



WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
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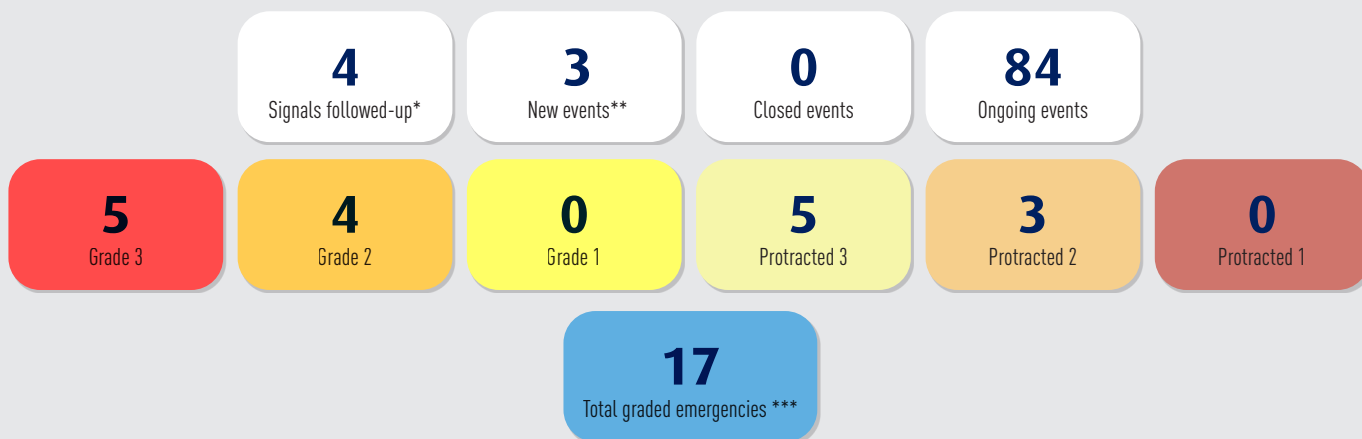
25 January–7 February 2024

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Public health events and emergencies dashboard

25 January–7 February 2024



*Signals followed-up: Signals are data and/or information detected that represent a potential acute risk to human health. Signals followed-up are signals for which confirmation is requested and/or for which official government websites and reports are continuously monitored for further information.

**Events: An event is defined by article 1 of the International Health Regulations (2005) as “a manifestation of disease or an occurrence that creates a potential for disease”. This can include events that are infectious, zoonotic, food safety-related, chemical, radiological or nuclear in origin and which are transmitted by people, vectors, animals, goods/food or the environment.

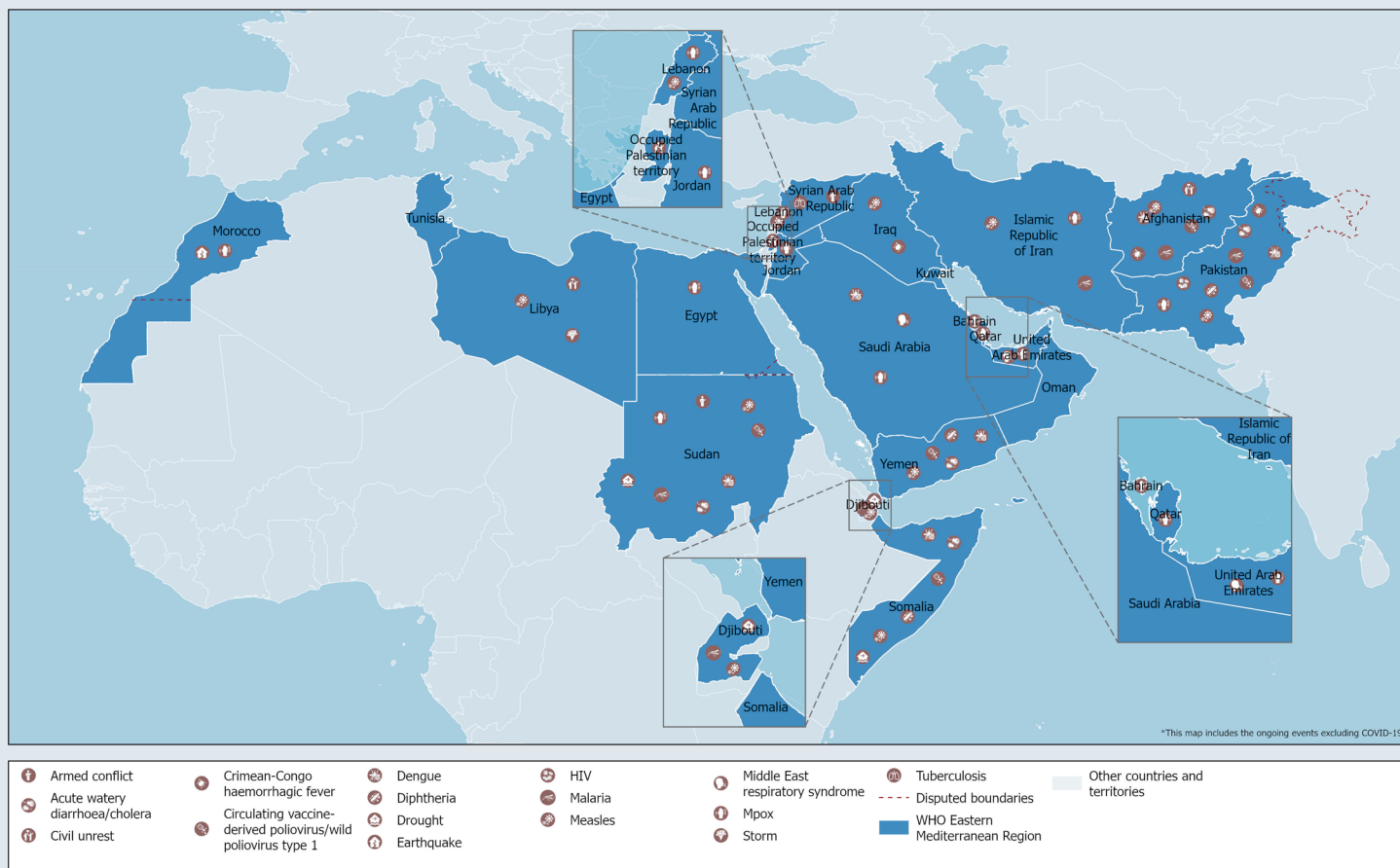
***Grading: Grading is an internal WHO process that triggers WHO emergency procedures and activities for the management of the response.

