



WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
Health emergencies biweekly bulletin

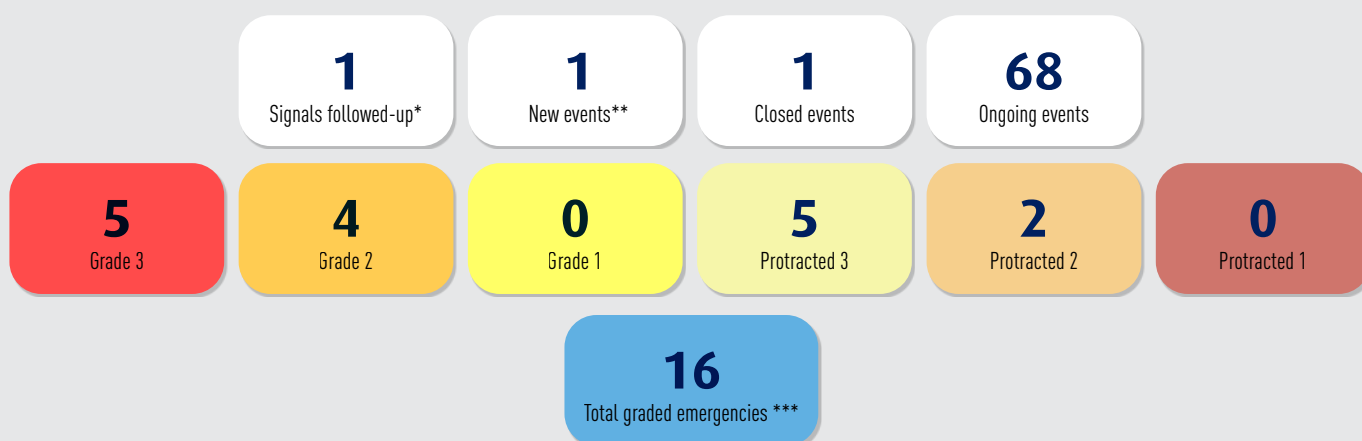
11–24 July 2024

Contents

- 2 Public health events and emergencies dashboard
- 3 Public health events and emergencies map
- 4 **Occupied Palestinian territory:** circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2
- 5 **Eastern Mediterranean Region:** enhancing disease surveillance through social media screening
- 7 New public health events and emergencies
- 8 Ongoing public health events and emergencies
- 14 Closed public health events and emergencies

Public health events and emergencies dashboard

11–24 July 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.

