



قرار

Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC60/R.3
October 2013

Sixtieth Session
Agenda item 3

Escalating poliomyelitis emergency in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WHA65.5 on intensification of the global poliomyelitis eradication initiative which declared the completion of poliovirus eradication a programmatic emergency for global public health;

Having reviewed as a special emergency item¹ the alarming international spread of wild poliovirus in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, from December 2012 through October 2013;

Deeply concerned by the explosive outbreak of poliomyelitis in Somalia, the confirmation of new poliomyelitis cases in the Syrian Arab Republic, the previous evidence of poliovirus spread into Egypt and the occupied Palestinian territories, and the uncontrolled poliovirus transmission in parts of Pakistan;

Recognizing that all Member States are now at very high risk of poliomyelitis reinfection and explosive outbreaks due to the large-scale population movements within the Region and gaps in immunity;

1. **DECLARES** the new international spread of wild poliovirus an emergency for all Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region and reiterates the ongoing emergency situation of endemic poliomyelitis in Pakistan;
2. **REQUESTS** Pakistan to intensify the necessary steps to ensure all children are accessed and vaccinated, particularly in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), as a matter of the utmost urgency to prevent further international spread;
3. **REQUESTS** the Syrian Arab Republic and adjoining countries to coordinate, and if possible synchronize, intensified mass vaccination campaigns using the most appropriate tactics and vaccine(s) to interrupt this new outbreak within 6 months;

¹ Document Number: EM/RC60/11

4. **REQUESTS** enhanced coordination with the WHO African Region to ensure heightened monitoring of eradication efforts in the Horn of Africa, rapid interruption of the outbreak in that area, especially in Somalia, and the protection of adjoining at-risk areas of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, particularly Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen;
5. **URGES** all Member States to:
 - 5.1 Extend all possible support, including political advocacy and technical support, to Pakistan, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic in their work to negotiate and establish access to those children who are currently unreached with polio vaccination;
 - 5.2 Support the intensified eradication efforts throughout the Eastern Mediterranean Region, particularly in countries at high risk of new importations and outbreaks including Afghanistan, Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen;
 - 5.3 Enhance surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) and suspected poliomyelitis to detect missed chains of transmission in the Region and better target emergency efforts;
 - 5.4 Provide additional political, financial and technical support for the regional emergency response plans;
6. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to continue his tremendous efforts to accelerate eradication efforts in the Region, including the mobilization of necessary financial and technical support, and to convene an extraordinary meeting of regional health leaders, by January 2014 at the latest, to review the regional emergency response, plan corrective actions, and inform Member States of the further action required.