[More information on WHO grading, according to the Emergency Response Framework](#)

Multiple occurrences of the same graded emergency across different countries and territories are considered a single emergency. For instance, COVID-19 is a graded emergency in all 22 countries and territories of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, but it counts as just one emergency when calculating the total number of graded emergencies in the Region.

Public health events and emergencies map

Geographical distribution of ongoing public health events and emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region
As at 7 February 2024



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Somalia: diphtheria

BACKGROUND

Diphtheria is a bacterial infection caused by a bacterium called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. The disease presents a range of symptoms that can progress from mild to severe, often with a gradual onset. Severe cases involve the release of a toxin by the bacteria, resulting in the formation of a thick grey or white coating in the throat, potentially obstructing respiration.

Systemic complications can occur if the toxin enters the bloodstream. These include myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle); nerve inflammation leading to paralysis; renal problems; and haemorrhagic (bleeding) conditions, contributing to arrhythmias (irregular heartbeats) and neurological deficits.

Diphtheria carries a higher mortality risk among unvaccinated young children. Being vaccinated is the best way to prevent getting sick with diphtheria or spreading it to other people. The vaccine is safe and helps the body to avoid infection.

Somalia has been experiencing persistent complex emergencies for more than two decades owing to protracted armed conflict and recurring cycles of drought and floods. This situation has resulted in chronic food insecurity, internal population displacement, reduced access to basic health services, and outbreaks such as measles and acute watery diarrhoea/cholera.

Less than half of the population has access to basic health services, with most facilities located in urban areas. According to the latest WHO and United Nations Children's Fund estimates of national immunization coverage survey in 2022, only 42% of children received three doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid with pertussis-containing vaccine, which protects against the three diseases. Areas under nonstate actors have received no vaccination services for over 15 years, exposing older children and young adults to further outbreaks not limited to diphtheria.



Vaccination is the best way to prevent diphtheria.

Photo credit: WHO/Eromosele

SITUATION UPDATE

Two diphtheria outbreaks have been recorded in Somalia. The first was recorded in February 2019 and resulted in 61 cases (case fatality ratio [CFR]: 50%) and the second was recorded in July 2023. Since the start of the July 2023 outbreak, which is ongoing, Somalia has been reporting suspected cases of diphtheria on a weekly basis. As at 7 February 2024, the country had reported 270 cases in total and 53 deaths (CFR: 20%) from three states (Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Puntland) during this outbreak.

This outbreak was confirmed by one positive sample collected in September 2023 among five other samples that were tested in the United Kingdom Health Security Agency laboratory (a WHO collaborating centre in London) in December 2023.

