

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

SUPPORT TO GLOBAL OUTBREAK ALERT
AND RESPONSE, AND BUILDING
AND MAINTAINING NATIONAL CAPACITIES

DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL CAPACITIES,
ALERT AND RESPONSE

2014



World Health
Organization

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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2014

In 2014 the work of the Global Capacities Alert and Response Department (GCR) — and of many WHO programmes — was dominated by the response to the unprecedented Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa.

Working in close collaboration with the Department of Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases, who provided technical expertise, and the Emergency Risk and Crisis Management, who provided overall operations for crisis management, GCR supported response operations in collaboration with the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), guidance on Ebola case management at ports, airports and grounds crossings and recommendations on international travel and transport, support to laboratory diagnostics and developed a comprehensive package of pre-deployment trainings.

A few figures illustrate the magnitude of the challenges posed by the Ebola outbreak (*These figures are highlighted throughout this report in blue*).



In 2014, 1.2 million sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) delivered to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2083 hours of coordination and response meetings facilitated by the WHO Strategic Health Operations Centre

In addition to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) operational support and guidance, a special unit was set up to scale up preparedness in countries at risk of EVD in West Africa. Between September and December, GCR deployed international preparedness strengthening teams to 14 countries to help them plan preparedness activities. The capacities that have been scaled up will be maintained to address all potential health risks following the IHR all hazards approach.

While public attention was riveted on the Ebola response, WHO continued to monitor more than 300 public health events during the year, and posted over 400 updates and announcements on the IHR Event Information Site in relation to 79 public health events. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), influenza A(H7N9) and influenza A(H5N1), which required constant monitoring and provision of technical expertise to support specific countries.

Support to countries in attaining the core capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) remained a top priority. Recognizing that many countries are still struggling towards attaining the minimum capacities, significant efforts have been made to bridge the gaps, through the development of educational materials, guidelines and tools to facilitate the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) across sectors, including online tutorials for

national International Health Regulations focal points; guidance documents on implementation of an early warning and response system with a focus on event-based surveillance; web-based Laboratory Quality Stepwise Implementation tool, operational frameworks to facilitate collaboration at the interface between human and animal health sectors.

In its role as IHR Secretariat, GCR convened 9 IHR Emergency Committees for MERS-CoV, Polio and Ebola virus disease. In addition, an IHR Review Committee was convened at WHO headquarters in Geneva from 13-14 November 2014 to address how to better support countries in attaining the core capacities required under International Health Regulations (2005) and maintain these over the longterm.

GCR is comprised of two technical units. One unit is based in Geneva and ensures the continuous surveillance of infectious diseases and public health events, and coordinates international response operations for major outbreaks. The second unit, located in Lyon, has the mission to provide guidance and support to countries for these to have more effective national public health systems. This unit is directly involved in the implementation of the International Health Regulations, the foundation for strengthening global health security.

This report presents highlights of the GCR department in 2014.

“The outbreak of Ebola virus disease in parts of West Africa is the largest, longest, most severe, and most complex in the nearly four-decade history of this disease. (...) Ebola is a tragedy that has taught the world, including WHO, many lessons, also about how to prevent similar events in the future.”

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO





WHO's work in coordinating IHR is led by the Department of Global Capacities, Alert and Response (GCR). GCR's dual mandate is to protect health security by:



1. Helping countries build strong national public health capacities, so they can rapidly identify and investigate public health events, share information and implement public health control measures.

2. Maintaining an international system to continuously assess global context of public health risks and coordinate a rapid response to unexpected, internationally-spreading events.





OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE OPERATIONS



When a significant public health event takes place, WHO's comprehensive global alert and response system ensures that information is available and response operations are coordinated effectively.

The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Operations Unit leads and coordinates WHO's global alert and response system, which includes the following functions:

- Event-based surveillance, multi-hazard rapid risk assessment and event-based risk communications;
- Critical information and communications platforms for decision support; and
- Operations and logistics platforms for any WHO response to international public health risks.

The unit is comprised of six technical teams:

- Global surveillance and risk assessment
- Global outbreak alert and response network
- Strategic health operations centre
- Public health logistics and operational support
- Preparedness and mass gatherings
- IHR Procedures and support

In 2014, despite the strain placed on GCR resources with the virulent, protracted Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, the department continued to ensure support to countries for emergency risk management and response. Reports to WHO of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Saudi Arabia, human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in China, Marburg virus disease in Uganda, polio in Equatorial Guinea, to Cholera in South Sudan – to site only 5 examples – continued throughout the year.

These events were assessed, verified and communications with all regional, country and technical counterparts was maintained. Information for technical partners was shared via the Event Information Management System (EIS) and the public at large through Disease Outbreak News.

The key focus of GCR has been to support – and continue to support – the ongoing EVD epidemic. As of early 2014, the department deployed logisticians to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, ensuring safe burials, facilitating community engagement, coordinating global stockpiling of outbreak emergency items such as personal protective equipment. The Strategic Health Operations Centre continued to support surveillance, risk assessment and communications 24/7 as well as providing support to regional emergency operations centres. In its role as Secretariat of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), GCR deployed hundreds of experts to West Africa and maintained the annual GOARN stakeholders meeting in December 2014 to define strategies to reinforce its delivery of international assistance.

GLOBAL OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Providing outbreak response support to countries is a core commitment of WHO. To maintain capacity in this area, the GCR alert and response unit is comprised of four teams:

1

GLOBAL SURVEILLANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT (RAS)

Every year an increasing number of emergency events are recorded, affecting approximately 270 million people. Such events have significant effects on human health, on health infrastructure and on the delivery of health care services. Most countries experience a major emergency every five years. In addition, many countries suffer from protracted emergencies, which lead to poor health of individuals and the crippling of health systems in the long term.

WHO provides support to countries for implementing multi-hazard emergency risk management, using a multisectoral approach. Although national authorities, not external bodies, are responsible for emergency risk management including emergency response, it is the role of WHO and other partners

2

GLOBAL OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE NETWORK (GOARN)

During outbreaks, the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) ensures that the right technical expertise and skills are on the ground where and when they are needed most.

GOARN is a collaboration of existing institutions and networks, constantly on alert and ready to respond. The network pools human and technical resources for rapid identification, confirmation and response to outbreaks of international importance. GOARN provides a global operational framework linking a broad range of public health capacities and expertise to keep the international community alert to the threat of outbreaks, and ready to coordinate support to countries and effectively deploy emergency response teams.

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In 2014, GCR facilitated the deployment of over 500 multisectoral experts from GOARN to Ebola-affected countries in West Africa and maintained the annual GOARN stakeholders' meeting in December to decide strategies to reinforce its delivery of international assistance.

The report of this meeting

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_27622

