



Status

- The number of countries and territories affected by Zika and complications continues to grow.
- 57 countries and territories have reported local transmission of Zika virus since January 2015. This includes 7 new countries reporting in the past month.
- Currently:
 - Six countries have reported suspected cases of microcephaly and/or other fetal malformations potentially associated with Zika infection.
 - Thirteen have reported increased cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome in the context of Zika virus.
 - Six have reported locally acquired Zika virus infection through sexual transmission.
- There is a risk of mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission wherever mosquito vectors (principally *Aedes aegypti*) are present.

Research and development

- Scientific consensus has emerged that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly & Guillain-Barré syndrome.
- Recent reports suggest there may be a link between Zika and other neurological abnormalities such as inflammation of the spinal cord, brain abnormalities, and other effects on the central nervous system. However, further studies are required to establish maximum causality between Zika virus infection and neurological disorders; assess risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women infected with Zika virus and follow-up of babies and infants; explore sexual transmission of Zika virus; pilot-deploy new mosquito control methods; and public health system research.
- Almost 70 companies and research institutions are working on tests to diagnose Zika, vaccines, therapeutics and vector control methods.
- A reliable, point-of-care diagnostic test is the most urgent priority.
- Several years may be needed before a fully tested and licensed vaccine is ready for use. A draft target product profile for an emergency use vaccine should be finalized in May.
- When existing methods to control the *Aedes* mosquito are implemented in a comprehensive and sustained way they are effective. However, WHO also recommends carefully planned pilot deployment of new tools for mosquito control, accompanied by rigorous independent monitoring and evaluation.

WHO and UN response

- WHO, OCHA, UNESCO and UNICEF continue to work together to develop and implement the collective Strategic Response Framework related to Zika virus.
- UNICEF, WHO and IFRC have been coordinating the development of risk communication tools for communities affected by ZIKA.

Financing of the Zika response

- Funding requirements identified by WHO/PAHO and partners including UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF for the period from January to June 2016, amounts to US\$56 million. The amount raised so far is wholly insufficient to respond globally to the spread of Zika virus. For example, of the proposed US\$25 million budget needed to support efforts for WHO/PAHO's Zika response in the corresponding period, only US\$4 million (16%) has been raised to date, which leaves a funding gap of roughly US\$21 million. WHO is working with partners to revise the Zika response strategy and this will likely result in an overall increase in resource requirements.