

June 2025

# NEWS LETTER

Issue: 30

**Egypt** gets recognized for being the 1st country in the Region to achieve the regional target for hepatitis b control



Launching a joint project with KSrelief to support Sudanese patients in Egypt



Egypt launches the first vector control FETP in MENA



## Quarter 2 in numbers



**1st**

vector control

Field Epidemiology Training  
Programme in MENA launched



**1st**

to achieve hepatitis b control  
status in the region



**60**

Gazan patients

evacuated to Europe, with the  
facilitation of WHO Egypt



**US\$500,000**

worth of medical

supplies procured to support  
Gazan patients in Egypt



**US\$300,000**

worth of supplies

procured to support Sudanese  
patients in Egypt



**1225**

pilgrims

returning to Cairo surveyed for  
the prevalence of infectious  
diseases



**140**

infection

prevention and control (IPC)  
professionals trained on IPC  
strategies



**740**

healthcare

leaders and workers received  
targeted awareness on hand  
hygiene



**800**

medical services

expenses covered for Sudanese  
patients in Egypt



**1,859**

contacts

screened for leprosy



**560**

contacts provided

with preventive treatment for  
leprosy



**3,700**

children

examined for trachoma

## Egypt achieves the regional target for hepatitis b control



In June 2025, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Hanan Balkhy, presented the WHO certificate to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population of Egypt, H.E. Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, recognizing the country's achievement in being the first country in

the Eastern Mediterranean Region to achieve the regional target for hepatitis b control.

Egypt is the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to reach this important public health milestone [\(read more\)](#).

## Supporting Sudanese patients in Egypt

Signed back in March this year, WHO Egypt and King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Population, launched a joint project to support Sudanese patients with renal failure in Egypt.

Through the project, which is valued at US\$ 3.6 million, a total of 90,000 dialysis sessions and 3200 prescriptions will be provided to Sudanese renal

failure patients who were displaced by the war [\(read more\)](#).

To further support Sudanese patients in Egypt, WHO Egypt procured and delivered a CT scan with the value of US\$ 300,000. In addition, this quarter, WHO Egypt continued its Health Expenses Coverage Programme, covering the medical expenses of more than 800 medical services for Sudanese patients in Egypt.



Credits: The Ministry of Health and Population

## Responding to the Gaza crisis

In continuation of its efforts to facilitate the evacuation of medical evacuees from Gaza, this quarter, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Population, WHO Egypt has coordinated the medical evacuation of Gazan patients from Egypt to European countries. These included 13 patients, and 23 companions evacuated to Spain, 6 patients and 12 companions evacuated to Ireland, and 2 patients and 4 companions evacuated to Norway. These operations were coordinated with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.



Procurement of medical supplies and equipment

In addition, to help ensure quality care for patients from Gaza who are receiving treatment in Egypt, with the support of the UK government, WHO Egypt procured and delivered equipment worth USD \$500,000 including equipment for emergency healthcare, diagnostic tools for ophthalmological examination, intensive care units' and operating rooms' equipment, equipment for management of burns, and equipment for physical rehabilitation.



Credits: Egyptian Red Crescent

Furthermore, in continuation of its ongoing capacity building efforts, WHO Egypt supported the Egyptian Red Crescent in conducting a training on Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) for ERC volunteers.

The training was held as part of the project “Providing Psychological Support and Health

Awareness for Injured Palestinians and Their Families as Part of the Gaza Crisis Response” and was funded by the government of Japan.

It aimed to strengthen volunteers' capacity to deliver sustainable community services, support host communities, and raise awareness on health behavior change and effective health messaging.

Medical evacuation for Palestinian patients, through Egypt



## Supporting national efforts to monitor post-Hajj infections

WHO Egypt supported the Preventive Sector of the Ministry of Health and Population in conducting a cross-sectional Survey for the estimation of Influenza, COVID-19, and meningococcal infections prevalence, among Egyptian pilgrims returning from Hajj season for the year 2025.

