








### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #28-2023





No. 28/(09-15 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)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> (Data from 602 (98.2%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)	<b>668*</b>	<b>98,851</b>	<b>224,031</b>	<b>17,744</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>67* (10.0)</b>	<b>46 (0.05)</b>	<b>7,932 (3.5)</b>	<b>49 (0.3)</b>	<b>1 (0.2)</b>

\* A backlog of 119 CCHF cases and 14 deaths were added to the cumulative number of cases and deaths which were reported sporadically during Jan-Jul 2023.

## Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 15 Jul 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (21 May - 15 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	39	44	59	48	50	48	125	56	
% Change cases	143.8	12.8	34.1	-18.6	4.2	-4.0	160.4	-55.2	
Suspected deaths	7	5	5	6	4	5	15	6	
CFR (%)	17.9	11.4	8.5	12.5	8.0	10.4	12.0	10.7	

- During week 28-2023, a total of 56 new cases of CCHF (9 cases were confirmed positive by PCR) and 6 new deaths were reported (Figure 1, Table 1).
- An additional 119 suspected cases and 14 deaths, which were reported sporadically, were added to cumulative cases and deaths; this brings the total number of suspected CCHF cases and associated deaths to 668 and 67 (CFR=10.03%) since the beginning of 2023. (Figure2)
- The CCHF associated deaths were reported from 18 provinces; more than half were reported from 2 provinces Kabul (25, 37.3%) and Balkh (14, 20.9%).
- Out of total cases (668), 667 (99.9%) were above 5 years of age and 192 (28.7%) were females.
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from Central (Kabul), North (Balkh) and West (Herat) regions.
- Totally, 643 samples of suspected CCHF cases were tested since beginning of 2023, of which 223 samples were positive (34.7% positivity).

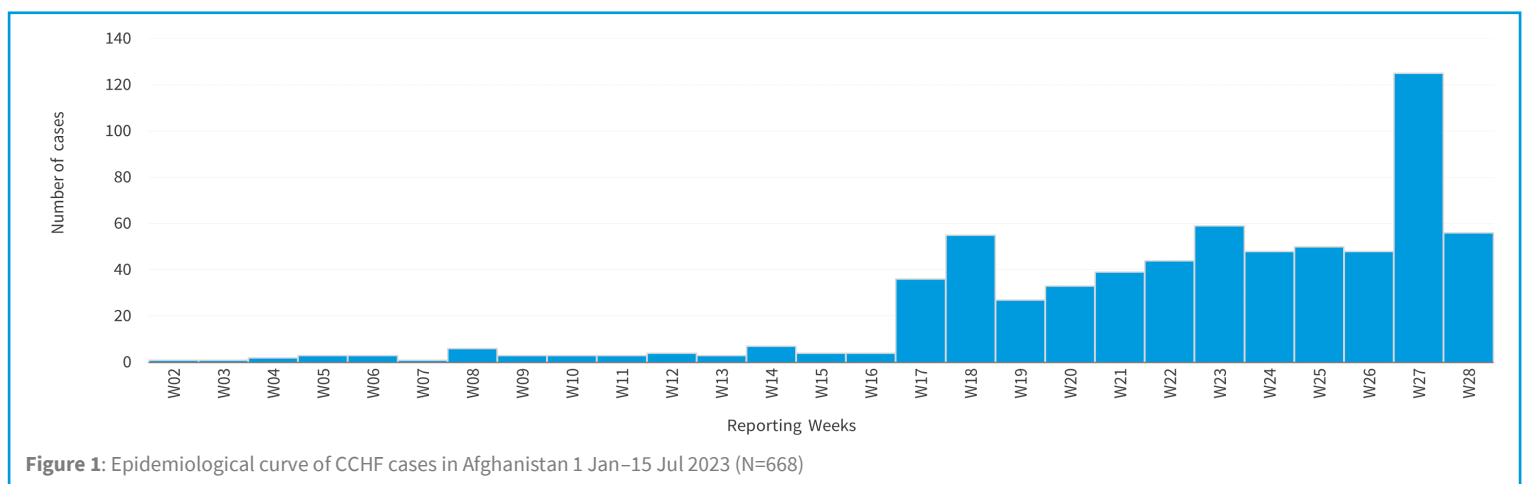


Figure 1: Epidemiological curve of CCHF cases in Afghanistan 1 Jan–15 Jul 2023 (N=668)

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## Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 15 Jul 2023

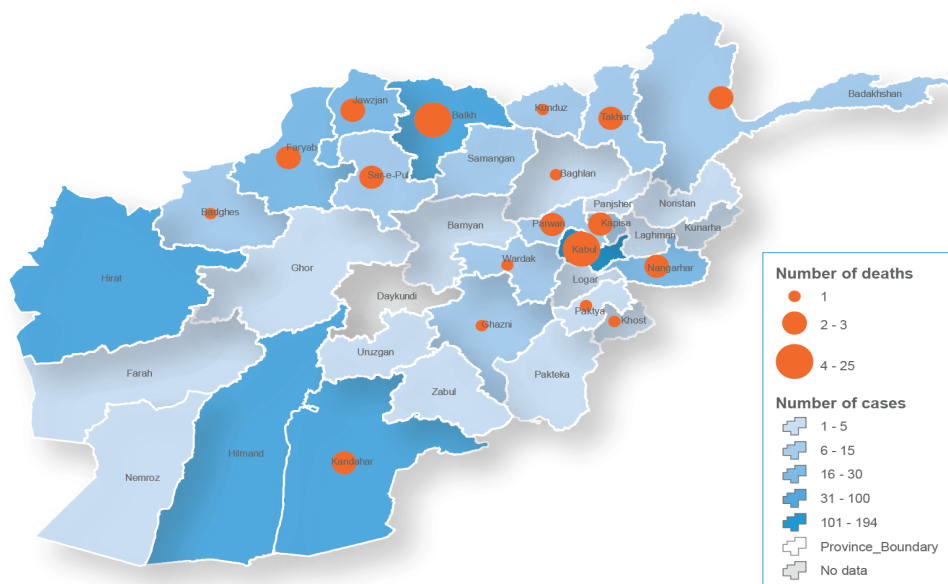


Figure 2. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–15 Jul 2023

### 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 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.

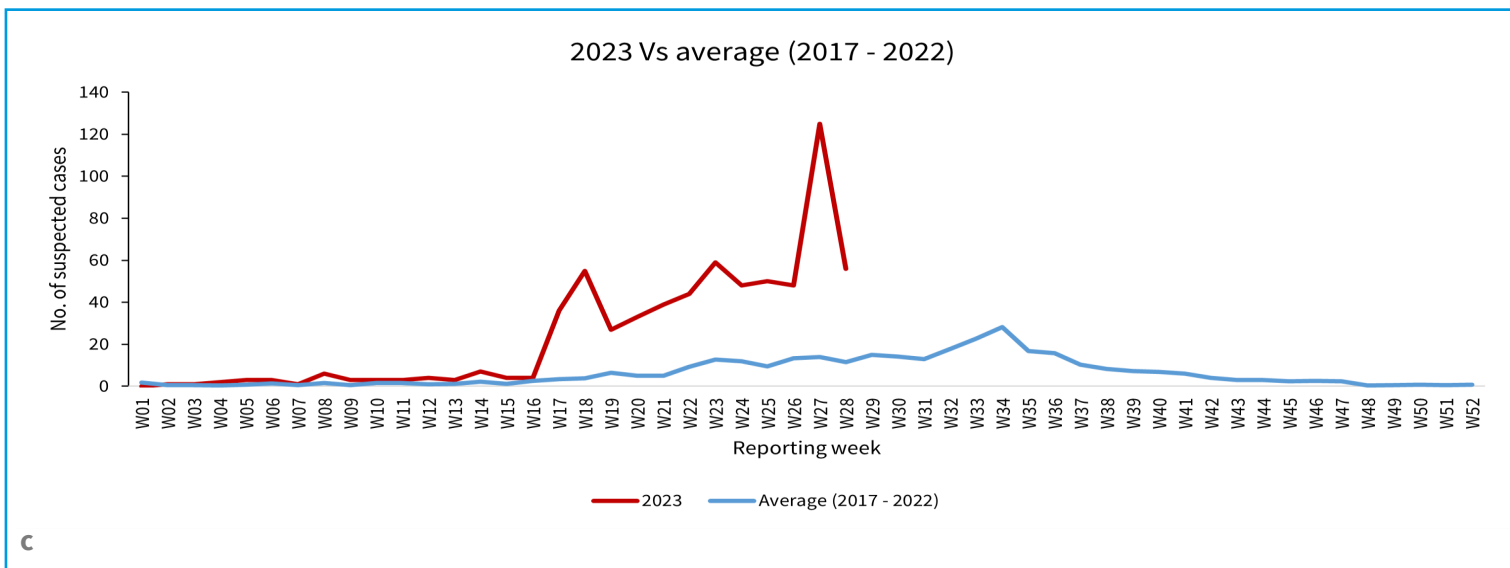
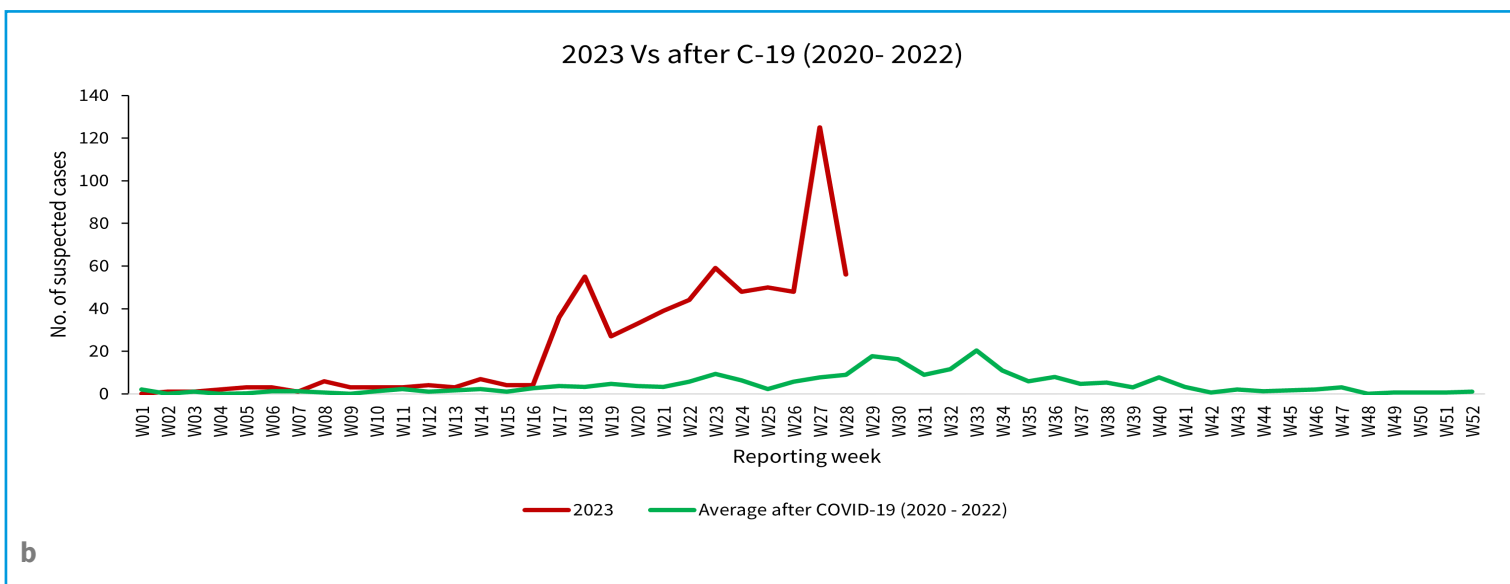
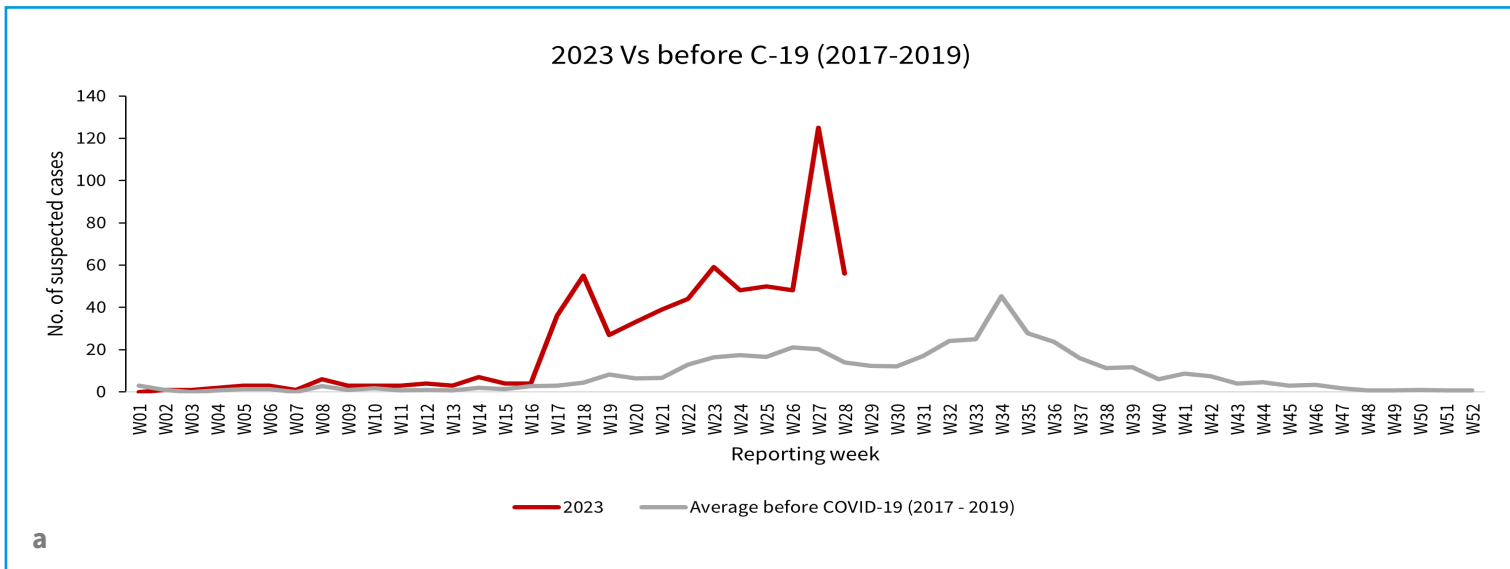