Most of the affected cases have been children aged under 10 years who are living in displaced communities and have no prior diphtheria vaccination.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- WHO's drought response team aided Somalia's diphtheria outbreak response by distributing 1000 doses of diphtheria antitoxin; 700 more doses are on their way.
- Field investigations were conducted by 110 trained health workers, and 300 sample collection kits were distributed.
- WHO has been updating plans for targeted vaccination campaigns; enhancing surveillance and case management capacities; and providing risk communication and community engagement materials in local languages to raise awareness among vulnerable groups.

Despite the ongoing response by WHO, some challenges remain, including:

- continuous displacement and overcrowding;
- surveillance system and laboratory capacity constraints;
- complex ongoing emergencies and difficulties in sustaining vaccination activities due to overstretched health systems, especially after the El Niño-related floods in 2023;
- global shortage of diphtheria antitoxins; and
- ongoing and increasing internal displacement involving a high proportion of children with no prior diphtheria vaccination.

Saudi Arabia: dengue epidemiology and strategic response

BACKGROUND

Dengue has been a significant health concern in Saudi Arabia since its first documentation in 1993, with Jeddah the original epicentre. The country experienced sporadic outbreaks in subsequent years, primarily in the western region, leading to its classification as a dengue-endemic area in 2004.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

In response to the evolving dengue situation, the Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia has implemented a comprehensive strategy, incorporating a multiphase approach that includes capacity-building, innovation and consolidation efforts to manage the outbreak effectively. The strategy features a national plan for vector-borne diseases; enhancements in health facility reporting; decentralized testing; and robust surveillance systems.

A team from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean visited Saudi Arabia to analyse the epidemiological status of dengue, national response strategies and innovative approaches. The team highlighted the country's approach to tackling the disease, which can be categorized into several key areas:

- **Leadership, coordination and planning:** Strong multisectoral coordination has been implemented. The country's strategic integration concept promotes synergy and efficient decision-making, which are crucial for timely interventions during outbreaks.

- **Surveillance and case management:** Saudi Arabia has a well-structured surveillance system, enabling real-time data analysis and informed decision-making. The dengue case management approach includes detailed guidelines for health professionals, ensuring that a consistent and effective treatment pathway is integrated within the national health system.
- **Laboratory diagnostics:** The country boasts a robust laboratory network, with regional and national laboratories playing pivotal roles in dengue diagnosis and surveillance. Saudi Arabia's emphasis on accreditation and workforce development ensures high standards in laboratory diagnostics.
- **Vector control:** Saudi Arabia's implementation of the Wolbachia project represents a forward-thinking approach to vector control. This project fights dengue by introducing *Wolbachia* bacteria into mosquito populations to reduce their ability to transmit diseases like dengue. The bacteria impede the mosquito's capacity to spread the virus.
- **Community engagement:** Effective health education initiatives, like the Red Card campaign, have been implemented to enhance community participation in dengue prevention. These initiatives promote preventive behaviours and encourage community reporting of mosquito breeding sites.
- **Clinical management:** Comprehensive clinical management guidelines for dengue are available at all health facilities, which is part of providing appropriate care.



WHO team members with Ministry of Health representatives in Saudi Arabia.

Photo credit: WHO

Fig. 1. An information product produced by the Red Card campaign to raise awareness of dengue



Saudi Arabia: dengue epidemiology and strategic response

RECOMMENDATIONS INSPIRED BY SAUDI ARABIA'S APPROACH

Saudi Arabia's strategy to fight dengue can serve as a model for other countries and territories of the Region to strengthen their responses to dengue outbreaks. It is crucial, however, to tailor approaches to local contexts, especially in low-resource or conflict-affected contexts.

For countries and territories with limited financial resources, it is vital to:

- prioritize the development of an adaptable national strategic plan, focusing on cost-efficient yet impactful measures such as community-led source reduction and basic larvicidal activities;
- focus on low-cost vector control strategies, such as environmental management and public education campaigns to eliminate breeding sites, as the Wolbachia project may not be feasible owing to cost constraints;
- decentralize testing, using affordable rapid diagnostic tests, to enhance case detection and management; and
- emphasize training and capacity-building within existing health facility and community structures, to optimize resource use and empower local responses to dengue.

Enhancing regional collaboration is crucial for all countries and territories, as sharing knowledge, expertise and best practices through regional networks can provide critical support. Countries and territories affected by dengue are also recommended to adopt a multisectoral approach, emphasizing strong governance, robust surveillance and comprehensive vector control strategies to better fight dengue.

