

Current major event

Syndromic Zika and Arboviruses surveillance guidance

In November 2016, EMRO conducted a three-day consultative workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan, to define appropriate surveillance strategy for detection of cluster of Zika virus and other arboviral diseases using both syndromic and event-based surveillance approaches.

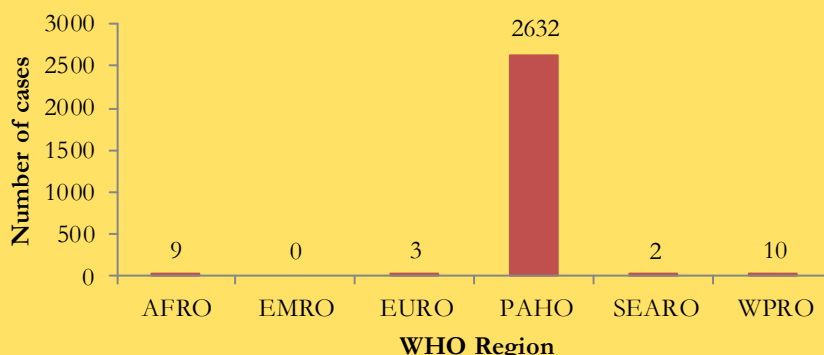
Editorial note

Since 2015 to date, 84 countries and territories globally have reported transmission of Zika virus infection, of which 61 areas have ongoing transmission with new introduction or reintroduction reported. Between February and November 2016, WHO declared that the clusters of microcephaly thought to be associated with Zika virus (ZIKV) constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) (*Please see the graph above*). Although PHEIC is now lifted, the medium- and long-term outlook of the Zika epidemic remains uncertain, given so many people are still at risk and so few control tools available.

To date, no countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have reported either local transmission or importation of the ZIKV. *Aedes mosquitoes* that transmit arboviral diseases, including Zika virus, are present in several countries in the Region. A number of countries in EMR have reported repeated outbreaks of dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever in the past including ongoing outbreak of chikungunya in Pakistan; and outbreaks of Dengue in Sudan and Yemen last year (*Please see the table*). Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop capacity for early detection and response to Zika virus, and other arboviral disease outbreaks in the Region.

Zika itself is a mild disease that can easily go undetected by routine surveillance systems, even though it is associated with serious complications. In addition, there is no current ongoing specific surveillance for Zika virus or other arboviruses in the region using both syndromic and event-based surveillance approach which have been recommended by WHO to the high risk countries

Microcephaly and other neurological disorders cases potentially associated with Zika virus infection per WHO regions, as of 1 February 2017



Epidemic Arboviruses reported in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, since 2010

Country	Disease	Year/s
Djibouti	Dengue	2012
Egypt	Dengue	2015
Oman	Dengue	2014
Pakistan	Chikungunya	2016-2017
	Dengue	2012/2013/2014
Somalia	Chikungunya	2016
Sudan	Dengue	2014/2015
	Yellow Fever	2012/2013
Yemen	Chikungunya	2011/2012
	Dengue	2010/2012/2015

for detection of clusters of suspected cases.

On this basis, a consultative workshop to define appropriate surveillance strategy for detection of cluster of Zika virus and other arboviral diseases using both syndromic and event-based surveillance approaches was conducted by EMRO in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 14 to 16 November 2016. 18 participants from 7 regional countries together with WHO temporary advisers and staff members shared their knowledge, reviewed and made suggestions to achieve the expected outcome of the workshop.

Each country drafted and presented a plan to reinforce surveillance systems for early detection of Aedes-borne diseases; as well the draft "Framework for establishing syndromic and event-based surveillance for Aedes-borne diseases" was reviewed by all participants.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; **Cholera** in Somalia; **Cholera** in Yemen; **Chikungunya** in Pakistan.

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian Influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1) [358 (122), 34.08%]
Egypt (A/H9N2) [3 (0)]

Chikungunya: 2016-2017

Pakistan [816 (0)]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2017

Saudi Arabia [1,561 (633), 40.5%]

Cholera: 2016-2017

Somalia [23,353 (731), 3.1%]
Yemen [22,181 (103), 0.5%]

Rift Valley Fever: 2016-2017

Niger [266 (32), 12%]

Avian Influenza A (H7N9): 2013-2017

China [1,223 (380), 31%]

Yellow fever

Brazil [1,336 (215), 16%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014-2017

Pakistan [381 (0)]
Afghanistan [63 (0)]

Zika Virus Infection: 2015-2017

84 countries and territories have reported transmission so far.