



# World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

## Situation Report OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE NO.10 Yemen Update



Ebrahim is 2 years old. 2 months ago he was frail & suffering from severe acute malnutrition with medical complications. Thanks to partners for generous funds he received treatment in a WHO-supported therapeutic feeding center & he's now recovered & healthy. C: Omar Nasr



24.1 MILLION\*  
IN NEED



14.3 MILLION \*\*  
IN ACUTE NEED



761,837 \*\*\* CHOLERA  
SUSPECTED CASES



19.7 M \*\*\*\*  
IN NEED FOR HEALTH CARE

### WHO

### HIGHLIGHTS



With generous support from KS Relief, WHO provided 41 tons of cholera kits to 51 hospitals & health facilities in 10 governorates across Yemen. These cholera kits will help save the lives of almost 4,200 people. C: Nesma Khan

- The conflict continues to intensify, sparking multiple frontline. An estimated 70,000 men, women and children have either lost their lives or suffered serious injuries as a result of the conflict.
- There are 156 recorded attacks on health facilities and incidents involving health care workers that have jeopardized our emergency response, endangering health facilities, health care workers, patients and the surrounding communities including civilian infrastructure – like water, sanitation and health.
- Cholera continues to be a priority issue in 96% of governorates in Yemen. From 1 Jan to 27 October 2019, 761,837 suspected cases were reported including 991 associated deaths. The CFR remains at (13%). A quarter of these cases (26%) are children under 5.
- Chronic malnutrition remains of high concern, and which is why the establishment of a nationwide nutritional surveillance system is so important in the country.
- From 1 January to 27 October 2019, a total of 25,242 suspected dengue cases was reported including 104 associated deaths.

### NUMBER OF WHO STAFF & OTHER CONTRACTS MODALITY IN COUNTRY: 230

#### HEALTH SECTOR

71 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

15.8 M TARGETED POPULATION –YHRP 2019

#### MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS SEPTEMBER

296,800 LITERS OF FUEL DELIVERED TO 72 HEALTH FACILITIES

193,562 MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

\* Yemen HNO 2019  
 \*\* Yemen HNO 2019  
 \*\*\* Cholera bulletin as of 27 October 2019  
 \*\*\*\* Yemen- HRP 2019

## Situation update

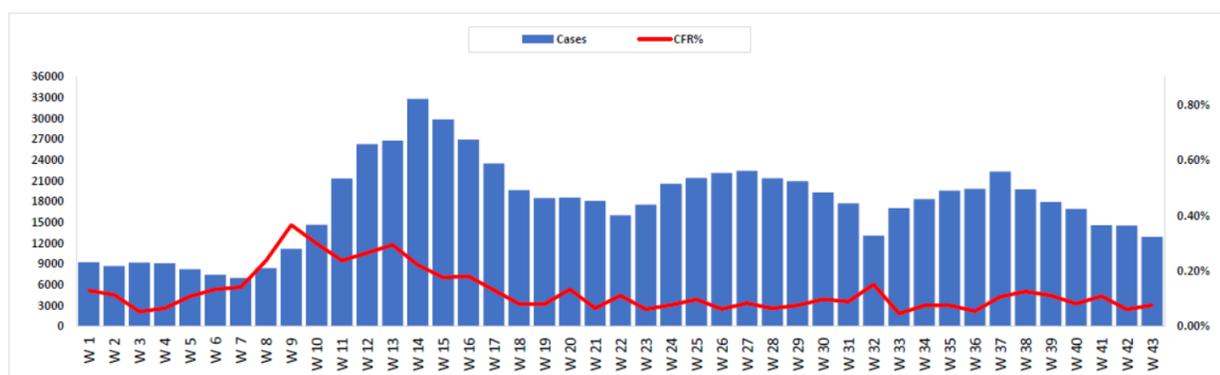
- **Health System:** 50 % of health facilities are functional and operating with serious shortages of medicine, equipment and staff. Operational challenges still remain, with access issues for teams in the field and work still a concern.
- **Non-communicable diseases:** An estimated 35,000 cancer patients (10% children) and more than 1 million people who suffer from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) will no longer receive life-saving treatment. A total of 7,000 renal patients in need of weekly sessions in 2019.
- **Malnutrition and Nutrition response update:** Chronic malnutrition remains of high concern, and the establishment of the nutritional surveillance system has supported targeted detection ensuring that 52% of all children 6-59 months were screened, with 41 districts reporting a very high proportion of stunting. An estimated 9,000 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition (19% of them under 6 months of age) in September 2019 and over 62,700 children screened, since January 2019. 42 sentinel's sites established with 65 more being implemented to cover 100% of priority districts by the end of December

## Epidemiological Update and Surveillance

### Cholera

- **From 1 January to 27 October 2019:** a total of 761,837 suspected cases of cholera, including 991 associated deaths (CFR 0.13%), have been reported. Children under the age of five continue to represent 25.8% of the total number of suspected cases. As of 27 October, 93% (n=311) of the 333 districts in Yemen have reported suspected cholera cases since 2019.

