Why implement EWAR into the public health surveillance system?

- IHR (2005) State Parties have committed to detect all events with potential public health risk in a timely manner, and report and respond to them immediately. This required capacity is also known as Early Warning and Response: EWAR

What are the benefits of EWAR?

- Earlier detection of acute public health events
- Earlier and more effective response
- Reduced impact on health
- Fewer resources needed to respond
- Greater trust of the population in the health system
- Respect of the commitments to the IHR (2005)

What resources are needed for EWAR?

- HUMAN: skilled trained human resources
- ORGANIZATIONAL: strong coordination, multisectoral collaboration, and political commitment
- FINANCIAL: specific budget for both investment and recurrent costs
- EQUIPMENT: including data management system

EWAR IS EMBEDDED IN THE NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

WHO provides national health authorities, and stakeholders supporting them, with guidance for implementing or enhancing all-hazards EWAR within the national surveillance system.

This guidance should not be seen as a model to implement, but rather as a “toolbox” from which countries can select the most relevant elements to address their own needs.
DETECTION OF RELEVANT DATA & INFORMATION

Sources of information have to go beyond traditional surveillance data generated by the national health system.

TRIAGE OF RELEVANT DATA & INFORMATION

A CRUCIAL STEP to avoid overwhelming the process with unnecessary information.

VERIFICATION & COLLECTION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A ESSENTIAL STEP to confirm the reality of the signal and its characteristics.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The event needs to be assessed to determine the level of risk for the population and the control measures.

RESPONSE

Timely and effective response to reduce the impact on health.

COMMUNICATION

Communication to the public to inform and increase trust and commitment for cooperation.

MONITORING - EVALUATION - OPTIMIZATION