








### AFGHANISTAN

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

#### SITUATION REPORT | Epidemiological week #22-2023





No. 22/(28 May to 03 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)
<b>Cumulative Cases</b> <small>(Data from 604 (98.5%) out of 613 surveillance sentinel sites)</small>	<b>109</b>	<b>63,987</b>	<b>222,256</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>346</b>
<b>Death (CFR %)</b>	<b>5 (4.6)</b>	<b>28* (0.04)</b>	<b>7,918 (3.6)</b>	<b>44 (0.3)</b>	<b>1 (0.3)</b>

\* Data entry error was experienced during week 21, and the number of deaths was corrected by the MOPH.

## Outbreak of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) (01 Jan to 03 Jun 2023)

Table 1: Summary of the CCHF outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Apr - 03 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	0	0	52	17	4	16	8	4	
% Change cases	0.0	0.0	0.0	-67.3	-76.5	300.0	-50.0	-50.0	
Suspected deaths	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	25.0	

- During week 22-2023, a total of 4 new cases of CCHF (two were lab confirmed) 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.
- One newly reported death was a female, 40 years old from Kabul province (Table 1).
- Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 109 cases were reported from 13 provinces (Figure 1), out of which 108 (99.1%) were aged above 5 years old and 67 (61.5%) were females.

- Cumulatively, since January 2023, 5 deaths (CFR = 4.6%) were reported (2 from Kandahar, 2 from Jawzjan and one from Kabul).
- Main case load over the past 2 months is from South (Kandahar) and north (Jawzan and Balkh) provinces.
- Totally, 52 CCHF samples were tested since the beginning of 2023, of which 18 samples were positive (positivity rate 34.6 %).

### Response to the CCHF outbreak

- SOPs was shared for laboratory procedures, sample collection and selection of appropriate test with staff at Kandahar RRL.
- WHO Laboratory officer was deployed to provided technical support to laboratory staff on CCHF sample processing in Kandahar.
- During week 22, a total of 54 nurses including 6 females were trained as trainers on CCHF case management protocol. from all regions.

This brings the total number of HCWs trained on CCHF case management to 177 since Apr-2023.

- A total of 15 Ribavirin (antiviral medicine) courses (each course containing 84 tablets), 800 double bags and 200 personal protective equipment for infection prevention and control have been supplied to the North region.



# AFGHANISTAN

## Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province As of 03 Jun 2023

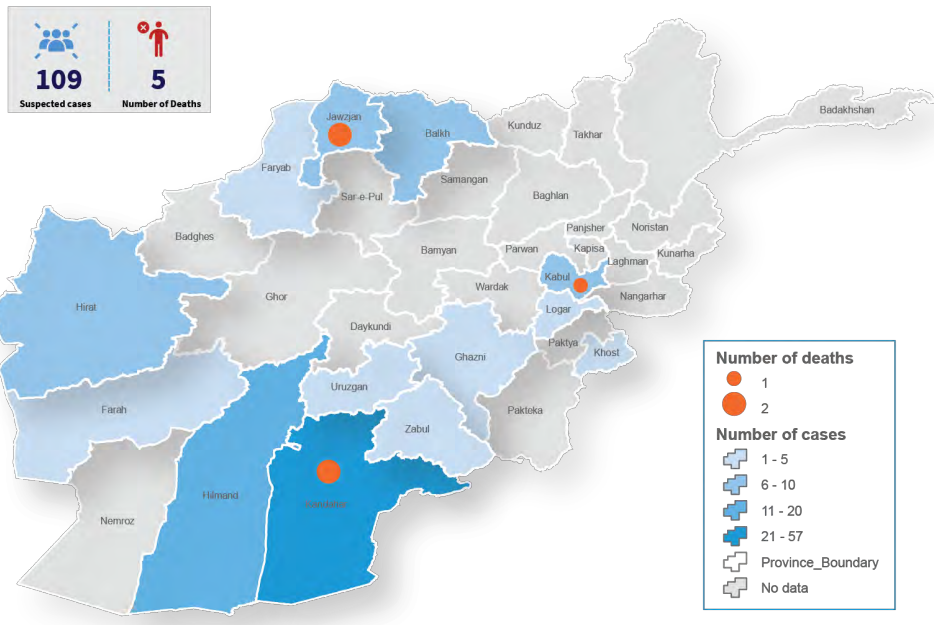


Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) cases by Province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–03 Jun 2023

## Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with Dehydration Outbreak (01 Jan to 03 Jun 2023)

Table 2: summary of the AWD with Dehydration outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Apr - 03 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	3,314	2,335	3,267	3,793	3,419	3,908	4,454*	4,431	
% Change cases	-8.9	-29.5	39.9	16.1	-9.9	14.3	14.0	-5.0	
Suspected deaths	5	3	3	2	1	0	1**	0	
CFR (%)	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	

\* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 21-2023, and the number of suspected cases was modified from 4,451 to 4,454.

\*\*Data entry errors was experienced during week 21-2023 and the number of deaths were corrected by the MOPH from 3 to 1.

- The number of AWD with dehydration cases continues to show increase since week 10-2023 which could be linked with the start of the summer season (Figure 2).
- During week 22-2023, a total of 4,431 new AWD cases with dehydration with no new deaths were reported from all over the country, which is quite similar to number of cases compared to the previous week.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 63,987 AWD with dehydration cases were reported, out of which 36,388 (56.9%) were

children below 5 years and 31,727 (49.6%) were females.

- During last week, no new districts reported AWD with dehydration cases; the total number of districts reporting AWD cases remained at 310 out of 400 districts in 34 provinces since Jan 2023 (Figure 3).
- A total of 658 RDT tests were conducted among AWD with dehydration cases since the beginning of 2023.

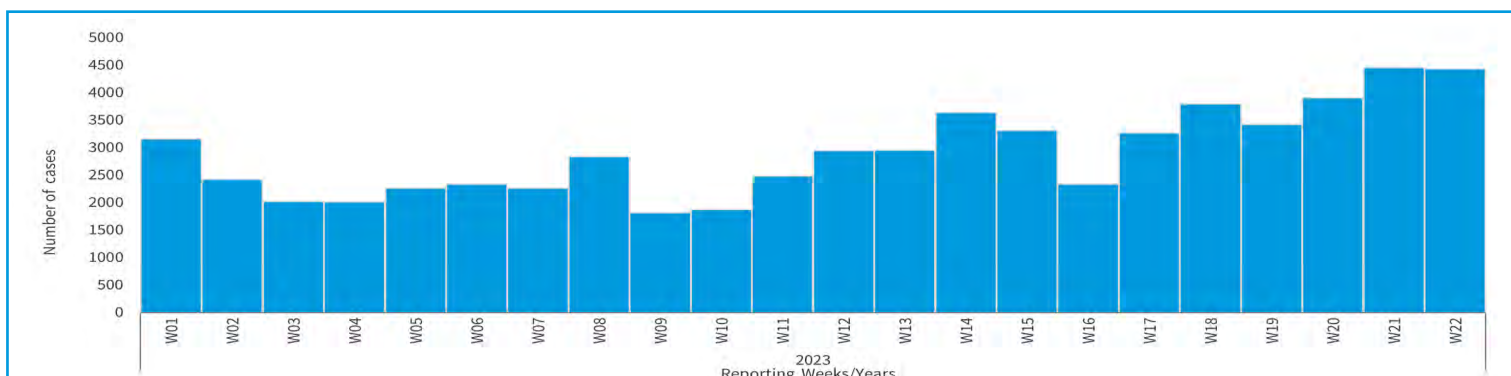


Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of AWD with dehydration cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–03 Jun 2023 (N=63,987)

# AFGHANISTAN

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

As of 03 Jun 2023

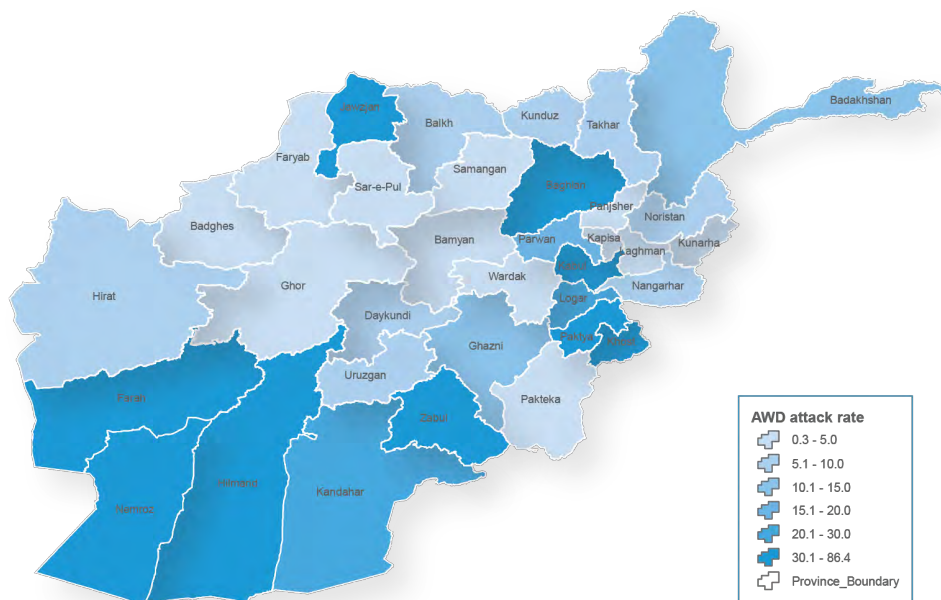


Figure 3. AWD with dehydration attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan, 01 Jan–03 Jun 2023

### 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, Bamyān, Herat, Kandahar, and Nangarhar).
- Supervisory visits have been conducted in different provinces to strengthen early detection and timely response to AWD outbreaks.

#### Case Management

- During week 22, a total of 46 healthcare workers including 23 MD and 23 Nurses were trained on AWD case management in eastern region (4 provinces). This brings the total number of health care workers (HCWs) trained on AWD case management to 338.
- More than 750 HCWs are targeted for case management training over the coming few weeks.

#### Laboratory and Supplies

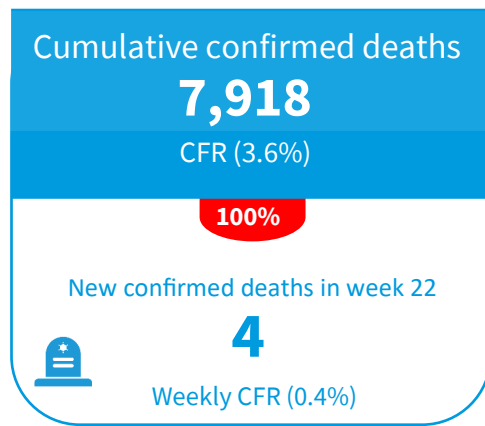
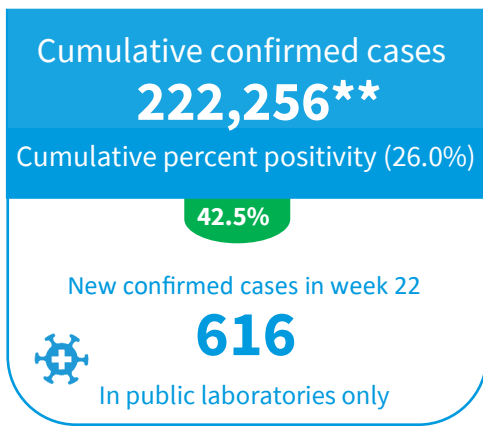
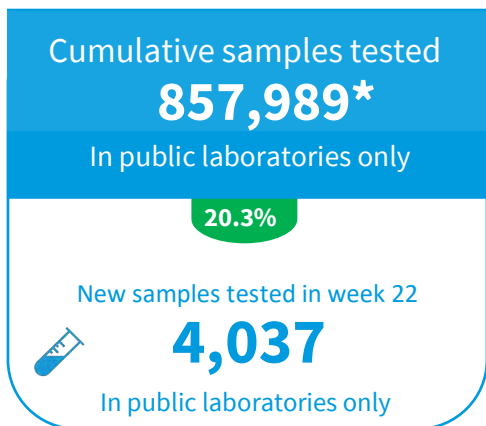
As part of the preparedness plan for 2023:

- During week 22, 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.
- Forty laboratory technicians from regional reference labs (RRLs), provincial PCR labs, infectious diseases hospitals (IDHs), Afghan Japan Hospital Lab, and the central public health laboratory (CPHL), were trained on sample collection, transportation, and impact of sample quality on lab results.

#### WASH and RCCE

- No updates were provided during the past 3 weeks.

## COVID-19 (24 Feb 2020 – 03 Jun 2023)



\* A delayed reporting was experienced during week 21-2023, and the number of samples was modified from 4,701 to 5,065.

\*\*A delayed reporting was experienced during week 21-2023, and the number of new cases was modified from 990 to 1,071.

Key: ● Increasing ● Decreasing ● No change

### COVID-19 Vaccination highlights



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

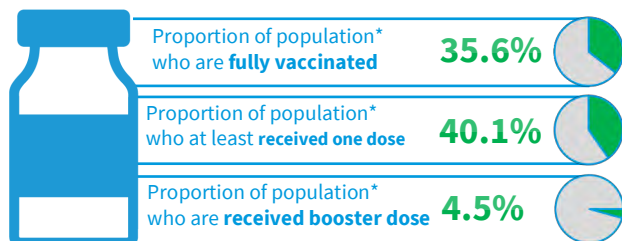


Table 3: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (09 Apr - 03 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	4,730	4,001	3,569	5,906	6,280	6,047	5,065	4,037	
Confirmed cases	1233	1253	1123	1855	1646	1337	1071	616	
% Change cases	38.4	1.6	-10.4	65.2	-11.3	-18.8	-19.9	-42.5	
Percent positivity (%)	26.1	31.3	31.5	31.4	26.2	22.1	21.1	15.3	
Deaths	1	4	5	8	5	5	2	4	
CFR (%)	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	

- 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 4 weeks.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of 857,989 samples have been tested for COVID-19 through public laboratories.
- In week 22-2023, 4,037 samples were tested in public labs, of which 616 samples were positive for COVID-19 (test positivity of 15.3%) and 4 new deaths were reported.
- During week 22-2023, 7.0% (43 /616 confirmed cases) were hospitalized (Figure 5), including 8 cases admitted to ICU (Figure 6).
- During week 22, a total of 5,075 bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed to NDSR offices in 34 provinces.

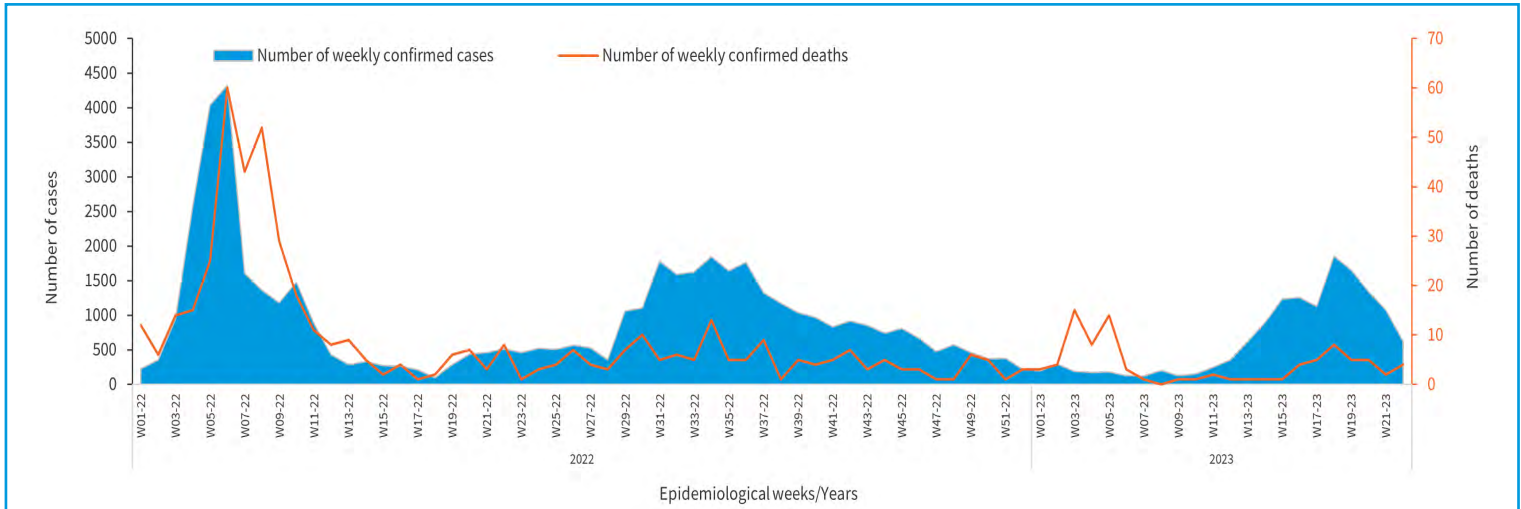


Figure 4. Epidemiological curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths in Afghanistan 01 Jan 2022–03 Jun 2023

