



WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Health emergencies biweekly bulletin

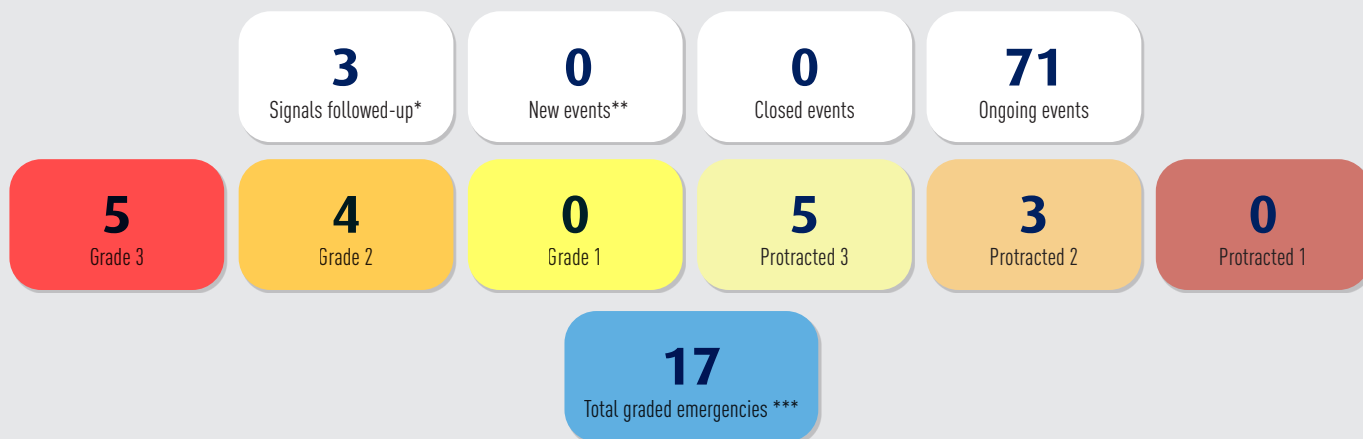
2–15 May 2024

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Public health events and emergencies dashboard

2–15 May 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.

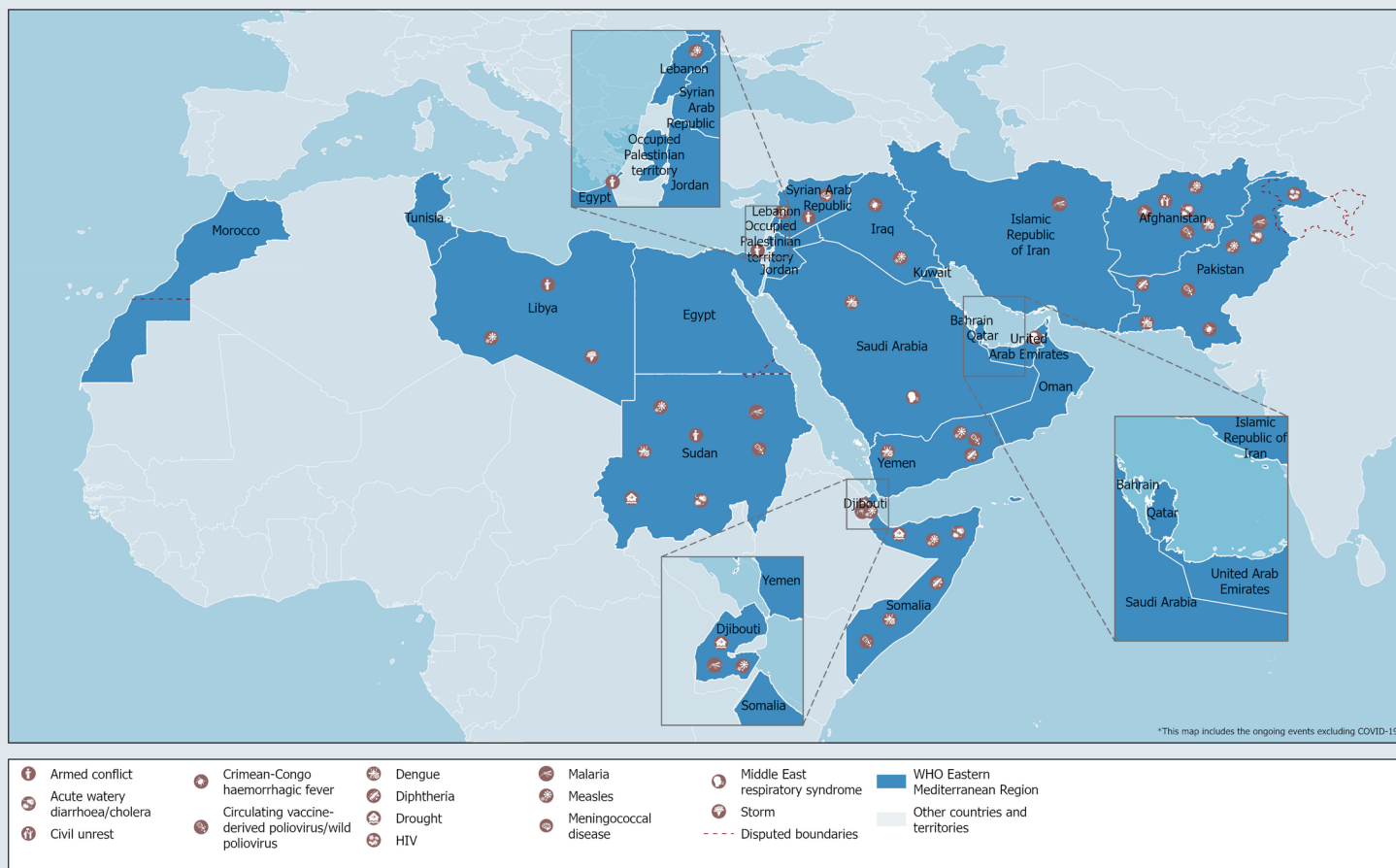
***Grading: Grading is an internal WHO process that triggers WHO emergency procedures and activities for the management of the response.

[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 15 May 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.

Libya: influx of refugees from Sudan to Kufra, Libya

BACKGROUND

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as at 29 February 2024, Libya was home to more than 700 000 migrants – about 19% of them from Sudan.

As the war continues in Sudan, many people are fleeing the country in search of safety.

Kufra district, in south-eastern Libya, has witnessed a significant influx of refugees from Sudan. Many of the refugees enter Libya directly via Kufra, with secondary movements to Libya from Chad and Egypt.

Kufra has declared an emergency as of 30 April 2024. WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimate that 40 000 refugees from Sudan are sheltering in Kufra, in government buildings, on farms and in detention centres. This number was expected to double by mid-2024.

Despite the lack of a comprehensive disease surveillance system in the country, there are reports of an increase in communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. This increase is associated with the influx of refugees. Sudan has been suffering from multiple ongoing outbreaks of infectious diseases, which have worsened since the start of the war in mid-April 2023.

Mandatory serological tests for various diseases are required for refugees seeking employment (for which the refugee will incur fees) or for onward travel from Kufra (tests done free of charge). Many refugees are deterred from getting tested, however, because of the poor health facilities and the fear of consequences in case they test positive for any disease. This increases the chance that they will rely on risky methods to continue their journey.



A group of refugees from Sudan in Adre, the Chadian border city, 2023.

Photo credit: © UNICEF/Mahamat

Libya: influx of refugees from Sudan to Kufra, Libya

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

To assess the situation and guide response measures, WHO and UNICEF conducted a joint field mission with the support of Libya's National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) from 20 to 30 April 2024.

The mission report indicates the following.

- Kufra's population is 58 000, excluding refugees arriving from Sudan.
- There are 40 000 refugees from Sudan in Kufra, of whom 35% are children and 65% are adults (more men than women).
- It is estimated that there are 51 collective shelters. Housing conditions, including in the shelters, and water quality are very poor, and basic hygiene requirements are lacking.
- Refugees from Sudan access health care in Kufra mainly through 16 local health facilities.



Enhancing disease surveillance is among the priorities for the emergency response in Kufra.

Photo credit: WHO/N. Naccache

Priorities for the health emergency response

The following priorities must be actioned immediately in response to the crisis, as indicated by participants of the joint field mission.

- Filling of medical supply chain gaps, and capacity-building for health workers, especially in primary health care centres.
- Enhancement of disease surveillance for early detection of possible outbreaks.
- Integration of mental health support and management of malnutrition with essential health services.
- Provision of access to safe and sufficient water.

Challenges

Potential challenges that may be encountered in the course of responding to the influx of refugees from Sudan to Kufra include the following.

- Operational complexities such as inadequate road infrastructure, hindering mobile services and emergency water supply, which may be compounded by logistical and security issues due to the remoteness of Kufra district in relation to the border with Sudan.
- Health system limitations due to a weak medical supply chain, scarcity of medicines and low availability of skilled health professionals.
- Data management challenges, including unreliable health data and the absence of tracking systems for refugees, complicate health care delivery and health monitoring.
- Available funds are insufficient to implement proper health emergency response plans.

Eastern Mediterranean Region: role of GIS in health emergency response

BACKGROUND

Accurate and timely Geographic Information System (GIS) tools are essential for effective health emergency response and management. These tools offer precise situation information and critical visualization of data that aids decision-makers' responses during health emergencies.

The GIS portal is a comprehensive hub, offering an updated geospatial resource to facilitate timely response

during health emergencies at the regional and country levels. The GIS products available via the hub enable the analysis over time of emergency situations, offering insights into the progression of health events. They can be used to help assess the current situation and ensure that response measures are well-informed and resources efficiently allocated.

Fig. 1. Updates on the health emergency in the occupied Palestinian territory



RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- WHO uses the ArcGIS platform, one of the GIS tools, to create StoryMaps to report on various health crises in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, generating 24 StoryMaps from 1 November 2023 to 15 May 2024. StoryMaps have been used to report on crises including the war in the occupied Palestinian territory, flooding caused by Tropical Storm Daniel in Libya, measles outbreaks in the Region and the evolution of COVID-19 and its variants. StoryMaps transform comprehensive data into an interactive story that includes photos and videos as well as interactive maps. This interactivity helps decision-makers, including health partners, to understand the context of the situation and to effectively direct their targeted health emergency response efforts.
- Updates on health emergencies – including, most recently, the health impacts of the war in the occupied Palestinian territory – are regularly collected by WHO from various sources, with locations mapped for ongoing analysis. These updates assist decision-makers in effectively allocating resources to those areas in need of most support. This information also aids the planning of health emergency responses, helping to improve health outcomes.
- WHO continuously maps and updates the classification of health facilities in terms of their functionality – that is, whether they are functional, partially functional or nonfunctional. This process is essential for effective management of health care.

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade ^a	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start ^b
Afghanistan	Biological	Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	33 307	16	22-Sep-21
<p>From 21 to 27 April 2024, 2584 cases of AWD with dehydration were reported, with two associated deaths, from 147 districts. This represents a 15.7% increase in the number of cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 33 307 cases of AWD with dehydration and 16 associated deaths have been reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.05%. Of this total, 18 367 cases (55.1%) were children aged under 5 years; 16 597 cases (49.8%) were females. Since 1 January 2024, 1637 rapid diagnostic tests have been conducted, of which 183 were positive (positivity rate: 11.2%). Since the start of 2024, 267 districts have reported AWD with dehydration.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	229 590	7965	24-Feb-20
<p>As at 1 May 2024, 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.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	5-Jun-20
<p>No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported from 1 January 2022 to 17 April 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.</p>						
Afghanistan	Societal	Civil unrest	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	–	–	30-Aug-21
<p>Since 2023, no significant casualties or displacements have been recorded. Civil unrest incidents escalated in the country in 2023, however.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	93	2	5-Mar-23
<p>From 1 January to 27 April 2024, a total of 93 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, with two associated deaths were reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 2.2%. All suspected cases were aged over 5 years, while 33 (35.5%) of them were females. Since 1 January 2024, 469 doses of ribavirin tablets and 1530 ribavirin injections have been supplied to seven WHO sub-offices across the country.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Dengue	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	702	0	14-Aug-22
<p>From 21 to 27 April 2024, Nangarhar province reported 25 suspected dengue cases, with no associated deaths. This represents a 24.2% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared with the previous week. Since 1 January 2024, 702 suspected dengue cases have been reported, with no associated deaths.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Measles	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	20 313	98	19-Apr-21
<p>From 21 to 27 April 2024, 1569 suspected measles cases and four associated deaths were reported. This represents a 19.2% increase in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 20 313 suspected measles cases and 98 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.5%) have been reported. Among suspected measles cases, 16 358 cases (80.5%) were children aged under 5 years; 9170 cases (45.1%) were females. From 21 to 27 April 2024, as part of the outbreak response immunization campaigns, 430 children aged 9–59 months were vaccinated against measles in Kapisa, Khost, Nuristan, Paktya, Urozgan and Wardak provinces. In total, 14 372 children have been vaccinated against measles since 1 January 2024.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	6	0	16-Mar-23
<p>Wild poliovirus is endemic in Afghanistan. From 1 January 2023 to 17 April 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.</p>						
Bahrain	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	696 614	1536	24-Feb-20
<p>As at 1 May 2024, 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.</p>						
Djibouti	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	15 690	189	18-Mar-20
<p>As at 1 May 2024, 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.</p>						

