Communicable diseases are a primary challenge for several Member States in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, with children incurring a disproportionate share of the burden.

The communicable disease surveillance, forecasting and response programme of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean provides technical and logistical support to Member States in the Region to develop capacities for preparedness planning, prevention, prompt detection, characterization, and the containment and control of emerging and reemerging diseases including epidemic and pandemic-prone diseases.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the reduction of communicable disease burden through the implementation of integrated disease surveillance and response systems.

**Related programmes**

[International Health Regulations (IHR)](link)

[Global Alert and Response (GAR)](link)

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