Figure 3. Comparison of weekly distribution of suspected CCHF cases during 2023, a. average before COVID-19 pandemic (2017 – 2019); b. average after COVID-19 pandemic; c. average of last 6 years (2017 – 2022), Afghanistan



## 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, 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 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 to 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-days 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 participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and guideline protocol department of MoPH to present and finalize the guideline.
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 177 health care 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

- IEC materials (200,000 posters and 150,000 brochures) have been developed, translated in both local languages (Dari and Pashto) and distributed to all 34 provinces/ 8 regional sub-offices.
- A total of 80 social mobilizers were deployed in Hirat (45 social mobilizers; 30 males, 15 females) and in Kandahar and Hilmand (35 social mobilizers; 20 males, 15 females) had a 7-days social mobilization campaign in all districts including public transport, schools, business markets, house to house and universities.

## Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 15 Jul 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (21 May - 15 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	4,454	4,481	4,627	5,143	6,688	4,775	6,373*	7,238	
% Change cases	14.0	0.6	3.3	11.2	30.0	-28.6	33.5	13.6	
Suspected deaths	3	1	2	1	7	1	3	3	
CFR (%)	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.04	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 27-2023, and the number of cases were modified from 5,561 to 6,373.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases is increasing after a drop in week-26, which was observed due to the Eid holidays. The general trend is on the rise since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the summer season (Figure 4).
- During week 28-2023, a total of 7,238 new AWD cases with dehydration and 3 new deaths were reported from 233 districts all over the country, which shows 13.6% increase in the number of cases compared to last week (Figure 5).
- During last week, one new district (Hazar samooj district of Takhar province) reported alert of AWD with dehydration.
- The new deaths reported this week were from 2 provinces: Kabul (2 under-five females) and Baghlan (one under-five male).
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 98,851 AWD with dehydration cases were reported from 326 districts, out of which 56,382 (57.0%) were children below 5 years and 48,929 (49.5%) were females.
- A total of 1,320 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

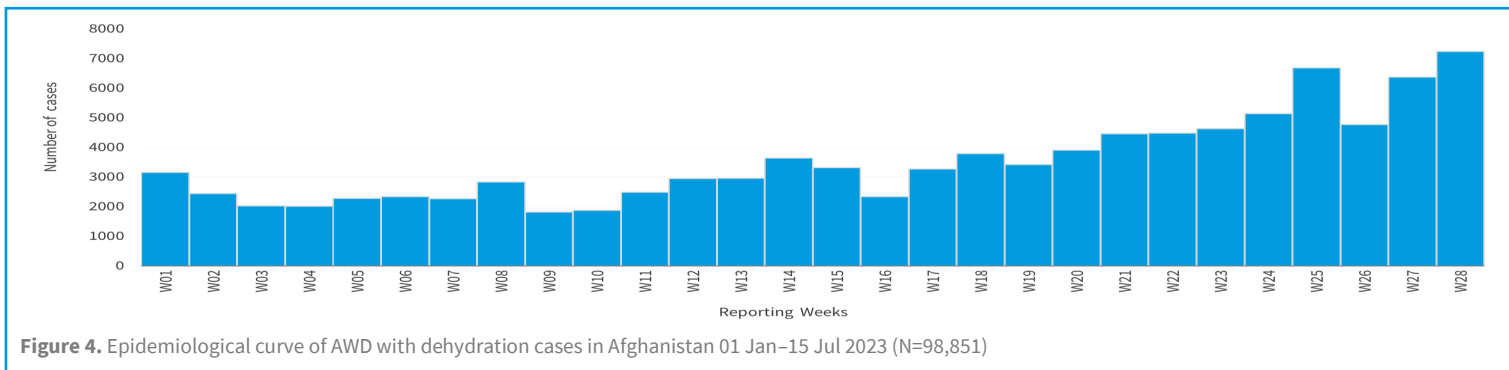


Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–15 Jul 2023 (N=98,851)

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**AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province**  
As of 15 Jul 2023

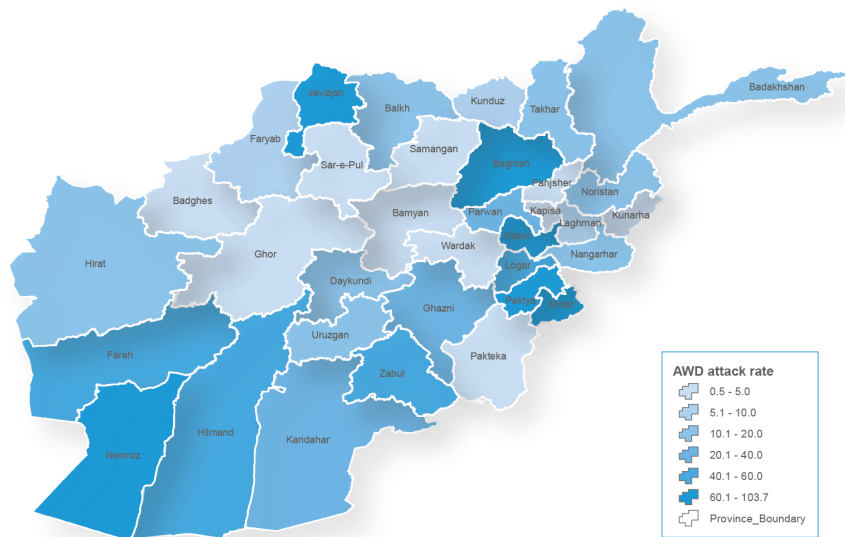


Figure 5. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–15 Jul 2023

### 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 week 28, a total of 35 NDSR focal points were trained on e-surveillance using DHIS2 application from East Region (Nangarhar (12), Kunar (8), Nuristan (8) and Laghman (7)). This brings the total number of FPs trained on e-surveillance to 194 in 4 regions (East, Northeast, Central East and Central West).
- A total of 139 SST from 21 provinces were trained on surveillance and lab procedures 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 the beginning of 2023, 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

- As part of the preparedness and response plan for 2023:
  - 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.

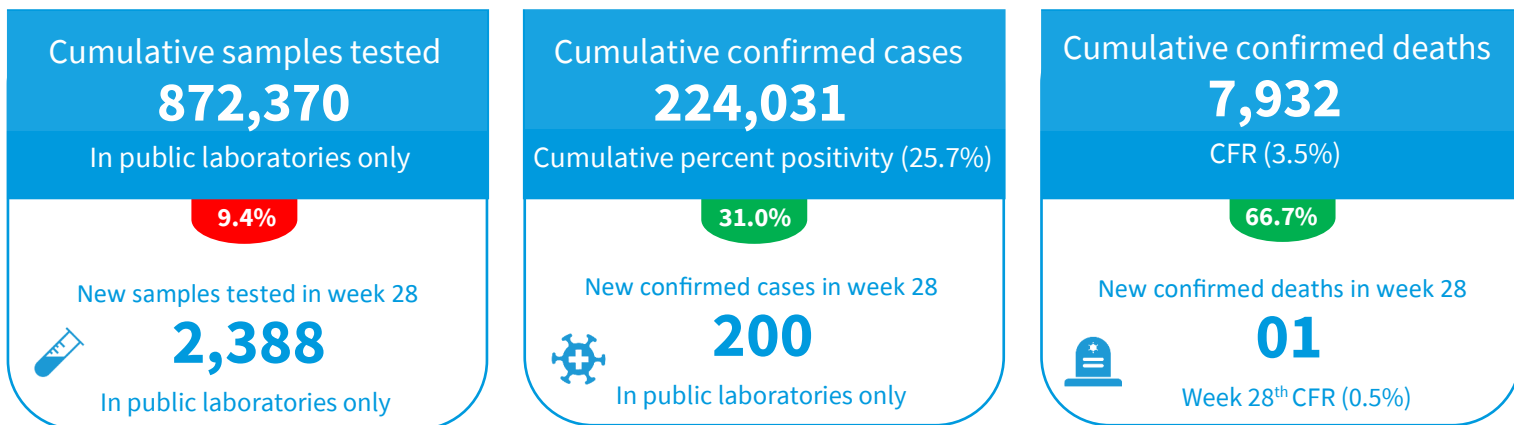
- Seven public health laboratories including CPHL, IDH and 5 RRLs (Kandahar, Paktya, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat regional reference labs) have the testing/confirmation capacity for AWD with dehydration and they have been supplied with diagnostic kits.

#### WASH and RCCE

Between 1 to 15 July 2023, the following activities were conducted as WASH response to AWD with dehydration:

- Provision of safe water to 7,500 individuals in Nangarhar province and 10,000 individuals in Jawzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces by construction of pipe scheme and installation of sola water pipe scheme.
- Also, safe water was provided to almost 7,000 individuals in 8 provinces (Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Wardak, Paktya and Zabul) by water system rehabilitation.
- Provision of hygiene facilities to around 1,000 individuals in Uruzgan province by distribution of aqua-tabs and soaps.
- Provision of hygiene kits to more than 17,500 individuals in Nangarhar, Farah and Khost provinces.
- Provision of Hygiene promotion session to more than 30,000 individuals in 13 provinces (Badakhshan, Farah, Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya, Takhar, Uruzgan and Zabul).
- Provision of sanitation facilities to around 15,000 individual in 2 provinces (Farah and Khost) by rehabilitations and construction of latrines.
- Provision of clean water to around 2,700 individuals in Balkh and Laghman provinces by water trucking activities.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 15 Jul 2023)



Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

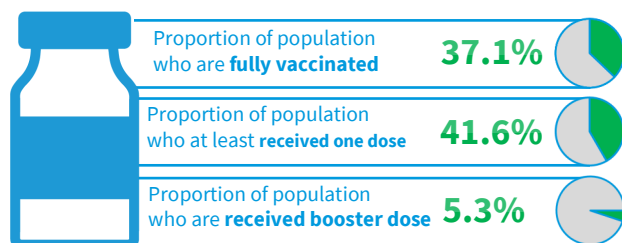


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (21 May - 15 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	5,065	4,214	3,764	3,022	1,943	904	2,183*	2,388	
Confirmed cases	1071	664	526	372	196	155	290 *	200	
% Change cases	-19.9	-38.0	-20.8	-29.3	-47.3	-20.9	87.1	-31.0	
Percent positivity (%)	21.1	15.8	14.0	12.3	10.1	17.1	13.3	8.4	
Deaths	2	4	2	2	6	0	3	1	
CFR (%)	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.0	1.0	0.5	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 27-2023, and the number of samples tested, and new cases were modified from 2,103 to 2,183 and from 282 to 290, respectively.

- During week 28, the number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, after the increase observed during week 27. 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 872,370 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 28-2023, a total of 2,388 samples were tested in public labs, of which 200 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 8.4%) and 1 new death was reported (CFR=0.5%).
- During week 28-2023, 21.0% (42/200 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 7), including 9 cases (21.4% out of hospitalized cases) admitted to ICU (Figure 8).

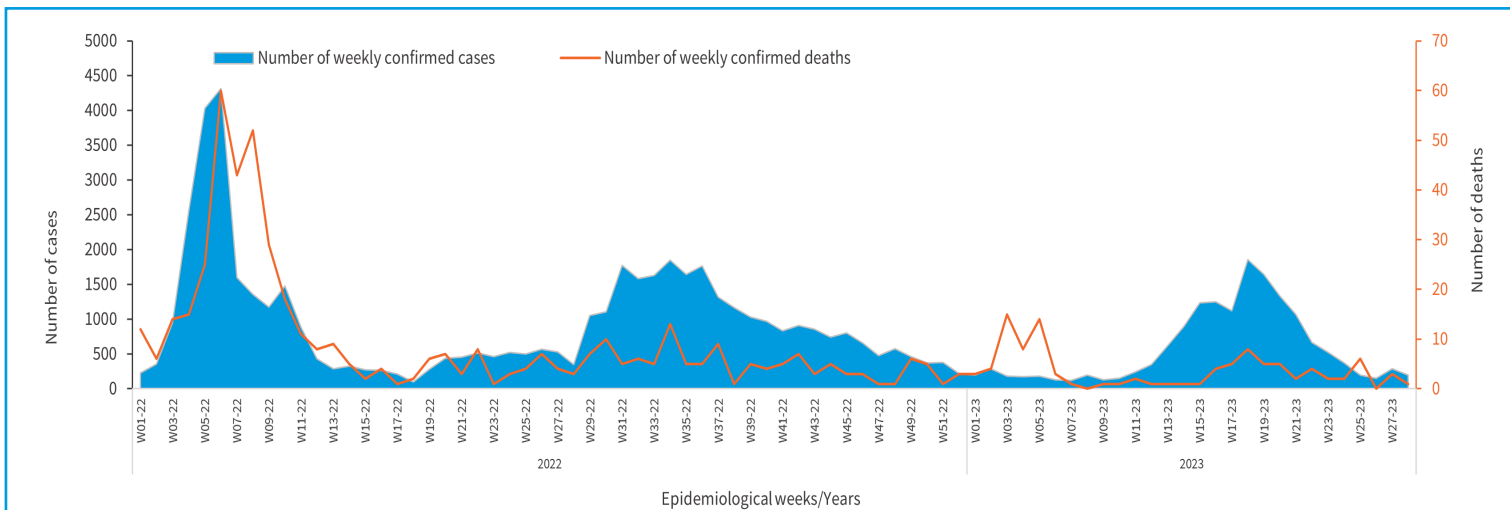


Figure 6. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–15 Jul 2023

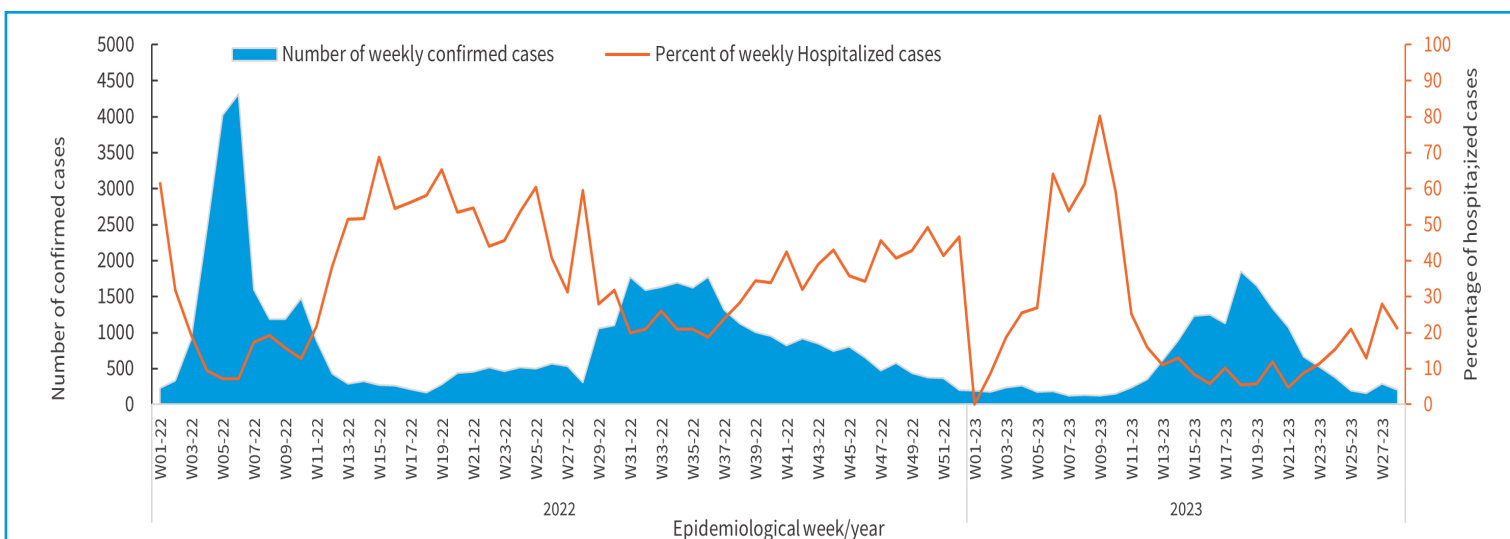


Figure 7. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–15 Jul 2023

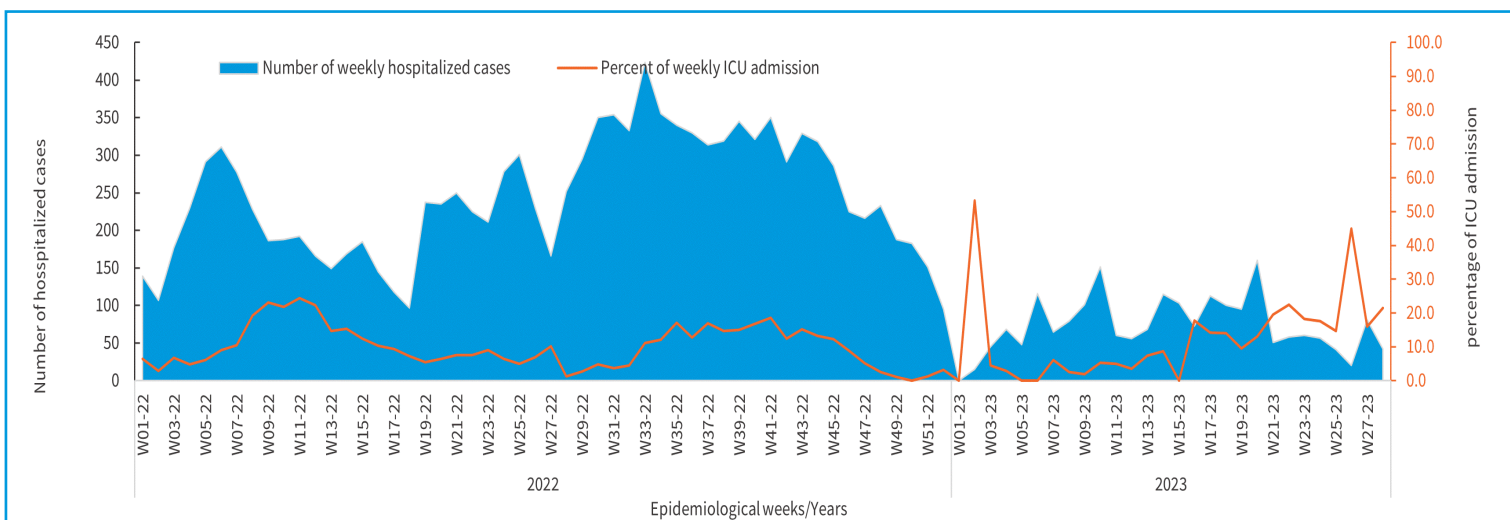


Figure 8. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–15 Jul 2023

## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 15 Jul 2023)

**17,744**  
Total Cases

**49**  
Total Deaths

**4,049**  
Sample tested

**2,048**  
Lab confirmed cases

**50.6%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (21 May - 15 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	537	486	580	537	470	357	411 *	448	
% Change cases	-7.3	-9.5	19.3	-7.4	-12.5	-24.0	15.1	9.0	
Suspected deaths	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	

\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 27, and the number of suspected cases of measles was corrected from 404 to 411.