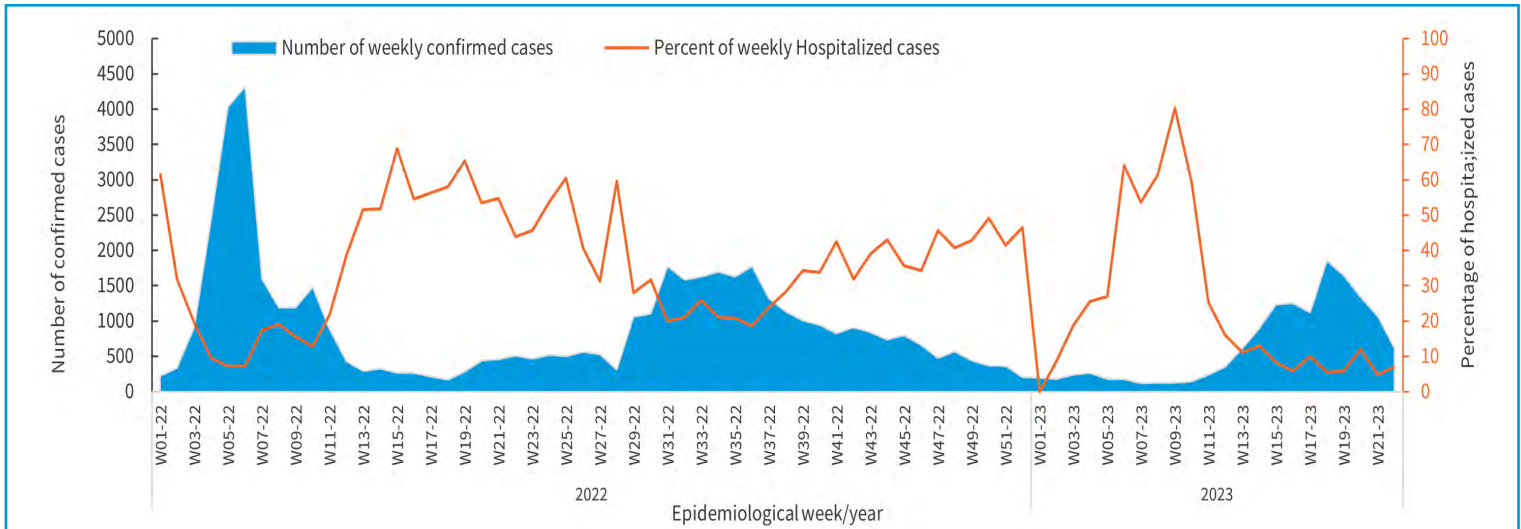


Figure 5. Weekly proportion of hospitalized cases out of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–03 Jun 2023

