

Current major event

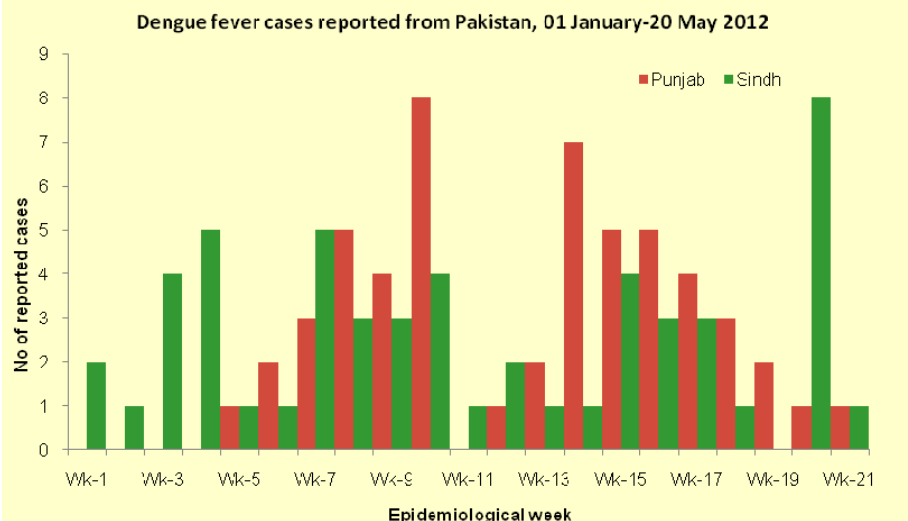
Dengue in Pakistan

Sporadic cases of dengue fever has been reported from Pakistan in recent time. Laboratory-confirmed cases of dengue fever were reported from Punjab (57 cases) and Sindh province (54 cases) in Pakistan upto the epidemiological week no 21 (Please see the graph). No death has, so far, been reported from any of these provinces.

Editorial note

Dengue fever is endemic in Pakistan with seasonal spikes. Since 2006, the country is reporting cases of Dengue/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DF/DHF) from different parts of the country. In last two years, the country faced two major outbreaks from DF/DHF. However, the outbreak of 2011 was one of the worst in the history of Pakistan with more than 23,252 laboratory-confirmed cases including 361 deaths (Please see the table). Majority of these cases were reported from the province of Punjab. The province of Sindh was also badly affected last year.

Sporadic cases of DF has again been reported from the province of Punjab and Sindh this year. However, the good sign is that cases are still sporadic in nature and has been detected early. As it happened in both the outbreaks of DF/DHF in past two years (2010-2011), the epidemic started after the rainy season in August and peaked during the months of October and November. Therefore, the early detection of DF cases in Punjab and Sindh provinces at the current period offers an opportunity to the country's health authorities to avert any major outbreak that was observed in the past two years. Improving case management specially for dengue with warning signs and severe dengue, laboratory confirmation of the circulating serotypes, reinforcing integrated surveillance (both epidemiological, entomological and laboratory), effective vector control in pockets with high vector densities and strengthening social and behavioural interventions amongst at-risk popula-



Laboratory-confirmed cases of dengue fever reported from Pakistan, 2006-2011

Year	Cases	Deaths
2006	1931	41
2007	1226	18
2008	2469	17
2009	1085	13
2010	11,024	40
2011	23,252	361

Source: WHO Country Office, Pakistan

tions will contribute to reduced transmission of dengue fever promptly

As reported in one of the past issues (*Weekly Epidemiological Monitor*, 2012, 5:19&20), cases of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) has also been reported from Pakistan in recent time including from Punjab and Sindh provinces. The co-occurrence of both dengue and CCHF merits special public health attention and a challenge specially for clinical management of cases with haemorrhagic manifestations in hospitals. The severe and fatal form of dengue fever may often present with acute haemorrhagic manifestations which may overlap with the clinical manifestations of CCHF. Thus, standard precautions need to be taken by all the health-care workers to prevent nosocomial transmission when dealing with patients particularly in areas where such arboviruses are both in circulation.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Dengue and CCHF in Pakistan; Dengue/Chikungunya in Yemen; Measles in Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia

Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian influenza

China	[42(28), 66.7%]
Egypt	[167 (60), 35.9%]
Indonesia	[189 (157), 83 %]
Viet Nam	[123(61), 49.5%]
Cambodia	[21(19), 90.4%]
Bangladesh	[6(0), 0%]
Global total	[604(357), 59.0%]

Measles

Afghanistan	[261 (0), 0%] #
Somalia	[1046 (?)]#
Yemen	[3800(124), 3.3%] #

Crimean-congo haemorrhagic fever

Pakistan	[12(4) 33.3%]#
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Meningococcal Meningitis

Chad	[2828(135), 4.7%]
Sudan	[275(13), 4.7%]

Dengue

Pakistan	[111(0),]
Yemen	[112(2), 1.7%]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases