



## SITUATION REPORT OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE NO.10 Yemen Update



A father and his two children about to embark on a UN flight heading from Amman to Sana'a as part of the UN Humanitarian medical bridge. Photo: UNMHA/ Samer Al Jazzazi



**30.5M ESTIMATED POPULATION\***



**24.3M MILLION \*\* IN NEED**



**2,064 \*\*\* COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES**



**17.9M \*\*\*\* IN NEED FOR HEALTH CARE**

### WHO

### HIGHLIGHTS



To ensure continuity of child vaccination services & maintain immunization coverage during the frequent power outages, WHO facilitated the provision & distribution of 750 solar refrigerators out of 2,123 in total to cover 70% of health facilities across Yemen. C: Nesma Khan

- Acute malnutrition rates among children under five are the highest ever recorded in parts of Yemen, with more than half a million cases in southern districts.
- New agreements were signed with the Republic of Korea and the Islamic Development Bank, respectively, to support the COVID-19 response in Yemen.
- A total of 204,291 suspected cholera cases and 53 associated deaths were reported during the first ten months of 2020.
- On 4 and 5 October, two UN chartered flights carried back to Sanaa a group of civilian Yemenis who had been receiving medical treatment in Jordan for different diseases and conditions that cannot be treated in Yemen.

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 OCTOBER

393,350 LITERS OF FUEL DELIVERED

\* Yemen HRP 2020  
 \*\* Yemen HRP 2020  
 \*\*\* COVID-19 Report as of Oct 2020  
 \*\*\*\* Yemen- HRP 2020

## Situation Update

- **Malnutrition surges among young children in Yemen as conditions worsen:** Acute malnutrition rates among children under five are the highest ever recorded in parts of Yemen, with more than half a million cases in southern districts, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition analysis released in October 2020 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The analysis – which is for 133 districts in southern parts of Yemen only, home to 1.4 million children under five – has revealed a near 10 per cent increase in cases of acute malnutrition in 2020. The most significant increase is in cases of young children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with a 15.5 per cent rise during 2020. This increase leaves at least 98,000 children under five at high risk of dying without urgent treatment for severe acute malnutrition. A dangerous combination of factors, driven by conflict and economic decline, compound the situation for Yemen's youngest children. In the worst-hit areas included in this analysis - Abyan lowlands (23 per cent), Lahj lowlands (21 per cent), Taizz lowlands (22 per cent)-, around one in five children are acutely malnourished. In Al Hudaydah's lowlands, more than one in four (27 per cent) of children are acutely malnourished.
- **Conflict continues across Yemen,** disrupting livelihoods and reducing access to income and humanitarian assistance. As of the end of October, there were 47 active front lines across Yemen – the most ever recorded. The heaviest clashes have occurred in Al Hudaydah, Marib and Al Jawf. Around one million people who are displaced are sheltering in and around Marib city. As a result of conflict, people continue to flee their homes with over 150,000 new displaced this year, most of them in Marib. On 24 October, an attack on the Al Amal Hospital for Cancer Treatment in Taizz Governorate injured two health care workers and damaged the facility. Patients, most of them children, have been left in a state of panic. Health partners have documented 163 attacks on hospitals and other medical facilities across Yemen since the beginning of the war.

**Epidemiological Update, Surveillance and Response- October 2020**

**COVID-19**

As of 24 October, the number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in Yemen reached 2,064 with 601 associated deaths and 1,361 recoveries. Over the previous four weeks, only 30 new confirmed cases, 13 deaths and 99 recoveries had been reported. While the number of cases reported continued to show a decline, indicators suggested that the virus is still spreading and the number of confirmed cases and deaths reported were an underestimate. A lack of testing facilities and official reporting, people delaying seeking treatment because of stigma, difficulty accessing treatment centres and the perceived risks



A new USD 1 million contribution from the Republic of Korea will enable WHO to enhance Yemen's laboratory testing capacities in the fight against COVID-19. C: Omar Nasr/WHO

of seeking care, were some of the reasons behind the low number of reported cases. The COVID-19 response continues to focus on testing, surveillance and case management. Procuring oxygen, personal protective equipment (PPE), and monitors are a priority. Partners are working to increase surveillance, deploy dedicated COVID-19 staff within agencies and track the impact of COVID-19 on routine priority health programmes. They also continue to support the public health system, refine messaging to encourage behavioural change, and boost intensive care unit (ICU) capacities in preparation for any subsequent waves of the virus.

