In 2016, WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean supported Member States of the Region in managing public health threats and strengthening their disease surveillance systems through conducting training workshops, assessment missions and visits to affected regions.

Countries strengthened national capacities to deal with epidemic-prone disease, such as Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), cholera, influenza-like illness/severe acute respiratory infections, seasonal influenza and potential Zika virus infections, among others.

In 2016 WHO's infectious hazards management programme:

- strengthened early warning systems in Iraq to further protect the health of refugees
- oversaw support for health care for pilgrims at the hajj in Saudi Arabia
- reviewed regional implementation of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) framework
- improved virus-sharing procedures among regional and global laboratory networks to develop more effective influenza vaccines
  - provided ongoing support for the cholera outbreak in Yemen.

The following photo essay shows some of WHO's activities undertaken in 2016 in work with regional and global partners and ministries of health in support of public health management.



Participants demonstrate knowledge of risk communication concepts at a training workshop for risk communication for pandemic influenza preparedness in Palestine, February 2016. 2 / 10



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