



SITUATION REPORT SEPTEMBER 2020 ISSUE NO.9 Yemen Update



A Dengue fever control campaign was launched in Aden to ensure protection to the 1.7 million total population of the city, including through indoor and outdoor fogging, community awareness activities, vector surveillance and environmental management of all mosquitoes breeding sources.



30.5M ESTIMATED POPULATION*



24.3M MILLION ** IN NEED



2,034 * COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES**



17.9M ** IN NEED FOR HEALTH CARE**

WHO



As part of COVID19 Response, WHO distributed an estimated 26 tons of life-saving medical supplies & personal protective equipment to 7 Isolation centers & 4 central public health laboratories in 6 governorates. C: Nesma Khan, WHO

NUMBER OF WHO STAFF & OTHER CONTRACTS MODALITY IN COUNTRY: 300

HEALTH SECTOR

71 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

19 M TARGETED POPULATION –YHRP 2020

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS SEPTEMBER

197K LITERS OF FUEL DELIVERED

HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding shortage is putting at risk critical WHO programmes, including the Minimum Service Package (MSP) and outbreak preparedness and response, potentially affecting millions of people across the country.
- COVID-19 reported cases continue to decline, but indicators suggest that the virus is still spreading, and the number of confirmed cases and deaths fall below actual numbers.
- In addition to the 15 cases that had been detected in Sa'adah Governorate, clusters of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases have been reported in the governorates of Al Jawf, Al Mahawet and Amran.
- Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) team in Sana'a has started implementing the first round of Integrated Outreach round in the northern governorates.
- A Dengue fever control campaign was launched in Aden city to ensure protection to the 1.7 million total population of the city.

* Yemen HRP 2020
 ** Yemen HRP 2020
 *** COVID-19 Report as of Sep 2020
 **** Yemen- HRP 2020

Situation Update

WHO operations in Yemen at risk due to a lack of funding

While humanitarian needs are increasing in Yemen, a significant gap in funding has worsened the situation further. As of September, WHO has ended the Minimum Service Package (MSP) in 121 facilities, which has affected one million people. This is in addition to 1.3 million people deprived of access to life-saving health care services through the MSP due to cuts to the health sector since April when WHO had to stop incentives payments to more than 1,800 medical staff delivering MSP in 135 facilities. If resources are not provided by the end of the year, a total of nine million people will lose access to basic health care services. In terms of outbreak control and response, if funding is not received by October, preparedness, surveillance and pre-positioning of supplies for outbreak response including diphtheria and dengue will stop across the 23 governorates. Up to 60 per cent of the 174 existing cholera treatment facilities (174 centres) and 100 per cent of the 300 existing preparedness and medical centres (300 facilities) will close. All 333 district rapid response teams will cease to perform core functions, including case investigation and outbreak monitoring. As many as 18 million people will be impacted, including six million children urgently in need of vaccination against deadly diseases like measles and polio. The funding gap is threatening almost all UN humanitarian programmes in Yemen. By the end of September, only \$1.3 billion of the \$3.2 billion needed in 2020 had been received. Fifteen of 41 major United Nations humanitarian programmes have already been reduced or shut down, and 30 more will be affected in the coming weeks unless additional funding is received.

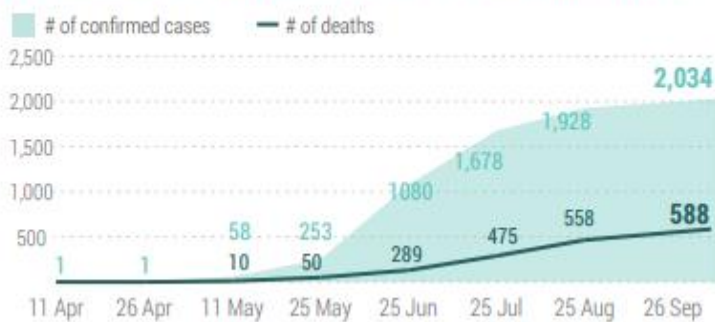
Epidemiological Update, Surveillance and Response- September 2020

COVID-19

Between 10 April and 26 September, 2,034 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Yemen, with 588 associated deaths and 1,262 recoveries. While the number of cases reported continues to decline, indicators suggest that the virus

is still spreading, and the number of confirmed cases and deaths fall below actual numbers. A lack of testing facilities and official reporting, and people delaying seeking treatment because of stigma, difficulty accessing treatment centres and the perceived risks of seeking care are some of the reasons behind the decline in the reported cases.

