

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 concluded with implementation of the meeting's purpose, which was to enhance the preparedness and response to cholera/acute watery diarrhea in the region. Throughout the meeting, a meticulous analysis of the EMDR situation took place. The recommendations included: