

## Current major event

### Chikungunya in Somalia

During the month of May 2016, Somalia reported few sporadic cases of Chikungunya from its capital city–Mogadishu. At-least 11 blood samples were tested positive for chikungunya at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The tests were done using Real Time PCR as well as ELISA.

### Editorial note

This is the first time that Somalia reported human infection caused by Chikungunya virus. So far in the past, three countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), – Somalia, Sudan and Yemen reported active circulation of chikungunya virus. Except in Yemen, cases have been reported sporadically in Sudan and now in Somalia. Yemen reported two back-to-back outbreaks of chikungunya in 2011 and in 2012.

Chikungunya is a viral disease which was first reported in humans in Tanzania in 1952-53. The disease is caused by chikungunya virus (CHIKV) which is an arbovirus of the genus *Alphavirus* (Togaviridae). The disease has been widely reported from many tropical countries in Africa and Asia in the past decades causing widespread epidemics with significant public health problems.

Although, dengue virus (DENV) and CHIKV share the same vector for transmission and dengue fever is indigenous in many countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region causing geographically wide ranging epidemics in the past, the evidence for the presence of CHIKV from the region came fortuitously for the first time through serological surveys conducted in Pakistan in 1983 and from Sudan in 2005. In 2011, Yemen reported an explosive outbreak of chikungunya which was the first

### Countries of the EMR with Arboviral infections caused by *Aedes* mosquitoes

Country	DENG		CHIK		YF		ZIKA	
	Human infection	Serology	Human infection	Serology	Human infection	Serology	Human Infection	Serology
Djibouti								
Egypt								
Oman	Imported case							
Pakistan								
Saudi Arabia								
Somalia								
Sudan								
Yemen								

### Countries reporting Chikungunya in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Year	Country	Cases	Death
2011	Yemen	≥15,000	130
2012	Yemen	234	-
2014	Sudan	16	-
2016	Somalia	11	-

outbreak ever reported from any country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The CHIKV is primarily transmitted to humans by the bite of infected *Aedes* species mosquitoes. The recent report of sporadic cases of chikungunya also puts Somalia at high risk of spread of Zika virus since this is the same vector responsible for transmission of Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya and yellow fever.

Since 1993, Somalia is reeling in a complex humanitarian situation. Forced displacement of people, dilapidated health systems owing to protracted conflicts, complete disruption of public health services like the vector control and poor access to health care are the risk factors for the emergence of these infectious disease in Somalia. Given the challenges of implementing appropriate vector control interventions in such situation, one can only expect that the situation will not worsen and the disease will not spread further.

## Update on outbreaks

### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia;; Cholera in Somalia.

### 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	[1414 (601), 42.5%]
Bahrain	[1 (1), 100%]

#### Cholera : 2016

Somalia	[8838 (433), 4.9%]
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#### Yellow fever: 2015-2016

Angola	[3137 (345), 10.9%]
DRC	[1644 (71), 4.3%]

#### Lassa fever : 2015-2016

Nigeria	[273(149), 54.5%]
Benin	[54(28),51.8%]

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

China	[770 (306),39.7%]
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#### Avian Influenza A (H5N6) : 2016

China	[4 (0) ]
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#### Wild poliovirus: 2014-2016

Pakistan	[371(0) ]
Afghanistan	[54(0)]

#### Zika Virus Infection: 2007-2016

60 countries and territories have reported transmission so far