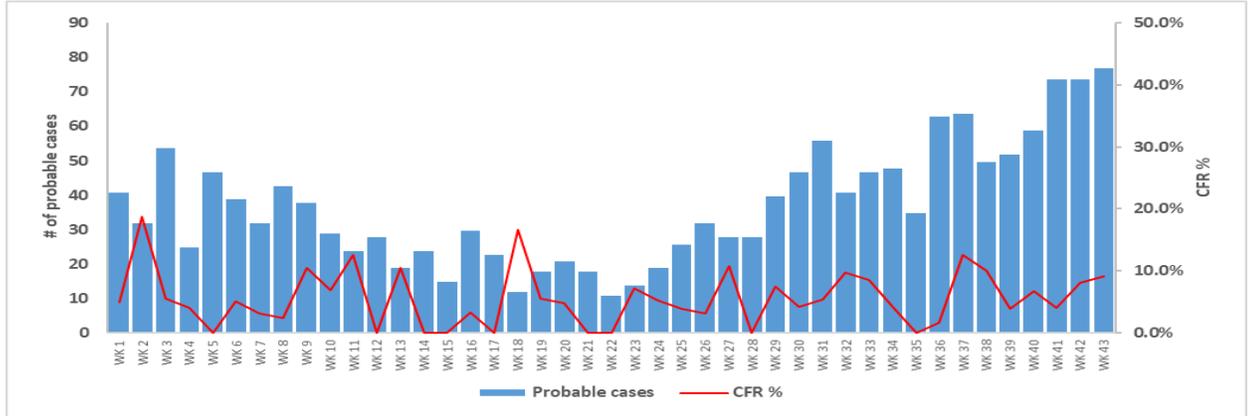
**The trend in suspected cases between epidemiological weeks 1 -43**



### Diphtheria

- **From 1 January to 27 October 2019:** a total of 1600 probable cases, including 95 associated deaths, have been reported. As of 27 October, 64% (n=212) of the 333 districts in Yemen have reported probable diphtheria cases, during last four weeks 77 % were reported from five governorates: Sa'ada (31%), Taizz (19%), Al Hodeida (10%), Hajjah (10%) and Ibb (7%)

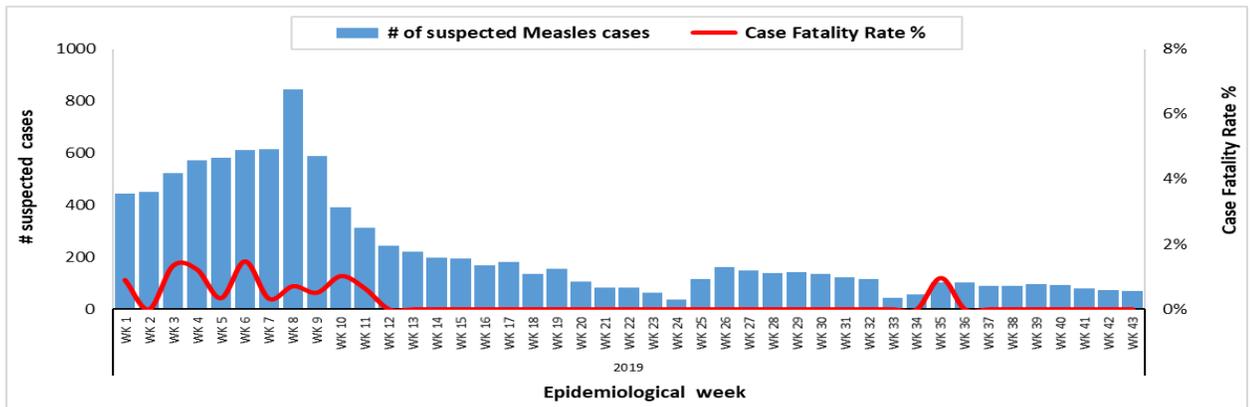
### The trend in probable cases between epidemiological weeks 1 -43



### Measles

- From 1 January to 27 October 2019:** a total of 9,774 suspected measles cases have been reported, including 47 associated deaths (CFR 0.5 %). Within the last 4 epidemiological weeks, 60% of suspected cases were reported from 6 governorates: Amanat Al Asimah (16%), Ibb (11%), Sa’ada (9%), Aden (8%), Taiz (8%) and Amran (8%). Children under the age of five represent 68% of the total suspected cases.

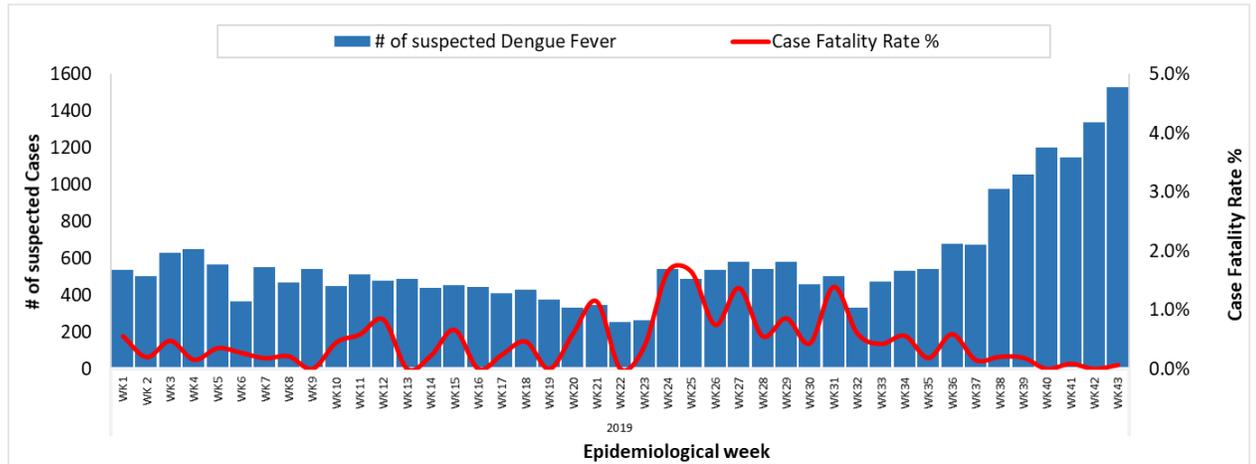
### The trend in suspected cases between epidemiological weeks 1 -43



### Dengue Fever

- From 1 January to 27 October 2019:** there have been a total of 25,242 suspected cases reported including 104 associated deaths (CFR 0.5%). Within the last four weeks, 105 districts have reported suspected cases, with 79% of these being reported from three governorates: Taiz (31%), Hajjah (29%) and Al Hudaydah (19%). The highest proportion of cases is being reported from districts where access is challenging due to insecurity.

### The trend in suspected cases between epidemiological weeks 1 -43



### Health Response and WHO Actions in October 2019

#### Cholera

- Water Provision and Monitoring:** WHO maintained the provision of approximately 18,339 m<sup>3</sup> of safe water to 72 health care facilities and 4,017m<sup>3</sup> to Diarrhea Treatment Centers (DTCs). Regular monitoring of emergency health services in health facilities has been conducted by WHO field WASH supervisors in 12 governorates. Free residual chlorine (FRC) has been monitored in water supplied by WHO to 72 healthcare facilities. 50% of the samples tested have shown positive results for FRC. Results of samples having zero FRC were communicated to the administration at the health facilities to take remedial actions. Also, reconstruction and rehabilitation of WASH services in 35 healthcare facilities are in progress, to improve WASH in these areas.
- Capacity Building:** WHO supported a 2-days training sessions on infection prevention and control to build the capacity of 222 healthcare workers from in 111 DTCs. The training plan was executed in 6 training sessions in collaboration with the central public health laboratory (CPHL) in Sana'a. Also, 3-day on job training workshops were organized to build the capacity of 370 participants from 43 targeted healthcare facilities on medical/healthcare waste management spearheaded by WHO's WASH team. Moreover, a 5-day training sessions on healthcare waste management were conducted targeting 129 healthcare staff from the CPHL (19), Blood banks (20) and therapeutic feeding centres (90 from 47 TFC's).

#### Diphtheria

- Diphtheria antitoxin (DAT):** An urgent supply of 612 vials of diphtheria antitoxin (DAT) arrived at Sana'a airport during October 2019 in order to meet the current shortage in DAT that was reported from some governorates.
- Diphtheria medications:** A request letter has been sent to MOPHP asking them to inform all governorate and district health offices and health facilities that antibiotics such as erythromycin and azithromycin, which are proven to be resistant to cholera bacteria, should be removed from

distributed kits and repurposed. These antibiotics can be used as part of prophylactic treatment of diphtheria patients.

