

## Current major event

### Meningitis in Yemen

The suspected bacterial meningitis cases continue to be monitored. From 01 January to 06 August 2017 (Epidemiological week 31), a total of 2,467 clinically diagnosed cases including 37 related deaths (Case fatality ratio- 1.5%) were reported through the Electronic Disease Early Warning System (eDEWS) in Yemen.

### Editorial note

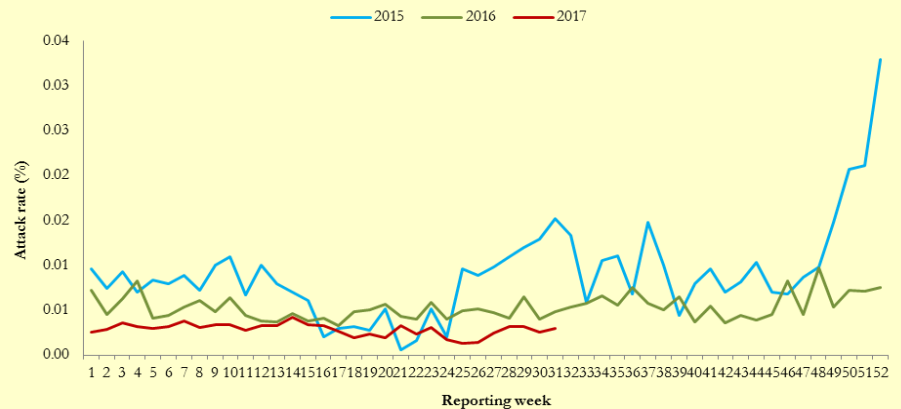
Suspected cases of meningitis continue to be reported from different governorates of Yemen since the beginning of the current year. During the month of April 2017, the number of suspected cases increased followed by a gradual decline in the following two months (May and June 2017). Cases were reported across 1,900 health facilities in the country, these sites function as sentinel reporting sites for the national electronic disease early warning system in the country.

The highest number of suspected meningitis cases was reported from Amanat Al-Asimah governorate with 629 Cases (25.5%); other governorates reporting high number of cases include: Taiz with 355 cases (14.4%), Dhamar with 244 cases (9.9%), Ibb with 214 cases (8.7%), Al Hodeida with 166 cases(6.7%) and Aden with 141 cases(5.7%). These governorates reported such high number of cases because they host the main referral hospitals that serve as sentinel sites for the national bacterial meningitis surveillance programme in Yemen.

A total of 1,006 cerebrospinal fluid samples were collected, from 01 January to 20 August 2017, from 10 sentinel sites of national bacterial meningitis surveillance programme spread across the country. Of these samples, only 5 samples have tested positive for *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*; 2 for *Neisseria Meningitidis W135*; and 11 samples were positive for other bacteria. Almost 80%of the CSF samples yielded no result.

Compared to 2016, when the number of health facilities reporting bacterial meningitis cases in Yemen increased to about 100% in 2017 (Please see the box) the re-

Trend of weekly attack rates of suspected meningitis in Yemen (2015-2017)



### Suspected Meningitis cases in Yemen, 2014-2017

Year	Clinically diagnosed cases	Number of reporting sites
2014	2,347	240
2015	2,547	400
2016	2,649	700
2017*	2,467	1900

\* Up to 06 August 2017

ported cases of bacterial meningitis appeared to have increased in 2017 which was expected. However, further analysis of the current year's trend and comparing it with that of the previous years, no evidence of any increase of meningitis cases was observed. Further, only two out of 1006 samples tested so far have been found positive for an epidemic strain that is known to have caused epidemic of meningococcal meningitis in other countries, primarily in the African Meningitis Belt.

The current trend of cases, as observed and measured in weekly attack rates (Please see the graph above) is far lower and less than what was seen in 2015-2016. This analysis supports the fact that the current trend of meningitis cases is within the normal or "endemic range" and no evidence of existence of an outbreak of meningitis is seen or proven so far.

What is important, now, is to enhance surveillance and continue to monitor the trend of the disease through improving vigilance in order to early detect and track any "unusual: increase in reported cases. The current situation doesn't warrant any specific response except improving round the clock vigilance.

### Update on outbreaks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; Cholera in Somalia; Cholera in Yemen; Chikungunya in Pakistan.

### Current public health events of international concern [cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian Influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [359 (122), 34%]  
Egypt (A/H9N2) [3 (0)]

#### Chikungunya: 2016-2017

Pakistan [7,285 (0)]

#### MERS-CoV: 2012-2017

Saudi Arabia [1,708 (663), 38.8%]

#### Cholera: 2016-2017

Somalia [76,236 (1,157), 1.5%]  
Yemen [575,249 (2,025), 0.4%]

#### Lassa Fever: 2017

Nigeria [710 (114), 16.1%]

#### Avian Influenza A (H7N9): 2013-2017

China [1,557 (605), 38.9%]

#### Dengue fever: 2017

Côte d'Ivoire [858 (2), 0.2%]

#### Wild poliovirus: 2014-2017

Pakistan [383 (0)]  
Afghanistan [66 (0)]

#### Zika Virus Infection: 2015-2017

84 countries and territories have reported transmission so far.