

Table 2. Country activities in implementation of Zika preparedness plan

Areas of work	Activities	Target countries		Month	Budget (in \$US)
		All	Priority *		
1. Coordination and planning	1.1 Establish an Incident Management System (IMS) at the Regional Office that is adequately staffed; and develop an activity plan to guide preparedness for Zika	✓	–	February	–
	1.2 Address immediate staffing needs of the IMS by recruiting short-term consultants	✓	–	April–June	70 000
	1.3 Disseminate generic contingency plans and SOPs for epidemic and pandemic response for adaptation by countries in the Region	✓	–	March	–
	1.4 Provide technical support to countries to develop/review, and implement a multisectoral contingency plan and for epidemic and pandemic response	–	✓	April–May	10 000
	1.5 Conduct training on the Incident Command System	–	✓	July	20 000
	1.6 Organize regional meetings to enhance preparedness and response capacity	✓	–	February	132 000
	1.7 Organize a regional partners' meeting on Zika virus infection	✓	–	April	40 000
	1.8 Develop an inventory on regional research institutions, scientists and technical expertise for Zika preparedness and response	✓	–	March–April	–
2. Points of entry	2.1 Disseminate guidance to travellers to raise awareness, disinfect conveyances and conduct surveillance at PoE	✓	–	March	–
	2.2 Conduct training for vector		✓	March–	100 000

	surveillance and integrated vector management at PoE and support establishment/improvements in vector control programmes at PoE			August	
	2.3 Support countries to develop contingency plans for preparedness and response at public health events at PoE	✓	–	March	20 000
	2.4 Support enhancement of awareness among conveyance operators on actions regarding suspected cases of disease and vector notification protocols	✓	–	March	–
3. Surveillance and risk assessment	3.1 Disseminate technical guidance and standard case definition for active surveillance of Zika virus infection	✓	–	March	–
	3.2 Support establishment/strengthening of event-based/syndromic surveillance for clusters of fever and rash illness of unknown aetiology	–	✓	March–August	60 000
	3.3 Conduct country Zika virus risk assessments, and provide guidance, support and training on Zika virus risk assessment, active surveillance, and epidemiological investigation around suspected Zika virus infection cases and other arboviral infections	✓	–	May–August	60 000
	3.4 Develop a regional plan to establish sentinel-based surveillance system for congenital birth defects and Guillain-Barre syndrome	✓	–	April–June	10 000
	3.5 Establish regional baseline data on birth defects and monitor to assess the trend of congenital birth defects (especially microcephaly) in high-risk areas	–	✓	April–August	30 000

4. Entomological surveillance and vector control	4.1 Conduct desk review at country level in terms of distribution of vectors and history of previous dengue and yellow fever outbreaks	✓	–	March	–
	4.2 Identify surveillance and vector control tools from regional research institutes and establish a regional network of entomological laboratories	✓	–	March	10 000
	4.3 Conduct training workshops on entomological aspects related to Zika virus and develop country plans of action	✓	–	April	60 000
	4.4 Facilitate the equipment of existing medical entomological laboratories with the necessary tools for field sampling, preparing and storage of mosquitoes	–	–	April	30 000
	4.5 Facilitate shipment of mosquito samples to reference laboratories for confirmation of species diagnosis	✓	–	March–August	30 000
5. Laboratory services	5.1 Disseminate guidance on collection, storage, and transportation of laboratory samples	✓	–	April	–
	5.2 Support laboratory functions through facilitating shipment of specimens to Zika testing laboratories, as well as provision of diagnostic reagents	✓	–	April	40 000
	5.3 Conduct training workshops on infectious substance shipment training (ISST), as well as testing using PCR and serology	✓	–	May	70 000
	5.4 Assist national entomological laboratories to detect arboviruses in mosquitoes	✓	–	July	60 000
	5.5 Facilitate existing	✓	–	April–	60 000

	laboratory-based disease-specific surveillance systems (e.g. measles, polio) to detect Zika virus infection and associated disorders			August	
6. Risk communication and community engagement	6.1 Disseminate key Zika virus messages, risk communication guidance and community engagement guidance to all countries	✓	–	March–April	60 000
	6.2 Develop health topic webpage on Zika	✓	–	March–April	–
	6.3 Provide regular information (questions and answers, talking points and other vital information to WHO representatives and risk communication focal points	✓	–	March–August	–
	6.4 Conduct a training programme for national media on Zika	–	✓	April–May	100 000
	6.5 Support national Zika awareness sessions for partners and influencers in preparation for mass gatherings, such as the hajj	–	✓	July–August	100 000
7. Operational research and addressing knowledge gaps	7.1 Promote operational research to refine entomological and epidemiological knowledge, including testing of archived samples in countries of the Region in relation to Zika virus infection	✓	–	April–August	100 000
	7.2 Procure insecticide susceptibility test kits in relation to operational research on vector control	✓	–	March–August	30 000
	7.3 Map and predict the distribution of vectors <i>Aedes aegypti</i> and <i>Aedes albopictus</i> in countries of the Region	✓	–	April–June	40 000
	7.4 Support rapid entomological surveys for countries that need immediate confirmation of the presence of competent <i>Aedes</i>	✓	–	April–August	50 000

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