

## Current major events

### Dengue fever in Yemen

Last week, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Yemen reported 906 cases of dengue fever from Taiz Governorate. No related death was reported so far. All these cases were reported in 2009 and during early 2010. Field investigations have revealed that the source and spread of the disease was connected with the storage of water for domestic use and stagnant water around and within residential areas and local markets. The MOPH has established several control measures that included; vector control, formation of provincial task force to coordinate the responses and health education to the general public.

### Editorial note

Since 1994, Dengue fever has been reported from Yemen and the worst affected area in the Country seems to be the Western Governorate of Taiz. The disease is endemic in the area and seasonal outbreaks have been reported.

Between December 2004 and June 2009, Yemen has experienced outbreaks of Dengue. Between 2004 and September 2005, the country reported a total of 421 cases of illness meeting the case definition of DF. The outbreak peaked between December and June 2005. Out of the 421 cases, 172 cases were tested positive for IGM and 8 were IGG positive using ELISA tests. Yemen reported 1,024 cases of DF/DHF from Shabwa and Abyan governorates in 2008, and in 2009 till now, the Ministry of Public Health officially reported 906 confirmed and suspected cases of dengue fever in Taiz. No deaths were reported.

Dengue, the most widespread mosquito-borne infection in human beings, is an emerging public health problem in several countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Epidemic of Dengue fever /Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DF/DHF) has been reported in the EMR with an increasing frequency and expanding geographic distribution of both

Map showing area of current reported Dengue cases in Yemen



### Basic Facts on Dengue

- Caused by infection with dengue virus
- Dengue is spread the bite of infected *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito
- *A. Aegypti* lives indoors in closets and other dark places
- *A. Aegypti* breeds in stored exposed water collections

the viruses and mosquito vectors. DF/DHF outbreak was first reported in the EMR from Somalia in 1982. This was followed by a similar outbreak in Djibouti in 1991-1992. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen reported their first DF/DHF outbreaks in 1994. From 2004, Sudan has faced recurrent minor outbreaks of DF/DHF, mainly in the coastal areas of the Red Sea. All Dengue sub-types have been identified and have caused outbreaks in these countries.

The major challenges faced by all the affected countries are, lack of clear strategy and action plan with allocated budget, and adequate capacities for the control of dengue fever. The control of dengue requires inter- and intra-sectoral collaborations within the Ministry of Health, and other Ministries including; Municipalities, Works, Agriculture, Education and Information. In addition Civil Society organizations can play a very important role in social mobilization.

### Update on outbreaks

#### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Dengue in Yemen; Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in all the 22 countries in EMR. Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in Egypt

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[97 (27), 27.8%]
Indonesia	[161 (134), 83.2%]
China	[38 (25), 65.8%]
Vietnam	[112(57), 50.9%]
Cambodia	[9 (7), 77.8%]
Global total	471 (282), 59.8%

#### Kala Azar

S. Sudan	[403 (24), 6%]
----------	----------------

#### Yellow Fever

Cote d' Ivoire	[10 (6), 60%]
Guinea	[1 (0), 0%]

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Deaths

AFRO	167
AMRO	7261
EMRO	1018
EURO	At least 3605
SEARO	1474
WPRO	1653
<b>GLOBAL Total</b>	<b>At least 15,178</b>

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate