



World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

SITUATION REPORT
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Yemen Update



Thanks to Japan's support, WHO has been able to sustain Yemen's fragile and underfunded mental health system, including by training 250 health care workers across the country since July 2020 to enable the delivery of quality service at mental health facilities. C: WHO



30.5M ESTIMATED POPULATION*



24.3M ** NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



2,125* COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES**



17.9M ** IN NEED FOR HEALTH CARE**

WHO

HIGHLIGHTS



In 2020, WHO has distributed over \$103 millions worth of aid to 1470 locations across #Yemen (159% more compared to 2019), including ambulances, CT-scanners, vaccine refrigerators, dialysis material, hospital and laboratory equipment, medicines for various diseases and nutrition kits.

- **COVID-19 response:** As Yemen prepares for COVID-19 vaccine rollout, WHO and partners continue bolstering their response strategy.
- **Schistosomiasis campaign:** WHO supported a mass treatment campaign against schistosomiasis and common helminths, targeting 32 districts in seven governorates across Yemen.
- **Malaria response:** As part of the National Malaria Control and Prevention Programme, WHO supported a dengue fever campaign in two districts of Shabwa governorate.

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

1,354,221 LITERS OF FUEL DELIVERED

* Yemen HRP 2020
 ** Yemen HRP 2020
 *** COVID-19 Report as of January 2021
 **** Yemen- HRP 2020

WHO response

WHO and partners prepare for COVID-19 vaccine rollout, a potential spike in infections



WHO and partners are refining their COVID 19 strategy, including case management: Photo: WHO

Yemen has applied to the COVAX initiative implemented by WHO, GAVI and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to receive about 14 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to cover the initial needs of 23% of the population of Yemen. The vaccines will be delivered progressively throughout 2021. The first allocation of 2.3 million doses has been confirmed and should be available in the next weeks. The COVAX initiative is meant to support all governorates of Yemen as per defined needs and population targeting. Operational planning is already underway.

As part of its overall support to the COVID-19 national response, WHO will provide technical support to deploy COVID-19 vaccines received from COVAX or bilateral agreements. WHO will also

provide advisory on vaccines' safety and efficacy irrespective of procurement source as available.

Meanwhile, to better assess the COVID-19 situation in the country, WHO has conducted a seroprevalence study in Aden, and the results will be announced in the coming few weeks. Health partners on the ground are continually working towards increasing surveillance, deploying dedicated COVID-19 staff within agencies, tracking the virus's impact on routine priority health programmes, refining messaging to encourage behavioural change, and boosting intensive care unit (ICU) capacity. WHO is preparing for a potential spike in cases by refining its response strategies, including surveillance, contact tracing, risk communications, technical guidance and training, case testing and verification, and provision of medical devices and supplies.

In partnership with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief), WHO is working with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to enable rapid detection and response to COVID-19 cases and clusters, including through an integrated, multisectoral coordination system at central and governorate levels and support to emergency operation centres (EOCs) across the country. Twenty-six main entry points to Yemen will be equipped to enable rapid COVID-19 detection.

The joint project will also enhance the testing capacity of central public health laboratories throughout the country and support the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in health and non-health settings. Multifaceted support to health facilities will improve their capacity to receive COVID-19 patients by providing medical supplies and equipment and case management training for health workers.

Through the Yemen Covid-19 Response Project, WHO and the World Bank are working together to help Yemen respond and mitigate the risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. The project focuses on supporting case management in isolation units and central public health laboratories' diagnostic capacity. It also includes infection prevention and control, personal protection

equipment, supplies and equipment, and support to surveillance and rapid-response teams.

As health partners remain concerned that COVID19 figures in Yemen are underestimated for various reasons, including weak testing capacities, WHO the Islamic Development Bank are working together to expand laboratory testing capacity via the provision of 150,000 testing kits. The partnership also aims to improve the preparedness of 32 COVID-19 treatment centres across Yemen by providing essential equipment, supplies and medicines to facilitate the treatment of critical COVID-19 patients. The partnership will also support the laboratory testing capacity of two medical universities in the country.



Training session on infection Prevention and control supported by KSRelief, Aden 23-25 January. Photo: WHO.

Intensive care unit training

WHO in January kickstarted a series of training sessions for COVID-19 intensive care units (ICU). The first group of 20 participants from ICUs in Aden and Lahj took part in the first session. The six-day training aims to skill the participants to provide improved ICU care for COVID-19 patients.

Participants will be skilled in providing emergency life-saving early treatment, oxygen therapy, optimum ICU care, and managing medical complications.

Schistosomiasis mass drug administration (MDA) campaign:

Through the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project supported by the World Bank and implemented in partnership with UNICEF, WHO supported the Ministry of Public Health and Population in conducting a mass drug administration campaign against schistosomiasis and common helminths in 32 districts in seven governorates across Yemen.



