COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin Afghanistan

World Health Organization
Afghanistan

Epidemiological Week 20 (15 – 21 May 2022)

Cumulative samples tested	**Cumulative confirmed cases**	**Cumulative confirmed deaths**
589,592 — In public laboratories only	**179,719** — Cumulative percent positivity (30.4%)	**7,698** — CFR (4.28 %)

New samples tested in week20	**New confirmed cases in week20**	**New confirmed deaths in week20**
5,870 ↑35 % — In public laboratories only	**440** ↑55 % — Weekly percent positivity (7%)	**7** ↑17 % — Weekly CFR (1.6%)

Key: ↑ increasing ↓ decreasing ● no change

Table 1: Summary of COVID-19 indicators in the last 8 weeks in Afghanistan (26 Mar – 21 May 2022)

Indicators	W 13-22	W 14-22	W 15-22	W 16-22	W 17-22	W 18-22	W 19-22	W 20-22	Epi-curve
Samples tested (in public Labs)	4,275	5,222	3,771	3,713	3,271	884	4,356	5,870	
Confirmed cases	289	327	269	266	210	97	283	440	
Percent positivity (%)	7	6	7	7	6	11	6	7	
Confirmed deaths	9	5	2	4	1	2	6	7	
CFR (%)	3.1	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.5	2.1	2.1	1.6	

Highlights of the week

Since the beginning of the pandemic in Feb 2020, a total of **589,592** samples have been tested for COVID-19 through the public laboratories in the country.

In week20-2022, **5,870** samples were tested in public labs, of which **440** samples tested positive for COVID-19 (percent positivity **7**) and **7** new death was reported. This represents **55%** and **17%** increase in cases and deaths, respectively, compared to week 19 2022, **(Table 1)**. The trend will be closely monitored over the next weeks to confirm the increase observed during the last 2 weeks.

Cumulatively, **179,719** confirmed cases (overall percent positivity **30.4**) of COVID-19 with **7,698** associated deaths (**case fatality ratio = 4.28%**) have been reported in Afghanistan since Feb 2020.

As of 21st May 2022, **90.5** %, cases have recovered.

In week 20, 2022, the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases were reported in the East and Central East regions (131 and 83 cases, respectively) (Table 2). The top five provinces that reported positive cases included Nangarhar (105 cases), Parwan (46 cases), Kabul (40 cases), Samangan (29 cases), and Badakhshan (21 cases). The WHO supported building the in-country capacity for genome sequencing, after training of two national staff on sequencing techniques in Dubai (December 2021). The WHO supported the procurement of the Oxford Nanopore Sequencer with the reagents and consumables. Initially, the plan is to conduct genome sequencing for COVID-19, with a plan to expand it to include other high-threat pathogens. The team is currently working on processing the COVID-19 samples for sequencing, the results will be shared when available.

Table 2: COVID-19 cases by region in Afghanistan, as of week 20, 2022 (15 – 21 May 2022)

Region	Epi-curve	# of new cases in week 20 (%)	% of change compared to week 19	Cumulative number (%)
Central East		83 (19 %)	20%	49,124 (27.3%)
Central West		61 (14%)	65%	14,947 (8.3%)
East		131 (30%)	138%	20,845 (11.6%)
North		37 (8%)	95%	14,934 (8.3%)
North East		57 (13%)	50%	18,958 (10.5%)
South		13 (3%)	-63%	21,653 (12.1%)
South East		58 (13%)	93%	11,803 (6.6%)
West		0 (0%)	NA	27,455 (15.3%)
National		440 (100%)	55%	179,719 (100%)

Overall, Afghanistan has reported **4,758** confirmed cases and **97** associated deaths among healthcare workers (HCWs) since 2020. To date, Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kunar reported the highest number of positive cases among HCWs.

Figure 1: Number of weekly PCR tests conducted and 2-week moving average of percent positivity in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)
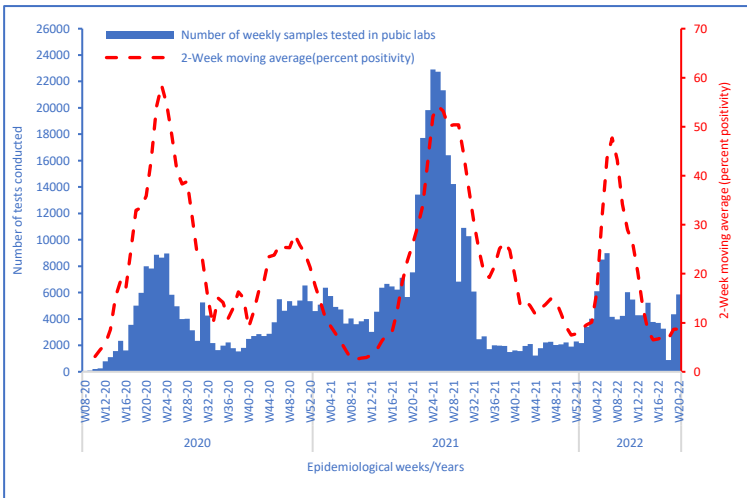

