

# Zika Virus Response Briefing

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IASC MHPSS Reference Group Meeting  
2016 – Uppsala/Sweden



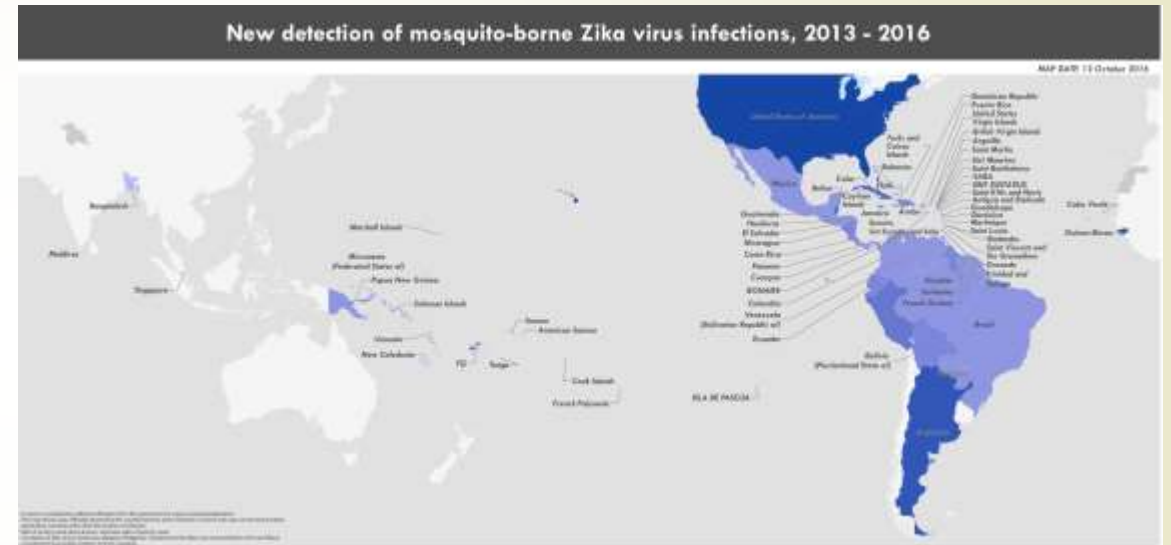
# Introductory session

- ▶ Virus spread primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquito.
- ▶ Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly and other severe brain defects.




# Detection of Zika virus infections

- ▶ 73 countries and territories have reported evidence of mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission since 2007 (67 with reports from 2015 onwards)
- ▶ 23 countries or territories have reported microcephaly and other brain malformations potentially associated with Zika virus infection
- ▶ Zika can be spread through
  - ▶ Mosquito bites
  - ▶ From a pregnant woman to her fetus (We don't know how often this happens)
  - ▶ Sex with an infected person
  - ▶ Laboratory exposure
  - ▶ Zika may be spread through blood transfusion.
- ▶ No reports of infants getting Zika through breastfeeding.





# How does Zika affect people?

- ▶ Many people with Zika will not have symptoms or will only have mild symptoms.
  - ▶ Symptoms last several days to a week.
  - ▶ People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital.
  - ▶ People very rarely die of Zika.
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# Strategic response to Zika

- ▶ Greater focus on preventing and managing medical complications caused by Zika virus infection
- ▶ 4 main objectives to support national governments and communities in preventing and managing the complications of Zika virus and mitigating the socioeconomic consequences:
  - ▶ **Detection** – Develop, strengthen and implement surveillance to guide the response
  - ▶ **Prevention** – Prevent adverse health outcomes through mosquito control, risk communication and community engagement.
  - ▶ **Care & support** – strengthen health and social systems to provide services and support to individuals, families, and communities
  - ▶ **Research** – fast track research for public health guidance and for mosquito control tools, diagnostic testes and vaccines.





