

## Current major event

### Consultative meeting on strategic guidance for prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging vector-borne and zoonotic infectious

A consultative meeting on strategic guidance for prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging vector-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases was co-hosted by WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), in collaboration with FAO and WOA. The meeting was held in Amman, Jordan from 29 to 31 January 2023 and involved 100 participants from 12 Member States, and 25 different international, sub-regional, and national partners.

### Editorial note

Three out of four new or emerging infectious diseases have animal origins, as are six out of ten infectious diseases that affect people. An estimated 2.5 billion episodes of illness and 2.7 million deaths globally occur each year as a result of zoonotic infections. More than 17% of all infectious diseases are vector-borne, and they account for more than 700,000 annual fatalities.

Given its geographical position, economic and cultural characteristics, and varied degrees of health system strengths, the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) continues to be at risk from zoonotic, emerging, and vector-borne infections.

Building on this particular context and with the aim of contributing to global health security, a consultative meeting was co-hosted by WHO in collaboration with FAO and WOA. The meeting was organized in Amman, from 29 to 31 January 2023 and involved 100 participants from 12 Member States, and 25 different international, sub-regional, and national organizations.

In view of this particular circumstance and in order to advance global health security, the meeting was co-hosted by WHO, FAO, & WOA. The objectives of the consultative meeting were to identify the major priority diseases in the Region (in the next two to five years), to agree on research priorities for emerging vector-borne diseases, and to exchange information with other nations in the Region. Additionally, a number of strategies for developing a coordinated regional monitoring and laboratory

## Strategic guidance framework elements



### Final list of priority diseases

#### Priority emerging Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases

CCHF  
Leishmaniasis  
Dengue  
Rabies  
Yellow Fever  
West Nile Fever  
Rift Valley Fever  
Chikungunya  
Leptospirosis  
Brucellosis  
MERS  
Zoonotic influenza  
Malaria

#### Sub-priority list

Ebola, other VHF  
Anthrax  
Salmonellosis  
Bovine TB  
Hepatitis E  
Disease X

network are being researched in order to detect emerging and re-emerging vector-borne diseases as well as zoonotic diseases early on.

WHO regional strategic guidance for the EMR was also outlined as one of the outcome of the meeting, while priority VBZDs were agreed. This strategic guidance will guide countries in best strategies and practices in preparedness and response to emerging vector borne and zoonotic diseases, and integration of surveillance and laboratory between animal and human sectors in collaboration with line ministers and stakeholders.

Research priorities related to VBZDs in the region were identified and agreed for the next few years.

## 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): 2019-2023

Afghanistan	[209 109 (7878), 3.8%]
Bahrain	[696 614 (1536), 0.2%]
Djibouti	[15 690 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[515 698 (24 809), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 566 436 (144 797) 1.9%]
Iraq	[2 465 545 (25 375), 1%]
Jordan	[1 746 997 (14 122), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[663 456 (2570), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 230 835 (10 815), 0.9%]
Libya	[507 171 (6437), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 272 371 (16 296), 1.3%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[703 228 (5708), 0.8%]
Oman	[399 449 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 576 687 (30 641), 1.9%]
Qatar	[493 352 (686), 0.1%]
Saudi Arabia	[828 874 (9600) 1.2%]
Somalia	[27 324 (1361), 5%]
Sudan	[63 787 (5011), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[57 423 (3163), 5.5%]
Tunisia	[1 150 793 (29 330), 2.5%]
United Arab Emirates	[1 050 961 (2349), 0.2%]
Yemen	[11 945 (2159), 18.1%]