

Current major events

Dengue Fever in Yemen

The Ministry of Public Health & Population (MoPH&P) in Yemen recently reported 5,534 suspected cases of Dengue Fever (DF) including 7 deaths from 6 governorates. The cases were reported from January to 3rd of June 2010. Of these suspected cases, 1186 cases were laboratory-confirmed.

The MoPH&P has undertaken appropriate control measures to contain the current outbreak. As a result, the cases have started to decline in recent time as has been reported by the MoPH&P.

Editorial note

Over the last few years, Yemen has experienced, almost every year, an emergence of dengue fever specially in the endemic coastal regions of the country. In the year 2000 and 2003, the outbreaks were localized in Shabwa. In 2005, in addition to Shabwah, the outbreak spread to Hudaidah and Hadramoot/Mukalla. In 2008, another outbreak of DF was reported from Shabwah, Abyan, Taiz and Mukalla where as in 2009, Taiz and Hudaidah were the two places from where DF was reported. During the current year (upto the first week of June), nine governorates (Aden, Abiyah, Al-Dhale'a, Hadramoot/Mukalla, Hudaidah, Lahj, Sana'a, Shabwa and Taiz) have so far reported cases of DF.

The data, thus far available (*Please refer to the table*), shows that the incidence of dengue fever epidemics has increased in the country and hyperendemic transmission has probably been established over a geographically expanding area in the country. In addition, entomological assessments conducted in the past has reported that *Aedes aegypti* (the main mosquito vector of dengue virus) is endemic all over Yemen. In the past, NAMRU-3 had identified dengue serotypes 1 and 2 (DEN-1, DEN-2) in Yemen. During the outbreak in 2005, dengue serotype-3 (DEN-3) was identified. The circulating dengue virus strain of the current outbreak, so far, remains unknown.



DF Outbreaks in Yemen

Year	Type of virus	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
2000	DEN-1 DEN-2	NA	NA	NA
2003	NA	NA	NA	NA
2005	DEN-3	279	15	5.3
2008	NA	1001	NA	NA
2009	NA	900	1	0.1
2010 (Until June)	NA	5534	7	0.1

At the root of the emergence of DF/DHF as a major health problem are the changes in human demography, unchecked urbanization, changes in agricultural and land use practices, deforestation and lack of effective vector control programme. Increased movement of people, animals and commodities ensures a rapid transit of both viruses and mosquitoes. There is nothing on the horizon that these ecological factors which greatly facilitate transmission of dengue fever will change in the near future in a rapidly developing country like Yemen. The current situation in Yemen, therefore, highlights the need for an effective preventive strategy in order to reverse the trend of recurrent epidemics from DF/DHF in the country. An integrated vector management programme with strong community and intersectoral participation should be the way forward. The MoPH&P is already working to that effect in close collaboration with WHO.

Update on outbreaks

Meningococcal meningitis in Sudan;
Dengue fever in Sudan and Yemen;
Cholera in Djibouti

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian influenza

Egypt	[109 (34), 31.1%]
Indonesia	[165 (136), 82.4 %]
Cambodia	[10 (8), 80%]
Global total	[498(294), 59%]

Dengue fever

Sudan	[3000 (12), 0.4%]
Yemen	[5,534 (7), 0.1%]

Meningococcal meningitis

Sudan	[819 (38), 4.6%]
Chad	[167 (17), 10.1%]

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

AFRO	No of deaths: 168
AMRO	No of deaths: At least 8410
EMRO	No of deaths: 1019
EURO	No of deaths: At least 4878
SEARO	No of deaths: 1825
WPRO	No of deaths: 1837
GLOBAL Total	No of deaths: 18,138

CFR: Case Fatality Rate