

EMPHNET Emergency Bulletin

The Health Status in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

May 26, 2024

Situation Overview

The Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) struggles with recurrent and ongoing emergencies. Those emergencies complicate already fragile situations, including inadequate health care services, food insecurity, malnutrition, economic deterioration, armed conflict, war, and the consequences of climate change. This issue of the EMPHNET Emergency Bulletin highlights the health situation in Afghanistan, the Gaza Strip, Sudan, and Yemen.

Floods in Afghanistan

Afghanistan experienced two episodes of heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in May 2024. The first episode, which took place on the May 10 and 11, 2024, affected the northeastern region of Afghanistan, mainly the Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Takhar provinces, and 21 districts, four of which were hard to reach.

The Numbers as of May 20th, 2024

180
killed

280
injured

The information is related to the floods in Afghanistan on the May 10 and 11, 2024. (source: UNICEF)

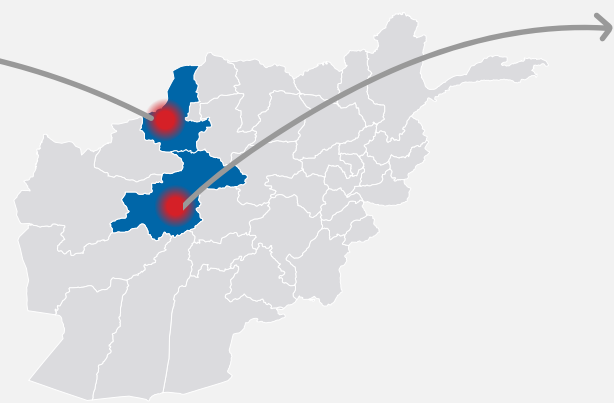
Following this episode, Afghanistan suffered another episode of heavy floods on May 17 and 18, 2024 affecting ten districts in the **Ghor province** and eight districts in the **Faryab province**.

The Numbers as of May 20, 2024

Faryab Province
84
killed

5
injured

40
missing



Ghor Province
50
killed

Hundreds
Missing

The information is related to the floods in Afghanistan which took place May 17 and 18, 2024. (source: OCHA)

The War on Gaza

The ongoing war on the Gaza Strip, which erupted on October 7, 2023, has escalated, and Israel has intensified its military operations in Rafah, with a complete closure of the Rafah crossing. This escalation has caused far-reaching and multifaceted impacts, including mass casualties and evacuations across the Strip. Since May 6, 2024, nearly half of the Rafah population (at least 810,000 people) have been forced to flee due to the military operation there, with nowhere safe to find shelter.

In numbers from October 7, 2023 to May 20, 2024

35,562
civilians were killed,
with 42% (n=15,000)
being children

>10,000
civilians missing

>79,652
civilians injured

(Palestinian Ministry of Health,
Palestinian Red Crescent Society)

Since the beginning of the war, very little humanitarian aid has crossed the borders, including food. The situation is heightened by the re-closure of the Rafah border and the compounded restrictions on the Kerem Shalom crossing, hindering the movement of goods and aid.

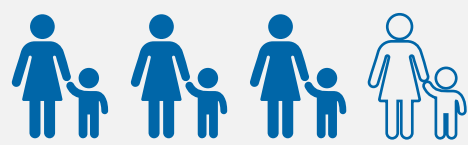
All of the Gaza Strip population is facing high levels of food insecurity.

(Integrated Food Security Phase Classification).

The Armed Conflict in Sudan

Since the April 15, 2023, Sudan has been struggling the aftermaths of armed conflict, food insecurity, economic deterioration, and disease outbreaks, among other multi-faced emergencies. These compounded crises are placing millions of lives at stake.

≈24.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024, which means every second person in Sudan will be affected.



3 out of 4

people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024 are women and children

Proportion of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024, Sudan

~24.2
million people (49%)

~24.8
million people (51%)

■ Affected population
■ Rest of the population

The shown numbers are an estimation and should be interpreted with caution. Source of information: Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024- OCHA

In addition to the compounded health emergencies Sudan faces, the prevalence of infectious diseases are at the forefront. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **the entire population of Sudan is at risk of Malaria**

Cases of Diseases Between January and May 2024

71
Meningitis cases, 7
deaths, CFR*: 9.9%

184
Measles cases, 2
deaths, CFR*: 1.1%

*Case Fatality Ratio
(Source: Ministry of Health, Sudan)

Despite the current difficult situation and the harsh working environment the situation in Sudan dictates, the health workforce in Sudan and partners continue supporting the Sudanese population. Their main concern is the preparedness for disease outbreaks related to the rainy season, which usually peaks from June to September each year. Diarrheal diseases, Malaria, Dengue Fever, and other vector-borne and water-borne diseases are among the serious threats that affect people's lives during these times.

Ten Years of War in Yemen

Yemen enters its tenth year of war, consequently facing an acute humanitarian crisis. More than half of its population needs humanitarian assistance this year, 2024.

Proportion of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024, Yemen

~15.8
million people (46%)

~18.2
million people (54%)
Including 3.2 million Internally Displaced Population (IDP)

■ Affected population
■ Rest of the population

The shown numbers are an estimation and should be interpreted with caution. Source of information: OCHA

Recent floods during the week starting April 20, 2024 have induced dire and urgent needs; where only 55% of the health facilities are operational, requiring an ongoing and sustainable supply of essential medicines, medical equipment, fuel, water, oxygen, and other medical supplies.

Yemen is also experiencing a severe outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) and suspected cholera, with about 30,000 cases reported from January to April 2024. Vulnerable populations, malnourished children, and the elderly, are most at risk due to poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions. Heavy rains and flooding have exacerbated the situation by contaminating water supplies.

AWD and suspected cholera cases in numbers

500-1,000
new cases daily

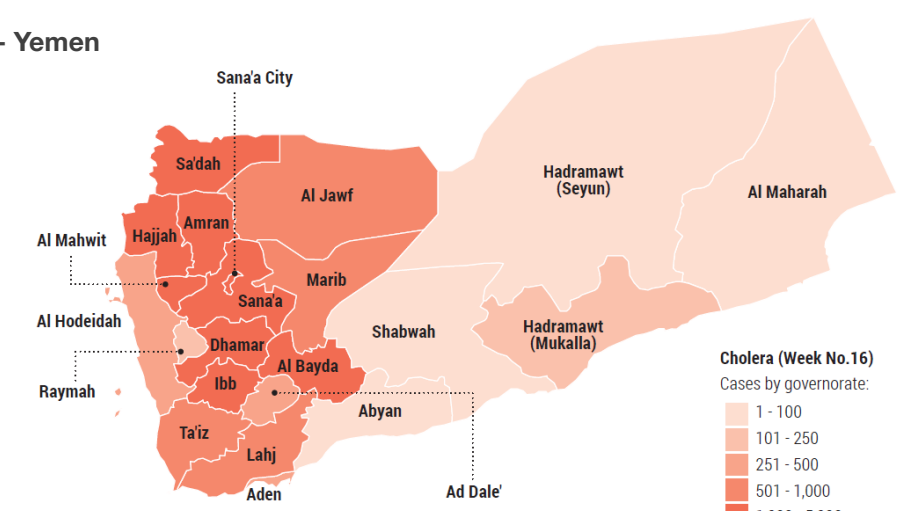
255,000
cases estimated by
September 2024

(Source: OCHA)

Cholera cases by governorate in week 16 of 2024 - Yemen

Funding shortages, limited supplies, poor infrastructure, and reluctance to seek care are the challenges that affect the response and containment of the situation.

In response, UN agencies and partners have created an inter-agency plan focusing on treatment and containment of AWD. However, the plan requires \$28 million, of which only 24% are currently funded, necessitating urgent additional support.



Source: Produced using MoPH epidemiological data

Source (YEMEN Situation Report, OCHA, 12 May 2024)

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This report is compiled by EMPHNET's Public Health Emergency Management Center (PHEMC)