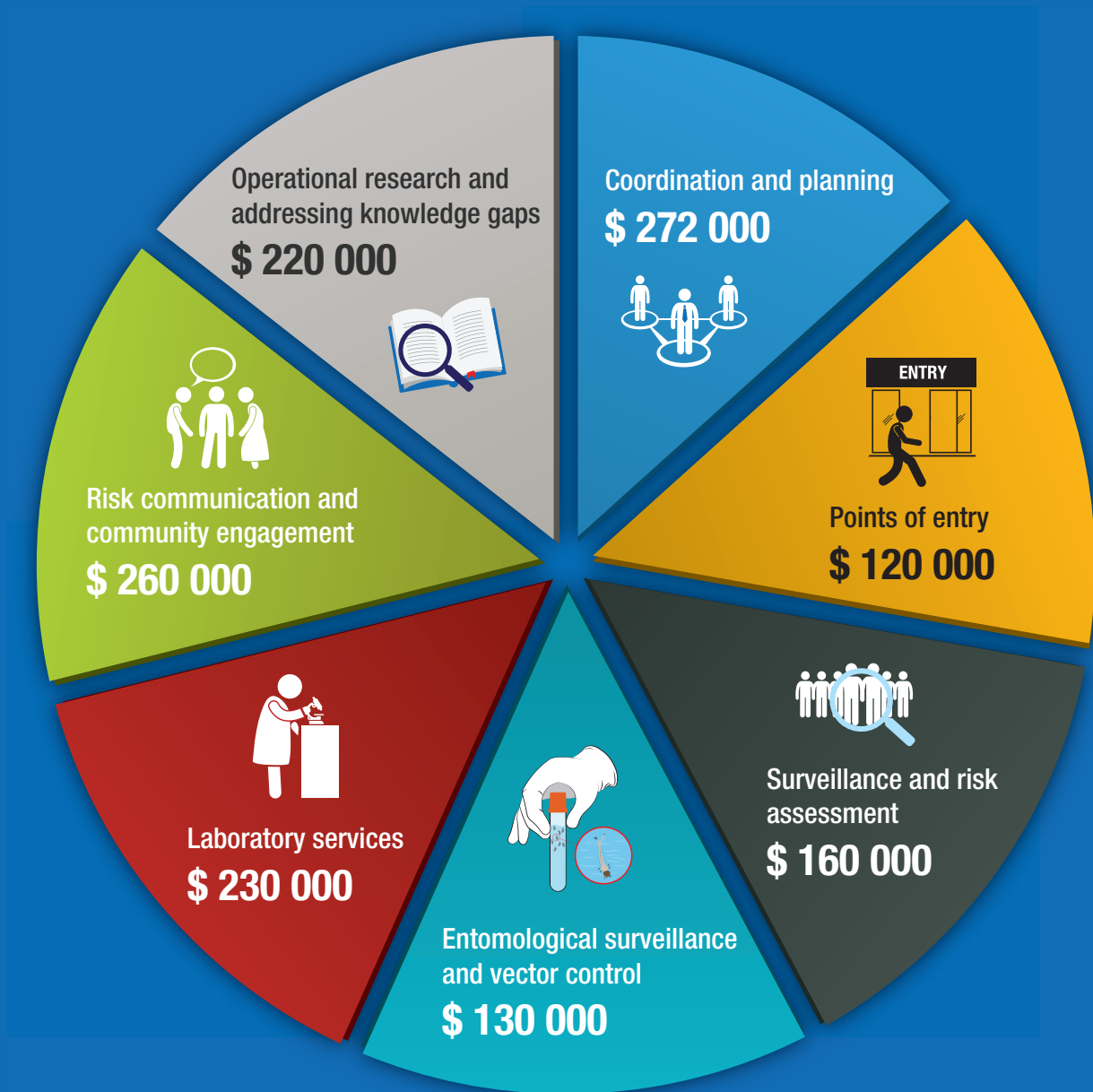


PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR ZIKA

WHO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION



TOTAL US\$ 1.39 M

Preparedness plan for Zika

Objectives and priority activities



Improve leadership and coordination for enhanced preparedness and response capacities

- Strengthen regional public health leadership, incident management systems, multisectoral coordination and information sharing mechanisms for Zika virus infection in the Region.
- Support countries to use an all-hazard approach to develop and implement contingency plans for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response plans, and to adapt these for possible Zika infections.



Enhance capacities required under the IHR (2005) at international Points of Entry (PoE)

- Build regional capacity for surveillance, early detection and response to public health events at international points of entry.
- Strengthen effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders of points of entry, and improve their awareness of the risks of importation/exportation of Zika vectors.



Support regional risk assessments and the development of effective surveillance systems

- Establish national Zika infection risk profiles.
- Establish effective surveillance systems for Zika virus infection and associated congenital birth defects and neurological complications.
- Develop regional capacity on risk assessment, surveillance and epidemiological investigation around suspected or confirmed Zika cases.



Reinforce entomological surveillance and vector control

- Provide guidance and support on entomological surveillance and integrated vector management to reduce the risk of exposure to Zika.
- Establish geographic distribution of competent vectors regionally and at country level.
- Strengthen specific medical entomology research, knowledge and skills at country level through training activities.



Improve access to quality diagnostics testing and rapid turnaround of results

- Establish Zika virus diagnostic services in the Region.
- Coordinate and build capacity for collection, storage and transportation of samples; and establish a process for shipment of specimens to reference laboratories.
- Build capacity to perform routine diagnostic testing.



Improve risk communication and community engagement

- Establish Zika virus risk communication protocols for countries and key communications products for various target groups.
- Establish engagement with communities on Zika virus infection and vector control activities.
- Support Zika awareness-raising activities for mass gatherings.



Address regional knowledge gaps through operational research

- Promote entomological research on competent *Aedes*.
- Refine epidemiological knowledge of possible early Zika circulation in the Region.
- Support operational research on Zika and related arboviral infections, and their vectors, in order to narrow the knowledge gap.