

Tunisia

Capital: *Tunis*

Infant Mortality Rate:

24.07/1,000 live births

Population:

10,835,873 (July 2013 est.)



Overview

Influenza surveillance was implemented in Tunisia as national preventive program in 1980. It involves many stakeholders at the national level: the Directorate of Care and Primary Healthcare Direction (DSSB) and National Influenza Center (NIC) in addition to the Ministry of Agriculture for wildlife monitoring and the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE) for annual data analysis and dissemination.

The primary surveillance program for estimating influenza-like illness (ILI) at the national level was established by DSSB all over the country with the participation of 268 sentinel sites selected by the regions and representing about 10% of the total health sites and more than 3% of the whole population. These sites are located within the 24 governorates of Tunisia. The program is conducted seasonally during the period from the beginning of October until the end of April each year.

In September 2013, Tunisia was awarded a capacity building cooperative agreement, Surveillance and Response to Avian and Pandemic Influenza by National Health Authorities outside the United States. The overarching goal of the project is to mitigate the effects of a future influenza pandemic by enhancing preparedness and response capacity in the country. With cooperative agreement funds, Tunisia aims to improve the current influenza surveillance system by strengthening ongoing activities and enhance the level of preparedness and response to annual influenza epidemics and future pandemics.

Highlights

- Awarded Capacity Building Cooperative Agreement.
- Established surveillance sites within the 24 governorates of Tunisia.