

Implementation of dengue epidemiological surveillance in the Golfe health district of Togo, 2024: Barriers and facilitators

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Introduction

Dengue is a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. The 2024 epidemic in Togo highlighted the challenges of epidemiological surveillance and the need to improve monitoring and response mechanisms. The aim of our study was to assess the performance of dengue epidemiological surveillance implementation in the Gulf Health District (DS) in 2024.

Methods

The study adopted a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the performance of the dengue surveillance system from August 2024 to April 2025. Data were collected from district health facilities and stakeholders involved in surveillance. The evaluation was based on three dimensions: structure, process and results.

Results

Among 133 suspected cases of dengue fever, the most frequent symptoms were fever and headache. The Varkevisser scale was used as a reference for the performance score. Our study showed a low overall performance of 38.5%. The confusion between dengue fever and malaria complicated diagnosis. Although health professionals had a good knowledge of dengue fever, the lack of

standardization of surveillance and response procedures limited the application of national guidelines.

Conclusion

The study revealed several weaknesses in the dengue surveillance system due to a lack of budget allocation, inadequate training of health workers and a lack of motivation on the part of health workers. Efforts must be made to improve this surveillance.