

## Current major event

### Dengue outbreak in Afghanistan-2022

The Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan reported a total of 77 dengue fever cases with no associated deaths from Nangarhar provinces in the country, since June 2022. The first confirmed dengue case reported in the country was in 2019 and localized outbreaks were reported in subsequent years.

#### Editorial note

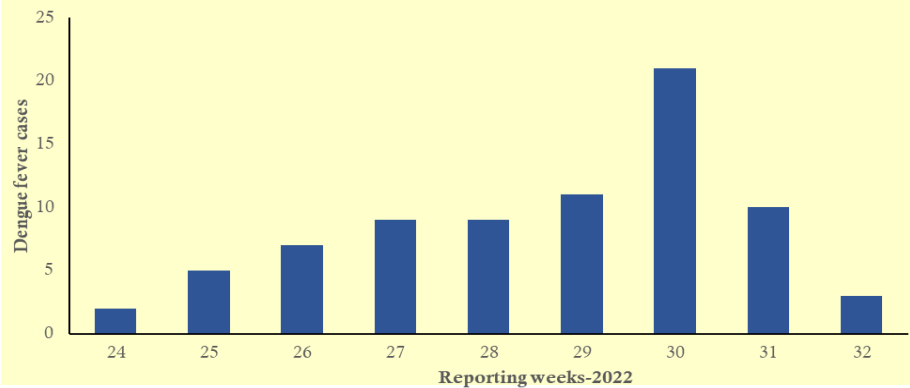
Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species *Aedes aegypti*.

Afghanistan is endemic to vector-borne diseases such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and malaria. Other vector-borne diseases like dengue fever and chikungunya were not reported before 2019. The presence of the vector *Aedes aegypti* was not established before 2018 when the Ministry of Public Health conducted vector surveillance for the first time and sent 6 mosquito samples from Khost province to Singapore for molecular confirmation of the species.

There have been no dengue fever cases reports by the National Disease Surveillance and Response System in Afghanistan in the past. The Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) did not have the capacity to test the dengue virus before May 2019. In response to dengue outbreaks in the neighbouring countries, Afghanistan decided to monitor the disease and started to enhance surveillance testing blood samples for dengue virus. In 2019, the country reported the first 15 confirmed cases of dengue fever. Afterward sporadic cases were recorded in different location. In 2021 the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported indigenous transmission with more than 300 dengue fever cases from 14 districts of the Nangarhar province.

Since 1 June 2021, Afghanistan has experienced an upsurge of dengue fever cases mostly in Nangarhar province. Between June and August 2022, a total of 77 dengue fever cases have been reported from 6 districts within Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan (see table). The 5 districts are the same where the cases were reported during 2021 and only 1 new district namely Khogyani has reported first 1 case during 2022. All of these reported cases are confirmed by rapid diagnostic test (RDT). No severe clinical cases or deaths have been reported to date. It's important to note that Pakistan, which borders most of the affected districts of Nangarhar province, has been experiencing major and recurring dengue fever outbreak in recent years.

### Dengue fever cases reported between week 24 to week 32– 2022 in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan



### Dengue fever cases reported from Nangarhar province, till week 32– 2022

Province	Districts/ Location	Number of cases-2022	Number of cases-2021*
Nangarhar	Jalalabad city	57	8
	Chaparhar district	12	3
	Behsod district	5	10
	Batiktot district	1	10
	Khogyani	1	0
	Ghani Khil district	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>77</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Dengue fever cases till Oct 2021

The trend of reported cases showed a peak on epidemiological week 30, with 21 dengue fever cases in a single week. In addition, the number of reported cases has shown a continuous decline in the last 2 weeks (see graph). In 2022, the most affected location is Jalalabad city and the highest number of cases so far is 57 (74% of the total cases) were reported. Among these reported cases, females are the most affected (69%) in contrast to 2021 when males were the most affected.

The MoPH in coordination with other relevant line ministries and partners have enhanced surveillance for early detection of suspected dengue cases, and strengthened entomological surveillance and vector control measures in order to contain the current and ongoing dengue fever outbreak. Clinical case management needs to be improved and standardized through the distribution of guidelines and training of health workers. Risk communication and the involvement of the communities in source reduction of vectors can play a major role to control these recurring dengue outbreaks.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

#### COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

#### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[189 045 (7758), 4.1%]
Bahrain	[666 373 (1512), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[515 198 (24 786), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 468 894 (142 861) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 454 213 (25 338), 1%]
Jordan	[1 726 717 (14 095 ), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[656 456 (2563), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 195 784 (10 572), 0.9%]
Libya	[506 255 (6435), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 263 373 (16 268), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[698 384 (5694), 0.8%]
Oman	[397 574 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 562 888 (30 527), 2%]
Qatar	[418 622 (681), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[811 853 (9269) 1.1%]
Somalia	[27 020 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 166 (4961), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[56 700 (3157), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 141 135 (29 189), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[1 003 929 (2339), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 903 (2152), 18.1%]