Of the 80,000 Egyptian pilgrims returning to Cairo Airport, 1225 (1.5%) pilgrims have participated in the study, regardless of age, sex and illness status.

This effort contributes to strengthening disease surveillance and safeguarding public health through evidence-based monitoring of infectious disease risks following mass gatherings.

## Egypt maintains its measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome for the 2nd consecutive year

Egypt has successfully maintained its measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome-free status for the second consecutive year— as confirmed by the WHO Regional Verification Commission.

This achievement highlights Egypt's continued commitment to disease prevention through high vaccination coverage, strong disease surveillance, and ongoing public awareness efforts.

This recognition was based partly on the findings of the Egypt Measles Surveillance Review Mission conducted in 2024. The mission involved thorough assessments of surveillance sites and the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL), confirming a well-functioning surveillance system.

WHO Egypt provided technical support throughout this process, contributing to the documentation and validation of required evidence.

## Egypt launches the first vector control FETP in MENA

WHO Egypt supported the Ministry of Health and Population in launching the Middle East and North Africa's first field epidemiology training programme (FETP), focused on vector control, with support from the Pandemic Fund.

The training involved 32 participants, mainly agricultural engineers from the human and animal sectors. It is designed to build workforce capacity to manage and respond to vector-borne disease outbreaks by strengthening multisectoral collaboration and communication across the human, animal and environmental health sectors under the One Health approach. The training combines short classroom-based modules with extended fieldwork for over six months.

The training will enhance Egypt's capacity for prevention, preparedness, detection and response to outbreaks, contributing to safeguarding public health and supporting the health system's resilience.



## Egypt Recognized in WHO Global Document for IPC and AMR progress and coordination

### Development and implementation of national action plans for infection prevention and control

Practical guide



In the WHO global [document](#) “Development and implementation of national action plans for infection prevention and control: practical guide” released in June 2025, Egypt was recognized as a leading country for infection prevention and control (IPC) coordination and integration to reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In close collaboration with WHO Egypt, the Ministry of Health and Population expanded the AMR model hospital initiative, launched in September 2023, where cross-disciplinary integration is a key component. The model is now operational in 60 public and private hospitals across all Egyptian governorates. All participating hospitals have reported notable improvements in implementing IPC and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) standards.

## Building capacities in infection prevention and control

Funded by the Austrian Development Agency, WHO Egypt conducted a training of trainers for nearly 140 infection prevention and control (IPC) professional across all Egypt Healthcare Authority hospitals. The training aimed to equip the participants to be efficient IPC trainers, assessors, and implementers, enhancing their capacities to promote a safe healthcare environment, including in emergency settings.



## Supporting the development of a multisectoral AMR platform



Photo credits: FAO

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Agriculture, and FAO, WHO Egypt organized a workshop in Assiut to support the establishment and operationalization of a multisectoral, multidisciplinary platform for addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) using a One Health approach.

The Workshop was attended by 30 stakeholders representing human health, animal health, agriculture, the environment, research, and policy-making sectors.

This platform aims to ensure a coordinated and integrated national response to AMR.

## Building capacities in emergency care

Funded by the government of Japan, WHO Egypt conducted three WHO/ICRC Basic Emergency Care (BEC) courses for healthcare professionals working at Al Arish Hospital and staff from the Egyptian Ambulance Organization. The WHO/ICRC's BEC course is a clinical training programme designed for frontline providers (doctors, nurses, clinical officers, and paramedics) who are responsible for delivering emergency care in their facilities. The training enhanced their abilities to manage emergency cases effectively and improve clinical outcomes.

## Improving case management of infectious diseases

A training workshop on improving case management of infectious diseases was conducted for health staff from the Ministry of Health and Population hospitals in Upper Egypt. This training was based on recent updates to the national guidelines for infectious diseases. The training aims to reduce morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases and improve clinical outcomes. This workshop was funded by the government of Japan.

## Scaling Up the Patient Safety Friendly Hospital Initiative in Egypt

A comprehensive gap analysis was conducted at 15th of May Hospital as part of Egypt's ongoing scale-up of the WHO-supported Patient Safety Friendly Hospital Initiative (PSFHI), a national model for strengthening safety culture in healthcare facilities. The analysis used a contextualized WHO patient safety assessment tool, with findings shared with hospital leadership to guide targeted improvements. Orientation workshops were also held at the National Hepatology and Tropical Medicine Research Institute, with plans to expand PSFHI assessments to additional public hospitals in this quarter.

## Strengthening safety practices in burn care

WHO Egypt conducted a specialized training course on patient safety in burn injury management at Ahl Masr Hospital, Egypt's first non-profit hospital specialized in burn care. The training targeted 36 multidisciplinary health staff. The two-day training focused on applying WHO patient safety principles within surgical, intensive care units, and burn unit practices. Key modules focused on infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, medication safety, and safe handover procedures. This initiative aims to strengthen safety practices in healthcare environments.



## Egypt convenes the first Technical Working Groups meeting for the Pandemic Fund project

The first meeting of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) under the Egypt's Resilience to Pandemics project was held in June 2025. It brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, WHO Egypt, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UNICEF.

The TWGs are responsible for planning and implementing technical activities under the project's key pillars, ensuring multisectoral

coordination and effective implementation, as well as monitoring progress.

During the meeting, participants endorsed the TWGs' Terms of Reference and reviewed reporting requirements to the Pandemic Fund Secretariat. Discussions also focused on coordination mechanisms and technical priorities for joint action in the areas of surveillance, laboratory systems, and workforce development.



## Empowering students to implement awareness campaigns on rabies



Photo credits: FAO

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, and FAO, WHO Egypt conducted a hands-on workshop for 36 university students from 6 student organizations, including veterinary, pharmacy, nursing, medicine, and mass communication to strengthen their skills to comprehensively plan and implement effective awareness campaigns on rabies prevention,

guided by Egypt's 2030 National Strategy for Rabies Elimination and under the One Health approach.

This is the first step in a wider youth-led initiative across Greater Cairo, leading up to World Rabies Day 2025, empowering students to design and implement awareness campaigns on rabies in high-risk communities.

## Supporting an awareness campaign on safe Eid Al-Adha practices

As part of Egypt's commitment to the One Health approach and promoting healthy community behaviors, the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), in collaboration with WHO Egypt and key national partners, launched a comprehensive awareness campaign to promote safe practices during Eid al-Adha.

The campaign included both on-the-ground and digital components. It kicked off with public awareness activities in major mosques across Giza Governorate—selected for its mix of urban and rural communities. Messages focused on safe practices for animal sacrifice, proper meat storage, and environmentally sound waste disposal, aiming to protect both public health and the environment.

The campaign followed a multi-sectoral workshop organized by the Ministry of Health with participation from the ministries of agriculture, environment, awqaf, local development, housing, and the National Food Safety Authority. This was complemented by a social media campaign that ran before and during Eid on the platforms of MOHP, WHO Egypt, and partners.



## Celebrating World Immunization Week



WHO Egypt celebrated the World Immunization Week in April 2025 by launching a series of health education activities to highlight the critical role of vaccines in preventing infectious diseases.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine at Ain Shams University and Misr University for Science and Technology, the campaign aimed to disseminate facts and address misinformation and disinformation about vaccines.

The activities were made possible through the

active participation of Ain Shams University Student Union and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, Egypt.

Celebrated annually during the last week of April, World Immunization Week highlights more than 50 years of vaccination as one of the most effective public health interventions, saving millions of lives and protecting communities from vaccine-preventable diseases ([watch here](#)).

credits: Egyptian Ambulance Organization



## Celebrating World Hand Hygiene Day

In May 2025, WHO Egypt participated in a series of events, in collaboration with national stakeholders and institutions in Egypt, to commemorate and raise awareness on hand hygiene practices.

Through these engagements, key messages were delivered to over 740 health leaders, managers, infection prevention and control professionals, and healthcare providers, with a focus on this year's theme, "It might be gloves. It's always hand hygiene"

The messages were delivered through seven awareness/scientific events in addition to 14 hand hygiene trainings, competitions, and workshops.

These events were funded by the Austrian Development Agency and organized in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Population (15th of May Public Hospital), Supreme Council of University Hospitals, Egyptian Ambulance Organization, Ain Shams University Hospitals, Armed Forces College Medical Hospital, Egyptian Society of Infection Control, and Medical Microbiologists Association.

Every year, the World celebrates World Hand Hygiene Day on the 5th of May, to shed light on the importance of keeping hands clean.

## Supporting the launch of the National Operational Plan for Food and Nutrition



Credits: the Ministry of Health and Population

WHO Egypt supported the launch of the National Operational Plan for Food and Nutrition 2025–2030, a major milestone in the country’s efforts to ensure access to safe, affordable, and nutritious food for all. The high-level launch was held under the patronage of H.E. Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Deputy Prime Minister for Human Development and Minister of Health and Population, in presence of other concerned Ministers; Minister of Supply, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Environment and Minister of Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation.

The plan builds on Egypt’s national strategy and outlines a multi-sectoral roadmap to address the full spectrum of nutrition challenges, while aligning with Egypt’s Vision 2030 and the sustainable development goals. It is structured around five pillars covering food access, sustainable consumption of healthy food, equitable livelihoods, resilient systems, and climate impact.

Coordinated by the Ministry of Health and Population, the plan reflects strong government and UN collaboration, with contributions from WHO, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, and IFAD.

## Supporting MOHP in developing the Accelerated Plan on Family Planning and the National Initiative for Preventing Stunting

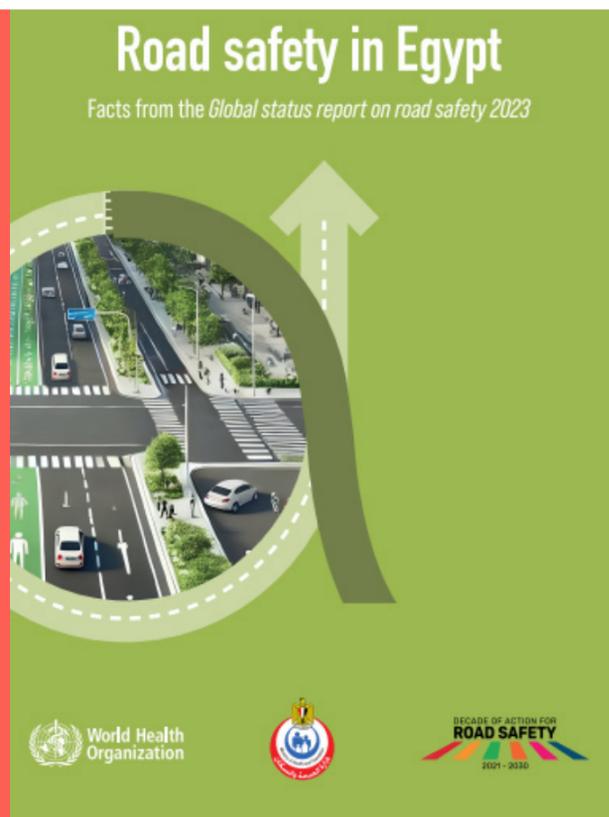
WHO Egypt supported the Ministry of Health and Population in developing the Accelerated Plan on Family Planning, Population and Development as well as the National Initiative for Preventing Stunting and Malnutrition. Both the initiative and plan were launched on the 8th of May in an event supported by WHO Egypt, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, and FAO. This event represents a major milestone

in improving the national reproductive and child health indicators with a focus on key issues such as family planning, and child malnutrition. To build up for the event, MOHP, WHO Egypt and partner organizations conducted a joint social media campaign to raise awareness on the prevention of stunting.



Credits: The Ministry of Health and Population

## Releasing new infographic to guide road safety efforts in Egypt



WHO Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, has released a new infographic titled “Road Safety in Egypt: Facts from the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023.”

The infographic was designed to inform national planning and policy through monitoring road safety trends, evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, and advocating for policy changes to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries globally. The resource outlines key areas for road safety actions—vehicle safety, road design, user behavior, and post-crash response—and has been shared with relevant national authorities to support evidence-based interventions and reinforce Egypt’s efforts under the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030.

The infographic highlights Egypt’s 26% reduction in road traffic fatalities between 2013 and 2021, while also drawing attention to the over 10,000 deaths and 51,000 injuries recorded in 2021 alone.

5 billion  
people to benefit from universal health coverage without financial hardship

## Facilitating strategic regulatory collaboration between Egypt and Algeria

WHO supported and participated in a high-level official visit by Algeria’s National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products to Egypt’s Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), aimed at strengthening regional pharmaceutical regulation and advancing local manufacturing.

Over five days, WHO worked closely with both national authorities to facilitate technical exchange on regulatory best practices and capacity building in pharmacovigilance, drug registration, and clinical trials.



Credits: Egyptian Drug Authority

## Recognizing EDA for achieving ML-3

In a video message, WHO General Director Dr Tedros Adhanom congratulated the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA), Egypt’s national regulatory authority for becoming the first country in Africa to reach Maturity Level 3 in both vaccines and medicines regulation, as a producing country, based on WHO global benchmarking tool. The video was displayed during a celebration by EDA to mark this public health milestone ([watch video](#)).

## Supporting leprosy elimination efforts



WHO Egypt supported the Ministry of Health and Population in conducting a leprosy contact screening and post-exposure prophylaxis PEP (a form of preventive treatment) campaign in Upper Egypt. Through the campaign, 1,859 contacts were screened and 560 were provided with PEP.

This initiative is part of Egypt's broader efforts to interrupt leprosy transmission by detecting new cases early and protecting close contacts. It supports the national goal of leprosy elimination and contributes to improved community health outcomes.

## Supporting Egypt's trachoma elimination efforts

In April 2025, WHO Egypt supported the Central Administration of Tropical Diseases and Vector Control at the Ministry of Health and Population to conduct a Trachoma Rapid Assessment Survey (TRA) across 74 villages in seven governorates.

A total of 3,700 children (aged 1–9 years) were examined, along with adults over 15 years assessed for trichiasis. The survey aimed to support Egypt's trachoma elimination efforts by applying WHO-recommended grading methods and identifying any remaining active or blinding cases.



## Celebrating World Blood Donor Day

Celebrate World Blood Donor Day, WHO Egypt participated in a forum organized by East Port Said National University. WHO team engaged with the students and contributed with lectures on the importance of voluntary blood donation and blood safety measures, as well as an interactive panel discussion on the role of community in supporting the safe and sustainable transfusion of blood.

Additionally, a blood donation campaign was organized at the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, where staff volunteered to donate blood. Moreover, WHO Egypt's team developed and disseminated a video on social media to highlight the Day's key messages and encourage blood donation.

WHO Egypt also participated in a joint celebratory event organized by Shoryan (an Egyptian nonprofit that promotes and organizes regular voluntary blood donations) and Children's Cancer Hospital 57357. WHO Representative to Egypt Dr Nima Abid delivered a talk that highlighted WHO's strategy to promote voluntary blood donation. A group of regular donors were awarded certificates of gratitude.



## Participating in Africa Health ExCon

WHO, across its three levels, participated in the fourth edition of Africa Health ExCon, an annual healthcare event bringing together experts to advance innovation and promote trade. The event was held under the auspices of Egypt's President H.E. Abdelfattah Al-Sisi. 13 professionals from WHO

contributed to 15 scientific events addressing various topics ranging from strengthening vaccine localization in Egypt and access to health products in the Region to scaling digital inclusion for health providers and sustainable health financing.