Figure 2: Geographic distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)
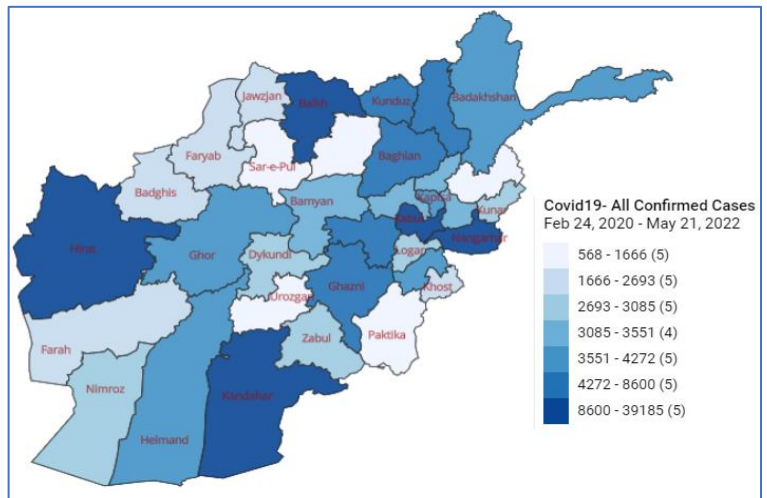

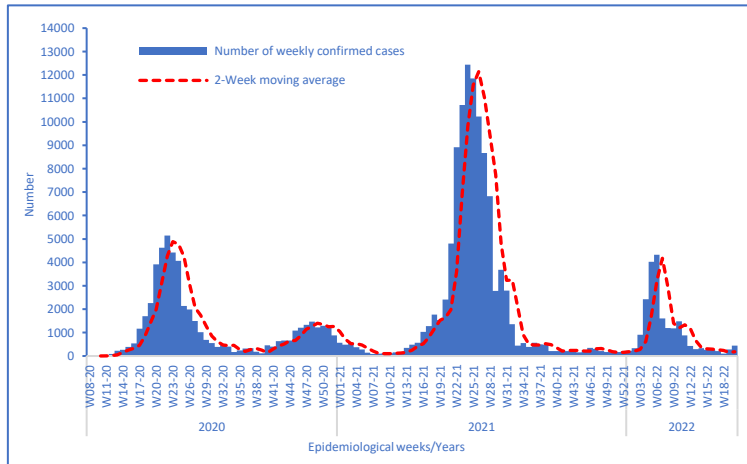## Figure 3: Weekly distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)

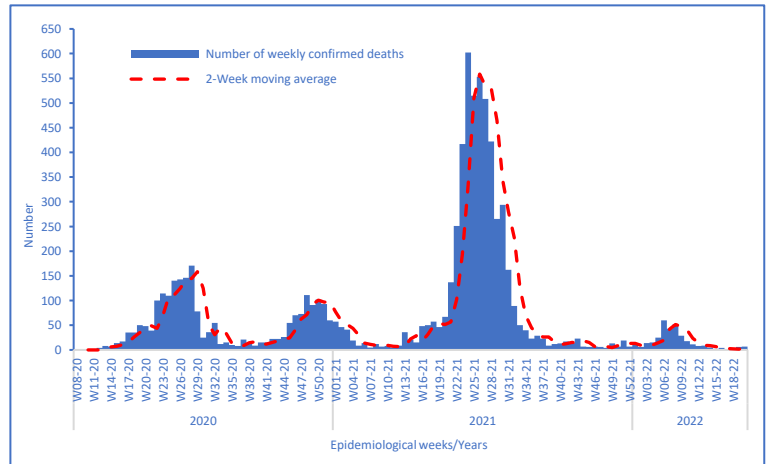## Figure 4: Weekly distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)

