

Current major event

Oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign in Yemen

As the scale up of response to the ongoing cholera outbreak in Yemen continues, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPHP) and partners with the support of WHO and other partners conducted the first round of cholera vaccination campaigns in seven districts between February and April 2019. A total of 1,721,291 people were targeted by the campaigns in southern and northern governorates of Yemen.

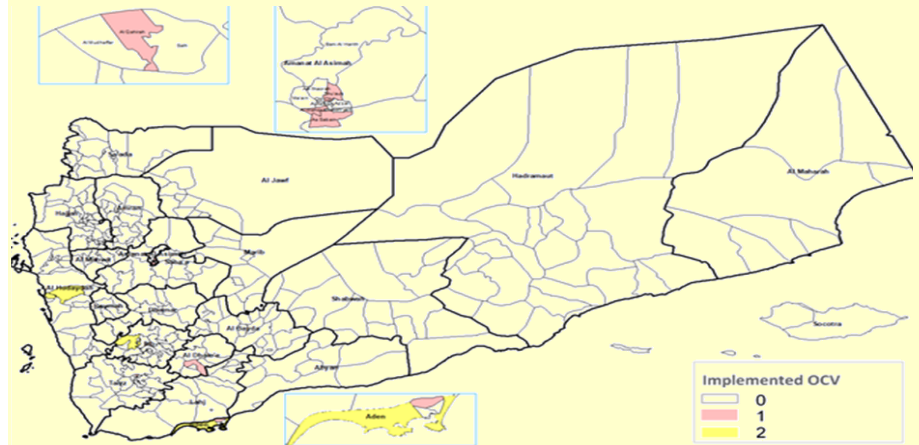
Editorial note

The planning of the 2019 OCV campaign started with risk profiling, categorization, and prioritization of the districts based on risk assessment. The targeted districts were selected based on multiple criteria including, the ongoing transmission, proportion of susceptible, access to safe water and population density score. A total of 50 districts were listed as priority for OCV. Among these 50 districts, 7 (3 districts in the North and 4 in the South) were selected for OCV campaign based on the updated results, feasibility and accessibility (*see the table*).

In the southern governorates of the country, the OCV campaign was conducted over 6 days, from 24th February to 1st March 2019. The targeted population for the first round of the campaign was 497,108 in four districts. A total of 478,535 people among the target population received the first dose of the vaccine, accounting for 96% vaccination coverage. Vaccination campaign in the Northern governorates was conducted in April 2019, and lasted for 9 days. The target population of the campaign was 1,224,183 and a total of 1,088,081 people received the first dose of cholera vaccine, accounting for 89% vaccination coverage. The MoPH is planning to implement the 2nd round OCV campaign in June or July (*i.e. see areas highlighted in yellow in the map*). A formal request for the release of 1.72 million doses has been sent to the Global Task Force for Cholera Control (GTFCC), which manages to global stockpile of OCV, to cover the planned campaigns.

The OCV campaign was implemented using door to door and fixed locations strategies. The campaign was preceded by four days intensive social mobilization campaign especially in areas that are known to have

Implementation of OCV campaign in seven selected districts, 2019



Summary of 2019 OCV campaign, Yemen

Governorate	District	Target population	1st dose received	Admin Coverage of 1st dose
South	Taizz Al Qahirah	166,028	137,803	83%
	Al Dhale'e	104,410	110,675	106%
	Qa'atabah	118,832	143,787	121%
	Aden Dar Sad	107,838	86,270	80%
North	Ammanat Al Asimah Shu'aub	328,232	293,758	89%
	As Sabain	688,258	660,652	96%
	Al Wahdah	207,693	133,608	64%

higher refusal rate. A post campaign coverage survey will be conducted after the administration of the second dose to estimate the overall OCV coverage.

Generally, WHO recommends the use of OCV in areas with endemic cholera, in humanitarian crises with high risk of cholera outbreaks, during cholera outbreaks, and always in conjunction with other cholera prevention and control strategies. OCV campaigns should not disrupt the provision of other high priority health interventions such as water and sanitation. OCV is recommended to be given in two doses. The cholera vaccine provides sustained protection of >60% for at least 3 years after 2 doses.

Despite the important role of OCV, effective cholera prevention and control rely more on the implementation of integrated and comprehensive approaches. For ending cholera, integrated interventions should be continued and scaled up despite the current challenges.

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)	[1 816 (1 209), 66.57%]
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Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia	[7 235 (46), 0.63%]
Yemen	[1 709 158 (3 331), 0.19%]

Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen	[3 524 (203), 5.76%]
Bangladesh	[8 620 (45), 0.52%]

MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia	[2 040 (767), 37.40%]
Oman	[24 (7), 29.16%]

Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan	[7 456 (0)]
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