

Current major event

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Multi-Disease Outbreak Incident Management Support Team

In response to the ongoing, non-COVID-19, disease outbreaks in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), the Regional Director established and activated the Multi-Disease Outbreak Incident Management Support Team (IMST).

Editorial note

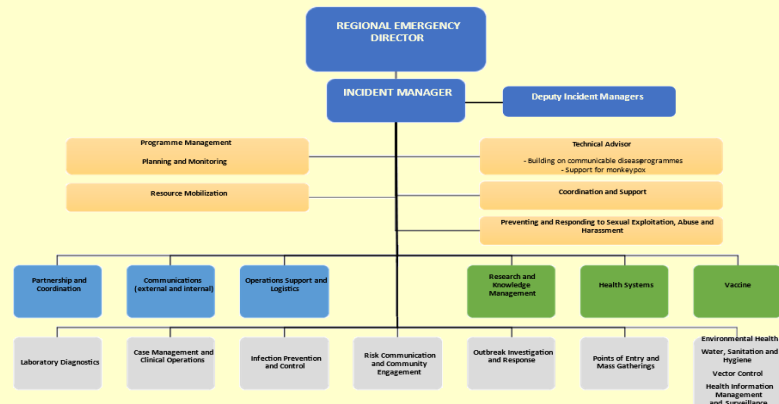
Since early May 2022, monkeypox cases have been reported globally by countries that were not previously affected. On 23 July 2022, the WHO Director-General declared the global monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Due to the success of the Incident Management Support Team (IMST) for COVID-19 as an emergency coordination mechanism, WHO established a global IMST for monkeypox at the headquarters level.

WHO held its first coordination meeting in the EMR to prepare for monkeypox on 23 May. The first case was reported by United Arab Emirates on 24 May 2022. However, the humanitarian emergencies in the Region, including conflict and fragility, refugees and internally displaced people, and natural disasters, warranted a tailored response mechanism.

Since WHO is actively responding to 40 ongoing outbreaks in the Region, the Regional Director for WHO EMR established and activated the Multi-Disease Outbreak Incident Management System with a 14-pillar multi-departmental team led by a regional Incident Manager. This team serves as the regional coordination structure utilising existing human resources and bringing together ongoing activities to support the 22 countries of the Region in preparing and responding to non-COVID-19 outbreaks. These outbreaks include acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, dengue, diphtheria, human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis (A; E; of unknown origin), legionnaire's disease, leishmaniasis, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, malaria, measles, monkeypox, and circulating vaccine-derived polio virus.

Smaller technical working groups have been put in place, such as for monkeypox, or for a specific outbreak in the countries that need urgent attention.

Multi-disease outbreak IMST structure at WHO EMRO



Response actions conducted by the Multi-Disease Outbreak IMST on monkeypox include holding an emergency consultation with stakeholders and activating an interagency working group for a coordinated risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) response; putting together and establishing regular calls with a community reference group; conducting trainings infection prevention and control measures; conducting a case management and clinical operations training; and continuously providing support to countries reporting cases.

Activities for the response to other outbreaks include preparing comprehensive messaging for vector-borne diseases targeting the public, health care workers and community health workers. In addition, holding regular calls with the concerned WHO country offices and liaising with partners to support countries' response plans. Moreover, supporting the coordination of the health sector amid the floods in Pakistan or drought in Somalia and developing operational RCCE guidance and resources to communicate and engage with pilgrims during Arba'een. In addition, supporting the safe organisation of mass gatherings, such as by providing technical guidance to the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar in its preparations for the upcoming International Federation of Football Association World Cup. Finally, providing support to countries to develop and implement case management capacity-building programs and intensive care unit assessments and building vector surveillance capacities.

The WHO regional office will continue to sustain IMSTs at the regional level to mobilise and coordinate organization-wide and partner support for the response to Grade 2 and Grade 3 emergencies, including outbreaks, to support the in-country IMT functions as required in WHO's Emergency Response Framework.

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): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[197 333 (7796), 4%]
Bahrain	[675 751 (1520), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[515 361 (24 797), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 542 533 (144 287) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 459 178 (25 352), 1%]
Jordan	[1 745 032 (14 116), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[658 520 (2563), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 213 769 (10 657), 0.9%]
Libya	[506 926 (6437), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 264 762 (16 277), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[702 768 (5707), 0.8%]
Oman	[398 326 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 571 822 (30 606), 1.9%]
Qatar	[440 580 (682), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[815 097 (9330) 1.1%]
Somalia	[27 207 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 280 (4961), 7.8%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[57 216 (3163), 5.5%]
Tunisia	[1 145 345 (29 246), 2.6%]
United Arab Emirates	[1 022 538 (2342), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 932 (2155), 18.1%]