Figure 5: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)
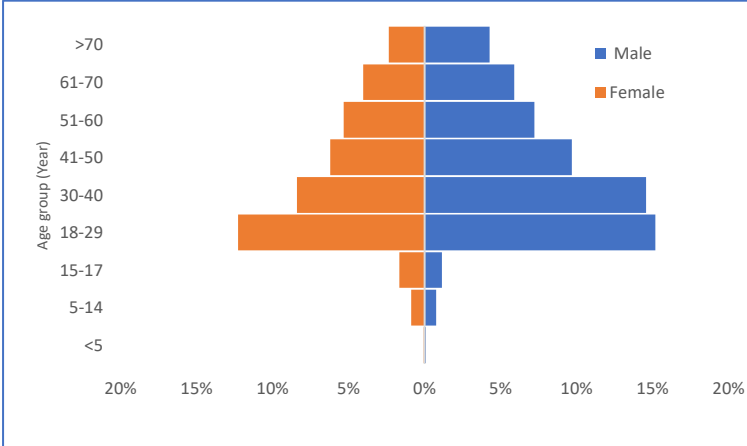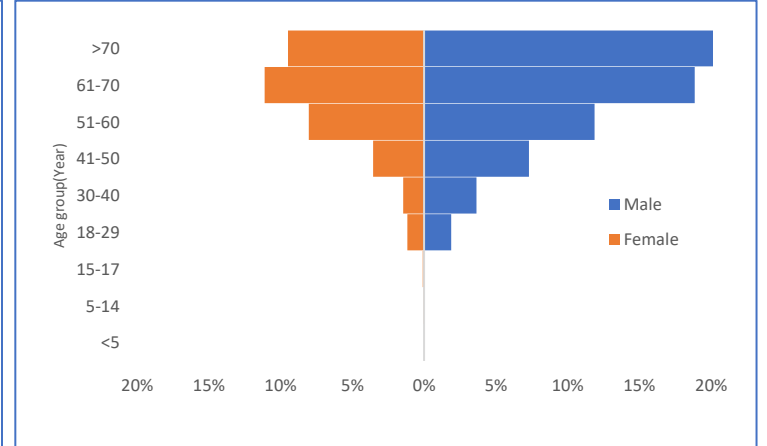

Figure 6: Age & sex distribution of COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)

Of the confirmed COVID-19 cases, **58%** have been reported among males and **42%** among females. Majority of cases have been reported among those aged 18-40 years.

Of the COVID-19 associated deaths, **65%** were reported among males and **35%** among females. The trend indicates that most reported deaths were among those aged over 70 years.

Figure 7: Proportion of underlying medical conditions among COVID-19 associated deaths in Afghanistan, 24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022 (n=1,748)
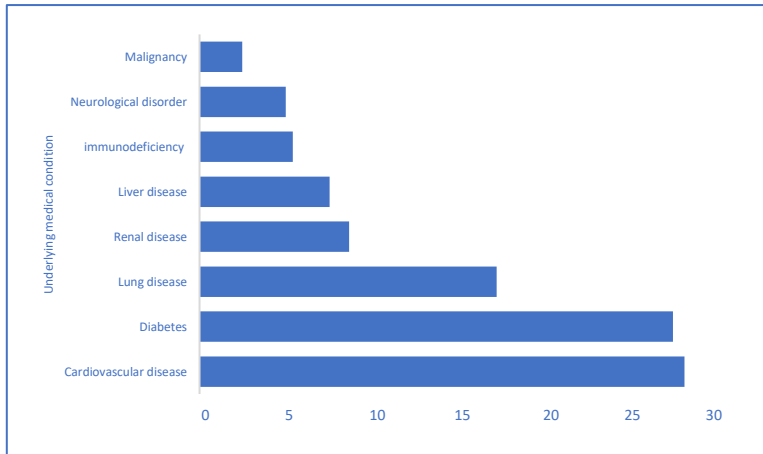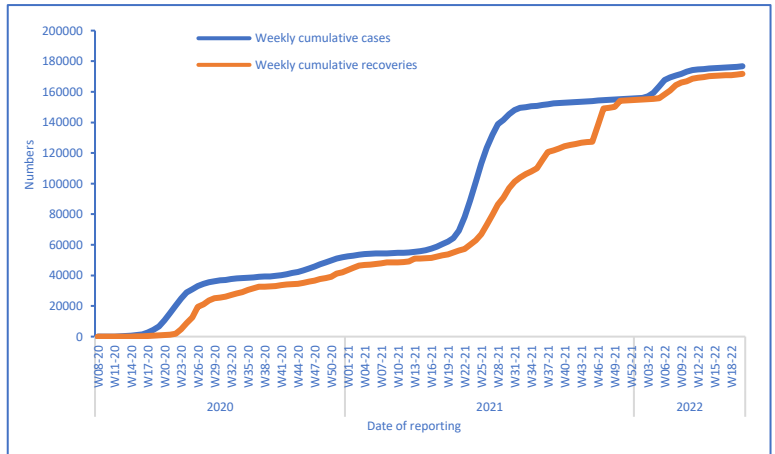

Figure 8: Weekly cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and recoveries in Afghanistan (24 Feb 2020 - 21 May 2022)

COVID-19 Vaccination highlights

Number of individuals who are fully vaccinated:

4,758,217

Number of individuals who are partially vaccinated:

1,360,055

People who have received at least one dose of any vaccine:

6,118,272

Proportion of total population who are fully vaccinated **12.1%**

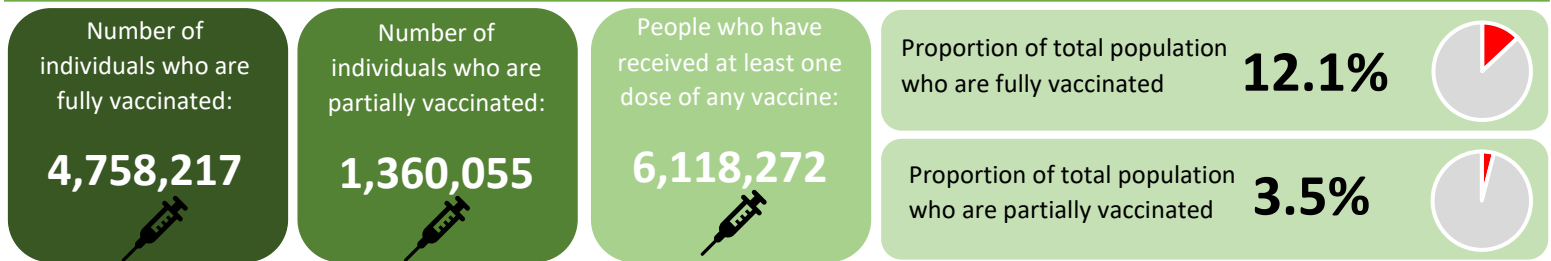Proportion of total population who are partially vaccinated **3.5%**

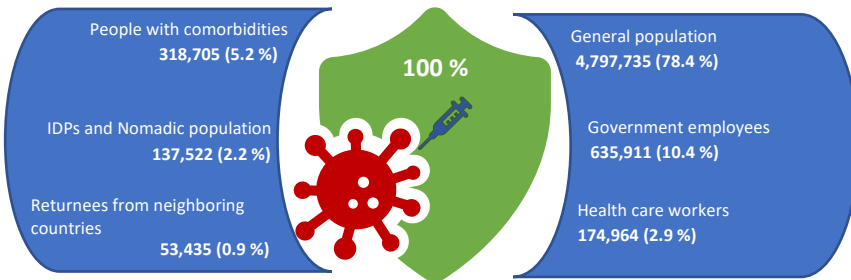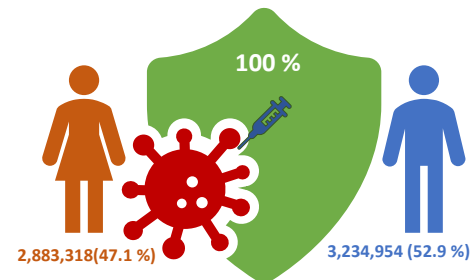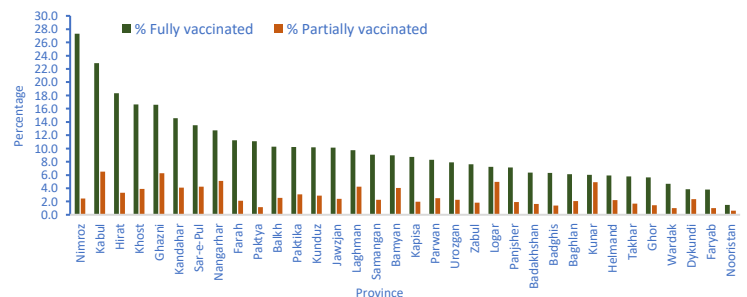**Figure 9: Distribution of individuals who received at least one dose by target group in Afghanistan, as of 21 May 2022**

People with comorbidities
318,705 (5.2 %)

General population
4,797,735 (78.4 %)

IDPs and Nomadic population
137,522 (2.2 %)

Government employees
635,911 (10.4 %)

Returnees from neighboring countries
53,435 (0.9 %)

Health care workers
174,964 (2.9 %)

100 %

Figure 10: Distribution of administered doses by gender in Afghanistan, as of 21 May 2022

100 %

2,883,318(47.1 %)

3,234,954 (52.9 %)

COVID-19 vaccination campaign

COVID-19 vaccination campaign is planned to take place in June 2022. The campaign will be conducted through 473 mobile vaccination teams in addition to 559 fixed sites (including Regional, provincial and district hospitals and some comprehensive health centers. The campaign will be conducted in the 34 provinces, targeting more than 5 million adult population aged 18 years and above using J&J and Sinopharm vaccines. Enough vaccine stock is available in country with more than 7 million doses to enable the campaign.

Figure 11: Proportion of fully & partially vaccinated individuals by province in Afghanistan, as of 21 May 2022