

Current major events

Dengue Fever in Sudan

There have been reports of Dengue fever from the Red Sea state in Sudan during the past few weeks. Beginning early January 2010, a total of 183 suspected cases of Dengue fever have been reported from the state till 09 February, 2010 with 4 related deaths (CFR: 2.1%).

Public health efforts to limit transmission as well as geographic spread have been strengthened jointly by the State Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Health and WHO.

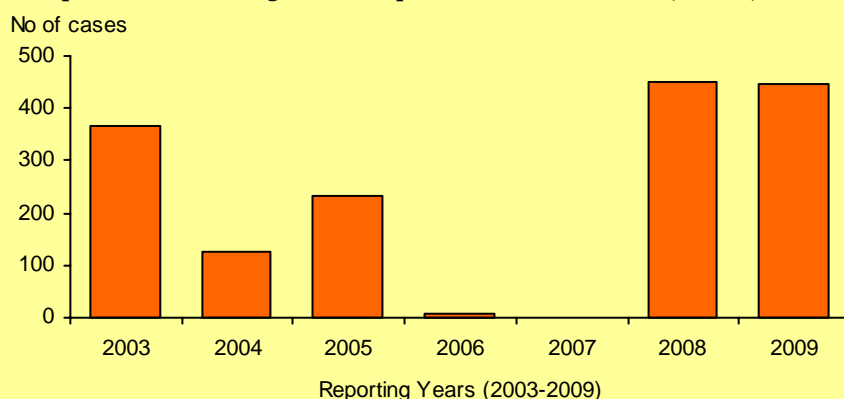
Editorial note

Dengue is the most important mosquito-borne viral disease affecting humans with the mosquito vector found in nearly 100 tropical countries. The disease manifestations range from an influenza-like disease known as dengue fever (DF) to a severe sometimes fatal disease characterized by haemorrhage and shock known as dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF).

Epidemic transmission of Dengue fever /Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DF/DHF) has been reported from at-least six countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) in the past with an increasing frequency and expanding geographic distribution of both the viruses and mosquito vectors. The disease has been a recurring health event in the eastern part of Sudan with both the Red Sea and Kassala states reporting periodic outbreaks of DF/DHF underscoring the need for finding a perennial solution for dengue prevention and control in the Region. While early detection and case management remain the corner stone of limiting deaths from the disease, a renewed attention by health policy makers of the EMR Member States to integrated dengue prevention and control strategies in their countries is urgently needed.

Today, most of the national health authorities rely heavily on chemical control methods to manage dengue control programme. Operationally, the majority of national dengue control programmes provide emergency response to epidemics and are unable to effect sustained control of proliferations of mosquito

Suspected cases of Dengue Fever reported from Red Sea State, Sudan, 2003-2009



Strategy for Prevention and Control of DF/DHF in the EMR

- Strengthening of surveillance for early detection of DF/DHF cases;
- Building capacity for laboratory diagnosis and detection of dengue viruses;
- Standardization of case management practices;
- Control of environmental risk factors through integrated vector control management (IVM)
- Promotion of intersectoral partnership;
- Involvement of local community in prevention and control efforts;
- Strengthening of cross-border surveillance for DF/DHF and other public health measures at border.

vectors. The disease is increasing in its frequency and geographic distribution because of unplanned growth resulting from increased urbanization with per-urban areas lacking in basic infrastructure as well as the widespread use of nonbiodegradable items with a concurrent lack of adequate trash disposal and sanitary landfill system. The primary activity of dengue control programme is the control of larval habitats of *Ae. aegypti* as a means to reduce the adult mosquito population and, as a result, decrease disease transmission. This approach relies heavily on community participation in control activities, yet most dengue control programs do not have sustained community participation strategies. Today, the changing epidemiology of the disease deserves a shift in paradigm. Dengue prevention and control requires thinking outside the tropical box as well. This is the second reported outbreak of DF this year after Yemen (*Vol:3, Issue:5*). This is an early signal to other countries in the Region facing periodic outbreaks of DF/DHF to be extremely vigilant.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

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

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian influenza

Egypt	[99 (30), 30.3%]
Indonesia	[163 (135), 82.2%]
Global total	[478 (286), 59.8%]

Meningococcal meningitis

Chad	[167 (17), 10.1%]
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Dengue Fever

Cape Verde	[21330 (4), 0.01%]
Paraguay	[1284 (0), 0%]
Sudan	[183 (4), 2.1%]
Yemen	[906 (?), ? %]

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

AFRO	No of deaths: 167
AMRO	No of deaths: At least 7261
EMRO	No of deaths: 1018
EURO	No of deaths: At least 3648
SEARO	No of deaths: 1523
WPRO	No of deaths: 1675
GLOBAL Total	No of deaths: at least 15,292

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate
? : Unknown