

WHO'S RESPONSE TO DENGUE

CONTEXT

Dengue has become a growing public health concern with approximately four billion people in 130 countries identified at risk for *Aedes*-borne infections. Since the beginning of 2023, the world has been facing an upsurge of dengue cases and deaths reported in endemic areas with further spread to areas previously free of dengue. More than 5 million dengue cases and over 5000 dengue-associated deaths have been recorded in all six WHO Regions with some variations observed:

- The Region of the Americas reported the largest proportion of the global burden: among the countries currently monitored, 17 are from the region with the highest caseload reported in Brazil, Peru, and Mexico
- Ten of 11 states in the South-East Asia Region are endemic for dengue (Bangladesh and Thailand experienced a surge in cases compared to previous years)
- The Western Pacific Region has so far reported cases from 8 countries (the Philippines and Vietnam hosting the largest numbers)
- The Eastern Mediterranean Region is reporting increased cases in 8 countries, (mainly fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable (FCV) countries but also high-income countries such as Saudi Arabia)
- Although dengue is not endemic in EURO, autochthonous cases were reported in Italy, Spain, and France during the summer months
- The African Region is also heavily affected. Since the start of the year, 11 countries have reported over 171 991 cases, a 9-fold increase from 2019. Burkina Faso remains the most affected country, with 85% of cases and 94% of deaths reported

The increase in dengue cases and deaths and its unprecedented global spread are likely due to a combination of factors including: the consequences of the current El Nino phenomena and climate change leading to increasing temperatures and high rainfall, drought and humidity among others. Complex humanitarian crises, aggravated by armed conflicts, fragilize health systems and delay access to health care contributing to increased severe cases and deaths.

WHO 2024 RESPONSE STRATEGY

WHO is providing technical and operational support response in countries with active transmission of dengue while continuing to provide support to other endemic countries. Coordination among multisectoral actors, currently insufficient in several countries, is crucial for an efficient use of existing capacities and effective response. Member States expect the WHO to play a key leadership and technical role.

A joint Incident Management Support Team (IMST), including Health Emergencies and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) departments, has been established at HQ with a similar mechanism at the Regional level to coordinate the response.

Immediate actions include:

- Develop a WHO strategic preparedness and response plan
- Conduct risk mapping of countries
- Update preparedness and response guidelines including clinical management, enhanced data collection and reporting
- Strengthen vector surveillance and environmental surveillance in priority countries
- Reinforce risk communication and community engagement
- Adopt an integrated multisectoral One Health approach while preparing and responding to dengue outbreaks as well as other climate sensitive arboviral diseases

The dengue outbreak prevention and control efforts will be in line with current WHO's global strategies, including the NTD 2021–2030 roadmap for preventing, controlling, eliminating, and eradicating NTDs by 2030, the Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030 and the Global Arbovirus Initiative (GLAI) launched in 2022.



A Medical Technologist at work processing dengue tests in the laboratory of Mugda Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: WHO / Fabeha Monir



Masuma and her child Sohana, who is suffering from Dengue, at their home in Mirpur, Dhaka.
Photo: WHO/ Fabeha Monir

2024 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Multi-Region Dengue		US\$ '000					
Funding requirement by response pillar and by country	Africa Region	Region of the Americas	Eastern			Global support	Total
			Mediterranean Region	South-East Asia Region	Western Pacific Region		
P1. Leadership, coordination, planning, and monitoring	727	437	100	99	100	200	1 663
P2. Risk communication and community engagement	316	765	100	108	100	150	1 539
P3. Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing	507	963	200	125	200	750	2 745
P4. Travel, trade and points of entry							-
P5. Diagnostics and testing	387	842	200	125	200	750	2 503
P6. Infection prevention and control	360	495		80		200	1 135
P7. Case management and therapeutics	500	806	100	575	100	150	2 231
P8. Operational support and logistics	252	612	500	109.8	500	500	2 474
P9. Essential health systems and services		679.5					680
P10. Vaccination							-
P11. Research, innovation and evidence						500	500
Total	3 050	5 599	1 200	1 220	1 200	3 200	15 469