

## Current major event

### The role of EWARN in Emergency

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean plans to organize a technical consultative meeting to discuss ways of improving coordination and response to public health threats among the IDPs and refugees from Syria. The meeting will bring together WHO representatives and relevant staff from Syria and neighboring country hosting refugees from Syria. The aim of this meeting will be to define a framework for strengthening coordination and develop strategies for monitoring and response to public health events that affect the health of these IDPs and refugees. EWARN in emergencies will be one of the main strategies discussed.

### Editorial note

The ongoing political and social upheavals in Eastern Mediterranean Region is creating humanitarian crises as a result of mass displacements of populations and destructions of infrastructures. In Syria alone, an estimated four million people have been displaced and live as internally displaced within the country, and close to one million have crossed the border and taken refuge in the neighboring countries.

Many of the displaced live in locations where conditions are difficult, with inadequate food and shelter, unsafe water and poor sanitation. The number of cases of communicable diseases and other health conditions are on the rise in these settlements (*please see table*). Sporadic outbreaks have already been reported. The situation is made worse by lack of access to many of the internally displaced.

Disease control in emergencies presents unique challenges in public health. It involves multiple actors and is influenced by many factors. The World Health Organization has been involved in disease control in emergencies for so long, and in 2012, the Organization published a document to provide a standard framework and best practice for

## Sample: EWARN Weekly Surveillance Report Form

Weekly Surveillance Report Form  
 • Facility name: ..... Town/District/ Settlement/Camp: ..... Facility ID: .....  
 Name and contact information for reporting officer: .....  
 Start of week: ..... to End of week: ..... Week N°: .....

Disease/Syndrome	Code	Alert	Less than 5 years old		5 years and older	
			Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Suspect Cholera	SC	③				
Bloody Diarrhoea	BD	③				
Other Acute Diarrhoea	AD					
Measles	MS	③				
Meningitis	MG	③				
Acute Jaundice Syndrome	AJS	③				
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	AFP	③				
Malaria	MAL					
Acute Lower Respiratory Infection	ARI					
Unexplained fever	UF					
Unexplained cluster of health events	UC	③				
Total Consultations (All Causes)	TC					

### Syria DEWS: Morbidity report— Week 6, 2013

Disease	Number of cases
Acute diarrhoea	189
Hepatitis A (AJS)	33
Influenza-like illness	836
Suspected Measles	1
Tuberculosis	1

implementation of a disease Early Warning and Response Network (EWARN) and its operation in the field, following humanitarian emergencies. The guidelines are intended for all individuals responsible for disease surveillance activities at all levels. These individuals include health facility staff, surveillance officers, epidemiologists, data analysts and statisticians, government health officials, managers of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), public health officers, laboratory personnel and community health workers.

Establishment of disease early warning network (EWARN) for rapid detection and prompt response to outbreaks is a key priority during humanitarian crises like this one. EWARN focuses on coordination and strengthening disease surveillance and response during the acute phase of humanitarian emergencies. Selected epidemic-prone diseases as the major cause of morbidity and mortality in emergencies are often targeted.

## Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**Novel Coronavirus** in Saudi Arabia; **Yellow fever** in Sudan; **Hepatitis E**: in South Sudan; **WNV** in Tunisia.

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[170 (61), <b>35.88%</b> ]
Indonesia	[192 (160), <b>83.3 %</b> ]
Viet Nam	[123(61), <b>49.5%</b> ]
Cambodia	[26(23), <b>88.4%</b> ]
Global total	[620(367), <b>59.1%</b> ]

#### Hepatitis E

S. Sudan	[8031 (135), <b>1.7%</b> ] <sup>#</sup>
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#### Novel coronavirus

Saudi Arabia	[7 (5), <b>71.4 %</b> ]
Qatar	[2 (0)]
Jordan	[2 (2), <b>100%</b> ]
UK	[3 (1), <b>33%</b> ]

#### West Nile Virus

Tunisia	[81 (12) <b>14.8%</b> ] <sup>#</sup>
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#### Yellow fever

Sudan	[849 (171), <b>20.2%</b> ] <sup>#</sup>
Chad	[139 (9), <b>6.4%</b> ]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases