

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
Sixty-fifth Session
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October 2018

**NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASE (NCD) SURVEILLANCE TRAINING PACKAGE TO
STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO GLOBAL MONITORING
FRAMEWORK**

Objectives

The objectives of the event are to:

- present the regional NCD surveillance training package, comprising six modules, facilitator's guide and workbook, as a tool to assist Member States to strengthen implementation of the WHO global monitoring framework which enables global tracking of progress in preventing and controlling major noncommunicable diseases;
- identify the main challenges and gaps in building effective monitoring and evaluation systems in countries of the Region and discuss the findings of the pilot testing of the surveillance training package conducted in Iraq in April 2018.

Background

In October 2012, the Fifty-ninth Session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in resolution EM/RC59/R.2 endorsed a regional framework for action to implement the Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. The regional framework provides a set of strategic interventions for Member States to fulfil their commitments in the four priority areas of: governance; prevention and reduction of risk factors; surveillance, monitoring and evaluation; and health care. It is aligned with the global monitoring tool and allows Member States to measure their progress on a regular basis against 10 progress indicators.

In May 2013, in resolution WHA66.10 the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly endorsed the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, the global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, including the set of 25 indicators capable of application across regional and country settings to monitor trends and assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on noncommunicable diseases, and the set of nine voluntary global targets for achievement by 2025 for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.

The targets and indicators of the global monitoring framework are categorized into one of the three pillars of a noncommunicable disease surveillance system: mortality and morbidity outcomes, risk factors and national health system responses. Critical challenges remain in strengthening national capacity for planning and implementing surveillance activities and programmes in order to achieve the nine voluntary targets by 2025.

By 2017, only 12 Member States had set time-bound national targets based on WHO guidance: six of these were Group 1¹ countries, five were Group 2 and only one country was from Group 3. Only a few countries are able to report on reliable cause-specific mortality for NCDs following WHO criteria and definitions and only 3 out of

¹ Group 1 countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates; Group 2: Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia; Group 3: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen.

22 of countries – Group 1 countries (16.7%), Group 2 (10%) and Group 3 (16.7) – had the capacity to implement a STEPS survey or a comprehensive health examination survey on regular basis (every 5 years).

Expected outcomes

The expected outcomes of the event are for Member States to develop a common understanding on how to:

- implement the WHO global monitoring framework;
- integrate the three pillars of a noncommunicable disease surveillance system framework into national health information systems;
- strengthen human resources and institutional capacity for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, as well as build a regional pool of experts to advise on strengthening surveillance;
- develop national plans of action to strengthen surveillance through use of the NCD surveillance training package.