- **Training:** All the preparations for re-conducting the integrated training (a training on five infectious diseases including diphtheria) have been finalized. It supposed to be resumed at the beginning of November 2019, and will cover all the districts in the northern governorates, aiming to sensitize the health workers in the main health facilities on these five diseases.



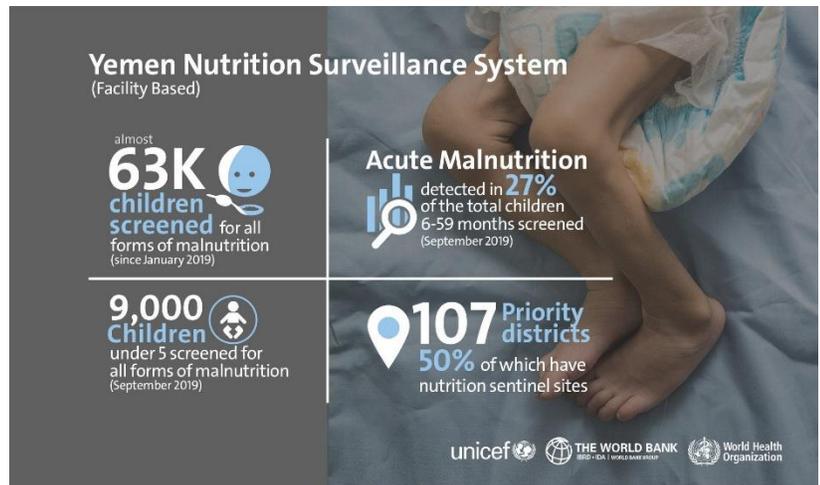
WHO rehabilitated a health unit in Al Mahrah that was affected by floods. In addition to renovating & provision of medical equipment, the unit is now able to provide health services including immunization, nutrition, in full capacity, serving about 2,270 patients. C: WHO team

### Dengue Fever

- 100,000 NS1 RDT – for Dengue diagnosis has been distributed to Rapid Response Team (RRT) in the all Governorates in the Southern part of Yemen. NS1 RDT for Dengue are useful in differentiating Dengue fever from other fevers of tropical diseases such as malaria and are useful especially in the first 3-4 days of onset of fever. 60,000 RDTs were also distributed in the Northern Governorates.

### Nutrition

- Chronic malnutrition remains of high concern, and the establishment of the nutritional surveillance system has supported the targeted detection in 52% of all children 6-59 months screened, with 41 districts reporting a very high proportion of stunting. 9,000 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition (19% of



of them under 6 months of age) in September 2019 and almost 63K children screened, since January 2019. 42 sentinel' sites with 65 being implemented to cover 100% of priority districts by the end of December.



## Partnerships/ Health Cluster

- **Health cluster coordination meetings:** During October, Yemen health cluster conducted a total of 8 cluster coordination meetings in which the cluster discussed many epidemiological / health interventions situation as well as the main challenges facing partners in the field.
  - 2 National Health Cluster coordination meetings,
  - 2 Subnational health cluster coordination meetings in Ibb/Taizz Hub
  - 2 Health Cluster coordination meeting in Al Hudaydah
  - 1 Health Cluster coordination meeting in Sa'da
  - 2 Health Cluster coordination meeting in Aden
- **Technical working groups and bi-lateral meetings:** health cluster have coordinated a total number of 6 meetings for the technical working groups such as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Reproductive Health. Additionally, the health cluster on national and subnational level have conducted a total of 22 bi-lateral meetings with partners and authorities to discuss partners' interventions, response, Gaps, needs and challenges.
- **Field Visits:** During October, health cluster coordinators have conducted a total of 11 field visit to monitor and support HFs, DTCs Hospitals in the Hubs as well as supporting partners in trainings and workshops.
- In October 2019, KSA-UAE allocated USD 108M and Kuwait USD 23M for Yemen crisis scaled up by the WHO, no further funding gap is expected for the next 6 months.

## Resource Mobilization

## Health Response Priorities 2019

WHO leads the health cluster in Yemen and works in collaboration with partners on a two-pronged approach:

- **Firstly, addressing two health determinants; WHO will focus on monitoring potable water and sanitation conditions** to advocate and leverage partners at directing their efforts where more critically needed; the goal is to decrease water borne diseases such as cholera.
- The Organization will also significantly enhance surveillance and monitoring for malnutrition, address severe malnutrition as a last resource organization and ensure all partners have access to strategic information for their operations in a timely fashion.
- **Secondly, restoring and enhancing preventive programs and access to health services.** WHO aims to restore key priority preventive programs such as vaccination and disease surveillance and improving access to health services. While WHO will increase its technical support to the country, it will also restructure its emergency operations to deliver within the security and non-permissive environment conditions.

