

## Current major event

### GOARN regional training held on outbreak response

The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO (EMRO/WHO) in collaboration with WHO headquarters and Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners, organized a pre-deployment training on outbreak alert and response at the Dead Sea Resort, Jordan from 25 to 31 March 2014. This was the first time such a training was organized in the region. A total of 24 participants, selected mostly from health institutions and the ministries of health of the Eastern Mediterranean Region attended this training.

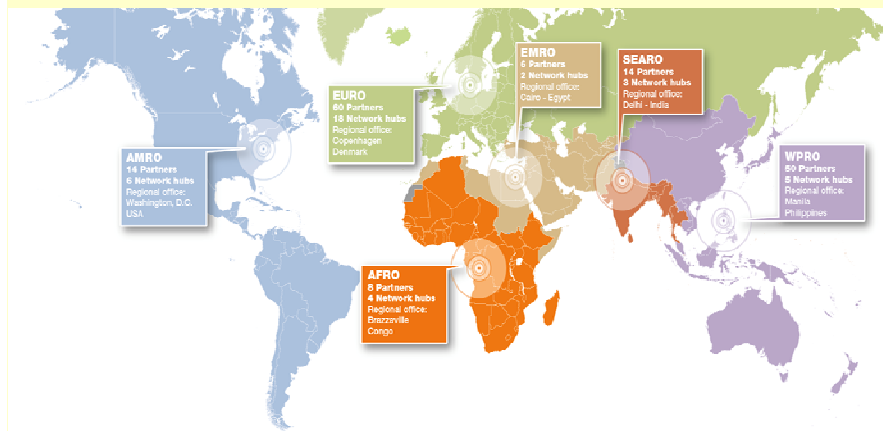
### Editorial note

The aim of the GOARN training was to establish a regional network of institutions and agencies in the EMR ready for deployment at short notice to support international outbreak response at the request of Member States. The training was a follow-up to a regional GOARN meeting held in Casablanca, Morocco in 2012. The meeting recommended the establishment of a regional GOARN network and build partnerships with collaborating centers, technical institutions, centers of excellence, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations in the region to build adequate technical capacity in the region to support in outbreak alert and response.

Nineteen of the 24 participants of this training, were from the region representing health institutions from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen. The remaining participants were from other WHO regions. The participants were selected based on their experience and involvement in outbreak response activities, in addition to their qualification in epidemiology, public health laboratory, logistic and infection prevention and control (*see table*).

It was a comprehensive seven days training that provided skilled learning through practical sessions, simulation exercises of outbreak scenarios including meeting the political authorities, com-

## Distribution of Current GOARN Partners by WHO Regions



### Distribution of the participants by profession:

Profile	No.
Physician	2
Epidemiologist	14
Lab specialist	4
Infection prevention and control	4

munity leaders, traditional health healer and visiting hospitals. Certificate of attendance was given at the end of the training.

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) was established in April 2000 as a mechanisms to improve coordination and provide technical assistance for international outbreak responses to affected countries. WHO acts as its secretariat. It is worth noting that no single country or institution has the capacity to respond alone to epidemics of international public health concern.

The increase in number of emerging diseases like MERS-CoV and reemergence of diseases like Yellow Fever, Rift valley fever, dengue fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever in the region requires a strong coordination mechanism like GOARN to coordinate the multi-disciplinary and multi-agencies response teams. The network of qualified multidisciplinary professionals ready to be rapidly deployed is expected to improve the technical capacities of the affected countries. The Regional Office will continue to work with partners to expand the regional network.

## Update on outbreaks

### in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

#### Novel Coronavirus in Saudi Arabia

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2003-2014

Egypt	[175 (63), 36%]
Indonesia	[195 (163), 83.6 %]
Viet Nam	[125 (62), 49.6%]
Cambodia	[47 (33), 70.2%]
Global total	[652 (386), 59.2%]

#### MERS-CoV: 2012-2014

Saudi Arabia	[179 (67), 37.4%]
Jordan	[4 (3), 75 %]
Oman	[4 (4), 100% ]
UAE	[15 (6), 40% ]
Kuwait	[3 (1), 33.3% ]
Tunisia	[3 (1), 33.3% ]
Qatar	[10 (6), 60%]

#### Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever:

Guinea	[151 (95), 62.9%]
Liberia	[21 (10), 47.6%]
Mali	[6 (0), 0%]

#### Wild poliovirus: 2013-2014

Pakistan	[129 (0), 0% ]
Afghanistan	[18 (0), 0% ]
Syria	[37 (0), 0% ]
Somalia	[194(0), 0% ]
Iraq	[1 (0), 0% ]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases