

Ministry of Public Health

Monitoring Evaluation & Health Information System GD

وزارت صحت عامه

Diseases Surveillance Department

د عامی روغتیا وزارت

ریاست عمومی نظارت ارزیابی و سیستم معلومات صحتی

د څارنی ارزونی او روغتیایی معلوماتو د سیستم عمومی ریاست

د پیارتمنت سرویلانس امراض

د ناروغیو د سرویلانس د پیارتمنت

Epidemiological Report | Week # 03 – 2025

No. 03 (12 – 18 Jan 2025)

Summary:

- Out of **613** functional surveillance sentinel sites, **608 (99.2%)** have submitted reports this week.
- A total of **707,388** new consultations, of which **278,862 (39.4%)** were due to Surveillance targeted diseases. That included **145,562 (52.2%) males** and **133,300 (47.8%) females**. Also, **119,321 (42.8%)** people under five years old and **159,541 (57.2%)** people five years old and over were reported this week.
- The main causes of consultations this week were ARI Cough & Cold (**198,398 = 28%** cases out of total new consultations), Acute Diarrheal Diseases (**32,023 = 4.5%** cases out of total new consultations), and Pneumonia (**42,753 = 6%** cases out of total new consultations).
- A total of **478** deaths were reported this week, of which **121 (25.3%)** deaths were due to surveillance-targeted diseases, which include **96 ARI Pneumonia** deaths, **07 suspected Measles** deaths, **09 Suspected Meningitis** deaths, **05 Acute Viral Hepatitis** deaths and **04 COVID-19** deaths.
- In addition, during this week, **32** outbreaks were reported: **16 Measles** outbreaks from Badghis (**03**), Ghazni (**01**), Ghor (**01**), Helmand (**01**), Jawzjan (**02**), Kandahar (**03**), Kunduz (**01**), Logar (**01**), Nangarhar (**01**), Parwan (**01**) and Wardak (**01**) provinces, **07 Clinical Scabies** outbreaks were reported from Daykundi (**01**), Ghazni (**02**), Jawzjan (**01**), Kabul (**01**), Nangarhar (**01**) and Takhar (**01**) provinces, **06 Chickenpox** outbreaks from Herat (**02**), Kabul (**01**), Kandahar (**02**) and Laghman (**01**) provinces, **01 Dog bite/ suspected Rabies** outbreak form Helmand province, **01 Pertussis** outbreak was reported from Kandahar province and **01 Viral Hepatitis** outbreak was reported from Herat province. (Table2)
- Moreover, **112** confirmed COVID-19 cases, and **1506** suspected Measles cases (IBS) were reported at the national level.

Figure 1: Surveillance/NDSR Sentinel Sites with GPS location by type of Health Facility, 2025

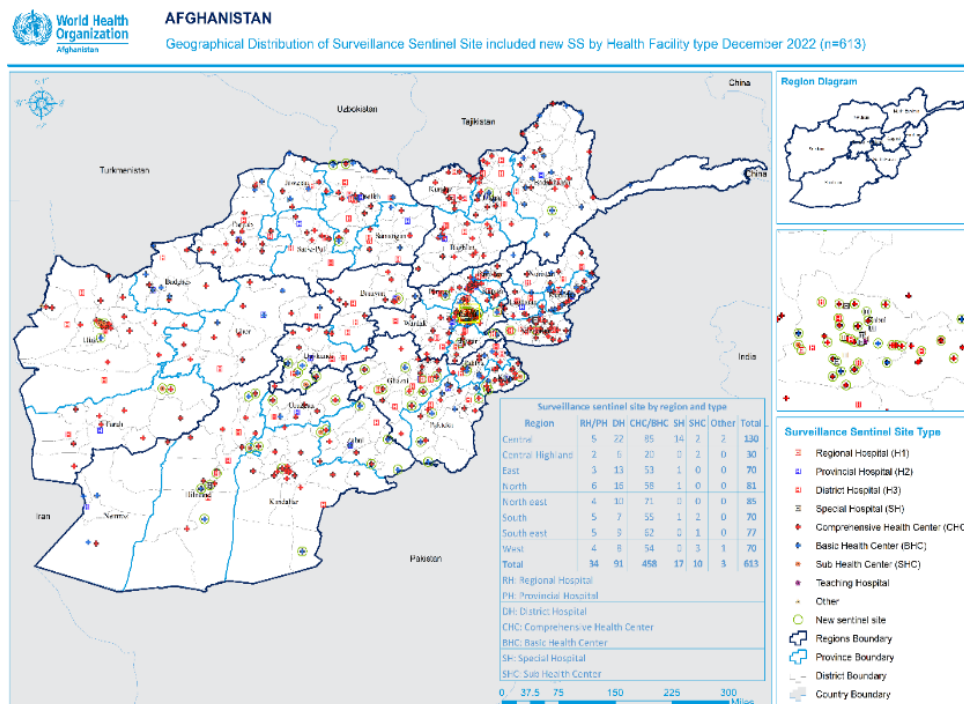


Table 1: Coverage of NDSR Surveillance System

Type of Health Facility	RH	PH	DH	CHC	BHC	NH/ Special Hospital	SHC	Other	Total
Total Health Facilities (HF)	8	27	91	437	900	36	1,106	2,093	4,698
HF covered by NDSR-Plus	8	26	90	348	111	17	10	3	613

Indicator - based Surveillance (IBS):

The indicator-based surveillance component of the NDSR, reports 17 priority conditions/infectious diseases from sentinel sites on weekly basis. The data is compared with previous weeks and the corresponding weeks of the previous three years, and the alert and epidemic thresholds are checked to see if disease incidence has crossed these levels, and necessary action is initiated.