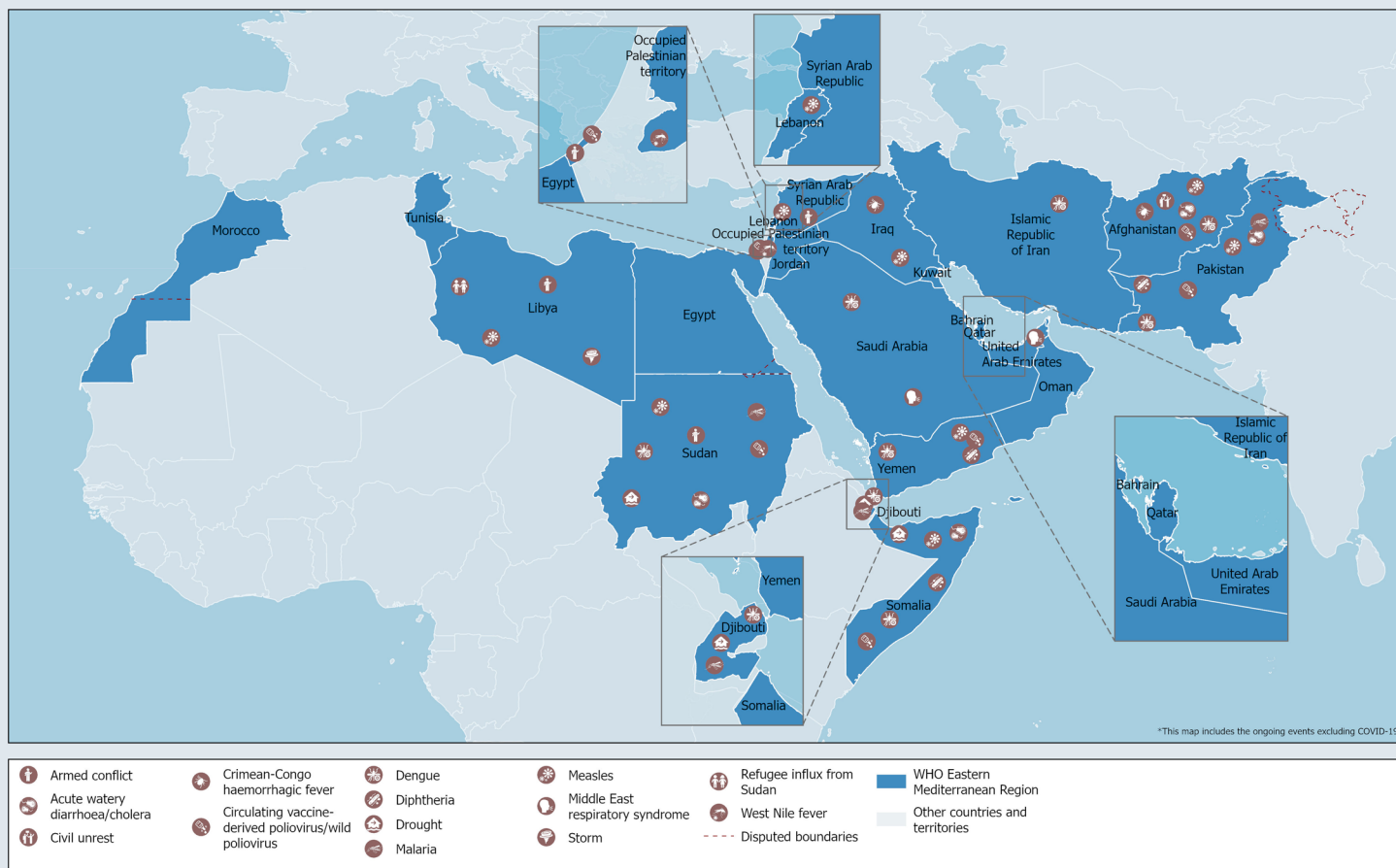
[More information on WHO grading, according to the Emergency Response Framework](#)

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 24 July 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.

Occupied Palestinian territory: circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2

BACKGROUND

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly contagious viral disease that primarily affects children aged under five. It can lead to irreversible paralysis in about one in 200 infections and cause death in 5–10% of those paralyzed.

The occupied Palestinian territory was considered free of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) until its recent detection in environmental samples. These cVDPV2 isolates are closely related and genetically linked to cVDPV2 detected in North Sinai, Egypt, in December 2023.

Poliovirus is highly infectious and the potential for transmission among populations with low immunity is high.



WHO team members preparing for the vaccination campaign.

Photo credit: WHO

SITUATION UPDATE

On 16 July 2024, the International Health Regulations National Focal Point of the occupied Palestinian territory notified WHO of the detection of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) in six environmental samples from Deir Al-Balah and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

The detection of cVDPV2 is particularly concerning due to reduced vaccination coverage in the occupied Palestinian territory following the outbreak of conflict in October 2023

and subsequent health service disruptions. No human cases have been associated with these isolates and there has been no acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case reported since 7 October 2023. However, the risk of cross-border transmission is heightened by genetic links to cVDPV2 in Egypt and ongoing population displacement and poor sanitation conditions in Gaza. Surveillance efforts have been significantly disrupted, and the likelihood of further spread, both within and beyond the territories, cannot be ruled out.

RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- The Palestinian Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF and other partners have initiated a field investigation and risk assessment, with a WHO polio expert expected to be deployed imminently to the Gaza Strip.
- Supplementary immunization activities are planned and guided by the ongoing risk assessment. A vaccination campaign using novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) has been scheduled for August and

September 2024. The target population includes more than 640 000 children under 10 years of age. However, all field activities are contingent on the security situation and the availability of the required health supplies. An immediate ceasefire and sustained peace are deemed necessary for effective campaign implementation. Furthermore, additional support is needed for surveillance enhancement, sample transportation, cold chain equipment and surge staffing.

