

Current major event

Dengue in Yemen : situation update

The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) Yemen has reported 14 540 suspected cases of dengue fever with 79 associated deaths (CFR 0.5 %), since the start of the year till epidemiological week 31-2019. These cases are reported from 22 out of 23 governorates in the country.

Editorial note

Dengue is currently the most widely spread mosquito-borne disease in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. Since 1998, several outbreaks of dengue and severe dengue were reported from Djibouti, Egypt, , Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

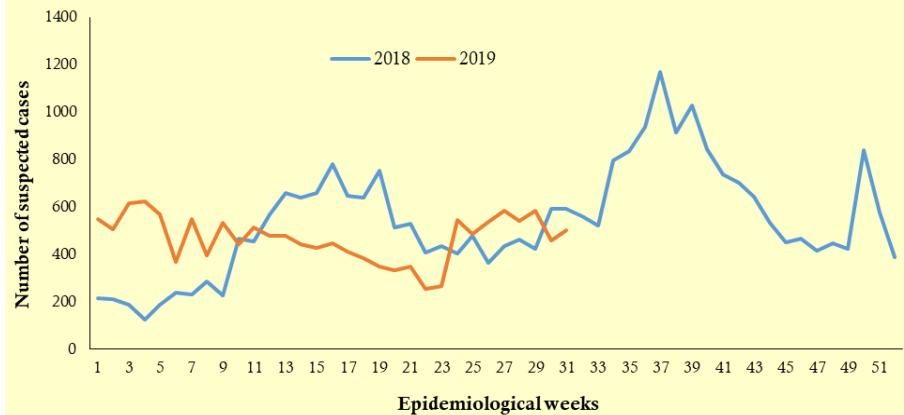
This Year, in Yemen, a total of 14,540 suspected cases including 79 deaths (CFR 0.5%) have been reported from epidemiological week 1 to 31, 2019. Starting from week 23, an increase in the cases were observed. The similar trend was noticed in 2018 from week 25 (*See graph*). Reported cases till week 30 showed that cumulatively 33% of the cases presented by warning signs and 5% were classified as severe dengue. Regarding laboratory confirmation, the overall positivity rate IgM-DENV is 54% in all governorates, while Aden reported 95% positivity rate for IgG.

Suspected dengue cases were reported from 22/23 governorates, with higher number of cases in Aden , Al-Hudaydah , Lahj, Abyan, and Hadramout. The higher attack rates per 1000 population were observed in Aden (Al-Mansura district) 3.4% , Abyan (Al Mahfad district) 2.8%, Lahj (Tuban district) 2% Hadramaut (Brom Mayfa) 1.7% , and Shabwa (Ain and Rudum districts) 1.5% governorates.

Moreover, till week 30- 2019, an increased number of reported cases have been observed in comparison to the same period last year (7% increase) as well as the CFR (0.2% in 2019 compared to 0.1% in 2018). The highest CFR was reported from Aden (25 deaths, 0.7% CFR), although it has remained below 1%.

During week 24 and 25, a sudden increase in CFR was observed in Aden which trig-

Suspected dengue cases reported in Yemen, 2018 till week 31- 2019



Suspected Dengue cases reported in last few years

Year	No. Suspected dengue cases
2015	28 185
2016	10 269
2017	20 437
2018	27 902
2019	14 540

gered the rapid response team (RRT) activation to investigate and response to this outbreak.

As part of dengue preparedness and response plan, MoPHP are continuing to support RRT activities to conduct field visit and onsite mentoring on dengue fever surveillance, testing and case management, provide training courses for health care workers, including case identification and management for dengue fever, raising the community awareness on how to protect themselves against dengue fever and other vector-borne and water-borne diseases and working with partners in improving and sustaining vector control activities.

In order to contain the current suspected upsurge in the country, the MoPHP has to enhance surveillance for early detection of suspected cases, strengthen entomological surveillance and vector control measures. Case management also needs to be standardized through distribution of guidelines and protocols.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS in Saudi Arabia; **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) [2 816 (1 888), 67.05%]

Cholera: 2017-2019

Somalia [8 493 (46) , 0.54%]

Yemen [1 959 258 (3 551), 0.18%]

Diphtheria: 2018-2019

Yemen [3 906 (218), 5.58%]

Bangladesh [8 708 (45), 0.52%]

MERS: 2012-2019

Saudi Arabia [2 069 (771), 37.22%]

Multidrug-resistant typhoid fever: 2016-2019

Pakistan [10 060 (0)]