Current major event

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Milestones Report, July—December 2020

The PIP Framework is an important step towards improving the preparedness and response capacities to influenza pandemics. Effective epidemiological and virological surveillance is a cornerstone of pandemic preparedness as they provide accurate and timely information necessary for risk management.
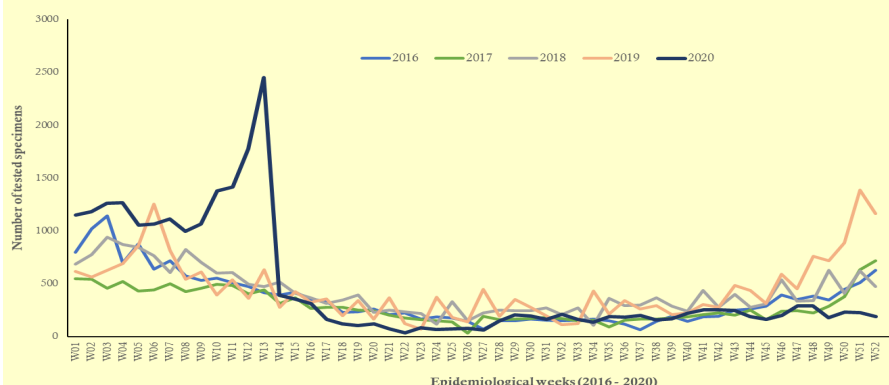
Editorial note

The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework is an innovative public health instrument that brings together Member States, industry, other stakeholders and WHO to implement a global approach to pandemic influenza preparedness and response. The key goals include: to improve and strengthen the sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential; and to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines and other pandemic response supplies. The Framework includes a benefit-sharing mechanism called the Partnership Contribution (PC). The PC is collected as an annual cash contribution from influenza vaccine, diagnostic, and pharmaceutical manufacturers that use the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). Nine countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region are participating in the preparedness as part of the PC program. (*See table*).

National influenza laboratory and surveillance systems contribute to GISRS for timely risk assessment and response measures is one of the outputs of PC support.

Milestones are activities or event that marks a significant progress in achieving the Deliverables. These milestones are measured on a six-monthly basis. The current reporting period covers from 1 July to 31 December 2020, and the reported milestones include:

- Nine PIP priority countries conducted 66 training targeting 793 health cadres aiming to improve the national capacities on outbreak detection and response.
- Giving the importance of human-animal interface for early detection and timely response to novel respiratory

Number of tested respiratory specimens, NICs, PIP priority countries, 2016-2020*

* Source; FluNet and EMFLU

Number of influenza specimens tested by PIP priority country,

Country	Number
Afghanistan	1,996
Egypt	13,137
Iraq	5,591
Jordan	1,193
Lebanon	919
Morocco	764
Sudan	18
Syrian Arab Republic	219
Yemen	443
Total	**24,280**

viruses, Egypt and Lebanon conducted 3 meetings for joint risk assessment and strengthen the collaboration among the two sectors.

- Nine PIP priority countries trained 55 laboratory technicians to enhance the Quality influenza virus detection capacity.
- Five meetings were conducted aiming to maintain the influenza surveillance data sharing through the global and regional platforms. (*See graph*)

Despite improvements in national capacities for the timely detection and monitoring of influenza, there is still work to be done to sustain the surveillance systems and to extend the capacities in other countries. There is also the opportunity to introduce tools to assist countries in assessing the severity of influenza epidemics based on their surveillance findings, and to undertake risk assessments for events such as outbreaks of avian influenza. WHO has developed these tools and seeks to facilitate their use at national, regional and global level.

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): 2019-2021

Afghanistan	[55 617 (2433), 4.4%]
Bahrain	[117 234 (420), 0.4%]
Djibouti	[6 022 (63), 1%]
Egypt	[177 543 (10298), 5.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[1 566 081 (59409), 3.8%]
Iraq	[664 750 (13 245), 2%]
Jordan	[359 811 (4543), 1.3%]
Kuwait	[183 322 (1039), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[353 371 (4297), 1.2%]
Libya	[129 797 (2114), 1.6%]
Morocco	[480 948 (8548), 1.8%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[194 875 (2172), 1.1%]
Oman	[138 494 (1549), 1.1%]
Pakistan	[571 174 (12 601), 2.2%]
Qatar	[159 967 (256), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[374 691 (6457), 1.7%]
Somalia	[5889 (194), 3.3%]
Sudan	[30 205 (1871), 6.2%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[15 143 (996), 6.6%]
Tunisia	[228 362 (7793), 3.4%]
United Arab Emirates	[368 175 (1108), 0.3%]
Yemen	[2161 (619), 28.6%]