^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

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 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Djibouti	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	–	21-May-23
Drought and food insecurity have severely affected the already fragile health system in Djibouti, restricting access to health care, causing shortages of medical supplies and health workers and limiting the presence of nongovernmental organizations.						
Djibouti	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	254 776	–	13-Feb-19
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). In total, 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	–	26-Jun-22
As at 15 February 2023, 12 suspected measles cases had been reported, two of which were confirmed. Both confirmed cases originated from the Djibouti region, while most of the suspected cases were reported from Dikhil.						
Egypt	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	516 023	24 830	16-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	7 632 170	146 992	19-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 7 632 170 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 146 992 deaths.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	4425	–	12-Nov-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 and Baluchestan province of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Balochistan province of Pakistan, an area currently facing a malaria outbreak. The surge in cases may be attributed to increased cross-border movement.						
Iraq	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	2 465 545	25 375	24-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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	146	5	21-Apr-22
As at 28 April 2024, 146 suspected Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever cases had been reported, with five deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 3.4%. Among the suspected cases, 20 have been confirmed, with one death, giving a case fatality ratio of 5%.						
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.						
Jordan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 746 997	14 122	3-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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.						
Kuwait	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	667 177	2570	24-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 667 177 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 1 May 2024, 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	37	0	4-Jul-23
From 21 to 27 April 2024, seven new suspected measles cases were reported across various regions. All new cases were unvaccinated. Since the start of 2024, 37 suspected measles cases have been reported. Thirty-six suspected cases were unvaccinated children; seven of the total suspected cases were confirmed. unvaccinated children. Baalbeck-Hermel has the highest measles rate; children aged under 5 years have been the most affected age group.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Libya	Societal	Armed conflict	Libya Complex Emergencies, Protracted 2	–	–	9-Feb-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 that could affect public health have been reported.						
Libya	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	507 269	6437	25-Mar-20
As at 1 May 2024, 507 269 confirmed COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 6437 deaths (case fatality ratio: 1.3%).						
Libya	Meteorological	Cataclysmic storm	Libya Tropical Storm, Grade 2	–	5898	9-Dec-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. As at 1 May 2024, WHO still delivers support to affected areas, strengthening the national capacities of Libya's health system. A risk profiling is being conducted to develop a national emergency preparedness and response plan.						
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 May 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 1 May 2024, 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.						
Occupied Palestinian territory	Societal	Armed conflict	Israel/oPt Hostilities, Grade 3	77 816	34 596	7-Oct-23
Ongoing hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory since 7 October 2023 have compounded an existing health crisis. As at 1 May 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that over 34 596 people had been killed and more than 77 816 injured. 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	3-Dec-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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 1 May 2024, 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 1 May 2024, 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	118 490	0	17-Apr-22
From 1 January to 28 April 2024, 118 490 suspected cholera cases were reported, including nine confirmed cases (all from Sindh), with no deaths. From 22 to 28 April 2024, 521 suspected cholera cases were reported, most of them (60%) from Balochistan province.						
Pakistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	11-Dec-19
As at 1 May 2024, zero cVDPV2 cases or environmental samples had been reported in Pakistan since 2022.						
Pakistan	Biological	Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever	Ungraded	19	4	11-Dec-23
As at 17 April 2024, 19 confirmed 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	157	0	9-Apr-23
From 22 to 28 April 2024, 157 suspected dengue cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Sindh province (73%), followed by Balochistan province (18%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Diphtheria	Ungraded	10	0	11-Feb-23
