



The **M**iddle **E**ast **C**onsortium on **I**nfectious **D**isease **S**urveillance (**MECIDS**)

Sari Husseini
MECIDS Regional Manager
February 23rd, 2010

Establishment of MECIDS (2003)

MECIDS is composed of public health experts and Ministry of Health officials and academia of Jordan, Palestinian Authority and Israel, convened together by the USA based NGO (Search for Common Ground) formed the Middle East Consortium for Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS)



Establishment

Since its foundation in 2003, MECIDS has created a tight network among senior officials in the region. As their first project, MECIDS members agreed to establish a surveillance system for foodborne disease outbreaks in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories. With an initial focus on salmonella and have expanded to other diseases.



The consortium spent its first three years focusing on foodborne diseases. It has now expanded its operations to encompass pandemic influenza:

- Avian Influenza (H5N1)
- Swine Flu (Influenza A (H1N1))



Goals

- Capacity building
- Multinational research and development
- Data harmonization and standardization
- Data sharing
- National and regional Expansion of MECIDS



Governance Structure (2007)

- **Executive Council**

composed of:



- **Executive Chairperson (rotating Chairmanship)**
- **Executive Board**

based on equity and consensus (SOP)

- **MECIDS Country Coordinators**
- **MECIDS Secretariat**



Regular Meetings

- Maintain relationships
- Exchange information
- Develop detailed project plans
- Monitor implementation



Training and workshops

- Interventional Field Epidemiology Courses
- Salmonella Identification Workshop for working with the same equipment and reagents (Becton, Dickinson and Company)
- PFGE Training
- Risk communication with WHO
- Software Design and Data Handling (IBM)



Training Cont.

- IHR-Implementation workshop in case of pandemic flu in cooperation with WHO headquarters, WHO/Euro and WHO office for Palestine
- Regional table top exercise on Avian and Pandemic influenza
- Enhancing Global Epidemiological Surveillance, Learning from Regional Approaches (Bellagio, Italy)
- Others



Regional Cooperation

Key Achievements:

- Daily contact in times of urgency and emergency
- Communication on Avian Influenza outbreak
- Partners have created common data-sharing formats (MECIDS Website)
- Partners send samples to each other for laboratory confirmation and quality control
- Capacity Building
- Communication on Swine Flu, Influenza A (H1N1)



Future...

- MECIDS plan to continue with the food borne disease Surveillance and pandemic diseases and plan to take up leishmania as a next step.



In the Middle East, populations are mixed
and territories are small: The virus doesn't
stop at the border

Thank you 😊

