



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

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Implementation of the Regional Framework for Surveillance and Control of Invasive Mosquito Vectors and re-emerging Vector-borne Diseases 2014- 2020: lessons learned and the way forward

The IFMSA congratulates the ongoing work of the Regional Office to strengthen capacities and provide technical assistance to Member States to deal with invasive mosquitos and re-emerging vector-borne diseases, despite limited resources.

Vector-borne diseases have been low endemic and epidemic autochthonous in Europe for decades. Nevertheless, recent increases in the introduction and establishment of invasive mosquitos accompanied by dramatically growing incidences of dengue, chikungunya and zika raise substantial concerns. IFMSA recognizes that combating Vector-borne diseases is likely to face additional challenges in the coming years due to habitat changes, climate change, and increased human mobility.

To identify high-risk situations and create prediction models it is essential to acquire knowledge on host preferences, relevant breeding places, longevity, vector competence, climate drivers under European conditions. Yet, data on Vector-borne diseases provided by many Member States to the WHO are not accurate and submissions not regular, hampering epidemiological understanding.

Furthermore, we want to underscore the connectedness and interdependence of animal, human and environment health illustrated by vector-borne diseases. This demands a paradigm shift to the One Health strategy, unmentioned in the Regional Framework.

Therefore, to achieve the regional goal of carrying out surveillance and control of Vector-borne diseases, we urge Member States and all stakeholders to:

- i)** Make strong political commitments supported by sufficient human and financial resources to implement appropriate disease and vector surveillance and prediction systems at national and subnational levels.
- ii)** Ensure accurate and regular data submissions to the WHO
- ii)** Strengthen intersectional and intersectoral collaboration whilst taking accountability for integrating programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors communicate and collaborate with a One Health approach in mind.

This framework gives us a desired direction, a path to follow. Yet, only with strong political will, community engagement and mobilization we will be able to build resilience.

An adequate response to the current and future vector-borne diseases burden is a shared responsibility of all members of society.