Eastern Mediterranean Region: enhancing disease surveillance through social media screening

BACKGROUND

Social media has been shown to be a valuable source of information for event-based surveillance (EBS) — a public health surveillance method that involves the collection and analysis of data on events that may pose a risk to public health. Platforms such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok not only help with the rapid detection of public health threats but provide contextual information and facilitate the monitoring of public sentiment during crises.

By using social media monitoring tools, the WHO Regional Office's ability to detect and assess public health events has been enhanced. Often, initial signals of potential health threats are first detected through social media sources.



RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Since 2019, the Public Health Intelligence (PHI) team at the Regional Office of the Eastern Mediterranean has been monitoring public health threats through social media. By targeting sources not covered in the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) feed — a media scanning tool designed to identify health threats that could lead to disease outbreaks or public health emergencies— the team has broadened the scope of data collection and enhanced surveillance capabilities.

On 22 July 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations hosted a webinar that highlighted a successful case study from the team on enhancing disease surveillance through the use of social media during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Team members began the webinar with a session on the rationale for utilizing social media. They highlighted how access to real-time, user-generated content can offer

insights into populations' health behaviours, sentiments and disease patterns, and underlined how social media screening has become a powerful tool for automated, real-time surveillance of communicable diseases.

Exploring the evolution of social media with participants, the team began with targeted search techniques and progressed to more advanced analytical tools and knowledge-sharing platforms.

They guided participants through the steps integrating social media into public health intelligence. The process includes defining clear objectives for social media use, selecting appropriate platforms, setting up systems for continuous data collection, employing advanced analytical techniques for data interpretation, identifying relevant keywords, categorizing hazards and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders, including social media platforms, to improve data sharing.

Eastern Mediterranean Region: strengthening information sharing of acute public health events

External evaluation results

Results of an external evaluation to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the social media tools employed by the PHI team from 2019–2023 were highlighted, with particular attention paid to ethical considerations. A mixed-methods approach was utilized, incorporating a desk review, qualitative research strategies, including focus group discussions and high-intensity interviews, a survey, analysis of data from the Online Signal Module (OSM) and a review of key performance indicators. The recommendations of the evaluation included:

- developing clear data governance frameworks and ethical guidelines for social media data use;
- establishing a technical advisory group on social media and public health to guide Regional Office strategies; and
- strengthening capacity building and knowledge sharing among member states to facilitate the adoption of social media analytics for EBS.

Next steps

- The team plans to expand the use of social media in public health intelligence activities: vertically, by enhancing current use and exploring new tools, and horizontally, by rolling out these efforts to countries and other partners to broaden the impact of disease surveillance.
- The team will provide a training and management package to launch social media screening across Member States, WHO offices and other partners.
- The PHI team will synthesize and organize the knowledge gained since 2019 from social media screening, EBS and relevant literature.
- To keep up to date with the latest methods and better serve the Region's countries and territories, the PHI team will conduct periodic reviews of the latest literature and technological advances in social media screening for EBS.

Enhancing partner capabilities

WHO will support Member States and other partners by transferring knowledge and capacity building either as a standalone activity or part of other capacity-building packages. Besides the training, the team will support partners through:

- advocating for funds to support access to new social media screening platforms;
- establishing a technical advisory group for governance;
- establishing a multidisciplinary team to oversee the design of social media analysis platforms;
- providing updated macroeconomic and business requirement lists aligned with needs;
- supporting the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), starting with generic SOPs for targeted search, that can be adapted later to specific contexts;
- establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of social media screening; and
- integrating new social media screening tools into existing and future WHO tools such as EIOS, OSM and event management systems.

New public health events and emergencies

11–24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade ^a	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start ^b
Djibouti	Biological	Dengue	Multi-Region Dengue, Grade 3	1181	2	15-Jul-24
As at week 25 of 2024, Djibouti has reported 1181 confirmed cases of dengue to WHO, with 2 associated deaths. The cases were reported from 1 January to 30 June 2024. The majority of the cases (946 cases, 80%) are concentrated in Djibouti-Ville, the country's most densely populated region. However, the Obock region reported the highest attack rate, with 10.29 cases per 1000 population, followed by Djibouti-Ville with 1.52 cases per 1000 population.						
Occupied Palestinian territory	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	22-Jul-24
On 16 July 2024, the International Health Regulation National Focal Point of the occupied Palestinian territory notified WHO of the detection of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in 6 environmental samples from Deir Al-Balah (3) and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip (3). The occupied Palestinian territory was considered free of cVDPV2 until the detection in environmental samples.						

^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 24 July 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	88 473	47	22-Sep-21
<p>During week 29 of 2024, 6388 cases of AWD with dehydration were reported, with one associated death, from 246 districts. This represents a 7.9% increase in the number of cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 88 473 cases of AWD with dehydration and 47 associated deaths have been reported from 332 districts, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.05%. Of this total, 49 662 cases (56.1%) were children aged under 5 years; 43 799 cases (49.5%) were females.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	8903	43	24-Feb-20
<p>During week 29 of 2024, 154 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported, with two associated deaths. The number of positive cases represents a 16.3% decrease in the number of confirmed cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 8903 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 43 deaths have been reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.5%. Out of the total cases, 4832 (54.3%) were females, who also accounted for 33 (76.7%) of the total deaths.</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	657	57	5-Mar-23
<p>During week 29 of 2024, 58 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, with six associated deaths, were reported. This represents a 20.8% increase in the number of suspected cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 657 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, with 57 associated deaths have been reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 8.7%. Out of the total cases, 656 (99.8%) were aged over 5 years, while 196 (29.8%) were females.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-Region Dengue, Grade 3	1280	0	14-Aug-22
<p>During week 29 of 2024, Nangarhar province reported 50 suspected dengue cases, with no associated deaths. This represents a 25.4% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, 1280 suspected cases of dengue have been reported, with no associated deaths. Of these, 739 cases (57.7%) were females; 12 (0.9%) were children aged under 5 years.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Measles	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	39 826	170	19-Apr-21
<p>During week 29 of 2024, 1571 suspected measles cases and three associated deaths were reported. This represents a stabilization in the number of suspected measles cases compared with the previous week. Since the start of 2024, a total of 39 826 suspected measles cases and 170 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.4%) have been reported. Among suspected measles cases, 31 897 (80.1%) were children aged under 5 years; 18 036 (45.3%) were females.</p>						
Afghanistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1	Afghanistan Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	9	0	16-Mar-23
<p>During week 29 of 2024, no new wild poliovirus type 1 cases were reported. For 2024, Afghanistan has reported a total of nine wild poliovirus type 1 cases. Fourteen new positive wild poliovirus environmental samples were reported during week 29. The total number of environmental samples in 2024 is 55.</p>						
Bahrain	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	696 614	1536	24-Feb-20
<p>As at 24 July 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 24 July 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>						
Djibouti	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	–	21-May-23
<p>About 11% of the population in Djibouti is estimated to be acutely food insecure.</p>						
Djibouti	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	31 078	1	13-Feb-19
<p>During week 29 of 2024, 261 malaria cases were reported. Since the start of 2024, a total of 31 078 malaria cases have been reported, with one death.</p>						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Egypt	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	516 023	24 830	16-Feb-20
As at 24 July 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	7 627 863	146 837	19-Feb-20
As at 24 July 2024, 7 627 863 COVID-19 cases had been reported, with 146 837 deaths.						
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Biological	Dengue	Multi-Region Dengue, Grade 3	92	3	18-Jun-24
From 27 May to 25 June 2024, the Islamic Republic of Iran reported 92 cases of dengue and three deaths. The provinces of Bushehr, Fars, Gilan, Golestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Mazandaran and Sistan and Baluchistan were identified as high-risk areas, with ongoing cases reported.						
Iraq	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	2 465 545	25 375	24-Feb-20
As at 24 July 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	500	30	21-Apr-22
From week 1 to week 29 of 2024, 500 suspected Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever cases were reported, with 30 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 6%. Among the suspected cases, 128 were confirmed, with 17 deaths, giving a case fatality ratio of 13.2%.						
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 24 July 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 24 July 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 24 July 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	50	0	4-Jul-23
From 5 to 25 June 2024, nine measles cases were reported, ranging from children under 1 year old to 64 years of age. Of these, seven were unvaccinated. Since the start of 2024, 164 rash cases have been reported, with 50 confirmed as measles, an attack rate of 0.8 per 100 000 population. Among cases, 94% were unvaccinated and 21% required hospitalization. Children aged under 5 years were the most affected age group, with an attack rate of 4.7 per 100 000 population. Baalbek-Hermel governorate reported the highest overall attack rate of 2.2 per 100 000 population.						
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 24 July 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	–	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 24 July 2024, WHO still delivers support to affected areas, strengthening the national capacities of Libya's health system.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
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 24 July 2024, reporting of data has been intermittent.						
Libya	Societal	Refugee influx from Sudan	Libya Complex Emergencies, Protracted 2	–	–	9-May-24
In April 2024, Kufra district in south-eastern Libya declared a state of emergency after a significant increase in the number of displaced persons from Sudan raised concerns about the potential spread of infectious diseases in an area with limited access to health services. It is estimated that there are 40 000 displaced persons from Sudan in Kufra, a number expected to triple by the end of 2024. On 18 July 2024, five United Nations agencies, including WHO, met in Kufra to scale up the humanitarian response and action and allocated US\$ 5.3 million to support 195 000 refugees from Sudan.						
Morocco	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 277 956	16 298	3-Mar-20
As at 24 July 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	95 607	39 723	7-Oct-23
Ongoing war in the occupied Palestinian territory since 7 October 2023, have compounded an existing health crisis. As at 24 July 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Health reported that over 39 723 people had been killed and more than 95 607 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 24 July 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.						
Occupied Palestinian territory	Biological	West Nile fever	Israel/oPt Hostilities, Grade 3	–	–	7-Jul-24
The International Health Regulations National Focal Point in the occupied Palestinian territory has confirmed a case of West Nile fever (WNF) involving a 68-year-old male from Jenin camp in the West Bank. In response, the Palestinian Ministry of Health initiated a two-phase strategy. The first phase involved a rapid response team working with the Ministry's environmental departments. They began spraying procedures in Jenin camp and surrounding areas and activated a rapid sensitization plan for all health providers. The second phase will focus on activating a health education campaign and strengthening the WNF surveillance system. WHO is actively supporting the Ministry of Health by expediting the delivery of WNF diagnostic kits. WHO will also provide educational material to the Ministry of Health for public dissemination and conduct a sensitization workshop for health providers.						
Oman	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	399 449	4628	24-Feb-20
As at 24 July 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 24 July 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	3127	0	17-Apr-22
From 8 to 14 July 2024, 3127 suspected cholera cases were reported. Most of the cases (2565 cases, 82%) were reported from Punjab province, followed by Balochistan province (130 cases, 8%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	863	–	9-Apr-23
From 8 to 14 July 2024, 863 suspected dengue cases were reported. Most of the cases (704 cases, 81%) were reported from Punjab province, followed by Sindh province (67 cases, 7.8%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Diphtheria	Ungraded	7	0	11-Feb-23
From 1 to 7 July 2024, seven probable diphtheria cases were reported in Pakistan. Of these cases, four were reported from Balochistan province, and three cases were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.						
Pakistan	Biological	Malaria	Ungraded	70 137	–	23-Sep-22
From 8 to 14 July 2024, 70 137 malaria cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Sindh province (55 682 cases, 79%), followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (5755 cases, 8.2%).						
Pakistan	Biological	Measles	Ungraded	1660	–	26-Jan-21
From 24 to 30 June 2024, 1660 suspected measles cases were reported. Most of the cases were reported from Punjab province (1143 cases), followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (298 cases), and Sindh province (142 cases).						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
Pakistan	Biological	Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)	Ungraded	8	0	16-Mar-23
During week 28 of 2024, no new wild poliovirus type 1 cases were reported. For 2024, Pakistan has reported a total of eight wild poliovirus type 1 cases.						
Qatar	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	514 524	690	3-Jan-20
As at 24 July 2024, 514 524 COVID-19 cases and 690 deaths had been reported, giving a case fatality ratio of 0.1%.						
Saudi Arabia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	841 469	9646	3-Mar-20
As at 24 July 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 24 July 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	17 246	137	2-Aug-18
As at 24 July 2024, 17 246 cholera cases had been reported in 2024. Of these, 63% were severe cases and 59% were children aged under 5 years. By the same date, there had been 137 associated deaths, resulting in a case fatality ratio of 0.8%. This marks an increase in the number of deaths compared with 2023, when 46 cholera deaths were recorded for the whole year. The district with the highest number of reported cases in 2024 is Kismayo, which accounts for 16% of total cases.						
Somalia	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	3	–	18-Aug-20
From 1 January to 21 July 2024, three new cVDPV2 cases were reported from Bardera district of Gedo province (two cases) and Baidoa district of Bay province (one case).						
Somalia	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	2373	0	5-Oct-23
From the onset of the dengue outbreak on 3 October 2023 to 30 June 2024, 2373 suspected dengue cases were reported. Of these, 830 cases were confirmed. No deaths have been reported in 2024.						
Somalia	Biological	Diphtheria	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	638	80	29-Jan-24
A diphtheria outbreak in Somalia started in Hirshabelle State in July 2023 and spread to Puntland and Galmudug states in September 2023. As at 24 July 2024, 638 suspected cases and 80 deaths have been reported.						
Somalia	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	134	6-Feb-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. The annual Gu rains, which typically begin in April and end in June, affected more than 268 000 people, including 81 000 people who were displaced. The flash floods also killed seven people, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths to 134 since October 2023. As at 15 June 2024, data from the Somali Water and Land Information Management river gauge station confirmed that the river water levels are now significantly below flood risk levels.						
Somalia	Biological	Measles	Somalia Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	8958	41	3-Sep-22
A measles outbreak has been spreading in Somalia since 2023. As at 24 July 2024, the surveillance system for fever and rash, used by public health emergency and surveillance coordinators in drought-affected districts, has reported a total of 8958 suspected measles cases and at least 41 deaths since the start of 2024.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 24 July 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	–	–	22-Jan-21
From April 2023 to 7 July 2024, the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan reported 32 576 injuries and 2953 deaths due to the current war. However, open-source media reported 18 527 fatalities, including 45 humanitarian workers. Establishing the exact numbers of civilian casualties and injuries has been challenging. As at 8 July 2024, there have been 73 verified attacks on health care facilities, resulting in 53 deaths and 100 injuries.						
Sudan	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	64 317	5047	15-Mar-20
As at 24 July 2024, 64 317 COVID-19 cases and 5047 deaths had been reported.						
Sudan	Biological	Cholera	Multi-region Cholera, Grade 3	11 212	309	5-Oct-23
From 1 January to 21 June 2024, 11 212 cholera cases, including 309 deaths (case fatality ratio: 2.8%), were reported across 12 states. A 75% decrease was observed in the number of reported cases in week 24 of 2024 (one case) compared with week 23 of 2024 (four cases). No deaths were reported in the previous three weeks. These figures should be interpreted with caution: the data comes from an early warning system that does not cover all states and has low data completeness.						
Sudan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	0	0	8-Oct-20
No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in 2024 and 2023.						
Sudan	Biological	Dengue	Multi-region Dengue, Grade 3	9316	71	20-Oct-21
During week 24 of 2024, eight dengue cases were reported, compared with 27 cases in week 23. No deaths were reported in the preceding seven weeks. From 1 January to 21 June 2024, 9316 dengue cases were reported, with 71 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.8%) across 12 states. These figures should be interpreted with caution: the data comes from an early warning system that does not cover all states and has low data completeness.						
Sudan	Climatological	Drought	Greater Horn of Africa Drought and Food Insecurity, Grade 3	–	–	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, 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.						
Sudan	Biological	Malaria	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	1 621 164	172	10-Sep-22
During week 25 of 2024, 8472 malaria cases and zero deaths were reported. This marks a 37% decrease against the 13 490 cases reported in week 24 of 2024. No deaths have been reported in the previous 10 weeks. From 1 January to 21 June 2024, 1 621 164 malaria cases, including 172 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.01%) were reported across 15 states. These figures should be interpreted with caution: the data comes from an early warning system that does not cover all states and has low data completeness.						
Sudan	Biological	Measles	Sudan Conflict and Complex Emergency, Grade 3	4871	108	8-Jan-21
During week 25 of 2024, eight measles cases and one death were reported. This marks a 72% decrease against the 29 cases reported in week 24 of 2024. From 1 January to 21 June 2024, 4871 cases, including 108 deaths (case fatality ratio: 2.22%) were reported from 14 states. These figures should be interpreted with caution: the data comes from an early warning system that does not cover all states and has low data completeness.						
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 24 July 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.						
Tunisia	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 153 361	29 423	3-Feb-20
As at 24 July 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.						

Ongoing public health events and emergencies

As at 24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Cases/injuries	Deaths	Date of start
United Arab Emirates	Biological	COVID-19	COVID-19, Protracted 3	1 067 030	2349	29-Jan-20
As at 24 July 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 24 July 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	21	0	30-Nov-21
No new vaccine-derived poliovirus isolates were reported during week 28 of 2024. For 2024, Yemen has reported a total of 21 cVDPV2 cases.						
Yemen	Biological	Dengue	Multi-Region Dengue, Grade 3	10 012	9	25-Jan-24
From 1 January to 7 July 2024, 10 012 suspected dengue cases were reported, including nine deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.09%), with an attack rate of 34 per 100 000 population. The current trend of dengue cases is within the expected seasonal range in most of Yemen. All Governorates except Socotra reported suspect dengue cases. The most affected areas are Al Hudaydah (44%), Taizz (12%), Shabwa (9%) governorates.						
Yemen	Biological	Diphtheria	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	892	34	25-Jan-24
From 1 January to 7 July 2024, 892 suspected diphtheria cases, with 34 deaths (case fatality ratio: 2.9%) were reported. Northern Yemen accounts for 64% of the reported cases. The most affected governorates are Marib (13.7%), Al Hudaydah (10.8%), Dhaher (10.8%), Hajjah (8.2%), Abyan (7.6%). Of the cases 75% were clinically diagnosed, and 82% were unvaccinated.						
Yemen	Biological	Measles	Yemen Complex Emergencies, Protracted 3	22 183	93	29-Mar-21
From 1 January to 7 July 2024, 22 183 suspected measles cases, with 93 deaths (case fatality ratio: 0.41%), were reported. This marks a 25% decrease in the number of suspected cases compared with the same period in 2023 (29 661 suspected cases). About 68% of all cases occurred in northern governorates. The most affected governorates are Saada (16.7%), Al Hudaydah (10.3%), Taizz (8.7%), Amran (7.8%) and Amanat (Sanaa city) (7.1%). Only 298 cases were laboratory-confirmed by culture, and 83% of cases involved unvaccinated individuals.						

Closed public health events and emergencies

11–24 July 2024

Member State/territory	Hazard	Event	WHO grade	Date of start
Afghanistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	6-May-20
No confirmed cases of cVDPV2 have been reported in Afghanistan since 2021. The country is currently affected by wild poliovirus. A 3-day nationwide polio campaign was recently conducted to vaccinate 8 million children aged under 5 years.				
Pakistan	Biological	Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2)	Polio (cVDPV), Grade 2	12-Nov-19
No confirmed cases of cVDPV2 have been reported in Pakistan since 2021. The country is currently affected by wild poliovirus type 1. Nationwide polio vaccination campaigns are frequently conducted.				



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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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