Figure 2: A

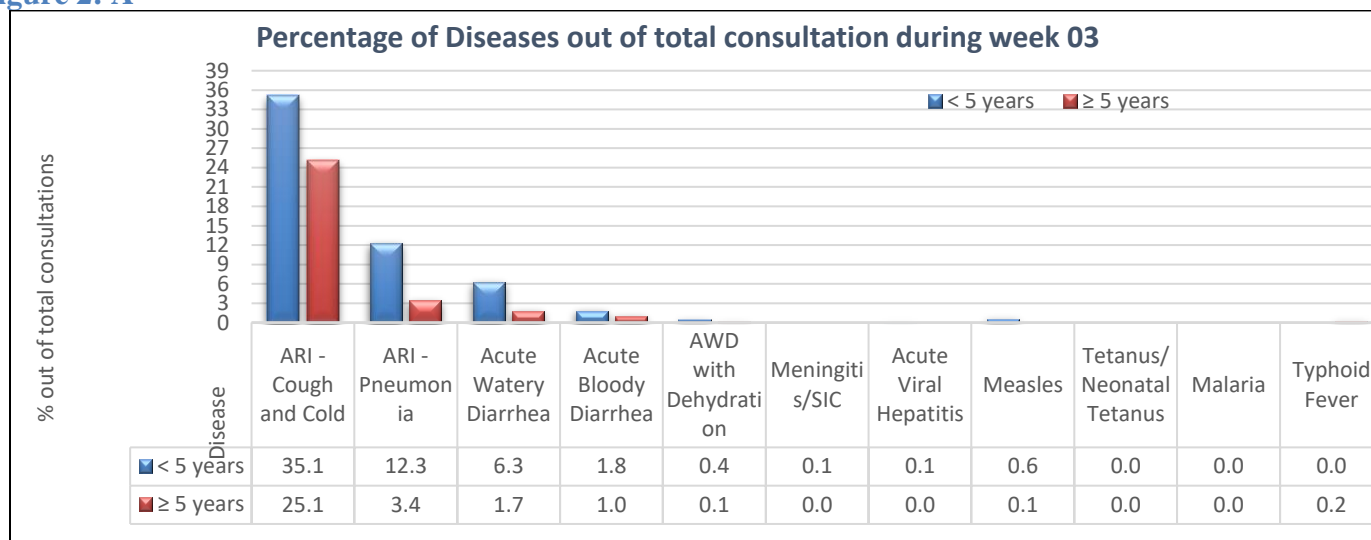
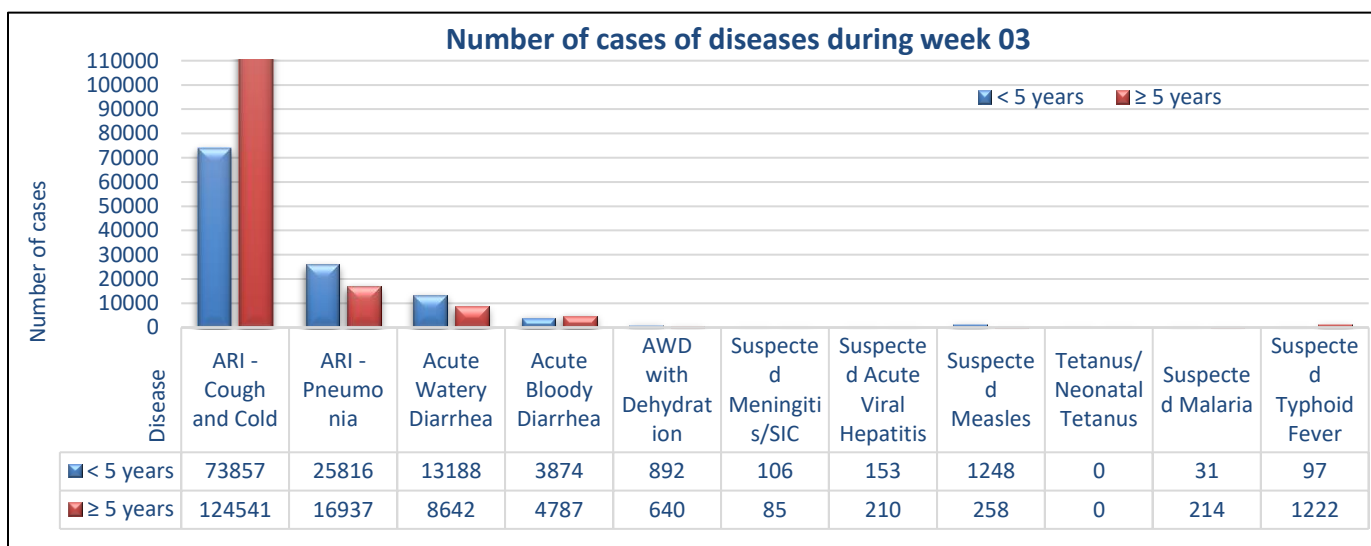
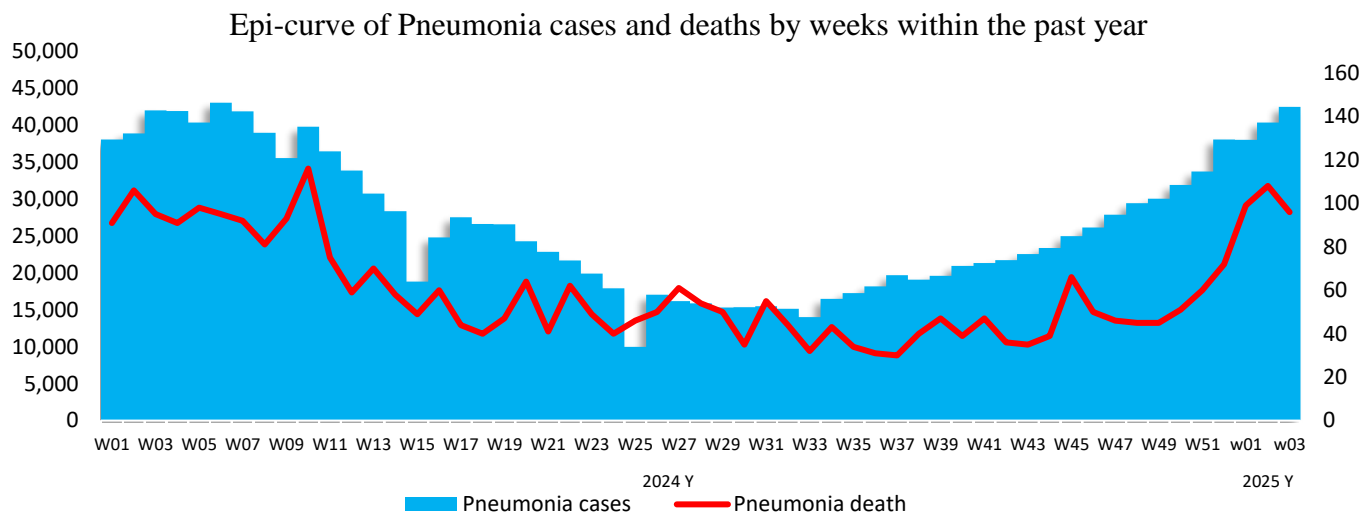


Figure 2: B



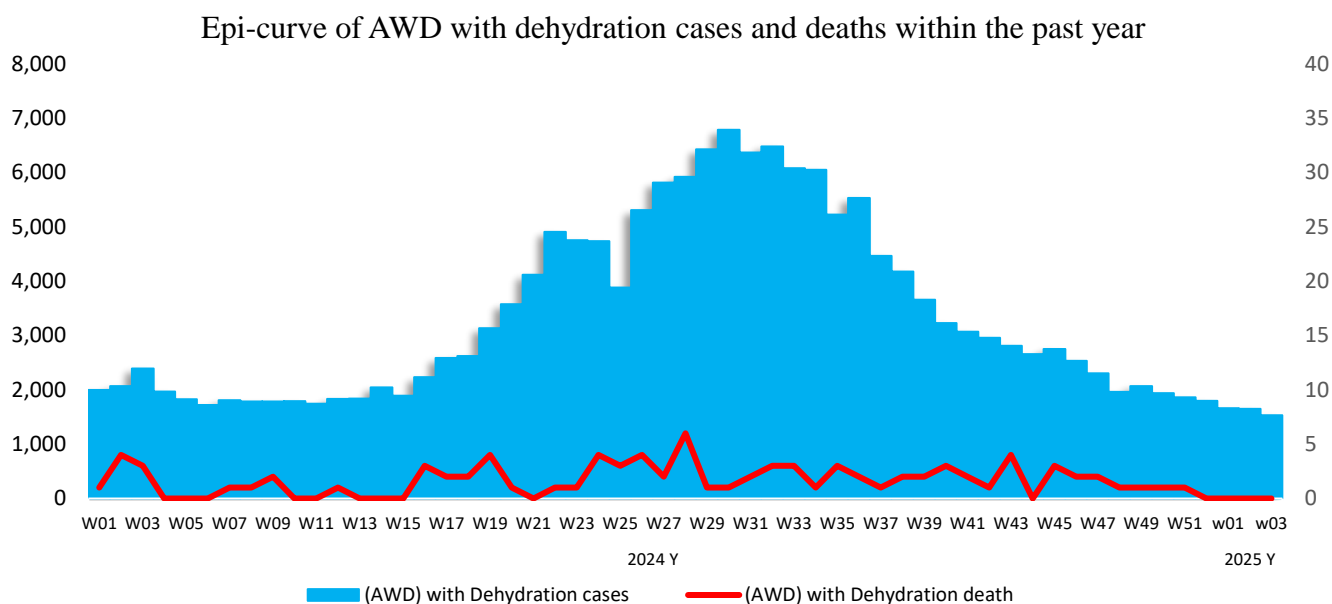
Seasonal Diseases:

Figure 3:



Interpretation: The epicurve of ARI Pneumonia illustrates a notable increase in pneumonia cases beginning in week 34 of 2024, with a concurrent rise in pneumonia-related deaths during the same period.

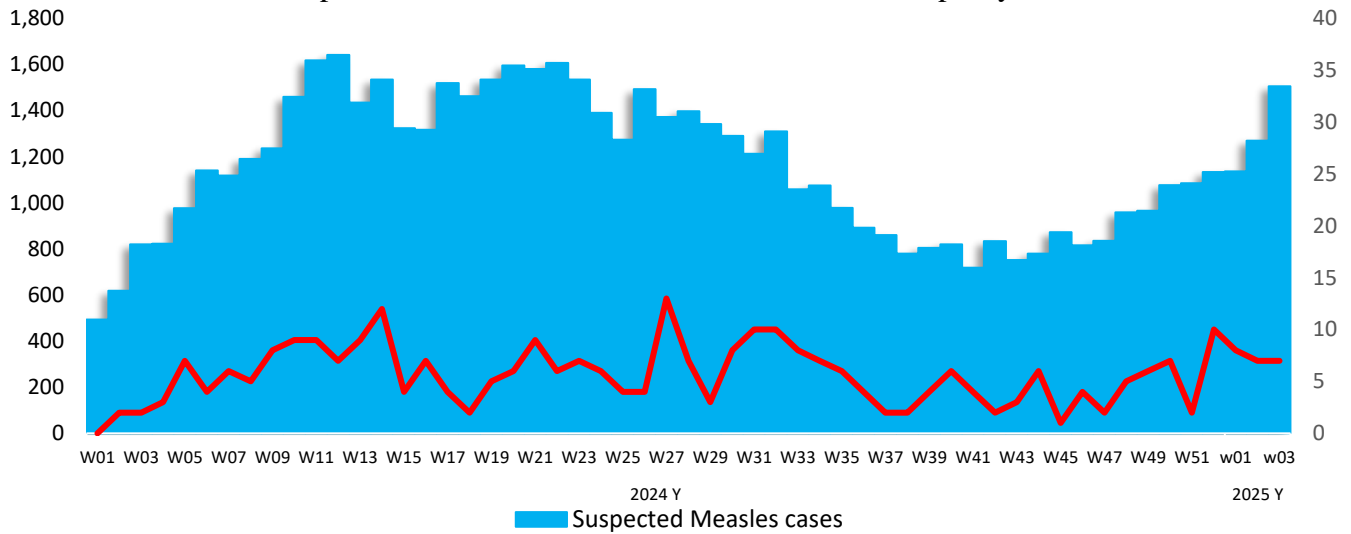
Figure 4:



Interpretation: The epicurve of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) with dehydration shows a notable decrease in the number of cases and related deaths starting from week 32 of 2024. Furthermore, both cases and related deaths exhibit a decreasing trend during the first three weeks of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

Figure 5:

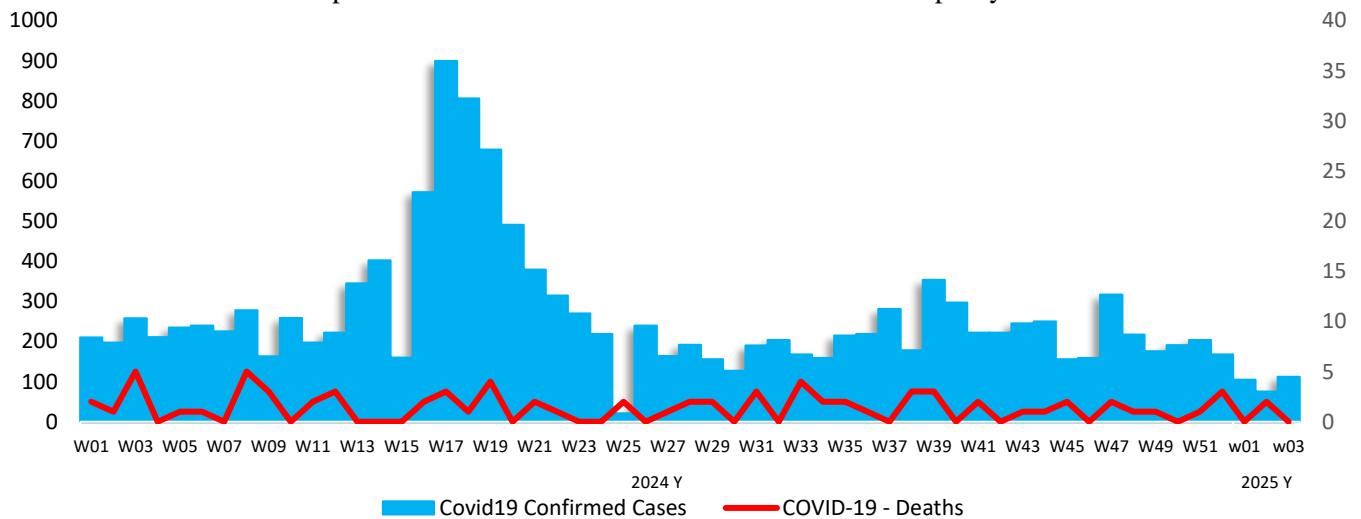
Epi-curve of Measles cases and deaths within the past year



Interpretation: The epicurve of measles illustrates a notable increase in cases starting in week 42 of 2024. Additionally, related deaths show a significant rise during the first three weeks of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

Figure 6:

Epi-curve of COVID-19 cases and deaths within the past year



Interpretation: The epicurve of COVID-19 shows a notable increase in the number of cases from weeks 16 to 22 of 2024. However, at the beginning of 2025, the number of cases and related deaths is significantly lower in the first three weeks of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

Table 2: Outbreaks in 03rd Week of 2025:

AFGHANISTAN INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS REPORT Epidemiological week # 03-2025								
Event / Diseases Name	Reported date	Province	District	Village	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Vaccination coverage, If VPD	
							Related HF reported coverage	Field Estimated Coverage
Suspected Measles	14/1/25	Badghis	Jawand	Yar Mohammad	7	1	55%	7%
	14/1/25		Moqur	Sardar	9	2	0%	0%
	15/1/25		Moqur	Ghal Zardak	9	0	0%	0%
	13/1/25	Ghazni	Center	Shiakh Abdul Salam	15	0	85%	0%
	17/1/25	Ghor	Cheq Charan	Darai Qazi	7	0	95%	85%
	12/1/25	Helmand	Lashkar-Gah	Khoshkaba Darbar	10	0	75%	12%
	14/1/25	Jawzjan	Mengajik	Naraw Turkmania	10	0	55%	10%
	16/1/25		Mengajik	Dale Mahajer	13	0	28%	4%
	12/1/25	Kandahar	Maiwand	Karizak	11	0	70%	40%
	13/1/25		Kandahar City	Imam Sahib Masjid	6	0	58%	12%
	18/1/25		Shah-Walikota	Janakzai	7	0	60%	20%
	13/1/25	Kunduz	Dashte Archee	Nakhiyan	15	0	65%	25%
	12/1/25	Logar	Khoshi	Mani	18	0	70%	40%
	17/1/25	Nangarhar	Pacheer Agam	Lowara Mina	17	0	90%	30%
	11/1/25	Parwan	Charikar	Khalazae	7	1	75%	43%
13/1/25	Wardak	Maidan Shar	Center	11	0	77%	62%	
Pertussis	9/1/2025	Kandahar	Dand	Hashmat Qala	4	0	92%	80%
Viral Hepatitis	14/1/2025	Herat	Herat city	Mahale Ammeh Sakineh	7	0	0%	0%
Scabies	07 Clinical Scabies outbreaks were reported from Dykundi (01), Ghazni (02), Jawzjan (01), Kabul (01), Nangarhar (01) and Takhar (01) provinces (total number of cases =200)							
Chickenpox	06 Chickenpox outbreaks from Herat (02), Kabul (01), Kandahar (02) and Laghman (01) provinces (total number of cases =78)							
Dog bite/ suspected Rabies	01 Dog bite/ suspected Rabies outbreak reported form Helmand province. (total number of cases =7)							

Figure 7: Measles, Scabies, Dog bite/suspected Rabies, Chickenpox, Pertussis, Viral Hepatitis, COVID-19 cases and deaths during 03rd week of 2025.

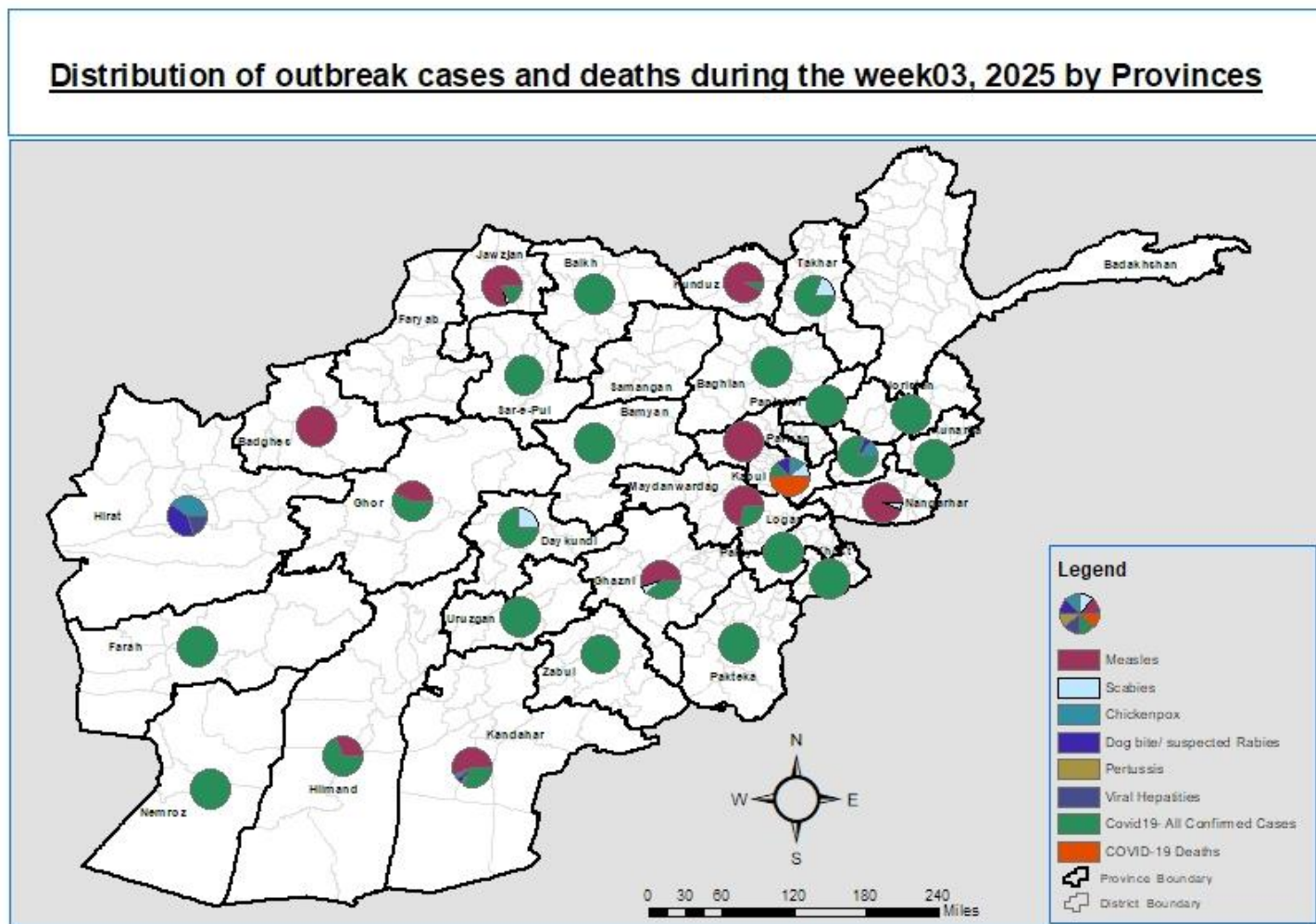


Table 3: Updated cumulative outbreak reports during 2025 (29 Dec 2024 to 18 Jan 2025)