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES (CUMULATIVE)



In line with the established COVID-19 response plan, new support from KSRelief will enable WHO to support health authorities in establishing additional health facilities to treat patients with a severe or critical incidence of the disease. These will be equipped with the necessary resources, including medicines and ventilators. Also, a new contribution from the Republic of Korea will enable WHO to support health authorities to enhance their testing capacities to timely detect COVID-19 cases.

Cholera

A total of 197,377 suspected cholera cases were reported during the first nine months of 2020, a 72 per cent reduction compared with the same period of last year when 702,838 suspected cases had been reported. The number of associated deaths is down to 62 over the same period, a 93 per cent reduction compared to the 942 deaths reported in the same period last year. Health partners continue to support health authorities to respond to the ongoing cholera outbreak including through case management; surveillance and laboratory investigations; hotspot mapping and oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign planning; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and risk communication.

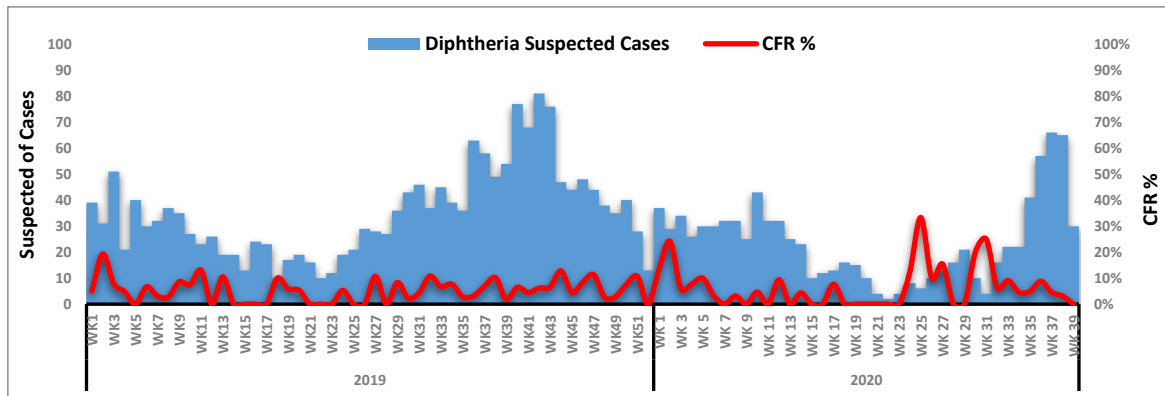
Meanwhile, a new joint WHO- KSRelief project on improvement of water and sanitation services in 45 health care facilities and water quality monitoring and surveillance in high-risk districts will aim to improve health services and health preventive programmes provided at the hospital level, including care of newborns, elimination of childhood pneumonia and diarrhoea. In Hajjah Governorate, three Diarrhea treatment Centres whose building and equipping were supported by WHO have been inaugurated. The cholera response still faces, however, a series of challenges, including a lack of resources, suspension of incentive payments due to lack of resources, reduction in health-seeking behaviours and service utilization at cholera treatment centres due to fear of COVID-19, and restrictions resulting in the delay of OCV shipment.

Diphtheria

A total of 5,801 probable cases of diphtheria and 326 associated deaths were reported from 12 August 2017 to 27 September 2020. The reported probable cases during the first nine months of 2020 decreased compared to the same period of the previous two years (respectively 60 per cent reduction compared to 2018 and 12 per cent reduction compared to 2019).

Dengue

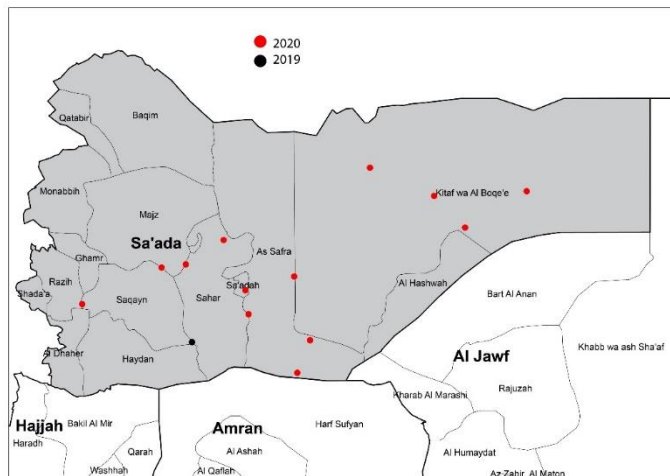
From 1 January to 27 September 2020, a total of 38,516 suspected Dengue Fever cases were reported from northern governorates, with 76 associated deaths. Within the reporting period, 50 districts reported suspected cases with 92 per cent of suspected cases were reported from four governorates: Mareb (52 per cent), Al Hudaydah (22 per cent), Hajjah (12 per cent) and Taizz (7 per cent).