From 22 to 28 April 2024, 10 suspected diphtheria cases were reported from Balochistan (three cases) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (seven cases) provinces. In response to the outbreak, more than 1.9 million people across Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh provinces have received a diphtheria-containing vaccine.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Pakistan	Biological	HIV infection-AIDS	Ungraded	5234	590	5-Jul-19
Since the beginning of this outbreak in 2019 to 31 December 2023, 5234 cases of HIV/AIDS were registered in three hospitals, with 590 deaths (case fatality ratio: 11%). In 2023 alone, 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	67 679	–	23-Sep-22
From 22 to 28 April 2024, 67 679 malaria cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Sindh province (80%), followed by Balochistan province (6.6%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	674	–	26-Jan-21
From 22 to 28 April 2024, 674 suspected measles cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (55%), followed by Sindh province (34%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)	Ungraded	8	0	16-Mar-23
Wild poliovirus is endemic in Pakistan, and instances are reported retrospectively. From 1 January 2023 to 17 March 2024, eight confirmed 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	3-Jan-20
As at 1 May 2024, 514 524 COVID-19 cases and 690 deaths had been reported.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	841 469	9646	3-Mar-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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	2304	0	5-Feb-23
As at January 2024, 2304 suspected dengue cases had been reported, of which 1470 were confirmed.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)	Ungraded	2204	860	11-May-12
Since the first report of MERS in Saudi Arabia in 2012, the country has reported 2204 MERS cases in total, including 860 deaths.						
Somalia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	27 334	1361	16-Mar-20
As at 1 May 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	10 647	102	2-Aug-18
In week 18 of 2024, 630 new cholera cases were reported from 31 districts, with no deaths. Of the cases, 345 (56%) were severe cases, 449 (71%) were children aged under 5 years, and 309 (49%) were females. Since the start of 2024, there have been 10 647 cases and 102 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 1.0%. In response to the outbreak, 1 400 000 oral cholera vaccine doses were approved for Somalia, with 920 000 doses deployed for the initial vaccination phase.						
Somalia	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	29	0	18-Aug-20
No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in week 18 of 2024. Just two cVDPV2 cases have been reported in 2024 in total. The total number of cases reported since 2020 is 29 cases.						
Somalia	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	1863	–	5-Oct-23
As at 30 November 2023, 1863 suspected dengue cases had been reported, of which 668 cases were confirmed. 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	Biological	Diphtheria	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	489	64	29-Jan-24
During week 17 of 2024, 10 suspected diphtheria cases, with no deaths, were reported. Of these, seven cases (70%) were children aged under 5 years. The regions with the highest number of reported cases were Mudug (three cases), Karkaar (two cases) and Galgaduud (two cases).						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Somalia	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	125	6-Feb-22
<p>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 fatalities across the country. In addition, the annual Gu rains, which typically begin in April and end in June, have started. Flash floods caused by the rains from 18 to 28 April 2024 affected more than 163 400 people, including 37 120 people who were displaced and seven children killed.</p>						
Somalia	Biological	Measles	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	6791	20	3-Sep-22
<p>During week 18 of 2024, a total of 277 suspected cases and one death were reported through the surveillance system for fever and rash. This marks a 23% decrease against the 360 cases reported in week 17 of 2024.</p>						
Sudan	Societal	Armed conflict	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	33 000	15 550	22-Jan-21
<p>Since the outbreak of the current war in Sudan on 15 April 2023, at least 15 550 people have been killed and 33 000 injured; establishing the exact numbers of civilian casualties and injuries has been challenging. More than a third of the country's population is experiencing acute hunger, with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network warning of a potential famine. It is estimated that 4.9 million vulnerable people – children aged under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women – suffer from acute malnutrition. Since the eruption of the conflict, more than 8.7 million people have been displaced from their homes, including 4.6 million children.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	63 993	5046	15-Mar-20
<p>As 1 May 2024, 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.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	10 802	291	5-Oct-23
<p>From 28 June 2023 to 3 April 2024, 10 802 cholera cases, including 291 deaths (case fatality ratio: 2.7%), were reported across nine states and 48 localities. Suspected cholera cases have shown a decreasing trend since the start of December 2023 and continuing into 2024.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	8-Oct-20