New public health events and emergencies

25 January–7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade ^a	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start ^b
Somalia	Biological	Diphtheria	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	270	53	29-Jan-24
This diphtheria outbreak, confirmed in January 2024, is believed to be a continuation of an earlier outbreak reported in 2023. From 8 January 2023 to 7 February 2024, 270 suspected cases of diphtheria were reported, with 53 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 20%. The cases were reported from Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Puntland states.						
Yemen	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	34 969	29	25-Jan-24
Dengue is endemic in Yemen. Various subnational-level outbreaks took place in 2023 and were reported to WHO in January 2024. Over 2023, 34 969 dengue cases were reported, with 29 associated deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.08%). Of the cases, 58% were males, with most cases in the age group 15–29 years (35%). Cases were reported from the northern (36.5%) and southern (63.5%) governorates. A peak in cases was observed in epidemiological week 23 of 2023. Despite the El Niño-related floods, dengue is below the expected levels of reporting.						
Yemen	Biological	Diphtheria	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	128	1	25-Jan-24
Diphtheria is endemic in Yemen, and cases have risen gradually since 2021, with a significant increase noted in 2023, due to low vaccination coverage. On 25 January 2024, WHO was notified of a diphtheria outbreak. From 1 to 29 January 2024, 128 diphtheria cases, with one associated death, were reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.8%. The cases were reported from both the northern (80%) and southern (20%) governorates. Children aged 5–14 years accounted for 45% of the cases; 64% of the total cases were males. Challenges reported include limited vaccination coverage in the northern governorates and a shortage of diphtheria antitoxin.						

^a Grading is an internal WHO process that triggers WHO emergency procedures and activities for the management of the response.

[More information on WHO grading, according to the Emergency Response Framework](#)

Global graded emergencies: COVID-19 and mpox

Regional graded emergencies: circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus

Multiregional graded emergencies: dengue, cholera and the Greater Horn of Africa drought and food insecurity

^b Date of start: The date the health event is created in the Event Management System (EMS).

