

Current major event

Dengue fever in Yemen

In 2019, Ministry of Public Health and Population Yemen reported a total of 4 183 suspected dengue fever cases with 10 associated deaths (CFR; 0.23%) from 20 (out of 23) governorates of the country. This continuation of the reported cases is seen since 2016.

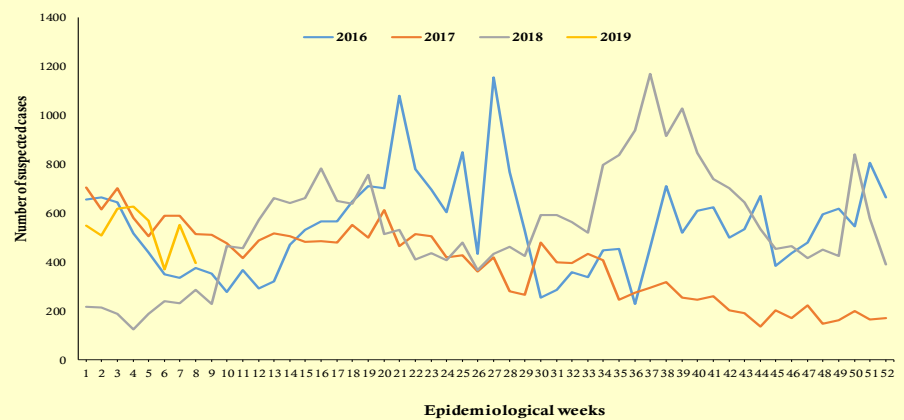
Editorial note

Dengue fever is an arboviral disease caused by the dengue virus (DENV) and transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. These mosquitoes also transmit chikungunya, yellow fever and zika virus. Dengue fever affects infants, young children and adults, but seldom causes death.

Dengue fever is endemic in Yemen, with recurring outbreaks reported in a number of governorates over the last ten years. The current situation of increased insecurity, huge displaced population movements, nearly destroyed/nonfunctioning health system, disruption of water supplies and scarcity of safe drinking water have contributed to the increased breeding of mosquitos in the affected areas, resulting in an continuation of dengue virus transmission and increased reporting of cases over the period of many years. During the epidemiological week 1 to week 8, 2019, the electronic disease early warning system (e-DEWS) has recorded a total of 4 183 suspected cases of dengue fever, mostly from Hudaydah (1 466), Aden (1 064) and Mukala (450) governorates. In addition serology and RDTs were also performed and out of the total tested suspected dengue fever cases, 157 were IgM positive, 71 IgG positive and 367 were positive by RDT.

Due to ongoing security constraints remain the limiting factors for control of this current continuing reporting cases of dengue in the country. As it is evident that the areas affected by the ongoing conflict lack basic social services including access to clean water which results in, to use open containers to store water that are favorable ground for mosquitoes breeding. Nevertheless, the destroyed infrastructure also provide favorable con-

Dengue fever cases reported in Yemen during week 1 - 2016 to week 8-2019



Suspected dengue fever cases and deaths governorate wise, 2019

Governorates	Suspected cases	Deaths	CFR%
Abyan	187	0	-
Amanat Al Asimah	17	0	-
Taizz	119	0	-
Hajjah	38	0	-
Al Hudaydah	1466	0	-
Moklia	450	0	-
Say'on	12	0	-
Shabwah	325	0	-
Aden	1064	9	0.85
Lahj	322	0	-
Marib	79	0	-
Dhamar	13	1	7.69
Al Mahwit	37	0	-
Al Jawf	4	0	-
Al Bayda	1	0	-
Sana'a	1	0	-
Ibb	2	0	-
Al Dhale'e	42	0	-
Raymah	1	0	-
Al Maharah	6	0	-
TOTAL	4186	10	0.24

ditions for water stagnation which are also favoring breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Despite these challenging situation, in order to contain the current and ongoing dengue fever outbreak in the country, the Ministry of Public Health and Population in coordination with other relevant ministries and partners has to enhance surveillance for early detection of suspected dengue cases, and strengthen entomological surveillance and vector control measures. Case management also needs to be improved and standardized through distribution of guidelines and training of health workers. Risk communication should play a major role in the community to increase awareness about protective measures needed to reduce the possibilities of mosquito bites.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS in Saudi Arabia; **MERS** in Oman; **cholera** in Somalia; **cholera** in Yemen; **Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever** in Pakistan.

Current public health events of concern

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

Avian influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [359 (122), 33.98%]

Egypt (A/H9N2) [4 (0)]

Ebola virus disease (EVD): 2018-2019

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [951 (598), 62.88%]

Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia [6 867 (46), 0.67%]

Yemen [1 502 648 (2 933), 0.19%]

Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen [3 524 (203), 5.76%]

Bangladesh [8 474 (45), 0.53%]

MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia [2 000(745), 37.25%]

Oman [24 (7), 29.16%]

Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan [6 427 (0)]