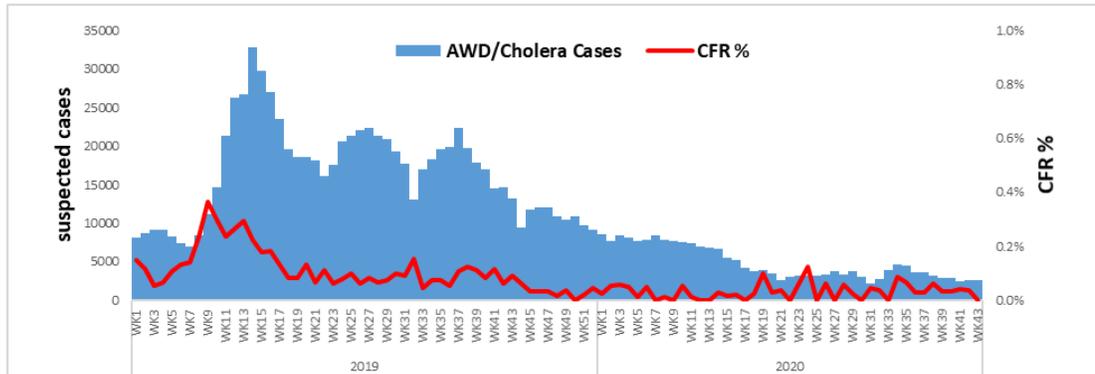
In a recent contribution to the COVID-19 response, the Republic of Korea has donated USD 1 million that will help enhance Yemen's laboratory testing capacities to detect COVID-19 cases timely. On the other hand, WHO and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have joined forces with Yemen's Ministries of Health and Population and Planning and International Cooperation to provide emergency support to the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The US \$20 million joint project is the first partnership between the two organizations in Yemen.

**Cholera**

A total of 204,291 suspected cholera cases and 53 associated deaths were reported during the first ten months of 2020. WHO continues to lead the cholera response 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.

**The trend of suspected cholera cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 to 43, 2020**



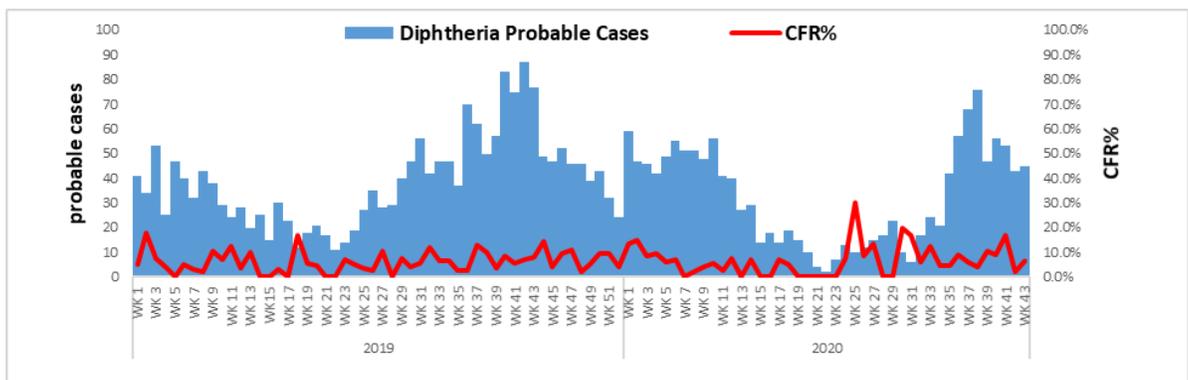
A new partnership between WHO and Germany will help sustain the operational capacity of the Rapid Response Teams and support laboratories through the provision of rapid diagnostic tests.

The cholera response still faces, however, a series of challenges, including a lack of resources, suspension of financial support to health care workforce 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 Oral Cholera Vaccines shipment.

**Diphtheria**

A total of 1,147 probable cases of diphtheria and 80 associated deaths were reported from 1 January to 25 October 2020 from the northern governorates of Yemen.

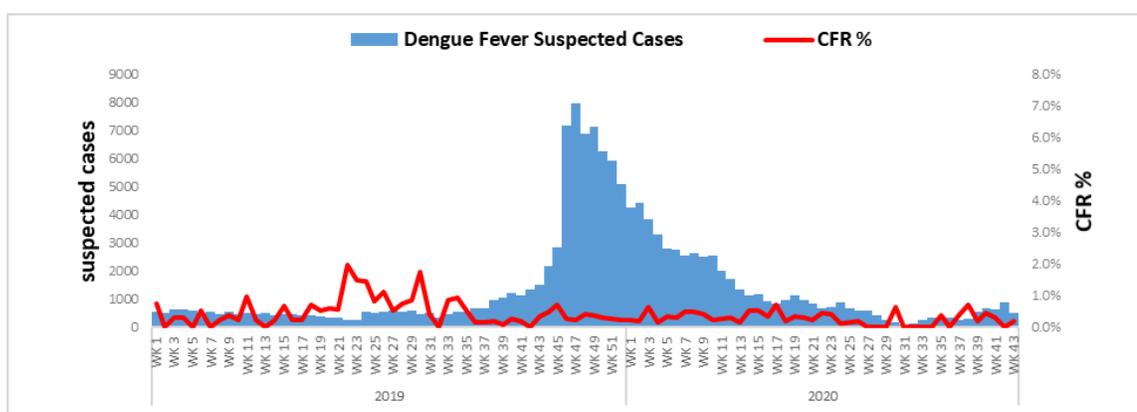
**The trend of probable diphtheria cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 to 43, 2020**



## Dengue

From 1 January to 25 October 2020, a total of 41,465 suspected Dengue Fever cases were reported from northern governorates, with 77 associated deaths. Within the reporting period, 50 districts reported suspected cases with 90 per cent of suspected cases reported from three governorates: Mareb (61 per cent), Al Hudaydah (19 per cent) and Hajjah (10 per cent).

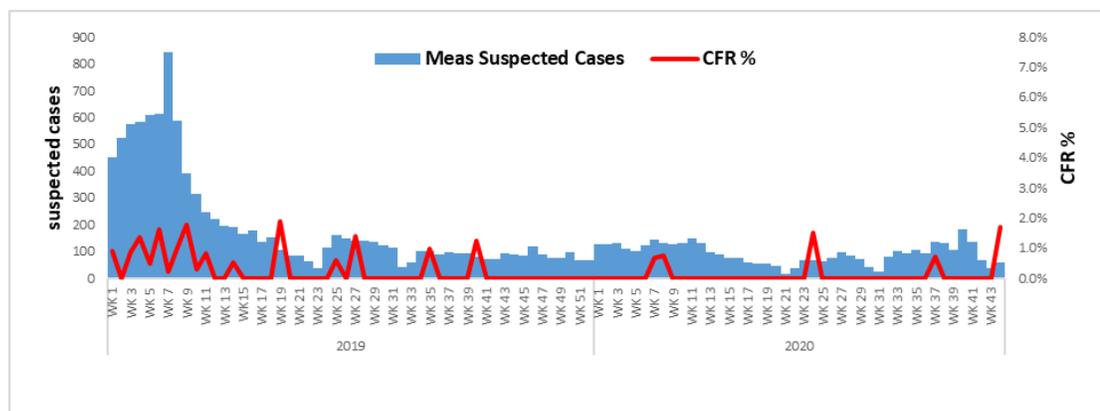
### The trend of suspected Dengue Fever cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 – 43, 2020



## Measles

From 1 January to 31 October 2020, a total of 3,076 suspected measles cases were reported from northern governorates, with five associated deaths. Within the reporting period, 88 per cent of suspected cases were reported from four governorates: Sa'ada (70 per cent), Amran (8 per cent), Hajjah (6 per cent) and Al Bayda (4 per cent). Children under the age of five represent 69 per cent of the total suspected cases.

