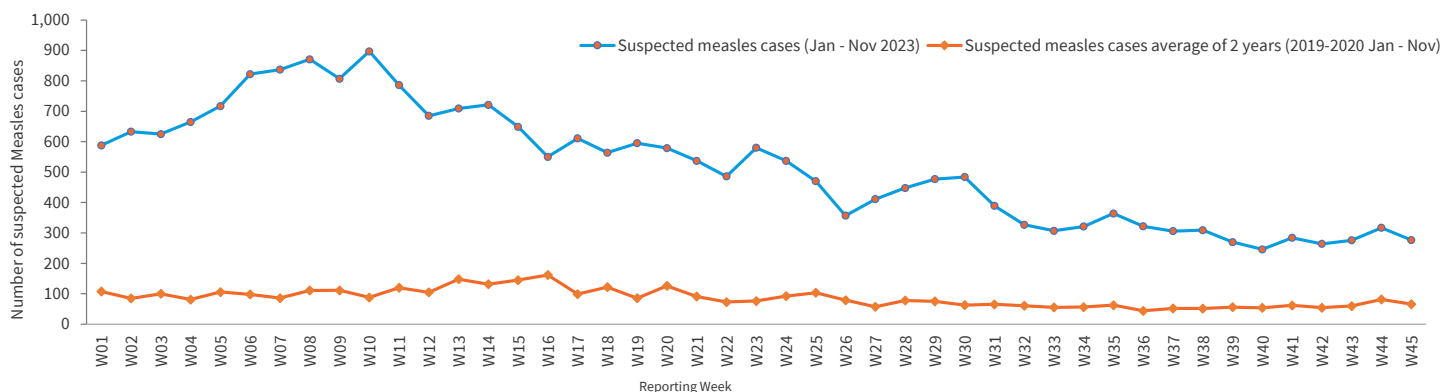


Figure 11. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Nov 2023, Afghanistan



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

- During week 45-2023, a total of 49 children aged 9-59 months were vaccinated as part of outbreak response by the implementing NGOs in Khakriz district of Kandahar province, this brings the total number of children vaccinated to 7,257 since January 2023.
- A total of 132,000 IEC materials on measles have been delivered 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 11 Nov 2023)

Table 5: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Sep –11 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Trendline
Suspected cases	26	16	25	18	22	10	11	11	
Suspected deaths	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	
CFR (%)	3.8	0.0	4.0	5.6	4.5	20.0	27.3	0.0	

- The epi-curve for Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) indicates a decreasing trend in the number of suspected CCHF cases since 3rd week of September 2023. This decline could be attributed to seasonal changes towards winter (Figure 12, 13).
- During week 45-2023, a total of 11 new cases of CCHF with no death were reported, which shows stabilization in the number of suspected CCHF cases compared with last week (Table 5).
- Since the beginning of 2023, the total number of reported suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths are 1,212 and 114, respectively (CFR 9.4%) (Figure 14).
- The CCHF-associated deaths were reported from 15 provinces, more than half of which were reported from 2 provinces: Kabul (52, 45.6%) and Balkh (16, 14.0%).
- Out of the total cases, 1,209 (99.8%) were above 5 years of age and 377 (31.1%) were females.
- Totally, 1,081 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 378 samples were positive (positivity = 35.0%).

Figure 12. Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan – 11 Nov 2023 (N=1,212)

