

Current major event

EMRO EVD Risk Assessment Missions to Member States

The World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) has this week concluded a mission to Morocco to assess the preparedness and readiness of the country to prevent the introduction and spread of Ebola virus disease (EVD) from the ongoing outbreaks in West Africa. This is one of the effort of the office to provide technical support to the most at risk countries in the region. Missions to several countries in the EMR are currently planned up to the end of the year. This is in response to the decision reached during the 61st Regional Committee Meeting in Tunisia.

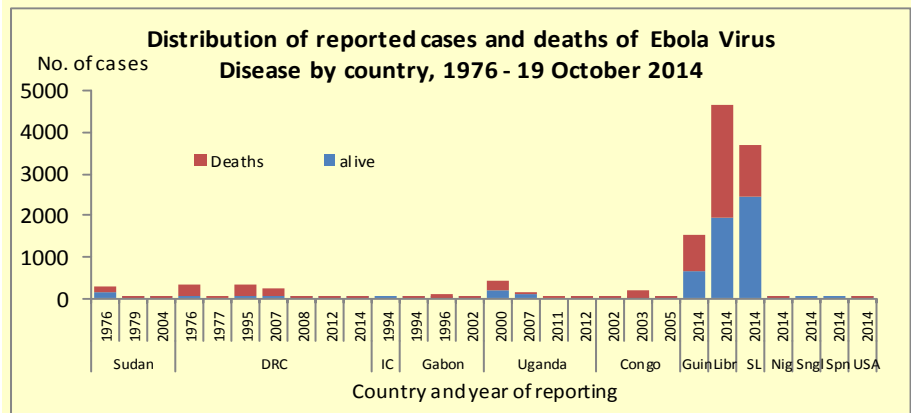
Editorial note

A large outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (formerly known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever EHF) continues to spread widely in Sierra Leone, Liberia's and Guinea. Spain and USA have recently reported the first local transmission outside Africa. The patients contracted the disease from treating cases imported from Africa. As of 19th October 2014, the cumulative number of cases attributed to EVD have reached 9936. Over 4877 of them were fatal, (CFR: 49%) (please see the graph).

Senegal and Nigeria were this week declared free of EVD when they passed the 42 days (two maximum incubation period) from the date of reporting the last case and with no new cases detected.

As of 19 October 2014, 443 cases including 244 deaths were reported among health care workers (HCWs) during the current EVD outbreak (please see the table). Liberia reported almost 50% of the EVD cases among HCWs, followed by Sierra Leone.

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 five months to assist member states prepare themselves and introduce preventive measures against Ebola. WHO/



DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo, IC: Ivory Coast, Guin: Guinea, SL: Sierra Leone, Nig: Nigeria, Sng: Senegal, Sprn: Spain, USA: United State of America

Reported EVD cases, deaths among the health care workers by country, December 2013 – 19 October 2014

Country	cases	deaths	CFR%
Guinea	78	41	53
Liberia	222	103	46
Sierra Leone	129	95	74
Nigeria	11	5	45
Senegal	0	0	0
Spain	1	0	0
USA	2	0	0
Total	443	244	55

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 generic set of slides along with generic training materials for use by the countries.

The assessment missions will target the countries at high risk. The assessment will cover the current status of the countries regarding the components of the EVD preparedness checklist that includes overall coordination, formulation of rapid response teams, public awareness, infection prevention and control, patient care, safe burials, epidemiological surveillance, contact tracing and follow up, laboratory capacity and capacities at Points of Entry.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, and wild poliovirus in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2006-2014

Egypt [177 (64), 36.2%]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2014

Saudi Arabia [766 (290), 37.9%]

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 [8 (4), 50%]

Yemen [1 (1), 100%]

Egypt [1 (0), 0%]

Lebanon [1 (0), 0%]

Iran [5 (2), 40%]

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014

Guinea [1540 (904), 59%]

Liberia [4665 (2705), 58%]

Sierra Leone [3706 (1259), 34%]

Nigeria [20 (8), 40%]

Senegal [1(0), 0%]

Spain [1(0), 0%]

USA [3(1), 33%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014

Pakistan [217 (0), 0%]

Afghanistan [12 (0), 0%]

Somalia [5 (0), 0%]