A dengue fever control campaign in Aden city's eight districts was launched on 13 September by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, with the support of the WHO and KSRelief. The campaign included indoor and outdoor fogging, community awareness activities, vector surveillance and environmental management of all mosquitoes breeding sources, to provide direct protection to 430,000 people and indirectly to the 1.7 million total population of Aden city.

Polio

In addition to the 15 cases that had been detected in Sa'adah Governorate, clusters of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases have been reported in the governorates of Al Jawf, Al Mahawet and Amran. These cases are under investigation. Intensified efforts for community-based surveillance are underway in Sa'adah, Hajjah and Amran governorates and surveillance focal points are maintaining close follow

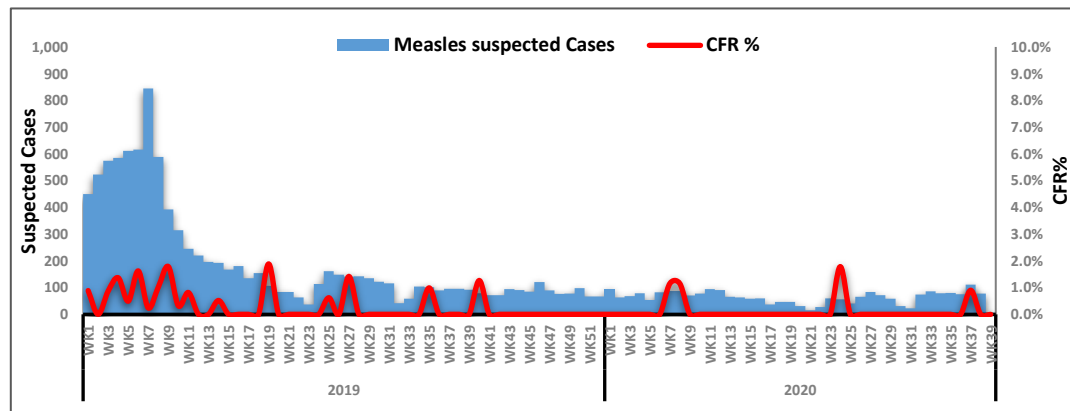


up on all reported AFP cases. Longstanding delays with the shipment of stool specimens out of the country are contributing to further delaying detection of the virus. As of the end of September, more than 700 stool specimens were awaiting shipment out of Yemen. Partners are exploring the feasibility of establishing environmental sampling as part of enhanced surveillance activities and planning for a series or rapid assessment at the field level.

Measles

During the first nine months of 2020, a total of 2,471 suspected measles cases were reported from northern governorates, with four associated deaths. Within the reporting period, 73 per cent of suspected cases were reported from three governorates: Sa'adah (57 per cent), Amanat Al Asimah (ten per cent) and Amran (six per cent). Children under the age of five represent 68 per cent of the total suspected cases.

The trend of suspected cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 – 39, 2020



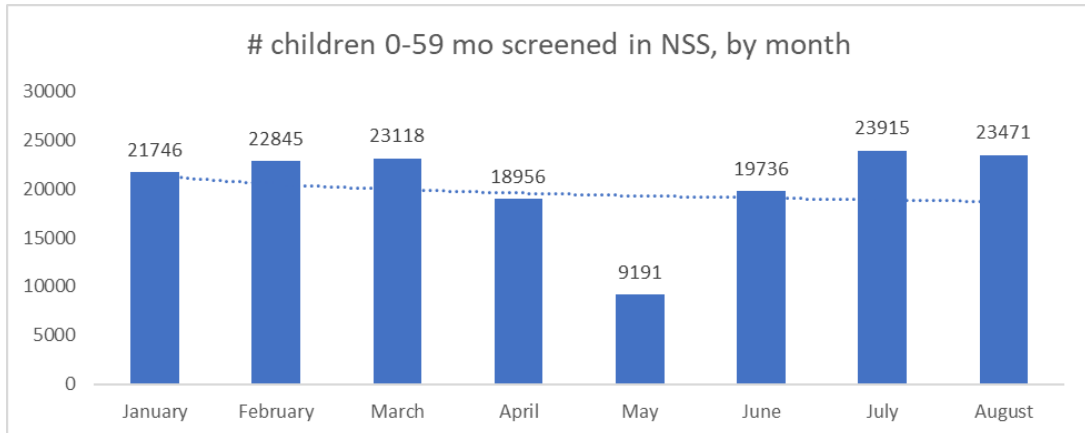
Both polio and measles outbreaks are direct consequences of increasingly low levels of immunity among children. Efforts to secure vaccine for campaigns are ongoing, but free and unimpeded access to reach children with vaccination and other essential services is critical to stop these outbreaks and protect children from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Nutrition

As a total of 23,471 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition in August; 28 per cent of them were under six months. This number of children screened is almost back to the annual average after the sharp decline witnessed in May 2020. The improvement can be attributable to the measures (Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and safe anthropometric assessment put in place to maintain safe access to surveillance and preserve population's trust in the system's ability to provide safe nutrition services, including during the COVID19 pandemic.

This result is also confirmed by the increased number of sites with available IPC material and PPE, as per the charts below.

Number of children 0-59 months, screened in the 81 NSS operational sites from January to August 2020



Acute Wasting by Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was detected in 27 per cent of the total children aged between six and 59 months screened in August 2020, with the highest rates recorded in Al Hudaydah and Raymah governorates. Children found with acute malnutrition were referred to appropriate nutrition services.

Underweight in the age group 0-59 months shows an average proportion of 48 per cent, with levels above 50 per cent in Al Hudaydah, Dhamar and Raymah governorates. Exclusive breastfeeding remains at alarmingly low levels, with 19 per cent infants under six months of age are exclusively breastfed.

Also, a total of 1,451 children were admitted to WHO supported 93 therapeutic feeding centres (TFCs) for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. The cure rate was reported at 91 per cent (1022) with a case fatality rate of 2 per cent (25).

New contributions from Italy and Germany will enable WHO to continue running its nutrition programme and help sustain 80 per cent of the total functional Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC) in Yemen, including in the areas most affected by food insecurity and those which feature layers of co-morbidity due to COVID-19 and Cholera.

Moreover, a new partnership between WHO and KSRelief will enable the provision of essential nutrition services in 90 therapeutic feeding centres, covering 222 high priority districts in Yemen's 22 governorates and providing treatment to 23 428 individuals and counselling to their caregivers. Of the 90 centres, 45 will be rehabilitated, and 13 will now become operational to enhance treatment and expand therapeutic feeding services in priority districts.

Integrated Outreach Activities

The mass vaccination activities, which had been suspended due to COVID -19 pandemic, resumed after receiving the WHO interim guidelines on the conduction of mass vaccination during COVID-19 pandemic, including strict infection, prevention and control measures. Following a Diphtheria campaign that was conducted in five governorates in June and a Polio vaccination campaign in 13 governorates in August, the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) team in Sana'a has started implementing the first round of Integrated Outreach round in the northern governorates. In September, a first round of Integrated Outreach was completed in nine northern governorates, namely Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar, Al Bayda, Ibb, Mareb, Al Mahweet, Raymah and Taiz.

During the integrated outreach, target children in remote, difficult to reach areas and marginalized communities are not only reached with various EPI antigens but also with other interventions like Nutrition (screening, Vitamin A, deworming and nutrition supplementation), Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) services as well reproductive health and vaccination against tetanus for the Childbearing age women. So far, around 21,000 children and 16,000 women have been vaccinated, 43,000 under-five children benefited from IMCI services, 26,000 children and mothers have been screened and treated for nutrition activities, and 353 women have received antenatal, postnatal care and family planning services.

Fuel Provision

Amid an ongoing fuel crisis since June 2020, WHO continued supporting targeted health facilities with fuel provision to ensure functionality and continuous provision of life-saving health care services. A total of 1,373,321 L of fuel were planned to be provided to 295 health facilities across the country in September. As of the end of the month, a quantity of 197,100 litres was delivered to 44 health facilities.

Contacts:

Altaf Musani, WHO Representative for Yemen: Musania@who.int

Roy Cosico, Health Emergency Lead for WHO Yemen: cosicor@who.int

Ahmed Ben Lassoued, Communications WHO Yemen: benlassoueda@who.int