

Current major event

Cholera in Yemen

As of 23 September, 2011, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH&P) in Yemen has reported a total of 18,276 cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera, with 40 related deaths. The cases were reported from the governorates of Abyan, Lahj, Dhalea, Aden and Ibb. Some stool samples have tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae* 01 Eltor. The cases started in April in Abyan Governorate and spread to four other governorates. WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and other partners are supporting the MOPH&P to control the outbreak. Public health control measures including case managements, surveillance and water and sanitation services have been strengthened in the affected areas..

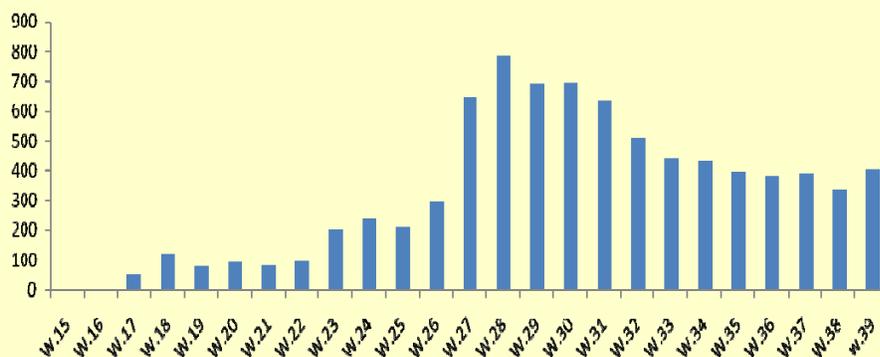
Editorial note

Since April, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Yemen has been facing a spreading outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in the provinces of Abyan, Aden, Lahj, Aldhalea and Ibb. Over 18,000 cases of AWD/cholera and 40 related deaths have already been reported. There is fear that the outbreak may spread further to other areas of the Country. The outbreak has also been reported from refugee camps in the South of the country. Last year, an outbreak of cholera was also reported from some of these camps.

Cholera is endemic in the Yemen, but the ongoing crisis in the country can aggravate the situation rapidly. The prevailing sanitary condition especially in the cities with mounting uncollected garbage, can only speed and exacerbate the spread of cholera. WHO Country Office and other partners are trying their best to assist the Ministry of Public Health & Population to contain the outbreak. The partners are helping out with the collection of mounting garbage in Sana'a City where active conflict is going on. In the cholera affected governorates, WHO is assisting the MOPH&P in implementing a comprehensive response

Weekly reported cases of AWD/cholera in Abyan Governorate, Yemen, April—September 2011

Weekly distribution of AWD in Abyan Gov.



Governorate/Province	No of cases	% of total
Abyan	8192	44.8
Lahj	1117	6.1
Al-Dhale'a	2513	13.7
Aden	6087	33.3
Ibb	367	2
Total	18,276	100

plan to contain the spread of the outbreak. Mobile medical teams have been formed and providing patients care to the areas affected by this outbreak. Surveillance is enhanced with active case findings. UNICEF is helping out with improving water and sanitation services in the affected areas. .

All these efforts amidst political turmoil in the country are commendable, but despite the progress made in containing the outbreak, external support may be needed if the situation worsens. The country's health care services, having to deal with injuries and other emergencies, are certainly overwhelmed, resources must be getting thin and supplies needed for public health response are soon drying out. The WHO country office needs to be assisted and may require a lot of support from the regional and headquarters offices. It may not be possible to send a mission out in an area of active conflict, but logistical support, supplies and financial assistances will go a long way to help the response effort of the MOPH&P and partners on the ground.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Cholera in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen; **Wild polio type 3** in Pakistan; **Dengue** in Somalia and Pakistan

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian influenza

Egypt	[152 (52), 34.2%]
Indonesia	[179 (147), 82.1 %]
Viet Nam	[119(59), 49.6%]
Cambodia	[18(16), 88.9%]
Global total	[567 (332), 58.5%]

Dengue

Pakistan	[4630(11), 0.2%]
Somalia	[4(1), 25.0%]

Brucellosis & Q fever

Afghanistan	[147(0), 0%]
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AWD (Cholera)

Afghanistan	[1093(11), 1 %]
Pakistan	[4506(35), 0.8%]
Yemen	[18,276 (40), 0.2%]
Somalia	[4271(181), 4.2%]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; * Number of hospital visits; # Suspected cases only