

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Since 2004, Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) has been causing large epidemics of chikungunya fever (CHIK) with considerable morbidity and suffering. The epidemics have crossed international borders and seas with introductions into at least 19 countries from travelers who had visited affected areas. Because the virus has been introduced into geographic locations where the appropriate vectors are endemic, the disease has the potential to establish itself in new areas of Europe and the Americas. The possibility that CHIKV could become established in the Americas has heightened the awareness of a need to develop guidelines for prevention and control of CHIK in PAHO countries. This document is meant to serve as a guideline for use by individual countries as the basis for their CHIKV surveillance, prevention, and control programs.

TARGET OF GUIDELINES:

The intended users of these guidelines are health workers, public health officials, and vector control specialists at the national, district, and sub-district levels.

OBJECTIVES:

General objectives are prevention, detection, and timely response to outbreaks of CHIK by surveillance, case detection, investigation, and triggering public health actions.