- The epi-curve shows slight increase in the number of suspected measles cases for 2 consecutive weeks, however, overall, measles cases are showing a slow declining trend since week 10. Nevertheless, the number of reported cases is still considered high as compared to the endemic level of the country prior to the outbreak (Figure 9 & 10).
- During epidemiological week 28-2023, a total of 448 suspected cases and one associated death were reported which indicates 9.0% increase in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 17,744 measles cases were reported, out of which 12,601 (71.0%) were children under 5 years of age and 8,368 (47.2%) were females.

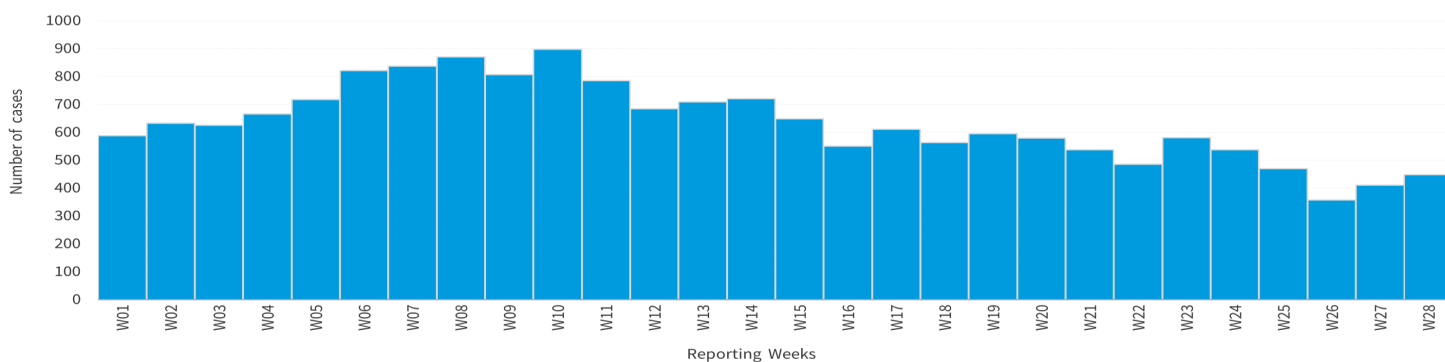


Figure 9. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 15 Jul 2023 (N=17,744)

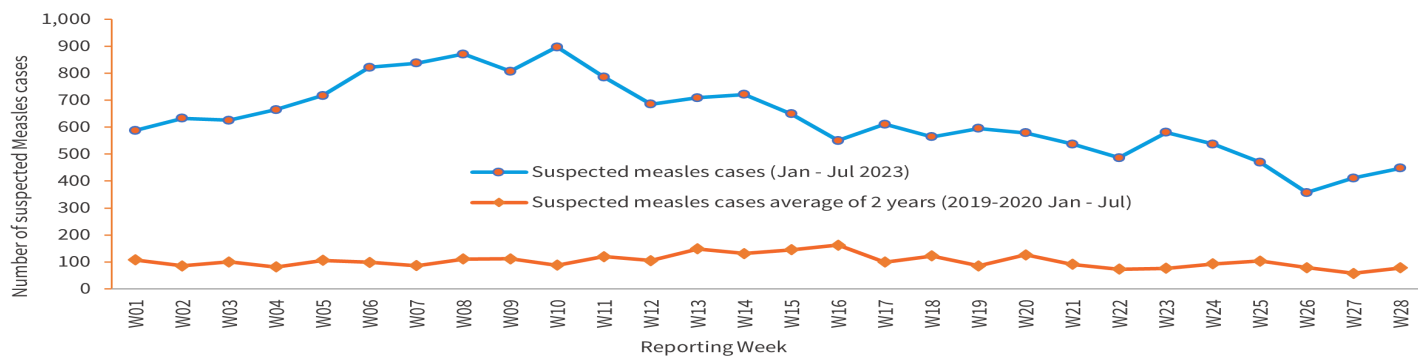


Figure 10. Comparison of suspected measles trend curve using 2 years average (2019-2020) vs Jan-Jul 2023, Afghanistan

Comparing the current trend with the trend for the average number of suspected cases reported during 2019-2020; 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 10).



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

As of 15 Jul 2023

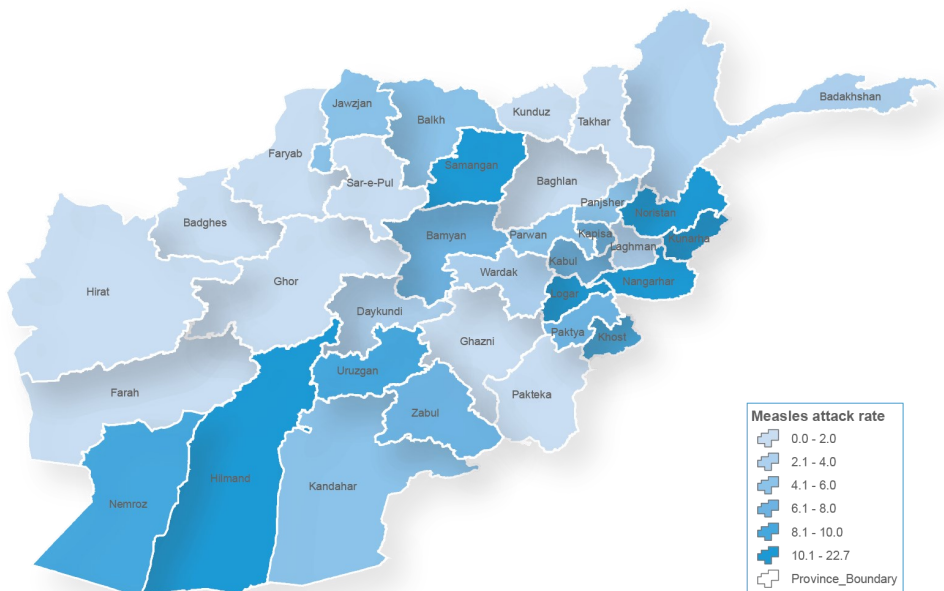


Figure 11. Suspected measles attack rate per 10,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan–15 Jul 2023 (N=17,744)

### 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 15 Jul 2023)

  
**443**  
Total Cases

  
**1**  
Total Deaths

  
**179**  
Sample tested

  
**40**  
Lab confirmed cases





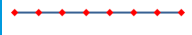
  
**22.3%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (21 May - 15 Jul 2023)

Indicators	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	27	32	18	8	22	5	26	18	
% Change cases	170.0	18.5	-43.8	-55.6	175.0	-77.3	420.0	-30.8	
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 28-2023; all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 443 and one death since the beginning of 2023.
- During week 28, the number of weekly suspected cases shows a reduction by almost 31% compared to week 27 (Figure 12).
- Out of 443 reported cases, 240 (54.2%) were females and 431 (97.3%) were over 5 years of age.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 179 samples have been collected, out of which 40 were confirmed (22.3% positivity).

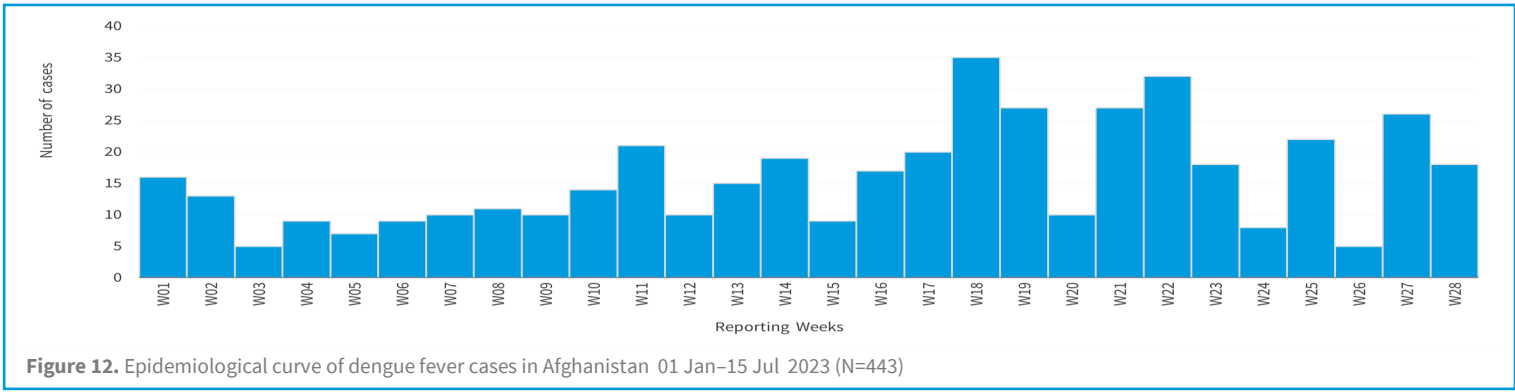
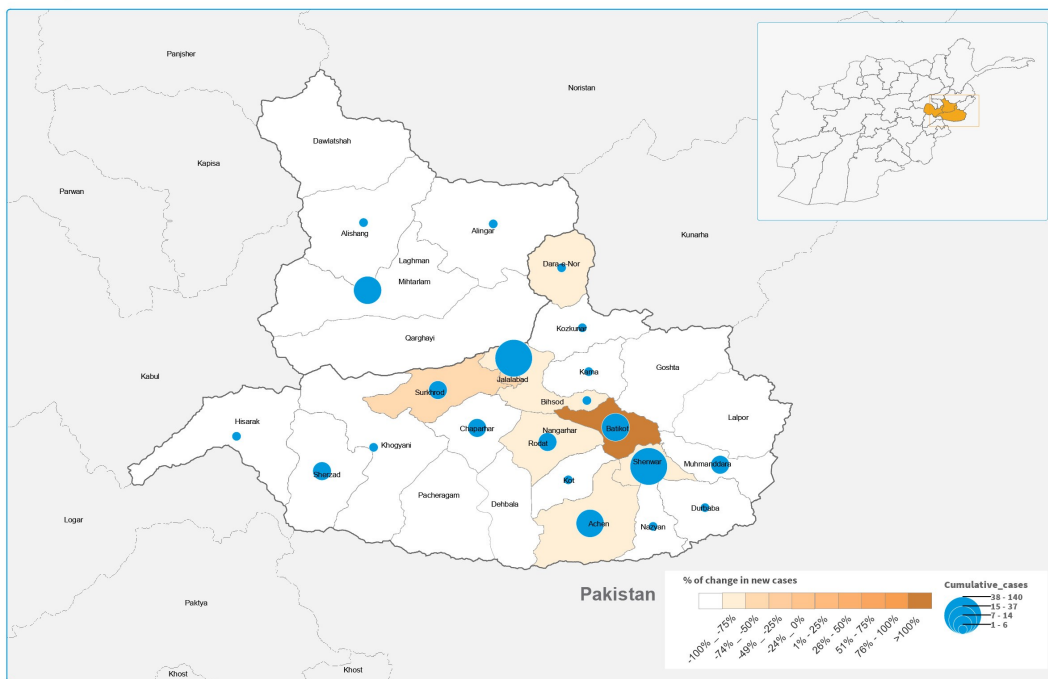


Figure 12. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–15 Jul 2023 (N=443)



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 participation of representatives from specialty hospitals and 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 East region.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

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