A child receives treatment to be protected against schistosomiasis and common during the MDA campaign. Photo: WHO

Malaria and dengue fever response:

As part of the National Malaria Control Program in Yemen, on 11-15 January, the WHO in partnership with the Government of Japan supported health authorities in Shabwah governorate in conducting a dengue fever campaign in Mayfa'a and Bayhan

districts. The campaign will protect more than 135,000 people against dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.

In partnership with KSrelief, on 27 and 28 January, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health and Population conducted a training session on malaria case management for 20 health workers in Al Mahrah governorate. Under the same partnership, 70,070 anti-malaria treatment courses and 76,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests were distributed in January to health facilities in Yemen's eastern and northern governorates.



Dengue Campaign in Shabwah governorate. Photo: WHO Yemen

Support for health facilities:

WHO continued in January its multifaceted support to health facilities and dialysis centres in several governorates, including Al-Hudaydah, Raymah, Al Mahweet, Hajjah and Hadramout, through the provision of medicines and medical supplies to ensure the delivery of essential health care services. The support included cholera kits, PPE equipment, hygiene kits and infection

control, dialysis supplies, and other medicine and medical supplies.

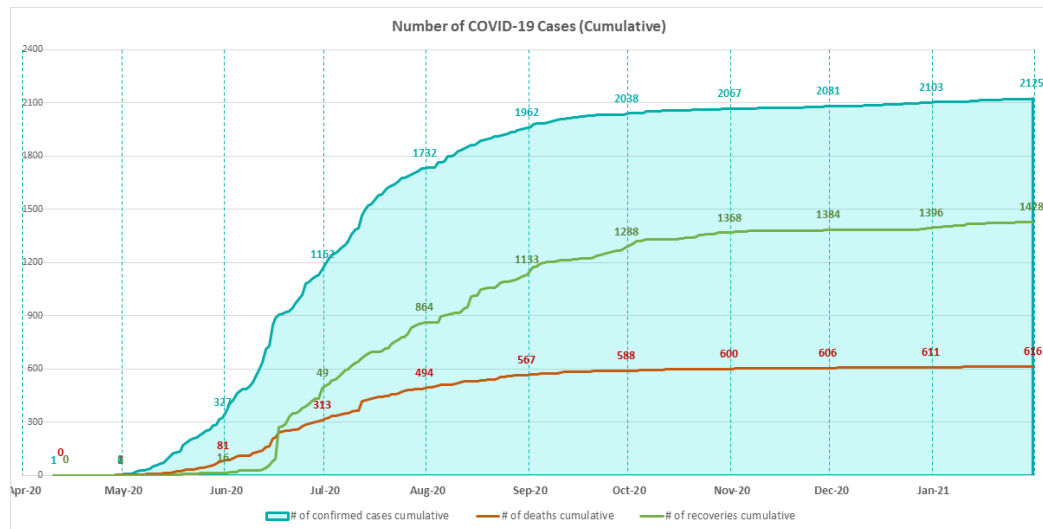
WHO provided 29 surgical supply kits and two anaesthetic kits to the main referral hospitals across the country to ensure functionality and continuous provision of trauma care services.

A total of 1,354,221 litres of fuel was delivered to 291 health facilities across the country.

Epidemiological Update

COVID -19

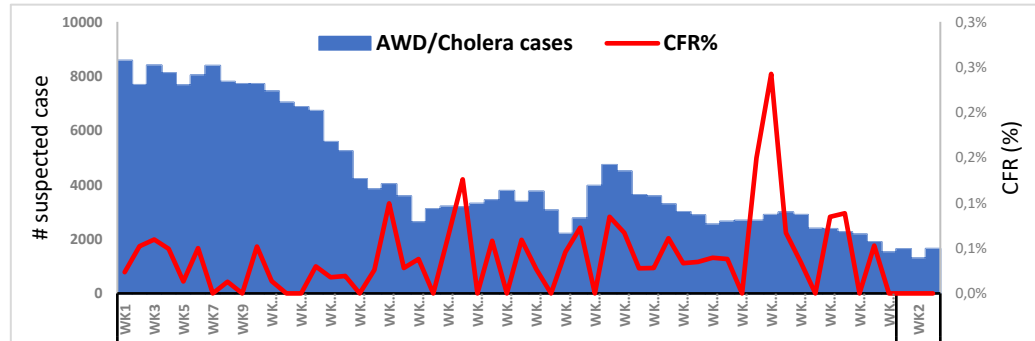
In January, health authorities reported 22 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, five associated deaths and 32 recoveries, bringing the total number of reported cases to 2,125, with 616 deaths and 1,428 recoveries. Health partners remain concerned that under-reporting continues for various reasons and that the official epi-curve underestimates the extent of COVID-19 in Yemen.