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Afghanistan	Biological	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	203 901	93	22-Sep-21
In week 50 of 2023, 2395 cases of AWD with dehydration were reported from 138 districts, with one associated death. This represents a stabilization in the number of suspected cases against the previous week. Since the start of 2023, 5912 rapid diagnostic tests have been conducted among cases of AWD with dehydration. Since the start of the outbreak, 203 901 cases and 93 deaths have been reported. Cases of AWD with dehydration have shown a decreasing trend since week 32 of 2023.						
Afghanistan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	229 590	7965	24-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 229 590 cases and 7965 deaths had been reported. A total of 1 340 648 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	1-Jan-23
No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported from 1 January 2022 to 6 February 2024. WHO and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are focusing on reaching every last child in Afghanistan with vaccines and on strengthening surveillance and technical support at all levels.						
Afghanistan	Societal	Civil unrest	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	NA	NA	30-Aug-21
In 2023, no major casualties or displacements were observed. Civil unrest events increased in the country in 2023.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	1234	114	3-May-23
Between 1 January and 16 December 2023, 1234 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever were reported from 26 provinces, with 114 associated deaths reported from 15 provinces. About 75% of the suspected cases have been reported from just five provinces. The number of cases reported in week 50 of 2023 is almost four times the total figure reported for the whole of 2022.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Dengue	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	1810	1	14-Aug-22
There has been a rising trend in suspected dengue cases since week 29 of August 2023. In week 50 of 2023, 33 suspected cases of dengue were reported from Nangarhar province. From January to December 2023, 1496 suspected cases of dengue and one death were reported. A total of 921 samples were collected in 2023, of which 356 were confirmed as dengue. As at 7 February 2024, 1810 suspected cases and one death had been reported since the start of the outbreak.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Malaria	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	1609	0	25-Sep-23
No new malaria cases have been reported since week 44 of 2023. From 4 July to 28 October 2023, 1609 confirmed malaria cases were reported: 1303 were confirmed by a laboratory and 306 were confirmed by rapid diagnostic tests. Cases were reported from 22 districts in 11 provinces: Badakhshan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Laghman, Paktika, Parwan and Takhar.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Measles	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	4871	18	19-Apr-21
Since January 2024, 4871 suspected measles cases and 18 deaths have been reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.4%. Of these cases, 3936 (80.8%) were children aged under 5 years and 2238 (45.9%) were females.						
Afghanistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	6	0	16-Mar-23
Wild poliovirus is endemic in Afghanistan. From 1 January 2023 to 6 February 2024, six cases were reported. WHO and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are focusing on reaching all children in Afghanistan with vaccines and on strengthening surveillance and technical support at all levels.						
Bahrain	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	696 614	1536	24-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 696 614 COVID-19 cases and 1536 deaths had been reported. A total of 10 578 766 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Bahrain	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	2	0	18-Sep-22
As at 20 December 2023, two mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Djibouti	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	15 690	189	18-Mar-20
As at 9 December 2023, 15 690 COVID-19 cases and 189 deaths had been reported. A total of 319 153 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Djibouti	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	NA	NA	21-May-23
It is estimated that about 11% of the population of Djibouti is acutely food insecure.						
Djibouti	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	254 776	NA	1-Jan-23
From January 2019 to September 2023, 254 776 confirmed malaria cases were reported. The highest peaks in confirmed cases were reported for the years 2020 (73 535 cases) and 2021 (59 176), with a marked decrease in confirmed cases in 2022 (40 542). A total of 32 121 confirmed cases were reported from January to September 2023. Malaria reporting in Djibouti is under revision to consolidate various sources of data.						
Djibouti	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	12	NA	26-Jun-22
As at 15 February 2023, 12 suspected measles cases had been reported, two of which were confirmed.						
Egypt	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	516 023	24 830	16-Feb-20
As at 2 December 2023, 516 023 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 24 830 deaths. A total of 12 645 544 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Egypt	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	3	0	27-Sep-22
As at 20 December 2023, three mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The most recent case was reported on 12 December 2022.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	7 626 527	146 799	19-Feb-20
As at 28 January 2024, 7 626 527 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 146 799 deaths.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	4425	1013	11-Dec-22
As of 2022, malaria cases have shown an increasing trend, with 4425 reported cases, of which 1013 were locally transmitted. The reported cases were primarily concentrated around the border area in the Sistan province of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Balochistan province of Pakistan, an area currently facing a malaria outbreak. The surge in cases is attributed to increased cross-border movement due to flooding in Pakistan, political issues in Afghanistan and illegal trade and fuel-smuggling activities.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	32	3	8-Jun-21
In 2022, a measles outbreak was reported in the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the disease's elimination in the country in 2019. Since the outbreak began, 32 cases and three associated deaths have been reported. The outbreak, especially in the Sistan and Baluchestan province, is linked to the ongoing measles outbreak in neighbouring Pakistan.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	1	0	18-Aug-22
As at 7 February 2024, only one mpox case had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 18 August 2023.						
Iraq	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	2 465 545	25 375	24-Feb-20
