

## Current major event

### MERS-CoV in Oman

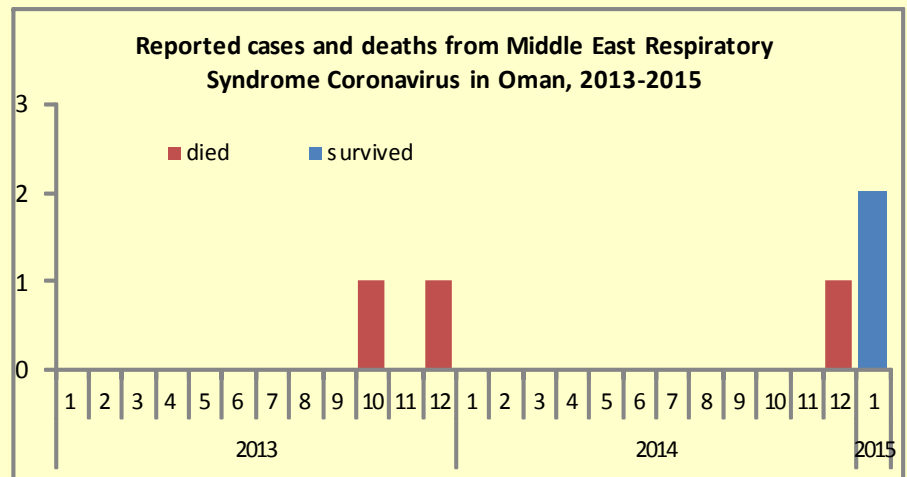
In January 2015, the Ministry of Health in Oman, reported to WHO, three new laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). The first reported case died while the two remaining cases were a contact of the first case and survived. The third case did not develop symptoms and was identified during screening of the close contacts of the first case.

### Editorial note

After a gap of almost one year, the Ministry of Health of Sultanate of Oman reported three more laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV. The first reported case was a 32 year old male who developed symptoms on 27 December 2014 and was admitted to hospital on 5 January. As per the history of the patient, he had comorbidities. The patient also owned farm of camels, goats, and sheep and had history of frequent contacts with these animals. The patient died on 7 January 2015. The second patient is a 31 year old female and a house hold contact of the first case. She developed symptoms on 8 January 2015 and admitted to hospital on 9 January 2015. As per the case investigation findings, the patient had no chronic disease and had no history of direct contact with the animals including the camels in their farms. The third reported case was a relative of the first case and has been identified during screening of the contacts of the first case. The case was asymptomatic but was found to be positive for MERS-CoV.

Since October 2013, Oman reported 5 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS-CoV including 3 deaths. Of these cases, four were reported from the same areas in the country. Among these four cases, two had direct contact with animals and other two had a history of contact with other confirmed case.

The recent cases indicate that the MERS-CoV is circulating among the dromedary camels in Oman. More human cas-



Reported MERS-CoV cases from Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2012-2015

Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Egypt			1		1
Iran			5		5
Jordan	2	1	9		12
Kuwait		2	1		3
Lebanon			1		1
Oman		2	1	2	5
Qatar		6	3	1	10
KSA	5	159	649	27	840
Tunisia		3			3
UAE		6	64	1	71
Yemen			1		1
Total EMR	7	179	735	31	952

es may be expected if the circulation of the virus continues.

It is important that animal studies are conducted in the region specially during this period to see if the Camels or any other animals are shedding the virus. If, so, surveillance needs to be strengthened to identify and recognize more cases and reinforce infection control measures in healthcare settings to limit nosocomial transmission. The other important public health measure would be to launch a country-wide communication campaign to raise the awareness of the disease and its presumptive preventive measures from which the evidence is accumulating.

The threat of MERS-CoV transcending into an another public health emergency of international concern has not subsided. All efforts need to be combined to prevent this from happening.

## Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE and Qatar; Avian Influenza in Egypt

### Current public health events of international concern

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

#### Avian Influenza A : 2006-2015

Egypt (H5N1)	[254 (93), 36.6%]
Egypt (H9N2)	[1(0), 0%]

#### MERS-CoV: 2012-2015

Saudi Arabia	[840 (325), 38.7%]
Jordan	[12 (6), 50%]
Oman	[5 (3), 60%]
UAE	[71 (9), 12.7%]
Kuwait	[3 (1), 33.3%]
Tunisia	[3 (1), 33.3%]
Qatar	[10 (4), 40%]
Yemen	[1 (1), 100%]
Egypt	[1 (0), 0%]
Lebanon	[1 (0), 0%]
Iran	[5 (2), 40%]

#### Ebola Virus Disease: 2014-2015

Guinea	[3044 (1995), 65.5%]
Liberia	[8881 (3826), 43.1%]
Sierra Leone	[10934 (3341), 30.6%]
UK	[1(0), 0%]
Nigeria	[20 (8), 40%]
Senegal	[1(0), 0%]
Spain	[1(0), 0%]
USA	[4(1), 25%]
Mali	[8(6), 75%]

#### Wild poliovirus: 2014-2015

Pakistan	[313 (0), 0%]
Afghanistan	[28(0), 0%]