

Current major event

eEARN established in Libya

The Ministry of Health (MoH) of Libya, with technical support from WHO, has successfully implemented an electronic early warning and alert response system (e-EARN) in Libya.

Editorial note

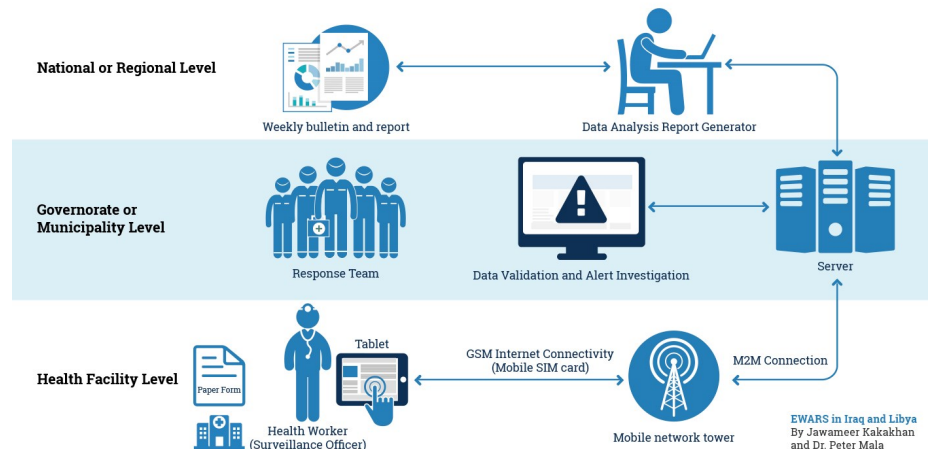
The civil war in Libya that started in 2011 resulted in internal displacement of over 435,000 people with a further 2.44 million people have been directly affected by the conflict. The conflict has also contributed to deterioration of health services and disruption of disease control programmes leading to poor water and sanitation situation and poor access to optimal shelter and nutrition among the affected population

These conditions increase the risk for high morbidity and mortality among the affected population specially outbreaks of communicable diseases. Establishment of early warning surveillance systems in such settings is therefore critical for ensuring that the outbreaks are detected early and disease trends are optimally monitored among the affected population to ensure timely implementation of control measures.

In view of the need to detect outbreaks or similar public health events early, the MOH of Libya with support from WHO, has successfully established a web-based electronic early warning and alert response system (EARN) in Libya. The electronic reporting system, using tablets and local cell phone networks with internet connectivity has enabled the system to bridge the insecurity barriers and constraints that had made submission of reporting by health facilities impossible in most parts of the countries due to ongoing conflict and insecurity. The use of public health information technology for such surveillance system has, thus, made it possible to overcome insecurity barriers with installation of the e-EARN system in 13 out of 22 districts within the first 4 weeks of implementation.

Following the launch of the system, the system has been scaled up rapidly and as of March 2016, a total of 87 reporting

Implementation of electronic surveillance system in Libya



EWARS in Iraq and Libya
By Jawameer Kakakhan and Dr. Peter Mala

EWARN reporting sites in Libya

Municipality	Hospitals	PHCs
Ashati	–	2
Tripoli	4	4
Sabha	2	4
Naloot	1	–
Morzig	1	–
Baniwaled	2	2
Misurata	–	4
Ghat	3	1
Bengazi	4	–
Zawia	6	–
Zelton	–	1
Aljofra	5	6
Imsalata	1	–
Khoms	–	5
Zletin	5	2
Garian	4	3
Almarij	3	4
Mrada	–	1
Regdalin	3	3
Total	44	43

sites in 19 municipalities in 13 out of 22 administrative districts had been added to the system. The data from the e-EARN system now needs to be better analyzed for predicting, detecting and responding to any outbreak which remains the main function of the EARN.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; Avian Influen-

Current public health events of international concern [cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian Influenza : 2006-2016

Egypt (A/H5N1)	[350 (117), 33.4%]
Egypt (A/H9N2)	[3 (0)]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2016

Saudi Arabia	[1398 (598), 42.7%]
Jordan	[39 (12), 31%]
Oman	[7 (3), 42%]
UAE	[78 (11), 14.1%]
Kuwait	[3 (1), 33.3%]
Qatar	[14 (5), 35%]
Iran	[6 (2), 33.3%]

Lassa fever : 2015-16

Nigeria	[159(82), 51.5%]
Benin	[71(23),32.3%
Germany	[2(0)]
Togo	[2(0)]

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) : 2013-16

China	[752 (295),39.2%]
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Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (of unknown aetiology)

Sudan	[572 (105),18.3%]
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Wild poliovirus: 2015-16

Pakistan	[368 (0)]
Afghanistan	[52(0)]

Zika Virus Infection: 2007-16

60 countries and territories have reported transmission so far