As at 20 December 2023, 2 465 545 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 25 375 deaths. A total of 19 550 473 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Iraq	Biological	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	Iraq Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Grade 2	3584	155	21-Apr-22
As at 6 February 2024, a total of 3584 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever had been reported, of which 968 were confirmed, with 155 deaths. From 1 January 2023 to 6 February 2024, 42 suspected cases were reported. All were tested, with four cases confirmed – all of which were symptomatic – including one reported death.						
Iraq	Biological	Measles	Iraq Complex Emergencies, Protracted 2	3655	2	19-Apr-23
From 1 January to 6 February 2024, 3655 measles cases were reported, with an incidence rate of 84 cases per 1 000 000 population, and two deaths. Iraq's health ministry will conduct a measles, mumps and rubella vaccination campaign for children aged under 5 years in schools in high-risk areas and populations. It will also enhance measles surveillance and conduct awareness and community engagement campaigns on measles.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Jordan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 746 997	14 122	2-Mar-20
As at 9 December 2023, 1 746 997 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 14 122 deaths. A total of 17 201 885 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Jordan	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	1	0	11-Sep-22
As at 20 December 2023, only one mpox case had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 8 September 2022.						
Kuwait	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	666 551	2570	24-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 666 551 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 2570 deaths. A total of 8 455 743 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Lebanon	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 239 904	10 947	22-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 1 239 904 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 10 947 deaths. A total of 10 696 009 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Lebanon	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	6	0	4-Jul-23
From 4 to 18 January 2024, six suspected measles cases were reported from Nabatieh (2), South Lebanon (2), Bekaa (1) and North Lebanon (1). The highest attack rates were for children aged under 5 years, followed by children aged 5–9 years. Among the measles cases in children, 77% of cases had never received a single dose of measles vaccine. WHO supported the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon to conduct a measles risk assessment. It will continue to support the Ministry to enhance surveillance and disease outbreak investigation and response. To improve early detection and reporting, WHO supported the Ministry to run 25 training sessions targeting 919 health workers across all central and peripheral hospitals and medical centres in the country.						
Lebanon	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	27	0	20-Jun-22
As at 20 December 2023, a total 27 mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 9 March 2023.						
Libya	Societal	Armed conflict	Libya Complex Emergencies, Protracted 2	NA	NA	2-Sep-18
A state of emergency was announced by the government on 2 September 2018 and there have been on-and-off conflicts since then, and into 2024. Since August 2023, however, no major armed conflicts have been reported.						
Libya	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	507 269	6437	25-Mar-20
From 3 January 2020 to 7 February 2024, 507 269 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported, with 6437 deaths (case fatality ratio: 1.3%).						
Libya	Meteorological	Cataclysmic storm	Libya Tropical Storm, Grade 2	NA	5898	12-Sep-23
On 11 September 2023, heavy rains and flooding hit Libya, which caused extensive damage, especially in Derna city, displacing more than 44 800 residents and leading to 5898 fatalities. Emergency response teams used 182 sentinel sites for daily data sharing from the flood-hit areas, which reported 11 226 suspected cases of infectious diseases/medical conditions, including two associated deaths. More than 96% of the cases were either respiratory infections or diarrhoea. On 1 February 2024, the Libyan government declared a state of emergency in the city of Zliten, following a rise in groundwater levels, which, if not addressed, would worsen the damage caused by Tropical Storm Daniel.						
Libya	Biological	Measles	Libya Complex Emergencies, Protracted 2	1962	1	16-Mar-23
A measles outbreak has been spreading in Libya since early 2023, affecting six districts. Sabha has been the most affected district. As at week 49 of 2023, 1962 suspected measles and rubella cases had been reported, among which 251 measles cases and 196 rubella cases were confirmed, with one associated death. Since then and as at 7 February 2024, reporting of data has been intermittent.						
Morocco	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 277 956	16 298	3-Mar-20
As at 19 December 2023, 1 277 956 COVID-19 cases and 16 298 deaths had been reported. A total of 13 068 242 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Morocco	Geological	Earthquake	Morocco Earthquake, Grade 2	1204	1037	10-Sep-23
On 9 September 2023, Morocco was hit by an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, with numerous aftershocks recorded. Over 320 000 people were exposed to the earthquake's destructive force. The city of Marrakesh, one of the most severely affected areas, reported considerable damage. According to the Moroccan Ministry of Interior, 1037 deaths and 1204 injuries were reported, including 721 critical injuries.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Morocco	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	3	0	2-Jun-22
As at 20 December 2023, three mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 20 August 2022.						
Occupied Palestinian territory	Societal	Armed conflict	Israel/occupied Palestinian territory Hostilities, Grade 3	67 147	27 708	7-Oct-23
As at 7 February 2024, hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory had killed 27 708 and injured 67 147 people since 7 October 2023. About 1.7 million people had been internally displaced by the same date. The Gaza Strip bears the highest casualties, including children, women and elderly people.						
Occupied Palestinian territory	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	703 228	5708	12-Mar-20
As at 29 January 2023, 703 228 COVID-19 cases, with 5708 deaths, had been reported. A total of 3 477 872 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Oman	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	399 449	4628	24-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 399 449 COVID-19 cases and 4628 deaths had been reported. A total of 3 737 036 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Pakistan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 580 631	30 656	27-Feb-20
As at 9 December 2023, 1 580 631 COVID-19 cases and 30 656 deaths had been reported. A total of 31 656 354 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Pakistan	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	1893	NA	17-Apr-22
