

# An assessment of the current epidemiological and laboratory capacities for influenza-like illnesses and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection surveillance, Yemen 2022.

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## Abstract

**Background and objectives:** To re-activate influenza sentinel surveillance system in Yemen after disruption related to repurposing for COVID-19 pandemic. WHO Country Office (CO) in collaboration with Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH&P) jointly conducted an assessment mission to assess the current situation of the influenza sentinel surveillance system and assess its capacity to detect influenza epidemics and monitor trends in circulating influenza and other respiratory viruses of epidemic and pandemic potential. This study presents the results of the assessment for three sentinel sites located in Aden, Taiz and Hadramout/Mukalla. **Methodology:** A mixed methods approach was used to guide the assessment process and to help achieve the objectives. Data was collected as follows: desk review of the sentinel sites records and data; interviews with stakeholders, including key informants and partners; and direct observation through field visits to the sentinel sites, MOPH&P and the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL). Two assessment checklists were used: assessment of sentinel sites for SARI surveillance, and checklist for assessment of availability of SARI sentinel surveillance. **Results and conclusion:** COVID19 has affected health systems and services, and this was demonstrated in this assessment. The influenza sentinel surveillance system in Yemen is not effectively functional, however there's plenty of room for improvement if investment in the system's restructuring, training, building technical and laboratory capacities, and conducting continuous and regular supervision visits.

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