

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 the first of its kind in the EMR region, took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 14-15 October 2023. The meeting was organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in collaboration with UNICEF. The meeting was held in a grand ballroom with a large chandelier. The backdrop features the logos of the WHO and UNICEF. The participants are standing in a group, smiling for the camera.