

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.


INDEX e-WEB n°110

- A(H5N1) Human influenza – none
- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – none
- “OUTSIDE” Events:
 - Polio – Tajikistan
 - Dengue – Saudi Arabia, Sudan
 - Measles – West and Central Africa
- “INSIDE” Events:
 - Rabies – Italy

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	<u>Comments</u>
No human cases of A(H5N1) reported this week		

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic	<u>Comments</u>
No avian influenza outbreak reported this week		

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA (not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Area: Tajikistan	Event: Polio	<u>Comments</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 21 April 2010, Tajik health authorities had reported 120 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) to WHO. The majority had onset of paralysis within the previous 2 weeks. • All cases were from the south-west, bordering Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, in the provinces of Khatlon and of the capital Dushanbe (map 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the vast majority of the cases were children below 5 yrs of age, 10 children died. • Poliovirus wild type 1 was isolated in diagnostic specimens from 7 of the 120 cases. • To date, Uzbek authorities have reported 3 cases at the frontier with Tajikistan. <p>Map 1. Affected provinces, Tajikistan.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the first cases of poliovirus in the WHO European region since it was certified polio-free in 2002. • In Tajikistan, the last clinically confirmed polio case was in 1997; the last biologically confirmed polio case was in 1991. Reported OPV3 coverage nationwide was 87% in 2008 (last available data). • The current situation may be explained by problems in vaccination coverage in the Central Asian region. It may also reflect weak AFP surveillance in bordering countries where polio is endemic (Afghanistan for instance). • Note the proximity of the Indian subcontinent which is – to date – the most affected region in terms for autochthonous polio cases in addition to frequent exportation of cases in the region. • The risk of spread to neighbouring countries cannot be excluded. • At this stage, the risk of spread to the rest of the WHO European region remains limited considering the high vaccination coverage in the region despite the existence of minor sub-national gaps in population immunity. 	

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Saudi Arabia, Sudan

Event: dengue

Comments

Saudi Arabia

- Since the beginning of 2010, 363 cases of dengue fever have been recorded in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (cf. map 2).
 - ✓ 94 of them were recorded in the past week (28 for the same week in 2009).
 - ✓ For the same period, the ministry of health had reported 339 cases in 2009.
- Local authorities report that dengue has continued, despite control and prevention efforts, to spread in southern districts of Jeddah.
- Since the first fatal case of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) in Jeddah in 1993, Saudi Arabia reported 3 major epidemics:
 - ✓ a DEN-2 epidemic in **1994** with 469 cases of dengue, 23 cases of DHF, 2 cases of dengue shock syndrome (DSS) and 2 deaths;
 - ✓ a DEN-1 epidemic in **2006** with 1269 cases of dengue, 27 cases of DHF, 12 cases of DSS and 6 deaths;
 - ✓ a DEN-3 epidemic in **2008** with 775 cases of dengue, 9 cases of DHF, 4 cases of DSS and 4 deaths.

Sudan

- At the beginning of 2010, the Eastern Sudan Red Sea and Kassala states (cf. map 3) had reported increases in the number of dengue cases.
- In the Red Sea State, between 10 and 16 April 2010, the total number of dengue fever (DF) cases was 149 with 1 fatality. The number of dengue cases reported has decreased over the past 2 weeks.
- The total count as of 16 April 2010 is:
 - ✓ 2271 cases in the Red Sea state (of which nearly 500 in Port Sudan), including 10 deaths.
 - ✓ 13 in Kassala state, including 1 death. From the total number of cases, 4 cases have history of visiting the Red Sea state.
 - ✓ Vector control activities and intensive health campaigns are ongoing in both states.
- DEN-3 has been isolated, suggesting it could be the circulating strain.
- In Sudan, a large outbreak was attributed to Dengue virus type 1 and 2 in 1985. Another epidemic caused 75 fatalities in the state of South Kordofan in 2005. The most recent dengue outbreak in Sudan was described in Port Sudan in May 2009 (cf [e-WEB n°62](#)).
- The current epidemic may be attributable to dengue serotype 3. If this is confirmed, it may be the 1st description of DEN-3 in Sudan. This variant is thought to have originally spread from the Indian subcontinent into Africa in the 1980s

- The occurrence of dengue fever in Saudi Arabia and Sudan is not unexpected.
- Both have previously reported outbreaks at this time of the year (cf. e-WEB n°[93](#), [103](#)).
- Jeddah is a Hajj entry point -- as well as the largest commercial port in the country, and the host of the busiest airport in the western region.
- Large numbers of people coming from high-burden dengue countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand pass through Jeddah, in addition to visitors from the dengue-affected countries of the region. Therefore, the situation will be followed up thoroughly.
- The observed case fatality ratio in Sudan (0.44% in the Red Sea state) exceeds the expected global case fatality estimated at 0.5 per 1000 cases. It may reflect an under-reporting of clinical cases.
- Exportation of cases to neighbouring countries (where the vector is present) cannot be excluded.

Map 2. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



Map 3. Red Sea (Port Sudan) and Kassala states, Sudan.

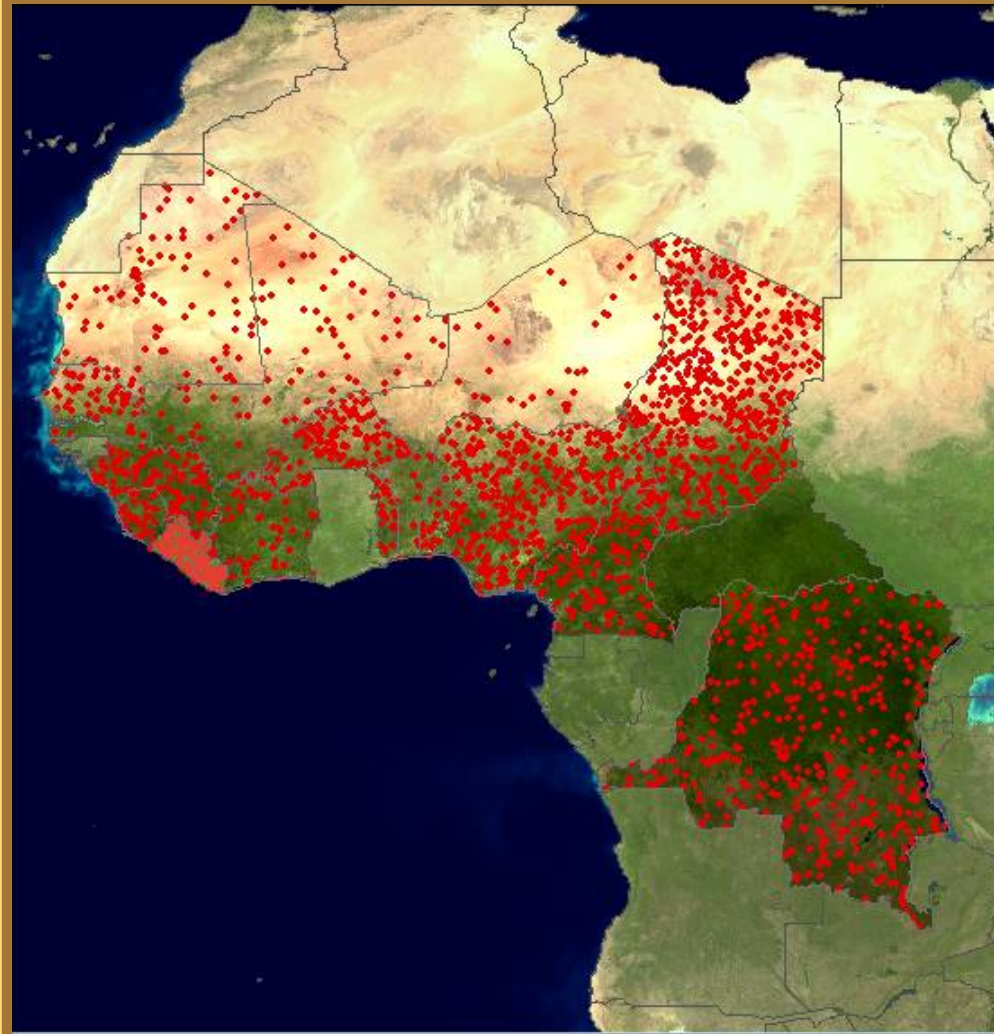


**REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(not occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)**

Location: West & Central Africa Event: Measles

Measles cases reported in West and Central Africa, during the 1st quarter of 2010
(source: WHO AFRO)

- From 1st January to 28th March, 16 countries of West and Central Africa have reported a measles outbreak, with 22,364 cases and 185 deaths. To respond to outbreaks, campaigns are ongoing or planned in the affected countries.
- Most affected countries being: Liberia, Guinea, Chad, DRC, and Mauritania.
- In the region in 2009, a major outbreak in Burkina Faso resulted in more than 50,000 cases and 340 deaths and localized outbreaks in Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal accounted for 16,808 reported cases and 68 deaths.
- According to WHO and UNICEF,
 - ✓ In West and Central Africa, only 66% (average) received one dose of measles vaccine by their first birthday through routine health services in 2008, from 23% in Chad to 96% in Cape Verde.
 - ✓ during 2000-2008 mass immunisation campaigns have resulted in a 92% reduction of cases in the Africa region.
 - ✓ during the same period the, global measles mortality in all ages was reduced by 78%, from an estimated 733,000 deaths in 2000 to an estimated 164,000 deaths in 2008.

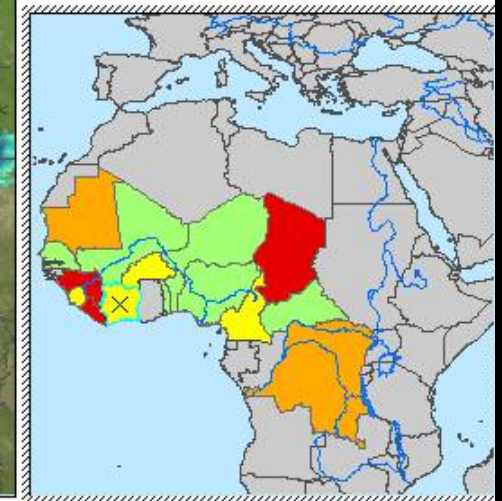


Measles cases reported during the 1st Quarter 2010

● 1 dot = Cases measles 10

Reported measles cases
Monthly average trends
2009 versus 2010 (1st quarter 2010)

- Stable
- Limited increase (4 to 8 fold)
- 19 to 23 fold increased
- 38 to 60 fold increased



REPORT of NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Italy

Event: Rabies

Comments

- In 2008, Italian health authorities reported 9 cases of animal rabies including 2 foxes in the province of Veneto, in the north east of Italy.
- From October 2008 till 21 April 2010, 237 animal cases have been diagnosed in the area: in the provinces of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and in the autonomous province of Trento. This increase in rabies cases suggests that despite control and preventive measures implemented, the disease has spread further in the region (cf. table 1.)
- Isolated strains corresponded to strains that are known to circulate in Eastern Europe.
- Map 4 shows the geographical distribution of rabies cases in 2010, as of 21 April 2010.
 - ✓ Since the beginning of 2010, rabies has been detected in pets and domestic animals (8 cats, 1 horse).
 - ✓ Most of the 160 cases recorded in 2010 occurred in wild animals; the most frequently diagnosed being foxes (134).
- Oral immunisation of foxes has started in the provinces of Veneto and the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano.

- Before the detection of animal cases of rabies in October 2008, no cases had been reported for 11 years in Italy.
- To date, no human cases of rabies in residents or visitors of the north Italian region have been reported.
- The risk of rabies following animal bite in this region or from inadequately vaccinated domestic animals coming from this area should be taken into account.

Table 1. Distribution of animal rabies by province (October 2008 – April 2010).

Region	Year			
	2008	2009	2010	Total
Friuli Venezia Giulia	9	35	12	56
Veneto	-	33	145	178
Autonomous province of Trento	-	-	3	3
Total	9	68	160	237

Map 4: Cases of animal rabies in Italy, 1 Jan – 21 April 2010.