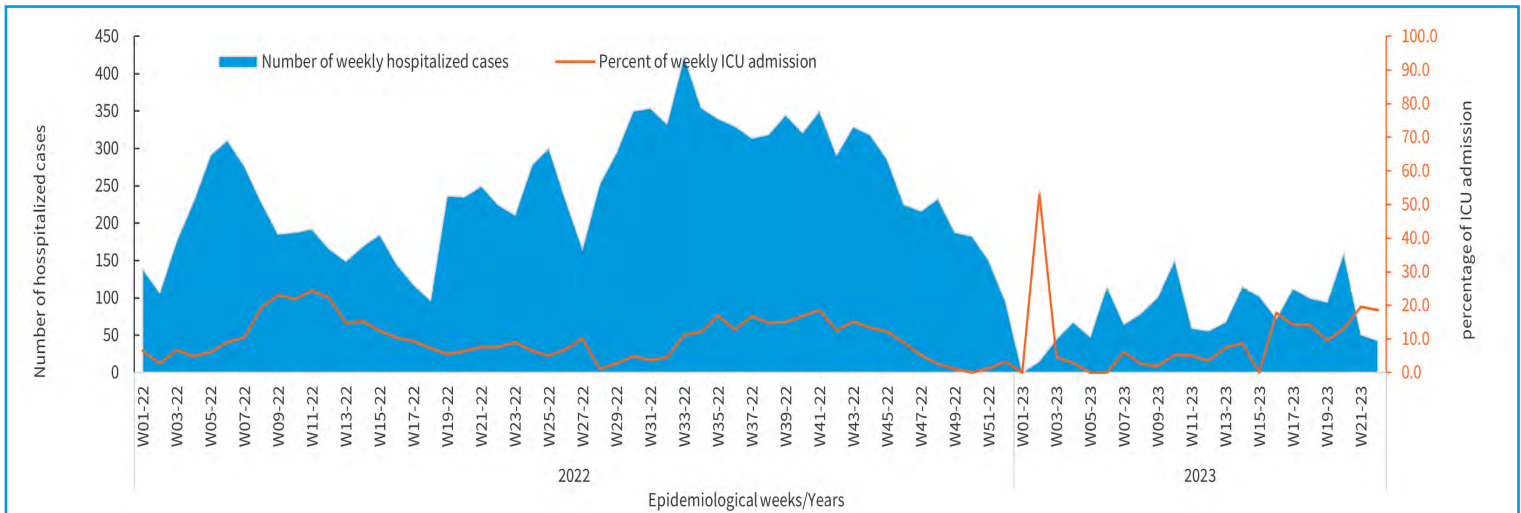


Figure 6. Weekly proportion of ICU admissions out of newly hospitalized COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan as of 01 Jan 2022–03 Jun 2023

## Measles Outbreak (01 Jan to 03 Jun 2023)

**14,992**  
Total Cases

**44**  
Total Deaths

**2,929**  
Sample tested

**1,516**  
Lab confirmed cases

**51.8%**  
Test positivity ratio

Table 4: summary of the suspected measles outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Apr - 03 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	649	550	611	564	595	579	582*	494	
% Change cases	-10.0	-15.3	11.1	-7.7	5.5	-2.7	-6.9	-8.3	
Suspected deaths	0	1	0	1	1	6	2	1	
CFR (%)	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	

\*delayed report was experience during week 21, and the number of suspected cases was corrected by the MOPH from 539 to 582.

- The epidemiologic curve of suspected measles cases is 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&8).
- During epidemiological week 22-2023, a total of 494 suspected cases were reported which indicates 8.3% decrease in the number of cases, compared to the last week.
- One new AWD associated death (female, under five from Helmand province) was reported.
- Since Jan 2023, a total of 14,992 measles cases were reported, out of which 10,714 (71.5%) were children under 5 years of age and 7,035 (46.9%) were females.

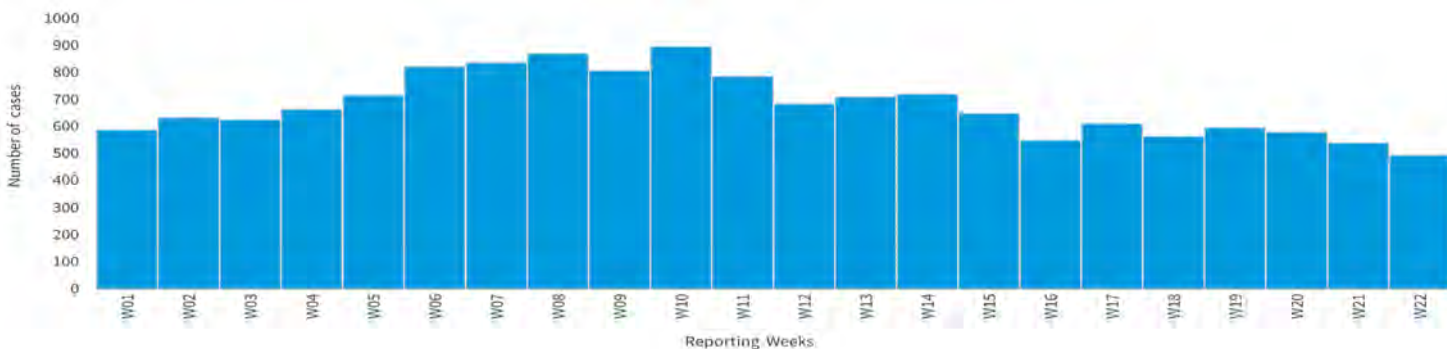


Figure 7. Epidemiological curve of suspected measles cases in Afghanistan, 01 Jan to 03 Jun 2023 (N=14,992)

## AFGHANISTAN Suspected measles attack per 1,000 population of by province As of 03 Jun 2023

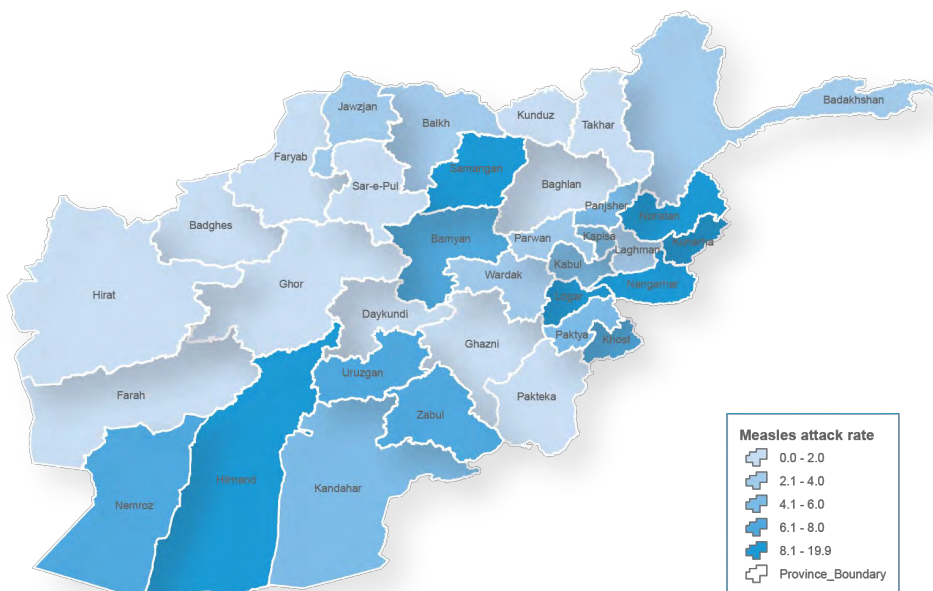
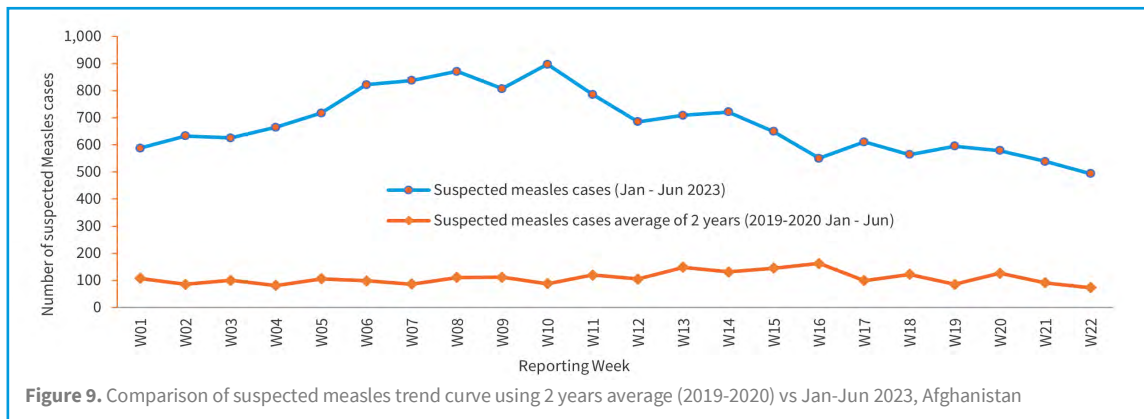


Figure 8. Suspected measles attack rate per 1,000 population by province in Afghanistan 01 Jan-03 Jun 2023 (N=14,992)



Comparing the current curve with the curve 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 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 03 Jun 2023)





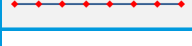

 <b>346</b> Total Cases	 <b>1</b> Total Deaths	 <b>108</b> Sample tested	 <b>37</b> Lab confirmed cases	 <b>34.3%</b> Test positivity ratio
--	---	--	--	--

Table 5: summary of the Dengue fever outbreak in the last eight weeks (09 Apr - 03 Jun 2023)

Indicators	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20	W21	W22	Epi-curve
Suspected cases	9	17	20	35	27	10	27	32	
% Change cases	-52.6	88.9	17.6	75.0	-22.9	-63.0	170.0	18.5	
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	

- Over the past three weeks, the epidemiologic curve for dengue fever is on the rise indicating a true trend of increase in the number of suspected cases which is alarming.
- The number of suspected dengue fever cases shows an increase during last week compared to the preceding week. During the past 4 weeks, the average number of suspected dengue fever cases was 24 cases (range between 10–32) which needs close monitoring given the start of the season of vector breeding in Nangarhar province (Figure 10).
- A total of 32 suspected dengue fever cases with no new deaths were reported during week 22-2023, all cases were reported from Nangarhar province, which brings the total number of cases to 346 and one death since the beginning of the 2023.
- Out of 346 reported cases, 202 (58.4%) were females and 337 (97.4%) were over 5 years of age.

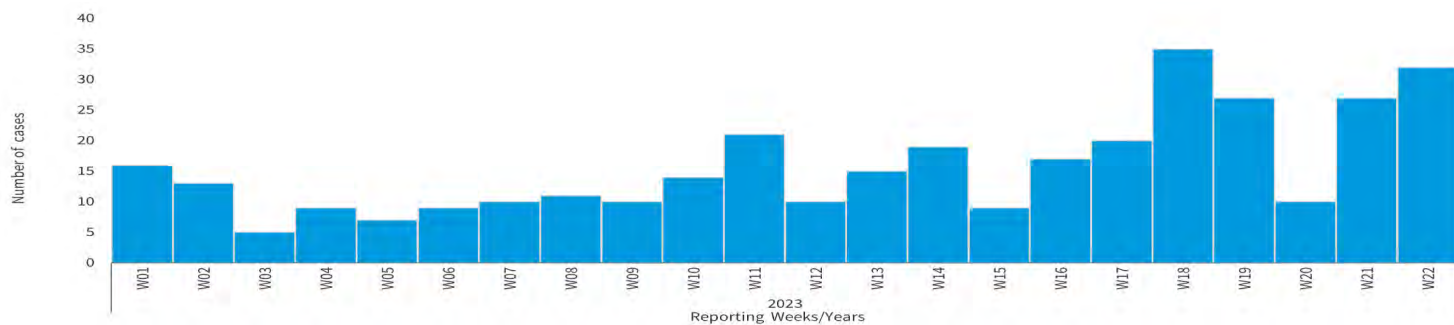
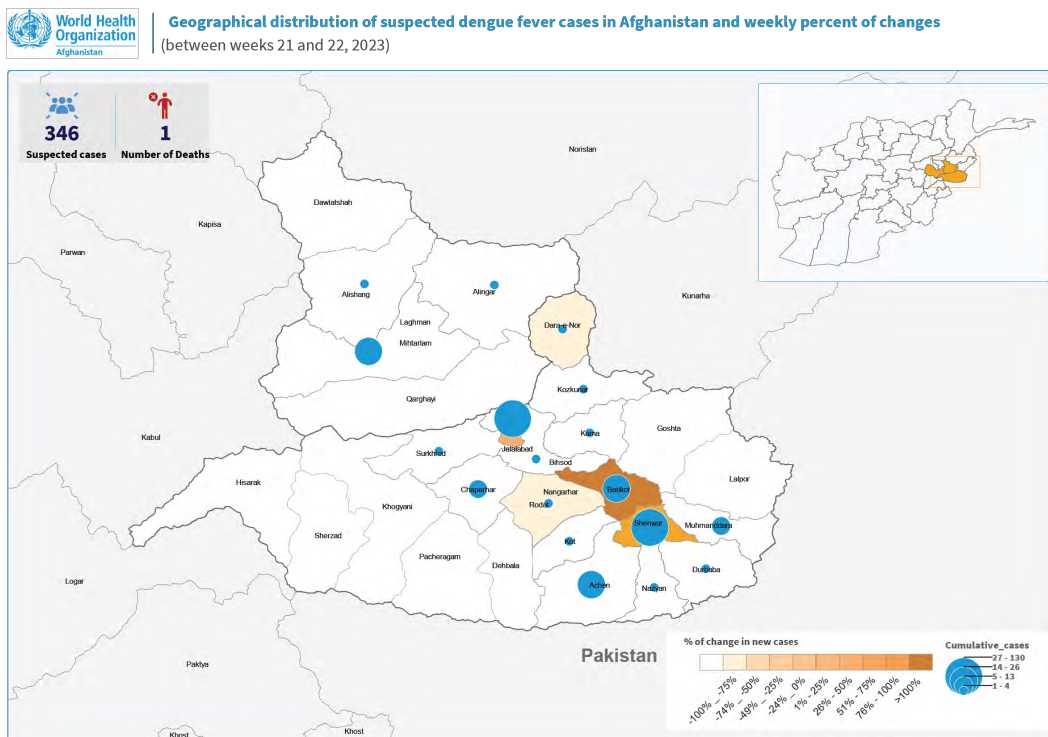


Figure 10. Epidemiological curve of dengue fever cases in Afghanistan 01 Jan–03 Jun 2023 (N=346)



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: 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.

Note: MOPH is the source of epidemiological data

Contact us for further information:

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