

## Current major event

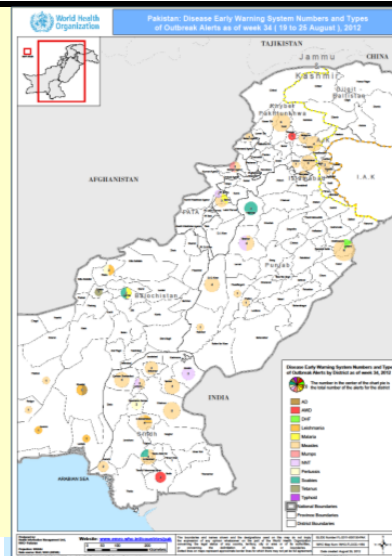
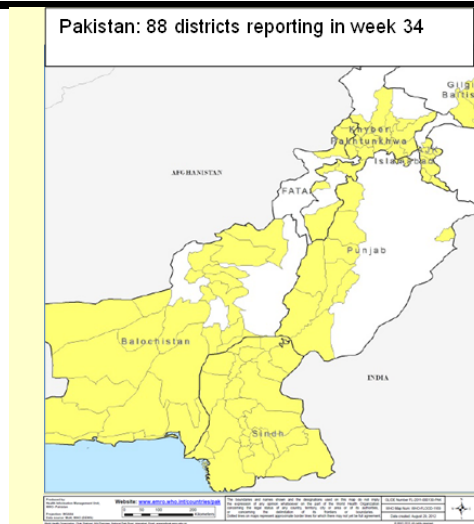
### The Role of DEWS in Alerts & Outbreaks Response in Pakistan

In week 34, 19-25 August 2012, 2,422 health facilities in 88 districts have reported to Pakistan's Disease Early Warning and Response System (DEWS) using the online eDEWS information platform. DEWS Surveillance Officers investigated 98 alerts and responded to 5 outbreaks this week. Measles alone accounted for 66 alerts investigated of which 4 confirmed outbreaks and responded to. There were 137 measles cases and 3 deaths. Also investigated were alerts of acute watery diarrhoea with one confirmed outbreak and controlled. This was a cluster of 8 cases but no death. Four cases of cholera were lab confirmed from specimens received the previous week Lower Dir of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. In all the cases, the district Response Teams respond immediately and the outbreaks were controlled within 24 hours. Two new suspected cases of CCHF were also reported this week, bringing the total to 39 suspected cases, 29 cases confirmed and 9 deaths. Contacts are monitored for fever. Awareness raising sessions are held with the families regarding avoiding risk factors for CCHF.

### Editorial note

The goal of DEWS in Pakistan is to reduce morbidity and mortality by early detection and rapid response to epidemic-prone diseases. The concept of weekly review of data at health facility level was initiated in 1999 and implemented at district level in the earthquake response of 2005. The system was expanded to all provinces of Pakistan during subsequent disasters culminating in the 2010 Flood.

Since the Flood of August 2010, DEWS has been monitoring the disease trends and screening about 800,000 health consultations per week for cases of 14 different epidemic-prone diseases. A team of 75 WHO district surveillance officers investigate and respond to "alerts" generated from the weekly reports and from



Suspected Disease/Syndrome	2011		2012 uptill week 34	
	Alerts	Confirmed Outbreaks	Alerts	Confirmed Outbreaks
Acute watery diarrhoea	1350	543	424	91
Acute jaundice syndrome	51	17	88	15
Bloody diarrhoea	98	20	85	7
Measles	1708	110	4102	409
Pertussis	287	81	320	134
Malaria	131	88	98	56
Cutaneous Leishmaniasis	298	33	598	56
Others	1829	180	1462	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>5752</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>7177</b>	<b>851</b>

notifications by contacts in health facilities and the community.

To streamline weekly data collection from the health facilities, an information platform called eDEWS was opened online in January 2012. Aggregate weekly data are entered into the system, either directly from the health facility by GPRS phones or from district offices on computers having internet connection. Immediately and automatically, the server sends out "alerts" by SMS to the district surveillance officer for rapid investigation and response, and simultaneously to each administrative level for facilitation and monitoring. The system has significantly improved the efficiency of weekly reporting and allowed more time for DEWS officers to be in the field.

At the request of the provincial health authorities, WHO is in process of linking other health information systems to the same eDEWS online platform. It is our hope that the government will gradually be taking full responsibilities for DEWS activities.

## Update on outbreaks

**Hepatitis E:** in S. Sudan; **Acute Gastro-enteritis:** in Egypt; **Dengue** and **CCHF** in Pakistan; **Measles** in Afghanistan and Pakistan;

## Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

### Avian influenza

China	[43(28), <b>65.1%</b> ]
Egypt	[168 (60), <b>35.7%</b> ]
Indonesia	[190 (158), <b>83.1 %</b> ]
Viet Nam	[123(61), <b>49.5%</b> ]
Cambodia	[21(19), <b>90.4%</b> ]
Bangladesh	[ 6(0), <b>0% ]</b>
Global total	[607(358), <b>58.9%</b> ]

### Hepatitis E

S. Sudan	[10(?), ?]
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### Measles

Pakistan	[9000 (125), <b>1.4%</b> ]#
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### Crimean-congo haemorrhagic fever

Pakistan	[39 (9) <b>21.1%</b> ]#
Afghanistan	[6(1), <b>16.6%</b> ]#

### Acute Gastroenteritis

Egypt	[2000 (0), <b>0.0%</b> ]
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### Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever

D.R Congo	[30 (14), <b>46.7%</b> ]
Uganda	[24(16), <b>66.7%</b> ]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases