

## Current major event

### Zoonotic diseases are on the rise

A number of countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have reported zoonotic diseases in recent time. The region has recently seen outbreaks of Avian Influenza (Egypt), Q fever (Afghanistan), chikungunya (Yemen), cutaneous leishmaniasis (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan) Kalazar (South Sudan) and anthrax (Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan). In addition, several countries are also combating zoonotic diseases as endemic events. Endemic zoonotic diseases such as anthrax, brucellosis, zoonotic trypanosomiasis, and cutaneous leishmaniasis are often affecting the poor rural and marginalized communities in these countries.

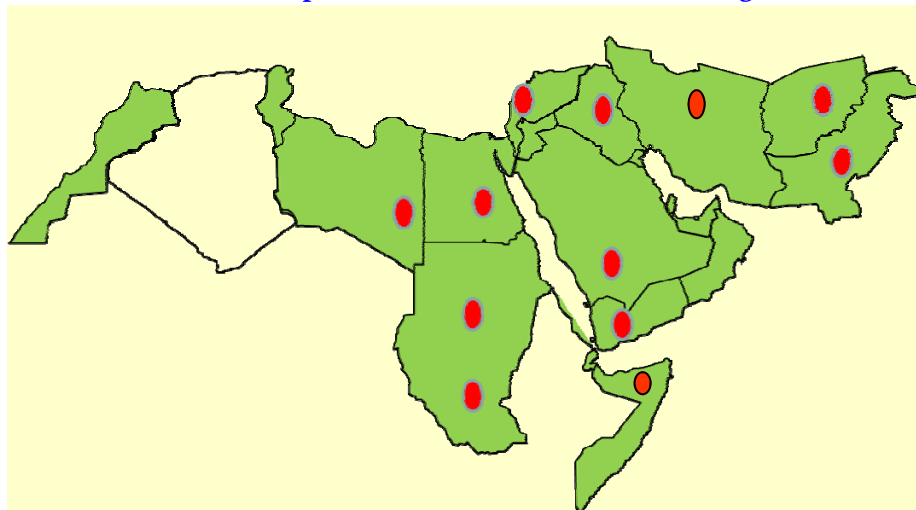
### Editorial note

Emerging infectious diseases (EID) are currently a major threat to public health worldwide and most EID events have involved zoonotic infectious agents. More than 60% of the newly identified infectious agents that have affected humans over the past few decades have been caused by pathogens originating from animals or animal products. Seventy percent of these infections originate in wildlife. Drug resistant zoonotic pathogens increasingly constitute an emerging threat to public health.

Emergence of zoonotic disease is complex and driven by different factors including evolving ecology, microbial adaptation and change, human demographics and behaviour, international travel and trade, intensity of agricultural practices, technology and industry. WHO, FAO and OIE consider emerging zoonoses to be a global issue with potentially serious human health impact and economic consequences. Because of the factors involved in its emergence, it is likely that the current upward trend of these zoonotic diseases may continue.

In addition to the recent outbreaks from zoonotic diseases, the Eastern Mediter-

### Zoonosis hotspots in the Eastern Mediterranean Region



#### Zoonotic diseases reported from EMR

- AlKhurma HF
- Anthrax
- Avian Influenza
- Brucellosis
- Chikungunya
- CCHF
- Ebola HF
- Monkey pox
- Plague
- Q-fever
- RVF
- Sandfly fever
- Yellow Fever
- Leishmaniasis

anean Region (EMR) is also home to a number of arboviruses and haemorrhagic fever viruses such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), Rift Valley fever, Ebola haemorrhagic fever, and Alkhurma haemorrhagic fever. A number of countries (Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen) have reported these diseases in recent past.

Early detection and response to both emerging and neglected zoonotic diseases is vital to avoid detrimental effects in humans, global health security and economies. In combating the threat of zoonotic diseases, there is a need for increasing regional cooperation and improved collaboration between human and animal health sector focusing on capacity-building for surveillance, detection and rapid response in order to recognize, prevent, and treat emerging zoonotic diseases and reduce public health risk..

### Update on outbreaks

#### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**A(H5N1)** in Egypt; **Cholera** in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen; **Brucellosis & Q fever** in Afghanistan. **Wild polio type 3** in Pakistan, **Dengue**

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[151 (52), <b>34.4%</b> ]
Indonesia	[178 (146), <b>82.0 %</b> ]
Viet Nam	[119(59), <b>49.6%</b> ]
Cambodia	[18(16), <b>88.9%</b> ]
Global total	[565 (331), <b>58.6%</b> ]

#### HUS

Germany	[847(31) , <b>3.7%</b> ]
Europe	[47(1), <b>2.1%</b> ]
USA	[4(1), <b>25.0%</b> ]

#### Brucellosis & Q fever

Afghanistan	[147(0), <b>0%</b> ]
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#### AWD (Cholera)

Afghanistan	[1093(11), <b>1 %</b> ]
Pakistan	[4506(35), <b>0.8%</b> ]
Somalia	[4271(181), <b>4.2%</b> ]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; \* Number of hospital visits; # Suspected cases only