According to the weekly Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response bulletin of the National Institute of Health of Pakistan, the country reported 1893 suspected cholera cases from 1 January to 7 February 2024 (week 6). Of this total, 904 cases (48%) were from Balochistan province. A decreasing trend in weekly cases was observed from week 1, when 477 suspected cases were reported, to week 6, when 187 suspected cases were reported. In the same reporting period, among 408 stool cultures performed, a single sample tested positive for <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> .						
Pakistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	12-Nov-19
Zero cVDPV2 cases were reported in 2022 and 2023, and the number of cVDPV2-positive environmental samples in 2022 and 2023 was also zero.						
Pakistan	Biological	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	Ungraded	19	4	12-Nov-23
As at 20 November 2023, 19 positive Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever cases had been reported – of which 18 were health workers – including four deaths.						
Pakistan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	319	NA	4-Sep-23
In week 34 of 2023, 319 confirmed dengue cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Faisalabad, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi.						
Pakistan	Biological	Diphtheria	Ungraded	611	55	2-Nov-23
As at week 45 of 2023, 611 suspected diphtheria cases had been reported, with 55 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 9%. Children aged above 5 years accounted for 488 cases (79.9%), while 123 cases (20.1%) were children aged under 5 years.						
Pakistan	Biological	HIV/AIDS	Ungraded	5234	590	1-Jan-19
As at 31 December 2023, 5234 cases of HIV/AIDS had been registered in three hospitals, with 590 deaths (case fatality ratio: 11%). In 2023, 1255 cases were registered. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is analysing 2023 data, and the WHO Country Office in Pakistan is closely following the HIV/AIDS situation.						
Pakistan	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	2 036 831	NA	23-Sep-22
As at 5 November 2023, 2 036 831 confirmed malaria cases had been reported. By 31 October 2023, the number of cases reported that year was already 1.75 times as many cases as reported in the same period of 2022 (1 959 896 confirmed malaria cases versus 1 115 820 cases).						
Pakistan	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	13 628	NA	26-Jan-21
From week 1 to week 43 of 2023, 13 628 measles cases were reported, with an incidence rate of 57.78 cases per 1 000 000 population. Children aged 9 to 24 months accounted for 4801 of the cases (35%), while 4182 cases (31%) were children aged 25 to 60 months.						
Pakistan	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	7	0	21-Apr-23
As at 20 December 2023, seven mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 21 September 2023.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Pakistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)	Ungraded	6	0	16-Mar-23
From 1 January 2023 to 6 February 2024, six WPV1 cases were reported. WHO and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are focusing on reaching every last child in Pakistan with vaccines, and strengthening surveillance and technical support at all levels.						
Qatar	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	514 524	690	1-Mar-20
As at 29 January 2024, there had been 514 524 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 690 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.1%.						
Qatar	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	5	0	25-Jul-22
As at 7 February 2024, five mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The last case was reported on 20 September 2022.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	841 469	9646	3-Mar-20
As at 9 December 2023, 841 469 COVID-19 cases, with 9646 deaths, had been reported. A total of 45 484 848 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region, Dengue Grade 3	14 055	0	2-May-23
As at 20 December 2023, 14 055 confirmed dengue cases had been reported, with no deaths.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)	Ungraded	2200	858	5-Nov-12
Since the first report of MERS in Saudi Arabia in 2012, the country has reported 2200 MERS cases in total, including 858 deaths. These figures are correct as at 12 December 2023.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	8	0	17-Jul-22
As at 20 December 2023, eight mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The most recent case was reported on 30 August 2022.						
Somalia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	27 334	1361	16-Mar-20
As at 4 February 2024, 27 334 confirmed COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 1361 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 5%.						
Somalia	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	1401	18	8-Feb-18
As at 21 January 2024, 1401 cholera cases had been reported, with 18 associated deaths. The Banaadir region of Somalia has seen a noticeable increase in the number of reported cholera cases since the start of 2024. Beledweyne is the district with the highest number of reported cases, accounting for 34% of the total cases.						
Somalia	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	27	0	18-Aug-20
As at 4 February 2024, 27 cases of cVDPV2 had been reported since the start of the outbreak in August 2020. From 1 January to 4 February 2024, no new cVDPV2 cases were reported from Somalia.						
Somalia	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	668	NA	5-Oct-23
As at 30 November 2023, 1863 suspected dengue cases had been reported, of which 668 cases tested positive. The WHO Country Office in Somalia drafted a detailed work plan for dengue and other arbovirus infections. The activities will be implemented in an integrated approach since Somalia has adopted integrated disease surveillance and response.						
Somalia	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	NA	118	2-Jun-22
The drought situation in Somalia is extremely serious. The country marked its fifth consecutive failed rainy season at the start of 2023. This has led to an acutely food-insecure population and the worsening of food security and nutrition outcomes, affecting more than 7.8 million people. Later in 2023, in October, Somalia finally experienced rain; however, this took the form of El Niño floods that hit the country. The flooding caused serious damage instead of improving the drought impacts. According to the Somali Disaster Management Agency, as at 10 December 2023, 2.48 million people had been affected by the drought, with 899 000 people displaced and 118 people killed across the country.						
Somalia	Biological	Measles	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	1247	NA	9-Mar-22
As at 21 January 2024, 1247 suspected measles cases had been reported. The regions reporting the most cases were Banaadir (302 cases), Gedo (156) and Lower Shabelle (152).						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Sudan	Societal	Armed conflict	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	33 000	14 600	22-Jan-21