Disease/Event	Disease/Event	Lab-Confirm	Total Cases	Total Deaths
Measles	50	12	571	18
Chickenpox	11	05	118	0
Clinical Scabies	15	0	417	0
Dog bite/Suspected Rabies	5	0	34	1
ARI-Pneumonia	1	0	22	1
Viral Hepatitis	2	0	20	0
Pertussis	2	1	20	0
Anthrax	1	0	1	0
Tinea Capitis	1	0	16	0
Grand Total	88	18	1219	20

Laboratory surveillance:

A total of **2718** specimens were collected and shipped to CPHL IDH and RRL laboratories. Out of which, in total, **2617** specimens were tested (101 specimens under process).

Out of 438 tested specimens for Measles, 252 of them were reported positive (57.5 positivity rate). Out of 34 tested specimens for Chickenpox, 22 of them were reported positive (64.7%) (Follow-up by the CPHL is going on).

Influenza Surveillance activities:

In the 3rd Epidemiological Week of 2025, we have received reports from all ten influenza sites (Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Herat, Bamyan, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Paktia, and Badakhshan) provinces. Out of all new hospital admissions, 1696 (20,8%) Severe Acute Respiratory Infections cases, and 1096 (65,8%) were under 5 years old. The proportion of SARI cases increased compared to the week of 02-2025, 67 SARI-associated deaths were reported this week. At the 10 Influenza sentinel sites, the top sites with the highest proportion of SARI cases were Badakhshan (49,2%), Nangarhar (45%) and Kapisa (41%). During this week, our field staff collected 60 SARI and 40 ILI specimens, which were then shipped to the NIC in Kabul.

COVID-19 Surveillance activities:

This week, **2009** specimens were tested for the suspected COVID-19. Out of which **112** specimens were confirmed for COVID-19 by RT-PCR.

- The COVID-19 cases' positivity rate was 5.6% this week, which increased 1.9% compared to the previous week.
- Out of **112 confirmed** cases, **94** contacts out of **21** were traced that were mostly family members, with an average of 4 contacts per case, and will be continued until 14 days after their last contact with the confirmed cases. Also, surveillance screening teams screened all the passengers at the points of entry for fever. In addition, health education was conducted for them. About **6062** passengers have been screened for COVID-19 at the two points of entry in (Kandahar and Nimroz) provinces.

Challenges and recommendations:

- Measles cases are still a public health concern in the country; [the cases and related deaths show a significant rise during the first three weeks of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.](#)
- Scabies cases are on increasing trend as a public health challenge due to unimproved lifestyle of the community.
- Chickenpox cases are on increasing trend, and it is recommended to provide its vaccine through the national EPI.
- Dog-bite cases are on increasing trend, and it is recommended to provide its control measure through the Zoonotic committee in national level.
- ARI cough and cold cases are on the increasing trend of 0.2% compared to the previous week.
- [Diarrheal diseases cases are on a decreasing trend of 0.2% compared to the previous week.](#)
- [Pneumonia cases are on the same trend compared to the previous week.](#)
- COVID-19 preventive and control measures should be strengthened.
- Vaccine preventable diseases (especially Measles and Pertussis vaccination and preventive measures) should be strengthened.
- The measles response strategy should be reviewed to respond to the current measles epidemic situation.

- **EPI:** As the surveillance system detected **1678 (IBS+EBS)** suspected Measles cases with **11 (IBS+EBS)** deaths at the national level, further prevention and control measures should be conducted by the EPI team.
- The findings should be analyzed further at different levels, and appropriate actions should be taken by the concerned department.