

## Current major event

### EWARN in Kurdistan region

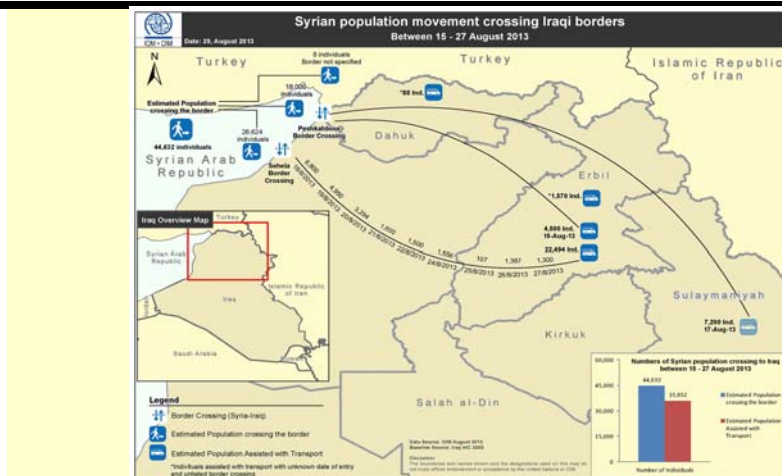
A technical mission concluded recently by WHO in Kurdistan region (northern Iraq) led to a consensus amongst the international partners to support establishment of EWARN system in all the camps in the region where the Syrian refugees are currently displaced.

### Editorial note

Humanitarian crisis are often associated with increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to multiple risk and vulnerability factors refugees and internally displaced populations are often exposed to. These risk factors include overcrowding and poor shelter; poor water and sanitation conditions; limited access to adequate food; lack of access to clinical and preventive services; reduced individual immunity to infectious agents; exposure to new pathogens due to displacement to unfamiliar environments; and sometime conditions associated with the crisis that favour proliferation of disease. Optimal capacity for early detection of potential disease outbreak through an effective Early Warning and Alert Response Network (EWARN) system is a critical component of response to humanitarian emergencies.

Since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, an estimated 200,000 refugees have crossed the border and moved into the Kurdistan Region (*Please see the map above*). More than 85% of these refugees reside in nine camps that have so far been set up in three Governorates of Kurdistan Region. While commendable efforts have been made by the government and national partners to improve shelter; water supply and sanitary conditions; food supply; access to health services including immunization to the refugees, prevailing conditions including high population densities in camps place refugee population and host communities at increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks.

The Ministry of Health, with support from WHO and other international partners have taken major steps toward es-



Source: IOM

### Health events reported from northern Iraq for week no 38

Diseases	Dohuk	Erbil	Sulaymaniyah
Acute diarrhoeal diseases	833	1215	1991
Suspected measles	4	1	0
Kala-a-zar	0	0	0
Pertusis	0	0	0

Source: Ministry of Health, Iraq

establishment of capacity for early detection and response to disease outbreaks amongst the refugee populations and host communities by implementing EWARN within camps and also through strengthening regular communicable disease surveillance activities outside camps, and outbreak preparedness and response capacity.

The establishment of EWARN in Kurdistan region is part of WHO's strategy to strengthen the early detection and response capacities of the countries affected by the present Syria crisis. A uniform approach for establishment of EWARN is being followed across all countries in consistence with WHO's global guidelines. It is expected that the epidemic readiness measures in all countries across the region affected by the crisis will be significantly enhanced through establishing a mechanisms for early detection and response to any event with epidemic potentials.

## Update on outbreaks

### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**MERS-CoV** in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar; **Hepatitis E** in South Sudan; **Wild poliovirus** in Somalia and South Sudan.

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[173 (63), 36.4%]
Indonesia	[192 (160), 83.3 %]
Viet Nam	[125 (62), 49.6%]
Cambodia	[31 (27), 87.1%]
Global total	[629 (375), 59.6%]

#### Hepatitis E

South Sudan	[11,897 (235), 1.9%]#
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#### Novel Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

Saudi Arabia	[107(49), 46%]
Italy	[2 (0)]
Jordan	[3 (2), 66%]
France	[1 (0)]
UAE	[7 (3), 42.8%]
Qatar	[5 (2), 40%]
Tunisia	[3 (1), 33%]

#### Influenza A (H7N9) virus

China	[135 (44), 32.6%]
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#### Wild poliovirus

South Sudan	[3 (0)]
Somalia	[174 (0)]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases