Current major event

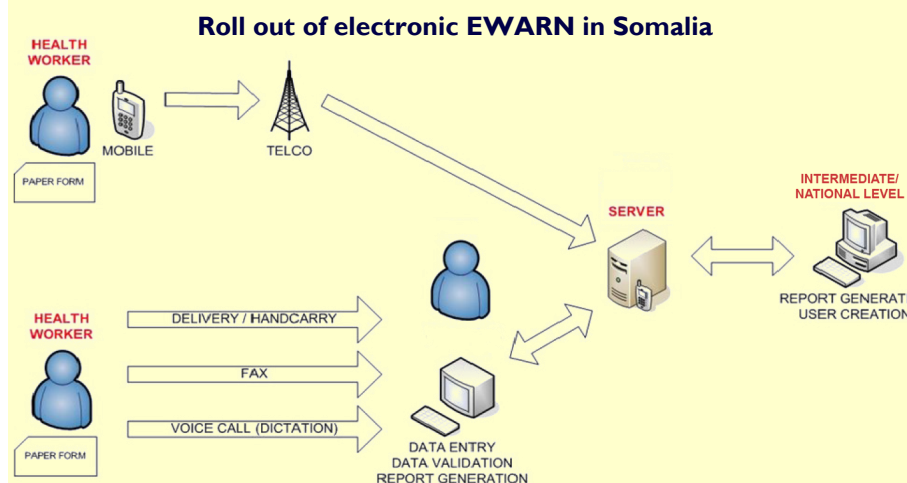### Roll out of electronic EWARN in Somalia

The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Somalia in collaboration with WHO is conducting a training workshop for the roll out of electronic Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) to enhance epidemic intelligence capacity for early detection and response to epidemic prone diseases.

Editorial note

The first phase of the training workshops started in Mogadishu from 25 to 28 March 2018. A total of 22 surveillance officers from the MOH and 11 regions of South-Central Somalia attended. This was followed by the second training workshop from 1 to 5 April 2018 in Garowe, Puntland. A total of 23 participants from 7 reporting regions of Puntland were trained. The last session of the phase I training workshops is scheduled to start from 15 to 18 April in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Through lectures, case studies, practical exercises and discussions, surveillance officers were introduced and trained on how to use mobile applications of the electronic EWARN system to prepare and submit immediate alerts and weekly aggregated reports; roles and responsibilities from reporting sites to intermediate and central levels; and how to use automated analysis and auto-generation of epidemiological reports using the application. Participants were also trained on basic principles of early warning surveillance in emergencies; prioritization of epidemic prone disease; case definitions; thresholds for outbreak, detection and management of alerts; and basic principles of outbreak investigation and response.

The focus of the first phase of the roll out was to train and orient the surveillance officers from central and regional levels on EWARN principles and the new application. They were introduced to the newly introduced electronic EWARN system, and trained on how to use the mobile application to report, perform data analysis and to generate epidemiological repots. The first phase of the trainings will be followed by the second phase

of trainings targeting health facility staff. The trained surveillance officers will act as trainers that will conduct cascade trainings of health facility staff from 800 health facilities in the EWARN reporting network. The health facility staff will be trained on use of the mobile application and devices for immediate notification of alerts of suspected disease outbreaks, and for weekly reporting.

Surveillance staff in Somalia have faced data transmission challenges due to insecurity and remoteness of localities with significant numbers of vulnerable populations affected by the ongoing crisis. As a result, many health facilities could not report and health condition of these populations was not monitored adequately. The strengthening of the EWARN system through introduction of mobile applications and real time reporting has significantly enhanced capacity of the system for early outbreak detection and response in Somalia.

Since electronic EWARN was revitalized at the peak of cholera and measles outbreaks in 2017 in Somalia, it has been instrumental in guiding effective response to cholera and measles outbreaks by providing reliable data for monitoring performance of the interventions implemented by health facilities and partners. The system has also recently detected other diseases such as dengue and malaria.

Roll out of electronic EWARN in Somalia

Schedule of Phase I trainings for trainers in Somalia

- First training workshop in Mogadishu, from 25 to 28 March 2018
- Second training workshop in Garowe, Puntland from 1 to 5 April 2018
- Third training workshops in Hargeisa, Somaliland, from 15 to 18 April 2018

Update on outbreaks in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS in Saudi Arabia; **cholera** in Somalia; **cholera** in Yemen; **dengue** in Sudan.

Current public health events of international concern
[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), **CFR** %]

Avian influenza: 2006-2017	
Egypt (A/H5N1)	[359 (122), 34%]
Egypt (A/H9N2)	[4 (0)]
Avian influenza A (H7N9): 2013-2017	
China	[1,565 (612), 39.1%]
Chikungunya: 2016-2018	
Pakistan	[8,521 (0)]
Cholera: 2017-2018	
Somalia	[1,876 (9), 0.4%]
Yemen	[1,087,495 (2,272), 0.2%]
Diphtheria: 2018	
Yemen	[1,543 (85), 5.5%]
Bangladesh	[6,460 (40), 0.6%]
Dengue fever: 2017-2018	
Sudan	[233 (3), 1.2%]
MERS: 2012-2018	
Saudi Arabia	[1,823 (709), 38.9%]
Wild poliovirus: 2018	
Afghanistan	[7 (0)]
Pakistan	[1 (0)]
Yellow Fever: 2017-2018	
Brazil	[1,127 (328)] 32.7 %