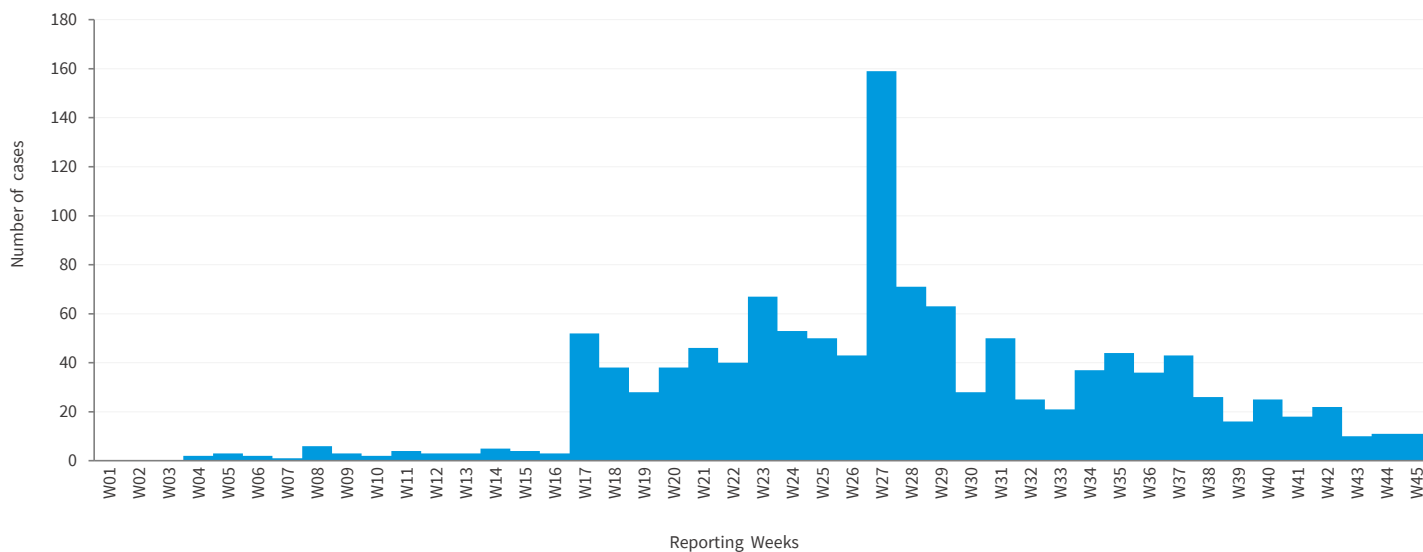
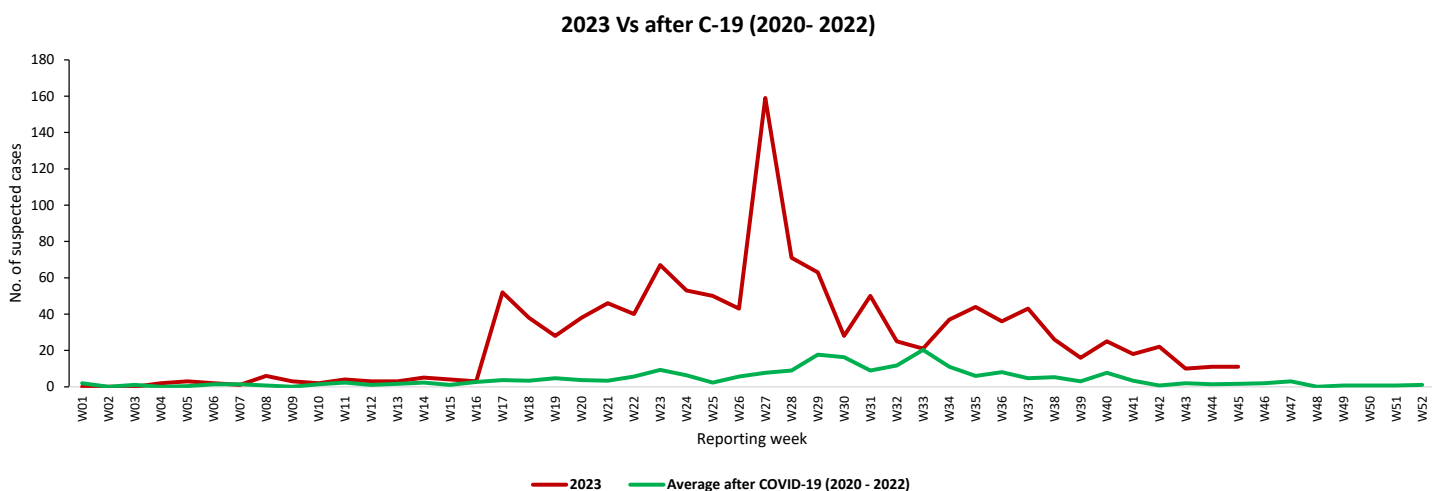


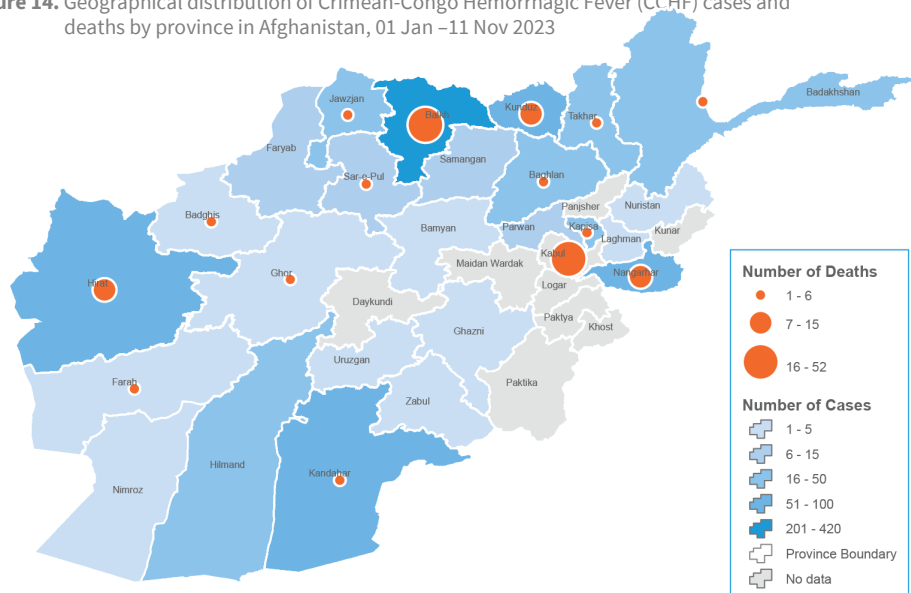
Figure 13. Comparison of trend curves for suspected CCHF cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs Jan-Nov 2023, Afghanistan



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Geographic Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by province as of 11 Nov 2023

Figure 14. Geographical distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases and deaths by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan –11 Nov 2023



Response to CCHF outbreak during 2023

Coordination and leadership

- A national 2-day workshop was conducted in Kabul-Afghanistan focused on implementing the One Health approach and involved various stakeholders, including experts from organizations like WHO, FAO, MoPH, NEPA, MAIL, Dairy Form Union, and Kabul University's veterinary department. The workshop covered six key areas: leadership and governance, multisectoral coordination, environmental health, zoonotic disease, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, highlighting existing structures, gaps, and challenges. The main recommendations from the workshop included securing government support and creating a strategic national plan, along with establishing a national-level Technical Working Group (TWG).

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

- During week 45-2023, a total of 68 HCWs (57 males and 11 females) were trained on CCHF case management from 8 provinces (Kabul, Logar, Parwan, Bamyan, Dykundi, Panjsher, Kapisa and Wardak). This brings the total number of HCWs trained on CCHF case management to 245 since the beginning of Jan 2023.
- 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.

RCCE

- A total of 199,300 IEC materials on CCHF have been handed over to MoPH; and a total of 34,501 people have been reached through RCCE campaigns in Kandahar, Helmand

Dengue Fever Outbreak (01 Jan to 11 Nov 2023)

1,141
Total Cases

1
Total Deaths

699
Sample tested

188
Lab confirmed cases

26.9%
Test positivity ratio

Table 6: Summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (17 Sep – 11 Nov 2023)

Indicators	W38	W39	W40	W41	W42	W43	W44	W45	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	28	17	52	36	45	67	50 *	69	
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	

*Data entry error was experienced during week 44 and the number of suspected dengue fever was corrected from 54 to 50.



- The epidemiological curve depicts a rising trend in suspected dengue fever cases starting from the last week of Aug 2023, this is the peak season for vector activities as reported during 2021 and 2022 outbreaks, as well (figure 15 and 16).
- During week 45-2023, 69 suspected cases of dengue fever were reported from 2 provinces; Nangarhar (65) and Laghman (4), which shows 38.0% increase compared to the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 1,141 suspected cases of dengue fever and one death was reported (Figure 17), out of which, 561 (49.2%) were females and 1,118 (98.0%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 699 samples have been collected, out of which 188 were confirmed (positivity= 26.9%).

Figure 15. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan – 11 Nov 2023 (N=1,141)

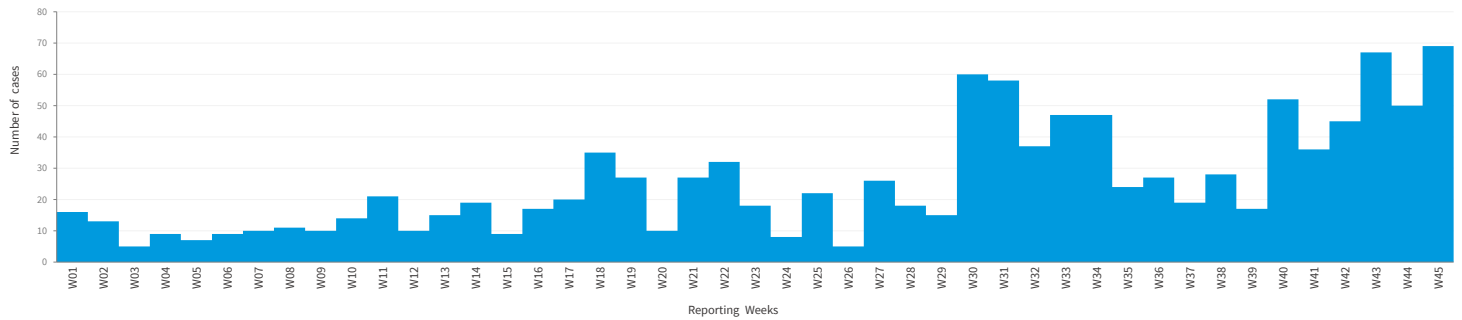


Figure 16: Comparison of trend curves for suspected dengue fever cases using 3 years average (2020-2022) vs Jan-Nov

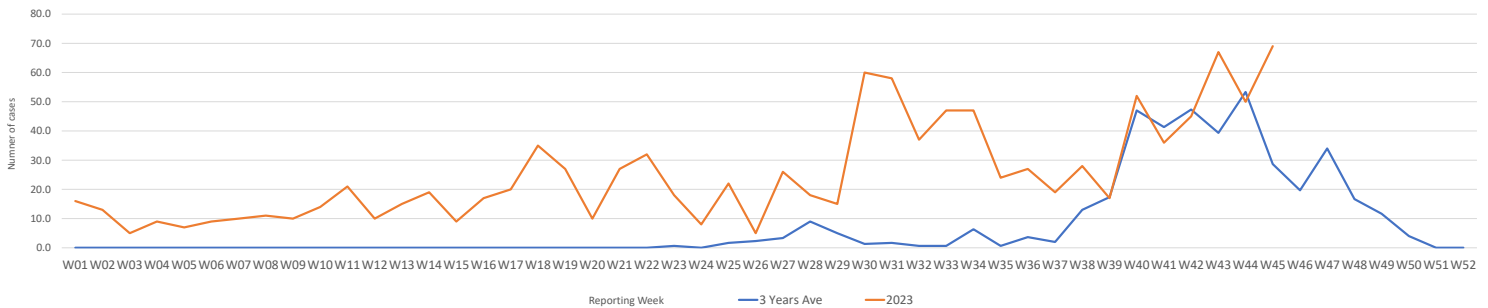
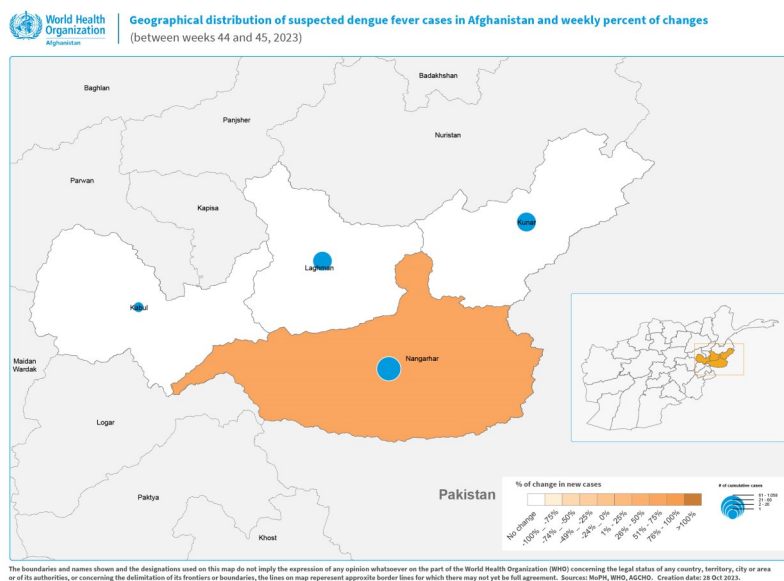


Figure 17. Geographical distribution of suspected dengue fever cases and percent change of new cases in Afghanistan, Jan - Nov 2023



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, AGCHD. Creation date: 28 Oct 2023.

Response to the dengue fever outbreak

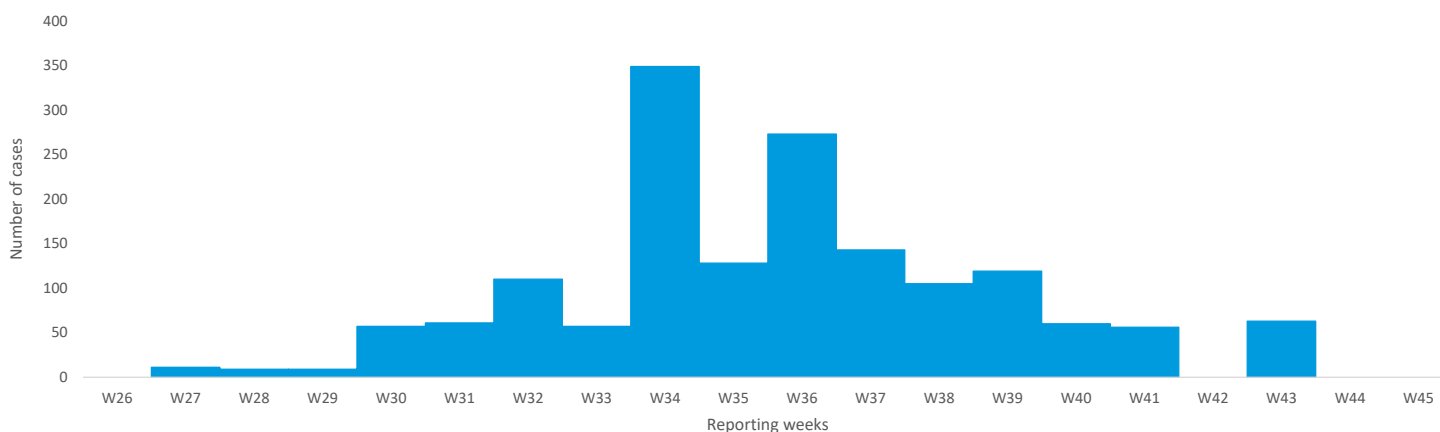
- Since Jan 2023, cumulatively 83 dengue RDT kits have been distributed to 5 provinces (73 to Nangarhar, 3 to Laghman, 3 to Kunar, 2 to Nuristan and 2 to Kabul).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 10 PCR kits have been distributed to Nangarhar RRL.
- A guideline for case management of dengue fever has been revised followed by a one-day workshop with the participation of representatives from specialty hospitals for treating the cases according to standard guideline.
- A total of 320 HCWs have been trained on dengue case management in the East region.



Malaria outbreak

- During week 45, no new Malaria outbreak has been reported.
- Since 04 Jul-2023, a total of 1,609 confirmed cases of malaria (1,303 were lab confirmed and 306 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 18).
- Out of the total cases, 708 (44.0%) were females and 197 (12.2%) were under-five.
- All the cases have been managed by the outbreak investigation teams and proper health education has been provided.

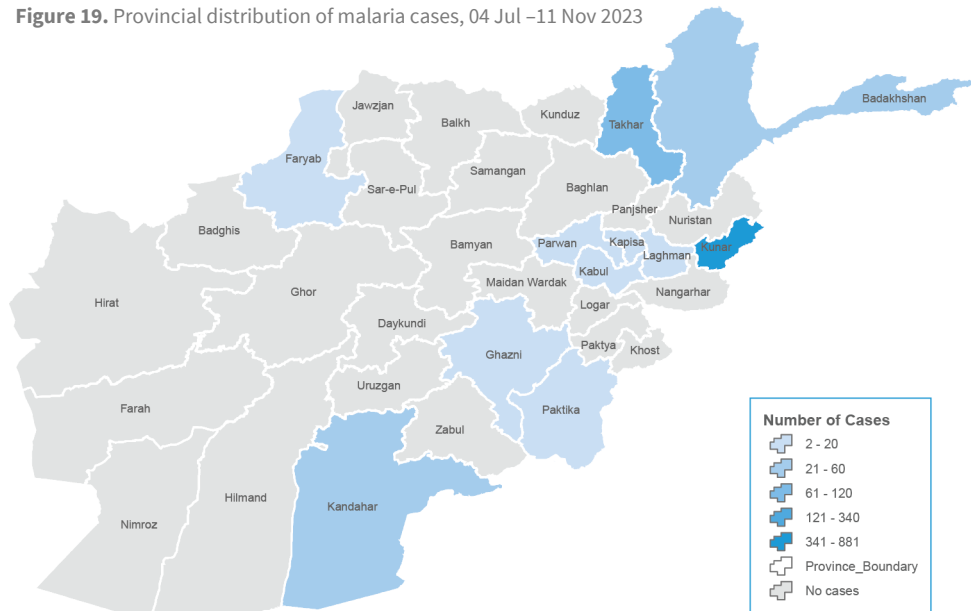
Figure 18. Epidemiological curve of malaria cases in 11 provinces during 04 Jul – 11 Nov 2023 (N=1,609)



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Provincial distribution of Malaria cases as of 11 Nov 2023

Figure 19. Provincial distribution of malaria cases, 04 Jul –11 Nov 2023



Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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

Contact us for further information:

- Dr. Alaa AbouZeid, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD: Health Emergencies Team Lead, WHO-CO, (abouzeida@who.int)
- Dr. Mohamed Tahoun, MD, MPH, PhD : Head of Infectious Hazard Preparedness, WHO-CO, (tahounm@who.int)
- Dr. Mohammad Omar Mashal, MD, PhD: National Surveillance Officer WHO-CO, (mmashal@who.int)
- Mr. Hafizullah Safi, BSF, MBA, MPH: Data Management Officer, WHO-CO, (safih@who.int)
- Mr. Abdul Wahid Amiri: Surveillance Data Analyst, WHO-CO, (amiria@who.int)