

# Challenges for IHR implementation in the Mediterranean & Balkans: Lebanon

Nada Ghosn, MD

# Challenge #1: To have enough human resources

## Situation:

- Surveillance/control:
  - At peripheral level
    - Control: 1 MD / district and / province
    - Surveillance: MD
      - District Level: 17/25
      - Provincial Level: 4/6
  - At central level:  
understaffed
    - One surveillance unit
    - One department for diseases control

## Challenge:

- Recruit new personnel for peripheral and central level

# Challenge #2: To build human capacity

## Situation:

- Profile:
  - Medical officers > 90% are clinicians
  - Paramedics
  - Epidemiology/public health diploma: rare
- Training sessions:
  - 2005, 2006, 2008.

## Challenge:

- Develop a training program
  - Continuous training: one training session / month at provincial level : surveillance, investigation, IHR, target diseases
- Explore national FETP

# Challenge #3: To establish a laboratory network

## Situation:

- The CPHL interrupted his activities since Jan 2007

## Challenge:

- Develop a national laboratory network:
  - 1 public / province
  - Link with private
- Establish referral system with accredited WHO labs for target diseases

# Challenge #4: To ensure logistic support

## Situation:

- At peripheral level
  - Premises: 11/17 at district level, 3/4 at provincial level
  - Vehicles: 24/25 at district level, 1/4 at provincial level
  - Basic communication: 24/25 at district level, 4/4 at provincial level.

## Challenge:

- To ensure basic needs and equipment for each team:
  - Premises
  - Transportation
  - Budget for consumables
  - ...

# Challenge #5: To ensure electronic networking

## Situation:

- At district level:
  - Head: 25/25 equipped
- At province level:
  - Head and surveillance all equipped,
  - Data entry
- At central level:
  - Server
  - Data entry

## Challenge:

- To install the electronic networking between peripheral and central for timely data/information sharing

# Challenge #6: To cover varieties of data providers

## Situation:

- Data providers:
  - Health structures:
    - Notification
      - Hospitals +++
      - Labs
      - Dispensaries
      - Private cabinets (-)
    - Laboratories & blood banks activities
    - Hospital discharges
  - Non-health structures:
    - Ministries
    - Medias ...

## Challenge:

- Health professionals
  - Possibility of reporting by mail
  - Possibility of reporting by SMS
- Non-health sectors:
  - Other ministries: timely
  - Municipalities
  - Schools...
- Medias: local newspapers

# Challenge #7: To develop national guidelines

## Situation:

- Official texts:
  - Revised case definitions 2006/2007
  - How to describe cases by time, place, person
  - Investigation forms
  - What specific response measures

## Challenge:

- Complete official texts:
  - Investigation procedures and investigation forms,
  - Response
- Stockpile for specific diseases ...



# Challenge #8: To ensure dissemination of information

## Situation:

- MOPH website:
  - Weekly updates of surveillance figures at national, provincial and district level
  - Surveillance/ response documents
- EpiNews bulletin: irregular edition

## Challenge:

- Make publicity for the MOPH website:
  - monitoring # visitors,
  - selecting meta-keywords
- Edit the EpiNews Bulletin (hardcopy) and mailing distribution to health professionals
- Dissemination through media, newspapers

- Thank you