

Current major event

Suspected dengue fever cases rise in Yemen

Yemen is currently experiencing a significant surge of suspected dengue fever in six of its governorates-Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Lahj, Shabwa and Hadramount. According to some unconfirmed sources, a total of 3,026 suspected dengue fever cases including 3 related deaths were reported from these governorates. Owing to escalating conflict and war, this information could not be verified.

Editorial note

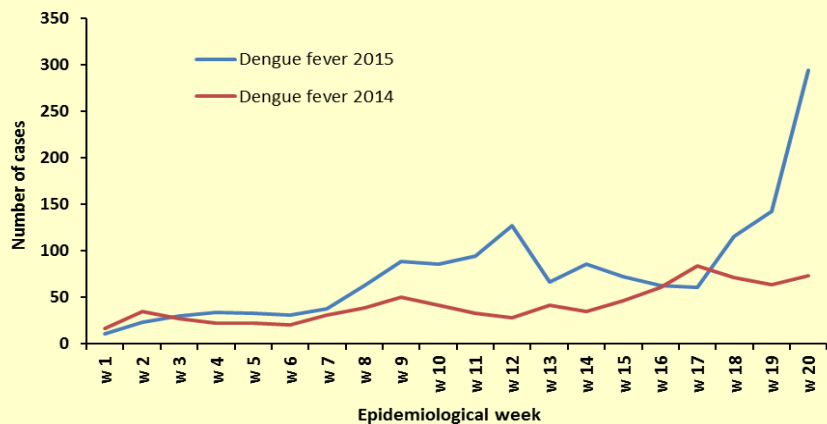
At a time, when Yemen is going through one of its worst humanitarian crisis on record, the country is also facing a possible outbreak of dengue fever (*Please see the graph above*) in some war ravaged areas with the risk of intense transmission and possible spread to other areas in the absence of any control measures owing to war and instability.

Although the country is endemic to dengue and chikungunya fever with high abundance of competent vectors like the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes and a seasonal surge is expected during this time of the year, the current situation in the country is different from what has been seen in the previous years. Owing to the absence of any control measures for vector control, cases of suspected dengue fever started to rise this year during winter season unlike the previous years when the seasonal surge is usually expected during or just before the rainy season.

It is also difficult to verify any information that is coming from the security compromised areas in the country, particularly in Aden from where the majority of the cases were reported. Therefore, information presented in the graph needs to be interpreted with caution. Despite all these uncertainties, it was quite clear that compared to 2014, there has been a significant rise in number of reported cases of dengue fever in Yemen in 2015

Yemen is also endemic to malaria and it is also during the same period that malaria cases may rise in the country. Many blood samples collected from Aden have

Suspected dengue fever cases reported from Yemen, January-May 2015



Recent major outbreaks of dengue and chikungunya fever in Yemen

Year	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
2010 [^]	8109	10	0.12%
2011*	15000	104	0.69%
2012*	234	0	0

[^] Dengue fever
* Chikungunya fever

been tested positive both for dengue fever (serology) and malaria (rapid diagnostic test). This makes the diagnosis difficult to establish and follow appropriate case management.

Due to the current situation in Yemen, it is plausible that vector control measures and other routine public health services have been disrupted for security reasons. The inaccessibility of the areas is a further compounding factor. No medical supplies could be shipped to the country for month as no humanitarian corridor has so far been provided to the relief and other humanitarian agencies for essential and other life saving medical supplies.

Under the current situation when the suspected cases of dengue fever and malaria are both on the rise and with the onset of rainy season, when there is a risk of intensified transmission and further spread, some workable strategies for vector control need to be implemented urgently in the affected areas matching the realities on the ground. At the same time surveillance needs to be intensified in other areas of the country to prevent and possibly stop spread of the disease early.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE

Current public health events of international concern
[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian Influenza : 2006-2015

Egypt (A/H5N1) [342 (115), 33.6%]
Egypt (A/H9N2) [3 (0)]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2015

Saudi Arabia [1035 (458), 44.2%]
Jordan [12 (6), 50%]
Oman [6 (3), 50%]
UAE [75 (10), 13.3%]
Kuwait [3 (1), 33.3%]
Tunisia [3 (1), 33.3%]
Qatar [12 (4), 33.3%]
Yemen [1 (1), 100%]
Egypt [1 (0), 0%]
Lebanon [1 (0), 0%]
Iran [6 (2), 33.3%]

Ebola Virus Disease: 2014-2015

Guinea [3718(2473),66.5%]
Liberia [10666 (4806),45%]
Sierra Leone [13059 (3928),30%]
UK [1(0)]
Nigeria [20 (8),40%]
Senegal [1(0)]
Spain [1(0)]
Italy [1 (0)]
USA [4(1),25%]
Mali [8(6),75%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014-2015

Pakistan [325 (0)]
Afghanistan [29(0)]