

## Current major event

### Upsurge of cholera cases in Yemen

In 2019, Ministry of Public Health and Population, Yemen reported an increase in the reported cholera cases from the beginning of the year. A total of 108 889 suspected cholera cases including 190 related deaths have been reported as of week 11-2019.

#### Editorial note

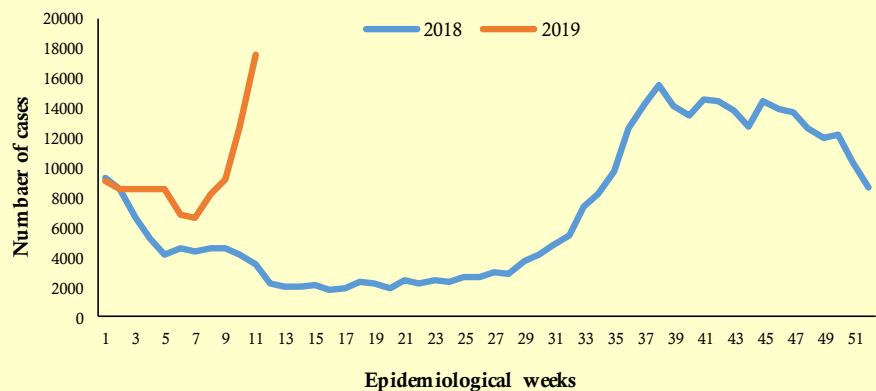
The ongoing cholera outbreak in Yemen has persisted with periodic resurgence since the outbreak was first reported in the country during epidemiological week 34-2016. Both in terms of duration and number of people that have been affected, this could well be the biggest and the worst cholera epidemic on record since the seventh cholera pandemic began in 1961 in the country.

The prolonged humanitarian crisis since the conflict began in the county 4 years ago, and associated factors such as deteriorating and damaged water and sanitation infrastructure; collapsed health infrastructure and routine public health services; and loss of critical health workforce have created conditions for increased occurrence and outbreaks of epidemic prone diseases. Furthermore, a combination of these factors coupled with large numbers of internally displaced population in overcrowded dwellings, and the recent heavy rains are believed to be the main drivers of the renewed escalation of the cholera outbreak in the country. So far a cumulative total of 1.5 million cases of suspected cholera and more than 3000 deaths have been reported.

The resurgence of the cholera outbreak in Yemen started in early February (i.e. week 7-2019, see graph). As of week 11-2019, a total of 108 889 suspected cholera cases and 190 related deaths were reported (CFR: 0.17%) from 261 districts. The most affected governorates with highest number of reported cholera cases as of week 11-2019 are; Amanat (17,942), Al Hudaydah (14,820) and Sana'a (12 763). In total 23,536 cases have tested positive by RDT and culture has isolated *Vibrio cholerae* in 1,086 samples.

The Ministry of Public Health and partners have escalated implementation of

### Suspected cholera cases reported from Yemen during 2018 and 2019



#### Few indicators for comparison, week 1-11 of 2018 and 2019

Indicators	2018	2019
Total suspected case	60 036	108 889
Associated deaths	30	190
Case fatality rate	0.05%	0.17%
< 5 children	32%	26%
Proportion of sever cases	12.7%	14%
RDT positivity rate	37.5%	49%
Culture positivity rate	38.9%	41%
Attack rate (per 10000)	21.5	36.3

outbreak response measures to rapid contain the outbreak. These measures have included enhanced surveillance and mapping of hotspots, or most affected districts, for more targeted interventions; relevant orientation have been given to health staff on case management and infection prevention and control in health care settings; medical supplies for cholera treatment have been distributed; community awareness campaigns; waste management and chlorination of water; and use of oral cholera vaccine.

Despite the efforts, optimal response and effective interventions to the cholera outbreak in Yemen is severely hampered by restricted access to the affected population in many parts of the country due to the ongoing active conflict and insecurity. Achievement of long term and sustainable solution to the persistent and recurrent exacerbation of cholera in the country will therefore be closely linked to realization of cessation of the ongoing humanitarian crisis, restoration of critical infrastructure and routine public health services.

#### Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**MERS** in Saudi Arabia; **MERS** in Oman; **cholera** in Somalia; **cholera** in Yemen; **Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever** in Pakistan.

#### Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

##### Avian influenza: 2006-2017

Egypt (A/H5N1)	[359 (122), 33.98%]
Egypt (A/H9N2)	[4 (0)]

##### Ebola virus disease (EVD): 2018-2019

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	[1 009 (629), 62.33%]
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##### Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia	[6 867 (46), 0.67%]
Yemen	[1 502 648 (2 933), 0.19%]

##### Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen	[3 524 (203), 5.76%]
Bangladesh	[8 474 (45), 0.53%]

##### MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia	[2 007(749), 37.31%]
Oman	[24 (7), 29.16%]

##### Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan	[6 427 (0)]
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