



The Yellow Fever Initiative

Towards the elimination of yellow fever outbreaks

→ Yellow fever: a threat for 800 million people

Yellow fever is an **acute, haemorrhagic viral disease** transmitted to people of all ages by **infected mosquitoes**.

Worldwide:

- **44 countries** in Africa and Central and South America are endemic for yellow fever;
- **800 million people** live in yellow fever endemic areas;
- The burden in the African countries is about 130,000 yellow fever cases and 44,000 deaths annually.

Yellow fever outbreaks occur in **both rural and urban settings**. In urban settings, outbreaks are likely to be larger and are difficult to control.

Increased interconnections between different regions of the world by more rapid means of transport reinforce the risk of international spread.

→ Goals

Using a public health approach, the Yellow Fever Initiative aims to:

- **Ensure timely and effective response** to yellow fever outbreaks;
- **Reduce morbidity and mortality** from yellow fever infection;
- **Eliminate yellow fever outbreaks**.

→ A preventable disease

While there is no effective treatment, yellow fever is **preventable with vaccination**. A single dose of vaccine is enough to confer life-long protection against the disease.

WHO's combined strategy for prevention of yellow fever epidemics relies on **preventive mass immunization campaigns complemented by infant routine immunization**.

WHO and its partners established a **Yellow Fever International Coordinating Group** to oversee management of an **emergency vaccine stockpile of 6 million doses by year**.

→ Strategic axes

Major achievements

1. Risk assessment and surveillance

So that... at-risk populations are identified and outbreaks are detected in time.

- Risk assessments have been conducted in the 21 highest risk countries in Africa.
- 21 of the 31 at-risk countries in Africa have introduced case-based surveillance.

2. Implementing and monitoring vaccination campaigns

So that... vulnerable populations are protected with quality assured vaccines and outbreaks are prevented through high vaccination coverage rates.

- Routine YF vaccination has been included in 23 out of the 31 at-risk countries in Africa.
- More than 95 million people in 16 countries have received preventive vaccination.
- Development and implementation of surveillance systems for serious Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI).
- Development of systematic assessments for national logistic capacities to target weaknesses and improve monitoring & implementation of the campaigns.

3. Outbreak response

So that... outbreaks are effectively contained and emergency response efforts coordinated.

- 39 million people have benefited from the global yellow fever emergency stockpile.
- 53 emergency outbreak campaigns were conducted from 2001-2014.

4. Securing vaccine supply

So that... emergency stockpile is maintained and effectively deployed when needed.

- Emergency stockpile quantities increased from 2 to 6 million doses annually.
- Vaccine production increased from 30 million doses in 2000 to over 83 million doses in 2012.

5. Capacity building

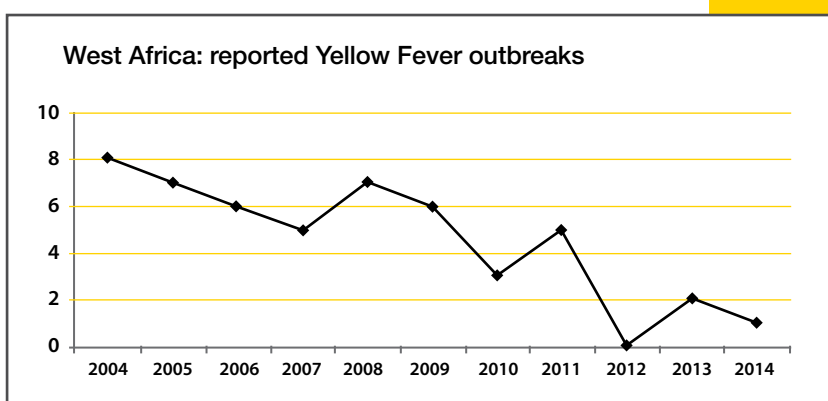
So that... sustainable systems are developed within countries from cold chain capacity and waste management to training of health care workers.

- Health care staff has been trained.
- Tools were provided to countries to strengthen risk assessment and the quality of mass campaigns.

6. Routine EPI

So that... stable vaccine coverage is maintained.

- Rapid assessment of annual yellow fever EPI vaccine coverage by district.
- Early warning when the threshold of yellow fever vaccine coverage is not reached.



More information is available on the WHO website:
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/yellowfev/en/index.html>

The department of **Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases (PED)** develops strategies, initiatives, and mechanisms to address priority emerging and re-emerging epidemic diseases, including outbreaks, thereby reducing their impact on affected populations and limiting their international spread.

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