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## **Improving vector-borne disease control in Albufeira**

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The Albufeira Health Centre (CSA) comprises various functional units within primary healthcare. Recognizing the limited awareness of colleagues regarding the Vector Surveillance Network (REVIVE), responsible for entomological surveillance of mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies, the Public Health Unit (USP) initiated a project to improve coordination and knowledge sharing. Implemented in April 2023, the project involved a multidisciplinary team. Informational materials on vector surveillance and control, clinical guidance for common vector-borne diseases (VBDs), tick collection protocols, and specimen registration forms were distributed. A video highlighting entomological surveillance and strategies for prevention and control was disseminated. To date, the project has recorded 45 views of the video (51%). A questionnaire distributed among the target population revealed that only 20% had knowledge of the epidemiological importance of vectors in the Algarve region. None were familiar with REVIVE or its work. Furthermore, participants were not acquainted with the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito species. Regarding ticks, 20% felt confident in tick removal, but none were aware of the tick genera in the Algarve region. Only 20% were aware of notifiable vector-borne diseases through SINAVE. Training sessions on this topic were suggested. The project emphasized the significance of communication and collaboration among healthcare professionals in the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases. It highlighted the need for continuous education on VBDs, surveillance techniques, and control measures. This innovative project can serve as a model for healthcare centres and countries, contributing to global efforts to improve the response to vector-borne diseases. The project's outreach extended to the Municipal Albufeira Animal Welfare Centre. A new questionnaire will be distributed to gather additional insights and enhance the impact of the project.

### **Key messages:**

- The project aims to improve integration of primary healthcare services for vector-borne diseases, increasing awareness and training for healthcare professionals.
- This innovative project promotes prevention culture and replicable adaptations for improved response to vector-borne diseases.