

**Progress report on implementing the regional strategy for integrated disease surveillance: overcoming data fragmentation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

In alignment with the 68th session resolution of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean region, Kuwait is making significant strides in adopting and implementing an Integrated Disease Surveillance (IDS) strategy.

This robust approach, intensified by the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic, focuses on consolidating various surveillance capabilities, increasing laboratory capacities, and ensuring timely and efficient data sharing and integration for optimal public health action. As we discuss progress and the journey ahead, we will describe the comprehensive strides Kuwait has made in this crucial area:

In Kuwait, meticulous disease surveillance, encompassing those of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) target diseases, is handled by the Preventive Health Centers, in tune with the patient's residence. The strategies entail daily observation throughout the disease's maximal incubation period to ensure effective disease prevention among contacts. Comprehensive medical interventions, including lab investigation, chemoprophylaxis, and vaccination, are deployed to safeguard patients' contacts, while clinical care is provided at primary care centers and hospitals.

Kuwait's integrated surveillance system for communicable diseases, instituted in the early seventies, operates on three levels: central, regional, and peripheral. These layers collectively oversee various aspects, including active case finding, notification, control measures for cases and contacts, laboratory specimen collection, and comprehensive case investigation reports. Additional responsibilities encompass immunization services against EPI target diseases for children below five years, health education, and environmental and nutritional health surveillance.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kuwait has augmented its digital interventions related to surveillance, broadening the scope to include other notifiable diseases. This enhancement will significantly uplift the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of the surveillance system. Furthermore, the development of lab-based reporting pathways will complement existing surveillance pathways, fortifying Kuwait's surveillance system.

In conclusion, Kuwait stands firm in its continuous commitment to advancing its integrated disease surveillance, in alignment with the WHO's strategic directives. Our unwavering efforts towards the

enhancement of surveillance systems underscore our dedication to ensuring public health and making a significant contribution to global health security.

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