

## Current major event

### Dengue situation update in Yemen

In 2020, the Ministry of Public Health and Population in Yemen reported a total of 54 034 suspected dengue fever cases with 122 associated deaths (CFR 0.23%) from 20 (out of 23) governorates of the country. This continuation of reported cases has been observed since 2015.

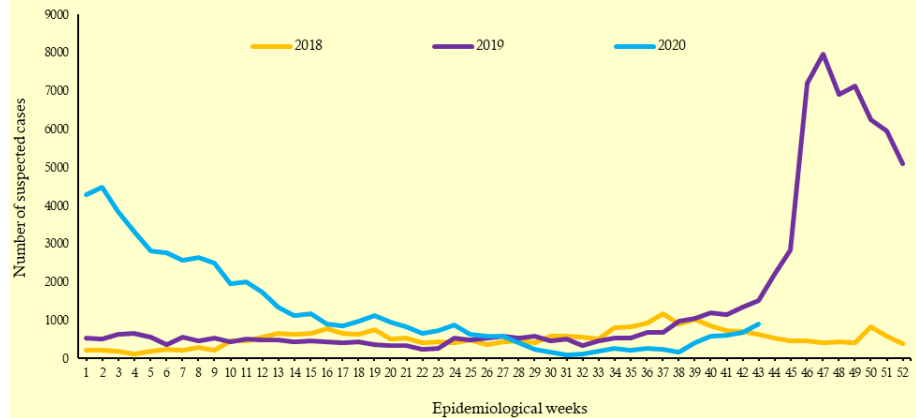
#### Editorial note

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease transmitted by female mosquitoes mainly of the species *Aedes aegypti*. It is endemic to the urban and semi-urban settings of the coastal areas of Yemen on the Red Sea and Arabian Sea. However, data collected in 2019 and 2020 showed that dengue was reported in more than 204 districts, including in rural areas (see table).

Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 43 in 2020, the upgraded electronic integrated disease early warning system (e-IDEWS) had recorded a total of 54 034 suspected cases of dengue fever, mostly from the districts of Bayt Al Faqiah (3 636 cases and 7 deaths), Al Hawak (3 604 cases and 4 deaths) and Al Hali (3 010 cases and 4 deaths). Although serological and rapid diagnostic tests were performed, the number of these tests was very low which is why most of the cases are labeled as suspected on clinical grounds.

In continuation to the prevailing situation, the country faced an increase in the number of cases during 2019, starting from week 38 and reaching a peak during week 48 which represents the highest number of cases reported so far. Early in 2020, flooding devastated southern communities in Yemen, including Aden and surrounding areas, resulting in the emergence of dengue fever. This resulted in an increase in the number of cases during the start of the year 2020 that progressively went down in the following weeks. The same pattern observed after week 38 of 2019 can now be observed during 2020 as the cases have started to increase in that same period (see graph).

**Dengue fever cases reported in Yemen during week 1- 2018 to week 43-2020**



**Suspected dengue fever cases and deaths reported in different years**

Years	Cases	Deaths	CFR%
2008	1001	0	-
2009	900	1	0.11
2015	10 269	-	-
2016	28 185	65	0.23
2017	20 438	-	-
2018	28 081	46	0.16
2019	71 691	258	0.36
2020	54 034	122	0.23

The Ministry of Public Health and Population, with the support of WHO and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, are conducting vector control activities such as fogging, community awareness, vector surveillance and environmental management in 8 districts of Aden city.

Despite the challenging situation in the country, the Ministry of Health in coordination with other relevant line ministries and partners has to enhance surveillance for early detection of suspected dengue cases, and strengthen entomological surveillance and vector control measures in order to contain the current and ongoing dengue fever outbreak. Case management also needs to be improved and standardized through the distribution of guidelines and training of health workers. Risk communication and the involvement of the communities in source reduction can play a major role to control these outbreaks.

### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

#### COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

#### Current public health events of concern

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

#### Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2020

Afghanistan	[40 833 (1514), 3.7%]
Bahrain	[79 975 (312), 0.4%]
Djibouti	[5530 (61), 1.1%]
Egypt	[106 397 (6187), 5.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[562 705 (32 320), 5.7%]
Iraq	[449 153 (10 568), 2.4%]
Jordan	[50 750 (540), 1.1%]
Kuwait	[120 927 (744), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[69 990 (562), 0.8%]
Libya	[56 013 (795), 1.4%]
Morocco	[194 461 (3255), 1.7%]
occupied Palestinian territory	[61 593 (514), 0.8%]
Oman	[111 837 (1147), 1%]
Pakistan	[327 895 (6736), 2.1%]
Qatar	[130 965 (229), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[344 552 (5281), 1.5%]
Somalia	[3897 (102), 2.6%]
Sudan	[13 744 (837), 6.1%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[5359 (267), 5%]
Tunisia	[52 399 (983), 1.9%]
United Arab Emirates	[123 764 (475), 0.4%]
Yemen	[2064 (600), 29.1%]