ZIKA
Update and funding request
22 November 2016

People affected

2400 cases of microcephaly and/or central nervous system malformations potentially associated with Zika worldwide

2100 of these cases in Brazil

69 countries and territories with Zika virus transmission since 2015

28 countries and territories reporting microcephaly potentially linked to Zika

19 countries and territories reporting Guillain-Barré syndrome potentially linked to Zika

Funding needs

US$ 112.5 million required by all partners to implement the updated Zika Strategic Response Plan

US$ 19 million required by WHO

Contact

Regional Office for the Americas:
Dr Sylvain Aldighieri, Zika Incident Manager
Email: aldighsy@paho.org
Telephone: +1 (202) 974-3193

Headquarters:
Ian Clarke, Zika Incident Manager
Email: clarkei@who.int
Telephone: +41 22 791 3007

Kerstin Bycroft, External Relations
Email: bycroftk@who.int
Telephone: +41 22 791 1072

At a glance

• Zika is not going away. All countries with Aedes mosquitoes are at risk for local mosquito-borne transmission of the virus.
• Sustained international response efforts and resources are required.
• WHO is committed to tackling Zika virus and its complications over the long term.
• The response will continue to be managed by WHO, countries and partners under the Zika Strategic Response Plan.
• A total of US$ 112.5 million is required by partners working together to implement the planned response.

Current situation

Zika virus remains a significant public health challenge requiring intense action over the long term. While Zika no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), it remains a crisis impacting the lives of thousands and requiring sustained international response efforts and resources.

As of 16 November 2016, 69 countries and territories have reported evidence of mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission since 2015. Twenty-eight countries have reported microcephaly and other central nervous system malformations and 19 have reported Guillain-Barré syndrome potentially associated with Zika virus infection. The virus continues to spread geographically in places where there are mosquitoes that can carry Zika (Aedes mosquitoes).

For more information, please visit www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus
WHO’s response

The World Health Organization (WHO) remains committed to tackling Zika virus and its related consequences. Many of the existing response mechanisms will continue, with further refinements made to meet evolving needs.

WHO will continue to coordinate the activities of more than 60 partners providing support to countries most vulnerable to Zika under the Strategic Response Plan. The Organization will also continue to coordinate the implementation of the Zika Virus Research Agenda embedded in the Research and Development (R&D) Blueprint. This includes the R&D for a vaccine for women of childbearing age.

While there is still much work to be done, governments, WHO and partners have made great strides on a number of critical issues:

- Significant advancement of research on Zika virus infection, including evidence of sexual transmission, and the establishment of a causal link between Zika and microcephaly.
- Considerable progress in R&D for diagnostics, vaccines and innovative mosquito-control tools. Three candidate vaccines have entered phase I trials.
- The rapid production and translation of expert guidance on topics from vector control to pregnancy management in the Zika context.
- Strengthened support to high priority, low resource, countries. Training was held in WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Region to enhance Zika surveillance, for example.
- The consistent communication of key information to the public, health workers, researchers and policy makers, including through the Zika app.

Funding needs

Support from donors has been crucial for the rapid scale-up and evolution of the Zika response. Between February and November 2016, WHO received close to US$ 24 million in direct contributions from 13 donors.

WHO and partners have revised the overall funding requirement for October 2016 - December 2017 to US$ 112.5 million. This sum is required to implement all activities set out in the Zika Strategic Response Plan (SRP). WHO’s funding need until December 2017 stands at US$ 19 million.

As the Zika response moves from an acute emergency to a longer-term programmatic approach, funding must also transition to longer-term development and technical assistance.

For more information, please visit www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus