

Meningitis Landscape risk Analysis of Africa

Andre Arsene Bita Fouda¹, Anderson Latt², Clement Lingani³, Lorenzo Pezzoli⁴, Fernandez Katya⁴, Antoine Durupt⁴, Emmanuel Dzotsi⁵, James Stuart⁴, Ado Bwaka³, Marie-Pierre Preziosi⁴, Benido Impouma¹, Charles Shey Umaru Wiysonge¹.

Author correspondent: Andre Arsene Bita Fouda, abita@who.int

¹World Health Organization African region, Brazzaville, Congo

²World Health Organization Dakar Emergency Hub, Senegal

³World Health Organization Inter Country Support Team West Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

⁴World Health Organization Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland

⁵International consultant

Background

Meningococcal disease remains a major public health problem in Africa. Equity is one of the guiding principles for the implementation of the Regional Framework to defeat meningitis in Africa by 2030. Interventions and support should be adapted to the level of risk. The objective of the study is to conduct a meningitis landscape analysis for all 47 countries of the WHO African region.

Methods

To ensure an effective and systematic implementation of the regional Framework to defeat meningitis in Africa by 2030, WHO conducted a meningitis high-level landscape analysis for all countries of the African region. The criteria utilized to conduct the landscape analysis were the meningitis epidemiological situation, the health service assessment, and the climatic and environmental risk factors, using data from 2017 to 2019. Scores were assigned to each variable within a criterion to give a maximum of 100. The findings of the analysis were used to classified countries in three categories.

Countries that obtained a score between 70 and 100 were classified as high priority, those with a score between 40 and 69 were medium priority, and countries that achieved a score below 40 are low priority.

Results

Of the 47 countries in the WHO African region, thirteen (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, and South Sudan) were classified at high risk, 27 (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Congo, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa Togo, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) at medium risk and 09 (Algeria, Botswana, Eswatini, Gambia, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Zimbabwe) at low risk of meningitis.

Conclusion:

Countries at high and medium risk of meningitis, totaling to 38, are prioritized for the development and implementation of their plans to defeat meningitis by 2030. Countries at low risk of meningitis will also be supported based on their needs by virtue of equity.

Key words: Meningitis, landscape risk analysis, Africa.