Cholera

From 28 December 2020 to 24 January 2021, a total of 6073 suspected Acute Watery Diarrhoea/cholera cases were reported from northern governorates, with no associated death. Within the previous three epidemiological weeks, 14 governorates reported

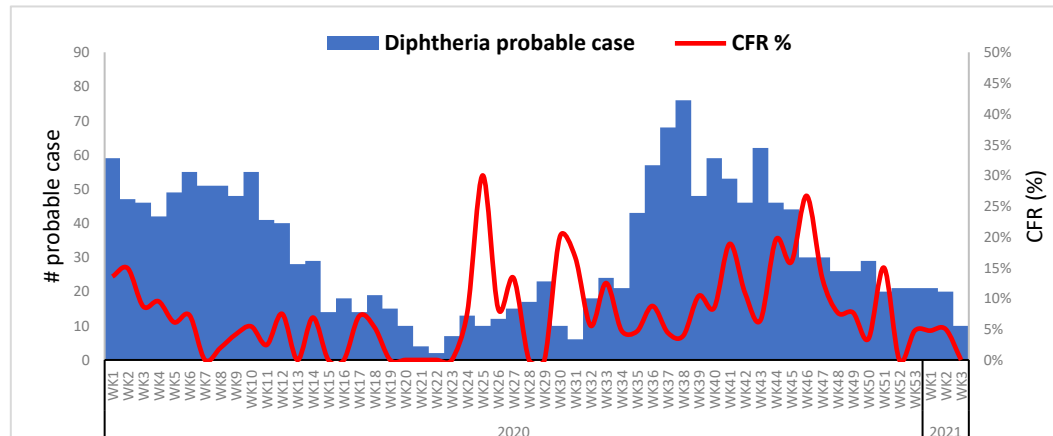
suspected case, with 52% of suspected cases reported from three governorates: Taizz (20%), Al-Hudaydah (19%) and Sana'a (13%).



The trend of suspected cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 3, 2021

Diphtheria

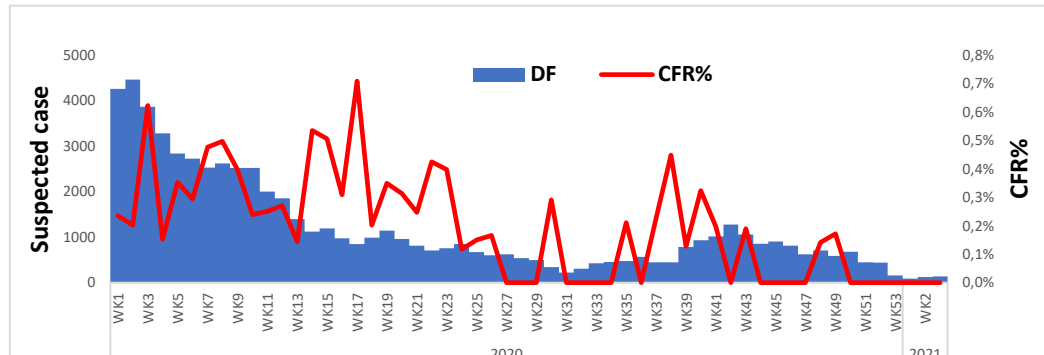
From 28 December 2020 to 24 January 2021, 147 probable cases from northern governorates, including one associated deaths, were reported. Within the previous three epidemiological weeks, six governorates reported probable cases, with 88% of probable cases reported from four governorates: Sa'ada (27%), Taizz (23%), Dhamar (19%), and Hajjah (19%).



The trend of probable diphtheria cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 3, 2021

Dengue

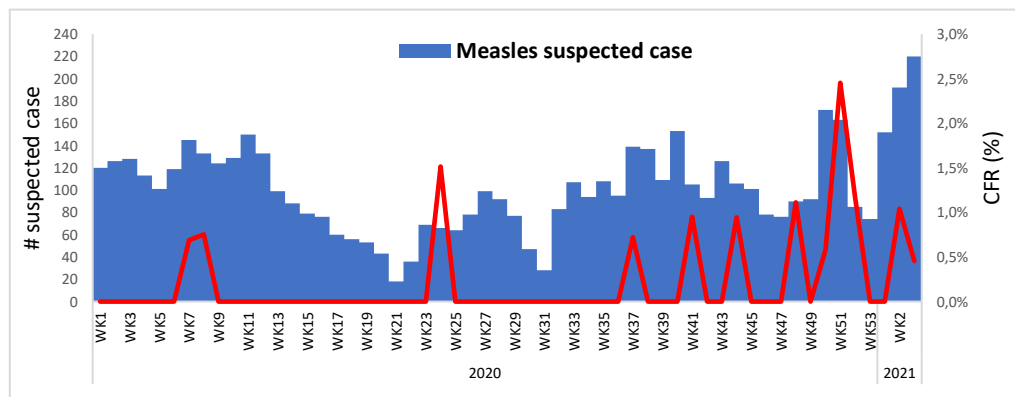
From 28 December 2020 to 24 January 2021, a total of 5050 suspected dengue fever cases were reported from northern governorates, with no associated deaths. Within the previous three epidemiological weeks, four governorates reported suspected cases, with 99% of suspected cases reported from three governorates: Al-Hudaydah (75%), Hajjah (21%) and Al-Mahweet (3%).



