

## **Preparedness, surveillance and response**

### **Alert and response capacities**

The government has declared that it had met the IHR obligations by 15 June 2014. However, the country continues to work on the development and functionality of IHR core capacities beyond 2016.

Significant progress has taken place in implementing the IHR core capacities in the country, particularly those related to surveillance, preparedness, response, risk communication, laboratory, requirements at points of entry, and IHR-related chemical and radiology and nuclear hazards. Progress has also been made under legislation, coordination and IHR related zoonotic and food safety hazards.

The strong political commitment and leadership expressed by Ministry of Health may be expanded to include the other relevant line ministries and governmental sectors. The strong all-hazards and multi-sectorial coordination mechanism on emergency preparedness and response led by Civil Defense offers a unique opportunity to enhance coordination, and improve EOR across all sectors. The existing agreements with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries have also strengthened cross-border surveillance and response, regional risk assessments, and enhanced regional capacities in infection prevention and control on potential hazards, and updating the national preparedness and response plans accordingly. Progress under human resources development (an IHR core capacity area) warrants strategic, policy and financial support to continue to shoulder IHR functionality in a high quality, sustainable manner in the coming years.

Progress in building IHR Core Capacities for surveillance and response as well as preparedness is going on as per annex 1 of the International Health Regulations that facilitate the implementation in a more efficient, effective or beneficial manner.

Strengthening the Communication Program is our target to enhance and maintain the achievement we reached so far in the implementation of the recommended IHR core capacities.