

# Define objectives

## 1. Agree on objectives

**The objective of EWAR is to support the early detection and rapid response to acute public health events of any origin.**

This should remain the most important objective of supporting an EWAR system in an emergency.

Additional objectives may include:

- To improve the speed and completeness of the current system's data collection to facilitate early warning;
- To increase the geographical coverage of the current system;
- To provide enhanced surveillance capacity during an outbreak.
- Once an outbreak is detected and confirmed, EWAR has an important role in detecting new suspected cases in the affected area and in unaffected areas through enhanced surveillance of the catchment population.

## 2. Avoid common pitfalls

Common mistakes:

1. List of diseases under surveillance become too long
2. Data collected is not used to trigger alerts, and is not linked to action

Discussion of objectives and communication with all partners, through coordinating bodies like the Health Cluster, will be essential for their participation, and contribution of human and material resources and technical expertise.



### Case study: EWARS for cholera in Yemen

Yemen is an example of a Level 3 emergency. During the middle of a large-scale cholera outbreak in Yemen which started in 2016, there was a need to supplement the existing EWARS sentinel site system. The main objective was to improve the speed and completeness of data collection from cholera treatment centres and health facilities, improve real-time reporting of cases from the outbreak, and improve the ability to perform enhanced surveillance (including line-listing of cases).

WHO implemented EWARS using "EWARS in a Box" kits in Yemen to rapidly improve data collection, reporting and automated analysis.