

## Current major event

### GOARN Network: Enhancing Partnership for Rapid response to public health emergencies

A plan to strengthen the regional partner institutions in the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) has been rolled out to engage them more actively in the work of WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean for identification, assessment, confirmation and response to acute public health emergencies in the Region.

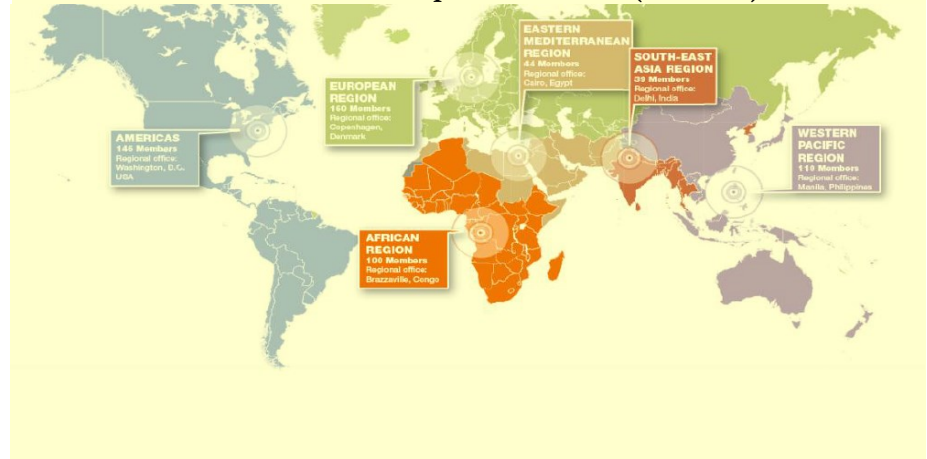
### Editorial note

In our highly interconnected and populated world, diseases and threats to human health have the potential to travel fast and spread far and respect no boundary. Established in 2000, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a global technical partnership which is a key mechanism of WHO to engage the resources of technical agencies for rapid identification, confirmation and response to major international public health emergencies, particularly in situations where the country's capacity to contain and respond such public health emergencies are overwhelmed.

The GOARN currently comprises over 400 technical institutions and networks (and their members) across the globe out of which 44 are in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO (*Please see above*). Over the past few years a number of international deployments have taken place (*please see the box*) in the Region using regional and other international partner institutions through this network for assessment, confirmation and containment of a number of health emergencies in the Region.

Owing to the frequency in the number, duration and scale of epidemics from emerging infectious diseases occurring in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO, there is a strong need to forge greater partnerships with public health institutions and other centers of expertise in the Region to enhance readiness for managing these emerging public health threats. In view of this, a plan has been rolled out recently by the Regional

## Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Members



### Some major GOARN deployments in the Eastern Mediterranean Region in the recent past

Year	Country	Reason for deployment
2013	Iraq	Cholera risk assessment
2013	Sudan	Yellow fever outbreak
2014	Tunisia	MERS outbreak
2014	Saudi Arabia	MERS outbreak
2014	UAE	MERS outbreak
2015	Jordan	MERS outbreak

Office through a consultative process where the partner institutions were invited. In the post-Ebola world, there is been a greater need to reinforce GOARN's position in outbreak and emergency response initiatives.

Beyond providing this direct assistance to public health emergency response, the GOARN Partners may engage in the Network in several additional ways, including support for GOARN outbreak response training, development of tools and technologies that support GOARN field teams in improving outbreak response interventions and networking among GOARN Partners to share information and establish opportunities for outbreak response collaboration.

Owing to the need to cross language and cultural barriers that are so specific to the Region in managing an outbreak, the technical capacity of the institutions participating in the network needs to be strengthened so that this regional arm of GOARN can be an effective mean for the WHO Regional Office for prevention, detection and response to health security threats in the Region.

## 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	[14 710 (497), 3.3%]
Yemen	[7730 (82), 1% ]

#### 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