<p>No new cVDPV isolates were reported in week 14 of 2024. As at 3 April 2024, zero cVDPV2 cases had been reported in Sudan in 2024.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	9126	71	20-Oct-21
<p>From 1 January to 1 May 2024, 1738 dengue cases and six deaths were reported. In total, 9126 dengue cases and 71 deaths were reported since the outbreak's onset on 28 June 2023 to 1 May 2024. A major decrease in cases was observed as of December 2023. Since March 2024, a stable trend has been seen, with fewer than 20 cases reported per week.</p>						
Sudan	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	–	21-May-23
<p>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, combined with a major deterioration of the economy, has led to acute food insecurity at levels higher than usual. As at 21 March 2024, high rates of acute food insecurity were observed in North Darfur (25%), West Darfur (22%), North Kordofan (20%), South Kordofan (20%), Gedaref (19%) and central, eastern and southern states.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	Malaria	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	1 467 006	215	10-Sep-22
<p>As at 10 November 2023, 1 467 006 malaria cases had been reported, with 215 deaths.</p>						
Sudan	Biological	Measles	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	4039	107	8-Jan-21
<p>Measles cases continue to be reported from 12 states in Sudan, reaching 4039 cases and 107 deaths by 31 January 2024, giving a case fatality ratio of 2.65%.</p>						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Syrian Arab Republic	Societal	Armed conflict	Syrian Arab Republic Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	–	–	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 1 May 2024, 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	Meningococcal disease	Syrian Arab Republic Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	1	0	16-Apr-24
On 9 April 2024, a confirmed case of meningococcal disease was reported in a refugee camp in Idlib, northwest Syrian Arab Republic – a child aged 10 years.						
Tunisia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 153 361	29 423	3-Feb-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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 1 May 2024, 1 067 030 COVID-19 cases and 2349 deaths had been reported. A total of 200 761 593 PCR tests had been conducted by the same date.						
United Arab Emirates	Biological	Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)	Ungraded	1	0	7-Oct-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.						
Yemen	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	11 945	2159	4-Oct-20
As at 1 May 2024, 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	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	29-May-20
As at 1 May 2024, there was no evidence of cVDPV1 in the country. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative and partners are supporting the local public health authorities in field investigation and field monitoring.						
Yemen	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	5	0	30-Nov-21
During week 18 of 2024, no new cVDPV2 cases were reported in Yemen. For 2024, Yemen has reported a total of five cVDPV2 cases.						
Yemen	Biological	Dengue	Multi-Region Dengue, Grade 3	6094	4	25-Jan-24
From week 1 to week 17 of 2024, 6094 suspected dengue cases were reported, with four associated deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.07%). This marks a slight decrease in the number of cases reported during the 2024 dengue season compared with the numbers reported for the same period in 2023 and 2022.						
Yemen	Biological	Diphtheria	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	318	9	25-Jan-24
By week 8 of 2024, 318 suspected diphtheria cases, including nine deaths, had been reported from the northern and southern governorates. This marks a significant increase on the 265 cases reported in the same period of 2023. Most of these cases (70%) in 2024 were reported from northern Yemen: particularly Abyan, Al Hudaydah, Dhamar, Hajjah and Taiz, with Al Hudaydah alone accounting for 16.4% of all cases. About 75% of the total cases have been clinically diagnosed, yet a concerning 77.6% of affected individuals have not been vaccinated.						
Yemen	Biological	Measles	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	14 552	95	29-Mar-21
From 1 January to 27 April 2024, 14 552 suspected measles cases, with 95 associated deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.7%), were reported. About 67% of all cases occurred in the northern governorates, but data on age, gender and vaccination status are unavailable. Nearly all cases in the southern governorates were children: 96% of cases were children aged under 15 years; 66% were aged under 5 years. Further, 82.5% of the cases in the southern governorates had no vaccination history.						

Closed public health events and emergencies

2–15 May 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade
Eastern Mediterranean Region	Biological	Mpox	Mpox, Protracted 2

No new mpox cases have been reported to WHO from anywhere in the Region since October 2023. As such, mpox is no longer considered an emergency in the countries of the Region. Some countries have integrated mpox into their sexually transmitted infection programmes.



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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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