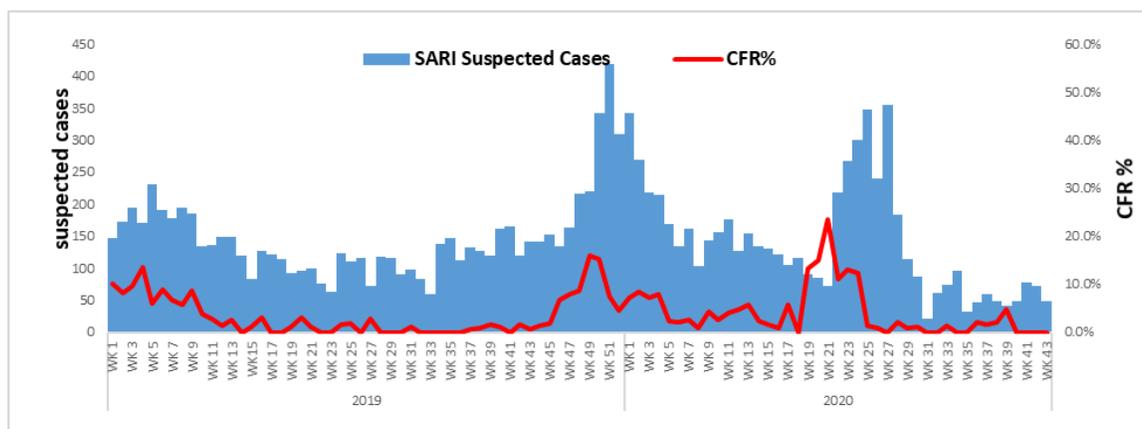
### The trend of suspected measles cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 – 44, 2020



## SARI

From 1 January to 25 October 2020, a total of 5130 suspected Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) were reported from northern governorates, with 292 associated deaths. During the reporting period, 91 per cent of suspected cases were reported from three governorates: Dhamar (64 per cent), Sa'adah (23 per cent) and Taizz (4 per cent).

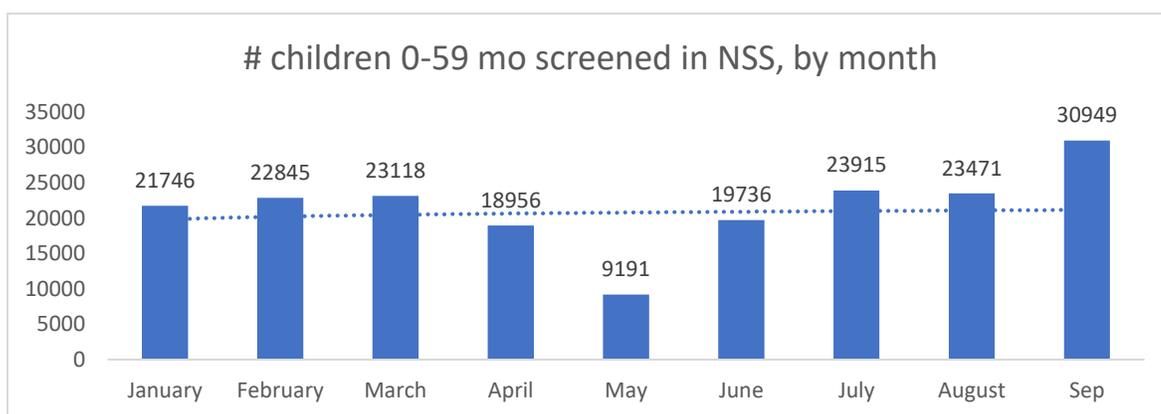
### The trend suspected SARI cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2019 to 43, 2020



## Nutrition

As a total of 30,494 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition in September, of whom 25 per cent 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 PPEs, as per the charts below.

### Number of children aged 0-59 months screened from January to September 2020



On the other hand, **1,793** children were admitted to the 95 WHO supported therapeutic feeding centres (TFCs) for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. The cure rate was reported at 94 per cent (1022) with a case fatality rate of 2 per cent (26).

### **Fuel Provision**

WHO continued its support to targeted health facilities with fuel provision to ensure functionality and continuous provision of life-saving health care services. A quantity of 393,350 litres was delivered to 95 health facilities, out of a total of 1,365,321 L of fuel planned to be provided to 294 health facilities across the country in October.

### **Provision of Material and Supplies to Support Trauma Care Services in Targeted Hospitals**

WHO continued its support to targeted hospitals to ensure functionality and continuous provision of Trauma Care Services, including the provision or donation of seven Trauma Kits B and 13 SSK –Surgical Supply Kits to the main referral hospitals across the country.

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