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NEWS LETTER



Issue: 32

WHO high-level mission visits Rafah crossing



First FETP vector control cohort in the MENA region graduates in Egypt



Egypt launches the WHO STEPwise survey 2025



Quarter 4 in numbers



£1
Million

received from the UK to support
Gazan patients in Egypt



860
Health Services'

expenses covered for Sudanese
patients in Egypt



11,000
Renal Dialysis

sessions provided to Sudanese
patients in Egypt



377
Laboratory

and surveillance officers acute
viral haemorrhagic fevers
detection and response



270
Participants

took part in Rapid Response
Teams training



1,000+
Health

workers trained on
communicable diseases
prevention and control



148
Healthcare

workers trained on hospital-
acquired infections surveillance



200
Healthcare

workers trained on safe care for
refugees



270+
Healthcare

workers trained on acute
diarrheal illness surveillance



2,300+
Participants

trained the rabies electronic
surveillance system



1st
FETP

vector control cohort in the
MENA region graduates in Egypt



270
Health

professionals trained on
integrated surveillance of acute
respiratory infections

WHO high-level mission visits Rafah crossing



A high-level mission was conducted at Noth Sinai governorate, to assess the operational readiness of Rafah and Al-Arish as Egypt's primary health and logistics hub for Gaza, in preparation for the potential reopening of the Rafah border crossing.

The 3-level mission delegation was led by Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, WHO Representative to Egypt Dr Nima Abid, and the WHO Regional Emergency Director Dr Annette Heinzlmann. The delegation visited Rafah border crossing, the Egyptian Red Crescent logistics warehouse, and Al-Arish General Hospital.

WHO reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Egyptian healthcare system and to advocating for unimpeded access for humanitarian aid and the evacuation of patients through all crossings.

In parallel, WHO Egypt strengthened preparation for the potential reopening of the crossing, including through conducting a mass casualty management Training of Trainers for more than 65 hospital managers, and emergency units' staff, representing the Ministry of Health and population, Egypt Healthcare Authority, university hospitals, Egypt Health Council, the private sector, and the Military Medical Academy.

Continuing the collaboration with the UK to address the health needs of Gazan patients in Egypt

WHO Egypt received an additional £1 million from the United Kingdom (UK) to further support the healthcare needs of Gazan patients receiving treatment in Egypt.

This brings the total UK support to WHO Egypt to £3 million over the past two years, strengthening

WHO's work to expand health services for Palestinian patients in Egypt.

The collaboration was announced during a joint visit to Al Sheikh Zayed Specialized Hospital, led by Dr Nima Abid, WHO Representative to Egypt, and Mr Hamish Falconer, UK Minister for the Middle East and North Africa.



Continuing the support for Sudanese patients in Egypt

In quarter four, WHO Egypt continued supporting the provision of essential health services for patients in Egypt who were displaced by the war in Sudan.

Through a joint project with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, in quarter four, more than 230 Sudanese patients received free dialysis sessions, and 365 post-renal transnational patients received more than 860 medications. This brings the total amount of the dialysis sessions provided under the project by the end of 2025 to 11,000 sessions and medications to 1166 medications.

Other essential health services were provided through a project funded by the European Union whereby WHO Egypt covers the expenses of the health services incurred by Sudanese patients. The expenses of more than 860 services for almost 250 cases were covered in quarter four.

To raise awareness about these services with the Sudanese community and tackle the patients' needs, four community outreach meetings were held in Luxor and Aswan governorates, engaging approximately 50 Sudanese community leaders, community members, and patients.



Photo credits: the Ministry of Health and Population



Training on healthcare-associated infections surveillance

Four specialized trainings on healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) surveillance were held in collaboration between WHO Egypt and the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in Cairo, Alexandria, and Minia governorates .

Aimed at strengthening national capacity and improving HAI surveillance data quality,

the trainings brought together 150 heads and surveillance officers representing health directorates, MoHP-affiliated organizations, and 34 hospitals enrolled in the national HAI surveillance electronic system, to ensure consistent implementation across healthcare facilities.

Training on safe care for refugee patients in dialysis units

Supported by the government of Japan, seven “Safe Care for Refugee Patients in Renal Dialysis Units” trainings were conducted across renal dialysis units in hospitals located in Cairo and Alexandria. Engaging more than 200 healthcare workers, the initiative focused on promoting

patient safety, improving infection prevention practices, and ensuring safe, equitable care for vulnerable populations undergoing dialysis treatment. These trainings were conducted as part of broader capacity building efforts to strengthen Egypt’s healthcare system emergency preparedness.

Five hospitals in Egypt receive international accreditation for antimicrobial stewardship



Five hospitals in Egypt have received accreditation under the Global Antimicrobial Stewardship Accreditation Scheme (GAMSAS), an international accreditation programme led by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC), a close partner of WHO in advancing antimicrobial stewardship globally.

The accreditation means that these hospitals - Al Mounira General Hospital in Cairo, Damietta General Hospital, Mansoura International Hospital,

were further recognised as GAMSAS Centres of Excellence.

This milestone reflects Egypt’s ongoing commitment to advancing its National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan, with WHO providing technical guidance through assessments, capacity-building, and alignment with accreditation standards.

Eman General Hospital in Assiut, and Hurghada Fever Hospital - have met international standards for responsible antimicrobial use, strong infection prevention and control, and quality microbiology services.

Three of these hospitals- Damietta General, Mansoura International, and Eman General -

Engaging students in the fight against AMR

A ceremony was held to recognize the winning student teams of the “Future Fighters Against AMR” initiative, jointly organized by WHO Egypt, the Egyptian Drug Authority, and ReAct Africa, to engage and empower students in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Throughout the year, pharmacy students from 19 universities across Egypt received training, knowledge, and skills to design and lead awareness campaigns on the responsible use of antimicrobials.

The winning teams showcased innovative approaches to raising community awareness and highlighted the important role young people can play in supporting national efforts to combat AMR.



Supporting the digitization of rabies surveillance in Egypt

In close collaboration with the preventive sector of the Ministry of Health and Population, WHO Egypt supported the strengthening of rabies surveillance, prevention, and control in Egypt through the operationalization of a national electronic rabies and animal bite reporting system.

To support that goal, trainings were held for approximately 2,340 participants, including 1,860 healthcare providers who were trained across 208 rabies prevention centers in 14 governorates on

the electronic surveillance system and updated post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) guidelines, and 480 healthcare providers and laboratory staff who were trained in nine fever hospitals across seven governorates on rabies diagnosis.

By digitalizing surveillance nationwide, the initiative improves data quality and timeliness, strengthens case management and laboratory capacity, and supports Egypt’s commitment to achieving zero human rabies deaths by 2030.

Strengthening surveillance for acute diarrheal illness in children under five



WHO Egypt supported the preventive sector of the Ministry of Health and Population in establishing sentinel surveillance sites for Acute Diarrheal Illness (ADI) among children under five across Egypt, addressing a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in this age group.

The initiative reached approximately 272 healthcare providers and surveillance officers from

different governorates who were trained on ADI surveillance and reporting, as well as laboratory staff who received on-the-job training at sentinel sites.

This activity strengthens surveillance and laboratory capacity to generate reliable data, enhance early outbreak detection, and support prevention and control measures.

Strengthening national capacity in preventing and responding to violence against women and children

WHO Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population and UNFPA, conducted a Training of Trainers to strengthen national capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and children in Egypt, in line with WHO guidelines and national protocols.

The training enhanced participants' technical and facilitation skills to further train healthcare providers in the identification, clinical management, documentation, and referral of survivors, while emphasizing inclusive, non-discriminatory access to services, including for migrant and refugee women and children.



Empowering the next generation of health leaders



WHO Egypt organized a simulation of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of WHO.

The simulation brought together 40 young health professionals and focused on strengthening integrated One Health surveillance for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and zoonotic diseases.

Participants took on the roles of country delegates, negotiated resolutions, and explored how collaboration between the human, animal, and environment sectors can enhance early detection and response to AMR and emerging zoonoses.

The simulation helps empower the next generation of health leaders and highlights the importance of a unified, multisectoral approach to safeguarding health for all.

Training on effective health communication

A Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop to strengthen the capacity of health educators across Egypt in effective health communication.

Jointly organized by WHO Egypt and the Ministry of Health and Population, the workshop brought together 37 health educators from governorates nationwide, equipping them with tools to deliver clear effective health messages tailored to community needs.

The training contributes to improving community awareness and promoting healthy behaviours.



Photo credits: the Ministry of Health and Population

Building national capacity for patient engagement in Egypt

WHO Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, supported the launch of Egypt's first training programme for patient engagement responsible officers, as part of national efforts to strengthen patient safety and improve the quality of health services.

The programme aims to embed the principle of patient-centered care, by equipping health professionals with practical skills to meaningfully engage patients, strengthen communication, and integrate patient perspectives into care and decision-making within health facilities.

Advancing community awareness on antimicrobial resistance



To strengthen community awareness on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a multisectoral workshop brought together key government stakeholders to advance coordinated messaging within the framework of the One Health approach.

The workshop discussed ways to implement Egypt's national antimicrobial resistance strategy

and emphasized the importance of multisectoral collaboration in addressing AMR.

The workshop was supported by WHO Egypt, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



Celebrating the International Infection Prevention Week

In collaboration with the Medical Microbiology and Immunology Department at the Faculty of Medicine at Ain Shams University, WHO Egypt joined students and faculty members to celebrate the International Infection Prevention Week 2025 through a community outreach day under the theme "Community-Based Infection Prevention."

Around 170 students took part in interactive games and activities that raise awareness about infection prevention beyond healthcare settings and into everyday life as well as the importance of protecting themselves and their communities from preventable infections.

Egypt launches 2025 NCDs STEPwise Survey with WHO's support



The Ministry of Health and Population, in partnership with Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and with WHO technical support, has launched field implementation of the 2025 WHO STEPwise survey, a simple, standardized method for collecting, analysing and disseminating data on key noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) risk factors in countries.

Aiming to reach over 21,000 people across all 27 governorates, the survey ensures nationally and sub-nationally representative data to inform evidence-informed planning and resource allocation.

The 2025 cycle introduces new modules including vision and hearing testing, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease screening referrals, maintaining WHO standards.

Advancing efforts towards trans-fatty acids elimination in Egypt

With WHO technical support, the Ministry of Health and Population carried out an assessment to support the elimination of industrially produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply.

The assessment reviewed the readiness of 10 governmental laboratories across five ministries

and the National Food Safety Authority, focusing on infrastructure and testing capacity.

The findings informed a targeted plan to address equipment gaps, strengthen calibration, provide tailored training, and build laboratory capacity to support effective enforcement.

Field visits to strengthen Health-Promoting Schools implementation

Twelve field visits to schools in four governorates were conducted to review the implementation of the Health-Promoting Schools (HPS) initiative, using WHO tools and guidelines to identify opportunities, challenges, and recommendations for the way forward.

Conducted as a follow-up to the HPS trainings held in December 2022, the visits aimed to further strengthen multisectoral implementation through a whole-school approach.



Training on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse for the WHO workforce

A refresher training on the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was held for WHO Egypt's workforce. The training presented practical scenarios, familiarized staff

with available reporting lines, and reinforced a shared commitment to maintaining a safe and respectful working environment.

Egypt maintains its measles and rubella-free status

In December 2025, the WHO Regional Verification commission confirmed that the country has successfully maintained its measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome-free status for the third consecutive year, marking a new public health milestone for Egypt.

This achievement reflects Egypt's continued commitment to disease prevention through high vaccination coverage, strong disease surveillance, and community awareness campaigns.

During October, WHO Egypt and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, in collaboration with the Expanded Programme on Immunization at the Ministry of Health and Population conducted a 3-day training on [Strengthening surveillance systems for vaccine-preventable diseases in Egypt](#).

The training, supported by the Pandemic Fund, was attended by surveillance officers from 14

governorates. It was further followed by field visits to selected surveillance sites.

Another 3-day [training-of-trainers workshop](#) was conducted for 25 surveillance officers from central and governorate levels across 10 governorates in December, focusing on strengthening field investigation and rapid response to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Strengthening surveillance, field investigation and response to vaccine-preventable diseases in Egypt



First FETP vector control cohort in the MENA region graduates in Egypt

WHO Egypt and the Ministry of Health and Population celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of Egypt's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) specialized in vector control – the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa.

A total of 32 participants from national and subnational levels completed a six-month training module that combined practical fieldwork and theoretical training.

The basic-level training, supported by the Pandemic Fund, aims to strengthen national capacity to detect, prevent and respond to vector-borne diseases.

[Read more](#)



Launching the National Event-based Surveillance Guideline



The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) launched the first edition of the National Event-based Surveillance Guideline in November 2025. This guideline strengthens Egypt's health surveillance capacities, enabling the rapid detection of potential health threats and early response.

WHO Egypt's contribution to the development and launch of this guideline reflects ongoing multisectoral collaboration between MoHP, relevant ministries, entities, and international partners to develop and launch guidelines that standardize procedures and health protocols to safeguard health and well-being.

Building capacity for acute respiratory infection surveillance

270 public health professionals came together for the annual meeting and accompanying workshop on integrated surveillance of acute respiratory infections, organized by the Ministry of Health and population in collaboration with WHO Egypt.

Participants, drawn from 30 ARI sentinel sites across 15 governorates, engaged in sessions that aimed to strengthen national capacity for influenza and other respiratory virus surveillance and to enhance preparedness for respiratory disease threats, particularly those with pandemic potential. [Read more](#)

Training of trainers on WHO susceptibility bioassays for mosquito vectors

WHO Egypt and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, in collaboration with the Central Public Health Laboratories at the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), conducted a 5-day training-of-trainers workshop on the WHO-standard susceptibility bioassays for mosquito vectors in Cairo, a method to test mosquitoes' resistance to insecticides.

Supported by the Pandemic Fund, the training contributes to the establishment and operationalization of a vector-borne diseases laboratory, which will serve as the national reference centre for diagnostics, surveillance and research on vector-borne diseases. [Read more](#)



Continuing efforts towards building national capacity for biosafety and biosecurity



In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population and with support from the Pandemic Fund, WHO Egypt organized a 4-day biosafety excellence workshop. The workshop aimed to strengthen laboratory biosafety and biosecurity practices nationwide.

The workshop introduced comprehensive biosafety training at the occupational health level. It brought together more than 70 biosafety officers from public health laboratories across 26 governorates.

[Read more](#)



On-site training at acute viral hemorrhagic fevers sentinel sites

WHO Egypt supported the Ministry of Health and Population to conduct a set of on-site training sessions in November 2025 at acute viral haemorrhagic fevers (AVHFs) sentinel sites across 10 governorates.

Delivered between July and November 2025, the training set engaged 377 laboratory and surveillance officers. It aimed to strengthen their capacity for early detection and rapid response to AVHFs.



Strengthening national readiness in Egypt

In October 2025, with support from the Pandemic Fund, WHO Egypt collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Population to conclude the final round of [nationwide RRT training sessions](#). Nearly 270 participants from all 27 governorates have taken part since the session rounds began in July 2025.

In parallel, and in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO

Egypt prepared [specialized rapid-deployment vehicles](#) to serve as medical field units ready for use by RRTs alongside an advanced mobile laboratory for vector-borne diseases.

Together, these efforts aim to strengthen Egypt's capacity to respond effectively to potential public health threats.

Building safer schools through communicable diseases prevention and control

From August to October 2025, a multisectoral training on communicable diseases prevention and control was conducted for school health workers across educational facilities in 14 governorates as a first phase.

Implemented by the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Education, and

the Universal Health Insurance Authority, in collaboration with WHO Egypt, the training strengthened the capacity of 1,040 health workers in prevention, surveillance, early detection, and response in schools, while promoting multisectoral coordination to enhance school-level readiness for communicable disease risks.



Strengthening pharmacovigilance and maternal immunization safety

Given that women of childbearing potential and children are often underrepresented in clinical trials despite their unique physiological characteristics, strengthening pharmacovigilance is essential to ensure access to safe medical products.

In October, Egypt, represented by the Egyptian Drug Authority, hosted the 43rd Annual Meeting of Members of the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring, which focused on pharmacovigilance in women of childbearing potential and children.

In this context, Egypt has been strengthening its approach to monitoring adverse events following maternal immunization (AEFMI). In July 2025, WHO across its three levels, MoHP and the national causality assessment team, convened Egypt's first workshop on AEFMI causality assessment. The workshop established a shared understanding of AEFMI principles, supporting pilot implementation of a comprehensive approach to reporting, investigating and determining the causes of AEFMI in Egypt.

A follow-up meeting was held in October to consolidate progress, demonstrate the updated



Photo credits: The Egyptian Drug Authority

AEFMI software, and provide hands-on practice using simulated cases.

In the same context, two WHO missions were undertaken in Egypt in July and October 2025 to review the vaccine safety surveillance system and strengthen the national vigilance capacity within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030 and preparations for the vaccine regulatory re-benchmarking. Complementing these efforts, a Periodic Safety Update Report/Periodic Benefit-Risk Evaluation Report assessment workshop was also conducted for the Egyptian Drug Authority staff to strengthen regulatory capacity and enhance overall pharmacovigilance processes.

A joint mission to assess the Universal Health Insurance system implementation

A joint mission between WHO Egypt, the Ministry of Finance, and the World Bank was conducted in Luxor and Aswan to assess progress in implementing the Universal Health Insurance system (UHS) within the Egyptian health system's broader reform agenda.

The mission included visits to several healthcare facilities and meetings with key UHS stakeholders in both Aswan and Luxor, two of the governorates

that were enrolled in the System during its first phase.

This mission comes as part of WHO Egypt's role as the Independent Verification Agency of the World Bank-financed project "Supporting Egypt's Universal Health Insurance System," signed in 2019 and renewed later in 2022, with a total value of US\$ 400 million.



Credits: Egypt Healthcare Authority

Supporting Egypt's progress towards schistosomiasis elimination

WHO, through its country and regional offices, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), and Theodor Bilharz Research Institute, conducted a mission to Tanta, to assess and strengthen MoHP's efforts toward eliminating schistosomiasis as a public health problem.

During the mission, WHO teams met with health staff and patients, visited vector labs, and observed field work for schistosomiasis regarding snail collection and classification in local water canals.

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