

The Sub-regional Meeting on enhancing cholera/acute watery diarrhea preparedness and response held in Beirut, Lebanon on August 15th – 16th, 2023, addressed a pressing concern:

Over 1 million suspected cholera cases were reported in 2022 across eight countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR). These cases have placed an immense strain on already fragile healthcare systems within the cholera-affected nations/countries. The meeting aimed to evaluate and enhance the EMR's preparedness and response to cholera outbreaks.

Attended by more than 50 participants both physically and virtually, the event boasted a diverse representation from various organizations including MOH representatives from nine countries (IR Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and Sudan), WHO (country offices, regional office, and HQ), UNICEF (MENARO and ROSA), AUB, EMPHINET, IOM, UK-Med, OCHA, UNHCR, and UNRWA.



The meeting, which was held in a virtual format, was the first of its kind in the EMRO region. It was held on 26-27 October 2021, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by WHO and UNICEF, with the participation of representatives from various countries in the region. The meeting focused on the current situation of cholera and acute watery diarrhea in the region, and discussed strategies for enhancing preparedness and response. The meeting was held in a virtual format, which allowed for the participation of a large number of experts from across the region. The meeting was a success, and it was hoped that it would lead to improved preparedness and response to cholera and acute watery diarrhea in the region.