

## Current major event

### EMR Preparing to stop the spread of Ebola from West Africa

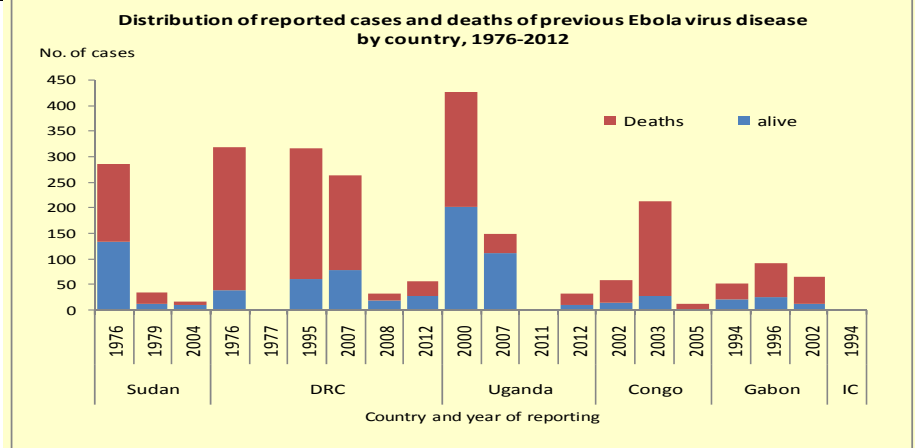
The World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) is advising countries in the Region to step up their efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of Ebola virus disease (EVD) from the ongoing outbreaks in West Africa. The Regional Director has sent circulars and guidelines to all the ministers of health and the WHO country representatives urging them to remain vigilant and strengthen surveillance and public health measures to prevent and control the virus from spreading into the Region

### Editorial note

A large outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever EHF) has been spreading in West Africa since December 2013. Three countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) are affected. In addition, one imported case and a local infection have been reported from Nigeria. As of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014, the cumulative number of cases attributed to EVD have reached 1711. Over 932 of them were fatal, (CFR: 54%) (*please see the table*).

This is the largest and the first multi-countries outbreak of EVD ever reported (*please see the graph*). The current epidemic trend remains precarious, with infection transmissions continuing to occur in the community and in health facilities in these countries. WHO cannot predict how long this outbreak will last. The outbreak will only be considered over in a country after 42 days (2 incubation periods) have passed without a confirmed case. WHO is working closely with affected countries and health care providers on the ground to bring the outbreak under control.

Ebola virus disease is a severe, with a death rate of up to 90%. The illness affects humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees).



DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo, IC: Ivory Coast

### Reported EVD cases, deaths and by country, December 2013-4 August 2014

Country	cases	deaths	CFR%
Guinea	495	363	73
Liberia	516	282	55
Sierra Leone	691	286	41
Nigeria	9	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>1711</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>54</b>

Rumours of Ebola cases have been reported to WHO from three countries (Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia) in EMR, but so far no case of Ebola virus disease has been confirmed in the Region. However, the threat of spread of the EVD to the Region remains high. The virus is most likely to be introduced in EMR through business and pilgrim air travellers.

WHO/EMRO has been following the EVD event unfolding in West Africa with much trepidation. The office has initiated a number of activities in the last three months to assist member states prepare themselves and introduce preventive measures against Ebola. WHO/EMRO continues to assist the Member States in their efforts to strengthen and build national capacities, and support national training activities targeting disease control officers and competent health authorities at the Points of Entry. Additionally, WHO has provided guidelines, and will provide generic set of slides along with generic training materials for use by the countries.

## Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

### MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2006-2014

Egypt [176 (64), 36.4%]

#### MERS-CoV: 2012-2014

Saudi Arabia [721 (259), 35.9%]

Jordan [11 (6), 54.5%]

Oman [2 (2), 100%]

UAE [68 (8), 11.8%]

Kuwait [3 (1), 33.3%]

Tunisia [3 (1), 33.3%]

Qatar [7 (4), 57.1%]

Yemen [1 (1), 100%]

Egypt [1 (0), 0%]

Lebanon [1 (0), 0%]

Iran [5 (1), 20%]

#### Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014

Guinea [495 (363), 73%]

Liberia [516 (282), 55%]

Sierra Leone [691 (286), 41%]

Nigeria [9 (1), 11%]

#### Wild poliovirus: 2014

Pakistan [102 (0), 0%]

Afghanistan [8 (0), 0%]

Somalia [4 (0), 0%]

#### Dengue Fever: 2014

Sudan [1119 (9), 0.8%]

#### Cholera 2014

South Sudan [5484 (119), 2.2%]