

# Lab-Surveillance reflections

For representative countries of EMRO

# Main gaps identified:

- Limited communication and coordination bet labs, and surveillance team within the ministry.
- Many CPHL faces quality control problems.
- Equipment maintenance and supply chain are chronic problems in labs.
- In many countries, a need to review case definition is a must. Different case definitions used within the country in some cases. (numbers not reflecting actual situation).
- In many countries, lab directors never trained on outbreak management or Cholera related trainings. No structured trainings.
- Some countries dealing with Cholera almost allover the year – electric power problem, limited allocated budgets, capacity building and reagents etc.
- Some countries reported lab complains on sample quality, storage and transport conditions – RRT training courses to ensure proper sampling – lab representation.

# Areas of support

- GTFCC advocacy to MoH on clear guidelines for outbreak declaration, monitoring and closure (whom to announce closure of outbreak, at which stage).
- More Advocacy needed on the case definition and technical support and how to apply the testing strategy from GTFCC.
- Sample management including transport inside and outside the country, along also with procurement. Sometimes RDT are shared weeks after the outbreak already started.
- Support for country preparedness such as proper partner mapping in countries, SimEX, budget allocation, reagents, etc. IAR and AAR also needed to review actions
- Need trainings on estimation tools or templates to calculate attack rates or so, if a platform can be developed and delivered.

# Areas of support

- GTFCC should prioritize research on the reasons countries are not declaring Cholera outbreaks
- GTFCC to support equipment maintenance for quality testing.
- In some countries, ongoing problem of labs is the low positivity rates of RDT positive cases in NWS and Afghanistan. Recommend to have a sub-regional lab focused discussions on root-cause analysis.
- GTFCC- PAMI: there are some challenges and not a simple exercise to run, over several years which requires country commitment and resources (Sudan is the only country in the region running the GTFCC PAMI).
- The main challenge in our view is the duration, specifically in this region, the internal displacement is another challenge, so we're not sure if it can be done in shorter timeframe. Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan are willing, but the timeline and modality is to be discussed. Some countries did it before under the old name (hotspot mapping) and planning to do it next year.
- Aspects to be considered while running the PAMI: specific settings such as Internally displaced population or in case of floods, etc. should be also considered.