# Response considerations



- ▶ The Strategy also focuses on communicating risks with women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, their partners, households and communities, so that people have the information they need to protect themselves will also be central to the response
- ▶ The spread of Zika virus will have long-term health consequences for families, communities, and countries, whose health systems will be challenged to care for children born with these complications for years to come.
- ▶ Development of several guidance and training materials that can be used by countries



**Psychosocial support for pregnant women and for families with microcephaly and other neurological complications in the context of Zika virus**

Interim guidance for health-care providers



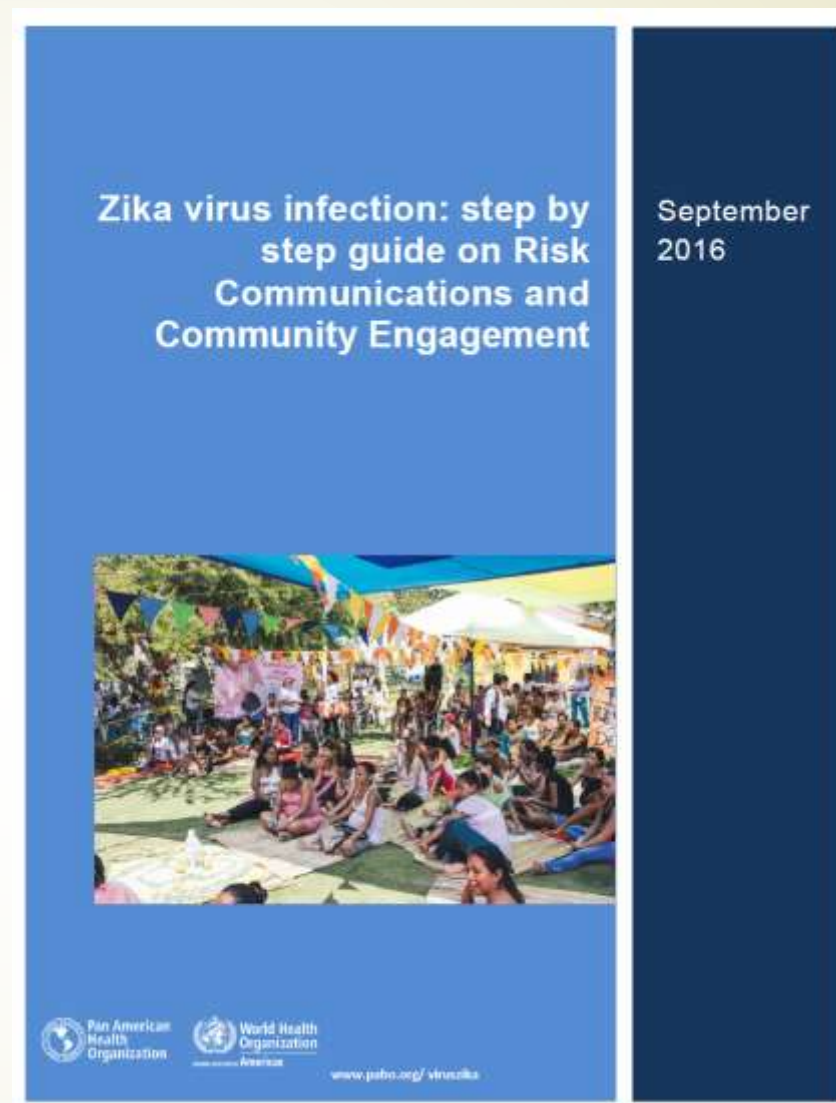
World Health  
Organization

## PSS for Pregnant women and families with microcephaly and other neurological complications in the context of Zika virus

1. Accurate information
2. Conveying health information
3. Supportive Communication
4. Common reactions
5. Basic Psychosocial Support
6. Strengthening Social Support
7. Stress Reduction
8. Advice on Parenting

# No mosquito, no disease

- ▶ Zika virus infection: step by step guide on Risk Communications and Community Engagement







# For more information

- ▶ MHPSS.net Zika Response Group
  - ▶ <http://mhps.net/groups/current-mhps-emergency-responses/zika-microcephaly-emergency-response-2016/>
- ▶ PAHO & WHO Zika virus outbreak global response
  - ▶ <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/>
  - ▶ <http://www.paho.org/hq/>
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/>