The trend of suspected dengue cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 – 3, 2021

Measles

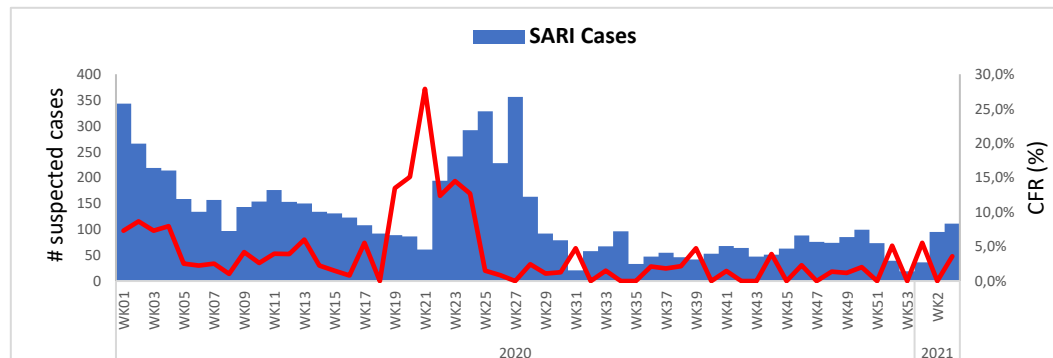
From 28 December 2020 to 24 January 2021, a total of 636 suspected measles cases were reported from northern governorates, with six associated deaths. Within the previous three epidemiological weeks, 75% of suspected cases were reported from three governorates: Sa'ada (57%), Amanat Al Asimah (10%) and Amran (8%). Children under the age of five represent 73% of the total suspected cases.



The trend of suspected dengue cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020– 3, 2021

SARI

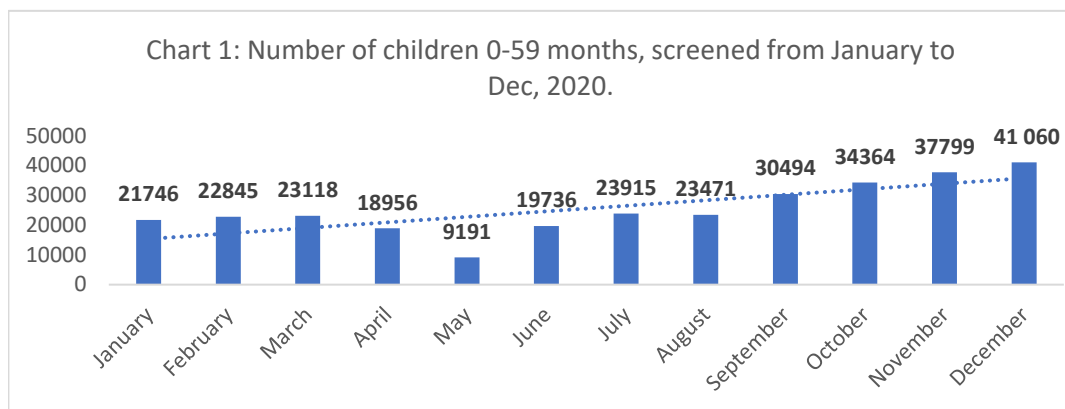
From 28 December 2020 to 24 January 2021, a total of 261 suspected SARI cases were reported from northern governorates, with six associated deaths. Within the previous three epidemiological weeks, 12 governorates reported suspected cases. 89% of suspected cases were reported from four governorates: Dhamar (46%), Amanat Al Asimah (31%), Sa'ada (6%) and Amran (6%).



The trend suspected SARI cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 3, 2021

Nutrition

As a total of 41,060 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition in December, 25% were under six months. The improvement can be attributable to the increase in the number of reporting sites, as a result of the program scale-up, as well as 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 December 2020

Acute Wasting by Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was detected in 16.3% of the total children 6-59 months screened in December 2020, with the highest rates recorded in Al-Hudaydah and Sa'ada governorates. Children found with acute malnutrition were referred to appropriate nutrition services.

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