

## Current major event

### Dengue fever on rise in Yemen

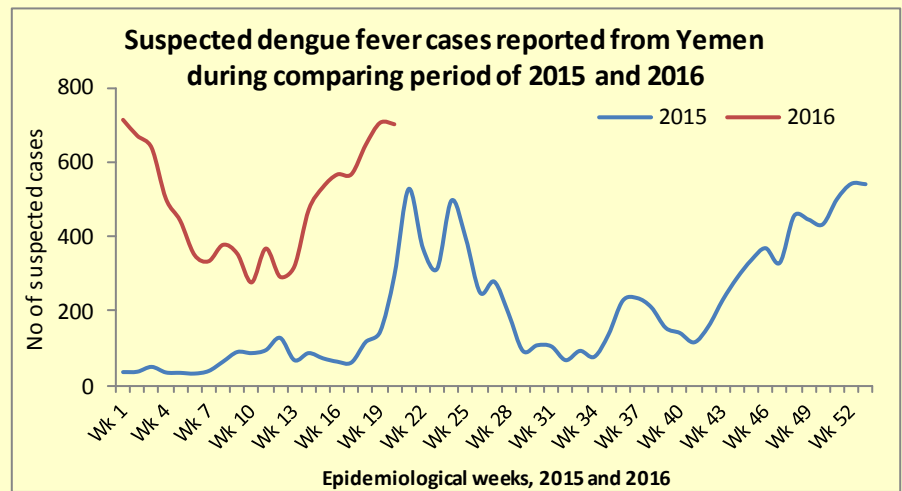
In recent time, dengue fever has recorded a substantial rise in Yemen. A total of 9,818 suspected cases of dengue fever have been reported in the country between January to April representing a rise of more than 38% when compared to the same corresponding period in 2015. A total of 25 related deaths have also been reported during the same period.

### Editorial note

Dengue fever is endemic in Yemen, with outbreaks reported in a number of governorates over the last ten years. This year, however, response to the current situation has been fraught with challenges as a result of increased insecurity and a near-collapse of the health system. In addition, recent heavy rainfall, disruption of water supplies and scarcity of safe drinking water have contributed to the spread of dengue.

Yemen's vast coastal governorates are susceptible to diseases from March to end of June every year, whereas the mountainous areas are at risk from October to December. The recent heavy rainfall, disruption of water supplies and scarcity of safe drinking water and population movements might have contributed to the spread of mosquitos in the affected areas, resulting in an upsurge in dengue cases.

During the epidemiological week of 1 to 20 (1st Jan-8 June, 2016), the electronic disease early warning system (e-DEWS) has recorded a total of 9,818 suspected cases of dengue fever mostly from Al Hudaydah, Abyan, Aden, Lahj, Shabwa, Al-Mukala, Taiz, Sayoun, Hajja and Al-Mahara governorates. Difficulties in reaching the displaced population for health services and vector control due to ongoing security constraints remain the limiting factors for control of this current upsurge in cases. Scores of people in war/conflict affected areas lack basic life support including access to clean water and



Year	Cases	Death	CFR (%)
2005	279	15	1.45%
2008	1001	0	0.76%
2009	900	1	1.64%
2015	10269	?	-
2016	9818	26	0.90%

are forced to use open containers to store water that are favourable ground for mosquitoes breeding. The current rainfall has also resulted in water stagnation in many areas in the country which are also favouring breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Within such challenging situation, limited vector control and other appropriate interventions are ongoing. However these response operations will face significant challenge if the ongoing crises situation escalates. The fragile health systems in the country is already stretched to its maximum owing to the ongoing crisis. The current upsurge of cases of dengue will be a real test of the resilience of the country's health system to manage and treat such a high number of dengue cases and consequently stop its spread to other high risk areas and probably to other neighbouring countries.

While surveillance will need to be strengthened to monitor the spread, communities will be required to be actively engaged to accelerate control operations in accessible areas.

## Update on outbreaks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

### MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain

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

#### Avian Influenza : 2006-2016

Egypt (A/H5N1)	[350 (117), 33.4%]
Egypt (A/H9N2)	[3 (0) ]

#### MERS-CoV: 2012-2016

Saudi Arabia	[1398 (598), 42.7%]
Jordan	[39 (12), 31%]
Oman	[7 (3), 42% ]
UAE	[78 (11), 14.1% ]
Kuwait	[3 (1), 33.3% ]
Qatar	[14 (5), 35%]
Bahrain	[1 (1), 100%]

#### Lassa fever : 2015-2016

Nigeria	[159(82), 51.5%]
Benin	[71 (23),32.3%
Germany	[2 (0)]
Togo	[2 (0)]

#### Avian Influenza A (H7N9) : 2013-2016

China	[752 (295),39.2%]
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#### Viral Haemorrhagic Fever ( of unknown aetiology)

Sudan	[572 (105),18.1%]
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#### Wild poliovirus: 2014-2016

Pakistan	[368 (0) ]
Afghanistan	[52(0)]

#### Zika Virus Infection: 2007-2016

58 countries and territories have reported transmission so far