

Current major event

Scaling up EWARN for Mosul Operations in Iraq

WHO, in support of the Ministry of Health, of Iraq is expanding coverage of the electronic early warning and alert response network (EWARN) system and strengthening outbreak response capacity in response to the ongoing Mosul military operations in Iraq.

Editorial note

Iraq has been in a state of protracted humanitarian emergency with periodic acute exacerbations for most of the part of the past decade. Before the current escalation of war, the country was already home to an estimated 250 000 Syrian refugees and over 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to internal conflicts. As of date, the currently ongoing military operation in Mosul has displaced an estimated 56,850 persons

With the rapid increase in the number of IPDs due to the ongoing Mosul operation, the local health systems capacity to provide preventive and curative health services to those who are already displaced is expected to be overwhelmed. In addition, the provision of adequate water and sanitation facilities; optimal food supply and nutrition support especially for the vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant mothers and the elderly can be severely strained. These conditions including disrupted access to preventive and curative health services have increased the risk of outbreaks from infectious diseases.

In the current situation, expansion of EWARN surveillance system for timely detection of outbreaks and strengthening of outbreak response capacity to ensure optimal response to outbreaks remains a high priority. The electronic EWARN reporting network is now being expanded by establishing more reporting sites (*Please see the table*).

The Early warning systems for disease outbreaks are timely surveillance systems that collect information on epidemic prone diseases in order to trigger

Mosul Operation: Patterns of population displacement



New EWARN reporting sites by target population

Camp	Current number of IDPs	Type/ Partner/ No. sites
Zelikan (Dohuk)	3,876	PHC: - PUI (1)
Khazer (Nineveh)	19,200	PHCs: - IMC (1) - QRC (1)
Qayyarah, Jad'ah (Nineveh)	7,476	PHC: - IMC (1)
Debaga -2 (Erbil)	8,000	PHC: - (planned)
Hassan Sham (Nineveh)	12,000	Mobile clinic: - DAMA (1)
Non camp setting displacements (Nineveh & Saladin)	(large numbers but estimate currently unknown)	Mobile clinics: - DOH (11) - IMC (3) - WAHA(2)
Total	50,552	21

prompt public health interventions in humanitarian emergency situations when the routine public health surveillance systems of a country affected by acute or protracted conflict or other types of natural emergencies are underperforming, disrupted or non-existent. Such systems are often set up to fill this gap, particularly in the acute phase of an emergency. One can only expect that the expanded EWARN in Iraq would help the country to prevent and early detect another health emergency on the top of the currently ongoing emergency.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia; Cholera in Somalia; Cholera in Yemen

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian Influenza : 2006-2016

Egypt (A/H5N1)	[356 (121), 33.9%]
Egypt (A/H9N2)	[3 (0)]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2016

Saudi Arabia	[1414 (601), 42.5%]
Bahrain	[1 (1), 100%]

Cholera : 2016

Somalia	[13728 (497), 3.6%]
Yemen	[2241 (47), 2.4%]

Yellow fever: 2015-2016

Angola	[4347 (377), 8.7%]
DRC	[2987 (16), 0.5%]

Lassa fever : 2015-2016

Nigeria	[273(149), 54.5%]
Benin	[54(28),51.8%

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) : 2013-2016

China	[775 (307),36%]
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Avian Influenza A (H5N6) : 2016

China	[4 (0)]
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Wild poliovirus: 2014-2016

Pakistan	[376(0)]
Afghanistan	[66(0)]

Zika Virus Infection: 2007-2016

73 countries and territories have reported transmission so far