Since the outbreak of the current conflict in Sudan in mid-April 2023, at least 14 600 people have been killed and 33 000 injured; establishing the exact numbers of civilian casualties and injuries has been challenging. Most civilian deaths have resulted from the use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas, with women and children accounting for a significant proportion of the reported casualties.						
Sudan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	63 993	5046	15-Mar-20
As at 9 December 2023, 63 993 COVID-19 cases and 5046 deaths had been reported. A total of 479 278 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Sudan	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	10 640	295	10-May-23
From 28 June 2023 to 7 February 2024, 10 640 cholera cases, including 295 deaths (case fatality ratio: 2.8%), were reported across nine states and 48 localities, with an attack rate of 47.5 per 100 000 population. Suspected cholera cases have shown a decreasing trend since the start of December 2023.						
Sudan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	10-Aug-20
No new cVDPV isolates were reported in week 49 of 2023. As at December 2023, zero cVDPV2 cases had been reported in Sudan, compared with one case in 2022. There were also zero cVDPV2-positive environmental samples in 2023, compared with one such sample in 2022.						
Sudan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	5525	55	20-Oct-21
Since week 44 of 2023, 5525 dengue fever cases were reported, with 55 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.99%; attack rate: 3.9 cases per 10 000 population). Forty-four localities in 10 states have reported dengue cases. Gedaref state reported the highest share of cases (58%), followed by North Darfur (17%), North Kordofan (13%) and Kassala (7%).						
Sudan	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	NA	NA	21-May-23
Prolonged dry spells and crop failures across 14 states in Sudan are affecting more than 5.6 million people. Over 22 million people – half of the Sudanese population – live in the 115 affected areas, and 3.1 million people need short- to long-term assistance. The ongoing war has triggered population displacement, which has led to acute food insecurity at levels higher than usual.						
Sudan	Biological	Malaria	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	1 467 006	215	9-Oct-22
As at 10 November 2023, 1 467 006 malaria cases had been reported, with 215 deaths.						
Sudan	Biological	Measles	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	4039	107	1-Aug-21
Measles cases continue to be reported from 12 states in Sudan, reaching 4039 cases and 107 deaths by 11 December 2023, with a case fatality ratio of 2.65%.						
Sudan	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	19	1	31-Jul-22
As at 20 December 2023, 19 mpox cases and one death had been reported. The most recent case was reported on 5 April 2023.						
Syrian Arab Republic	Societal	Armed conflict	Syrian Arab Republic Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	NA	NA	27-Jun-18
The security situation within the Syrian Arab Republic remains unstable.						
Syrian Arab Republic	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	57 423	3163	23-Mar-20
As at 19 December 2023, 57 423 COVID-19 cases and 3163 deaths had been reported. A total of 202 513 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Syrian Arab Republic	Biological	Tuberculosis	Syrian Arab Republic Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	10	0	5-Dec-23
On 10 September 2023, a cluster of 10 tuberculosis cases, with 20 contacts, was reported from Al-Hasakah governorate. Of the 10 cases, six were confirmed and four were suspected. Confirmed cases received treatment, while the suspected cases and contacts received preventive treatment. As at 10 December 2023, no new tuberculosis cases had since been reported.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 7 February 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Tunisia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 153 361	29 423	2-Mar-20
As at 19 December 2023, 1 153 361 COVID-19 cases and 29 423 deaths had been reported. A total of 5 013 383 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
United Arab Emirates	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 067 030	2349	29-Jan-20
As at 20 December 2023, 1 067 030 COVID-19 cases and 2349 deaths had been reported.						
United Arab Emirates	Biological	Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)	Ungraded	1	0	10-Jul-23
On 10 July 2023, a 28-year-old male MERS-CoV case was reported in the United Arab Emirates. Investigation revealed no camel or sick person contact. Immediate actions included contact tracing, incident reporting and notifying relevant authorities, prioritizing public health without disclosing personal data.						
United Arab Emirates	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2	16	0	25-May-22
As at 20 December 2023, 16 mpox cases had been reported, with no deaths. The most recent case was reported on 24 July 2022.						
Yemen	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	11 945	2159	10-Apr-20
As at 9 December 2023, 11 945 COVID-19 cases and 2159 deaths had been reported. A total of 329 592 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
Yemen	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	4108	14	11-Jul-17
From 2 January to 3 February 2024, the south and east of Yemen reported 4108 suspected cholera cases, with 14 associated deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.34%. Of the suspected cases, about 36% (1479 cases) were children aged under 5 years. WHO is leading the development of a proposal to the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision. The plan proposes 1.2 million doses of oral cholera vaccine to target 10 districts in the six high-risk governorates. WHO is also supporting surveillance; water, sanitation and hygiene; and rapid response teams in all governorates.						
Yemen	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	29-May-20
As at 17 December 2023, there was no evidence of cVDPV in the country. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative and partners are supporting the local public health authorities in field investigation and field monitoring. The most recent case was reported on 31 January 2020.						
Yemen	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	3	0	30-Nov-21
As at 12 December 2023, three cVDPV2 cases had been reported in Yemen in 2023.						
Yemen	Biological	Measles	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	49 498	396	29-Mar-21
As at 25 November 2023, 49 498 suspected measles cases and 396 deaths had been reported. The main hot spots are Saada (11.3% of cases), Taiz (8.3%), Al Bayda (8.1%) and Aden (7.3%). North Yemen accounts for 61.3% of reports and 33% of deaths.						



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Data and information are provided by Member States through WHO country offices. Situations are evolving and dynamic, therefore the figures stated herein are subject to change.

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